

11th November 2010

Bangalee Reserve bushcare group

The Bangalee Bushcare Group is a small band of dedicated volunteers undertaking a bush regeneration project on the banks of the Shoalhaven River, at Bangalee.

The reserve has many environmental and cultural values including an endangered ecological community, Aboriginal and European cultural sites as well as beautiful walking trails such as The Weir Walk.

The main noxious weed of focus at Bangalee Reserve is Lantana which has infested large areas previously disturbed by historic farming and is now invading areas of natural bushland.

Council's Environmental Services section has been monitoring the affects of Lantana, and the regeneration of areas previously cleared of lantana by the Bangalee Bushcare group, on native birds and animals within Reserve. Surveys commenced in 2009 with Council's Threatened Species Officers joining the Bushcare volunteers to conduct bird counts and trap for small ground-dwelling animals.

Trapping just completed in October 2010 found native animals are moving back into areas once heavily infested with Lantana after only a couple of years but the surveys also highlighted the importance of natural bushland habitat which supported significantly more animals than did lantana infested areas. The results of the surveys will help guide the volunteers in which areas of Lantana they will attack next but also show that the efforts of the group are helping native animals.

The annual surveys add another level of interest for the Bushcare volunteers and allow Council staff to work with the community, maintain scientific skills and apply the results of the survey work in other Bushcare and rehabilitation works.

This small band of volunteers is supported by Shoalhaven City Council Bushcare Program, who provide them with technical advice, tools and equipment to regenerate this special spot.

The volunteers meet every Friday at 8am in the Bangalee Reserve car park. New volunteers are welcome just bring your hat, long sleeve shirt and pants and a sense of humour, for more information contact Council Bushcare Coordinator, Alasdair Stratton on 4429 3592 or e-mail Bushcare@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au

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