

# THE BUSHLAND BULLETIN<sup>©</sup>

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## **Riverlands Development Applications March 2020**

*by Col Gibson*

One of the main objections to Mirvac's unpopular Riverlands proposal centres on the proposed new road on the floodplain, this being the extension of Keys Parade. The road is intended as an access to residential development on the old golf course where new allotments are packed together like sardines to the detriment of hundreds of native trees and other environmental values. Construction of the road would involve introducing large amounts of fill to raise the road

above flood level.

Vast amounts of fill have already been illegally deposited on the floodplain in this area, and though fines have been imposed, Council has taken no action to order its removal. Filling the floodplain is irresponsible as it threatens the natural drainage system that takes overflow from Milperra Creek via a system of wetlands back into the Georges River. This natural function of the floodplain should not be interfered with.

Raising the level of Keys Parade with fill would destroy habitat and threaten the ecology of a recognised wildlife corridor that is the only known habitat for the Endangered Green and Golden Bell Frog in Canterbury-Bankstown, rediscovered here last year. No protective measures for the frog were outlined in the DA. An undisclosed number of trees would be destroyed along the road corridor in addition to hundreds on the golf course itself.



*Endangered Scribbly Gum Woodland at Riverlands*

The Procedural Re-subdivision DA flies in the face of the Bankstown Local Environment Plan and paves the way for destruction of habitat trees, wetland and bushland. The Voluntary Planning Agreement focuses on landscaping along the creek and a bicycle track along the river which are not meaningful environmental outcomes. The planting scheme is all about a handful of species none of which are native to Milperra. There are no setbacks from bushland at Lot 5 and from the proposed road at the back of

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the Piper Reserve wetland.

This development would throw increased traffic burdens on quiet streets like Raleigh Road and Prescott Avenue and the links to Henry Lawson Drive where, at Keys Parade new sets of lights will need to be installed close to Flower Power putting more pressure on the intersection of Milperra Road with Henry Lawson Drive.

This disastrous situation is the result of the development-at-any-cost policies that have dominated in recent years, which seek to convert open space into commercial opportunities, sacrificing environmental values to feed the insatiable demands of the growth economy. Filling in order to build on flood prone land is irresponsible. Riverlands should never have been rezoned to permit Residential development. The communities expectation is that it will reject the new DAs.

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## RAID Challenges

### Moorebank Intermodal

*by Michael Byrne, President - East Liverpool Progress Association*

RAID is a small group of dedicated Liverpool campaigners who have advanced the opportunity for the legal challenge of the process and decision in favour of the Moorebank freight intermodal. They have won initial formal Liverpool Council support, although it requires confirmation

at a Council Meeting. This is a real David v Goliath effort - local people v QUBE and the NSW Government. It is not a desperate act. Rather it is based on objective observation of a process that has been corrupted through purposeful neglect driven by the command of "getting the job done". When that occurs, there is present obvious flaws. The Courts will see that exposed.

The following letter, dated 24-3-2020 was sent by RAID to Liverpool Council urging it to act in the interests of their electors in Liverpool, and its neighbour region, who will be affected by the dumping daily of many 1000s of heavy vehicles; their danger, their congestion and their diesel exhausts:

"Mayor and Councillors: We address you on the matter of the provision of financial support for the RAID application for a Class 1 Appeal on the IPC determination of the latest

iteration of the abominable Moorebank Intermodal Freight Terminal (MIFT). RAID (Residents Against Intermodal Development) have done extraordinary work in pursuing the public interest by way of challenging the very dubious decision, and the processes leading to it orchestrated by the NSW Government's Department of Planning and Transport.

Erik Rakowski's work as a citizen deserves to be commended, not ignored. Erik focuses on the failure of process to address two key deficiencies of the MIFT; traffic safety and congestion and the air quality for entire suburbs in East Liverpool.

As Councillors, you should be gravely concerned that Council Management have not acted on the will of the Council. Such will has been expressed, with properly noted preconditions as checks, in recent Council decisions. Any fair-minded person would conclude that the



*Government koala protection policy in action at Moorebank*

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management actions to date have applied the checks as instruction not to act. We must as citizens ask; has there been any cross-talk with the Mayor and cross-party Councillors by management to steer a united passage?

The consequences to date are the blocking of the efforts of RAID in their public interest actions, and exposing individual citizens to financial risk in their endeavour to have the law applied in reviewing the passage of approvals for MIFT. The funding required to attain the fullest of informed legal opinion on the matters presented by RAID represents 10-15% of Council's conditional allocation of \$300,000. There is real value in attaining this necessary expert evidence up-front, and the legal opinion on it, before any further costs are incurred in advancing to the Court.

Councillors, the advancement of the MIFT through the planning processes has seen corporate rent-seeking and political bastardry prevail - indeed a story yet to be told. The beneficial consequences of corrupted processes being revealed though the Courts by its unveiling of the fatal flaws in the project, will flow to your local citizens to see you share in the honours of a mutual endeavour with them. If you fail to support now the required Case Outline process, with input from Expert Witnesses, this final legal challenge must cease. It would be most unfortunate for all concerned."

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## Project Yeramba On Course

by Barry Hodgson,  
Ranger, Georges River NP.

The Environment Impact Investigation (REF) report is not yet ready to publish but has identified we might have issues with:

Odour when we drop the lagoon level and vegetation dies and then begins to dry out

NPWS response – we have incorporated a new adjustable height weir to be constructed on site – so we can control water height to control odour.

Mosquito breeding in the new tidal salt water body formed.

NPWS response – we will drain the current fresh water out of lagoon in mid-winter when mosquitoes are less active - over a 4-week period of progressive dam/weir lowering – and reintroduce more water if mosquitoes become a nuisance. Also, we have contracted NSW Health Department to undertake mosquito monitoring on the actual lagoon site.

Right now – we have an amphibious harvesting machine on the lagoon removing the thick matted weed. Harvesting will

continue for at least 8 weeks.

Right now – the design engineer is putting final touches to the drawings for the replacement adjustable weir.

Work to construct replacement adjustable weir will begin in May or June 2020.

Progressive lowering of lagoon waters will follow as soon as the replacement adjustable weir is complete. There are other small concrete/stone repair works required. Then a 12 to 18-month period of "bush regen" – mainly at top reaches of lagoon area.

The aim of the game is to re-establish mangroves and saltmarsh plants ASAP in the salt affected part of catchment

And

Remove weeds then get natives back in the terrestrial (fresh water influence) area at current top of lagoon area.

We will have to wait till the water level drops to see what sort of fresh water structure we end up with in top end of the new estuary – then put some commercial landscape/weed removal firms in to do bush regen.

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## **Cumberland Plain Woodland Restoration at East Hills Girls High School**

*by Jacqui Dredge.*

East Hills Girls High School has been awarded a grant to undertake environmental projects. This will include restoration of a remnant of Cumberland Plain Woodland which is critically endangered in Sydney with less than 10% remaining intact. It has long been a passion of science staff to restore the understorey at the front of school. The project will require research into plant

management and documentation. Sylvan Grove Native Garden will provide support to the project in the form of advice and the school will invite local bush care groups to become involved.

The students will be involved in mapping the area to be regenerated. Assisting with irrigation set up and providing a list of plant species and labels for care. The children will work side by side local community bush care groups planting the understorey. Documenting the process including plant labels, making a video and posting on social media updates of the

the unique remnant Cumberland Forest ecosystem at the front of the school. The school will see an increase in biodiversity by fencing off and restoring the understorey of the Cumberland Plain Woodland. The project will use tank water to irrigate approximately 1500 sq. metres with drip lines. The understorey will prevent further erosion and run-off once planted out.

The measure of success will be trees planted (approximately 50-100) and water saved. By involving Stakeholders such as Sylvan Grove Native Garden and bushcare we will ensure the



***Beyer's Ironbark (Eucalyptus beyeriana) at East Hills Girls High School***

species listed as CPW species and map/planting plan of regeneration area.

The project will require installing irrigation to existing tanks to allow for regeneration to create a bush food walking trail. The children will participate in planning, installing irrigation, researching, planting, project

project.

This project will provide an authentic context for students to explore, investigate and appreciate the ongoing capacity of the Earth to maintain all life, by contributing to the design and implementation of sustainable practices to preserve and foster

garden will be nurtured and protected by community after the project has been completed. The project will be documented from concept to completion by video and social media posts. East Hills Girls Technology High School Green Club has an Instagram page that will feature the project.

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**From “The Battle for the Bush” by Geoff Mosley, Colong Foundation for Wilderness, 1999.**

Conservation began in a small way with attempts to keep particular areas and special features, but in less than a century-and-a-half, as the rate of environmental change speeded up, it has become concerned with a much wider range of objectives. And become global in scope. Since the advantages of conservation include productivity, stability and

marginal or where ruling groups see a threat to the source of their wealth and power.

The conservation movement is a struggle for the hearts and minds of the members of a generally apathetic public who find it more difficult to deal with the welfare of future generations than their own more pressing needs and personal problems. Conservationists reject the view that the current downward trend in the condition of the condition of the global environment as human can be halted by technological innovation and the

recreation, but for survival and well-being generally. National parks, for instance, are areas established primarily to provide long term protection of the conditions needed for recreation but which also serve to protect land for science and long-term environmental stability. Other conservation measures are applied in an effort to sustain production.

The setting aside of areas of open space within cities was one of the attempts to mitigate the alien aspects of the city environment. Sport and the growing of food on



security as well as the amenity associated with the continued existence of naturalness and biological diversity, it has the potential to be the most important force in human history.

The conservation movement is engaged in a struggle of values not just with highly-motivated resource exploiters but with the whole philosophy which emanates from the short life-span of humans and the natural tendency to put self-interest first, particularly where survival is

almost unfettered market forces and that it does not matter if natural areas are wiped out and wildlife populations are lost as long as short term needs are met. They advocate a broader approach which includes a belief in the value of planning and of a more careful human use of the environment so that ecosystems and ecological processes are maintained or restored.

Conservation seeks to retain conditions needed not just for

small plots also helped to meet latent needs. Australia's characteristically low-density suburbs are another manifestation of the attempt to make urban life more tolerable. They developed rapidly as soon as widespread motor car ownership made accessible the ample cheap land surrounding the inner cities, and their benefits are now being subject to reappraisal after a period of denigration by the boosters of urban consolidation.



Clean Up Australia Day saw us back at Ashford Reserve for the seventh year in a row picking up plastic bottles that flow into the swamp from Milperra Creek which broke its banks in the February flood. Good old Ashford serves as a sump for rubbish that would otherwise find its way into the Georges River. Another 17 bags this year and plenty more to go back for. What we've pulled out of Ashford over the years would be a fraction of Bankstown's contribution to what ends up in the river, Botany Bay and the Pacific Ocean.



*Skye, Chris, Paul & Ashlie on Clean Up Australia Day at Ashford Reserve*

Society treasurer, John Gibson of Picnic Point, turned 100 in April. John took on the job after Irene Jones passed away in 2006, whose demise left the accounts in disarray. Accounting was a new project for John who, with helpful schooling from friend and retired accountant the late John Fowler, put the books back in order and has kept them that way ever since. John's careful attention to detail has been essential to keeping our ship afloat. Happy birthday John and thank you from all your fellow BBS members.



*Bushland Society treasurer, John Gibson, at work.*

In March Oatley Flora & Fauna members helped the Ocean Crusaders clean up Salt Pan Creek at Lugarno and Beauty Point (Padstow Heights) on the Georges River. Over 10 tonnes of rubbish was removed over six days. This was on the back of OFF's previous clean up at Padstow Heights last year which was supported by BBS. Can't thank OFF and the Crusaders enough for their great work on the Bankstown stretch of the river.



*Oatley Flora & Fauna river clean up at Padstow Heights*



***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 to subscribers in hard copy or digital form or both. To obtain a digital copy all you have to do is send your email address to the Editor (see front cover).

**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.**

**NOTE: SUSPENDED UNTIL FUTURE NOTICE.**

**Tea and biscuits provided.**

**All welcome.**

**Further enquiries ring Col or Skye (see numbers at right of page).**

**DUE TO THE  
SITUATION WITH THE  
CORONAVIRUS ALL  
SOCIETY ACTIVITIES  
INCLUDING GENERAL  
MEETINGS HAVE BEEN  
POSTPONED UNTIL  
FURTHER NOTICE**

**BANKSTOWN  
BUSHLAND  
SOCIETY  
COMMITTEE for 2019**

***President:***

Ashlie Stevenson

***Vice President:***

Skye Virgin: 0411584295

***Secretary:***

Chris Dewhurst

***Assistant Secretary:***

Colin Gibson: 9788 6232

***Treasurer:***

John Gibson: 9772 3549

***Committee Members:***

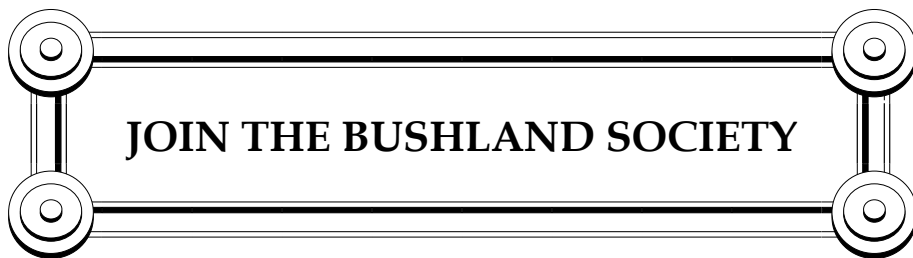
Wal Browning  
Darryl McKay  
Karlo Taliana  
Ian Bailey

***Bushland Bulletin***

***Editor:***

Colin Gibson





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.

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<p>I wish to join <b><i>Bankstown Bushland Society Inc:</i></b></p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>Suburb: _____ Postcode _____</p> <p>Telephone No. _____</p> <p>Email: _____</p> <p>Attached please find my payment of: _____ (\$ .00) (amount in words)</p>	<p><b>Membership fees</b></p> <p>Family/Group - \$20 Ordinary - \$15 Concession - \$10 "student/unwaged/pensioner"</p> <p>Send payment to: <b>The Secretary, Bankstown Bushland Society Inc. PO Box 210 Panania NSW 2213</b></p> <p><b>Or pay by direct transfer to BSB 512 170 Account Number 100087319, AND put your name on the transfer form. Enquiries: <a href="mailto:greenaissance1@gmail.com">greenaissance1@gmail.com</a></b></p>
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