



# Wallumetta

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

**AUGUST 2021 - No. 289**

## PRESIDENT'S NOTE

The Guardian on-line news reported on 23 July 2021 that a Japanese pledge to wind down gas and coal-fired electricity much faster than previously planned has sparked warnings Australia needs to speed up a transition away from fossil fuel exports.

Australia's oil and gas lobby group, the Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association, rejected suggestions that Japan's shift meant gas would play a declining role.

The Guardian states a recent major International Energy Agency report suggested the world should not open any new oil or gas fields or coal plants if it was to have a chance of limiting global heating to 1.5C above pre-industrial levels.

The Prime Minister, Scott Morrison recently has committed \$224m to develop new gas fields in the Northern Territory's Beetaloo Basin.

This proposed subsidy has been referred to a Senate Inquiry and as set out in the submission by The Australia Institute such new gas fields are not commercially viable in the absence of government subsidies.

In another report (21 July 2021) The Guardian states shareholder activist group Market Forces has asked the corporate watchdog ACCC to investigate whether coal company New Hope misled investors by claiming that coal would "remain a significant part of the energy mix".

David Morris, of the Environmental Defenders Office, which is acting for Market Forces, said consumer laws contained safeguards "so that investors can understand what reshaping of economies means".

The investor action group alleges that New Hope, a thermal coal company, may have misled shareholders by referencing two IEA scenarios that were most optimistic about the continued use of coal, as opposed to two other scenarios that modelled a more aggressive approach to global climate action.

Morris said that even if coal company executives had genuinely held views that the coal would not be phased out, they were still required to disclose relevant risks to shareholders.

Despite the Federal Government's support for further gas projects it seems that other forces are going to play a decisive role. The first being the economic factors flowing from the decrease in demand from Australia's biggest export market, Japan and the lack of commercial viability of such projects. Other factors include scrutiny by the Senate and legal action such as that being conducted by the EDO in respect of New Hope mining company.

The Federal Government should recognise these factors and act to facilitate an orderly move from coal and gas to renewable energy in line with the International Energy Agency report.

*Frank Breen,  
President*

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## **GREAT BARRIER REEF**

At the end of June, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) made the draft recommendation the Great Barrier Reef would be placed on the 'in danger' list.

Our federal government claimed it was blindsided by the decision, apparently having forgotten reports in 2012, 2018, 2019 and 2020 by the UN and other bodies that the Reef was in dire straits and the major bleaching events of 2016, 2017 and 2020. Ignored, too, were the warnings from scientists and tourism operators for more than a decade about the declining health of the Reef.

UNESCO said that the government's Reef 2050 Plan (which still has not been finalised) did not sufficiently deal with the effects of climate change and needed to address this as well as water quality issues due to runoff from farming and land clearing.

The Australian Government went into overdrive to challenge UNESCO's recommendation. Federal MP Warren Entsch, Special Envoy for the Great Barrier Reef, falsely claimed that warm water originating in the northern hemisphere and flowing across the Pacific to the Reef was a chief cause of mass coral bleaching.

Sussan Ley then travelled to Europe for eight days of intense lobbying resulting in a majority of the twenty-one members of the world heritage committee saying they believed the federal government was doing enough and the 'in danger' rating was unwarranted. The science showing the Reef was dying primarily due to the increase in world's temperature from the burning of fossil fuels was, apparently, not an important consideration.

It is, however, a short reprieve. The next vote on the health of the Reef will occur mid-2022, conveniently *after* the next federal election.

We encourage our members to contact our local federal members, John Alexander and Trent Zimmerman. Ask them to speak out in the media and parliament about the Reef being at risk from climate change and why the Morrison Government needs to stop supporting fossil fuel projects. These MPs could also be encouraged to support Zali Steggall's bill which calls for a halt to fossil fuel mining. We have an opportunity to voice our concerns about climate change and ask the government to act decisively. It is also worthwhile reminding these politicians that our vote in the next election will depend on candidates who demand and support a rapid move away from fossil fuels and towards 100% renewables.

John Alexander. Phone: 9869 4288 Email: [John.Alexander.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:John.Alexander.mp@aph.gov.au)

Trent Zimmerman. Phone: 9929 9822 Email: [Trent.Zimmerman.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:Trent.Zimmerman.mp@aph.gov.au)

## **NEWS FROM THE AUSTRALIAN ENERGY MARKET COMMISSION (AEMC)**

The AEMC is the rule maker for Australian electricity and gas markets. They make and amend the National Electricity Rules, National Gas Rules and National Energy Retail Rules; and provide market development advice to governments.

As consumers play an increasingly important role, the power system of the future will look very different. Draft reform proposals were considered, for a final determination in July.

AEMC provided the online resources below to help us navigate some of the issues around distributed energy resources. The New Energy Guide explores the opportunities this new technology offers – as well as the challenge involved in adapting to the scale and pace of change, and the importance of planning ahead.

[The New Energy Guide](#)

[Solar facts you should know](#)

[Opening up renewable energy – a printable guide](#)

[About the Distributed Energy Integration Program](#)

## **CSIRO's RENEWABLE HYDROGEN INITIATIVE: How do we boost our hydrogen industry?**

CSIRO has launched a \$5 million program to boost international collaboration on clean hydrogen research. The program will be run by the CSIRO's new [Hydrogen Industry Mission](#) (HIM).

Dr Patrick Hartley, leader of HIM, believes we need to connect and learn what's going on globally. According to Hartley, the project will "connect our research community to skills and expertise overseas to help our researchers support the development of Australia's hydrogen industry."

The HIM, which launched in May this year, aims to partner government and industry to harness research and development to bring Australia's hydrogen price competitive with fossil fuels. Cost is a major barrier to the wide-scale uptake of renewable hydrogen. Producing hydrogen is economic in some applications, but costs of actually moving it around the world are pretty huge. Domestic use of hydrogen also faces a cost barrier, but this varies depending on the use.

In the area of transport, hydrogen is already competitive with expensive fuels like petrol or diesel. Dr Hartley says the real problem is that the infrastructure doesn't exist. "Building fuelling stations, sourcing hydrogen vehicles and making hydrogen vehicles potentially here in Australia are all challenges that need to be met. Research and Development can help establish those industries."

The CSIRO is interested in a variety of research avenues. Interest in hydrogen is rapidly increasing, with demonstration projects beginning now to produce, move and use renewable hydrogen, but it won't be until around 2030 when the hydrogen industry starts to be at an economic scale.

In the meantime, plenty of work will be done to figure out where hydrogen can become competitive with other energy sources. Much of this research will be shared through the CSIRO's [HyResource](#) website, which showcases Australia's hydrogen industry developments.

## **150 HECTARES OF HABITAT LOST EACH DAY IN NSW – report from the Nature Conservation Council (NCC), 29 June 2021**

Latest land clearing data shows 150 hectares of wildlife habitat is bulldozed or logged every day in NSW, almost twice the average annual rate recorded before the Coalition overhauled nature laws in 2016.<sup>1</sup> The annual Statewide Land and Tree Study (SLATS) data shows 54,500 hectares of native forest were destroyed for farming, forestry and development in 2019.

NCC Chief Executive Chris Gambian said: "This astounding rate of deforestation is a disaster for wildlife and the climate. We call on the government to take urgent action to reverse the trend. In just one year we have lost an area of forest four times the size of Royal National Park. It is simply unsustainable. Using widely accepted data on wildlife population densities, clearing on that scale would have killed up to 9 million animals - mammals, birds and reptiles – in just 12 months."<sup>2</sup>

"After the government weakened land clearing laws in 2016, deforestation rates doubled and have remained at these dangerously high levels ever since. The Coalition promised its new laws would enhance protections for bushland and wildlife. These figures, and the rising number of threatened species, shows the laws completely fail to deliver on that promise.

"More than 1,020 plants and animals are now threatened with extinction in NSW, about 20 more than when the scheme was introduced. The 74% of clearing is designated as 'unexplained' in this report shows the government has lost control of deforestation in NSW.

"We welcomed the government establishing new national parks over the past year, but the national parks system covers less than 10% of the state. The government must stop uncontrolled deforestation on private land and in state forests if it is going to tackle the extinction crisis."

[1] [Land cover change reporting](#), DPIE, June 2021

[2] [Native Animals Lost to Tree Clearing in NSW 1998-2015](#), WWF-Australia, 2018

*Our Society opposes the replacement of natural grass with artificial turf. Here are some reasons...*

### **WHY ARTIFICIAL TURF MAY BE BAD FOR KIDS (We've known for a few years now)**

*Abridged article published in The Conversation March 6, 2017; Author Stuart Shalat, Professor and Director of the Division of Environmental Health, School of Public Health, Georgia State University*

If you want to get a soccer parent's attention, bring up the subject of artificial turf, the preferred playing surface for children from pre-K to college. From concerns about concussions to cancer, parents have become alarmed by reports in the media of increased injuries and illnesses.

There is also a potential health risk because of the chemicals in tires, which are recycled into crumbs to support the plastic blades of synthetic grass.

#### ***Just what is it, anyway?***

Artificial turf is made up of three major parts:

1. Backing material that will serve to hold the individual blades of artificial grass.
2. The plastic blades themselves.
3. The infill, those tiny black crumbs, that helps support the blades.

Various pigments are used to provide the green colour of the blades. These can include lead or titanium for the white lines and still other metals for school logos on the field.

Those little black crumbs are the problems. Tires can be toxic. Modern tires are a mixture of natural and synthetic rubber, carbon black – a material made from petroleum and petroleum products. They also contain metals, including cadmium, lead, which is neurotoxic, and zinc.

Some of the chemicals in tires, such as dibenzopyrenes, are known carcinogens.

#### ***And then there's the need to use weedkillers...***

Artificial turf does not have to be mowed, but it turns out that weeds can start growing in it, so a relatively common practice is to apply weedkillers to keep the finely manicured appearance. Unfortunately, a variety of health concerns have been linked to these products. Also, the turf has been associated with increased risk of infections from *Staphylococcus aureus*, with consequences including sepsis and bloodstream infections. And biocides may have toxic effects of their own.

#### ***The list of drawbacks goes on...and on...***

Fields with artificial turf tend to get far hotter than grass fields. Field surface temperatures can reach over **90°C**. At these temperatures, even with athletic shoes on, children can get burned feet. It is rare, even on a very hot day, that natural grass exceeds 40°C. By comparison, NSW safety regulations are that the maximum water temperature for delivery to bathrooms is 50°C.

Unless given a thick underlay (with its own problems) artificial turf is laid over concrete or compacted earth, so it is a harder surface with increased risk of injuries, particularly concussions.

#### **Closer to home:**

Hunter's Hill Council recently postponed a decision to spend a \$2m NSW Government grant on replacing natural grass with artificial turf at Gladesville Reserve which is strongly supported by a local soccer club. Council will wait for the outcome of the Planning Minister's review of natural versus synthetic turf playing surfaces. And opposition to the proposed use by Lane Cove Council of synthetic turf on the Bob Campbell / Gore Creek oval, Greenwich has now put this grant project on hold. Issues are that natural turf will not damage Gore Creek and the surrounding bushland.

Additional to the environmental benefits, natural turf is looking to be less expensive to install and maintain. City of Ryde Council, however, continues to favour the use of artificial turf.

## WASTE NOT, WANT NOT AND BENEFIT OUR ENVIRONMENT – Part 3 *by Lyn Langtry*

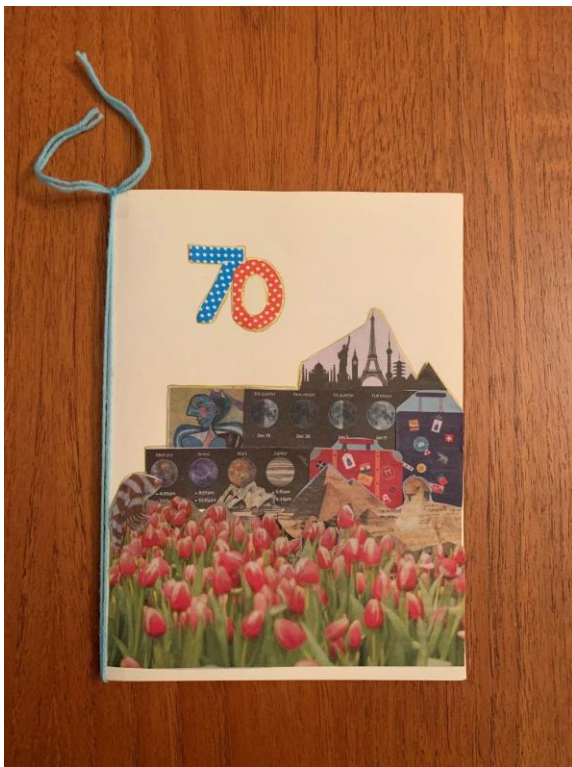
### Creative pursuits

Old jumpers (due to age partially felted so no problem when cut into squares) and old sheets - make into cosy throws or quilts:

Old clothing – redesign

Glossy catalogues, fabric pieces or tea towels – use for gift wrapping. With book catalogues the categories may be matched to the person. Keep a container of ribbons, curling ribbon, cord and such for tying up the bundle

Brochures, maps, pamphlets, magazines, old cards, newspapers and calendars – use to make your own individual greeting cards:



Greeting card -  
January 2020



A throw made from four old jumpers  
and a sheet - December 2019

### 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

### Children's craft

Save anything and everything – spools, foil cases, twist off kids' yoghurt tops, chocolate box inserts (gold, silver, chocolate coloured), glossy catalogues, ribbons, cords, wool, fabric scraps, socks for hand puppets, seeds (eg jacaranda and gums)

Drink bottles for children's games and science experiments



## RECYCLING AT HUNTERS HILL

The Hunter's Hill Council has set up an area called The Yarn in the Hunters Hill Village which is open Tuesdays and Thursdays 10am-4pm where you can drop off items such as textiles which are not suitable for donation to charity, tablets, mobile phones, household batteries, metal coat hangers, plastic lids and bread tags, dry soft plastic bags and printer cartridges. These items can be recycled into repurposed materials such as benchtop tiles. This project is in conjunction with The Centre for Sustainable Materials Research and Technology (SMaRT) at the University of New South Wales. For more information go to <http://people@huntershill.nsw.gov.au>

## DEVELOPER, CONTRACTOR FINED \$155,000 FOR CHOPPING DOWN 21 TREES IN EPPING

*Reported by Megan Gorrey in The Morning Edition newsletter July 12, 2021*

A NSW court fined a property developer and a demolition company a combined \$155,000 over the illegal clearing of 21 trees to make way for a possible new boarding house.

The City of Parramatta Council launched legal action against developer Grand Epping in the NSW Land and Environment Court after a resident noticed the trees had been chopped down. Parramatta Mayor Bob Dwyer said the case was a "win for the community" and "sends a message that illegal behaviour by developers will not be accepted".

The former Hornsby Council had approved Grand Epping's plans to subdivide the block on Essex Street into three lots and to demolish an existing dwelling on the site in 2014. The land contained remnants of critically endangered Sydney turpentine ironbark forest and 41 trees.

Under the development consent for the project, the developer was permitted to remove eight trees, but an ecologist's report found 22 trees had been cleared, including one that was part of the critically endangered forest.

Sydney Trees Excavation and Demolition pleaded guilty in February to three breaches of environmental laws related to clearing the trees and for failing to erect tree protection barriers. The company argued the removal of the trees had caused "minor actual environmental harm".

In the decision handed down, Justice Rachel Pepper found the removal of the trees was reckless and had caused "substantial actual harm to the environment". She fined the company \$55,000.

In a separate decision, Grand Epping was found guilty of two breaches of the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for procuring the contractor to carry out the works. The court fined the developer \$100,000.

## WORKS ALONG HERRING RD, MACQUARIE PARK – UPDATE

Transport for NSW is now widening Herring Road between Epping and Waterloo Roads to provide a dedicated northbound bus lane. The project entails further removal of up to 41 trees in Herring Road and Ivanhoe Place. Transport for NSW says that they plan to replace each removed tree and work with City of Ryde Council to identify potential locations for plantings in the local area.

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



## IVANHOE ESTATE

Ivanhoe Estate building works continue, with this “State Significant Project” being undertaken by Frasers, on behalf of the NSW State Government. New apartments are now being impressively advertised for sale, as “Midtown Macquarie Park”.

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).



## MEANWHILE: Greening Our City Grant

NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) allocated City of Ryde Council \$250,000 of its 2021 *Greening our City* grant programme to support the Implementation of the Ryde Street Tree Masterplan. This grant funding aims to support local councils across Greater Sydney to increase urban

greening by enhancing tree canopy in our local parks, streets and neighbourhoods. Their press release states: *The 2021 round of grant funding has awarded more than \$9.9 million in grant funding to 28 projects in 23 councils across Greater Sydney. As a result, Greater Sydney will have over 20,000 newly planted trees to boost urban tree canopy where there is low canopy coverage. The funding will help projects addressing canopy deficits by planting trees in suburbs with low canopy cover and increased exposure to heat. Planting more trees to enhance tree canopy will provide vital shade that reduces ambient temperatures for local communities and help mitigate the urban heat-island effect...*

*provide vital shade that reduces ambient temperatures for local communities and help mitigate the urban heat-island effect...*

We think grant money should also be applied to save and protect existing mature trees.

In a report commissioned by Planet Ark - see <https://treeday.planetark.org/documents/doc-1170-valuing-trees-report---full-final.pdf> -

the estimated value of each mature tree is in the order of thousands of dollars. It is therefore arguable that action to protect the trees along Epping Rd near the Ivanhoe Estate has already been of greater value to City of Ryde than the grant allocation. A pity the rest of the trees in Ivanhoe Estate and Herring Rd could not have been saved, too.



*Tower crane literally towering over the trees near Wilga Park / Shrimptons Creek, Macquarie Park. Crane height is an indication of the building height.*

## AND NOW ANOTHER MASTERPLAN... THIS TIME IT'S FOR ALL OF MACQUARIE PARK!

The NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) has prepared a strategy for the 20-year vision for Macquarie Park. It may be viewed at:

[https://shared-drupal-s3fs.s3.ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/master-test/fapub\\_pdf/GOVP1468\\_DPIE\\_MACQUARIE\\_PARK\\_STRATEGY\\_V8.pdf](https://shared-drupal-s3fs.s3.ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/master-test/fapub_pdf/GOVP1468_DPIE_MACQUARIE_PARK_STRATEGY_V8.pdf)

There is a strong focus on jobs, supported by new homes, transport infrastructure and open space:

- 20,000 new jobs
- Up to 7,650 new homes
- Improved access to public transport
- More walking and cycling paths
- Parks and open space for everyone



Submissions are invited to be made by Tuesday 10 August 2021 –

See [www.planning.nsw.gov.au/macquariepark](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/macquariepark)

We encourage all members to look at the plan and make your own submission to contribute to a positive future for the locality.

Some observations we have made include:

1. The document reflects some impressive ambitions, but the words “could”, “opportunities”, “incentivise” and “encourage” are often used. Specific and mandatory goals are needed.
2. Location of taller buildings is mentioned throughout the draft, but no specific guidelines are provided for where and how tall they will be.
3. Natural environment is not considered with specific in-depth analysis. Throughout the entire 78 page document, the word “biodiversity” is only twice used, and there is no guarantee that any measures will be taken to maintain the native flora and fauna of this area which sits between the Lane Cove National Park and the City of Ryde.

A specific example is the importance of connecting Shrimptons Creek through to the Lane Cove River valley; the Macquarie Shopping Centre is currently a big block over the Shrimptons Creek wildlife corridor which is important as it passes through the middle of the City of Ryde and should be connected for the viability of biodiversity as well as for community benefit.

4. The big flood of November 1984 damaged foundations of the Macquarie Shopping Centre, then fairly new. There have since been several extreme weather events and with climate change these are more likely to occur in the future, so it will be important to leave all creek lines open and in their natural state. Water velocity and quantity is reduced when flowing through natural areas where it is impeded by natural features and may soak into soil.
5. It is impressive to have the overall ambitions listed above, but we wonder how all this can be achieved in a finite land area without spoiling the skyline (which is under a flight path) and reducing daylight at ground level.



## RYDEING THE B&B HIGHWAY

*Article published in The Weekly Times (TWT) Wednesday 30 June 2021 – page 8; reprinted with permission. Readers may recall reports on the B&B project in previous editions of Wallumetta, dating from June 2020.*

**A special event at Ryde East Public School [on 10 June 2021] showcased the growth of PlantingSeeds Projects' B&B Highway urban biodiversity initiative with the Ryde collection of B&Bs in 12 schools, the largest hub in the network.**

With 50 B&Bs – Bed and Breakfasts for Birds, Bees and Biodiversity – in schools in NSW and Victoria and growing, the B&B Highway aims to regenerate our cities through plantings and habitat for birds, bees and biodiversity.

The schools hosting the B&Bs range from preschools to high schools.

The B&B Highway is in response to declining numbers of birds, bees and other pollinators which has implications for food supplies, our ecosystems and soil and water health.

What we do in our urban environment can help redress this decline if we regenerate and replant with biodiversity in mind.

The initiative is co-ordinated by the not-for-profit PlantingSeeds Projects with support from the University of Technology's Institute for Sustainable Futures, and biodiversity, entomology, bird and plant experts from other key organisations.

PlantingSeeds has developed educational curriculum for the B&B Highway with the NSW Dept of Education and also offers workshops and educational sessions that provide indoor and outdoor learning.

The event also showcased the B&B Highway's new citizen science initiative through its collaboration with iNaturalist and the CSIRO's Atlas of Living Australia.

Up until very recently, citizen science was all done by taxonomists in white lab coats.

Now children in school uniforms - with iPads, Smartphones and other devices - can contribute information and sightings that can generate important Australian research to benefit our ecosystems.

The B&B Highway is part of the CSIRO's Atlas of Living Australia or ALA and the online network, website and app iNaturalist, developed by the National Geographic Society and the California Academy of Sciences.

There has been little urban citizen science work to date and this new collaboration aims to fill some knowledge gaps and even, maybe, make some discoveries!

Dr Erin Roger from the Atlas of Living Australia joined Dr Judy Friedlander, the founder of PlantingSeeds, and Mayor Jerome Laxale and Councillor Penny Pederson at the event.

Dr Judy made special mention of Ryde locals Jenny O'Neill and Donna Loneragan who were instrumental in supporting the Ryde B&B Highway initiative in its early stages.

*An ABC TV team also attended this event, filming for an "Australian Story" programme which will feature Dr Judy Friedlander.*



*In the spirit of the occasion at Ryde East Public School, Ryde Mayor Jerome Laxale strapped on some butterfly wings.*

## NEWS FROM THE FIELD OF MARS



### CEMETERY WORKS

After the grief caused by cemetery works at their south-eastern boundary with the Field of Mars Reserve, reported in the August 2018 edition of Wallumetta, we hoped those encroachments would become a thing of the past. Alas, we were disappointed!

Recently, drainage works were done at the top end of Cemetery Creek 0. The subcontractors removed one of the boundary fence panels and bulldozed a swathe of vegetation in the Reserve – see photo. We wrote letters to Minister Matt Kean and local Members of Parliament to express our concern about these encroachments, pointing out that they impact upon some critically endangered habitat areas and flora within the Reserve. This resulted in the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) looking at the damage, and City of Ryde Council taking further action to have Northern Cemeteries do remediation works.

Both the EPA and Northern Cemeteries have been in touch with us and we look forward not only to remediation of this damage, but also avoidance of future damage near cemetery boundaries.

### BUSHCARE

All sites were doing well until Lockdown began again, forcing cessation of volunteer workgroups. Meanwhile, some good news:

### LANDCARE VOLUNTEERS AVOID \$57MILLION IN HEALTHCARE COSTS

For decades, those involved in Landcare have testified to a greater sense of self, both physically and mentally, resulting from an enhanced link with their local community and environment. This, in turn, has boosted community mental and physical wellbeing and it has long been the desire of the Landcare movement to quantify the significance of these benefits.

Recently published findings by KPMG Australia in partnership with Landcare Australia, indicate Landcare volunteers enjoy substantial improvements to their mental and physical wellbeing – and a significant decrease to their healthcare costs.

Surveying more than 1,000 Landcare volunteers and coordinators from Landcare groups, the report, titled *Building resilience in local communities: The wellbeing benefits of participating in Landcare*, suggests substantial improvements in wellbeing owing to involvement in Landcare lead to approximate savings from avoided healthcare costs of \$403 per individual per year.

For the Landcare movement which exceeds 140,000 individuals, that number equates to \$57million nationally. The report also goes on to address additional savings to the Landcare volunteer community relating to productivity, and benefits owing to natural disaster resilience and recovery, with the combined value amounting to \$191million annually.

To see the full report, follow this link:

<https://landcareaustralia.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c874938162801405204f0d115&id=64ed326f1c&e=f7c4e3cf4e>

## VISITOR CENTRE – CLOSED DURING LOCKDOWN

We had some busy times in the past two months. As well as providing information to weekend visitors as usual, we hosted visits by the East Ryde Joey Scouts who left another wall decoration, and the Ryde District Historical Society who came to discover places of heritage interest within and around the Reserve. Both groups enjoyed our barbecue + salad catering.

But, not being deemed an "essential service", from 27 June 2021 we closed for lockdown again.

**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, and Alfred happily provides the small amount of training needed. The frequency and times of each person's shifts are negotiated individually, according to preferences and availability. We look forward to providing this service again when the pandemic risks are overcome, so we may once again enhance community appreciation of the Field of Mars Reserve.

## WILDFLOWERS A COLOURFUL DISPLAY THIS YEAR

If you're planning on some personal exercise by taking walks in the bush (as many are), treat yourself to a stroll through the Field of Mars Reserve where many wildflowers are now showing their colours! Boronia bushes are in bloom near the log seat at the Sand / Warada Track Junction, and nearby there are displays of Banksia, Pimelea, Dillwynia, Woollsia and various Acacias.



### EDITOR'S NOTE:

We are grateful for the Field of Mars Environmental Education Centre who over several years have allowed us to use their photocopier to produce the print version of Wallumetta.

Owing to lockdown restrictions in the Greater Sydney Area, it was not possible to visit the Centre to print this edition, so we produced it on A4, rather than the usual A3, paper. We hope to be back to normal for the October edition.

## PAST EVENTS

### FIELD OF MARS HERITAGE WALKS – Saturday 19 June 2021

The two walks visited the sites of former properties along Wellington Rd, and depression years' developments near Cressy Rd / Buffalo Creek, including the stone bridge. We then inspected the remnants of a former logging road which is now followed by the Kunzea Track near Cressy Rd, and the southern route of the former bridle track, most of which now forms the Sand Track. Returning via Warada Track and Flat Rock, we saw how things were changed when the saltmarsh near the confluence of the creeks was used as a garbage tip in the 1950s and now forms the flat grass area. Time did not permit a visit to the Strangers Creek area, which also has an interesting history.

**COMING EVENTS: OWING TO LOCKDOWN RESTRICTIONS ALL OUR EVENTS ARE SUSPENDED**

Kelly's Bush celebration has also been postponed. The most likely date is now Sunday 10 October, but this is provisional. Please monitor media releases from the Friends of Kelly's Bush.

## Win this bright Yarnknit rug! - Tickets \$2 each, or 3 for \$5

Tickets are available at the Field of Mars Visitor Centre... or (especially during lockdown) you may transfer funds to our Commonwealth Bank account: RHHFF PS INC GENERAL ACCOUNT 062171 - 0090 1574 and email [rhhffps@gmail.com](mailto:rhhffps@gmail.com) with your name and phone contact so your tickets may be reserved.

Winning ticket will be drawn at next Annual General Meeting.



### 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](mailto: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 \$ 10 (+ \$ 10)

(Students/Pensioners) 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 10 October 2021 (TBC), 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