

Spring 2005

The Bundaluk*

The Newsletter of the Hurstville Bushcare Volunteer Network

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Bushcare Budget – the story so far

In May this year we heard that the Council's draft budget proposed drastic cuts to the funding of the Bushcare program.

The 'bottom line' would result in redeployment of two of the three Bushcare Support Officers to other areas of operation and the loss of the in-house Bushcare crew.

The Bushcare Volunteers (the 'vollies') hastily organised a community campaign against the cutbacks and the proposals were rejected at the Council meeting on

15 June 2005 thanks largely to a successful resolution from Cllr Sansom.

In essence Council agreed to maintain existing staffing levels; there is to be a review of the functions of Bushland Management and Parks, Gardens & Reserves "with a view to continuing to deliver the best quality outcomes for the management of our parks, gardens and bushland and wetland reserves". And finally, the review is to explore all options for grant funding

to assist in the management of the bush and wetland reserves.

Representatives of the 'vollies' subsequently held a meeting with the Mayor, Cllr Joanne Morris, and Victor Lampe, Director Service Delivery.

Both voiced support for Bushcare and seemed receptive to our ideas for the promotion of the scheme and the improvement of future communications between Council and the volunteers.

Lingering Doubts?

No one is quite sure what the review of Bushcare management will mean down the track. Also there are still lingering doubts about the 2005/2006 Bushcare budget despite the apparently unequivocal resolution passed by Council on 15 June 2005.

So, be prepared for a continuing campaign and see inside for suggestions on how you can get more involved.



Bushcare Volunteers make their views known at the Council meeting of 26 May 2005.

***What is a Bundaluk? Why was it chosen as the title of the Bushcare newsletter? If you know, email or phone Shaun (see Contacts p4.)**

The best answer will be published in the Summer edition of the newsletter and the winner will receive a small prize.



Formation of Bushcare Volunteers Network

Even if the Bushcare funding crisis is over for the year we can't rest on our laurels.

We need to lift the profile of Bushcare within the wider community, recruit more volunteers and seek sponsorship by local business.

The simple truth is that if we do not have the support of Hurstville ratepayers, the Bushcare Program will continue to be a potential

target for funding cuts.

First things First

There are lots of things we can do to promote Bushcare – reviving this newsletter is a step in the right direction – but we also need to hold another meeting of the Bushcare volunteers so everyone's views can be canvassed and a properly appointed representative committee set up.

Your attendance at the meeting is vital so we can start work on what we want for Bushcare in the future.

We need nominations for the representative committee, ideas for fund raising and thoughts about the Newsletter.

So please come along to the meeting – the details are set out below.



“Bringing back the bush is a gentle art, demanding a strong will and patience”

Joan Bradley, 1988

(pictured above R with sister Eileen)

THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE HURSTVILLE BUSHCARE VOLUNTEERS NETWORK

WHERE: AT THE OATLEY RSL (THE FORMAL MEETING ROOM BEHIND THE RESTAURANT)

WHEN: THURSDAY, 8 SEPTEMBER 2005

TIME: 7:00PM

A REMINDER THAT THE RESTAURANT IS OPEN FROM 5:30 TO 8:30 PM

Off-road biking banned in Oatley Park

It's official – the signs have gone up around Oatley Park banning bikes from the walking tracks and bushland.

Of course bikes are still allowed on the roadway and the fire trail running from the wetlands into the park.

Council approved the ban late last year following a recommendation in the

Oatley Park Plan of Management drawn up by their Environment Officer after extensive community consultation.

In recent years a few irresponsible bike riders have caused substantial damage to the park's walking tracks and, in the

search for more thrills and spills, the creation of tracks and ramps in the bushland.

Perhaps the volleys can suggest to Council that we would like to work together on a couple of working bees to repair some of the damage?



Lugarno, Riverwood & Oatley Festivals

The Council will have stalls promoting the Bushcare program at the Lugarno and Oatley Lions Club Spring Festivals as well as at the Community Festival in Riverwood.

They would welcome the involvement of any of the volunteers.

The provisional plan is to use the festivals as launching pads for the promotion of Bushcare within the community and perhaps even to pick-up some new recruits along the way.

We will be talking about the stalls at the up-coming volunteers meeting but in the meantime *if you have any ideas for the stalls or are willing to give up some of your time to help out at either of the stalls, let Shaun know (see contact details on page 4)*



Lugarno Lions Spring Festival, Sunday, 18 September 2005 at Gannons Park, Peakhurst 8:30am to 4:00pm

Oatley Lions Village Festival, Saturday 15 October 2005 at Oatley Village 8:30am to 4:00pm

Riverwood Community Festival, Saturday, 22 October 2005 at 151 Belmore Road North 9:00am-3:00pm

The Less than Perfect Volunteer?

In the first edition of the Newsletter there was a piece on top-tips for volunteers. We thought some additional advice was required.

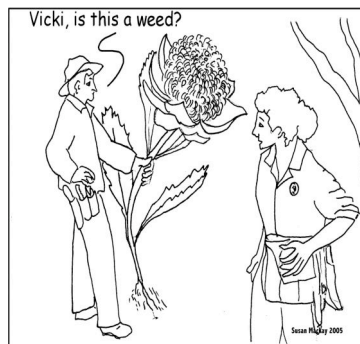
1. It's best to wear thongs to bushcare so you can easily pick off the jumping ants as they are stinging your feet.

2. Don't bother the Bushcare Support Officers (BSOs) with questions about weeds and bush regeneration – they are only there to provide cream biscuits for morning tea (plain biscuits are, of course, unacceptable).

3. Never wear protective clothing – how else are the BSOs ever going to get a chance to practice their first-aid skills?

4. Turn a deaf ear to the advice from the BSOs – you just *know* that lantana was the staple diet of the first settlers after their arrival in Lime Kiln Bay in 1492.

5. If it looks like a weed, it probably is one and you should pull it out. Don't worry if you find out it's not a weed as you can always replant it later when the BSO is not looking or you can hide it in a pile of asparagus fern.



Money, Money, Money

We need additional funds to support and promote the Bushcare program.

Already volunteers Alan and Delia Taylor and Bill Groves are working with Jason Cockayne on an application for a grant under the Australian Government's

Community Water Grants Scheme. Likewise, Pam Harris is working with Heather on obtaining grant funding. So the ball is already rolling!

We still need to come up with ideas for raising money not just for the Bushcare

Program itself but also to cover the costs of running the proposed Hurstville Bushcare Volunteers Network.

So..... when you come along to the meeting on 8 September at Oatley RSL bring your ideas as well!

VOLUNTEER BUSHCARE SITES

EVATT PARK
Meets: Allwood Crescent, Lugarno
4th Saturday of March, May, July, September and November
1.00pm to 4.00pm
Every Friday 9.00am to 12.00pm

GUNGAH BAY
Meets: at the Gungah Bay Road cul-de-sac, Oatley 2nd, 3rd, 4th Thurs. of month
9.00am - 12.00pm

HEINRICH RESERVE
Meets: Bayside Drive, Lugarno
2nd and 4th Thursday of each month
9.00am to 12.00pm
4th Saturday of February, April, June, August and October 1.00pm to 4.00pm

JOHNSTONE STREET RESERVE
Meets: between Johnstone St Nth and Ogilvy St Nth, Peakhurst
1st Tues. of month 9.00am to 12.00pm

LIME KILN BAY
Meets: Waterfall Road, Oatley
Every Tuesday
Meets: cnr. of Bay Rd & Riley St.
Every Wednesday 9.00am to 12.00pm

LUGARNO PARADE RESERVE
Meets: Lugarno Pde, Lugarno (opp. 93)
1st Thur. of month 9:00am to 12:00pm

MARINE DRIVE RESERVE
Meets: Marine Drive, Oatley (next to #35) 3rd Sat. of month 9.00am to 12.00pm

MYLES DUNPHY RESERVE
SOUTH Meets: Waratah St South, Oatley
3rd Sat. of month 1.00pm to 4.00pm
Meets: Mimosa Street, Oatley
Every Wednesday 9.00am to 12.00pm
NORTH Meets: River Road, Oatley
Every Tuesday 9.00am to 12.00pm

NATIVE NURSERY GROUP
Meets: at the Council Works Depot
3rd Sat. of month 9.00am to 12.00pm

OATLEY PARK
Meets: Various Locations
Every Wednesday 9.00am to 12.00pm
3rd Sat. of month 1.00pm to 4.00pm

PEAKHURST FORESHORE
Meets: Waterside Parade, Peakhurst
1st & 3rd Fri. and 2nd Tues. of month

RIVERWOOD WETLANDS
Meets: corner of William Road and Henry Road, Riverwood

NB. ALWAYS CALL ONE OF THE BUSHCARE SUPPORT OFFICERS BEFORE JOINING A GROUP.

Who's who at Bushcare Central

Contact Details:

Heather Stolle,
Bushcare Support Officer 0425291879
Supervisor at: Evatt Park, Heinrich Reserve,
Myles Dunphy Reserve.

Vicki Willes
Bushcare Support Officer 0411744330
Supervisor at Gungah Bay, Oatley Park
Johnstone Street Reserve,
Lugarno Parade Reserve,
Marine Drive Reserve, Peakhurst Foreshore.

Jason Cockayne,
Wetlands Officer 0411744715
Lime Kiln Bay, Native Nursery Group
Riverwood Wetlands, Miles Dunphy Reserve

Julie McInnes,
Environment Officer
9330 6228 (Thursday & Friday only)

Contact Details:

Bushcare Volunteer Representatives
(Provisional)

Catherine McGuire 9570 9880
Email: mcbran@hotmail.com

Shaun Keays-Byrne 9580 3303
Email: sm954164@bigpond.net.au

John Scanlan, Parks
Maintenance Manager, is
responsible for the day-to-
day management of the
Bushcare Program, including
the budget, staffing and
material support.

Julie McInnes, the Council's
Environment Officer, is on
secondment at present but
she still finds time for
Bushcare issues and lends
her expertise and support to
the Bushcare Officers.

In 2004 Julie wrote the
excellent Plan of
Management for Oatley Park.

Heather Stolle, Vicki Willes
and Jason Cockayne are well
known to most 'vollies'.
Heather and Vicki are
Bushcare Support Officers
while Jason (Jay) is better
described as a Wetlands
Officer. He also supervises
volunteer groups.

All three provide 'on-site'
supervision and training of
the 'vollies'.

When we are not around
they are busy assessing
sites, preparing site plans,
carrying out follow-up work
(spraying, organising burns
etc.), sorting out problems
(dumping, vandalism, hazard
reduction etc.) and
'spreading the word' through
community education!

Less well known are Helen
Wenham and Pat Osborne,
the in-house Bush
Regenerators. Both have a

'roving brief' working on sites
not covered by the 'vollies'.
Look out for their caravan and
say 'Hello' if you get a chance.

Last but not least is John
Kensett – the Oatley Park Bush
Regenerator appointed earlier
this year. John was off sick on
the day of the photo but in
coming issues of the newsletter
we'll do in-depth profiles of the
Bushcare staff so he will not
escape the camera for long!



From Left to Right: Julie, Jay, Helen, Heather, John, Pat and Vicki

If you need to change your details OR you no longer wish to be included on the Mailing List, notify Julie McInnes, the Environment Officer (phone 9330 6228; email jmcinnes@hurstville.nsw.gov.au).

Do you know someone who might be interested on being on the Mailing List? Let them know how to contact Julie or one of the Bushcare Support Officers (see Contacts p4.)

The Bundaluk*

If undelivered please return to:
The Environment Officer
Hurstville Council
PO Box 205
Hurstville BC NSW 1481

NAME
STREET ADDRESS
CITY, STATE 0000



