

THE BUSHLAND BULLETIN[©]

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Hibbertia fumana—a “new” rare plant at Bankstown Airport

by Col Gibson

In 2006, when walking along a creek at Bankstown Airport I found an *Hibbertia* (Native Guinea Flower) that turned out to be something quite new. Six years later it was named by botanists Hellmut Toelken and Robert Miller *Hibbertia puberula* subsp. *glabrescens*. To this day it is known only from this one site.

But the Airport does not have one, but two, rare *Hibbertias*: in November 2017 ecologist, Mark Aitkens, working on a survey of

the new Polair development site found another very little known and rarely collected species: *Hibbertia fumana*. This species was collected a few times in the early 19th century around Sydney, the last being in 1823, then did not come to light again till collected by Jane Rodd in bushland at the site of the Moorebank Intermodal in October 2016 (though botanist Andrew Orme later found a misidentified collection of that species in the NSW Herbarium

from Connells Point by Keith Ingram in February 1941).

Apparently the population at the Airport consist of up to 100 plants. The good news is that the population is not threatened by planned enlargement of the Polair facility. To its credit, Bankstown Airport Limited is committed to sympathetic management of both species.

Below: Hibbertia fumana, photo by Andrew Orme.



Mulching of Bushland Margins

by Robert Miller

Walshaw Park (or Herbert Crabtree Reserve) at Bass Hill supports a small but significant population of *Hibbertia pedunculata*. This species occurs only at a handful of locations in the Bankstown area and only in very small populations.

The conservation status of this species in my opinion needs to be reviewed as it has had a significant retraction in population within the greater Sydney Metropolitan area. The last large habitat areas for this species is in the vicinity of

former Australian Defence Industries Site at St. Marys and the Air Services lands.

At what is perhaps the best population of *Hibbertia pedunculata* in Bankstown at Walshaw Park, earth fill and mulch have been inappropriately placed around this significant remnant. The fill appears to be comprised of a mixture of subsurface clay, clay derived soil and shredded tree remains presumably derived from mulch made from the chipping of large tree stumps.

I also note that this site is barricaded with exclusion fencing warning of asbestos contamination which is presumably within the fill. The threat of the introduction of pathogenic organisms in such material is significant and the introduction of assorted invasive weed species needs no explaining.

I believe that work of this nature should be the subject of an assessment of impact and approval by the Office of Environment & Heritage before being undertaken. Potential natural regeneration of the bushland outward from the core is very likely to be negatively affected by the heavy layering of mulch. The fill emplacement surrounds the majority of the remnant and is therefore a major work, not a small-scale landscaping job. It is my opinion that this fill should be removed and the ground brush mulched with species naturally occurring.



Hibbertia pedunculata at Walshaw Park



Mulching at Walshaw

Proposed Raising of the Wall of Warragamba Dam

by **Ian Bailey** (BBS member and Conservation Officer for Birding NSW Inc.)

I write on behalf of 415 members of Birding NSW Inc to record our objection to the proposed raising of the wall of Warragamba Dam. Losses to ecosystems, flora and fauna, downstream riparian assets and rare species such as the Critically Endangered Regent Honeyeater recently found breeding in the area, tip the balance of environment protection to "strongly negative".

If the raising of the wall goes ahead:

- thousands of hectares of the Blue Mountains National Park will be lost as water levels rise. Tourists come to NSW in their millions to witness The Blue Mountain's iconic biodiversity.
- the surface area of the Lake Burratorang will increase allowing a greater collection of waste and fuel residues caused by the nearby Badgerys Creek Airport.
- * downstream from the dam, creeks and rivers will continue to fail without the environmental flows to sustain frogs, fish and waterbirds.

The predicted mitigation of floods in the Sydney Basin will only be temporary and could lead to a disaster on the scale of a tsunami. A 100-year flood (25 years overdue), will still fill the dam, water will have to be released, and vast areas of built infrastructure to house the huge planned population will be flooded. We are already seeing evidence of rapid water run-off with minimal rainfall events.

If the raising of the wall goes ahead, Sydney will become a flood-risk zone of mammoth proportions. The Dam, Badgerys Creek Airport, vast areas of side-by-side roofing and few reserves to act as absorbent wetlands will ensure an inundation like nothing we have yet seen.

The State and Federal Governments should think very carefully about the need to increase the capacity of this dam. A severe drought in the 2000s when Warragamba Dam fell to 36% of capacity, led to us build a desalination plant which has hardly been used. The dam refilled. There is no need for water security.

We write to you, Honourable Ministers of State of NSW and Australia, in the hope that this issue will be debated more thoroughly in our Parliaments. It is not a matter to be decided upon by one Minister.

Birding NSW calls for a re-think of this plan. Please consider carefully the potential destruction of valuable bushland and the loss of habitat for endangered bird, animal and plant species.

Nature Conservation Council Stands up Against Native Forest Logging

by **Kate Smolski**, CEO
Nature Conservation Council of NSW

This year, the NSW Government released its draft *Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals* (IFOAs). These IFOAs regulate how logging of our native public forests takes place and what impacts logging has on our environment and wildlife. The National Parks Association of NSW has been leading the analysis of the IFOA along with other NCC member

groups. This work shows that sweeping retrograde changes are proposed that prioritise timber extraction over environmental protection, including:

Increasing logging intensity throughout public native forests, including allowing high-intensity logging in 140,000ha of coastal forests between Taree and Grafton, enabling virtual clear-felling of areas up to 45ha in one go. This will convert biologically complex, natural forests into monocultures of blackbutt – which was articulated clearly in the expert scientific panel report.

Permitting logging in stream buffer zones that are currently out of bounds for logging. These areas are the most important refuges for threatened species left in many forests, including gliders and quolls, and contain some of the most ecologically important trees in production forests.

Opening previously protected old-growth forest to logging by remapping these high-conservation-value areas to make up timber shortfalls. Old-growth forests are rare and provide vital refuges for threatened species, including large owls and gliders.

Permitting the logging of trees up to 140cm in diameter, and 160cm for blackbutt and alpine ash, and remove the need to protect recruitment trees (the hollow-bearing trees of the future) in logging operations.

Replacing the need to look for koalas with a habitat model that will require the retention of a maximum of 10 feed trees of just 20cm diameter

(Continued on page 4)



Logging

per hectare in mapped koala habitat.

While the Government is busy greenwashing its draft IFOAs, we will be working with the National Parks Association of NSW and regional/local environmental groups to organise a series of information sessions to raise community awareness about the destruction associated with public forest logging and promote a better alternative for our public forests - one fit for the 21st century. These information sessions have already commenced in Sydney. In February this year, [environmental groups walked out of Government negotiations](#) on native logging of public lands because we knew that the outcome of these negotiations was pre-determined. Since then, our position has not changed.

The NSW Government has clearly stated that it is committed to continuing logging of our native public forests for decades to come, despite any lack of scientific evidence that current

logging agreements have been successful in meeting their objectives or that logging is the best use of our forests in the 21st century. In fact, it is now abandoning any pretence of sustainable logging by proposing dramatic erosions of environmental protection to meet timber supply shortfalls resulting from historic mismanagement.

Given this position, continuing to invest our time and resources in Government information and feedback sessions is futile. However, continuing to fight for the future of our precious native forests and wildlife is not.



Poulton Park

Artificial Turf Spreads to Poulton Park

(Address by **Kathryn Skelsey** of Penshurst Park Development Plan Discussions Facebook Group to the Assets and Infrastructure Standing Committee Meeting at Georges River on 3-12-2018 re Tender for the Construction of Poulton Park Synthetic Football Fields - Stronger Communities Fund and Domestic Waste Reserve).

(Note: The Committee chose to go ahead with the recommended tender, but my speech promoted discussion about the artificial turf. The councillors asked the council staff for assurances that health and environmental aspects were considered. The staff said that the tenderers used the best current products for players' injury prevention, but I don't think they addressed the environmental and community health aspects specifically).

I am passionate about green space, not only in the Georges River area, but Sydney and Australia wide, and also globally. The item that I will be addressing this evening is the tender for the installation of artificial turf on Poulton Park in Connells Point. I am asking Councillors to

(Continued on page 5)

concentrate on approving the artificial turf installer for Poulton Park on the basis of best long-term health and environmental benefits to the community.

I know that I cannot alter the fact that Poulton Park will be artificially turfed at this stage, and that the council's opinion is that we need more artificially turfed fields to cater for the demand for resilient training and playing fields. I am speaking tonight largely to encourage best processes to be in place in preparation for when other parks in the area also have to go through this tendering process for artificial turfing. For my local park, Penshurst Park, this is likely to be happening in the first quarter of next year. I would like to lay the foundations for the best outcomes for this precious park.

I understand that the decisions have already been made to undertake the Poulton Park project and that funds have been allocated to it. I also understand that there is a growing need for resilient surfaces that can be used frequently by an increasing number of sporting teams and players, to train and play on. An increasing population means higher usage of our parks and at the moment our poor grass cannot keep up. Synthetic fields mean that daily usage is possible, without the need for costly upkeep of damaged grass.

Now, ULTIMATELY, I believe the answer to this is better management of population and density, but that is another story and is not on the agenda here tonight. But what I DO want to ensure tonight is an optimal outcome for ALL the users of Poulton Park, and also to lay the foundations for best outcomes for

all the other parks that are likely to be laid with a synthetic surface too.

I notice that the Tender Evaluation Committee applies a set of essential and mandatory criteria to make their recommendations on the most suitable company to complete the project. It includes several elements that cover the SERVICE provided, such as the work health and safety, the tenderer's prices, past experience, and promised construction management. But what is not apparent is the inclusion of criteria to consider the PRODUCT that will be supplied. Since these synthetic fields are meant to last for a long time, I would like to be sure that the surface chosen is the least damaging to the environment, or users' or residents' health.

If the sports players are getting the benefit of better playing and training grounds, I think it only fair that the rest of the community – both local residents, and also those impacted regionally and globally by local decisions about environmental management – can be given the assurance that the synthetic turf used is going to be the best for their physical and mental health, and the environment.

There has been lots of talk in the past about the heat generated by synthetic surfaces, its tendency to prevent water from entering the water cycle, its abrasive and high impact qualities, and how it is less amenable to enjoyable passive recreation. Anyone would agree that a picnic on natural grass is more enjoyable than on a synthetic field. I am told that the newer generations of

synthetic surfaces have improved on many of these issues. I would like to be sure that the decisions made for the parks in the Georges River area include choosing the best product, not just the best service.

1. I call on the Assets and Infrastructure Standing Committee tonight to only accept tenders that can be verified to meet the criteria of optimal health and environmental benefit to the community.

2. If deemed appropriate, I call upon the councillors to recommend that the Tender Evaluation Committee review and, if necessary, change their criteria, and weighting of items in these criteria, to recognise the importance of the environmental and health-related quality of the product offered by these tenderers, before the Committee proceed to making further decisions on the resurfacing of any other parks in the future.

3. If the documented criteria do in fact cover the aspects of environmental and public health, then I call on the councillors to request that the Tender Evaluation Committee reword its criteria to make this clear and apparent to all who read it, including those who have to live with the results of their decisions.

Aboriginal Heritage at Riverlands — Call for Further Study

by *Kayla Williamson*, Secretary
Woronora Plateau Gundangara
Elders Council

I have been contacted by Chris Brogan from Bankstown Bushland Society in relation to a concern he has raised with me regarding the Riverlands Golf Course at Milperra. Chris had shown me numerous pictures of what looks to be of scarred trees. Chris has then forwarded on two reports conducted by NPC - Statement of Heritage Impact 2016 and AHMS - Aboriginal Heritage Study, 2012. The reports have raised a few

concerns:

1. The Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) on January 2016, revealed that there are 6 registered Aboriginal Heritage sites at, or within 1km of the subject site.
2. In the Statement of Heritage Impact conducted by Cracknell Lonegan Heritage Architects in 2016, states on page 6 AHMS accordingly concludes that for the subject site at 56 Prescott Parade: “- While the regional and local archaeological background information and soils and geology information suggests high potential for archaeological material within the subject area,

historic land use namely the construction and landscaping for the golf course indicates some disturbance has occurred reducing the likelihood of any such sites surviving.

In the Aboriginal Heritage Study report for Riverlands Golf Course Milperra produced by Archaeological & Heritage Management Solutions May 2012 states on page 63

Conclusions and recommendations: “- Assuming the areas of archaeological sensitivity remain relatively undisturbed and retain intact soil profiles (which is yet to be determined) they may have the potential to contain intact archaeological objects and deposits.

WPGEC is of the opinion that due to the above statements about the possible site significance with close proximity to the Georges River and the possibility scarred trees that an excavation methodology needs to be produced by another archaeological company to gain a better understanding of the soil profile and if needed confirm soil disturbance and not to be just assumed upon. We are of the opinion that the original report is very vague and there is a need for a more in-depth report and testing to be done on such a large area of land and therefore needing an application for an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit.



Riverlands Scar Tree



***Check out BANKSTOWN
BUSHLAND SOCIETY on
FACEBOOK***

The BBS Facebook page provides us opportunities for posting information relevant to the natural environment and flora and fauna of our bushland regeneration projects, nature walks and such. Anyone interested in the Georges River and bushland generally is welcome to join our page.

ELECTRONIC BULLETINS

The Bushland Bulletin is available electronically to members who so desire. All you have to do is send your email address to the Bulletin editor (see front cover). Members are entitled to both printed and electronic forms, but if you only want the electronic form instead of the printed please let us know.

Bushland Society meetings are held at Padstow Progress Hall, Ryan Road, Padstow, on the 3rd Wednesday of the month (except December & January), in the Wal Browning Meeting Room at rear of hall.

Time: 7.00pm.

Tea and biscuits provided.

All welcome

Further enquiries please ring Col on 97886232.

2018 IN REVIEW

by Col Gibson

At the start of the year we faced what seemed to be insurmountable odds with the worst imaginable DA for Riverlands steadily moving towards becoming a horrible reality, as well as the very uncertain future of Ray McCormack Reserve and others earmarked in the Local Area Plans to be sold. But we stuck to our guns and kept the pressure up and to the surprise of all the Local Planning Panel rejected the Riverlands DA wholesale and the LEPs were withdrawn. These were two highlights of a very busy year. Another was the establishment of a new and fascinating regen site on the river-flat at Monash Reserve where the work in only nine months has transformed the place. Thanks is owed to Paul Angel and Col Brennan of BCC for facilitating this and to Skye and Darryl for their hard work. Also to Peter Goss of BCC who has lent a very able hand.

Other efforts include meticulous work on rare Typhonium habitat at The Crest and on the Henry Lawson Drive road verge at Webster Street which is now looking clean as a whistle. This year also saw us return to our old site at the top end of Lansdowne where we are lobbying for the erection of better fencing to prevent dumping impacts.

Chris has put a lot of effort in on a few fronts notably threatened trees at Wiley Park, along HLDr and at Riverlands and more. Fantastic effort, Chris! Then there were clean up days at Ashford as well as a big one on the river at Padstow Heights organised by our good friends from Oatley F&F James Deli and Peter Mahoney.

Thank you everyone and please stay with us: without our financial members we don't exist!

BANKSTOWN BUSHLAND SOCIETY COMMITTEE for 2019

President:

Skye Virgin
0411584295

Vice President:

Brian Shaw

Secretary:

Colin Gibson:
9788 6232

Assistant Secretary:

Skye Virgin:
0411584295

Treasurer:

John Gibson:
9772 3549

Committee Members:

Darryl McKay
Chris Brogan
Erica Brogan
Wal Browning
James Deli
Peter Mahoney
Ian Bailey

Bushland Bulletin

Editor:

Colin Gibson

WHY NOT JOIN THE SOCIETY ?



The Bankstown Bushland Society is an incorporated association under the Associations Incorporation Act (NSW) 1984.

We are Bankstown's only incorporated association dedicated to protecting our City's environment.

The Society's objects are:

- To protect the environment of Bankstown
- To assist other persons in the protection of the environment in Bankstown
- To foster better community awareness of environmental issues
- To lobby through Government, commercial and other persons for the maintenance of a high quality of life through the progressive improvement of the environment

Bankstown Bushland Society has lobbied effectively for the protection of bushland and the natural environment since 1988. With your support we can continue the work. By joining the Society you can make an important contribution to our local environment.



Yes, I wish to join the
Bankstown Bushland Society Inc:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Suburb: _____ Postcode _____

Telephone Number: _____

Attached please find my payment of:

(\$.00)

_____ (amount in words)

Membership fees

Family/Group - \$20

Ordinary - \$15

Concession - \$10

"student/unwaged/pensioner"

Send payment to:

**The Secretary,
Bankstown Bushland Society Inc.
PO Box 210
Panania NSW 2213**

Or pay by direct transfer to

**BSB 512 170 Account Number 100087319, AND put
your name on the transfer form.**



**Bankstown Bushland Society Inc.
PO Box 210
Panania NSW 2213**

