

# Northwest Cumberland Carers

## NETWORK NEWS

Welcome to the first edition of Network News for our Northwest Cumberland carers network. The newsletter aims to provide you with some brief highlights of happenings within the network, and other opportunities for members of your Bushcare or Landcare group to participate in.

Be sure to book early for our first network activity of the year on 24th March. It will be a great morning learning about the mural at Ropes Creek and providence foods at the Muru Mittagarr Nursery.

If you would like to advertise an event or write an article for the newsletter please let me know.

Rebecca Mooy  
Community Support Officer

Hawkesbury Nepean  
Catchment Management Authority



Geoff Brown of WSCA leads the group at the public meeting on a tour of the Air Services site at Cranebrook.

### Network welcomes new group

The Western Sydney Conservation Alliance (WSCA) formed in September 2006.

Founding members Geoff Brown of the ADI Residence Action Group, Lisa Harrold of Mulgoa Landcare and Wayne Olling of Blacktown District Environment Group, saw a strong need to form the group, to address the growing environmental threat to native flora and fauna across Western Sydney.

The group's main objective is to conserve and promote conservation of the natural environment of Western Sydney and surrounding districts (from Parramatta west to the Blue Mountains).

The group's immediate concerns are the parcels of Commonwealth land in Western Sydney (including the former Air Services land at Cranebrook) as well as the NSW government's north-west and south-west growth centres.

In late November the group hosted its first public information day at the Cranebrook site. The day was a success with 100 people attending a bush walk and many returning to the hall for lunch.

The group has met with Local, State and Federal government bodies and expressed their interest in being consulted concerning future development proposals and rezoning in Western Sydney. The group is also working to seek donations and grants for conservation activities.

To joining Western Sydney Conservation Alliance contact Wayne Olling on (02) 9621 2105 or email [w.olling@optusnet.com.au](mailto:w.olling@optusnet.com.au)

**Help needed on election day** – Geoff Brown is running as an independent for the seat of Penrith. If you would like to offer support by handing out how to vote cards at the polling booths in Penrith please contact Geoff Brown on 0431 222 602



## Whitehaven Reserve Bushcare Group's Envirofund success!

Whitehaven Reserve is located at Whitehaven Avenue, Quakers Hill. The reserve contains remnant Cumberland Plain Woodland, an Endangered Ecological Community.

The initial work in the reserve was undertaken by Blacktown City Council to remove dumped rubbish and woody weeds from the remnant vegetation. A path, playground and interpretative signage were also completed. This great face-lift of the reserve sparked community interest and the establishment of the Whitehaven Reserve Bushcare Group in 2003. The Bushcare Group and Council have been working closely and are achieving significant improvements in the condition of the remnant bushland.

The bushcare group were successful in their application for \$7000 from the 2006- 2007 round of Envirofund. The funds as well as a \$12,000 contribution from council including in-kind assistance from the Bushcare group will be used to restore the woodland in the Reserve. Activities being funded include undertaking weed control using bush regeneration techniques, revegetation work planting 2,000 endemic species and erecting 600m of fencing around the edge of the bushland.

Through the work of the Whitehaven Bushcare Group, Blacktown City Council's bushcare staff and the Envirofund grant the Reserve's remnant vegetation is ensured a sustainable future.

Jeremy Gray  
Blacktown City Council



Whitehaven Reserve, Quakers Hill and important remnant of Cumberland Plain Woodland.

## Join In

### Clean Up the Western Sydney Parklands

Sunday 4th March, 9am-12pm  
Enter from Doonside Rd, Eastern Creek.  
Bring: Water, gloves, sun cream, sturdy shoes and a hat  
Contact: Melissa Clarke 9672 4009

### HNCMA Community Meeting - Catchment Planning & implementation

Community members are invited for an update on the Catchment Action Plan and to help identify new issues and potential projects

Tues 27th Feb, 7pm till 9pm  
68 Mileham St South Windsor  
RSVP to Prince Wright on 4587 0074

## Support Contacts

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## Fairfield City Environment Volunteers have gone batty!

The Cabramatta Creek Flying-fox Reserve is one of only two major breeding colonies for the Grey-headed Flying-fox in the Sydney Basin.

Back in 1996, volunteers from the Cabramatta Creek Flying-fox Committee felt compelled to join forces with Fairfield City Council to help conserve and manage the resident threatened species, the Grey-headed Flying-fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*). The reserve is surrounded by the pressures of urban encroachment, yet a colony of up to 30,000 Flying-foxes still persists!

Over the last 11 years the Cabramatta Creek Flying-fox Committee have been working with Council to gradually restore the habitat. The reserve is dominated by noxious weeds such as Privet, and invasive vines that choke the remnant canopy trees.

Despite the Flying-foxes being happy to roost in the introduced trees, the vegetation in the reserve still doesn't provide adequate shade

and cool temperatures that are critical to their survival on summer days that exceed 40°C with humidity below 20%.

To restore the habitat, weeds are slowly being replaced with the local native vegetation, increasing the amount of shade and humidity in the reserve. This is crucial to the long-term survival of this Flying-fox colony and ultimately Flying-foxes along the east coast of Australia. Grey-headed Flying-foxes in Australia numbered in the millions prior to European settlement, but now sit somewhere in the vicinity of 450,000.

Katie Cabezas  
Fairfield City Council



Grey-headed Flying fox.