



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. 317

APRIL

2026

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

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

This edition includes comprehensive reports presented at the Annual General Meeting of the Society on Sunday 15 March. I am pleased to report that all the members of the Management Committee nominated for the coming year and were elected for another year.

In my report I began by thanking all the members of the Management Committee for their valuable input and efforts over the year to 31 December 2025. The Society continues to be well regarded in local matters, state matters and national matters and this reflects the quality of all members of the Management Committee. It will be another demanding year for those concerned about our natural heritage and environmental matters.

Evidence of this are two matters of note at this time. These are the NSW Government's "A new approach to strategic planning: Discussion Paper" and new climate change licence requirements for large emitters.

The Nature Conservation Council NSW is making a submission about the Strategic Planning Discussion Paper and makes the point that many elements in the framework outlined in the Discussion Paper do not provide a suitable basis for long term strategic planning that is consistent with the principles of being ecologically sustainable.

The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has released new climate change licence requirements for large emitters. This will set new standards for climate action for industry in the transition to net-zero. The requirements will apply to facilities that hold environment protection licences and emit over 25,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions per year.

The Society will be actively engaged in evaluating and responding to these new initiatives.

Frank Breen, President

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PAST EVENTS:

OUR 60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION – report and photo by Lindsay Mar

On Sunday 15 February 2026, a gathering of around 70 included several original members of the Society - Jean Boyd, Anne Newman and Ward brothers, Kelvin, James and Phil, the latter of whom was MC for the day, introducing speakers CoR Mayor Trenton Brown and Field of Mars Environmental Education Centre Principal Steve Papp.

Steve spoke of the thousands of children who have benefitted from educational programs at the the Field of Mars Reserve and that this was due in turn to due to the foresight that led to the foundation of the society sixty years ago. He said that the Education Centre was now the foremost of its type in NSW. Phil Ward recounted visits to the reserve by parents and families (some from as far away as Penrith), resulting from their children’s glowing reports of their educational experience at the centre.

A photo display of members and activities of the last sixty years had been prepared, and of this, Mayor Trenton Brown said, “I love to see the work that has been realised over six decades the in the Field of Mars Reserve, a great testament to many many volunteers.”

The 60th celebration was begun with a sausage sizzle for lunch and the SydneySiders Express Harmony Chorus provided musical entertainment at the finale of proceedings singing favourites such as “Hello Mary Lou”, “Under the Boardwalk” and “I Still Call Australia Home”.



Seated (left to right): Linda Veloskey, Alfred Vincent, Marilyn Wise, Frank Breen, Anne Newman, Philip Ward, James Ward, Kelvin Ward, COR Mayor Trenton Brown, Jean Boyd, Diane Edmonds. Among those standing are: Pamela Ward, Tomoko Ward, Pamela Reeves, Sandy Larson, Lyn Langtry, Brigid Dowsett, Cathy Goswell, Steve Papp (centre), CoR Clr Tina Kordrostami, CoR Clr Keanu Arya, HH Clr Carla Kassab , Peter Goldfinch and Maggie Hughes.

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

On Sunday 1 March members of RHHFFPS took part in a Clean Up Australia Day activity in the area around Buffalo Creek in the Field of Mars Reserve.

Our early morning clean-up crew l to r: Alfred Vincent, Pamela Reeves, Angela McCarthy, Lyn Langtry, Ryde Clr Keanu Arya and Bill Collins. (Photo: Lindsay Mar).





ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) Sunday 15 March

It was a pleasant afternoon so we gathered on the grass outside the Visitor Centre veranda, to hear and discuss the reports about the various aspects of our work. These reports may be found in pages 5-9 of this newsletter. Current committee members were re-elected unopposed, and the winning raffle ticket was drawn.

COMING EVENTS:

"BUSHFIRES, STORMS AND FLOODS 2019-23: HOW SYDNEY BASIN BUSHLAND HAS COPEd": TALK BY JOHN MARTYN – 2pm Saturday 18 April

John Martyn is a geologist, environmentalist and photographer, whose published books include the *Field Guide to the Bushland of the Lane Cove Valley* and *The Geology and Flora of the Sydney Basin*. Members may recall that he gave us a talk in March 2025. This will also be in the Field of Mars Environmental Education Centre (main entrance: Pittwater Road, East Ryde). It will be followed by Q&A and then afternoon tea in the Visitor Centre. A free event – but donations are always welcome. For further info please phone Alfred on 0403749181.



BIRD WALKS WITH CATHY GOSWELL – 8.30 and 10.30am Saturday 9 May

Walks, starting at the Field of Mars Visitor Centre, will be led by Cathy Goswell of the Cumberland Bird Observers Club. Wear closed shoes and a hat. Bring binoculars if you have them. Children aged 5-12 are welcome but must be with an adult. Event is free, but small donations welcome! Booking is essential as numbers are strictly limited. Email alfred.vincent@bigpond.com or leave a message on 0403749181, indicating numbers participating and your preferred time.

"WHERE HAVE ALL THE TREES GONE?" – 2pm Sunday 21 June

Professor Peter Davies will discuss what kinds of human activity have contributed to their loss.

LOOKING AHEAD AND TO BE CONFIRMED:

- WILDFLOWER WALKS – Saturday 18 July
- MUSIC ON MARS – Sunday 20 September

NEWS FROM THE FIELD OF MARS

Bushcare

Progress at the Monash Road site is awesome! Much of the privet near the creek has been removed and, following removal of other weeds, there is good regeneration of native grasses and shrubs whose seeds survived lying dormant in the soil for many years.



Wildlife in the Field of Mars Reserve

On the Boardwalk side of Buffalo Creek, annual growth of *Persecaria* has been limited by an unknown brown spot disease. On the Visitor Centre side of the creek there is very little *Persecaria* this year, but several young bleeding heart plants (*Homalanthus populifolius*) are appearing. And the *Melaleuca linariifolia* we planted near the footbridge is still doing well. Bracken ferns (*Pteridium esculantum*) have died out in many areas, but there is a healthy crop covering the ground under the nearby *Melaleuca* forest.

Many smaller birds appreciate the birdbath near the Visitor Centre and peewees scour the brick walls of the building for insects and spiders while ducks and ibis forage in the grass. It's good that the ibis in the Reserve feed upon natural food as this one near the Visitor Centre is doing, and do not become "bin chickens".



< Admiring its own reflection? Spoonbill in Buffalo Creek, photographed by Alfred Vincent.

Visitor Centre

Apart from when events are happening, the number of people seen has been lower than usual. However, birdlife abounds with the usual ducks, turkeys, peewees, ibis, magpies and of course Kevin the kookaburra. An unexpected benefit of being familiar with wildlife (and vice-versa) is the occasional close encounter. Recently, near Narrabeen Lagoon a young kookaburra chose my bushcare hat as a good place to sit for about ten minutes to watch for food:



MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO VOLUNTEER AT THE VISITOR CENTRE...

We keep the Field of Mars Visitor Centre open on weekends and public holidays to welcome visitors to the Reserve and provide them maps, information, an opportunity to look at the birds and other animals outside, and our displays inside. Some visitors simply appreciate a friendly chat.

Our roster is arranged with 4-hour shifts for each volunteer to do once or twice a month, and organised to fit in with your availability. All already on the roster appreciate spending time in the pleasant environment there. Contact Alfred on 0403749181. We'll help you get started.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

During the celebration of our Society's 60th anniversary, we recalled significant events and actions of our Society over the years. Information and photos of these are on display at the Visitor Centre. Upon the request of some members who were unable to attend our Annual General Meeting, reports presented are on the next few pages of this Wallumetta.

Phillip Ward, Editor

AGM 15 March 2026 - REPORTS

President's report

I begin by thanking all the members of the Management Committee for their valuable input and efforts over the year to 31 December 2025. I would also like to thank the membership for their continued support of the Society and the work of the Management Committee. The Society continues to be well regarded in local matters, state matters and national matters and this reflects the efforts of the Management Committee and the support of the membership.

The volunteers at the Field of Mars Visitors Centre are also much appreciated. Many walkers in the Reserve come to the Visitor Centre and this has an important role in educating the community and promoting nature conservation.

Certain matters associated with the Field of Mars will be the subject of separate reports and I will not cover these in this report.

As usual it is important each year to review the actions of the Society in meeting its objects.

These are-

- Respect for the land and its flora and fauna and original custodians.
- The education of the membership and the community, particularly in the local area, in nature conservation and protection of the environment.
- The promotion of ecologically sustainable land use and development at the local, state, national and international levels.
- Advocating measures at the local, state, national and international level necessary to safeguard the environment from all forms of pollution to ensure, clean air, clean water and a healthy environment and address climate change.

I would like to outline how we have done in the 12 months to 31 December 25.

- **Respect for the land and its flora and fauna and original custodians.**

This is an object that we strive to observe through all our activities and I think this is reflected in my comments under the other objects.

- **The education of the membership and the community, particularly in the local area, in nature conservation and protection of the environment**

These initiatives include operating the Visitor Centre on weekends and public holidays, organising events, media & publications and grants.

The Visitors Centre and the events organised by the Society are the subject of separate reports and I am sure that you will agree after hearing those reports that they have made a great contribution to educating the membership and the community in nature conservation and protecting the environment.

Special events for 2026 are now being planned and members will receive priority notice of all events. Media & publications include-

- Facebook page & website
- Wallumetta

Grant applications includes-

- Music on Mars grant application

The promotion of ecologically sustainable land use and development at the local, state, national and international levels.

These initiatives can be summarised under the headings of projects, participation in relevant groups & meetings and donations.

Projects include-

- Streamwatch monitoring
- Bushcare in the Field of Mars and other reserves
- Clean up Australia day

Participation in relevant groups & meetings include-

- Parramatta River Catchment Group
- NCC NSW Planning (laws) group
- NCC NSW Annual Conference
- NCC NSW Members Forums
- City of Ryde Heritage Community Committee
- Hunters Hill Council Biodiversity Management Advisory Committee
- Field of Mars Consultative Committee
- Habitat Network
- Field of Mars Consultative Committee
- City of Ryde Festival & Arts Community Committee
- City of Ryde Sustainability Community Committee
- Better Planning Network,

Donations include-

- Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF)
 - Invasive Species Council
 - Environmental Defenders Office (EDO)
 - Lock The Gate
- **Advocating measures at the local, state, national and international level necessary to safeguard the environment from all forms of pollution to ensure, clean air, clean water and a healthy environment and address climate change.**

These initiatives are a major aspect of the meetings of the management committee and include matters such as the protection of the Powerful Owl site at Glades Bay, invasive Spanish Moss, Synthetic Turf, Julius Avenue Data Centre, Ryde Council's Integrated Open Spaces proposals, EP&A Act (NSW) reforms, the Nature Laws reforms of the Federal Government and many other matters that have been reported in Wallumetta during the year.

To sum up, the Society has been very active in pursuing its objects on a wide range of very important issues. There is much more that remains to be done but we need to focus on the priorities and do our best to influence outcomes.

Once again thanks to everyone who contributed to the efforts of the Society this year and to our members and supporters who are essential for the continued influence of the Society in protecting our natural heritage.

Frank Breen, President

EVENTS IN LAST TWELVE MONTHS (not including use of the VC for scouting or EEC activities)

- Sunday 16 March 2025: AGM, then John Martyn's talk on the geology and botany of the Sydney basin
- Saturday 5 April: Bird Walks with Cathy Goswell
- Saturday 14 June: Wal Walker spoke on "the failures of government and administration [...] that allowed the violent dispossession of the Indigenous people", as described in his book *The Squatters Grab*
- Sunday 20 July: Tree Walk and BBQ lunch with Phillip Ward
- Sunday 24 August: Bird Walks with Cathy Goswell
- Sunday 21 September: Music on Mars
- Sunday 2 November: The Visitor Centre hosted the Cumberland Bird Observers' Club's annual BBQ, with a bird walk led by Cathy Goswell
- Sunday 7 December: Members' Picnic
- Sunday 16 February 2026: RHHFFPS Sixtieth Birthday Celebration
- Sunday 1 March: Clean Up Australia Day activity

Alfred Vincent

PARRAMATTA RIVER CATCHMENT GROUP REPORT

The Society continued to actively participate in the PRCG and in particular in connection with biodiversity matters. The PRCG meets quarterly for reports and setting priorities on progress towards meeting its vision for the river

● River Bank Naturalisation and Planning Priority Corridors project

A major initiative is the River Bank Naturalisation and Planning Priority Corridors project. This involves three stages.

Stage 1: July 2023 – June 2024

- Conduct a literature review, undertake riparian catchment mapping, and identify preliminary priority sites for restoration.
- Develop riparian planning controls/LEP clauses for member councils.

Stage 2: July 2024 – June 2025

- Finalise planning policy and controls.
- Conclude selection of riparian restoration project sites, develop concept designs, and coordinate approvals for capital works program.

Stage 3: July 2025 – June 2026

Undertake capital works at priority sites.

Stage 1 has been completed and stage 2 is approaching completion.

The river bank naturalisation project is a high priority for the Society

Project update:

Feedback was received from council representatives following the initial concept plans.

Hunters Hill (Tarban Creek) and Blacktown (Grantham Creek) requested materials for community consultation, which has been completed.

Following feedback from the public, and in consultation with council and PRCG staff, concept plans and cost estimates for all six sites were developed by Civille.

A project prioritisation meeting was held to identify projects to be funded. A selection of projects at Grantham Creek, Hawthorn Canal, Duck River and Tarban Creek have been identified as feasible within the grant funds.

On-ground works on Archer and Vineyard Creeks identified as being beyond the budgetary scope of the Bank Naturalisation Project. However, these remain in consideration for detailed design for shovel-ready projects – contingent on residual funding after final costing on prioritised projects.

Next Steps:

- Civille is proceeding with detailed design, to be finalised by end of March/early April.
- Procedures for project close-out, MOUs with each council, and transfer of funds to be discussed with host council (IWC) and DCCEEW so funds can be distributed prior to project end date (30 June).

● Parramatta River swim site update - Bedlam Bay

The site was opened by Hunters Hill Council 28 November. Council is awaiting feedback from NPWS on Stage 2 upgrade works

● Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) Uplift Project

In 2021, the PRCG commissioned an audit of private WSUD and on-site detention (OSD). It was found that only 20% of devices were maintained, and 14% were missing.

The project is now launched and was awarded to two consultants, E2 Design Lab for delivery of capacity building workshops and Wave Consulting to develop guidelines for industry stakeholders.

The success of the project will rely on the participation of all relevant business units within member Council, including but not limited to planners, development assessment and planners, stormwater engineers, and regulatory compliance.

Project overview:

- Establish a standardised approach for WSUD development planning, assessment, and compliance.
- Identify gaps and seek agreement on key matters such as planning, covenants, resources, and guidelines.
- Build technical capacity of officers involved in WSUD assessment and compliance, and
- Develop resources to implement a common WSUD compliance program with key internal and external stakeholders, including guidelines, webinars, fact sheets for developers, homeowners and strata managers.

Workshops begin in mid-February 2026. These will be followed by small group, technical support sessions for the evaluation and compliance process, WSUD Asset Recording and Reporting, and on-ground asset management. An invitation to participate has been circulated to member councils through their Officer Group representatives.

Further Information about all of the activities of the PRCG can be found on the website www.ourlivingriver.com.au

Frank Breen, PRCG Representative

FIELD OF MARS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

In accordance with the current Field of Mars Reserve Plan of Management, quarterly consultative meetings are held with representatives from the City of Ryde Council, the Environmental Education Centre, and our Society. Over the past year meetings were held in person in the Visitor Centre on the mornings before our Society's monthly meetings in May, August, November and February. Representatives included:

- Phillip Ward and Frank Breen (RHHFFPS)
- Steve Papp and Patrick Spiers (Field of Mars Environmental Education Centre)
- Sandra Payne and Jeff Chu (City of Ryde Council)

Ongoing items discussed were:

- State of bushland and tracks
- Bushcare and control of invasive weeds
- Control of motor vehicles, dogs and bikes
- Cemetery impacts
- School visits to the Reserve, hosted by the Environmental Education Centre
- Visitor Centre reports, including the dog log
- Maintenance needs – clearing dumped rubbish and making Reserve entrances safe
- Control of pests - foxes and rabbits - throughout the City of Ryde
- Streamwatch water monitoring
- Signage

A special item of business in the past year was the Nature Trail Project which includes works on the Boardwalk and the Warada Track between the Sand Track and Flat Rock.

These meetings are valuable and we continue to enjoy good working relations between City of Ryde Natural Areas staff and the Environmental Education Centre staff, to benefit the Field of Mars Reserve.

BUSH REGENERATION REPORT

A few members of our Society volunteer with the City of Ryde Bushcare program in the Field of Mars Reserve. Results are rewarding, even with setbacks during to unusual weather and weed encroachments from outside the Reserve boundaries. Each edition of Wallumetta has more detailed reports of our activities. Groups at Kennedy St and Strangers Creek sites meet once a month, and at Cemetery Creek 2 and Monash Road the groups meet every week, weather permitting. The Strangers Creek group is to be congratulated on being second in the bushcare site category of the City of Ryde Spring Garden awards.

Other areas in the Reserve are managed by Council contractors, currently Dragonfly Environmental, who have focused their operations on the western parts of the Reserve.

There continues to be good regeneration of endemic vegetation at the volunteer sites, and the usual weeds are kept largely under control. Special attention is needed to control invasions of *Ehrharta*, *Ochna*, *Acetosa*, *Anredera*, plastic flowers and general rubbish.

At Monash Road, a significant amount of privet has been cleared near the creek, and this has assisted natural regeneration of native grasses and shrubs.

The "Roving" group continue to work along the area between Kennedy Street and the area near the Visitor Centre; you just have to look outside to see the value of their work.

A related activity is the clearing of rubbish washed into the creeks, typically after periods of rain. We are ever grateful to those Society members and others who carry out this work. It is a focus of our Clean Up Australia Day group, who this year found less rubbish than usual.

Also related is the maintenance of the memorial gardens near the Visitor Centre. But Council contractors have again smothered the Rod Wallace Garden with Casuarina needles. Constant changes in City of Ryde Council staff make it difficult to enable their education in the importance and care of natural areas.

New members are always welcome in all volunteer bushcare teams – phone the City of Ryde Council on 9952 8222 and tell them you would like to join us. All training is provided on-the-job.

Phillip Ward

HERITAGE COMMUNITY GROUP (HCC)

A formal report wasn't given at the AGM because the group was disbanded, as all community groups were, prior to the local government election in September 2024. The current City of Ryde Council (RCC) called for expressions of interest for membership in the latter half of last year but, unfortunately, the three applications, of which two came from our Society and one from Ryde District Historical Society, were not enough to make the HCC viable. This was very disappointing, especially given the widespread threats to our natural and built heritage in Ryde.

RCC decided to re-advertise with applications closing on 26 February 2026. It is my understanding that others have now expressed an interest in protecting the natural and built heritage of Ryde and we await RCC's consideration of this matter. Some of the other Community Committees have already met this year so it is to be hoped that a HCC will meet in the not too distant future.

In the life of the 2020 - 2024 HCC, a review of the Ryde and Gladesville Walking Trail Booklets was undertaken. Given changes in the position of Heritage Advisor at RCC it is pleasing that the review was finalised by the new Heritage Advisor and the City Architect with assistance from a town planner in training. Members are reminded that the booklets are available online and in hard copy from Council offices.

Lyn Langtry

RAFFLE PRIZE

The Yarnknit rug, donated by Holy Spirit Yarn Group, North Ryde, was won by John C, a regular walker in the FoM. He purchased tickets at the Music on Mars event in September 2025 and was pleasantly surprised to be the lucky recipient of the brightly coloured rug, just in time for cooler months.

Another Yarnknit rug in shades of green from aqua to emerald has been donated for drawing at next year's AGM – see page 12.

JULIUS AVENUE DATA CENTRE (SSD-80018208) UPDATE

This proposal was reported in page 6 of the October 2026 edition of Wallumetta. The exhibition period has ended and submissions now closed. These are being collated by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment, who have requested the proponent responds to submissions.

We remain concerned about the removal of over 500 trees and the ongoing impacts of this development on wildlife corridor and the heated aquatic environment.

The bigger picture is that some think Australia, with boundless clean energy resources, should encourage such developments. They may become declared to be "in the national interest" so planning regulations are not enforced for these developments.

Others are concerned that the data industry is becoming a global privacy issue.

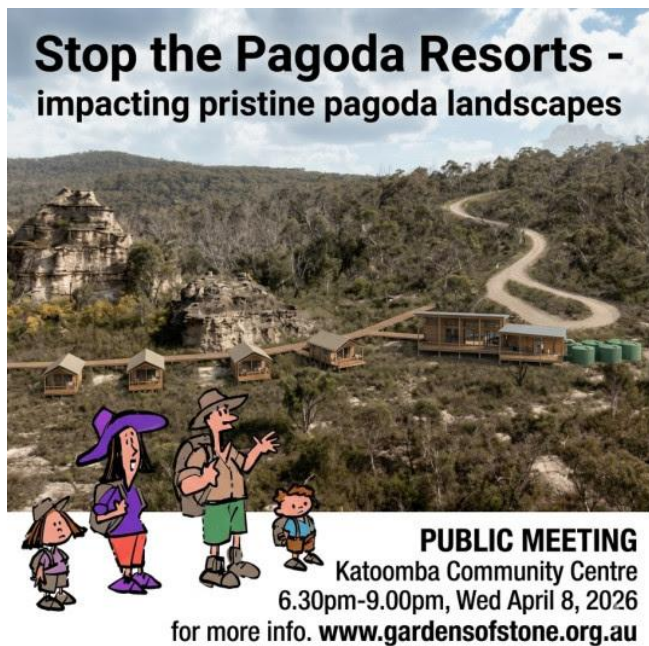
SYDNEY WATER – MEADOWBANK

The Greater Parramatta, Olympic Peninsula Water Cycle (GPOP) is a Sydney Water project. They are embarking upon a new Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF) in Rosehill. The WRRF would divert wastewater from the Northern Suburbs Ocean Outfall Sewer via a Camellia pumping station and produce advanced treated water to be released to the Parramatta River between Meadowbank and Rhodes.

A community session was held at Memorial Park Meadowbank on Thursday 5 March. Society member Peter Goldfinch attended and reported that the proposal was well planned and should not be detrimental to the environment, apart from the removal of some trees in Memorial Park.

Nevertheless, we are concerned about possible disturbance to the riverbed at the former site of the Meadowbank baths, and how the river may be affected when things go wrong after the WRRF becomes fully functional.

GARDENS OF STONE – NEWS FROM WILDERNESS AUSTRALIA



Stop the Pagoda Resorts - impacting pristine pagoda landscapes

PUBLIC MEETING
Katoomba Community Centre
6.30pm-9.00pm, Wed April 8, 2026
for more info. www.gardensofstone.org.au

It's not too late to take action, because rare heritage in parks must never be on sale!

Come to the Public Meeting to help stop this grab of public parkland.

- DATE: Wednesday, April 8, 2026
- TIME: 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM
- LOCATION: Katoomba Community Centre, Katoomba St

HEAR FROM:

- Sue Higginson (Greens MLC)
- Prof Ali Chauvenet (Griffith Uni)
- Trish Doyle, MP (Member for Blue Mountains)
- Keith Muir (Gardens of Stone advocate)

Commercial development belongs in towns, not in pristine landscapes of this Conservation Area.

Please consider writing to [NSW Premier Chris Minns](#).

This resort plan spoiling three beautiful pagoda landscapes could be just the start...

Intrepid Travel recently purchased this glamping proposal from Experience Co, as part of its big expansion into Australian National Parks. Intrepid's Managing Director, recently said "there is going to be lot more [national park development] going forward," (Guardian, 8/3/26).

“DEEP CONCERN” ABOUT CHANGES TO THE STATE’S PLANNING LAWS

From an article by Max Maddison, “Floodplain housing is ‘lunacy’, say SES experts” published in The Sun Herald 22 February 2026

Former Fire and Rescue NSW commissioner Greg Mullins says the decision to develop in the flood-prone Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley is ‘lunacy’ and puts housing approvals ahead of people’s lives. “It’s like they’re saying a reduced body count is OK... It’s lunacy.

“I never dreamed we would have a government rolling back flood and bushfire protections... It fails every test. Developers’ profits are trumping community safety.”

His views were echoed by two former senior members of the NSW State Emergency Service, who warned development puts the lives of emergency volunteers at greater risk.

In late 2023, Planning Minister Paul Scully released a statement saying there should be no more building on high-risk flood plains; however, the NSW government has approved nearly 1000 new homes and an employment centre at Marsden Park North.

Chas Keys, a former deputy director-general with the NSW SES, warned massive floods – potentially exceeding 30 metres – were guaranteed on a long-enough timeline. “Sticking people on a flood plain isn’t a particularly good solution to solving the housing crisis.”

100% OF OWLS TESTED POSITIVE FOR RAT POISON

News from Holly Parsons, Manager - Priority Sites, Birdlife Australia

Scientists from Edith Cowan University released the findings of a study into the cause of death of Masked Owls collected across Perth. All 13 birds from the south-west and three from metropolitan Perth, had been exposed to long-lasting 'second generation' anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs), commonly known as 'one-dose kills' poisons available in common household brands.

These poisons don’t cause rodents to die instantly. They act slowly. After feeding, poisoned rodents can remain active for weeks before dying, moving through gardens, parks and bushland. During that time, they are easily caught by predators like owls.

When a Masked Owl eats a poisoned rat, the toxin accumulates in its liver. The owl may not die immediately. Instead, it can become weak, disoriented, and more vulnerable to secondary causes of death, including starvation, infection or vehicle strike - a common outcome.



< Dr Boyd Wykes and Assoc. Prof. Rob Davis with owls showing high levels of rat poison. Photo by Karen Majer.

And it’s not just owls.

These long-lasting poisons move through the food chain. Exposure is increasingly being documented in reptiles, frogs, fish and threatened marsupial.

Yet the reforms currently proposed by the APVMA would still allow these products to be sold widely to the public. This widespread availability will utterly fail to prevent the death of birds, from powerful owls and magpies to the beloved tawny frogmouth.’

Shoppers should be able to walk into a store with the confidence that products for pest control won't also kill native animals. But right now, they can’t.

NEW MEMBERS 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 pay by cash: Complete and hand in the form with payment in an envelope at the Field of Mars Visitor Centre.

NAME:

Address:

Phone:

Annual Membership (add \$10 for newsletter to be sent via Australia Post): \$

Individual \$ 15 (+ \$10)

Family \$ 35 (+ \$10)

Concession \$ 10 (+ \$10)

Donation

Total Payment:

Email address to receive your newsletter - please print clearly:

YARNKNIT RUG RAFFLE PRIZE

Win a Yarnknit rug, in shades of green from aqua to emerald. Donated once again by Holy Spirit Yarn Group, you could be the lucky winner when the raffle is drawn at our AGM in early 2027.

Proceeds support the work of the Ryde Hunters Hill Flora and Fauna Preservation Society.

Give to a family member or friend, keep it for yourself or donate it to a worthy organisation.

Tickets are \$5 each - buy 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 your contact details to rhffps@gmail.com**

