

Elizabeth Brownlee Reserve & the Tullimbah Landcare Group

The Tullimbah Landcare Group (TLC) works at Elizabeth Brownlee Reserve in regenerating a pocket of Illawarra Dry Sub-Tropical Rainforest, an Endangered Ecological Community (EEC).

This Newsletter is distributed to local residents to keep them abreast of the activities that are occurring in the Reserve.

The wetter weather during 2011 has seen an explosion of weed populations in the Reserve, and Group members have been kept very busy on weed removal tasks.

We welcome NEW volunteers to join us at the working bees.

Pest Profile - Indian Myna Bird

The Indian Myna Bird is an introduced bird species (from India). It is seen to be increasing in numbers all over the Illawarra.

Sometimes confused with the Native Noisy Miner, the pest (Indian) Myna Bird is an opportunistic scavenger and hangs around wherever there is human habitation and refuse to eat (even uneaten pet food). It has distinctive YELLOW legs.

They breed mainly in under roofs, in palms but also in tree hollows, where they compete with native birds (killing their chicks and destroying eggs) and will even evict small arboreal mammals.

When they build nests in roofs, or in palms which over-hang roofs, their nests frequently become infested with bird lice, which can then migrate to the interior of the house, and is a significant public health issue. They are in the "extreme threat" category for Australia.

There is plenty we can do to discourage Indian Myna Bird. Visit www.birdsinbackyards.net to find out the ways to enhance or create habitat for native birds in your garden.

Wollongong City Council is currently running a community program - Wollongong Indian Myna Action Program. The program includes a trapping control strategy. (To register for training, call Council on 42277111).

Our next Newsletter will profile Native Birds of the Reserve



Native Profile

Whilst the Reserve is home to many of the local rainforest species, there are several species of Eucalypt found in the Reserve.

Most notable is Eucalyptus quadrangulata (Coast White Box/White Topped Box), which grows to more than 30m tall. Mature Coast White Box trees can be seen towering above other trees in many parts of the Reserve.

This Eucalypt has two-tone grey, mottled, box-like bark (to the small branches), and dull green narrow leaves (1-2cm wide x 10-20cm long) which have a distinctive, irregularly scalloped edge (as if chewed by insects).

<http://pngplants.org>



One such tree in the Reserve has a large hollowed branch, which is home to an active bee colony. The same tree also hosts a Strangler Fig (Port Jackson Fig), which will ultimately be the survivor - long after the host tree has decayed away.

Member Profile



Hi, my name is Ellen.

I was born in Coff's Harbour during the war but grew up in a village out of Coff's Harbour called Mount Brown. It is in the bush and hills west of Coff's.

We had a small farm - cows, horses, small crops, and rode horses in the Bush.

I love all music and sports swimming and gardening. I also love growing bananas.

Country music was in my blood as my mother used to sing at home dances and parties. I have sung at the South Coast Country Music and as I grew up in the bush I loved it too.

I have lived in Albion Park since 1968 - up where the houses are now in Regal Heights. I have walked all around the hills and bush at the back of Albion Park.

Centenary! ... it was bare paddocks full of blackberry bushes and lots of mushrooms! We collected buckets of both, and people caught rabbits too.

I first heard about the Tullimbah Land Care Group from friends AND so as I loved the bush so much I decided to join.

Volunteering with Bushcare is a great way to get a bit of exercise and meet new people. I love to clear the weeds out of the bush and hear the beautiful birds and the lovely smell of the bush. It is the greatest smell of all.



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Scheduled Working Bees

The Reserve is located on the western side of Albion Park, in Digby Close, Albion Park (off Noble Road). This remnant patch of 'Illawarra Subtropical Rainforest' and is an Endangered Ecological Community.

The Tullimbah Landcare Group meets twice a month at the Reserve to undertake Bush Regeneration activities (9am, 4th Saturday of each month).

2011 Working Bees:

April 16th (3rd Saturday)

May 28th

June 25th

July 23rd (National Tree Day)

August 27th

September 24th

October 22nd

November 26th

Wear sturdy shoes and long sleeves and bring a hat & gloves.

Morning tea is always provided.

Contact Ruth Jenkins 4256 2684.

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