



BUSHCARE LINKS



Late winter 2011 Edition

What's Happening

- Bushcare gets a voice
- Insights into a Bushcare Support Trainer's mind
- Two Shoalhaven Orchids declared critically endangered in N.S.W

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Shoalhaven Bushcare Representatives Group Formed!

Well after much debate and deliberation the Shoalhaven Bushcare Representatives Group has been officially formed and will become a section 355 (b) committee under Council as per the Local Government Act 1993.

At the Ordinary Council meeting of 26th July 2011 the following motion was resolved:

a) *The Bushcare Representative Group be appointed pursuant to Section 355(b) of the Local Government Act 1993 with membership to comprise of: Six Bushcare Group Representatives:*

1. Mrs Annie Boutland – Rennies Beach Bushcare Group
2. Ms Frances Bray – Lake Wollumboola Bushcare Group
3. Mr Mike Clear – Cudmirrah- Berrara Bushcare Group
4. Mr Tony Jennings – Grotto Walking Track Bushcare Group
5. Mr Bryan Lenne – Callala Bushcare Group
6. Mr Bill Pigott – Moeyan Hill Bushcare Group

There was also a representative from the Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority, all available Councillors and a representative from the General Manager. The motion carried only after the Mayor used his casting vote as six councillors voted "aye" and six councillors voted "no" to the motion. The motion also stated the following:

b) *The purpose of the Bushcare Representative Group is to act as an advisory group on all matters relating to the future directions of the Bushcare*

Policy and Program.

- c) *The Quorum for the Bushcare Representative Group be five (5).*
- d) *Council authorise the Committee to elect its Chairperson;*
- e) *The Bushcare Representative Group consider establishing a charter incorporating the purpose, aims and objectives of the advisory group.*

The formation of this group is a big step in giving Bushcare volunteers a voice within Council particularly decisions that Council makes, both at a operational and planning level, that directly effect you and your work. It will be important that this group work constructively with Council so that Bushcare establishes a good working relationship which will assist in further supporting the important on-ground work of Bushcare volunteers. If you have any issues you would like your Bushcare representative to raise with Council please contact them below:

- Annie Boutland Ph: 4455-2840 – annie.boutland@exemail.com.au
- Frances Bray Ph: 4447-2185 – francesbray@bigpond.com
- Mike Clear Ph: 4441 3041 rosemike2@dodo.com.au
- Tony Jennings Ph: 0427 210736 jennings.a@bigpond.com
- Bryan Lenne Ph: 4446 4157 - scribblybark@gmail.com
- Bill Pigott Ph: 44643241 - pigott@shoalhaven.net.au

Interview – Kelly O’Connell - Bushcare Support Trainers

Kelly O’Connell started as a Bushcare Support Trainer early in 2010. Kelly, who is completing Certificate 4 in Conservation and Land Management, works with Bushcare groups in the north of the Shoalhaven. We caught up with Kelly to find out how she is finding the work.

ED: Has your role as support trainer turned out to be what you expected? What’s been the unexpected?

KO: The role of support trainer has most definitely exceeded my expectations. I knew what sort of work was to be expected; I would be assisting with training and safety. What I didn’t expect is that I would be leaving my work sites with a huge smile on my face and that I would come to enjoy working on the WEEKENDS!

ED: What have been the highlights for you as a Bushcare support trainer?

KO: To put it simply, the people and the places. Every visit, I leave with a smile because of these two things. I get out of the big smoke; to do something I love doing. I work with big hearted people, who love to do the same. I work in beautiful places, to make them even more beautiful. That’s a highlight to me... it just so happens it’s a regular thing!

ED: What have been the challenges?

KO: I’m struggling with this one! My south coast plant I.D wasn’t fantastic to start so I cracked the whip on myself there! As hard as I try to come up with

something, nothing comes to mind. I just keep thinking... "nup... this is a dream job!"

ED: How do you manage the different interests among different group members? (Some want to learn lots and do the best possible bushland regeneration/ management. Others want exercise or a social activity)

KO: I think creating a balance is the most important thing. It is helpful to suggest tasks suited to individual’s interests or things that the group can enjoy together to achieve the days plans. Spending time with all of the volunteers and assisting them with their particular interests makes it easier to manage the group as a whole too.

ED: What would you tell a prospective new member of a Bushcare group to expect?

KO: I would say to them there is no better way to spend a couple of hours! You might plant some natives, kill some weeds, get a little dirty and get some sun while having a chat. Definitely expect to learn something new and feel as though you have achieved something. There is a good chance you’ll make new friends and it’s almost certain to expect you’ll feel pretty terrific afterwards!



“Kelly O’Connell enjoying aquatic pursuits between working as a Bushcare Support Trainer.”



A two day forum, on the introduction to spatial mapping for “Care’ group is being held at the Kioloa ANU Coastal Campus. For further information and registration visit <http://www.presoz.com.au/landcare/pages/Forum.html> or call 02 4457 2669 or 4455 5150 for more details. Brought to you by Milton Rural Landcare Inc.

Bushcare in the Shoalhaven – A Strengths Weakness Opportunities & Threats (SWOT) Analysis

Assessing Strengths and Weaknesses, along with Opportunities and Threats, is a common method of assessing a program. Way back in July 2005, as the Bushcare Support program was about to start, a SWOT analysis was carried out on Bushcare in Shoalhaven. Ester Nyers, Bruce Angus, Amanda Findley, Kerry Thompson, Rebecca Rudd, Alasdair Stratton, Meg Bishop and Graeme Gibson were among those who participated. This is a summary of ideas at that time, collected over 20 minutes or so.

Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
<p>Council backing</p> <p>gets people into the environment</p> <p>working with motivated people</p> <p>increases capacity of local people to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • appreciate area • carry out projects <p>cooperative approach (pooling skills) of volunteers and support workers</p> <p>positive outcomes for environment</p> <p>personal satisfaction, increased self-esteem</p> <p>can focus on a key animal</p> <p>develops role models (e.g. BC volunteer --- → community leader)</p>	<p>Personality clashes</p> <p>lack of connectivity between groups (size of S/haven LGA)</p> <p>narrow demographic of volunteers (few youth)</p> <p>narrow focus – BC just does BC, and often in same reserve</p> <p>‘gung ho’ approach of some groups</p>	<p>Greater guidance and direction</p> <p>collectively meet like minded people</p> <p>learning together/ increase knowledge</p> <p>community building</p> <p>replace/ supplement other social networks</p> <p>increased use of nurseries Milton & Culburra</p> <p>Carers of bush</p> <p>attract a different demographic, i.e. youth, Aboriginal, 30-40 year old people who are busy with families</p> <p>individual learning, attitude change</p> <p>take a broader ecosystem approach</p> <p>find and engage local experts (guest to a group session)</p> <p>group skills audit</p>	<p>Being labeled ‘green’</p> <p>BC is not fully sick/ cool to everyone</p> <p>neighbors attitudes and actions</p> <p>local politics</p> <p>BC becoming institutionalized and bureaucratic</p> <p>rubbish dumping</p> <p>vandalism</p> <p>values</p> <p>overuse/ conflicting/ multiple uses</p> <p>perceived ownership of the bush by the group or neighbors</p> <p>perception BC is hard, boring work</p> <p>there is heaps of bush already [still]</p>

It might be interesting to ask ourselves how Bushcare has evolved in Shoalhaven, over the last six years. If you have any ideas or thoughts on this please feel free to send them to me at Bushcare@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au

TWO SHOALHAVEN ORCHIDS LISTED AS CRITICALLY ENDANGERED UNDER N.S.W THREATENED SPECIES CONSERVATION ACT 1995

The NSW State Government has recently listed two terrestrial orchids, *Pterostylis vernalis* and *Pterostylis ventricosa* as CRITICALLY ENDANGERED under the NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995.

Both these orchids occur in the Shoalhaven LGA and both are small terrestrial orchids. *Pterostylis vernalis* occurs West of Nowra in and around Nowra sandstone outcrops. *Pterostylis ventricosa* is a more wide spread species within the Shoalhaven and is found in 'open areas within tall eucalypt forest with dense healthy understory as well as open disturbed sites such as road verges and power line easements around St Georges Basin and Sussex Inlet.' Please take a look at the photos of these species and if you are undertaking any Bushcare works in these areas make sure you are familiar with these species so as to avoid damage to them.

Pterostylis vernalis is above ground in spring, and *Pterostylis ventricosa* flowers in autumn. Alan Stephenson has also provided identification photos of these and other orchid flowers and rosettes to make identification easier. If you like a copy of these photos please let me know and I can e-mail them or send a hard copy to you.



Pterostylis vernalis is found on the sandstone areas west of Nowra



Pterostylis ventricosa is found around the St Georges Basin/ Sussex Inlet area

National Tree Day 2011 at the Shoalhaven Heads

By Noel Schneider, Shoalhaven Heads Bushcare



“Bens Walk Bushcare resting during their National Tree Day planting”

Over 1000 native trees, shrubs, grasses & groundcovers were planted by 5th & 6th class students from Shoalhaven Heads Primary School on 31st July at River Rd & year 7 students from Kiama High School on 1st August at Shoalhaven Heads Golf Club. Teachers from both schools assisted & volunteers from Shoalhaven Heads Bushcare group, Golfers Bushcare group & Ron & Ed from the Shoalhaven Council prepared the sites & supervised the planting. Thanks to Shoalhaven City Council &

Shoalhaven Heads Golf Club for donating the plants. SCC Bushcare co-ordinator, Alasdair Stratton, spoke to the students about the biodiversity that their plantings would encourage & the importance of healthy dunes to our local community. Alasdair demonstrated the planting procedure before the students broke into groups to create more patches of native bushland in our village. A BBQ was enjoyed by the volunteers following the planting & the plants have been nurtured & watered during August.



“Kiama High School Year 7 students at Shoalhaven Heads Golf Course for Tree Day”



“Shoalhaven Heads Primary School students at River Rd Tree Day planting site.”

Be Natural Landcare Grant Up For Grabs!

Landcare Australia and Be Natural have launched a \$125,000 grants program that will provide funding to voluntary environmental community groups across Australia. This grants program will enable groups to continue their great work in tackling local environmental issues by providing funding to help with the continuation of on-going projects. The Be Natural Landcare grants program will provide grants of up to \$5,000 to 25 local groups to help with the projects which have not received funding in the last 12 months. For more information visit the following website.

<http://www.landcareonline.com.au/news/archive/be-natural-landcare-grants-now-open/>



Just 10 Years to Make a Difference by Sandy Fritz, Kangaroo Valley

The Climate Commission has recently published a report, *The Critical Decade*, emphasising that the decisions we make from now to 2020 will determine the severity of climate change our children and grandchildren experience. Accompanying their main report the Commission has prepared a brief (four page) statement on the key impacts of climate change for the Illawarra and NSW south coast region. Here are the highlights:

1. Higher temperatures will increase the likelihood of large and intense fires. Average temperatures in NSW have risen by approximately 1°C since the 1950s along with the number of heat waves and record hot days (Figure 1). Conditions for large and intense fires (low humidity, high winds and extreme temperatures) are likely to become more common by 2050, with intense fires projected to increase by up to 20%. To manage the situation, the Commission suggests that prescribed burnings will need to double or triple, “which is costly and comes with its own risks”.
2. Rising sea levels will exacerbate existing vulnerability of coastal towns and infrastructure in the Illawarra/NSW south coast region. Global sea levels are projected to increase by 0.5m to 1.0 m this century. A sea-level rise of 50 cm will increase frequency of coastal flooding; 1-in-

100 year events could occur every few months, damaging low-lying infrastructure and eroding sandy beaches. A sea-level rise of 1.1 metre would threaten hundreds of commercial buildings in the Wollongong and Shoalhaven areas and may affect 100-150 light industrial buildings in Shellharbour. Wollongong has about 50 km of rail exposed to coastal flooding.

3. Changing rainfall patterns and the risk of more intense rainfall events pose challenges for low-lying urban centers in the Illawarra and NSW south coast. With rising temperatures, a pattern of more severe droughts and more intense rainfall events is likely to occur. The rainfall events will increase the risk of flooding, particularly in urban areas along the coast.
4. Biodiversity will be at risk. The Illawarra region is home to 69 threatened animal species, including the green and golden bell frog and southern brown bandicoot (pictured below) and 31 threatened plant species. Rare and threatened species with small geographic ranges are particularly vulnerable to high temperature extremes, increased and more intense bushfires and changes to rainfall patterns.

More details are available at:

<<http://climatecommission.gov.au/topics/illawarrans-change-impacts/>>

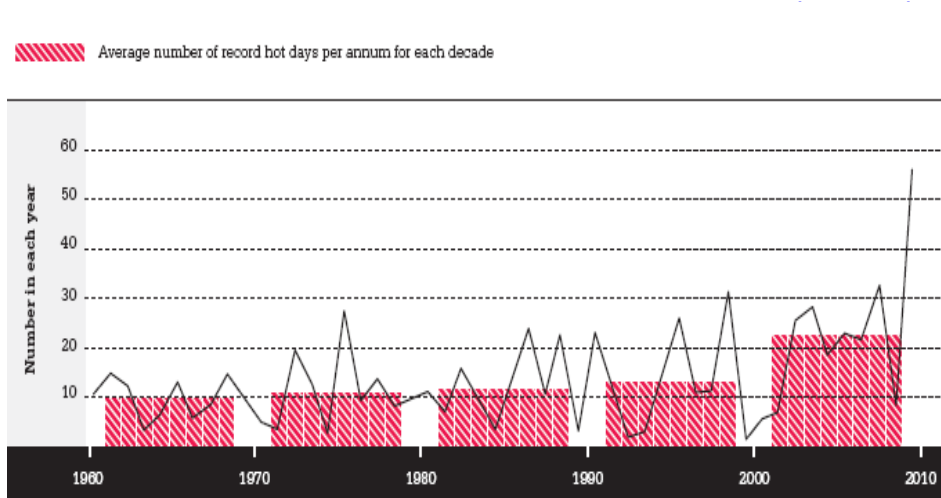


Figure 1. The number of record hot days at Australian climate reference stations is rising.”

Source Bureau of Meteorology

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We're on the Web!

See us
www.shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au/Environment/Bushcare.aspx

Treating Lantana with Fire Field Day - Tilba

Have you ever wanted to know more about the use of fire as a tool for controlling Lantana? Now is your chance, Eurobodalla Shire Council is hosting a field day at the Central Tilba Hall on Saturday, 3rd September at 10am. The field day will cover

topics such as ignition points, firebreaks, fire management and monitoring, lighting pattern and follow monitoring and control. A BBQ lunch will be provided at the Tilba Hall, RSVP are essential if you are thinking of attending

please call Ph: 4474 – 1269 and for further information.

Berry Landcare Artfest 2011

The annual Berry Landcare Artfest is on again in 2011, being held in conjunction with National Landcare Week on September 3rd and 4th from 10am to 5pm at the Berry School of Arts, Alexandra St, Berry. This year theme is "Nature as Artist" and will feature categories in Painting (Oil, Water Colour and Acrylic), Photography, Open (Pastels, Prints and Drawings) and



installations (Waste to Art and Sculpture). This year there is also a junior section for the kids to get involved, this is always a great event with many exciting and thought provoking art being on display and for sale, so come along and be part of it. 10% of sales go towards the Landcare group for more information contact Leslie Pigott on Ph: 44643241 or email pigott@shoalhaven.net.au

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