

Northwest Cumberland Carers

NETWORK NEWS

In October 2007 members of the Northwest Cumberland Carers network met for a morning of "Getting to know plants of the Cumberland Plain" in the remnant woodland at Plumpton Park, Blacktown. Local botany expert Teresa James imparted some of her tips and knowledge to the group. It was a great morning, with many of the groups from the three council areas of the network represented.

Another great place to find out more on Cumberland Plain Woodland ecology visits http://www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/science/hot_science_topics/Ecology_of_Cumberland_Plain_Woodland

For more news on the next network activity go to the "Join in" Section over the page.

Don't forget if you are looking for funding for an environmental project for your group or a local school be sure to visit <http://www.landcareonline.com>

Rebecca Mooy
Community Support Officer
Hawkesbury Nepean
Catchment Management Authority



Teresa James showing the group some of the native grasses in Plumpton Park

Slowly but Surely: Habitat Restoration in Cabramatta Creek

The Cabramatta Creek Flying-Fox Committee has entered its 11th year! The committee's role has been protecting and restoring the habitat of the Cabramatta Creek Reserve, to benefit the maternity colony of the Grey-Headed Flying-Fox.

After years of agricultural use followed by severe weed infestations, the committee has slowly regenerated and replanted the native vegetation of the Reserve.

Megan Haberley, Fairfield Council's Environment Officer, said "It has been about finding the right balance in managing the habitat."

An example is the control of weeds including Privet and Madeira Vine in the Reserve. These weeds need to be controlled to help the existing remnant survive. At the same time the weeds maintain the Reserve's micro-climate, essential to preventing heat stress in the Grey-Headed Flying-Fox colony.

Weed Management techniques used within the reserve include:

- Leaving skirt cut vines along branches while native trees regenerate.
- Only clearing and maintaining a small buffer zone directly around tubestock plantings.
- Restoring and expanding the buffer zone around the site to manage edge effects.

With help from professional bush regenerators gradually 1000m² of the reserve has been restored to a condition only requiring maintenance works. The group hopes to one day restore the entire reserve (an area of 102,500m²) to this condition.



The Reserve in 1943



The Reserve in 2007



New Sighting of *Pimelea Spicata*

Pimelea spicata also known commonly as Spiked Rice Flower is an endangered small spreading herb. Until recently this plant has only been seen at Kanangra Reserve in Penrith. It is exciting to know that recently there has been a new sighting in Penrith. Several healthy individuals have been identified by Muru Mittigar staff and confirmed by Lotte Von Richter, Technical Officer from Mt Annan Botanic Gardens and also a Bushcare volunteer. "Our aim is to assist in preserving this plant. It has been reported to the Wildlife Atlas with a view to getting the site listed," said Janet Rannard, Penrith City Council's Bushland Management Officer.



Pimelea spicata. Photo courtesy of Lotte von Richter

Congratulations Mulgoa Valley Landcare!

In late November 2007, the Hawkesbury-Nepean CMA, recognized the contributions of landcarers at the inaugural Hawkesbury-Nepean Landcare Awards and Forum.

The Mulgoa Valley Landcare group won the Award for the Nature Conservation category. Lisa Sinclair attended and accepted the award on behalf of the group. Each winner received a certificate and a beautifully crafted wooden pen in a box, both made from African olive wood by Ron Davies, a volunteer with Wollondilly Community Nursery. "What a great use for this weed which is declared noxious by some Councils!" said Janet Rannard from Penrith City Council.

At the Forum recognition was also given to the important work undertaken by Bushcare, Coastcare as well as Landcare in helping the environment.



Lisa Sinclair and Brendan Versace accepting the Award from Bernie Bugden, HNCMA General Manager when the award was first announced in September.

Trees are Thriving at Horsley Park Landcare



"With the help of recent rain plants we put in a month ago have doubled in height!" said David Sellen, president of Horsley Park Landcare. With the help of 50 staff from Coca Cola in October 2007 followed by a week of assistance by a team of volunteers from Conservation Volunteers Australia, in January 2008, over 3000 local native trees and shrubs have been planted. These plantings are across David's property and his father-in-laws property, next door. With more funding available through Fairfield Council's Native Bushfund, David is busy encouraging his neighbours to join the Landcare group and apply for the available funding to conserve vegetation in Horsley Park.

David and Sandie Sellen with Rebecca Mooy, Landcare Support Officer at the Coca Cola staff tree planting day in October 07.

Join In

North West Cumberland Carers Network - Native Plant Propagation and a Sustainable Building Tour

When: Saturday 29th March, 9:30 -12
Where: Fairfield Native Community Nursery, Fairfield showground, Prairiewood.
Bring: Bottle of Water, suncream, camera.
Wear: Sturdy shoes, long pants, long sleeves and a hat.
Cost: FREE and morning tea provided
To join-in ring Rebecca Mooy on 4587 0066 or email Rebecca.Mooy@cma.nsw.gov.au before Wednesday 26th March.

Australian Network for Plant Conservation Conference

When: 21st to 24th April 2008
Where: Historic "Winbourne" Edmund Rice Retreat and Conference centre, Mulgoa
Cost: Register before 20 March for an "early bird" discount.
For a program, registration and fees visit <http://www.anbg.gov.au/anpc/>

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