RHHFFPS

# Wallumetta

No. 316

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

Website: http://rydehhffps.org.au/

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

**FEBRUARY 2026**

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

**In this issue:**



## PRESIDENT'S NOTE

The society has been an active member of the Parramatta River Catchment Group (PRCG) since its beginning in 2008. The PRCG is an alliance of local councils, government agencies, and community groups created to protect and restore the Parramatta River, subsequently launching the "Our Living River" mission in 2014 to make the river swimmable again.

Through the "Our Living River" campaign, the aim is to improve water quality, enhance natural habitats, and foster community connection with the river. The PRCG has been successful and a number of swimming sites have now been opened with the most recent being at Putney and Bedlam Point. Others sites for swimming are being investigated.

Making the River swimmable again requires the environment of the river catchment to be healthy and from the perspective of the Society this means in particular maintaining and enhancing its natural heritage. The new swim sites are evidence that this is being improved. Two main projects of the PRCG are Standardise the Standards (ie improving the Development Controls exercises by Councils in the catchment) and re-naturalising waterways that lead into the river. These projects are ongoing.

In February this year members of the PRCG are meeting to consider its future strategy. Although the current strategy has worked well it is timely to conduct a review. The current strategy follows from the Vision to make the river swimmable again. The projected increase in Sydney's population will add further pressure on the environment of the Parramatta River Catchment.

Should the focus continue to be opening more swimming sites or should the focus change to re-naturalising the waterways that lead into the river or some other focus?

Members are encouraged to forward suggestions to the Society to inform our views to put to the review. Members can view the current master plan via this link Parramatta River Masterplan Comments may be sent to the society's email address rhhffps@gmail.com

*Frank Breen, President*

## EDITORIAL COMMENT

During celebrations of our Society's 60th anniversary, we will recall significant events and actions we undertook to address issues of importance over the years. It is said that those who ignore history are doomed to repeat it, but with this in mind we continue to address current concerns.

In the face of global warming and the recent bushfires and floods in Victoria, we have included two articles of relevance on pages 9-10

### Trees offer good protection against extreme weather

The NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) 10/50 Vegetation Clearing Code allows property owners to clear trees within 10 metres of their homes and shrubs/undergrowth within 50 metres, without council approval, for bushfire preparedness.

There is no recognition of the fire-retardant properties of many plants, both native (including Pittosporum, Lomandra and Dianella which are endemic in the Field of Mars) and exotic, including weeds such as Privet. In an interview on ABC TV, one Victorian property owner reported that the fires roared through and destroyed everything except her house which was intact. She attributed this to the succulent plants in her gardens deflecting the flames which passed around the building.

Fanned by a strong southerly wind, in 2002 a major bushfire in the Field of Mars Reserve saw residents in parts of the East Ryde Dress Circle evacuated. But the flames died down when the fire reached Strangers Creek. Fire-retardant riparian vegetation helped to protect properties nearby.

Trees and shrubs also provide shade and protection from wind. They slow the air currents, so homes and buildings are less severely impacted. This was evident after Darwin was hit by Cyclone Tracy in 1974. Buildings in newer suburbs were destroyed, but older homes were less badly affected and reports indicated that they were sheltered by well-established trees. Falling trees were of less consequence than wind-blown debris from the buildings that were destroyed.

### Artificial turf problems

In its draft Integrated Open Spaces Strategy (as reported in the December 2025 Wallumetta), the City of Ryde favours the use of artificial turf on playing fields. On page 8, the article concludes with a Bayside Council spokesman describing artificial turf as "all weather". But council staff have not had to squelch through it after rain or play when the surface burns anyone who falls on it. It would be interesting to discover the cost of renewing artificial turf at the end of its life (allegedly 10-15 years, but often sooner in practice) – see June 2024 Wallumetta, p.8. We favour well-maintained natural turf.

### Remain vigilant

The natural values of the Field of Mars Reserve are now widely appreciated, but even in the 21st century it has been threatened in unexpected ways. To replace a 33kV power line in 2017, Ausgrid considered several options, including overhead power lines through the Field of Mars Reserve. This would have meant massive and permanent clearing of a large swathe of trees and bushes.

And concerns extend beyond our local area. There is a need to monitor and ensure people in places of power appreciate the importance of environmental factors. Some are well-publicised but others we learn little about, like budget cuts whittling away funding for organisations including National Parks and Wildlife Service, and the CSIRO.

We trust that our articles in Wallumetta bring you enjoyable and interesting reading, while keeping you informed of the actions and concerns of our Society.

*Phillip Ward, Editor*

RHHFFPS

**Ryde Hunters Hill Flora and Fauna Preservation Society**

**celebrates 60 years of work in protecting nature.**

## YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR

# 60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

**Sunday 15 February 2026, 12pm-4pm**

**at the Visitor Centre,**

**Field of Mars Reserve, East Ryde**

**Families welcome. After a free BBQ-and-salad lunch, you can enjoy displays, talks, music and activities for all ages.**

**Bring your own picnic rug or chairs!**
**Parking in Pittwater Rd carpark or nearby Kennedy St.**

**RSVP (with numbers for lunch) by 10.2.26:**

**Phillip Ward 0417439456 onetonner@gmail.com**

**Please share this invitation with your family and friends!**

**COMING EVENTS:**

**WE TURN SIXTY! – Sunday 15 February 2026, 12pm-4pm at the Field of Mars Visitor Centre… see previous page.**

[*photo by Lindsay Mar*]

The decision to form our Society was made at an informal meeting in September 1965, and we held our official Inaugural Meeting at the St Thomas church hall in Orient Street Gladesville on 16 February 1966.

We now look forward to a celebrating our 60th anniversary with a special afternoon which will include a barbecue-and-salad lunch, information and displays of our achievements over the years, and a chance to reminisce. Activities will include an Acknowledgement of Country, children's art / craft / music making, and a return performance by the Sydneysiders, an acclaimed group at Music on Mars. Some original members will chat about our work and achievements over the years.

**CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY – Sunday 1 March, 10am-12pm:**

On Sunday 1 March members and friends of RHHFFPS are invited to take part in a Clean Up Australia Day activity in the area around Buffalo Creek in the Field of Mars Reserve from 10am to 12pm. Please come to the Visitor Centre about 9.50 to register and receive information. You will need a hat, closed shoes and water. Pick-up sticks and rubbish bags are provided, also gloves (though you may wish to bring your own to make sure they will fit). Further details and pre-registration: Alfred Vincent at alfred.vincent@bigpond.com or 0403 749 181. (Pre-registration will allow us to contact you if the event has to be postponed through bad weather.)

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) – 2.30pm Sunday 15 March at the Visitor Centre**

All members will be welcome. Annual reports will be presented, covering the various aspects of our work, and there will be the opportunity offer and discuss suggestions for our future activities. Elections will be held for our management committee for the coming year. Afterwards, the raffle prize-winning ticket will be drawn, and we will conclude with afternoon tea.

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

John was our guest speaker in March 2024. He is the author of books on the geology and flora of the Sydney region, including his well-known Field Guide to the Bushland of the Lane Cove Valley.

**PAST EVENT:**

**MEMBERS' PICNIC – Sunday 7 December 2025 from 12 noon at the Field of Mars Visitor Centre**

We welcomed members from as far afield as Lake Macquarie, and our gathering of around 30 enjoyed the usual barbecue-and-salad lunch. One local resident came to sit with us but fortunately did not get to share lunch. He is outside the visitor centre so often that we have given him a name: Kevin!

[*photo by Dianne Edmonds*]

All who attended Music on Mars enjoyed the wonderful dance item staged by Sally Song's group…, and she has since made another generous donation to our Society! There have been a few generous personal donations from other members, ensuring our financial security as we continue our own work and contribute to the work of kindred organisations.

**NEWS FROM THE FIELD OF MARS**

**Bushcare**

We enjoyed a summer break, but all volunteer sites are now back in full swing. At the Cemetery Creek 2 site, most work during December was in keeping seedlings watered so they would cope with the heat. And we continued to remove the plastic flowers thrown into the Reserve from the adjacent cemetery.

**Wildlife in the Field of Mars Reserve**

There have been more sightings of the Eastern Grey Kangaroo around Strangers Creek. Reports indicate that it stands as tall as an adult person. Swamp wallabies continue to be seen frequently. Also, local residents have reported seeing echidnas as far afield as Pittwater Rd near the RSL club. Meanwhile, Bev Debrincat filmed one along the Buffalo Creek Boardwalk and shared it on the Habitat Network Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/reel/1176532284652377
It may be the same one whose photograph is on page 4 of the August 2025 Wallumetta.

**Visitor Centre**

It was a hot summer but our volunteers had rewards! We see lots of birdlife and Linda spotted this crimson rosella in the trees near the centre… and a kookaburra feeding on a cool frog:

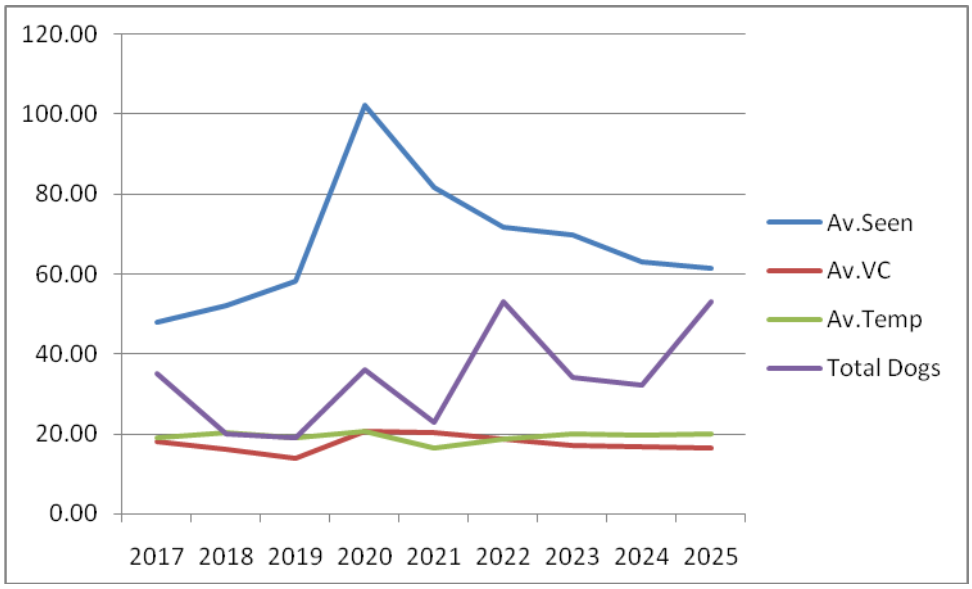
[*photos by Linda Veloskey*]

Near the new approach to the Buffalo Creek footbridge, City of Ryde recently erected a new sign.

It has a map depicting the tracks, amenities and connections around the Buffalo Creek Boardwalk and the flat grass area (Warada Track + connection to Pittwater Road via the other side of Strangers Creek).

Since 2017, volunteers at the visitor centre have been recording data which we hope may help us maintain and improve this part of our Society's operations. Yearly trends can be seen in the following graph:

VISITORS SEEN BY VOLUNTEERS WHILE ON DUTY AT THE CENTRE




Av. Seen = average number of passers by each day

Av.VC = average number of callers in to the centre for maps and advice

Av. Temp = average temperature in $^{o}$C in the centre around the middle of the day

You can see that the average number of people per day that the Centre is open increased dramatically during Covid restrictions but then declined.

**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.

**DOGS – AN INCREASING PROBLEM?**

The Reserve is a declared "Wildlife Protection Area – Category 1" so dogs are totally banned, as indicated by notices at the entrances. However, many dog walkers still come. When advised of the rule, most are apologetic and say they did not notice the notice. Others question why the ban. We can explain impacts on wildlife, abandoning their young when chased by dogs, or fleeing the area after detecting the scent of a predator; however, owners are more responsive when we explain the presence of ticks and weeds that are harmful to dogs.

The graph above shows that there were more dogs sighted in 2022 and this may be attributed to a general increase in dog ownership with the Covid lockdowns. This number fell again in 2023-4. In 2025, numbers of dogs sighted rose to equal 2022 so we are taking steps to address this issue.


At our request, City of Ryde Council has supplied more "Protection of wildlife at Field of Mars Reserve" leaflets and these are made freely available at the Visitor Centre.

The information is also posted online:

https://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/Environment-and-Waste/Bushland-and-Wildlife/Urban-Wildlife/Protection-of-wildlife-at-Field-of-Mars-Reserve


[*This photo was posted on Facebook by J Jandzio*.]

**"BUILDING A BETTER NSW"? NOT WITH THIS POLLUTION FROM OLD MARSDEN HIGH SCHOOL SITE REDEVELOPMENT**

Members may remember the issues that arose from the construction of Boronia Park Oval #3 Oval 3 some years ago, which left an environmental legacy of sediment run off and dead trees.

Now, a similar issue has arisen at the old Marsden High School site at West Ryde, where redevelopment works and a recent rainstorm yielded uncontrolled run-off of sediment across Brush Road and into Archers Creek, which flows through the Ryde-Parramatta Golf Course and enters Parramatta River near the westernmost end of Meadowbank Park.

A former member of the school also expressed dismay that a natural area tended by students has been destroyed in the process of this redevelopment.

**PLASTIC GRASS IN PARKS IS A GROWING HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTER**

*Original article published in The Sydney Morning Herald 15 January 2026, page 14 - abridged here:*

Public backlash against synthetic turf and rubber crumb is growing as evidence mounts about the damage to human health and the environment from the plastic heating to extreme temperatures and leaching forever chemicals and microplastics into waterways.

The plastic surfaces have become popular with councils and schools for parks, playgrounds and sporting pitches across Australian cities because it is cheaper, easier to maintain and can allow a higher usage for community sport.

However, the material can heat up to 75 degrees on hot days, according to the NSW government, causing offgassing and the risk of burns, and raising questions about its suitability given the need for climate adaptation as Australian and global temperature records continue to tumble.

Emma Bacon, executive director of Sweltering Cities, a group that advocates about the impact of climate change on cities, said astroturf was not just dangerously hot for people or pets using the surface, but also made the surrounding suburb hotter.

"The fake plastic grass profoundly contributes to the urban heat island effect by being much hotter than concrete and hotter than grass, which is increasing ... the local air temperatures," Bacon said.

A report by the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure last year noted that during very hot summer days in Western Sydney, synthetic surfaces reached average surface temperatures of 70-75 degrees, compared with 37 degrees for irrigated natural grass.

Sydneysider Michael Middleton plays cricket, and for the past three years his club has played on a synthetic field at Lane Cove's Blackman Park. While the 24-year-old appreciates the even surface of fake grass versus badly maintained natural turf, it comes with a big downside, even during normal summer heat.

"Whenever we are going to play on an astroturf field, and we see it's going to be 30-plus degrees, there's a bit of a groan from the whole team about 'oh no, this is going to be a really tough day'," Middleton said. "You can really feel the heat bounce off a lot more."

Middleton and his teammates have experienced burns around the elbows, hips or knees when they dive for a ball. "There's been a few times we've had multiple teammates at the end of the game with a bit of blood or a bit of burning, which is rare from a game of cricket," he said.

The NSW planning department guidelines note that councils often install synthetic turf because it lasts longer and will withstand higher usage. However, Jeff Angel from the Total Environment Centre said it would be better to develop natural grass fields with better drainage.

Garnet Brownbill, co-founder of the Natural Turf Alliance, said one argument in favour of synthetic turf was that it did not get as muddy, saving winter sport, but this ignored the fact that more days were lost to heat in summer.

Brownbill said the rubber crumb material - used as a springy surface in playgrounds and netball courts and a layer under plastic grass - was originally sold as a way to recycle old car tyres. "All it's doing is spreading the problem further afield… It's bizarre that you wouldn't let kids play on a stack of car tyres, yet they mechanically shred them, and it's [meant to be] fine for kids to play on."

A report from Total Environment Centre and the Australian Microplastic Assessment Project found synthetic grass fragments in waterways are a growing problem. At Rose Bay in Sydney Harbour, synthetic grass fragments increased about tenfold between 2022 and 2025.

The plastic blades of grass are also coated in per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), synthetic chemicals that do not break down and can cause problems for the health of humans and wildlife.

Anthony Amis from Friends of the Earth Melbourne noted that "children who play on it might fall over on it, or crawl on it, and get it on their skin and then their hands go in their mouth".

Brownbill got involved in campaigning against synthetic turf when his council installed a synthetic football field at his local park, Gardiner Park in Banksia in Sydney, during the COVID-19 pandemic. "One of the big things has been the smell. The odour from the field is oppressive on a hot day. The smell is permeating through the windows and airconditioners and it will linger until 10 o'clock at night."

A spokesperson for Bayside Council said all-weather playing fields provided the opportunity for participation in sport during periods of weather when natural surfaces become unusable, required less downtime for maintenance, and could accommodate more hours per week of playing time.

**“FAKE TURF PUTS HEAT ON SCHOOLS”** *– from a news item in The Sun Herald, 25 January 2026*

The NSW Department of Education discovered that 58% of the state’s 2200 public schools had synthetic turf. Public concern is growing due to evidence about damage to health and the environment from its plastic which can heat to extreme temperatures and leach forever chemicals and microplastics into waterways.

Catriona Carver, co-founder of the Natural Turf Alliance, did her own research and found it being used schools in category 1 and 2 bushfire risk zones. Synthetic turf is a known bushfire hazard.

Professor Sebastian Pfautsch of Western Sydney University has been investigating heat and synthetic turf since 2019. He described synthetic turf as “the hottest material you will find in schools”. A NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure found the material frequently reached temperatures of up to 75 degrees, compared to 37 degrees for natural grass in western Sydney.

Kur-ring-gai Council is considering reverting the synthetic turf at Charles Bean Oval, which is used by Lindfield Learning Village for play, after lead, arsenic, zinc and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons were found in the material.

**WARNING BEFORE THE FIRES**

*Article published by The Climate Council, just before the Victorian bushfires – abridged here:*

Australians have already experienced fires with the same hallmarks of the January 2025 LA fires: drought- parched forests, strong winds, low humidity, explosive fire behaviour, and unstoppable fire fronts that fire agencies, no matter how well-resourced, struggle to respond to.

In 2003, it happened in Canberra. In 2009, Black Saturday hit Victoria. Tasmania and the NSW Blue Mountains were ablaze in 2013. Then came the national megafires of 2019-20: the Black Summer bushfires; the most destructive and widespread in Australia on record.

**Australia is increasingly at risk of a major fire hitting a major city**.

Millions more Australians now live on the expanding outskirts of our capital cities and major regional centres, where homes adjoin highly flammable bush and grasslands.

These at-risk communities — from the Dandenong Ranges in Victoria, Perth Hills, Adelaide Hills, the Blue Mountains, Sydney suburbs, NSW Central Coast, Hobart's suburbs and Canberra's western edge — are already some of the most fire-exposed urban areas in the world.

**The report** explains how climate change supercharged the main factors that underpinned the Californian catastrophe, and compares those conditions with Australia's capital cities. It also explains why firefighters are increasingly facing fires they cannot stop; and what must be done to protect Australian lives, homes and communities as extreme fire weather intensifies**.** Now is the time to reduce climate pollution further and faster, to adapt our cities, and prepare our fire services and communities for a future increasingly at risk of devastating bushfires.

**Key findings**:

1. **The 2025 wildfires ripped through Los Angeles neighbourhoods in the middle of winter…**

- Climate pollution from the burning of coal, oil and gas shaped the dangerous and extreme weather conditions that drove these fires: record dryness; non-arrival of the typical annual wet season; and hurricane-like winds.
- Climate pollution erased traditional fire seasons and turned them into a year-round threat.
- LA experienced climate whiplash: a rapid switch between two very wet years that resulted in extreme fire fuel loads, followed by very dry conditions ideal for fires.
- Around the world, climate pollution is driving worsening fire conditions: 43% of the 200 most damaging fires have occurred in just the past decade.

2. **Australian cities share dangerous characteristics that made the LA fires so destructive, and many of our bushfires have also exhibited unstoppable fire behaviour.**

- We have a hot and dry climate. Between 2000 and 2023 the intensity and frequency of the worst fires in southern Australia rose sharply under more extreme weather conditions.
- Australia suffered through fires with extremely strong winds, drought conditions, high fuel loads and unstoppable fire behaviour. During Black Saturday 2009 in Victoria, the fire danger index exceeded 200 (100 was the upper limit of fire danger rating up until 2009).
- Fire-generated thunderstorms, or pyroconvective events, were relatively rare with 60 such events recorded in Australia in the 40 years up to 2018. During Black Summer, there were at least 45 fire- generated thunderstorms.

3. **More people live in harm's way on the fast-growing urban fringes of Australian cities.**

- Over the past 20 years, outer suburban populations have exploded in Australia: More than doubling in Melbourne and Perth, up 36% in Adelaide, 33% in Hobart and 24% in Sydney.

- More than 6.9 million Australians now live where suburbs meet the bush — the zones most exposed to deadly fires. Had the Black Summer bushfires directly impacted the edges of our cities or major regional centres – such as Sydney, Newcastle, Wollongong, the NSW Central Coast, the Dandenong ranges, the Adelaide Hills, the Perth Hills or Hobart – then large-scale property losses could have occurred.
- Up to 90% of Australian homes in high-risk fire zones were built before modern bushfire standards existed. Ignition due to ember attack and house-to-house fire spread is likely.
- Research shows that, globally, 10% of all fires result in 78% of all fatalities. Most of these occur in suburbs built where bush or grassland meets cities.

**4. Climate pollution turbo-charges Australian fire conditions, making fires more frequent, costly, intense, and less predictable.**

- Since 2020 insurance premiums have increased by 78% to 138% for homes in bushfire-prone Local Government Areas within Sydney, Melbourne and Perth.
- The cost of the 2019/20 Black Summer bushfires to our economy was estimated at $10 billion. It is a matter of when – not if – we'll experience another fire on this scale, or worse, as dangerous fire weather conditions driven by climate pollution make this a near certainty. (*And, just after this report was published, it did happen in Victoria*.)
- From 1979 to 2019 fire seasons across Australia grew by an additional 27 days – a 20% increase over the 40-year period.
- Southern Australia is experiencing long-term declines in cool-season rainfall while spring and summer become hotter and drier: setting the stage for earlier, more intense and widespread fires like the 2003 Canberra fires and 2009 Black Saturday bushfires.
- Fire behaviour at night is becoming more extreme and preventing firefighters from attacking fires and backburning during night conditions to bring large fires under control.
- The world's first large-scale fire-generated tornado – and the fastest rate of spread for a forest fire – was recorded in Canberra, in January 2003.

**5. Climate-fuelled fires increasingly exceed firefighting investment and preparation. Urgent cuts to climate pollution are critical to saving Australian lives and communities.**

- There is no way to safely or effectively fight pyroconvective events, like those experienced in Canberra 2003, Black Saturday 2009, and the Black Summer bushfires. Aircraft must be grounded, and efforts to protect properties temporarily abandoned.
- Modelling shows that 3°C of global warming would result in catastrophic fire danger zones three times bigger than experienced on Black Saturday in 2009 (810,000 km2) with temperatures as high as 48°C in Victoria, NSW, and South Australia.
- Fires on this scale are beyond the limits of any fire service to control. Extreme winds ground aircraft, simultaneous fires limit assistance, and water pressure drops suddenly.
- Australia is facing more days of extreme fire weather and larger, more damaging fires under worsening fire weather caused by climate pollution. We must:
    - Cut climate pollution from coal, oil and gas more swiftly and deeply
    - Invest heavily in disaster preparation and community resilience at all levels of government so we're as prepared as possible for the worsening fire risks we face.
    - Increase emergency service and land management at the urban fringe of our cities and major regional centres so growing populations are better protected.

**SOME GOOD NEWS FROM THE INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL**

On the Sunshine Coast, a local community and housing developer were creating a dedicated habitat for the **endangered wallum sedge frog** – a species with only a few thousand individuals left in Australia – when **six fire ant nests were discovered close by.** Because Queensland's fire ant eradication system was in place – a program the Invasive Species Council has helped to secure over $1 billion to properly fund – **those nests were detected early and eradicated fast.** It's a powerful reminder that whether we are lobbying governments in the corridors of Parliament, being outspoken in the media, or educating the public on the facts, this is why we do what we do**.**

We also ended last year with huge wins on some long-running issues:

- After more than a decade of advocacy, New South Wales Parliament voted to **repeal the law that locked in protection for feral horses in Kosciuszko National Park.**
- In South Australia **we secured $1.6 million in federal funding to ensure the Kangaroo Island cat eradication program** can stay on track to become a nation-leading blueprint for ambitious island eradication work.
- In Victoria, the government finally **approved the use of Felixer grooming traps for feral cat control,** bringing the state into line with the rest of the country and unlocking a new tool for the French Island eradication effort.
- And in **Tasmania we helped secure a review of the state's feral deer plan** which is underway.

The Invasive Species Council focuses on practical, science-based action to reduce invasive impacts.

**VALE SUSAN BOYD**

We regret to report the passing of Susan Boyd, who died in December, just before her 60th birthday. The Boyd family made huge contributions to the work of our Society's during our early years and father Leighton became an alderman on Ryde Council, ensuring representation of our Society in times when other aldermen remained hostile to environmental and local area interests.

At the age of just 4 months, Susan became a central part of our great army blockade in May 1966; she was a baby being cradled in the crowd standing in front of a large army truck as it attempted to drive over Strangers Creek. This was reported on ABC TV news and on page 3 of The Sun Herald.

Susan is survived by her mother Jean, who remains one of our few original members, and brothers Graham and Russell.

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS FELL DUE AT THE END OF DECEMBER!**

**If you have already renewed, THANK YOU!**

**If you have not yet done so, please renew your membership now** and consider making a donation towards your Society's activities. All members enjoy active involvement in our Society's activities to support the protection of natural environments both locally and beyond, receive this "Wallumetta" newsletter and early notifications of our special events.

**The form below has details of fees and payment methods.**

**And do you know** anyone who may be interested in the activities of our Society? Or someone who has skills that may be helpful in taking on roles in our special events? **Invite them to join us!**

## NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOM

Please pay membershipfee by direct transfer to our Bendigo Bank account:
RYDE HUNTERSHILL FLORA AND FAUNA PRESERVATION SOCIETY INC,
BSB 633-000, Account number 19071658
Include your name in the transaction description; and **email your name, ac and phone number** to **rhhffps@gmail.c**

Or pay by cash: Complete and hand i form with payment in an envelope at 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

Donated once again by Holy Spirit Yarn Group, you could be the lucky winner when the raffle is drawn at our AGM in early 2026. This new rug is handmade suitable to use in winter or summer. Give to a family member or friend, keep it for yourself or donate it to a worthy organisation. Funds raised support the work of our Society and the organisations we support.

**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 contact details to rhhffps@gmail.com

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