



Landcare  
Illawarra

*Illawarra*

**FLAMETREE**



**LANDCARE ILLAWARRA  
NEWSLETTER  
SPRING ISSUE 2013**

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**Illawarra Local Land Services Officer**

For more information about Landcare Illawarra or to submit information for the next Landcare Illawarra newsletter, contact Megan Rowlatt:

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*Megan Rowlatt*

Welcome to the spring edition of the 'Illawarra Flametree'.

You may notice a few changes in this issue, including the move to a quarterly newsletter! We have lots of exciting and interesting information to share with you in this issue, including information about our food security evenings as well as some important information about weeds we are asking you keep an eye out for.

In this issue, we would like you to meet our very own Chair, Adrian Begg and also very dedicated WIRES volunteer, Lyn Collard.

We also explore a number of local events that will help you to look after our local environment, and our new 'Edible Illawarra' section will feature information about local food initiatives you can get involved in.

We hope you enjoy the spring 2013 issue of the Landcare Illawarra 'Illawarra Flametree' Newsletter.

From the Landcare Illawarra Team.



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# LOCAL EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

## Clean Beaches Workshop and Nominations

The Keep Australia Beautiful NSW Clean Beaches – Connecting Our Coast Awards Program encourages and recognises coastal communities, local councils, volunteers, businesses and surf lifesaving clubs who protect this State's beautiful coastline.

Entering the Clean Beaches – Connecting Our Coast Program is a great opportunity to have your hard work recognised and celebrated, and a terrific way for communities to foster a strong spirit and show pride in their local environment

- Expressions of Interest and Submissions Open: 7 August
- Assessor Training: 1 October
- Submissions Close: 4 October
- Assessing Week: 14-18 October
- Judging: 4-18 November

Regional and State Award Presentations: 2-13 December

**For more information visit the [Clean Beaches website](#)**

## Plant Identification Field Day

This free workshop will help landholders to identify common pasture plants, their growth habits and management control options.

**When:** Friday 27th September, 10am - 12pm

**Where:** Dapto (TBA)

**RSVP:** [abritton@southerncouncils.nsw.gov.au](mailto:abritton@southerncouncils.nsw.gov.au)

## Community White Ibis Survey

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) is conducting its annual White Ibis survey to get a better understanding of the distribution and abundance of this bird in NSW. This year they are requesting participation



from across Australia.

The survey has been running since 2003 and the information collected has assisted considerably with our knowledge of these distinctive birds. Increasingly, Ibis are moving into our urban environments bringing them into conflict with human's e.g. affecting aircraft safety, water quality and biodiversity. To participate simply report the number of Ibis you see via the below website.

**When:** October 20

**Where:** Australia wide

**[Ibis survey website](#)**

## CHILEAN NEEDLE GRASS FIELD DAY

A local workshop on Chilean Needle Grass will be delivered by the Illawarra District Noxious Weeds Authority in November. Keep an eye on the Landcare Illawarra events calendar for further information in the coming weeks.

**When:** Saturday November 9

**Where:** TBA

## SOCIAL MEDIA WEBINAR

If you are involved in a local community group or just thinking about diving into the social media world, but haven't yet done so, then check out the hour-long social media webinar which was recently hosted by Landcare Australia on July 31 2013.

Tom Croft - Landcare Team Leader with North East CMA, Megan Rowlatt - Illawarra Local Land Services Officer, Edwina Hayes - Eastern Murray Regional Landcare Facilitator all gave a presentation of their use of Facebook, Twitter and other online resources useful



to community groups looking to improve their online presence.

They spoke about some of the reasons why you may want to get involved in social media, what the benefits and opportunities are, and discussed examples of existing Landcare profiles.

The 'Grow your social media skills' webinar can be viewed on the Landcare Australia website and you can access some other great tools to help get you started.

To view this webinar and others visit:

**Landcare Australia Website**

## FUTURE FEST ILLAWARRA

Future Fest Illawarra is back on again in 2013! Last year, Future Fest Illawarra attracted more than 3,000 visitors who were able to see, hear, feel, touch, taste and experience the best the region has to offer and to help residents in taking the next steps in their sustainable living journey. This year's Future Fest Illawarra will once again include the Smart Living Expo, which will offer an amazing opportunity for green businesses to highlight how their products and services can help householders adapt to a new carbon economy, live more comfortably and reduce their consumption, environmental footprint and their bills.

In addition to the Smart Living Expo, there will be children's activities, a native plant giveaway, dog agility show, guest appearance from a celebrity, extensive talks seminar and demonstrations throughout the day. Everyone is welcome to come along. Gold coin entry only.

**When:** Sunday 20 October 2013, 10:00am - 03:00pm

**Where:** Kiama Pavilion and Showground in Bong Bong Street, Kiama.

Please note this date has changed from the originally advertised date of the 1 September 2013.

## MORE LOCAL EVENTS

The Landcare Illawarra website has an active calendar listing loads of up and coming events that the whole community can become involved in.

This calendar is regularly updated and includes a number of workshops and events being delivered by other organisations, councils and Landcare networks that people can get involved in.

Visit the Landcare Illawarra website to see what exciting events may be happening near you. Also if you would like your event uploaded onto our website, email details to Megan Rowlatt [communitysupport@conservationvolunteers.com.au](mailto:communitysupport@conservationvolunteers.com.au)

**[www.landcareillawarra.org.au](http://www.landcareillawarra.org.au)**

# LOCAL NEWS & PROJECTS

## Talking Food Security

Through June and July this year, Landcare Illawarra hosted a two part series of Talking Landcare events.

Talking Landcare events invite a range of speakers from the community to discuss a variety of topics covering not only Landcare issues in the Illawarra, but a range of sustainability and environmental-themed topics. Guest speakers are invited to share their knowledge and expertise covering a diversity of projects occurring in our region.

Part I of our two part series set the scene with the screening of US documentary “The Greenhorns”. The Greenhorns documentary film, completed after almost 3 years in production, explores the lives of America’s young farming community – its spirit, practices, and needs. The documentary is an inspiring example of community taking the initiative to develop strategies for securing food supplies for local people.

Our guest speaker, Vanessa John, Environmental Strategy Officer for Wollongong City Council gave an overview of what local initiatives were taking place in the Illawarra over the three council areas Wollongong, Shellharbour and Kiama and how the community can become involved. Vanessa spoke about what was happening in local schools, community gardens, and food coops.

Part II of our series was held in Kiama and we heard from community groups who are actively delivering projects which address local food security and are providing opportunities for the wider community to either become educated or involved in local food production, or access produce from local growers.

Students from Kiama Public School who have been working with local Permaculture Gurus Aaron Sorenson

and Dan Deighton to develop a sustainable food garden, gave a presentation about how the garden is producing healthy food as well as bush tucker foods for the students to eat.

Barb Kahlifa gave a presentation about how the GreenBox Food cooperative in Gerringong works and how it is providing a connection between local farmers and producers to consumers in the region.

Members of the Kiama Community Garden spoke about the establishment of the garden, how the volunteers are working together to produce locally grown food, educational experiences available to home gardeners through workshops, and the development of a native food forest on the hillside adjacent to the community garden.

Tim Jackson and Jessica Taylor also gave an overview of an exciting initiative they are involved in called South Coast Food which aims to offer connection, education and marketing opportunities for all food related businesses in the South Coast region of NSW.

Food available on the evening was provided by the wonderful volunteers of Landcare Illawarra, Mullet Creek Community Garden Landcare and Kiama Community Garden.

**Wollongong City Council Grow Local: Food**  
**Kiama Public School**  
**Green Box Food Cooperative**  
**Kiama Community Garden**  
**South Coast Food**



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# MEET THE VOLUNTEERS

## VOLUNTEER PROFILE



Our volunteers are the driving force of Landcare and often go unrecognised in the community for their hard work. They work tirelessly and contribute many hours to their local patch of native bushland. So we want to introduce them to you, and hear more about what makes them tick...

**Meet:** Adrian Begg

**Group:** Landcare Illawarra Chair, South East Landcare Chair, member of Bombo Headland Landcare

**How long have you been volunteering for?:** I became a Landcare volunteer seven years ago when I was living in northern New South Wales. I had just retired, and was looking for something to do that would make a positive contribution to the environment. I checked out a few organisations but most of them were too militant for my tastes. I don't believe you have to chain yourself to a bulldozer to be a good environmentalist. I went to a few political meetings with The Greens but came away very disillusioned.

**What inspired you to get involved?:**

For me, the attraction of Landcare is that it is non-political. The focus of volunteer work is on planting or site maintenance - generally getting your hands dirty for a few hours at weekends. I find Landcare satisfying because after a few hours' work you can see the results of your efforts - trees planted, or lantana cleared, and you can go home knowing that you have done something useful. I'll leave the bulldozer protests to others!

I also found that Landcarers were a particularly nice

group of people and our working bees tended to be pleasant social gatherings. Working sessions usually end with coffee and cake and a chat.

I spent a couple of years working with the Brunswick Heads Dunecare group. Years ago the dunes in the area were the site of sand mining operations and when the miners moved out their idea of rehabilitation was to plant Bitou bush. It was a plant that stabilised the dunes but it also happens to be rated as the worst pest plant in the Australian coastal environment, restricting access to beaches and destroying native bushland. Thanks to the miners, it has taken over vast areas of our coast. I spent many enjoyable weekends with a machete working out my aggression on those Bitou bushes!

I joined Brunswick Valley Landcare, which is the district Landcare body for the area and was persuaded to join the committee, becoming the Chair for a couple of years.

When I returned to the Illawarra in 2009 I was happy to continue my association with Landcare through Landcare Illawarra, as an occasional volunteer with the keen Landcarers at Bombo Headland, and also this year as Chair of South-East Landcare, which is the regional association of district Landcare bodies.





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# WILDLIFE WATCH

## My First Year at WIRES

*Lyn Collard, WIRES Illawarra*

I have been an animal lover all my life, and two years ago I joined WIRES Illawarra Branch and it is the best thing I have ever done, and this is why:

Six months after I joined, and had completed both the Possum and Macropod courses I got a phone call from the Macropod Coordinator. I have two joeys that need 'babysitting' over Christmas for three weeks and wondered if you would like to do this, have a think about it? My answer was immediate – 'I don't need to think about it at all, when can I pick them up?'

I brought them home on a Sunday afternoon, I was absolutely terrified! There they were these two absolutely beautiful Eastern Grey Kangaroos hanging in their pouches looking at me, so I sat on the floor with them for about an hour just talking to them and getting them used to my voice, it was a really lovely time. They are very inquisitive animals, and they do get to know you very quickly. Thelma and Louise stayed with me for about 3 months, they left my care when they were emerging from their pouch and therefore ready for the next stage in their development, which was to move into the pre-release area (whilst still being cared for), they were big, beautiful healthy Kangaroos. I cannot even begin to tell you how proud of them I was, and the satisfaction I felt at giving them a helping hand along the way. Yes it is sad to say goodbye, but they are not babies anymore, they are majestic Australian icons, on their way back to where they belong with nature and I helped them get there, wow!

I have since then cared for 7 eastern grey Kangaroo joeys, three ringtail possums, one brushtail possum and two galahs. I cannot imagine my backyard without a

native animal wandering around!!

Joining WIRES has been the best thing I have ever done, not only do I get to wake up to our beautiful Australian wildlife in my own backyard every day, I have made friendships that I know will last my lifetime, people who are likeminded and are as 'crazy' about animals as I am. We have our get togethers and we have a bond that will never be broken. We all work very hard for our common cause – to rescue, rehabilitate and release as many of our beautiful Australian native animals as possible.

[www.wires.org.au](http://www.wires.org.au)





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# WEED WATCH

## Red Witchweed

*Illawarra District Noxious Weeds Authority*

Keep your eyes open for a serious class 1 weed that was recently discovered growing in Queensland.

Red Witchweed (*Striga asiatica*) was recently found growing in a sugarcane crop at Mackay. While it has only been found in Queensland and this is the first outbreak in Australia, it could easily grow in our region and wreak havoc.

It is not known how Red Witchweed, a native to parts of Africa, the Middle East and Asia, got into the country. Each year it causes an estimated \$7 billion in damage due to lost productivity to grain crops in Africa.

Red Witchweed is a parasitic plant that grows attached to the roots of a 'host' plant. The weed then robs its host of water and nutrients, suppressing its growth. A host includes a range of grasses, such as pastures, wheat, sorghum, rice, barley, corn (maize) and sugarcane.

If you suspect you have seen Red Witchweed please report it immediately via [www.looklearnact.com](http://www.looklearnact.com), or by calling (02) 6623 3866 or your local Council.

Please do not attempt to remove any flowering plants as this may allow the weed to spread via tiny, dust-like seeds. Seeds are primarily spread within soil, and plants have a complex underground root system once established. Keep the weed in place until weed officers can investigate.

You should mark or clearly note the location of the weed, and where possible take photos that may be used to help with identification. If Red Witchweed is suspected, soil, machinery or products that may contain soil should not be moved off-site.

### Identification of Red Witchweed

- Grows to 20-40cm tall
- Attaches to the roots of its host
- Leaves arranged in opposite pairs along the stem
- Leaves 6-40mm long and 1-4mm wide with tapered, pointed tips
- Flowers 5-20mm long
- Flowers usually red, but sometimes white, yellow or pink
- Five-sided capsule fruit 4mm long and 2mm wide
- Seeds very small and remain viable in the soil for up to 15 years





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# ALONG THE BUSH TUCKER TRAIL

## Headache Vine

*With Terry Rankmore*

**Botanical name:** *Clematis glycinoides*

**Meaning of the Name:** Clematis Greek - Klematis means a twig, the plant has twiggy branches

Glycinoides - means like Glycine (genus name for soybean)

**Habit:** A climber

**Leaves:** Compound leaflets.

**Flowers:** White and conspicuous.

Flowering time - August – October.

**Fruit:** Fluffy like clustered.

**Habitat:** Sheltered areas as well as forests.

**Distribution:** Common and widespread from the coast to the Mountains, forest, open woodland.

**Medicinal Use:** The leaves of this plant were crushed then inhaled to relieve the symptoms of headache, sinus, colds and nasal congestion.



## Free BUSH TUCKER and BUSH MEDICINES BOOKS ONLINE!

### About the Author – Terry Rankmore

Terry Rankmore is the agricultural assistant at Lake Illawarra High School, NSW. Terry has had a long term interest in Australian native plants and their uses by the traditional custodians of the land. He is an active member of Landcare Illawarra and Blackbutt Bushcare and has worked with several schools and Shellharbour City Council to develop Bush Tucker Gardens to celebrate Aboriginal heritage.

Terry has authored two publications now including Murni Dhungang, Dharawal language for animal food, Plant food, and introduced this book to over 40 schools in the Illawarra and Shoalhaven areas.

His second publication Bush Medicine Plants of the Illawarra is a beautiful extension of the first book and includes a pictorial journey through some key medicine species native to the Illawarra region.

Terry has worked in partnership with the Illawarra Aboriginal Corporation, Wollongong, and has been supported by Landcare Illawarra and Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority to share these wonderful resources with the wider community.

Landcare Illawarra invites you to download and enjoy these resources for free from our website.

**Visit our website to download these great resources**





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# EDIBLE ILLAWARRA

## Kiama Community Garden

Kiama Community Garden, nestled in Blue Haven Retirement Village, accessible from the Kiama Sports Complex at the end of Havilah Pl, is a shared garden set up where community gardeners have responsibility for the entire garden, doing whatever work is needed at the time and taking a share of what is grown. The garden is open for anyone in the community to participate and is a great space for learning more about urban gardening and food production.

Members of the Kiama Community Garden are also working on a native food forest on the hill side of the garden. The friendly team of volunteers meet at the garden a number of times through the month, and have the following meetings coming up through September:

- Wednesday Working Bees, 4th and 18th September, 9.30 am
- Wednesday General Meetings, 11th and 25th September, 4.30 pm
- Saturday Working Bees, 14th and 21st September, 9 am
- Governance Members meeting 19th September, 6.30pm  
- venue to be arranged

New gardeners are always welcome and those interested in joining can e-mail [kiamagardens@gmail.com](mailto:kiamagardens@gmail.com) or obtain further information by visiting one of the Wednesday meetings.

The regular blog spot, gives the wider community an update on events being organised at the garden. Now with a working pizza oven, there's no excuse not to get involved!

[www.kiamagardens.blogspot.com.au](http://www.kiamagardens.blogspot.com.au)



# LOCAL PROJECTS GET INVOLVED

## WOLLONGONG

### Illawarra Youth Landcare

A team of young volunteers ranging in age from late teens to early thirties travel around once a month assisting an existing Landcare or Bushcare group in the Illawarra on their site. This is a great opportunity to see the region and learn about different environmental issues. Visit the website for project updates.

[www.illawarrayouthlandcare.com.au](http://www.illawarrayouthlandcare.com.au)

### Wollongong City Bushcare

There are over 50 Bushcare sites throughout Wollongong from Windang and Dapto in the south to Helensburgh in the north. All Bushcare volunteers are working with Council to conserve our precious natural areas of bushland, foreshore, creek lines and escarpment. Bushcare groups usually meet regularly each week or each month, learning new skills and meeting new people while helping out the environment. Everyone is welcome to join the Bushcare program - every extra hand helps. For information on a group near you, contact Bushcare - 4227 8113 or visit the Bushcare section of the [Wollongong City Council website](http://www.wollongongcitycouncil.nsw.gov.au).

## SHELLHARBOUR

Shellharbour City Council supports a number of Bushcare, Landcare and Parkcare groups across Shellharbour. To find out more information or to join a group, use the contact details below.

**Tullimbar Landcare, Albion Park.** Meets at Elizabeth Brownlee Reserve (end of Digby Close), 4th Saturday of the month 9am-1pm. Contact Ruth Jenkins on 4256 2684.

**Blackbutt Bushcare, Blackbutt.** Meets in Blackbutt Forest, 3rd Sunday of the month 9am-12 pm. Contact Tony Hepworth on 4297 6490 for directions to the meeting site.

**Oakey Creek Bushcare.** Meet at Oak Flats on the Boulevard end once a fortnight on Wednesdays 9-12

**Currambene Reserve, Flinders.** Meet at the corner of Grainger Parkway and Baragoot Road, every second Saturday 9am - 12noon.. Contact Council on 4221 6111 for details.

**Boonerah Point Bushcare, Mt Warrigal.** Meets east of Boonerah Point carpark (Reddal Parade) every second Saturday, 1pm – 4pm.

**Deakin Reserve Bushcare.** Meets on the 3rd Saturday of the month 9am-12pm at Deakin Reserve Oak Flats.

Locations can change so contact Council  
If you are interested in any of the above groups and would like more information, contact council on 4221 6111.

## KIAMA

### Bombo Headland Landcare

**When:** Generally meet on the last Saturday of the month from 2pm-4pm

**Where:** The Boneyard, Bombo Headland. Bring any tools, gloves you have.

### Seven Mile Beach Landcare

**When:** Meet on the last Sunday of every month from 9am.

**Where:** Seven Mile Beach Reserve, Gerroa. Contact Grant on [kishmerinuk@bigpond.com](mailto:kishmerinuk@bigpond.com) for location details.

### Little Blowhole Landcare

**When:** Meet on the first Saturday of the month and work through the cooler part of the day from 2pm or sometimes from 3pm during daylight savings.

**Where:** Little Blowhole Reserve, Kiama

## What do I bring?

Wear sturdy closed in shoes, long pants and long shirt to avoid insect bites, sun burn and scratches from vegetation. Wear a hat and sunscreen, bring gloves if you have some, plenty of drinking water and snacks if you need them.

There are many more groups to get involved with in our region. For more information about ALL of the active Landcare groups across the Illawarra visit [www.landcareillawarra.org.au](http://www.landcareillawarra.org.au) or contact local Land Services Officer - Megan on 4229 7526  
[communitysupport@conservationvolunteers.com](mailto:communitysupport@conservationvolunteers.com)

## Event Promotion

Would you like your Landcare projects advertised? Email your group details to [communitysupport@conservationvolunteers.com.au](mailto:communitysupport@conservationvolunteers.com.au) or call 4229 7526. We can also promote your events and projects on our Landcare Illawarra Facebook profile [www.facebook.com/landcareillawarra](http://www.facebook.com/landcareillawarra)



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# ILLAWARRA WOODLAND & RAINFOREST PROJECT

## Project Update

Landcare Illawarra is now into the third stage of *Protecting Illawarra Endangered Ecological Communities (EECs)* – *Illawarra Woodland and Rainforest Project* which is being funded by the Australian government's Clean Energy Future Biodiversity Fund Program.

Our project commenced in September 2012, and we have been working with 5 landholders, Conservation Volunteers Australia, and local nurseries, to improve the condition of Woodland and Rainforest vegetation in the Illawarra.

The Woodland and Rainforest project has also assisted with other regional programs such as the Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authorities' Escarpment to Sea program which aimed to assist landholders to link corridors of remnant vegetation in the Illawarra.

With our ongoing seed collections and partnerships with local nurseries who propagate our seed for us, we have been able to plant over 6 200 native plants back into our local Landcare projects and on private

property. This includes 92 different species which have been locally collected and propagated.

In the next 12 months...

Landcare Illawarra will continue to work with new and existing landholders we have worked with under this program in the region, and will continue to support quality on-ground works.

We will be carrying out community seed collection expeditions in a variety of locations where anyone from the local community can come and assist and learn a little bit more about the project and our native vegetation.

As a key partner in the delivery of this program, Conservation Volunteers Australia transports teams of volunteers to private properties involved in the program. Here volunteers assist landholders under the supervision of a team leader and the Landcare Illawarra Project Officer, to carry out invasive species management, tree planting activities and any other activities appropriate to the site.

Volunteers are able to visit some spectacular vegetation only accessible on private property and will be contributing to

valuable biodiversity outcomes for the Illawarra.

If you would like to volunteer contact Jessica Foster at [wollongong@conservationvolunteers.com.au](mailto:wollongong@conservationvolunteers.com.au) or call 4228 9246 to book on to one of the regular projects.



Image: Volunteers seed collecting, Jamberoo NSW



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# FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

## Fish Habitat Action Grants

Close September 27 2013

Applications for the next round of Fish Habitat Action Grants are now open. Grants of up to \$40,000 are available to individuals and community groups to improve fish habitat in local creeks, rivers and estuaries. For more information about the Program and examples of projects which have been funded in the past please visit:

[www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/hag](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/hag)

or contact a Department of Primary Industries Conservation Manager on 02 6626 1107 or 02 4916 3817.

## Other Websites

### GrantsLINK

This website helps you find funding available under a variety of grant programs in a number of fields for individuals, businesses and communities to help you to develop solutions to local, regional and national problems, fund ideas and initiatives or provide assistance in times of hardship

[www.grantslink.gov.au](http://www.grantslink.gov.au)

### Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Community Grants & Funding

This website lists a number of grants now open with closing dates announced.

[Click here for website](#)

### Easy Grants Newsletter

If you would like a more comprehensive resource providing information about obtaining funding then subscribe to the EasyGrants Newsletter – the newsletter provides a monthly guide for all grants available in NSW and their closing dates. Its costs \$55 per year for non-profit organisations.

[Click here for website](#)

### Community Builders

You can also try Community Builders which is a free, government website listing ALL funding, environmental and other. It has some great pages including the Closing Soon section. Most of the websites that host Grant Application Forms also provide a guideline to applying for the funding.

[Click here for website](#)

### Our Community

Our Community is a world-leading social enterprise that provides advice and tools for Australia's 600,000 community groups and schools, and practical linkages between the community sector and the general public, business and government. Our Community links groups with resources such as training and grant writing assistance. For more information visit the website.

[Click here for website](#)

If you need any assistance in applying for funding contact your local Land Services Officer 4229 7526 or [communitysupport@conservationvolunteers.com.au](mailto:communitysupport@conservationvolunteers.com.au)



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