

Hi Folks,

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL!!! Here's hoping that the holiday season has not had too much impact on your Bushcare site. It is inevitable that disturbance will have occurred throughout the natural reserves of the Shoalhaven when 250,000 people descend on the region over a 4 week period. I urge you all to be patient and demonstrate some leniency when it comes to kids having fun in the great outdoors, and visitors to the reserves not being aware of the vulnerability of the natural environment. If you are out and about in your patch over the summer holiday period, try and utilise the opportunity to educate people who are passing by in the much needed knowledge of natural ecosystems. Many visitors will be curious as to what the people are doing with their heads down in the shrubbery! Take the time to explain the Bushcare aims and objectives to them and you may just enlighten, and even convert those who have never contemplated ecology. Try to have some information pamphlets ready at hand that are relevant to your area — weed info, Bushcare rego forms etc, and show them your Bushcare plan. 'Before & after' photos would have a great impact. The 'silly season' will be over soon and we can all get on with 'business as usual', so be patient and plan for a good year ahead.

Cheers, Kerrythompson@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au

SAFETY FIRST

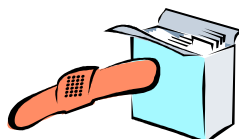
FIRST AID KITS

This bag of goodies must accompany your group to every Bushcare working bee. Every Bushcare group should have been supplied with a First Aid Kit, so if your group does NOT have a kit, notify Al Stratton immediately so that he can supply one.

Do not hesitate to utilise the contents of the kit if need be. So often, the "Bushies" amongst you will be satisfied to tie that ol' hanky around that bleeding wound. I urge the group co-ordinators to emphasise to all members, that safe and hygienic 1st Aid practices need to be implemented. Find out who holds a 1st Aid certificate in your group and inform the other members.

REMEMBER also that if your supplies in the 1st Aid kit have been used, they need to be replenished continually so that a full compliment of supplies are present in the kit at all times. Ask Al Stratton for top-up supplies if necessary and he will order them through the Council stores office.

Don't forget that in the event of an incident during a Bushcare working bee, an incident report should be filed with Council so that correct follow-up procedures can be implemented.



NOWRA AND MILTON SHOWS BUSHCARE EXHIBITIONS

Shoalhaven Bushcare is going to be having a stall at both these coastal agricultural shows. The stalls will offer information and give-aways relating to Bushcare activities throughout the city. Native plants grown by the Bushcare Volunteer Community Nursery group will be on hand to be offered free to visitors with the aim of encouraging people to grow native plants in their gardens, and replace plants that are aggressive environmental weeds with non-aggressive native species.



Bushcare members are welcome to assist at the stalls by offering Bushcare information and narrating personal Bushcare experiences to the public. In past years these stalls have drawn considerable interest. The more information that is imparted about weed invasion in natural areas, the easier Bushcare work will be in the future. If you are interested in participating, please ring Alasdair Stratton so that he can allocate a suitable time for you, (see pg 2 for contacts). All help is appreciated.

Mt Coolangatta Koori Bush Regeneration Team Starts Work

Shoalhaven Council have recently employed two Aboriginal Bush Regenerators to work in cooperation with the Department of Environment and Climate Change – National Parks Division on Mt Coolangatta public reserves to undertake Lantana control and bush regeneration. The team will be working closely with two other National Parks and Wildlife Service Field Officers on both Council and DECC land. Funding for the project has come through the Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority – Bush Incentives Program.



The Mt Coolangatta Bush Regeneration team clockwise from front left Ronald Carberry, Edward Farrell, Uncle Gerrald (NPWS) and Clyde Green (NPWS)

The two Aboriginal Bush Regenerators are Ronald Carberry and Edward Farrell who have both over ten years experience working in the bush regeneration field and have completed certificates 2 & 3 in Conservation Land Management. As Mt Coolangatta has special cultural significance to the local Aboriginal people, it is a great partnership project whereby local indigenous people are provided with employment and training opportunities whilst having the opportunity to care for their country. The team are also supporting the efforts of a relatively new Bushcare group that has started on Mt Coolangatta, which is comprised of local landholders that live on or adjacent to the mountain.

SHOALHAVEN CITY COUNCIL BUSHCARE

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The Koori team started working on the mountain in November 2008 and have been busy cutting transect tracks across some steep terrain on the mountain to allow them access for spraying the Lantana.

Mt Coolangatta is a prominent feature in the Shoalhaven landscape. It is welcome news that we can now look at the mountain looming out of the coastline and be aware that the natural environment is being rehabilitated to provide improved habitat for the fauna and flora that naturally occurs at this unique site.

BUSHCARE CHRISTMAS CHEER

On a wet and wild Friday afternoon back in December, on the 12th day of the month, a group of hardened characters gathered at Moona Moona Creek picnic area. They huddled beneath the only refuge offered against the elements, the picnic shelter that stands on the foreshores of the inlet. The individuals were a cheerful lot despite the downpour, most dressed in suitable outdoor gear that let the water run from their lapels, braving the elements in the name of comraderie and mateship. This was the Bushcare annual Christmas party!

After spending many, many hours throughout the year of 2008 slogging through the undergrowth, bullying and bagging weeds in the bush, cultivating, caring and cajoling native saplings to grow, being questioned, queried and quarreled with at times, they still found the fortitude to gather and wish each other well for the festive season.

The gathering included not only members of Bushcare groups, but Parkcare groups as well. Al Stratton, the intrepid Bushcare Coordinator, and Glen Elliott, the resolute Parks Supervisor manned the BBQ and produced snags, steaks and onions aplenty for the hungry crowd.

After many snags consumed, drinks drunk, everyone all agreed that a good time was had by all by the end of the evening. Thanks to those who braved the gale force winds and rain to turn up. The gathering is testament to the hardiness and spirit of the average Bushcarer an Parkcarer in the Shoalhaven.



*The cheerful gathering at a wet and windy
2008 Bushcare Christmas BBQ.*

**Successful Caring for Country – Coastcare Grants for
four Bushcare projects in the Shoalhaven & Holiday Haven Caravan Parks.**

Congratulations are due to five Bushcare groups in the Shoalhaven that were successful in gaining funding under the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country Community Coastcare grant program. These projects are as follows:

1. **Protection and Rehabilitation of North Head Reserve and One Track For All Indigenous Education Trail, Ulladulla** - Jamanee Gunya \$28,641.55 for the protection and regeneration of the North Head Reserve and walking trail.
 2. **Bawley Point community coastal restoration/education project** - Bawley Point Bushcare Group \$21,427.27 for the on-going restoration of the SEPP 14 Cormorant Beach Wetland and control of Mother of Millions on several coastal beaches and headlands at Bawley Point.
 3. **Jervis Bay/Vincentia Coastal Foreshore Education and Restoration Project** – The Vincentia Bushcare Group \$19,700.00. The project will raise public awareness and appreciation of the valuable role native vegetation plays on coastal foreshore areas in the Jervis Bay area, both social and environmental.
 4. **Sheepwash Creek and Wetland Habitat Protection Project, Culburra Beach** – Lake Wollumboola Bushcare Group \$34,163.64. This project will preserve and enhance two NSW Endangered Ecological Communities (EEC); the associated wetland dune and riparian habitat along Sheepwash Creek on the northern foreshore of Lake Wollumboola at Culburra Beach.
- *Holiday Haven Tourist Park's Coastal Headland Restoration and Education Project** - Shoalhaven City Council \$45,156.82 for the regeneration of two NSW Ecologically Endangered Communities (ECC) at Red Head, Bendalong and Warden Head, Ulladulla on the crown land reserve surrounding the Holiday Haven Caravan Parks.

ATTENTION!!!!!!

IF YOU HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED THIS NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL AND WISH TO DO SO IN THE FUTURE, PLEASE ADVISE ALASDAIR STRATTON (see Page 2).

ALSO—If your email or mailing details have changed recently please advise Al so that he can update the Bushcare mailing list. Thanks

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PAID
AUSTRALIA