



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 (NCC)
and founding member of the Powerful Owl Coalition

No. 310

FEBRUARY

2025

We acknowledge the Wallumedegal, original inhabitants of the Ryde – Hunters Hill area.

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

In this edition of Wallumetta there is a short report on the official opening of the Putney Beach swimming site.

The new site includes a netted swim enclosure, outdoor shower facilities, and easy access to the foreshore. Putney Beach is the result of years of research and planning by the Parramatta River Catchment Group (PRCG) to improve the health of the Parramatta River. In 2018, the PRCG launched a comprehensive ten-step masterplan to address key issues affecting waterway health such as litter prevention, stormwater management, water-sensitive urban design, and land-use planning.

Established in 2008, the Parramatta River Catchment Group is an alliance of councils, government agencies and community groups who are working together to improve the Parramatta River and the creeks that flow into it.

The plan to make Parramatta River swimmable again by 2025 is the basis for making the Parramatta River Catchment a healthy environment. Now that it is opened, Putney Beach joins existing sites at Bayview Park, Cabarita Park Beach, Chiswick Baths, Dawn Fraser Baths, and Lake Parramatta. Other sites currently being planned include Bedlam Bay, Mort Bay, and Callan Park.

Our Society has been an active member of the PRCG from the start and is planning to continue to play an important role in setting the priorities for the Group.

One of the main strategies to improve ecosystem health in the catchment is to protect and enhance riparian vegetation. This delivers habitat benefits for several iconic species.

The aim is to:

- Naturalise where possible
- Enhance the viability, condition, connectivity, and extent of nature riparian vegetation
- Provide a corridor for the movement of flora and fauna species between reserves and areas of remnant vegetation
- Protect and/or provide bank and creekbed stability
- Contribute to improved water quality.

In June 2023, the PRCG received a grant for \$1,000,000 over three years as part of the NSW Government Election Commitment to undertake a Parramatta River Bank Naturalisation and Priority Corridors project.

The objectives of the grant are to:

1. Develop strategic policy to protect and enhance existing riparian vegetation
2. Identify priority sites within the PRCG catchment for riverbank revegetation
3. Deliver initial implementation (on-ground works).

This project is now at the point of identifying priority sites for revegetation and our Society will continue to closely follow progress at the regular meetings of the Group.

Frank Breen, President

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COMING EVENTS:

STEP TALK: SPANISH MOSS — AN ENVIRONMENTAL WEED: 2:30 pm, Saturday 22 February 2025
at [St Andrews Uniting Church, corner of Vernon Street and Chisholm Street, Turrumurra](#)

In recent years STEP has become increasingly concerned about the proliferation of Spanish Moss on our local trees and its potential impact on our bushland. So in December 2023 we asked members to send us details of any Spanish Moss they have seen growing on trees.

Robin Buchanan collated the results and wrote a [report](#) which concluded that Spanish Moss is likely to be a serious weed in plant communities in which Turpentine, Lilly Pilly, Brush Box and Cheese Tree are a major component. STEP is now implementing the [recommendations](#) contained in the report. Come and hear Robin explain the results of her findings.

For further information about this event contact Helen Wortham (0423 534 148)

[STEP is South Turrumurra Environment Protection Inc. with whom we share communications and similar objectives. To learn more about the STEP organisation, come to John Martyn's talk – see below.]

CITY OF RYDE "HAVE YOUR SAY" – WASTE, RECYCLING AND THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

City of Ryde is reviewing its [Waste Management Strategy](#) to move towards a circular economy approach. They invite submissions, which must be received by 11.59pm **Sunday 23 February 2025**. You may provide your submission by email or post, or complete an online survey. Go to <https://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/HaveyourSay/Have-Your-Say/Waste-Recycling-and-the-Circular-Economy>

RHHFFPS Sunday 2 March, 10am-12pm: CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

Our Society will hold a Clean Up Australia Day event under the aegis of the Clean Up Australia movement. If you would like to participate, please email Alfred at alfred.vincent@bigpond.com. We will work on areas of the Field of Mars Reserve close to the boardwalk and the creek, between the Monash Road entrance and Pittwater Road.

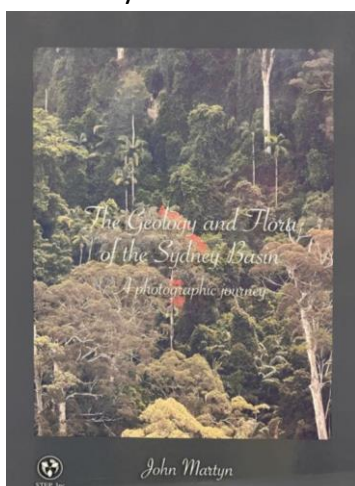
Rubbish bags, gloves and pick-up sticks are available, though you may like to bring your own gloves in case those provided do not fit. We will meet at the Visitor Centre; if possible come a few minutes before 10am to register. Tea and coffee will be on offer. In case of wet weather and/or flooding, we may postpone the event, in which case you will be notified by email.

RHHFFPS Sunday 16 March, 2pm: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

All members will be welcome to offer and discuss suggestions for our future activities. Please note that this year the AGM will be held on a Sunday rather than the usual Saturday. Annual reports will be presented, the raffle prize-winning ticket will be drawn, and you will be able to admire some of our new equipment.

Sunday 16 March, 3.30pm (after the AGM): TALK BY JOHN MARTYN

Environmentalist, geologist, cartographer and photographer John Martyn will talk about his books, including the newly published *The Geology and Flora of the Sydney Basin*, and his *Field Guide to the Bushland of the Lane Cove Valley*, which includes areas around the Field of Mars Reserve. He will also inform us about the work of the STEP organisation, of which he is a committee member. The talk will be followed by Q&A, and then afternoon tea in the Visitor Centre.



PAST EVENTS:

END OF YEAR AND VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION GET TOGETHER – SUNDAY 1 DECEMBER

Several members and friends attended this celebration of the efforts of our active volunteers. We also welcomed special guest Michael (Edie Rosenberg's son, front left in the photo) who supplied a *Banksia serrata* from Edie Rosenberg's garden. We planted the "Edie Tree" in the bushcare area near the Visitor Centre; appropriate because it



Photo by Lindsay Mar

was one of many sites where Edie worked. And we all enjoyed a barbecue + salad lunch which was prepared and served for us by a couple of experienced leaders from 1st East Ryde Scout Group.

NEWS FROM THE FIELD OF MARS



Track Works – a litany of disappointments

It was good to see the works progressing on "Nature Trails" project during December, and the filtered water fountain is already proving to be popular. However we do have a few concerns:

1. We had forewarned that the flat areas were garbage tips in the 1950s, but workers excavated significant amounts of landfill before levelling and forming up for the concrete paths. There is no knowing what materials would have been dumped there and, in 1966-67 when the area was under management of our Flora and Fauna Society, we brought in truckloads of topsoil which was then spread/levelled out to cap the garbage tip areas. Workers excavated some of this to a significant depth, so there is now debris including broken glass lying on the ground adjacent to the paths near the Visitor Centre.
2. We were promised that colouring would be added to the mix for the concrete paths so their appearance would be more suited to the environment, but this was not done.
3. Of greater concern is that the path at the Visitor Centre has no reinforcing in it, which means the concrete is likely to crack when vehicles drive over it.

4. Green buffalo turf was laid upon completion of works and our volunteers ensure they are well watered; however, Council mowers have been over the grass laid earlier and razed it to near ground level. We hope recent plantings near the new path fare better.



5. Formwork for asphaltting the gravel sections of the access road appears quite wide at the bus turning area, so vehicles to the accessible toilet and to the Environmental Education Centre will be less likely to slow down. The layout also puts the hard surface closer to the creek and natural saltmarsh.

6. We still await action to repair bush tracks and entrances.

7. The large bags of rubbish at the back of the Visitor Centre are still there! They are filled with rubbish collected in clean-up activities by volunteers and we were promised that they would



be disposed of by City of Ryde last October but they were still there, neatly lined up against the back wall of the Visitor Centre where there is some weather protection, when construction workers installed safety netting and moved them out from the wall for no apparent reason. Being exposed to the weather, several bags split open and were visited by wildlife. Society volunteers cleaned up the mess on different days and disposed of some of this rubbish themselves. At the time of writing we still await removal of the eight remaining bags.

Wildlife

This summer provided a lot of hot dry weather, alternating with rain, wind and electrical storms. Fortunately, walking tracks in the Field of Mars Reserve fared well with only a few trees falling across, making not too much of an obstacle for walkers to step over or around.

The Buffalo Creek Boardwalk was almost blocked by luxuriant growth of *Persecaria*, among other plants and weeds. We reported this to Council staff, but we later learnt that some walkers independently contacted City of Ryde Councillors about it. The overgrowth is now trimmed.

Another walker reported a dog owner said that his pet almost died as a result of a tick bite and it cost over \$4000 for veterinary treatment. As is signposted and we all know, dogs are not allowed in the Field of Mars Reserve as it is a Wildlife Protection Area Category 1. The rules are there to protect the wildlife from predatory animals. This incident demonstrates that pet cats and dogs also need protection by separation from wildlife!

Bushcare

Greater Sydney Landcare supplied our Streamwatch kit and onsite training for some bushcarers. Most volunteer groups had a break during the Christmas season but are now back to normal. At the Kennedy Street site, the “Edie Tree” (see “Past Events” above) remains alive and well, along with surrounding flora. It is flanked by star pickets which offer some protection. Unfortunately other plants became victims of the Council mowers.



And, in the adjacent Rod Wallace Garden, recent plantings were smothered when the Visitor Centre roof was cleared of Casuarina needles; workers dumped them there as mulch – see photo: Cemetery Creek 2 Bushcare continued without a break except for a couple of cancellations owing to wet weather. That area along the Fire Trail is in generally good condition; we mostly remove common weeds and rubbish blowing in from the cemetery.

Visitor Centre

We open with two four-hour shifts every Saturday, Sunday and on public holidays. While there, we keep a tally of visitor numbers. In 2024 we saw a total of 7105 walkers pass by in view of the Centre, and hosted 1890 visits to the Centre for maps, other information and refreshments. Naturally, these statistics do not include walkers who enter and leave the Reserve without passing by the Centre or coming outside our opening hours; nor do we keep a count of the thousands of school children involved in day visits with the Environmental Education Centre.

JOIN OUR VISITOR CENTRE TEAM! to keep the Visitor Centre open 9am-5pm on weekends and public holidays. Our roster of 4-hour shifts is negotiated according to members’ availability. No specialised skills are required, and Alfred happily provides the training needed. Most visitors’ questions are answered in the maps and range of free leaflets we have available.

CITY OF RYDE NEWS

PUTNEY BEACH IS NOW OPEN FOR SWIMMING

Our Society president, Frank Breen, has been an active committee member of the Parramatta River Catchment Group (PRCG) for many years. A key aim of the PRCG is to make the Parramatta River safe for swimming by 2025. Various swimming sites have already opened, and at Putney Park the opening ceremony was on Wednesday 22 January 2025. It was attended by most City of Ryde councillors, local members of parliament and a crowd of local adults and children who welcomed the opportunity to swim at a local natural area.



RHHFFPS committee members Phillip, Frank and Lyn. Some councillors and our MP for Ryde are in this second photo. [Photos provided by Lyn Langtry]

The PRCG and City of Ryde are to be congratulated on the opening of the safe swimming area at Putney Park. More are coming, with work now in progress at Bedlam Bay.

CITY OF RYDE ENVIRONMENTAL CITIZEN OF THE YEAR 2025

Adding to the awards of Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year, for 2025 the City of Ryde Council inaugurated two new awards: "Sportsperson of the Year" and "Environmental Citizen of the Year". We are pleased, and consider it very appropriate, that Society member **Pamela Ward** is first to be recognised with this new award.



In 1988 Pam joined our committee and until 2010 served in various roles including secretary, newsletter editor and membership officer. During this time, she joined the City of Ryde Bushcare Program and worked with others on sites within the Field of Mars Reserve. Over the past ten years Pam has been the site supervisor at the Cemetery Creek 2 Bushcare Site within the Reserve, where she continues to work 3 hours every week, weather permitting.

In 2012 and after five years of negotiations, The Habitat Community Native and food plant Nursery & Community Food Garden commenced operating on its site at 251 Quarry Rd, Ryde, adjacent to Santa Rosa Park. This was achieved together with fellow Society member Bev Debrincat, who now lives within the Municipality of Hunter's Hill - so ineligible to be considered for a City of Ryde award. The Habitat has operated continuously from 2012 to the present, with the community gardens always accessible, and the nursery section open to the public two days every week.



Pam encourages and involves school students, scouts and groups of people with disabilities in activities including planting native and food plants and undertaking community service. She monitors and assesses school students who come to The Habitat to undertake service for their Duke of Edinburgh Awards. Pam encourages and supervises groups of people with disabilities who visit and carry out appropriate tasks at The Habitat.

Additionally, she brings plants and displays to promote environmental awareness at community events including Granny Smith Festival and events organised by our Society.

At the presentation ceremony, 2024 Ryde Citizen of the Year Lyn Mann (Society member and East Ryde Joey Scout Leader, among other things) spoke of how the award inspired her to keep doing all that she does. The special Environmental Citizen of the Year award will hopefully encourage and inspire many others to be proactive in preserving and nurturing our natural environments.

NEWS FROM THE NTA

[“PFAS” are polyfluoroalkyl substances, a group of synthetic chemicals resistant to heat, water, grease and oil. They are also called “forever chemicals” because they do not break down.]



Here are the latest updates on PFAS and microplastics in synthetic turf. These reports and articles offer critical insights into the associated health risks and environmental impacts.

1. Health Risks of PFAS and Synthetic Turf

NTA prepared a detailed report examining the health risks posed by PFAS in synthetic turf, including results from recent local PFAS testing. [Access the NTA Report](#)

2. UTS Final Report on the Chemical Composition of Synthetic Turf (2022)

This comprehensive study by the University of Technology Sydney provides valuable data on the chemical composition of synthetic turf and its implications. [Read the UTS Report](#)

3. PFAS and Microplastics: A Growing Toxic Threat

An investigative report from *The Guardian* sheds light on the toxic risks posed by PFAS and microplastics in synthetic fields and broader environments. [Read the Article from The Guardian](#)

4. Whistleblower Advocacy for Scientific Integrity

This insightful piece explores the journey of Dr Kyla Bennett, a US based whistleblower advocating for scientific integrity in reporting PFAS and microplastics' environmental effects. [Read the Article](#)

5. PFAS in the Environment: PFOA More Widespread Than Expected

A new report reveals how PFAS chemicals, particularly PFOA, transform in the environment, leading to its presence being more widespread than previously understood. The study underscores the urgent need for improved environmental monitoring and action to address this growing issue.

[Read the Article from ABC News](#)

These findings highlight the urgent need to promote safer, natural alternatives to synthetic turf and engage in policy discussions. NTA encourages all members to share these resources with their networks and contribute to advocacy efforts.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS show pressing environmental and health concerns associated with synthetic playing fields, particularly regarding microplastics and PFAS pollution...

1. Letter from Minister Penny Sharpe on Plastic Pollution

While the NSW Government has taken steps to address plastic pollution through the Plastics Reduction and Circular Economy Act 2021, the measures largely focus on single-use plastics, with no acknowledgment of the significant issue of microplastic pollution caused by synthetic turf blades. This is a glaring omission, as synthetic field plastic waste continues to pose severe risks to our environment. [Access Minister Sharpe's letter](#)

2. Microplastics and Human Health - Emerging Evidence

A recent meta-analysis continues to highlight the alarming connection between microplastics and severe health concerns, including links to lung and colon cancer. These findings emphasize the long-term consequences of microplastic pollution on human health and ecosystems.

[Read the Meta-analysis report](#) / [Read the Sydney Morning Herald article on the report](#)

3. Federal and NSW PFAS Enquiries - Updates

NTA submitted recommendations to both the NSW Select Committee on PFAS Contamination and the Federal Parliament Select Committee on PFAS.

[Link to the Federal Government Enquiry webpage](#)

[Link to the NSW State Government Enquiry webpage](#)

Synthetic fields and their associated pollution continue to be a critical issue.

GARDENS OF STONE COAL MINING UPDATE

- Report received 10 January 2025

Thompsons Creek discharge

Centennial has admitted that this discharge from Thompsons Creek Reservoir into the water supply catchment contains a shandy of waste from Angus Place and Springvale mines.

Coal mine proposals in the Gardens of Stone State Conservation Area are legend and complex.

Key proposals for 2025 seek approvals to reintroduce disposal of huge volumes of mine waste into Sydney's main drinking water supply, coupled with many changes to coal mining plans through a **consent modification process (mods for short)**.



Image- C. Jonkers

Over the last couple of years poor handling of mine wastewater has made this large problem worse through its storage in underground mine workings. To rid itself of this mess, Centennial Coal proposes to pump from Angus Place mine a giant underground lake of pollution, about 5GL in size and full of metal salts, into a headwater tributary of the Coxs River.

Centennial Coal recently alleged that from the outset the \$200M Springvale Water Treatment Plant (SWTP) failed to deliver a promised zero mine waste release system. Allegedly the SWTP instead secretly pumped partly treated mine waste into Thompsons Creek Reservoir and from there discharged it at between 550 – 700EC salinity into Sydney's drinking water catchment at a rate of between 0.8 and 18ML/day. These discharges are described by Energy Australia as environmental flows. Luckily some dodgy proposals were withdrawn, as the Independent Planning Commission saw through what Centennial was trying to do. Now the scale of this pollution mess is revealed, with approvals sought to deal with over 50ML of mine waste generated, every day!

These new plans to dump mine waste into Sydney's water supplies can happen because a previous NSW Government weakened protection laws to overturn a 2017 NSW Supreme Court ruling preventing this sort of pollution. The Minns Government should now legislate to protect water supplies from mine pollution and fix this mega pollution mess.

Eight proposals to change mine approvals in the Gardens of Stone region are expected to go on public exhibition for comment in 2025. During this mine proposal onslaught, it is important for everyone to campaign for protection of Sydney's water supplies, the World Heritage Area, upland swamps and pagoda landscapes. Centennial is banking on crashing through democratic process.

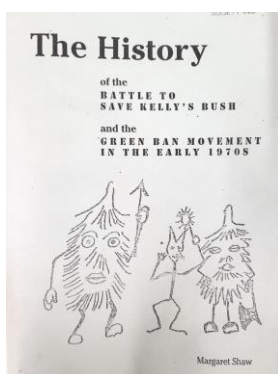
Estimated timeline for coal mine proposals in the Gardens of Stone

- SWTP Mod 11 seeks to allow for major Mt Piper Power Plant maintenance work this year. This mod proposes to send a shandy of mine waste water to Thompsons Creek Reservoir at a rate of 42ML/day and hence into the Sydney's drinking water supply at a target discharge salinity of 600EC – mod exhibition January 2025.
- SWTP Mod 12, with Angus Place mod 10 and Western Coal Services Mod 7 seeks to dump a different mine waste shandy at a rate of 26.5ML/day into Wangcol Creek at 700EC and hence into Sydney's water supplies - EBPC referral January or February 2025, mod exhibition 2nd quarter 2025.
- Angus Place Mod 9 seeks to extend the mine consent period to allow the above to continue – going to IPC February 2025.

- Angus Place West mine extension threatens swamps in the Coxs River headwaters - EIS exhibition 2nd or 3rd quarter of 2025.
- Springvale mine longwalls 501, 502, 503 – extraction plan to be lodged in 2026 would crack pagoda formations and drain a swamp.
- Springvale West is a new mining proposal at a lower coal mining intensity on Newnes Plateau above Sawyers Swamp Creek with an EPBC referral expected in the 2nd quarter of 2025 and EIS in the last quarter 2027.
- Clarence 918/920 extraction plan – in response to greater than predicted ground surface subsidence, this is a revised plan that seeks confirmation of the reintroduction of longwall mining machines after decades of successful lower intensity coal mining. In response to unacceptable subsidence, it is proposed to require longwall machinery used in shortwalls to avoid certain swamps and instead require partial pillar extraction under swamp areas. EPBC referral 2nd quarter 2025.
- Clarence DA 504 mining area Mod 11 seeks a 5 year mining consent extension to 31 December 2031 and also seeks to use coal wash from this mine to cap a toxic fly ash mess from Wallerawang Power Plant at Sawyers Swamp Creek. Mod exhibition in 2nd quarter 2025.
- Clarence mine extension Mod 8 of DA504 mining area due for EPBC referral exhibition in 2nd quarter of 2025 and Mod exhibition 3rd quarter of 2025. This Mod should be a separate EIS, as it covers a 400ha mine proposal area using an existing consent. Mod 8 also includes a pipeline extension from Clarence colliery to Wallerawang to transfer mine waste water under a Pollution Reduction Program. The pipe is to enable Lithgow City to continue use of mine waste in its drinking water supply once Farmers Creek dam is decommissioned. The drained and decommissioned storage dam will reveal a sediment filled wasteland and there are no plans to restore this mess.
- A new development application for Clarence Colliery integrating multiple approvals will seek permission for another 25 years coal mining, i.e. to 2053 – EPBC referral 2nd quarter 2025, EIS 2nd quarter 2028.
- Airly Mine - where the final extraction plan for the last 4 longwalls (minwalls) is due at end of 2025 - early 2026.

These complicated and varied proposals will no doubt fall behind schedule from what's described here. For more information on this mega mining mess follow all updates from members of the Gardens of Stone Alliance - Lithgow Environment Group, Blue Mountains Conservation Society, Wilderness Australia, Nature Conservation Council of NSW and National Parks Association of NSW.

VALE MARGARET SHAW



Another long-time member, Margaret Shaw, died recently. Margaret is fondly remembered as one of the “Battlers For Kelly’s Bush”. On page 7 In her book “The History of the Battle to Save Kelly’s Bush and the Green Ban Movement in the Early 1970s” Margaret mentions our Society and points out that she was one of its founding members.

A copy of her book is at the Visitor Centre and, having obtained Margaret’s permission, we can make a digitized copy available to members upon request.

Margaret and her husband John were reliable volunteers on our Visitor Centre roster during the 1980’s and 1990s, and her son Christopher Birch remains a current member of our Society.

THE NOT-SO-GREAT KOALA NATIONAL PARK

Editor's note: Environmentally-minded voters were heartened by the promise of a Great Koala National Park but, two years later, nothing has happened except accelerated logging activities and increasing amounts of taxpayer money being used to prop up the Forestry Corporation.

A few hundred vocal timber workers are, understandably, trying to maintain their jobs. But these jobs are unsustainable. It's a pity that all levels and sides of government in Australia cannot learn from countries like in Africa where, with shortages of wealth, they retrain those in wildlife- and environment-destroying industries to be employed to protect their environmental assets.

And those countries now benefit from increased national income and better balances of trade.

Here are two of the recent communications our Society has received about this issue:

1. NATURE CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF NSW

From Steve Ryan, Forests Campaigner:

The logging industry is still pushing to reduce the Great Koala National Park. We can't let that happen. [Can you make a quick call to your MP for our koalas and forests?](#)

Over 12,000 people signed the letter to Premier Chris Minns calling for the full Great Koala National Park.



Since delivering that huge petition in December... the government is still deciding whether to allow logging to continue in parts of the proposed 176,000 hectare national park.

The logging industry is pressuring for a park only one-third the size of the original proposal. We need to keep the pressure up on the Minns Government to deliver a full Great Koala National Park with phone calls. **Can you make a quick phone call to a member of parliament today?**

This year, logging resumed in the spectacular forests of the NSW North Coast.

Which means that every day the government delays, more koala and glider habitat is logged.

Make no mistake: throughout recent history, people power has won protection for hundreds of thousands of hectares of native forest and the precious wildlife that call these forests home. The coming days and months require us to all step up again and be heard.

I know calling an MP can seem a bit intimidating, but it's actually quick and easy, and we've made it as simple as possible for you with talking points and all the details right on our website.

With enough pressure we can make this the year we protect this critical habitat and secure a future for NSW's koalas.

2. From Sue Higginson, MLA (THE GREENS):

The Minns Labor Government will be making their decision on the Great Koala National Park in the coming days and weeks - I'm worried they will cave to the logging industry.

Instead of the 176,000 hectares of our public forest estate, the corporate loggers have submitted a proposal to NSW Labor for a National Park that only protects 37,000 hectares of our forests - **5 times smaller than what Labor promised.**

It has been 2 years since NSW Labor were elected by us on a promise to create the Great Koala National Park, and since then, they have intensified the logging in these precious forests, and pushed Koalas and other threatened species closer to extinction. We cannot allow them to give in again to the logging industry.

The decision by Labor on our Great Koala National Park is imminent. We need to bring all our pressure to their front door today, tomorrow and next week. That's why I'm also asking you to call the Premier and Minister for the Environment directly. You can reach them on:

Premier's contact: 02 7225 6000

Minister for the Environment's contact: 02 9230 2741

When you call or email, **you are telling the Government that they promised us the Great Koala National Park**, the one we all understood to be the Great Koala National Park - all 176,000 hectares that we have come to know as the Great Koala National Park. That you are so disappointed that it has taken so long and that they have continued to allow logging in the Park and that if they now go with the loggers and make a smaller Park, they will have betrayed us, koalas and future generations.

We have seen over the last 2 years that the NSW Labor Government will not act unless they are forced to do so. That's why... the Koalas need you, to call and email the Government today, tell them we need the full park, and full protections from logging - immediately.

Keep calling, keep emailing, don't give up. This will take all of us to make sure we get the full Great Koala National Park, not the loggers' version and not just the Labor-lite version.

NEWS FROM THE CLIMATE COUNCIL: SKY NEWS LAUNCHES ON-AIR ATTACK

Sky News used two tricks from the disinformation handbook:

1. Discrediting experts: labelled 'socialists' and 'ignorant leftists' peddling climate fear - a classic trick to attempt to discredit the person in order to avoid addressing their argument.
2. Cherry picking: Using out-of-context data to create a false association between renewables and last week's blackout warnings. The facts show that half of NSW's ageing coal-fired power generators were out of action at the time and that ageing infrastructure is vulnerable during very hot weather.

To set the record straight:

1. The Bureau of Meteorology shows that we've just lived through Australia's warmest spring on record.
2. Heatwaves are being hotter, longer and happening more often.
3. The Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) modelling that tells us that renewables, backed by storage, can provide power 24/7.
4. AEMO also has lots of great information about the increasing unreliability of our coal-fired power stations, including during heatwaves.

Sky News's attack tells the Climate Council two things about [their] campaign:

1. We're on the right track - when the people pedalling disinformation feel the need to go on the attack, they think we're having an impact.
2. This work is super important - the sheer brazenness of the lies we're up against is staggering, and reinforces how critical it is that we set the record straight to stop it sabotaging the climate action we urgently need.

"Funny they never mention that climate change is driving hotter, longer heat waves... putting pressure on our ageing energy system." – Climate Council

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE NOW DUE

Thank you to all members who recently renewed, and special thanks to those who made generous donations to support our Society's activities. If you have not yet done so, **please renew your membership now**, consider making a donation, and invite others to join! Like us, they may enjoy active involvement in our Society's activities to support the protection of natural environments both locally and beyond, receive this "Wallumetta" newsletter, and have early notifications of our special events. **The form below has details of fees and payment methods.**

NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME:

Please pay membership fee by direct transfer to our Bendigo Bank account: RYDE HUNTERS HILL FLORA AND FAUNA PRESERVATION SOCIETY INC, BSB 633-000, Account number 190716589.

Include your name in the transaction description; and email your name, address and phone number to rhffps@gmail.com

Or you may pay by cash: 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 \$ 10 (+ \$ 10)

(Students/Pensioners) Donation

Total Payment:

Email address to receive your newsletter – please print clearly:

YARNKNIT RUG RAFFLE PRIZE

Donated once again by Holy Spirit Yarn Group, you could be the lucky winner when the raffle is drawn at the AGM in early 2025. The handmade article is suitable for both winter and summer use. Keep it yourself, give it to a family member or friend or donate to a worthy organisation. Funds raised support the Society and the organisations we support.

You may buy tickets at the Visitors Centre or online by transfer to our Bendigo Bank account: RYDE HUNTERS HILL FLORA AND FAUNA PRESERVATION SOCIETY INC, BSB 633-000, Account number 190716589. Include your name and "raffle" in the transaction description, and email contact details to rhffps@gmail.com

One ticket for \$2, Three tickets for \$5



RHHFFPS

Postal address: PO Box 552, Gladesville, NSW 1675 **Email:** rhffps@gmail.com

Website: <http://rydehffps.org.au/> + LIKE US ON FACEBOOK:

<https://www.facebook.com/Ryde-Hunters-Hill-Flora-and-Fauna-Preservation-Society-1092104437471266/>

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