



BUSHCARE LINKS

Autumn 2011



What's Inside

1. 101 Secrets
2. Shoalhaven Bushcare Representative Group Formed
3. NSW Coastal Volunteers Forum
4. Kings Point Bushcare Group
5. Bushcare OH&S Training
6. Plants from Community Nursery
7. Native Peach

101 Secrets to Running a Successful Bushcare Group

Without a doubt the biggest issues facing many volunteer Bushcare and Landcare Groups is how to attract new volunteers into your group.

In the Shoalhaven we have a wonderful blend of personalities, skills and interests that make up a diverse mix of Bushcare and Landcare Groups. If your Bushcare Group is suffering from a lack of volunteer recruitment, as are the rest of the country's Landcare, then you should take a look at a great booklet that the Sydney Metro Catchment Management Authority put together following a community forum.

The booklet is called "101 Secrets for a Successful Environmental Volunteer Group" and was put together by a combination of Bushcare volunteers and staff working to support Bushcare.

Although the booklet is called 101 secrets there are actually 9 tips in the book and are quickly summarised as follows:

Make it fun! – Friends and social interactions help keep a volunteer group together. Make sure you take time to have a morning tea or cuppa with each other.

Make each other feel valued! – People volunteer their time for many different reasons. However everyone likes to be appreciated for their contribution.

Share knowledge and build skills – Each group is made up of a

unique mix of personalities, interests and skills. We can learn from each other and by trying new methods and ways at looking at things.

Have good communications – Clear and regular communication helps to ensure everyone is informed and knows what is happening.

Have good strategies – A clear and achievable plan will help focus the groups efforts and keep people motivated.

Be organised – Having a dedicated group leader and a well organised group helps things run smoothly for everyone involved.

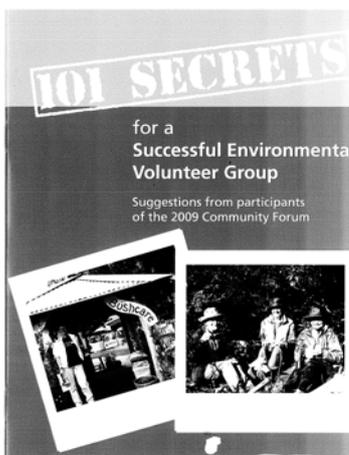
Promote your group – People like to hear good news stories and they want to support you or even join in!

Seek extra support – There are many organisations and groups out there who can provide support.

Celebrate your achievements – Any excuse for a party! Make sure you celebrate your achievements. This helps boost a volunteers motivation and can give a sense of satisfaction in knowing that you are making a difference.

This booklet is available on the web at

www.sydney.cma.nsw.gov.au



"101 Secrets for a Successful Environmental Volunteer Group"
Booklet by the Sydney Metro CMA

Forming of a Group that will represent all the Shoalhaven Bushcare Groups

At its December ordinary meeting, Shoalhaven Council passed the following resolution regarding the report that was prepared for information regarding the proposed changes to the Bushcare policy as per Minute 10.820 of the previous July meeting.

- a) *“The report regarding the development of a Bushcare Policy as per Council Minute MIN 10.820 be received for information;*
- b) *Council endorse and reaffirm the Best Practice/Recommendations in the report;*
- c) *Council acknowledge the enormous contribution by Bushcare Volunteers to improving the natural areas of the Shoalhaven;*
- d) *A Council Bushcare Representative Group be established to act as an advisory group on all matters relating to the future directions of the Bushcare Policy and program;*
- e) *Membership of the Bushcare Representative Group include Councillors, six Bushcare Group representatives, Council Staff, Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority and the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water with meetings to be held on a quarterly basis;*
- f) *Council’s Natural Resources &*

Floodplain staff, together with Ranger Services, consider whether changes in the distribution of educative materials and adoption of a Tree Vegetation Vandalism Policy is warranted or should be incorporated into Council’s Compliance Policy.”

Item d) and e) are a great outcome from what was originally quite a negative and conflicting situation. This will mean that Council will now have a recognised group that can guide decisions relating to the Bushcare Program and can advise Council of the ecological restoration and management of natural areas across the city.

A letter was sent out to all Bushcare Groups in early February asking for nominations for the Bushcare Representative Group. This letter had three essential and desirable criteria that potential nominees should meet. At the time of closing Council had received eight nominations from Bushcare volunteers.

The six Bushcare volunteers have been selected by staff based on the assessment criteria and will be reported to Council for final approval very soon.

The Bushcare volunteers recommended by staff have a vast and interesting mix of knowledge and skills, both in a professional and volunteer capacity. It is hoped that they will bring a positive and progressive set of ideas and attitudes to the table.

Once the groups membership has been finalised we will be looking at having an informal get together and holding some training in mediation and conflict resolution.

New Bushcare Starts at Kings Point – Ulladulla

A keen and enthusiastic Bushcare Group has started at Kings Point, just south of Ulladulla. For those of you who don't know where Kings Point is, it is situated on the eastern side of Burrill Lake and is around 10 minutes from the centre of the Ulladulla CBD.

The Bushcare Group started from some controversy, as many do, surrounding the management of some foreshore reserves at Kings Point. However they have wisely chosen to separate themselves from this and are now working in a patch of bushland which is in pretty good condition apart from some small infestations of

Winter Senna, Asparagus Fern and Buffalo grass.

The group is lead by a very motivated Karen Bulbert and are on a steep learning curve getting familiar with the local weeds and identification of some of the native lookalike plants.

They are supported by Cate Brooks, who is their Bushcare Support Trainer and Cate has run them through some identification and risk assessment training. We look forward to seeing this group do some good work in keeping the bushland at Kings Point healthy.



Members of the Kings Point Bushcare Group on their first get together

NSW Coastal Volunteers Forum 2011

Recently eight Bushcare volunteers from the Shoalhaven and Council's Bushcare Coordinator attended the NSW Coastal Volunteers Forum held at the Builders Wollongong Club from February 27th to March 1st 2011.

The forum brought together many volunteers from across the NSW coast as well as professional support staff to share stories, experience and knowledge with each other. The Forum had some excellent presentations from a wide variety of people as well as some facilitated workshops looking at issues of volunteer capacity to address coastal issues and how to engage the community. One of the highlights from my point of view was the presentation given by Erin Rowe, who is a recipient of the Young Landcare Leader Award for 2010. Erin is an ex Green Corps Team Leader who has started up a "Landcare Youth Group" mainly comprised of ex Green Corps participants and is based in the Penrith area. She organises Landcare projects for the young members to travel to and assist other Landcare and Bushcare Groups with their projects. She recruits her youth Landcarers

mainly through social networking sites such as face book and she hire buses and gear for them right down to gloves and food for their "Adventure Landcare" trips.

Considering the difficulty that many Landcare and Bushcare Groups have in getting younger people involved this seemed like a very inspiring case study. Erin's message that she left us with was that despite what people think Generation Y are passionate, they just need to be given an opportunity to show that passion. What we need to do is find an Erin Rowe in the Shoalhaven.

A relatively new group, the Currarong Village Bushcare Group were given the opportunity to present as well as yours truly, who gave a presentation titled "Shoalhaven Bushcare – Heading in the Right Direction". If anyone would like a copy of this power point presentation please let me know. I can burn it onto a CD ROM for you.

Bushcare OH&S Training Workshops

Recently Council held three 1 hour OH&S training workshops. One each in Nowra, St Georges Basin and Ulladulla at the end of March 2011. The workshops were designed to give all Bushcare Groups an overview of what was required, in regards to Occupational Health and Safety of each group in managing the risk on your Bushcare site. The workshops also covered what was expected of Council in respect to providing a safe Bushcare site for volunteers to work in and training to identify and control hazards that occur on Bushcare sites.

Each Bushcare Group that attended these OH&S training workshop received a Shoalhaven Bushcare OH&S Field Manual which included information on Bushcare site risk assessments, incidents reports, and a new Bushcare Activity Recording Book. This book has changed slightly to allow groups to record some simple OH&S information before they start work on their site. A reminder to all Bushcare Groups that the OH&S training workshops are compulsory for at least one member of each Bushcare Group to attend. Council will be running another two 1 hour training workshops in June. Below is a list of Bushcare Groups that have attended the recent training workshops. If you group is not listed please ensure that you have someone attend the June workshops.



“The safety of your Bushcare is everyones business and everyone needs to participate in safety training”

Bangalee Reserve	
Basin Walking Track	Upper Kangaroo Valley
Bawley Pt	Orient Pt
Cudmirrah – Berrara	Mahogany Creek
Friends of the Brush Rock Wallaby	
Hyams Beach	
Lake Conjola	Callala Sailing Club
Lake Tabourie Milton Rainforest	Penguin Head Wowly Creek
Mollymook Dunecare	Lake Wollumboola
Narrawallee	Shoalhaven Heads
North Head	Mulgen Creek
Red Villages River Road	The Grotto
Shoalhaven Community Nursery	Bens Walk
Smiths Bay	Currarong Village
Vincentia	Callala
Warden Head	Nowra Veteran Golfers

Two training workshops will be held in June this year as follows:

- 1. Nowra Workshop – 5 to 6pm
28th June – Training Room 1,
Nowra Administration Centre.**
- 2. Ulladulla Workshop - 5 to 6pm
29th June – Training Room,
Southern Administration
Centre**

Plants Available at the Shoalhaven Community Nursery

The following table is a list of species that are currently available at the Shoalhaven Community Volunteer Nursery. If your Bushcare Group are interested in securing stock for future planting on your site please contact the nursery coordinator, Kerry Thompson on mobile number 0434 566 273. Remember when you are ordering the species that they are in line with what is in your Bushcare Action Plan.

Group	Plan Name	Common Name	No In Stock 1/4/11	Issued since 1/4/11	Ready for planting out	Allocation Group	Similar Alternative In Stock
Trees	Banksia integrifolia	Coastal Banksia	160		Y		
Trees	Eucalyptus botryoides	Bangalay	20		Y		
Trees	Casuarina glauca	Swamp She Oak	200		Y	Lk Wollumboola Orient Pt	
Trees	Casuarina verticillata	drooping She Oak	80		Y	Boorawine St - Callala Bay	
Trees	Syzigium smithii	Lilly Pilly	15		1 mth		
Trees	Ficus coronata	Sandpaper Fig	240		2 mths		
Trees	Ficus macrophylla	Morton Bay Fig	6		3mths		
Shrub	Acacia l. sophorae	Coastal Wattle	280		Y		
	Myoporum acuminatum	Boobialla	8		2 mths		
Shrubs	Garden replacements	Various native spp	80		Y	BC Stalls	
Shrubs	Leptospermum laevigatum	Coastal tea tree	15		Y		
Tussock-like	Crinum pedunculatum	Swamp lily	100		Y		
Tussock-like	Lomandra longifolia	Spiny-headed matrush	500		Y		Blady grass
Grass	Poa labillardieri	Native grass	20		1-2 mths		
Grass	Gahnia clarkii	Sword grass	160		Y	Boorawine St - Callala Bay	
Grass	Imperata cylindrica	Blady Grass	5		Y		Lomandra longifolia
Herb	Rhagodia candolleana	Seaberry Saltbush	120		Y		
Herb	Centalla asiatica	Centalla	40		2-3 mths		
Herb	Viola hederacea	Native violet	160		Y		

Formosa Lily Control – Narrawallee Bushcare



Formosa Lily (*Lilium formosanum*) is originally from South East Asia and is an abundant weed in disturbed sites such as roadsides.

It also has the ability to invade sites following primary weed control, which the Narrawallee Bushcare found out following the large scale removal of ground Asparagus Fern at Narrawallee Beach Reserve.

After some initial research into the most effective control methods for this Lily that proved to be fruitless, they decided to undertake their own trials on a ½ hectare block in the southern part of their site. Arthur Pulford goes on to explain the groups methods and findings:

The first experiment was to determine the most efficient method available, by using trial plots:

- 1) Cut and paint the stem about 1/3 down with straight Roundup, enough to cover the stem and run down into a leaf axil. For cotyledons, a single drop on the cut stem.
- 2) Wipe the stem and undersides of the leaves with straight Roundup.

Both methods were equally successful, but the first option was chosen as it was easy to see where to restart the next day, whereas with the second method obvious withering took time and delayed resumption of treatment.

The second experiment was to determine whether the chosen method was permanent. Ten specimens were selected for each of the three stages of the plants' growth:

- 1) 10 x seedlings at the initial cotyledon stage,
- 2) 10 x second season plants with their first stem, and
- 3) 10 x mature plants

The plants in each stage of growth were identified with coloured marker sticks. No regrowth was observed in subsequent years. This disproved the suggestion that for mature plants only the primary bulb would be killed and not the multitude of attached bulblets.

For mature untreated plants, it would seem that every year the entire bulb assembly is completely re-absorbed and re-established a few centimetres deeper, leaving only a ring of roots in the previous bulb position. The mechanism of this process is, at this stage, a mystery to us. This lily's very efficient means of propagation is by wind blown seeds. The reproductive function (if any) of the bulblets is also a mystery as they don't appear to ever germinate in normal circumstances.

Not only can seeds remain viable for many years, but the bulb assembly can also remain dormant, re-appearing later with a very thick stem and flourishing growth.

The table below shows the result to date:

Growth Season	Number	Comment
2006/7	5,000	Estimate based on 200 per 100ml drip bottle. Many cotyledons were missed.
2007/8	6,407	A mixture of seedling cotyledons (from seed), juveniles (missed from previous year) and matures (from dormant bulbs).
2008/9	2,774	“
2009/10	303	“
2010/11	439	“

The season of 2010/11 was a spectacular growth season all round. The slight increase in numbers is hoped to be a result of a flush due to the good rains, and that the seedbank and dormant bulbs will now be almost exhausted.

Initially straight Roundup was used. This was later diluted to 1:3 in accordance with APVMA guidelines and this strength appears to be equally effective.

Although not yet eliminated, the weed Formosan Lily is now substantially controlled on this site and the rest of the area under this groups care. Continuing vigilance is obviously required. For how long into the future it is too early to tell.

In the early years of high density, 400 – 500 were treated per hour on average. That is 20 – 25 hours per hectare across all areas. The success of the treatment means now we are treating approximately 20 per hour due to the time taken to find them, i.e. 40 hours per hectare.

At least two sweeps through the sites are necessary, one in late spring to early summer, and one in February. Opportunistic treatment while controlling other weeds is also necessary. Seedling cotyledons, which are distinctive and quite different from adult leaves, must be identified and not overlooked.

DON'T try to dig the bulb out, you WILL leave bulblets behind.

DON'T pull the stem out, it WILL leave bulblets behind.

DON'T let them flower and go to seed. The seeds WILL be blown long distances.

The adjacent picture was taken of a Winter Senna plant that had previously been cut and painted with glyphosate. Whomever had done the job had made the cut too high on the stem and the plant had enough energy to coppice under the cut and was still very much alive. Please remember when doing cut and paint on woody weeds to **cut as low to the ground level as possible.**



**Don't forget to cut
Woody Weeds Low!**

Caring for Our Country – Have Your Say!

Shoalhaven City
Bushcare

Po Box 42
NOWRA NSW
2541

PHONE:
4429 3582

Bushcare@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au

The Australian Government – Caring for Our Country funding body is asking for your feedback on what has worked well, what can be improved on and how the community have found the whole Caring for Our Country funding package. The Caring for Our Country grant program was the initiative of the Rudd Labour Government in supporting community based natural resource management across Australia. To have your say simply log onto the Caring for Our Country review website at www.caringforourcountryreview.com.au or email directly to <mailto:thereview@nrm.gov.au>. Facebook and Twitter pages have also been set up. While your there check out the videos of people having their say, you might see a couple of familiar faces at <http://caringforourcountryreview.com.au/project/videos/1>

Native Peach (*Trema aspera*) - Lantana Lookalike



As you can see from the adjacent picture the Native Peach (*Trema aspera*) look very similar to *Lantana camara*. There has recently been a couple of incidents of this native plant being mistaken for Lantana by Bushcare Groups. The fool proof method of telling the difference is by the leaf arrangement. The Native Peach has leaves that grow alternatively from the stem and Lantana has leaves that grow opposite each other from the stem. Lantana also has a pungent odour, so don't be fooled.

POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA