



Wallumetta

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

JUNE 2021 - No. 288

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

The Federal budget was handed down on 11 May and should have provided a way forward to Australia's low energy future but as reported in the on-line journal The Conversation on 13 May 'It's a flight of fancy'.

In place of the approaches adopted elsewhere, the Federal government is betting heavily on alternatives that have failed previous tests, such as carbon capture and storage and ignoring internationally proven technology, such as electric vehicles.

The government is placing its hopes on a low-emissions technology plan. That means increased public spending on research and development to accelerate the commercialisation of low emission technologies. The problems with this approach are most obvious in relation to carbon capture and storage (CCS).

The government's CCS funding is focused on capturing CO₂ from gas projects. This is despite the disappointing experience of Australia's only CCS project so far, Chevron's Gorgon gas field off Western Australia. Some 80% of emissions from the operation were meant to be captured from 2016. The process was delayed for three years, allowing millions of tonnes of CO₂ to enter the atmosphere. As of January this year, the project was still facing technical issues.

As the article concluded 'The government's emissions reduction strategy looks more like wishful thinking than a road map'.

In another article The Conversation reports (6 May) that one of the most successful emissions reduction policies Australia has deployed to date is the Renewable Energy Target (RET). The RET, established by the Howard government and expanded by the Rudd government, has produced more emissions reductions than most other similar policies combined.

The RET concept is simple. Energy retailers must buy a set percentage (currently 20%) of their energy from renewable generators. This results in new investment in wind, solar, and other clean technologies.

The more that are built the more prices fall (as they have recently), resulting in cost savings for consumers.

The Clean Energy Regulator runs the RET and ensures compliance. The Clean Energy Regulator administers schemes legislated by the Australian Government for measuring, managing, reducing or offsetting Australia's carbon emissions.

Carbon emissions from sources other than the power industry, such as transport, also need Commonwealth action. By using the RET framework, the Commonwealth could at least commence to achieve increased carbon reduction instead of funding gas fired power generators.

*Frank Breen,
President*

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HUNTER RENEWAL PROJECT

The Hunter region is vulnerable to global changes in the market for coal and this could leave thousands of people jobless, landscapes unrehabilitated and the region in economic recession if there are no plans and actions in place to stimulate job creation in alternative industries.

The region can prosper regardless of declines in the coal industry, but it needs support and investment to diversify before coal declines. The Hunter Renewal Project has been working for the last three years to secure funding and a locally-led process to guide the region's renewal as the world decarbonises, with the support of Lock the Gate Alliance.

In the last month they secured the first steps towards these two crucial goals.

The NSW Deputy Premier made a commitment earlier last month to dedicate at least \$25 million a year to diversification in coal mining communities, through a new program called Royalties for Rejuvenation. A statutory Hunter Expert Panel will be set up involving unions, community groups, local government and business, to guide planning and investment for the region's diversification.

Experience around the world has shown that a strong, community-led process and dedicated public funding are crucial to successfully create new jobs and opportunities during major structural change. And it comes just in time, as the International Energy Agency advised that meeting climate change goals will see coal use worldwide fall by 90% over the next thirty years.

There is a lot more to do... The Hunter Renewal Project has been working across the community in the Hunter, with unions, environment groups, small business, local and state government and are committed to collaborating locally to secure the Hunter's future as coal markets decline.

CYCLISTS DAMAGE BUSHLAND

In the Field of Mars Reserve, we have seen damage by cyclists who created their own off-track bike paths with berms and erode rocks by using electric mountain bikes. Recently, we received the following news from Jan Primrose, spokesperson for Protecting Your Suburban Environment Inc. (PYSE):

Social media posts by the mountain bike lobby groups say they are "environmentalists" who "love the bush" and that their tracks cause no damage to the bushland, let alone the endangered ecological communities and areas of threatened species on the Westleigh site [near Thornleigh].



But this photo shows extensive damage caused at Westleigh by these tracks. The damage is not caused by bushwalkers and should not have occurred. Legalising these tracks now would be the antithesis of good environmental management by Council of this ecologically sensitive site. Pouring tons of fill onto these areas, as Hornsby Council's mountain bike report recommends, is an appalling solution. It will simply bury evidence of the damage, and wash off again.

Berowra Valley Needs Your Help!

Plans for Hornsby Park and Westleigh Park will determine outcomes for recreational facilities and environmental management for decades to come. Please help persuade Hornsby Council that good environmental management is essential, by making an individual **submission by 2 June 2021**. Even just one or two sentences will help! A handy information guide is provided by STEP Inc: https://mcusercontent.com/8c1039a8091e19e0ac06397a7/files/526cadf9-aa7f-a191-3b2c-4b4fe375db32/Hornsby_and_Westleigh_Park_Master_Plans.pdf

Send submissions to Hornsby Shire Council at hsc@hornsby.nsw.gov.au and consultants: planyourparkland@elton.com.au

WASTE NOT, WANT NOT AND BENEFIT OUR ENVIRONMENT – Part 2 *by Lyn Langtry*

Cleaning

- Old toothbrushes and mascara wands - for difficult to get into places
- Old tee shirts and flannelette items - for polishing cloths and dusters

Re-use (no need to send this 'stuff' to landfill yet)

- Old towels, handtowels, face washers and nappies – shearing shed 'grease rags' (Lyn has a contact at Old Junee NSW who would love them). Pet rescue places, cat adoption services and the RSPCA take old towels but check with them first as sometimes they have enough in storage.
- Clean rags - for automotive workshops, other agricultural enterprises, lino cut printing artists. They may also be placed in bags, labelled 'Rags Only' and put into charity bins
- Fabric artists love natural fibres for their creations – linen, silk, wool, cotton pieces
- Old socks – shoe cleaning
- Clothing – donate to charity shops or various organisations online eg Dress for Success Sydney

Clean up

- Rubbish bag – carry on walks along the beach, in the bush, at the roadside or anywhere else litter may lurk

Brainstorming session at the committee meeting in February 2021

(Five minutes of talking produced this list but do go online for more detailed information)

- **REDcycle** for plastic not taken in kerbside recycling
- **Ryde City Council** – printer cartridges, batteries, light tubes, mobile phones
- **Circular Metals Gladesville** – all non-hazardous metal items
- Check other commercial outlets too
- **Happy Hens Community Gardens** at Bedlam Bay and Henley Green - recycling bins for green and brown compost, bottle caps, egg cartons etc are now available. Visit the Recycling Project page for more information.
- **Coffee Grounds Project** - local cafes can now put their spent coffee grounds to good work at Henley Green Community Garden. Visit the Coffee Grounds Project page for more details.
- **Community Recycling Service Artarmon** – for difficult to dispose of items eg paints, car batteries, various chemicals
- **Reverse Garbage NSW Marrickville** - lists what can be taken and offers suggestions for stuff that can't be!
- **Repair Café Sydney North** at Lane Cove
- **Sewing Basket Newington and West Ryde** - accept fabric and haberdashery

In the next edition of Wallumetta, Lyn will provide ideas for Creative Pursuits and Children's Craft.

BINGO OPENS WORLD'S LARGEST MIXED-WASTE RECYCLING FACILITY IN WESTERN SYDNEY

News from Planet Ark - by Rachael Ridley 3 May 2021

Planet Ark partner BINGO Industries has officially opened the world's largest and most advanced dry mixed-waste recycling facility at its Eastern Creek Recycling Ecology Park in Western Sydney. The \$100 million facility is fitted with world-leading resource recovery and manufacturing technology, enabling BINGO to drastically increase the number of materials diverted from landfill and manufacture them into new products on-site. The recycling plant is expected to recover approximately 90% of materials, keeping them out of landfill.

When fully operational in July 2021, the plant is expected to process up to 7,000 tonnes of materials a day or 300 tonnes per hour. It will be capable of processing a wide variety of waste including materials from the Construction and Demolition (C&D) and Commercial and Industrial (C&I) sectors. According to the latest data from the [2020 National Waste Report](#), these two sectors combined generate 80% of Australia's core waste.

Construction of the facility was supported by a \$5 million grant from the NSW Environmental Trust as part of the NSW Government's [Waste Less, Recycle More](#) initiative funded through the state waste levy. Substantial investment from business and government in waste solutions signifies a shift from the linear 'take, make, dispose' mindset towards a circular model that sees waste a resource to be kept in circulation at the highest value for as long as possible. The project will create a further 100 permanent employment positions once operational.

The facility fortifies BINGO Industries' position as a leader in Australia's growing circular economy. The advanced on-site screening, sorting and processing technologies will not only allow more materials to be recovered but also produce a higher quality end product. The majority of these materials will be manufactured at the facility into new building and landscaping products made from 100% recycled content available for purchase by building and infrastructure companies, landscaping businesses, councils and the general public.

BINGO's Eastern Creek site now has two Materials Processing Centres (MPC):





FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S THREATENED SPECIES STRATEGY UNDERMINED BY INADEQUATE FUNDING AND WEAK LAWS

From Josh Meadows, Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) Media Adviser...

In response to the federal government's Threatened Species Strategy 2021–2031, the ACF's nature campaign manager Basha Stasak said:



**AUSTRALIAN
CONSERVATION
FOUNDATION**

“The Morrison government’s new 10-year [Threatened Species Strategy](#) is an improvement on the previous five-year plan, but unless the core issues of inadequate funding and weak laws are addressed, it will fail to deliver.

“There are significant improvements in this strategy – in particular we welcome the high-level objective on protecting priority places.

“But the forces that have made Australia a world leader in mammal extinctions are strong. Australia’s unique biodiversity, evolved over millions of years, is under threat like never before from a combination of land clearing for mining, agriculture and new suburbs, supercharged bushfires and other impacts of climate change.

“Our governments have an appalling record on protecting Australia’s unique species.

“Even some animals that are officially honoured are actually neglected. Victoria’s faunal emblem, Leadbeater’s Possum, is critically endangered. In 2015 the federal government promised ‘a revised Recovery Plan will be completed by mid-2016, driving action to turn around the decline of the Leadbeater’s Possum.’ Six years later, we are still waiting.

“Under this new strategy, funding for threatened species falls well short of what’s required.

“ACF estimates approximately \$1.69 billion a year is required to genuinely tackle Australia’s extinction crisis. This is substantially more than is currently allocated to biodiversity protection in the federal budget.

“Beyond funding, we need to fix our national environment laws.

“The Threatened Species Strategy works in conjunction with the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act – a law the Samuel Review showed is not working.

“Without the government undertaking the reforms proposed by Professor Samuel, we won’t arrest the downward trajectory of our wildlife.

“The previous five-year strategy failed to deliver, largely because of inadequate funding and weak national environment laws. Our species can’t wait another 10 years.”

Good News!

Following the success of our previous raffle, won by one of our active members, the Holy Spirit Yarnknit Group of North Ryde have hand-knitted and kindly donated to RHHFFPS another rug so:

Win this bright Yarnknit rug!

Tickets \$2 each / 3 for \$5
available at the Field of Mars Visitor Centre.

Winning ticket will be drawn at our next Annual General Meeting.



DEMOLITION AT IBM SITE NEAR CUMBERLAND FOREST

Award winning IBM headquarter buildings at 55 Coonara Ave Pennant Hills are adjacent to Cumberland State Forest. They were designed to accommodate some 2000 staff but now Mirvac has submitted a Development Application (DA) for their demolition. As part of the DA, Mirvac wants to clear-fell existing critically endangered Blue Gum High Forest (BGHF) and Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest (STIF) within the site. We believe the current buildings should, instead, be repurposed together with the retention of 450+ BGHF and STIF trees.



Mirvac claims the trees to be cleared were planted by IBM; in fact these are natural regrowth and form part of the site's critically endangered ecological communities which include a colony of endangered Dural Land Snails which must not be removed or relocated.

An overwhelming number of objections have already been submitted and the deadline is now extended to **31 May 2021** so please **ACT NOW!** to make a submission. A handy guide for submissions has been provided: <https://www.forestindanger.org.au/take-action-submission-guide>

For more information about issues and concerns surrounding this site, see <https://www.step.org.au/index.php/item/364-last-attempt-to-stop-the-mirvac-development-plans-for-the-ibm-site>

IVANHOE ESTATE AND WORKS ALONG HERRING RD, MACQUARIE PARK – UPDATE

Ivanhoe Estate building works continue, with this “State Significant Project” being undertaken by Frasers, on behalf of the NSW State Government.

Meanwhile, Transport for NSW have started widening Herring Road between Epping and Waterloo Roads to provide a dedicated northbound bus lane. Project entails upgrading three intersections along this roadway, and further removal of up to 41 trees in Herring Road and Ivanhoe Place. Transport for NSW claims that they plan to replace each removed tree and work with City of Ryde Council to identify potential locations for plantings within the local area.



For detailed information see <https://roads-waterways.transport.nsw.gov.au/projects/evolution-of-macquarie-park/herring-road.html>

These works are part of a suite of projects in the stimulus package announced by the Federal Government to help support economic growth and jobs creation in the post COVID-19.

Happily, our efforts in the early planning stages were successful in saving the remnant Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest along Epping Road. This natural area remains undamaged (so far).

NEWS FROM THE FIELD OF MARS: Masterplan + Plan of Management Progress

The City of Ryde Council draft Masterplan is for overall management and development of the Field of Mars Reserve over the next 20 years. It was put on public exhibition 26 April and we notified all members and visitors to our events by email. Closing date for feedback was 9 May 2021.

City of Ryde Council staff attended two meetings with members of our committee and on Saturday 1 May, they set up a drop-in centre outside the Field of Mars Visitor Centre to provide information and invite feedback.



The Masterplan has a projected lifespan of 20 years and provides a framework for development of Plans of Management. Key elements considered in the new Masterplan are:

- Pedestrian access
- Vehicle access and parking
- Accessibility - specific needs people
- Reserve user / visitor experience
- Visitor Centre / amenities building
- Lighting
- Bush walking tracks
- Other recreational facilities
- Conservation of biodiversity
- Native vegetation management
- Fauna management
- Management and maintenance activities
- Regeneration and restoration
- Contamination management
- Land management
- Boundary management
- Adjoining privately owned land
- Pest, domestic animal management
- Endangered estuarine saltmarsh communities
- Fire management
- Management of riparian areas
- Stormwater runoff & water quality
- Climate change/ resilience planning
- External services, utilities and easements
- Restricted & prohibited activities
- Areas of cultural significance
- Waste dumping / litter
- Funding
- Education – school
- Education – community
- Information provision and interpretation
- Participation in bushcare
- Advisory committee
- Planning and design of facilities
- Leases and use agreements

VISITOR CENTRE: 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. We really enjoy spending time in the idyllic environment to chat with visitors to the Reserve, to help others in a friendly manner and, at times when nobody else is around, to do a bit of reading or homework. No specialised skills are required, and Alfred will happily provide the small amount of training needed. The frequency and times of each person's shifts are negotiated individually, according to preferences and availability.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

EVENTS: BIRD WALKS + ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING [AGM]

On **Saturday 17 April 2021** two groups of interested members and friends – a total of 22 and most armed with binoculars – enjoyed bird spotting walks led by our resident bird expert Cathy Goswell. The day was overcast but, as usual, several birds were seen and heard; notably there was a kingfisher near Buffalo Creek. These walks were followed by a barbecue + salad lunch, and our AGM, which featured presentation of reports on our operations during 2020. We thank Alister for conducting the election of our Management Committee for the coming year.



COMING EVENTS

City of Ryde Sustainability Festival: see <https://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/Events/Listing/Sustainability-Festival>



FIELD OF MARS HERITAGE WALKS –

Saturday 19 June 2021: departing from the Field of Mars Visitor Centre at 10am and 1pm.

Walks will be led by Phillip Ward who has roamed the bushland in the Field of Mars Reserve for over 60 years and is a founding member of RHHFFPS. Intimate knowledge of the history and features of the Reserve has been supplemented in recent times by additional information from others whose family and friends were connected with localities which are now within the Field of Mars Reserve. Each walk is planned to be of 2 hours’ duration, with medium difficulty.

Limited numbers! - first come, first served. To register, email Alfred (alfred.vincent@bigpond.com) or leave a message on 9879 6067. Give your contact phone number, number of persons registering and your preferred time. *Do not turn up without registering, as there probably won't be any spare places.* When you come, bring drinking water, a hat and closed shoes.

New RHHFFPS members always welcome!

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, and email your name, address and phone number to rhhffps@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: _____


Friends of Kelly's Bush invite you to celebrate the

50th anniversary


of the world's first

Green Ban 1971-2021

At Weil Park, Woolwich Road,
on Sunday 29 August 2021, 10am-12.30pm



Speaker
Meredith Burgmann
Author of Green Bans, Red Union, The saving of a city



Speaker
Tim Ross
Author, broadcaster and television personality

What's on: unveiling of 50th anniversary memorial by 'Battler' Dr Joan Croll • guided walks through Kelly's Bush • tree planting • art show • music • coffee cart • sausage sizzle • devonshire tea • native plant stall • community group stalls