

Illawarra



FLAMETREE

WINTER ISSUE 2015

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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:

p: 02 4229 7526

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communitysupport@conservationvolunteers.com.au



Megan Rowlatt

Welcome to the Winter edition of the Landcare Illawarra 'Illawarra Flametree' newsletter.

With Spring literally just around the corner, we are excited to bring you a wrap up of what happened over the colder months of this year!

In this issue, we update you about some of the inspiring things our young Landcare volunteers have been doing and the exciting establishment of yet another youth-led Landcare group - UOW Intrepid Landcare Club!

You will also hear yet another inspiring story from those involved in the 'Illawarra Woodland & Rainforest Project' and how Landcare Illawarra and Conservation Volunteers Australia are working together with landholders in the region to improve biodiversity on private property.

We also give you an update on projects and events you can get involved in and ways you can contribute back to the local environment.

We hope you enjoy the Winter 2015 edition of the 'Illawarra Flametree' newsletter.

From the Landcare Illawarra Team.





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LOCAL EVENTS &

TALKING Landcare
- CLEANING UP OUR COASTS -



Join us on the 16th of September for this **not to be missed** event, and hear from a range of inspiring speakers including Environmentalist Tim Silverwood (pictured), Australian Seabird Rescue, Fish Thinkers Research and Beach Clean Ups Illawarra. We will also introduce a fantastic community initiative that is taking Australia by storm – Boomerang Bags.

Time: 6 pm – 9 pm

Where: The Builders Club, 61 Church St, Wollongong

RSVP: To Megan Rowlatt by September 11
communitysupport@conservationvolunteers.com.au
or 02 4229 7526

Tea, coffee and snacks will be provided.

Information displays from other coastal clean up and environmental groups will be set up so you can grab more information on the night and find out about opportunities you can get involved in.

Visit the Landcare Illawarra website for more information.

www.landcareillawarra.org.au

WORKSHOPS

BUSHCARE'S Major Day Out - With a CULTURAL TWIST!

On Sunday the 13th of September, the Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council in partnership with Sandon Point and McCauleys Beach Bushcare groups and Illawarra Intrepid Landcare will be hosting a free community day at Sandon Point as part of Bushcare's Major Day Out celebrations across the country!

The three groups will work together to carry out some bush regeneration activities in the morning, contributing to the long term work that has been happening at Sandon Point and McCauleys beach for many years. Volunteers will then enjoy a free bush tucker lunch and a guided cultural walk in the afternoon.

All community members are invited to join in on the day and can RSVP to Ben Coddington on 0481 588 004.

Part III - Biodiversity Workshop

Our last in a series of three highly successful and popular workshops, this workshop will be held at a **Taste of Paradise Farm** near Berry on the 10th of October from 9 am - 2 pm.

You will hear about how the landholder is recovering endangered vegetation and running a productive farm at the same time! This event is free, all welcome, visit the Landcare Illawarra website for more information.

RSVP to Megan at

communitysupport@conservationvolunteers.com.au

www.landcareillawarra.org.au



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LOCAL NEWS & PROJECTS

Cultural Burning For Weed Management

Megan Rowlett

Recently a group of Volunteers from Illawarra Intrepid Landcare teamed up with Willow Warriors and joined the likes of Greater Sydney Local Land Services, Sydney Bass Fishing Club, Firesticks, and Yellomundee Bushcare Group to partake in a cultural burn at Yellomundee Regional Park, on the Nepean River.

The burn was the second in a series being trialled at the site to control African Love Grass and is the first National Park in NSW to approve the practice which is a major breakthrough!

Traditionally, cultural or “cool burns” are burning practices used by Aboriginal people to enhance the health of land and its people. Cultural burning means different things to different people. It could include burning (or preventing burning) for the health of particular species such as native grasses, emu, black grevillea, potoroo, bushfoods, threatened species, or biodiversity in general. It may involve patch burning to create different fire intervals across the country or it could be used for fuel and hazard reduction.

Cultural burns may also be used to increase access and amenity for people or as a part of culture heritage management. It is a ceremony to welcome people to country or it could also be as simple as a campfire around which people gather to share, learn, and celebrate. But here at the Yellomundee, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service in partnership with the Yellomundee Aboriginal Bushcare group, Firesticks and other community volunteers, they are applying the technique to take on weeds including Lantana and African Love Grass.

African Love Grass is a weed which takes over productive

land, outcompetes native grasses, and it has taken over so much of this site too. But the first cultural burn has shown promising results. Because the burn is done in the right conditions and does not scorch the soil or some of the undergrowth, this has meant that any native plant species which survived the burn (and with the African Love Grass knocked out by the fire), now have a chance to compete for the resources unhindered for a period of time. There has been some regrowth of the love grass but the native ground covers are putting up a fight, and the group intends to carry out a series of follow up burns. African Love Grass is actually adapted to cope with fire as it comes from a landscape which is hot, dry, and experiences regular fires. But despite this, the group is seeing progress!

[Read the full blog here.](#)





MEET THE VOLUNTEERS

VOLUNTEER PROFILE

Meet: Jenna Kelly, Primary School Teacher.

Group: Illawarra Intrepid Landcare

When did you first start to volunteer?: I've been volunteering for landcare since March 2013.

What has been your favourite project to date?: My favourite project was definitely Dubbo last year. Getting to do landcare with amazing people and see that directly affect real life people, flora and fauna and a community on a wider scale was great!

What keeps you coming back?: I did environmental studies at uni, I have travelled all over Australia growing up and have been raised to care about the environment on every level. Volunteering at Landcare means I get to spend time with hilarious and spectacular humans that have similar interests from all different walks of life.

We get to see gorgeous sites whilst doing a little something', something to give back. I love being outdoors, getting my hands a little dirty and feeling like I've done something worth while with my free time and Illawarra Intrepid Landcare ticks all those boxes. I keep coming back for the work and the people but also because it makes for fantastic lessons to teach students as it's their future we are helping protect & preserve. I always walk away from a weekend with Illawarra Intrepid Landcare with a smile on my face and memories that will last a lifetime!





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WILDLIFE WATCH

Restoring Five Islands

NSW NPWS

An infestation of kikuyu grass and coastal morning glory threatens Shearwater breeding grounds on Big Island near Port Kembla.

The NPWS have formed a partnership with Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council's Green Team 'Berrim Nuru Environmental Services' to conduct revegetation, weed control, site maintenance works and supervising of volunteer planting days to assist in the restoration of culturally sensitive natural areas on Big Island. Another partnership with the NPWS and The Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife was formed with the award of funding towards the restoration project. These project partners and collaborators are an integral aspect to ensure the success of the trial restoration project.

Volunteers and Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) staff are working to address these weeds, which entangle parents and fledgling seabirds.

Under the guidance of Nicholas Carlile, OEH Senior Research Scientist for Threatened Island Fauna, volunteers and NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) staff survey shearwaters and remove weeds on Big Island periodically throughout the year.

Friends of Five Islands volunteers comprise bird experts, weed specialists, bush regenerators and ecologists. Volunteer bird experts include members of the Southern Ocean Seabird Study Association and the Australasian Seabird Group within Birdlife Australia.

The pan-tropical Wedge-tailed Shearwater and the temperate Short-tailed Shearwater also use Five Islands Nature Reserve for breeding. Both species are listed for protection under the agreement between Australia and Japan for the protection of migratory birds in danger of



extinction, or JAMBA.

NPWS Illawarra Area Manager Tony Horwood said the community's interest was heartening.

"With amazing support from the Friends of Five Islands volunteers, NPWS and the wider Illawarra community are working towards restoring this important seabird habitat. We will plant suitable native species later in 2015."

3750 were planted during June/July 2015. Ongoing weed maintenance will continue and there will be an opportunity for community planting next winter.

About Five Island Nature Reserve shearwaters:

Shearwaters return to the same burrows season after season, mostly with the same partner, who they have not seen since the last breeding season. Both male and female shearwaters share in incubating their eggs. Incubation usually starts at the end of November and continues until the end of January, about 55 days. Hatchlings fledge in about three months, usually in late April or early May when their feathers and wing muscles are sufficiently developed for flight. Shearwaters travel incredible distances and disperse into the northern hemisphere outside their breeding season. They feed in local waters off Wollongong and as far afield as the Coral Sea and sub-Antarctic waters.

Images: Five Islands



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WEED WATCH

Bitou BUSH Battle Waged From Air

IDNWA

The Illawarra District Noxious Weeds Authority (IDNWA) continues its battle against Bitou Bush by taking to the skies for its annual aerial spray control program.

Aerial spraying is being used in the region to control some of the most serious outbreaks of the weed, recognised as one of 20 Weeds of National Significance. The program involves the aerial spraying of approximately 75 hectares of Bitou Bush at the northern and southern ends of Perkins Beach Port Kembla and at Puckey's Estate North Wollongong.

IDNWA Chief Weeds Officer, David Pomery, said that aerial spraying was the only practical and feasible method to control the heaviest and most inaccessible infestations of Bitou Bush found within these areas.

"Applied during winter and at very low rates, the aerial application of Round-up selectively controls the Bitou Bush, leaving the native vegetation unharmed" Mr Pomery said.

"Already, in excess of 200 species of native plants are tolerant to the herbicide when applied by this method".

Aerial spraying of Bitou Bush was first undertaken at Jervis Bay National Park in 1984 and within the Illawarra in 1992 at Hill 60 Port Kembla.

It has since proven to be an outstanding success. The spraying will be undertaken this month and follows the development of National, State, Regional and Local

Action Plans aimed at controlling Bitou Bush infestations by best practice methods.

Alternative methods of control involving on-ground works and biological control are also undertaken throughout the region as part of an integrated approach to tackling the Bitou Bush problem. The community can also assist by joining a volunteer coastal "care" group and assisting in the removal of this weed from their sites.

On the day of spraying IDNWA employees ensure that all members of the public are cleared from the sprayed areas and all access roads and walkways closed.



Images: Aerial spraying and dead Bitou post spray.



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ALONG THE BUSH TUCKER TRAIL

With Terry Rankmore

Forest Bramble / Rose -Leaved Bramble

Botanical name: *Rubus rosifolius*

Meaning of the name

Latin: *Rubus* - name for blackberry, from *ruber* - red fruit, *rosifolius* - rose-leaved

Family name: ROSACEAE

Plant Description

Leaves: Green on both sides, with toothed margins

Flower: 5 lobed petals, white, most of the year

Fruit: Edible red raspberry

Habit: Shrub

Habitat: Eucalypt forests and rainforest margins

Distribution: Widespread from the coast to the mountains

Medicinal Use: The leaves of this forest scrambler were made into a tea (infusion) and drunk to relieve menstrual pain, morning sickness and labour pains



Excerpt taken from Terry Rankmore's '*Bush medicine Plants of the Illawarra*'. To download the full book for free visit the Landcare Illawarra website:

www.landcareillawarra.org.au



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EDIBLE ILLAWARRA

The LaneWay Permaculture Garden

This friendly well-established permaculture garden joining Third and Fifth Avenue in Port Kembla, has been a hub of community interaction around food, music and great coffee for many years now.

Residents get together and share produce and even have festivals around the growing seasons of various fruits and vegetables throughout the year.

Build friendships and work together to create gardens of food and biodiversity.

Meet: Fridays 3.30 – 5.30pm, all welcome

Where: Meet at Fifth Avenue, Port Kembla

Contact: Daniel Deighton 4274 1424
or caresign@bigpond.com
OR Port Kembla Community Project Inc. 4267 3433





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ILLAWARRA WOODLAND & RAINFOREST PROJECT

Restoring Saddleback

Ruth Armytage and Bruce Macarthur are just two of the landholders being supported by Landcare Illawarra under the Australian Government's Biodiversity Fund.

Ruth and Bruce own a property on Saddleback Mountain near Kiama, NSW. Their property and neighbouring farms are home to some rare endangered subtropical rainforest and for the last few years they have been combining their efforts with their neighbours, the Rendells, and with support from Landcare Illawarra and Conservation Volunteers Australia, they have achieved incredible results in removing the weeds and bringing back the forest.

Deer and wallabies are their biggest enemies when it comes to encouraging new native vegetation around the site, so feral fencing has been adopted to allow native rainforest seedlings to establish without being chewed to the ground or stripped apart. And it's working!

"We started this project just planting with small tree guards and lost nearly all 500 thanks to wallabies, cattle and deer. Landcare then solved that with wallaby proof fenced pounds.

The support from Landcare Illawarra and CVA has been



excellent, and the communication is always there. It is not unusual to hear laughter from the CVA team! Keeping on top of the weeds has been very labour intensive and in dry periods after new plants have gone in, hand watering with several 3 litre milk containers is not necessary a pleasurable task but you know you have saved the plants. The biggest reward is returning habitat for the birdlife and little critters that largely go unnoticed. The natural re growth of the many native seedlings is great, and the predominant ones are red and white cedars." Aside from the teams coming in to assist, Ruth and Bruce have contributed a tremendous amount of effort to the site and the payback is starting to show. "We should have started 20 years earlier so we might have lived to see the outcome. Don't wait till tomorrow if you are thinking about starting!"

Images: Left taken 2013, Right taken 2015 - native regrowth.

LOCAL PROJECTS GET INVOLVED

WELCOME NEW INTREPID LANDCARERS!



We would like to introduce our latest youth-driven Landcare group here in the Illawarra - UOW Intrepid Landcare Club. This group of enthusiastic students

from the University of Wollongong with support from Illawarra Intrepid Landcare, are now out and about in the Illawarra community working on a variety of Bushcare and Landcare sites to help the original groups working on the ground.

Check out their Facebook page: [UOW Intrepid Landcare Club](#)

Feeling motivated? Would you like to get your hands dirty and contribute to a local project? The Illawarra has over 100 active volunteer Landcare and Bushcare groups, and they would all LOVE new volunteers! Here's just a snap shot of some of them...

WOLLONGONG

Illawarra Intrepid Landcare

September 13 Sandon Point 10 am

In partnership with Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council and Sandon Point Bushcare, Illawarra Intrepid Landcare will be running a bushcare and cultural awareness day including bush tucker lunch! See website for full details.

www.illawaraintrepidlandcare.org.au

Wollongong City Bushcare

There are over 60 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](#).

SHELLHARBOUR

Friends of Killalea, Killalea State Park. Friends of Killalea State Park is a community volunteer group made up of people of all ages to carry out environmental projects at the park.

Visit the [Friends of Killalea Facebook page](#) for more information.

Shellharbour City Council supports a number of Bushcare, Landcare and Parkcare groups across Shellharbour. Some of the active groups include:

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

Blackbutt Bushcare, Blackbutt. Meets in Blackbutt Forest, 3rd Sunday of the month 9 am - 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 am - 12 pm

For more information and a full list of groups working in the area visit the [Shellharbour City Council Website](#).

KIAMA

Kiama has a number of active groups working on a mixture of public and private land. This includes:

Bombo Headland Landcare. Meet on the last Saturday of the month from 2-4 pm. Contact Megan for more details on 4229 7526 or

communitysupport@conservationvolunteers.com.au

Seven Mile Beach Landcare. Meet on the first Sunday of the month at 9 am. Contact Megan for more details on 4229 7526 or email

communitysupport@conservationvolunteers.com.au

You can view a full list of active groups for this area on our website by visiting the 'local groups' section of

www.landcareillawarra.org.au