

Northwest Cumberland Carers

NETWORK NEWS

In March 2007 the Northwest Cumberland Carers network spent a steamy day discovering the inspiring mural and bush regeneration works completed by the Western Sydney Aboriginal Landcare Group. The bus tour continued on to the Murrumbidgee Nursery for a look at the nursery, a talk on bush foods and indigenous tools, followed by a hearty lunch out of the heat!

The next network activity will celebrate National Tree Day with a planting day on 21st July, one week early! So please come and join in a morning of planting. The sites chosen are close together and include an area on the Penrith side of Ropes Creek in North St Marys that has been looked after for many years by the Friends of Ropes Creek. The other is across the Creek on the Blacktown side in Whalan Reserve. This will continue on the great work done by the friends and the network last year.

Rebecca Mooy
Community Support Officer
Hawkesbury Nepean
Catchment Management Authority



Members of the network beside a section of Ropes Creek at Minchinbury that has been regenerated by the Western Sydney Aboriginal Landcare Group.

Horsley Park Goes Green

Since 2003 the Native Bush Fund, has been made available to private landowners in the Horsley Park area with 16 Landholders participating to date. The funding is provided jointly from Fairfield City Council and the Hawkesbury Nepean CMA. This funding helps private landholders to protect their remnant vegetation.

Prior to clearing for agriculture, the vegetation of the Horsley Park district and other surrounding rural districts would have been characterised by endangered vegetation communities including Cumberland Plain Woodland, Riverflat Eucalypt Forest and Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest.

Private property owners were invited to get involved in the funding project if they had good quality native bushland on their properties and if the site has connections to other areas of bush. Landholders with bushland of significant habitat values, or in close proximity to creeks were also considered. After property assessments, landowners with the assistance of council developed individual management plans to be used over the next 10 years. The funding provided made works possible including: fencing of valuable vegetation remnants to exclude stock, controlling / repairing erosion of creek banks, removing woody weeds, annual and aquatic weeds, revegetation with native plants from the local area and installation of nest boxes for wildlife.

Workshops with experienced trainers from TAFE were run for those who received funding. These residents learnt about local native plants, why weeds occur, how to identify them, and practical weed management techniques.

Some of the landholders have recently formed the **Horsley Park Landcare Group**. The group will help each other maintain the improvements to their properties on an ongoing basis. David Sellen, the leader of the group will host the first Landcare planting day at his property in August. The Landcare members are looking forward to the assistance of a corporate group from Coke to help plant 1,500 local native trees, shrubs and groundcovers. This planting will form a corridor, connecting two bushland sites on adjacent properties and ultimately provide additional habitat for local wildlife.

To join the Landcare group contact David Sellen on 0408 469 400 or email davidsandie@gmail.com



Boys and Girls in Blue Lend a Hand in Glenmore Park

Penrith Police Constable Kate Holenstein, and her colleagues were keen to forge community relationships with a planting day.

So in early May, in the Blue Hills Wetland at Glenmore Park, ten police officers volunteered their off-duty time to plant 400 local native trees, shrubs and groundcovers.

Glenmore Park Action Group president Mary Cook and her sister also assisted as did several Penrith Council staff.

By the end of the morning a previously bare weedy area of the wetlands was planted and mulched. In addition, the Police learned how to plant correctly, gained personal satisfaction and assisted the Glenmore Park Action Group (GPAG).

Ongoing work will involve further watering of the plants but otherwise

minimal maintenance is envisaged for GPAG to manage.

The Glenmore Park Action Group meet on the 2nd Saturday of every second month.

For more information visit www.gpag.info or contact Janet Rannard from Penrith Council on 4732 8088.



Police, Council and Glenmore Park Action Group Volunteers working together.

Blacktown Council produces new Strategy for Bushland Revegetation and Regeneration

A draft revegetation and regeneration strategy has recently been endorsed by Blacktown Council and will soon undergo consultation with key stakeholders to refine the contents. The strategy will provide a framework for the ongoing management of Council's bushland reserves and a guiding document for the development of site specific planning and targets.

The strategy aims:

- To protect remnant endangered ecological communities contained within Council land.
- To provide guidelines for the effective long term management of these remnants.
- To provide a framework for the clear identification of Vegetation Management Zones
- To ensure adequate communication within Council and with community regarding the conservation and management of the bushland remnants
- To provide connectivity to remnant communities.
- To identify required resourcing for the ongoing management of remnant bushland on Council land.

The Strategy will be used to guide Council staff and bushcare volunteers in their work involved in the preservation and conservation of the bushland reserves.

For further info contact Blacktown Council on 9839 6000.



Lorikeet Marsh in Nurragingy Reserve, Blacktown

2007 Hawkesbury Nepean Regional Landcare Awards

Call for nominations

Do you know people and projects in your part of the Hawkesbury Nepean Region that are making a real difference to our environment? Would you like to nominate them or nominate your own group?

There are 9 award categories

- 1 Individual Landcarer
- 2 Rivercare
- 3 Nature Conservation
- 4 Landcare Community Group
- 5 Local Government Landcare Community Partnership
- 6 Primary Producer
- 7 Landcare Education
- 8 Indigenous Community
- 9 Coastcare/Estuary Community Group

A nomination involves filling in a 1 page entry form, writing 250 words about the group / individual or project and attaching 2 photos. Closing date for nominations is 22/06/2007

Join In

North West Cumberland Carers Network - Tree planting morning

Saturday 21st July, 9am-11:30am
Directions: Whalan Reserve, cnr Debrincat Ave and Wilkes Cres, Whalan and under the powerlines in Nth St Marys cnr Boronia Rd and Sycamore St.

Bring: Water, gloves, sun cream, sturdy shoes and a hat

To join-in ring Rebecca Mooy on 4587 0066 or email Rebecca.Mooy@cma.nsw.gov.au

Birds in Backyards—workshop

Saturday 25th August

Duration : 2 hours

Where: Greening Australia, Doonside

To make a booking contact : Melissa Clarke 9672 4009 or email mclarke@ga.org.au

Environmental Weeds—seminar

Friday 13th July 2007, 8am to 3:30pm

Where: Ryde College of TAFE

More info and to register go to

<http://www.nswweedsoc.org.au>

Support Contacts

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