



Parramatta

BUSH CARE Bulletin

Issue 54 Autumn / Winter 2010

Clean Up Australia Day

For the past 20 years, Clean Up Australia Day, held on the first Sunday in March, has been made possible by the hundreds of thousands of volunteers who give up their spare time through a simple act of kindness.

Volunteering can enrich your life, adding meaning in many ways - through learning, making new friendships, and supporting your community to become a better place to live. Clean Up Australia Day volunteers are also helping to improve their natural surroundings.

Nation wide, 2010 saw an increase in volunteers, with 588,000 people taking part. Parramatta hosted 30 registered sites across the local government area, an increase of five sites from last year. Also at an

increase was the amount of rubbish collected, at approximately six tonnes, up by 2.25 tonnes from last year. Common items collected included plastic bottles and plastic bags. Councillors, MPs and the fire brigade also lent a hand at the various sites.

Ian Kiernan, founder of Clean Up Australia Day, said "it's time to look forward and encourage greater action - particularly by government and industry - to take steps to overcome key rubbish problems that continue to plague Australia. Given that 50%

of all items cleaned up last year were recyclable, there's a clear need for a national action plan on recycling to reduce the number of plastic bottles and bags we see destroying the Australian environment."

If you were unable to attend, or would like to register a Clean Up site all year round visit www.CleanUpAustraliaDay.org.au for more details.

Photo:

Clean Up Australia Day at Milson Park, Westmead taken by Kay Barton



Inside this issue:

- Weed or Native – *Alisma* and *Sagittaria*
- Fauna – Paper Wasps
- Bushcare Group Regular Workdays

Message from the team

We have seen a gentle decrease in the ferocity of herbaceous weed growth that was experienced over summer. We would like to thank all our bushcare volunteers and our contractors who

have done a fantastic job at nurturing the native plants while working tirelessly to suppress weed plumes. The beneficial rain period we have received over the summer months has given a real boost

to the native seed bank and ignited an explosion of insect activity. It will be a pleasure to watch the activity as it progresses throughout the year.

Bushcare

We have received positive feedback from the bushcare groups who are receiving contract supervision that has been provided since Erin's departure to the Blue Mountains. The bushcare position has now been advertised and we are confident that we will be able to introduce you to the new bushcare officer sooner rather than later. I would like to take this

opportunity to thank you all for your patience, your continued support and needless to say hard work throughout this process.

I have been busy ensuring the site preparation is undertaken for our next National Tree Day event which will be held on the 1st August 2010. This will be our second year at Fred Spurway Reserve in Mobbs Lane Carlingford

where an echidna was recently uncovered by a contractor installing signage for the newly completed Terrys Creek Walk. We hope some of you can make it and share a sausage sizzle with the Natural Resources team on the day.

Yours in bushcare

Sally

Are you interested in helping the planet?

The Parramatta Climate Challenge is a free program that will help you reduce your carbon footprint. The program gives you the opportunity to meet other members of your community at challenge events, and also win great prizes!

Organised by the Nature Conservation Council of NSW in conjunction with Parramatta Council, the challenge will launch in June and conclude with an awards night in August. Over 2,000 households across NSW have taken the Climate Challenge, reduced their carbon footprint and started community initiatives to combat climate change. To register your interest in the challenge, please register online at www.climatechallenge.org.au or call challenge hotline on 9279 2466.

Go on, take the challenge!



Fauna – Paper Wasps



Wasps have a reputation for a painful sting and rightly so. Australia is home to 35 native species of paper wasps and like ants and some bees, they are social insects with nests consisting of a cooperative colony of females.

Ranging in length from 8-26 mm, paper wasps are tan in colour with darker bands and some yellow markings on the face. Paper wasp attacks usually occur close to their nests in defence, or are the result of entanglement in clothes. Attacks away from their nests are rare.

Paper wasps are actually beneficial as predators of pest caterpillars, where adults feed them chewed up to their larvae.

Adult paper wasps start their nests in spring by one or several females that have been inactive in the colder months. They make their nests by chewing weathered wood and mixing it with their saliva. This soft material is then formed into the required shape with their jaws and it dries into a stiff paper form. Each cup like cell contains an egg laid by the queen and

when the larvae hatch they are fed the chewed-up caterpillars collected by the workers. When the larvae are fully grown the cell is closed over by the workers with a cap of papery material, later the larvae turn into pupae within the cells and sometime later they join the adult workers of the nest, expanding the nest size over the summer months. When the weather cools, the colony produces male wasps which mate with the females who then find a sheltered place in which to spend the winter. The females that survive the colder months begin their new colonies in spring.

- Most paper wasps die in autumn or winter, while some hibernate to start new nests next season.
- Nests likely to be disturbed represent a hazard and should be avoided during the day.
- Ignore nests where they are high or

otherwise out of the way.

- Nests in high traffic areas such as doorways, pergolas or carports can be sprayed from the side at night with a registered aerosol wasp insecticide.
- Repeat spray two nights afterwards then remove and destroy the nest. Use a red light (for example, red cellophane over a torch lens) if light is needed when spraying at night.
- In the event of a sting apply a cold pack and seek medical attention if known to be allergic or if symptoms become more severe.

Source:

- www.csiro.au/resources/Common-Paper-Wasps
- http://www.qm.qld.gov.au/inquiry/factsheets/paper_wasps_20080709.pdf

Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program

Strategic Projects 2008-2009

In November 2008 the Prime Minister, the Hon Kevin Rudd MP, announced \$300 million of grants through the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program (RLCIP) 2008-09.

Through this program, The Federal Government made available to local governments up to \$50 million in order to stimulate additional growth and economic activity across Australia, through supporting jobs in local communities.

The Government delivered funding through the RLCIP to also begin addressing the substantial backlog in local infrastructure and help improve the local quality of life in local communities.

As a part of the Federal Government's contribution to addressing the global economic crisis, Parramatta City Council's natural resources department received \$395,000 of funding for the following projects:

- **Terrys Creek at James Hoskins Reserve**, Carlingford, received \$80 000 for bank stabilisation works including sandstone armouring of eroding creek banks, silt and exotic vegetation removal and revegetation with natives.



- **Terrys Creek at James Hoskins Reserve**, \$100 000 was received to formalise the Terrys Creek Walk, which starts at David Hamilton Reserve, Eastwood, and ends at Marsden Road, Carlingford. Works included the installation of crushed sandstone tracks, boardwalks, stairs, track markers and maps, a creek crossing and interpretive signage. A brochure is also available.



- **The Quarry Branch Creek Track** project at Winston Hills received \$65 000 for works including exotic tree removal (privets and willows), track surface upgrades, installation of stairs and entrance feature fencing and signage upgrades.



- **Duck River at Ray Marshall Reserve**, South Granville, received \$70 000 for the installation of a sediment basin and a netted sock to catch litter at the Wellington Road stormwater outlet. Works also included weed removal and revegetation with natives.



- **Terrys Creek** at Skenes Avenue Reserve, Eastwood received \$80 000 for bank stabilisation works including sandstone armouring of eroding creek bank, drainage line rehabilitation, silt removal and revegetation.





Lord Mayor's Message

Council has been successful in receiving a \$1,307,500 Federal Government Job Funds Grant from the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations towards the \$1,677,250 Ermington Bay Nature Pathway project.

This local jobs project is to provide access and environmental restoration works around Ermington Bay, located on the upper Parramatta River in the western suburbs of Sydney, NSW. The project will see the construction of 350m of boardwalk with bird hides and 315m of shared pedestrian and cycle pathway with associated bushland regeneration and estuarine revegetation works. The project will support the generation of employment for people in Western Sydney in the short term by employing 80 people in the construction of the nature path and will provide an important link for commuters and residents to access the regional centre of Parramatta for both employment and services.

Project Objectives;

- The conservation and interpretation of the natural heritage values of Ermington Bay,
- To facilitate environmentally sensitive walking and cycle access around Ermington Bay,
- To enhance foreshore habitat through environmental weed control and bushland regeneration,
- To protect and enhance the estuarine vegetation complex including salt marsh, an Endangered Ecological Community under the NSW Threatened Species Act 1995,
- To provide recreational users with open space connectivity along the northern side of the Parramatta River.

Ermington Bay wetlands are one of eight significant remnant wetlands listed on the Register of the National Estate. These wetlands were once part of an extensive system bordering the Parramatta River. They provide habitat for diverse bird communities; 75 species have been recorded. This project aims at providing interpretation of the significance of this site through signage, bird observation decks and environmentally sensitive access.

Yours sincerely,
Councillor Paul Garrard
Lord Mayor

Weed or native

Identification between *Alisma* and *Sagittaria* is quite difficult when not in flower although quite easy in flower. Both plants have three white petals although *Alisma* has a separated fruit much like babybell cheese triangles. *Sagittaria* has a pom-pom fruit that sticks above ridged sepals that point down.

Common name: *Sagittaria*

Status: Environmental aquatic weed

Scientific name:

Sagittaria graminea ssp. *platyphylla*

FAMILY: ALISMATACEAE

Origin and distribution: America and is located in NSW, Qld and Victoria.

Description: A rhizomatous perennial to 80cm. Submerged leaves long narrow and strap-like, emerged leaves large and spoon like with pointed tip. Stems are triangular. Male flowers upper whorl with three white petals and lower female with no petals.

Habitat: Static or slow-moving water, banks of streams, periodically inundated areas such as drains.

Control techniques: approved herbicides; mechanical removal although some break up of the rhizomes may occur requiring follow up.



Sagittaria graminea ssp. *platyphylla*

Common name: *Water Plantain*

Status: Provenance Native

Scientific name:

Alisma plantago-aquatica

FAMILY: ALISMATACEAE

Origin and distribution: Wide spread within in NSW and Victoria.

Description: Large native perennial to 1.5m. Leaves basal with 10 – 25cm long blades, seven prominent longitudinal veins and numerous small transverse veins. Petioles up to 80cm long, flattened on one side and small wings at base. Flowers 1cm in diameter with three white or pale pink petals.

Habitat: Shallow margins of creeks, swamps; also drying mud.

Dispersal: *Alisma* can be grown by seed or clumps can be separated vegetatively.



Alisma plantago-aquatica

References:
Sainty G.R & Jacobs S.W.L., 1994, Waterplants in Australia, Edition 3,

Bushcare group regular workdays

BUSHCARE GROUP		LOCATION	TIME
MONTHLY			
1st weekend of the Month			
Sat	Baludarri Wetland Bushcare	Crn Broughton and Pemberton St, Parramatta	9.00 - 12.00pm
Sun	Lake Parramatta Park Committee	Rear of 94 North Rocks Rd, North Rocks	9.00 - 12.30pm
	Robin Hood Park Committee	Robin Hood Park adjacent to 76 Sherwood Place, Northmead	9.00 - 11.00am
2nd weekend of the Month			
Sat	Impessa Bushcare	Baden Powell Pl, Winston Hills	8.30 - 12.00pm
	Goliath Ave Bushcare	Goliath Ave, Winston Hills	1:00 – 4:00
Sun	Daranggara Corridors Bushcare Group	Oakes Reserve end of Baxters Drive off Oaks Rd, Winston Hills	9.00 - 12.00pm
	Model Farms Park Committee	Model Farm Rd, Winston Hills	10.00 - 12.00pm
	Mobbs Lane Bushcare	Mobbs Lane Reserve, Mobbs Lane, Epping	1.30 - 4.00pm
	Charles Fraser Bushcare	Crn Kenilworth & Warrick Rd, Dundas Valley	9.00 - 12.00pm
3rd weekend of the Month			
Sat	Mighty Duck River Restoration Collective	End of Seventh St, Granville	9.00 - 12.00pm
	Vineyard Creek Reserve Park Committee	Beside 34 Roberts St, Telopea (Summer 9-12)	1.00 - 4.00pm
	Daranggara Corridors Bushcare	Third Settlement Reserve, Corner Oakes Road and Edison Pd, Winston Hills	9.00 - 12.00pm
Sun	Friends of Duck River Bushland	Wellington Rd, Granville	8.30 - 12.00pm
	George Kendall Bushcare	End of Murdoch St, Ermington	8.30 - 12.00pm
	Lake Parramatta Park Committee	Rear of 94 North Rocks Rd, North Rocks	9.00 - 12.30pm
4th weekend of the Month			
Sat	Quarry Branch Creek South Bushcare	Allambie Ave (below playground) Northmead	8.30 - 12.00pm
Sun	Daranggara Corridors Bushcare	Gallery Gdns, Picasso Cres, Old Toongabbie	9.00 - 12.00pm
Last weekend of the Month			
Sat	Quarry Branch Creek South Bushcare	Allambie Ave (below playground) Northmead	8.30 - 12.00pm

For further details please email Natural Resources at Parramatta City Council on bushcare@parracity.nsw.gov.au

Environmental Events Calendar

April

- World Heritage Day - 18th
- Earth Day - 22nd

May

- World Migratory Bird Day - 8th to 9th
- National Volunteer Week - 11th to 17th
- International Day for Biological Diversity - 22nd
- World Turtle Day - 23rd

June

- World Environment Day - 5th
- World Ocean Day - 8th
- Global Wind Day - 15th
- World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought - 17th

July

- NAIDOC Week - 4th to 11th
- World Population Day - 11th
- Schools Tree Day - 30th

August

- National Tree Day - 1st
- International Day for World Indigenous People - 9th
- Keep Australia Beautiful Week - 23rd to 29th



FREE exhibition on now

Celebrate the diversity, colour and sounds of our Australian birds at the Birds Australia Discovery Centre, in the Newington Armory at Sydney Olympic Park. Open Saturday and Sunday 10:00am – 4:00pm. Visit www.birdsaustralia.com.au for more information.

Contacts & contributions

If you need to contact us, our details are:

Parramatta City Council	www.parracity.nsw.gov.au	9806 5050
David Kuhle	Contract Management (West & South)	9806 5712
Carrie Jeffers	Catchment/Waterways	9806 5129
Sally Williams	Contract Management (East), Pests	9806 5256

If you have anything related to Bushcare that you'd like to contribute, please contact us or forward it to:

City Assets & Environment

Parramatta City Council,
PO Box 32,
Parramatta NSW 2124
or fax to 9806 5903 or email bushcare@parracity.nsw.gov.au