



RHHFFPS

Wallumetta

Newsletter of the Ryde-Hunters Hill Flora and Fauna
Preservation Society Inc.

Website: <http://rydehffps.org.au/>

Member of the Nature Conservation Council of NSW and
founding member of the Powerful Owl Coalition

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PRESIDENT'S NOTE

A recent report by the online daily, The Guardian (8 November) says that Australia is likely to be releasing more emissions from deforestation than reported to the United Nations.

The Australian government has relied on its reporting of falls in land-clearing rates for almost all the reductions that allow it to claim the country's emissions have fallen by about one-fifth since 2005, and that Australia has "over-achieved" on its pledged cuts under the Kyoto protocol.

Excluding land use, national emissions had risen by more than 5% since 2005 – the base year picked by the Abbott government for Australia's Paris climate goal.

Why haven't land clearing rates fallen as claimed? The answer lies in the method of assessing vegetation cover. Vegetation cover is determined by Australia's National Carbon Accounting System (NCAS).

Under the accounting rules agreed through the UN framework convention on climate change tree crown cover needs to account for only 10% to 30% of an area of less than one hectare for it to be treated as a forest. Australia takes the mid-point of the range at 20%.

This means that where forest tree cover gets reduced down from 100% to 30% or 20%, it's still a forest according to NCAS and nothing's changed.

The Statewide Landcover and Trees Study (SLATS) used by the Queensland state government has identified significant discrepancies between what is treated as cleared land by Australia's National Carbon Accounting System (NCAS) in respect of more than 50 properties in Queensland.

Researchers say there are "millions of anecdotes" to illustrate areas where land-clearing has been picked up by Slats, but not by NCAS. One case involved NCAS identifying a dam as a forest because of its dark colour.

With the land sector also accounting for more than 60% of Australian carbon credits and more than three-quarters of contracted abatement under the Federal Government's Emission Reduction Fund, potentially billions of dollars of offsets and sequestration claims are reliant on good data.

Deforestation has featured at Conference of the Parties (COP26) - the climate summit in Glasgow, with Australia among the 105 nations to sign a pledge to reduce forest loss by 2030.

The pledge will not amount to much if the systems used for verifying vegetation cover do not adequately identify reductions in vegetation and in addition overstate increases.

It is time for an independent review of the sector that has delivered the bulk of the country's claimed reductions in greenhouse gas pollution in recent decades.

Frank Breen, President

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WATER & CLIMATE COURT CASE

World-first legal action by Nature Conservation Council (NCC) seeks to protect rivers and wetlands.

The case being brought in the NSW Land & Environment Court seeks to ensure future climate change is taken into account when decisions about water sharing plans are being made.

Scientific modelling suggests rain and runoff in the Murray-Darling Basin will decline, that patterns of rainfall will change, and droughts will become more severe. The last severe drought, which followed soon after the Millennium Drought, saw record low inflows into many dams.

Making decisions on water without taking future climate change into account is foolhardy and has serious consequences for environmental health and water sharing within the catchment and for floodplains and downstream rivers, wetlands and communities.

It results in too much water being given to irrigators and too little being left for the environment and communities. Dams will empty too fast, dangerously depleting vital drought reserves.

If the legal action succeeds, decision makers will have to start taking climate change into account when setting catchment-wide extraction limits and environmental flow rules.

This is the first time in the world a catchment-wide water sharing instrument has been challenged on the grounds that it fails to address the future impacts of climate change.



It could mean more water for fragile ecosystems across the Murray-Darling Basin and in turn healthier river systems and greater water security for downstream communities.

Our children and future generations deserve to enjoy and benefit from healthy, functioning river systems.

The Darling River – once navigated by paddlesteamers all the way to Bourke.

NCC's arguments are that the NSW Water Minister breached the *Water Management Act* 2000 by failing to take climate change impacts into account in relation to the Border Rivers Water Sharing Plan, and the Environment Minister breached the Act by giving concurrence to that plan.

Climate change is not some abstract phenomenon that may occur in the distant future. River communities in NSW are bearing the brunt of that change every day, right now.

Just 18 months ago, many towns in western NSW were entirely dependent on bores or truck deliveries for their water supplies.

The Menindee Lakes until recently were a dustbowl and the Macquarie Marshes and other wetlands across the state are on the brink of ecological collapse. This is a challenge for public administrators right now, but the NSW Government has failed in its duty to meet that challenge.

Healthy rivers are the lifeblood of communities and ecosystems everywhere, especially in the Murray-Darling Basin, so they must be our top priority.

It is not just prudent for governments to factor in the impacts of climate change, it is a legal requirement that the NCC seeks to uphold by taking this action. We wish it was not necessary, but when public officials fail to uphold our environmental laws, we have no choice but to act.

KOALAS & QUOKKAS MAKE 100 THREATENED SPECIES LIST... BUT HUNDREDS MORE MISS OUT

From an article by Mike Foley, published in the Sydney Morning Herald October 23, 2021: <https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/koalas-quokkas-make-100-threatened-species-list-but-hundreds-more-miss-out-20211022-p592dl.html>

A list of 100 threatened species of native wildlife, including koalas and quokkas, will be prioritised for protection under a 10-year federal government strategy that experts warn needs more funding and puts about 1700 plants and animals that didn't make the cut at risk.

The Tasmanian devil is not included in the government's list of 100 priority threatened species; nor are other threatened species such as greater gliders, southern brown bandicoots, rufous hare-wallaby, the Murray cod and glossy black cockatoos.

An astonishing array of wildlife has gone the way of the dodo bird over the past 230 years, from the crescent nail-tail wallaby to the paradise parrot and Maiden's bush-pea. Australia has lost 39 species of mammals alone since colonisation, representing about 38 per cent of the global tally.

Federal Environment Minister Sussan Ley said in a statement on Friday the 100 priority species would be the focus of further conservation efforts under the Threatened Species Strategy. Others included are the green sea turtle, Australian sea lion, greater bilby and orange-bellied parrot.

Ms Ley said conservation efforts would kick off with \$10 million in grants that were now open to community groups for weed and pest management, feral predator control, environmental restoration and protection, and citizen science programs.

But Deakin University professor of wildlife ecology and conservation Euan Ritchie said the sum total of Australia's conservation spending was "shameful" and argued the strategy would be useless unless the growth or decline of target species populations was measured and published.

"It sounds like a big number but compared to how much we are prepared to spend on submarines that may not be built, it's tiny," Professor Ritchie said. "Previous strategies have been deemed successful even if the targeted species was merely declining at a slower rate than before. We need to see measurable increases."

Wilderness Society campaigns director Amelia Young said the United States invested more in threatened species. "Even under Donald Trump, the United States was able to do more to look after their endangered animals than Scott Morrison and Ms Ley," Ms Young said. "The US allocates around \$1 billion per year to their 100 priority species... have plans in place for hundreds more."

BUSHFIRES PUSH NATIVE BEES TO THE BRINK - by Matilda Handsley-Davis: Cosmos, October 2021

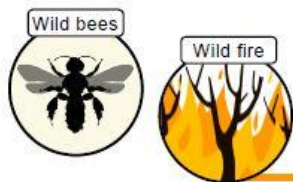
The number of threatened Australian native bee species is expected to quadruple after the devastating Black Summer bushfires in 2019-20.

After hundreds of native bee species were investigated in a study led by Flinders University, researchers believe the number of threatened species has increased by almost a factor of five.

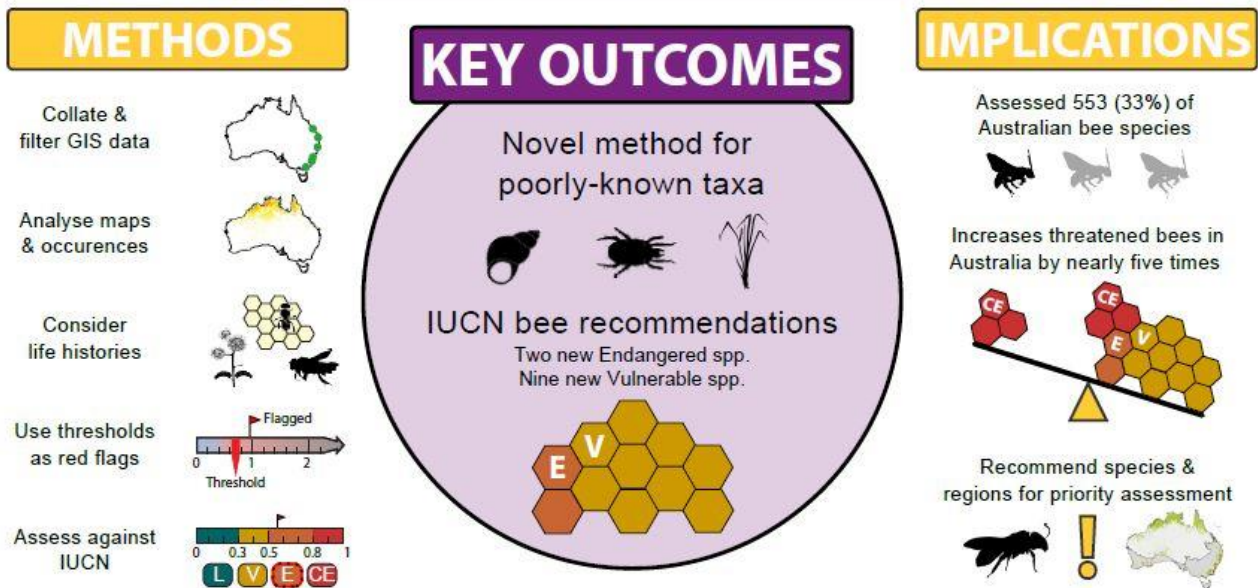
Nine species were assessed as vulnerable and two more as endangered as a direct result of the fires. These 11 were recommended by the study as priority taxa for listing as International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) threatened species.

The 2020 fires burned approximately 24 million hectares of land and killed or displaced an estimated one billion animals, as well as wiping out 3000 homes. Yet, the effects on insects have been largely overlooked until now.

Given the crucial environmental roles fulfilled by native bees, such as pollination, what threatens them could threaten entire ecosystems.



New method to assess poorly-known taxa following natural disaster reveals threatened bee species



Dorey, J. B. et al. Continental risk assessment for understudied taxa post catastrophic wildfire indicates severe impacts on the Australian bee fauna. *Global Change Biol.* (2021).

Graphical summary of the study. Credit: Flinders University.

“Most people aren’t aware of just how vulnerable our native bees are because they are not widely studied,” says Olivia Davies, a researcher at Flinders University and author on the new paper. “The fact that no Australian bees are listed by the IUCN shows just how neglected these important species are.”

“In these circumstances, there is a need for government and land managers to respond more rapidly to implement priority conservation management actions for the most-affected species in order to help prevent extinctions,” says James Dorey, the lead author of the study and also from Flinders University. “Our research is a call for action, from governments and policymakers, to immediately help these and other native populations most in danger.”

VALE ENID GILBERT

Long-standing Society members will remember Enid Gilbert, one of our original Society members when we began in 1966. Sadly, Enid recently died at her home in Kelso, near Bathurst.

Together with her family, Enid took part in our weekly working bees and actively encouraged the interest of children and teenagers in nature conservation. She led by example; at their home in Moncrieff Drive East Ryde, Enid was a pioneer in transforming a ubiquitous English-style suburban garden into an Australian native one. Her late husband Laurie was our Society’s second president.

PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH EFFECTS OF BUSHFIRE AND SMOKE IN THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY (ACT) 2019–20 - research article published in “*Frontiers in Public Health*”, October 2021 [see full article at <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2021.682402>]

The 2019–20 bushfire season was one of the most severe in recorded history. Bushfire smoke-related air pollution reached hazardous levels in major metropolitan areas for prolonged periods.

Bushfire smoke directly challenges human health through effects on respiratory and cardiac function, but can also indirectly affect health, wellbeing and quality of life. Few studies have examined the specific health effects of bushfire smoke, separate from direct effects of fire, and looked beyond physical health symptoms to consider effects on mental health and lifestyle in Australian communities. This paper describes an assessment of the health impacts of this prolonged exposure to hazardous levels of bushfire smoke in the ACT and surrounding area during the 2019–20 bushfire season. An online survey captured information on demographics, health (physical and mental health, sleep) and medical advice seeking from 2,084 adult participants.

97% of all participants experienced at least one physical health symptom that they attributed to smoke, most commonly eye or throat irritation, and cough. Over half responders self-reported symptoms of anxiety and/or feeling depressed and approximately half reported poorer sleep. Participants with existing medical conditions or poorer self-rated health, parents and those directly affected by fire also experienced poorer physical, mental health and/or sleep symptoms.

Approximately 17% of people sought advice from a medical health practitioner to manage their symptoms. This study demonstrated that prolonged exposure to bushfire smoke can have substantial effects on health. Holistic approaches to understanding, preventing and mitigating the effects of smoke, not just on physical health but on mental health, and the intersection of these, is important. Improved public health messaging is needed to address uncertainty about how individuals can protect their families’ health for future events.

Conclusions drawn by the study

Bushfire smoke can have considerable and underestimated effects on physical and mental health, beyond those associated with direct contact with fire and the acute effects of smoke inhalation. Greater understanding of mental health and long-term health effects is needed, particularly for at-risk groups, including parents, those with existing health conditions, or those who had previous exposure to fire and smoke. Improved public health communication is needed to strengthen individuals' ability to prevent harm and protect the health of themselves and their families for future events.

BORONIA PARK SPORTS FACILITY: WRONG BUILDING, WRONG PLACE... NOW APPROVED!

The ‘Sports & Community Facility’ within heritage-listed Boronia Park reserve has been approved.



As reported in the October 2021 edition of *Wallumetta*, environmentalists raised significant objections to construction of this facility, and local residents are also concerned. Nevertheless, this development will now proceed. We will continue to monitor the project and maintain efforts to achieve best outcomes for the environment and local community.

ARTIFICIAL TURF LIVES ON...?!

The past two editions of Wallumetta explained concerns about artificial turf. Now there's more...

Sustaining Gladesville Reserve Association Inc has been formed to keep Gladesville Reserve natural and open to all.

Hunter's Hill Council received \$2m funding to upgrade the facilities at Gladesville Reserve. In February 2022 they will convene a community workshop to understand how the people of Hunters Hill Local Government Area want the funding to be spent.



Some members of the soccer community want a synthetic surface, but not all. Many children hate playing on synthetic grass, and there are concerns that injuries and bacterial infections are more prevalent with this type of playing surface. (See the Synthetic Turf Study report below.)

The 4G synthetic surface preferred by All Saints soccer club is not approved by FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association), it is considerably hotter in summer than natural turf, it is a single-use plastic, requires a fence for warranty purposes to keep dogs off and can only be used if you are wearing special footwear. It is not fit for purpose for the general community, the cricket club, or Riverside Girls High School, who are also key stakeholders.

On the topic of urban heat, a recent measurement of the temperature difference between natural turf at Gladesville Reserve and synthetic surface at Blackman Park, Lane Cove found on a mild, 26 degree day the synthetic field was 14 degrees hotter (and over 43 degrees surface temperature).

Natural turf is a flexible, inclusive surface, appropriate for parks and open spaces, which can accommodate many sports, casual users and dog walkers, as well as community events such as markets and festivals. It helps the environment by cooling the local area, absorbing carbon and providing environmental services, rather than harming it as a synthetic surface would.

Natural turf is much cheaper to upgrade, which means that more community benefit can be gleaned from the funding by upgrading other aspects of the facilities at Gladesville Reserve.

Rob Stokes, Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, asked the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer to further investigate the impacts, and any alternatives that can be used in our parks and public spaces to support development of the state's first set of guidelines. Key recommendations are:

1. Providing consistent state-wide guidance to councils and industry in the planning, design and management of synthetic surfaces in public spaces;
2. Reviewing the planning process to ensure the views of the community inform decisions regarding the use of synthetic versus natural turf surfaces; and
3. Further research on the human health and natural environmental impacts, such as urban heat island effect, microplastics, use in bushfire-prone areas, social implications and alternatives.

Sustaining Gladesville Reserve Association is urging individuals and groups to raise your voice to Hunter's Hill Council, write a letter, or attend the community workshop in February. Council may be willing to listen and work with community, but they need to know what we want. Write to customerservice@huntershill.nsw.gov.au

Sustaining Gladesville Reserve Association Inc advocates strongly that Council should upgrade with a modern natural turf. They welcome all interested to join their Association [Sustaining Gladesville Reserve – Advocating for the retention of an unfenced natural grass playing field as a community asset accessible to all \(sustaininggr.org.au\)](http://SustainingGladesvilleReserve-Advocatingfortheretentionofanunfencednaturalgrassplayingfieldasacommunityassetaccessibletoall(sustaininggr.org.au)) to keep you informed and add your voice.

They would also like you to sign the petition to keep Gladesville Reserve natural and open to all: [Petition · Keep Gladesville Reserve Natural and Open to All · Change.org](http://Petition-KeepGladesvilleReserveNaturalandOpentoAll-Change.org)

SYNTHETIC TURF STUDY IN PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

The NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment commissioned Ethos Urban to research and prepare a report. In August 2021 the 101-page report was published:

There are often conflicting views between local authorities, user groups and the wider community over the suitability and benefits of synthetic turf as an alternative to natural turf. To potentially address this conflict, and to further understand the environmental, social and economic impacts of synthetic turf in an Australian context, the Department may consider these recommendations:

- Provide consistent state-wide guidance to local authorities on key considerations or criteria when proposing to provide new synthetic turf surfaces: Although there is significant emerging research on the environmental impacts of synthetic turf, and studies from other jurisdictions... that consider potential impacts of installing synthetic turf surfaces, there is no consistent statewide guidance in NSW for the delivery of synthetic surfaces. This research is generally undertaken by local council staff and facility owners, who may have limited resources to deeply engage with the field of research. State-wide guidance could help to clarify some recurring questions around impacts of synthetic surfaces.
- Adapt planning pathways for synthetic turf yields to increase opportunities for community consultation: The current planning pathway used by local governments to convert existing natural turf fields to synthetic playing surfaces does not require a Development Application to be prepared and does not need to be placed on public exhibition – meaning that there is no legislative requirement for community consultation. Identifying opportunities to adapt the planning pathways (including potential changes to the Infrastructure SEPP) to require early, transparent, and meaningful community consultation to inform decisions around the use of synthetic versus natural turf surfaces may address community concerns about the current planning process. There may also be scope to include mitigation measures in relevant planning instruments applicable to synthetic turf proposals.
- Undertake further research into the health and environmental impacts of synthetic turf use in an Australian context: While there is some existing Australian-specific research about the health impacts of synthetic turf on children, **much of the existing academic research on the topic comes from areas with different climates, where extreme heat not as prevalent a community concern**. In addition, further research is needed into the appropriateness of synthetic turf in bushfire prone areas, where **synthetic turf may contribute to bushfire risk**. Additional research into the impact of synthetic materials on human health, including for sports users and nearby residents, is also needed to clarify impacts. Longer term, this could lead to guidelines aimed at mitigating environmental and human health risks, including consideration of best management practices (e.g., construction, maintenance, disposal, community consultation), for use by local councils and agencies with responsibility for community sports fields.
- Further analysis of the health and social implications of reduced accessibility for informal and passive enjoyment of open space associated with synthetic turf usage: In contrast to environmental and economic impacts, the social dimensions of synthetic turf are under-researched. While the stakeholder and community consultation process for this study highlighted a range of social impacts, including community concern over the loss of access to open space, displacement of non-sporting users and changes to local amenity, further analysis is required to understand these implications more broadly.
- Further consideration of the potential benefits and impacts of the emerging technologies of hybrid and 'fourth generation or 4G' synthetic technology within an Australian context: New generations of synthetic and hybrid playing surfaces are relatively new to Australia, and their implications have not been researched in an Australian context. While there is potential that these technologies may reduce environmental impacts associated with other forms of synthetic turf, further research is required to understand their broader impacts.
- Undertake research to understand barriers to implementing best practice design management of natural turf yields: **Natural turf fields are becoming increasingly complex and designed to withstand more use, drain more effectively, reduce reliance on water for irrigation, and be available during or immediately after bad weather**. Community and industry representatives were supportive of redesigning natural turf fields to increase capacity, but currently there is a lack of knowledge and financial resources to implement best practice for natural turf fields. Further research to understand and address these barriers may increase adoption of best practice natural turf fields.

TARBAN CREEK GREY-HEADED FRUIT BATS

A colony of grey-headed fruit bats (“Flying-foxes”) established a camp along Tarban Creek near Manning Road. The camp is documented as having been there for over ten years; possibly twenty or more. It is suspected that contractor activity and associated noise moved the camp from The Priory to the Tarban Creek camp area.

Grey-headed fruit bats are listed as ‘**vulnerable to extinction**’ under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC) Act 1999 with population decreasing due to climate change and societal impacts – so they’re a **protected species**.

Some residents in neighbouring houses have been upset by their presence. Hunter’s Hill Council received around 20 complaints, with 12 complaints over approximately 5 years. **These include:**

- noise as flying-foxes depart or return to the camp – worse in spring/summer + at dawn/dusk.
- noise from the camp during the day
- faecal drop on outdoor areas, cars and washing lines, and estimated resources [time, cost] associated with cleaning adjacent areas
- smell, most problematic in humid and lightly rainy weather, especially in February and March
- health and/or wellbeing impacts + fear of disease
- reduced general amenity
- damage to vegetation / need for bush regeneration
- concern about water quality
- perceived property value lower

Council received positive feedback from people who:

- recognise the landscape-scale benefits flying-foxes provide through seed dispersal and pollination
- acknowledge the need to conserve flying-foxes as an important native species
- enjoy watching the flying-foxes at the camp
- appreciate the intrinsic value of the camp
- see its value as a local education / attraction
- appreciate the natural values of the camp and habitat
- feel the camp does not negatively impact lifestyle
- value the opportunity the camp provides for them and their family to get close to nature
- recognise the need for people and wildlife to live together.



Council responded by commissioning a study. Following its recommendations, management of the camp to date includes bush regeneration with contractors working monthly in the reserve. Council staff also undertake regular maintenance in the adjoining parkland. Community education about flying foxes has been conducted via Council newsletters and temporary signage. And, during the past two months, acoustic management was carried out. Fortunately the flying foxes have not disappeared; recently we found they had simply relocated themselves further downstream. The above photo was taken recently at Riverglade Reserve.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE FIELD OF MARS

Wildlife Protection Area (WPA) Study

A Macquarie University team led by Matthew Brooks did an extensive study to determine the effectiveness of WPAs in the City of Ryde.

These are the Field of Mars Reserve [category 1], Kittys Creek [category 2] and Terrys Creek [category 2].

They looked at Public awareness of WPAs, Council community engagement strategies, and made recommendations to improve the effectiveness of WPAs. Methods used included monitoring cameras, an online survey and a review of documented strategies.

Over 10,000 images were taken by the cameras and analysed. In addition to dogs, cameras picked up mostly foxes, brush turkeys, bandicoots and wallabies. Number of cats was noted to be low.

Field of Mars had the most visitors (by a long way) and best compliance rate: non-compliance rate was 0.53% in Field of Mars, and around 7.6% of total users elsewhere.

In the online survey, 56 responders reported seeing or being attacked by a dog in a WPA; almost double that number reported they had not seen pet animals in a WPA. 53.5% had seen WPA signs; 22% only knew the WPAs existed because of this survey. Most were unaware of fines that apply.

In the Review of Strategies, recommendations were:

- More clear, larger signs
- Direct requests made to pet owners
- Increased ranger patrols, particularly at times of most frequent dog visits
- Produce a dog brochure
- Provide more interpretive signage in WPAs.



Bushcare

Good news! **This year, all place-getters in the Ryde Spring Garden Competition Bushcare Category are in the Field of Mars!** Society members work regularly on these sites but, of course, there have been several months of inactivity due to lockdown rules. Results



were... 3rd: Visitor Centre / Warada Track Bushcare Site (pictured); 2nd: Kennedy Street / Roving Bushcare; 1st: Cemetery Creek 2 Bushcare Site. See the Winners Announcement with YouTube video at <https://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/Events/Spring-Garden-Competition>

Congratulations also to Pamela Reeves whose home garden adjoins the Reserve and won 1st place in the Native Habitat category; to Bev Debrincat & Pam Ward, who manage The Habitat in Quarry Road, which won in the Best Community Garden category, and to Gerard Langtry (husband of a committee member) who received Highly Commended in the Edible Garden Section. These were all great results and recognition of the work of several of our Society's active members.

Meanwhile, as restrictions ease the bushcare groups are getting back to normal. When tracks are blocked, walkers (and, unfortunately, cyclists) form damaging detours through otherwise unspoilt

bushland, sometimes destroying endangered species, so it is important that these obstacles are cleared promptly. The mid-November windstorm brought down a dead tree across the Fire Trail at Cemetery Creek 2, so over an hour of our time was spent clearing it:



Notice how the “No Dogs” signs are frequently torn down, presumably by some persistent dog walkers who insist on bringing their pet dogs into the Reserve.

Trail blockage...

(Photos by Pamela Ward)



going...



gone!

Visitor Centre – Open Again!

We reopened in mid-October when lockdown restrictions eased. Anyone entering the building must check in with a QR Code, or provide contact details which we transcribe to a digital record as required by NSW Health. Most visitors remain outside on the veranda where we can provide lots of information, maps and brochures; however, some still choose to enter the building for a closer look at what we have on display and on offer.

INVITATION! - JOIN OUR VISITOR CENTRE TEAM! We have a small number of members on a roster of 4-hour shifts to keep the Visitor Centre open on weekends and public holidays. No specialised skills are required, but we need to be double-vaccinated. Alfred happily provides the small amount of training needed. Frequency and times of each person’s shifts are negotiated individually according to preferences and availability. We enjoy providing this service again now that restrictions allow, so we may continue to enhance community appreciation of the Field of Mars Reserve.

PAST EVENTS:

Kelly's Bush Celebration (previously postponed) was eventually held as an invitation-only event.

Ryde District Historical Society (RDHS) Visit

On Saturday 30 October, 16 members of the RDHS came for a picnic lunch and a 2-hour guided heritage walk from the Visitor Centre to Cressy Rd / Pidding Park and return. Along the way we viewed remnants of activities over the past 100 years and their interaction with the natural environment of this part of the Reserve.



Photo by Sandford Larson



Pre-election Forum for Candidates

Members received special prior notification of this event, held in the Field of Mars Environmental Education Centre. Several candidates for the upcoming City of Ryde Council elections came and spoke to a gathering of members and interested residents. Speakers included candidates from the Liberals, Labor, the Greens, and several independents.



Local environment issues naturally featured largely, but other issues – including disability access and controls imposed by the NSW Government – were also discussed. After the meeting, many adjourned to the Visitor Centre and continued to chat for another hour over afternoon tea.

Photos by Lyn Langtry

COMING EVENTS:

Members' End-Of-Year Get-Together

Members are invited to join us at the Visitor Centre on **Sunday 5 December**, starting at 12 noon. There will be a barbecue & salad lunch followed by a casual afternoon with opportunity for members to chat and maybe share an unguided bushwalk, followed by afternoon tea.

Bird Walks

Bird walks are planned to be held early next year. Members will be notified by email.

Saltmarsh Workshop

In conjunction with the Environmental Education Centre (EEC), City of Ryde Council is planning a one-hour workshop to be held in the EEC from 10am on **Saturday 12 February 2022**.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE AT THE END OF THE YEAR!...

AND THANK YOU TO MEMBERS WHO HAVE ALREADY PAID.

New members are always welcome!

Typically, payments and donations from members account for 30% of our total income, half of which is used to pay for our Society’s membership and support for other environmental organisations. Most remaining funds are used for our own operating expenses and insurance.

We invite you to renew your membership and consider making a donation towards your Society’s activities for 2022. All members may enjoy active involvement in our Society’s activities to support the protection of our natural environments both locally and beyond, and receive this “Wallumetta” newsletter.

See the form below for details of fees payable and payment methods.

Please pay by direct transfer to our Commonwealth Bank account: RHHFF PS INC GENERAL ACCOUNT 062171 - 0090 1574. Include your name in the transaction description; if joining email your name, address and phone number to rhffps@gmail.com	
Alternatively, you may pay by cash or cheque: Complete and hand in this form with payment in a sealed envelope at the Field of Mars Visitor Centre or post to: RHHFFPS, PO Box 552, Gladesville 1675.	
NAME:	
Address:	
Phone:	
Annual Membership (add \$10 for newsletter to be sent via Australia Post):	\$
Individual	\$ 15 (+ \$ 10)
Family	\$ 35 (+ \$ 10)
Concession (Students/Pensioners)	\$ 10 (+ \$ 10)
	Donation
Total Payment:	
Email address - please print clearly:	

Win this bright Yarnknit rug!

Tickets \$2 each, or 3 for \$5

Tickets available at the Field of Mars Visitor Centre... or you may transfer funds to our Commonwealth Bank account:

RHHFF PS INC GENERAL ACCOUNT 062171 - 0090 1574.

Put “Raffle” + your name in the comment and email rhffps@gmail.com with your name and phone contact so your tickets may be reserved.



The winning ticket will be drawn at our next Annual General Meeting.