

PNHA NEWS

Autumn 2014

Issue 65

Pittwater Natural Heritage Association - thinking locally, acting locally

Planning for Proposed Ingleside Land Release Moves Ahead

As planning on the proposed Ingleside Land release progresses, members of the Ingleside Community Reference Group (ICRG) are starting to get an idea of what is ahead.

Most of the consultants have been engaged, and some of the preliminary studies have been started. The ICRG meeting on 11 December heard very informative presentations from some of the consultants.

Ecological Australia has started fieldwork for biodiversity, riparian zones and bushfire. Outcomes so far include vegetation mapping, identification of threatened species, identification of riparian zones and some work on assessment of bushfire hazard. The consultant noted that 75% of Ingleside is currently mapped as "bushfire prone lands."

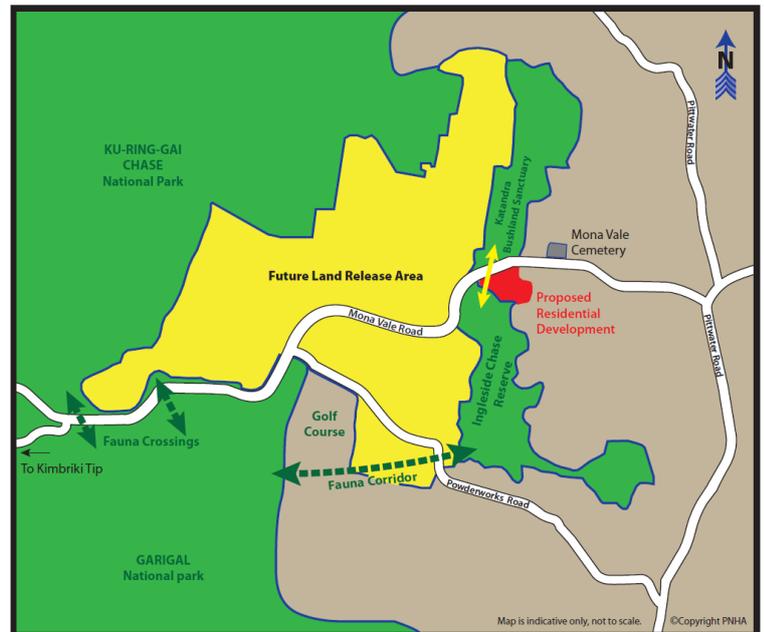
Work on traffic and transport is being undertaken by AECOM. Their consultant stated that the traffic network is a major constraint and that they are concerned that Powderworks Road could become a traffic bottleneck. They are also concerned with "rat runs" and advised that traffic monitoring is currently being done on McCarrs Creek Road. Planning will include investigation of fauna underpasses and overpasses on Mona Vale Road.

The consultants engaged on masterplanning, landscape and visual analysis are identifying opportunities and constraints in preparation for a draft plan to put to the community in early 2014. They acknowledge the scenic quality of the ridgelines and the land above the escarpment. They are aware of the importance of the bushland escarpment to Pittwater Council and the community.

The planning team made it clear that the cost of infrastructure will have to be taken into account in determining the size of the development. They are also committed to a development that is economically viable. PNHA is concerned that the quality and sustainability of the development may be sacrificed to meet a "budget bottom line."

We are also concerned with the timely provision of infrastructure. An infrastructure delivery plan is underway and it is intended that as far as possible provision of infrastructure will match the staging of the development. From PNHA's point of view this infrastructure must include an upgrade of Mona Vale Road from Terrey Hills to Mona Vale.

Pittwater Council has recently upgraded the Ingleside Planning website. For more information, including the consultants'



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Better Planning Network

We receive many emailed reports from BPN which we pass on to our members, simplified if we can.

BPN reports:

The amended State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) for Exempt and Complying development is being fast-tracked while the draft planning bills are still under public scrutiny and intended for further discussion when Parliament resumes in late February. The amended SEPP will result in the increased use of private certifiers when we know that private certification is already problematic.

We urge you to keep up to date with the battle to get good planning legislation for NSW, by going to <http://betterplanningnetwork.good.do/nsw/fund-the-better-planning-network-in-2014/>

PNHA appreciates the tireless efforts of the BPN to advocate for better planning legislation.

PNHA has donated \$500 to BPN.



The little red flags mark seedlings of *Grevillea caleyii*.

Bahai Temple Bushcare

The bush regeneration contractors and volunteers worked together on another successful bushcare morning on Monday November 25.

We set up photo points and took a set of “before” photos so that we can record progress over the three years the work will continue.

There are quite a few seedlings of *Grevillea caleyii* but threatened by *Ochna* (Mickey Mouse plant), *Lantana*, *Watsonia* and so on.

Initial funding for this work is from the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage. An additional grant to PNHA will provide for more contract bush regeneration contract work and tools.

Next work day will be Monday February 17, starting at 8.30. Contact pnhainfo@gmail.com or phone Marita on 0439 409 202 if you would like to help.

updateupdateupdate

Fauna Corridor at 120 Mona Vale Road Warriewood

Submissions to the Sydney East Joint Regional Planning Panel (JRPP) on the proposed rezoning of 120 – 122 Mona Vale Road are currently being assessed.

Many thanks to those who sent in submissions, including the 556 people who signed our petition calling on the Department of Planning and Infrastructure to establish a bushland fauna corridor to Katandra Sanctuary.

We are currently awaiting the submissions report to the JRPP and are hopeful that there will be a public hearing.

PNHA Bird Walk Nov 2013, Irrawong Reserve

We recorded 30 bird species, seen or heard.

Robyn Hughes showed many of us a small, waxy, ivory-coloured flower on a Bolwarra plant. Robyn commented: "We were lucky to see the Bolwarra (*Eupomatia laurina*) in flower today. It is an interesting plant for several reasons. It belongs to an ancient primitive plant family (Eupomatiaceae). The flower structure is most unusual, having no petals or sepals. The flowering period is only a few days, and each flower is only open for a day. It depends entirely on a small weevil beetle for pollination. The fruits are edible, have a spicy taste, and wildlife love them!"

You can see Bolwarra growing along the track to Irrawong Waterfall and western end of Irrawong Road, Narrabeen.



Read more:

www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eupomatia_laurina
www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/education/Resources/bush_foods/Eupomatia_laurina

activities

Sunday Birdwatching with PNHA

All are Sundays

- 9 March, 7.30am, Warriewood Wetland
- 27 April, 7.30am, Irrawong Reserve
- 6 July, 8.am, Warriewood Wetland
- 21 September, 8am, Deep Creek
- 16 November, 7.30am, Irrawong Reserve

To book email pnhabirdwatching@gmail.com.



PITTWATER NATURAL HERITAGE ASSOCIATION INC.

activities

Bush Regeneration Weekends at Pittwater YHA 2014

Asparagus Fern will be the target weed on two weekends of bushcare and envirofun at the hostel at Morning Bay.

Dates: April 11-13 and September 12-14.

Several weekends in past years have resulted in massive clear-

ance of Asparagus in Pittwater Spotted Gum Forest.

It's a bargain weekend, subsidised by a grant. Get a group of friends to come and book soon. PNHA is offering afternoon bird and plant walks.

To book, contact the hostel on 9999 5748, or email:

Pittwater@yha.com.au

Pacific Bazas Breed in Warriewood Wetland

Last December a Pacific Baza nest, with both parents attending two young, was discovered in a Swamp Mahogany over the boardwalk in the Wetlands. This is a notable breeding record, as field guides describe these birds as uncommon. They were rarely seen in Sydney until the last decade, and there have been a sprinkling of sightings across the northern region of Sydney since then.

The Pacific Baza, previously known as the crested hawk, is unmistakable with a crest, large yellow eyes, and barred breast feathers. It hunts in treetop foliage for mantids, other large insects and frogs. The Baza has a specialised retina to see the colour green with great discrimination, enabling it to locate its prey amongst foliage. The Warriewood Bazas were observed feeding many green tree frogs and green cicadas to their young. The young have now fledged and in mid January were still in the wetlands being fed by their parents.

Watch a short video of the Baza family by Neil Fifer: <https://vimeo.com/83209380> For more information go to Birds in Backyards. <http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/species/Aviceda-subcristata>



Pacific Baza parent.
Images: Neil Fifer



Little Sucker

This juvenile Assassin Bug in Avalon is on the prowl for prey.

The spike under its head is for piercing and sucking insect blood, so it is a welcome ally in the garden. As an adult it will have wings.

Photo:

M. Macrae



Cicadas—The Sound of Summer

What a racket!

Only the male is capable of producing it. His aim is to attract a female and as different species have different calls, he will attract only a female of his own kind.

The loud noise produced by some day-singing cicadas has been shown to actually repel birds, probably because the noise is painful to their ears and because it interrupts normal communication amongst them.

The males of many species including the Green Grocer, *Cyclochila australasiae*, and Double Drummer, *Thopha saccata*, tend to group together when calling, which helps increase the total volume of noise and probably reduces the chance of bird predation.

They can produce a noise intensity of almost 120 decibels at close range, which approaches the pain threshold of the human ear.

Reference: *Australian Cicadas*, Max Moulds, NSW University Press, 1990



Cicada shells in McCarrs Creek Reserve

Barrenjoey Keepers

Barrenjoey Headland needs some help after last year's fire.

Volunteers are weeding and collecting rubbish to help post-fire regeneration.

Contact Rachel Miller, National Parks and Wildlife Ranger, rachel.miller@environment.nsw.gov.au or on 0438 116 598 for more information and to get on the email list for reminders.

Dates for 2014:

	Wednesday	Sunday
February	19	23
March	19	23
April	16	X (Easter)
May	21	18
June	18	15
July	16	13
August	20	10
September	17	7
October	15	5
November	19	2
December	17	X

Proposed Gai-mariagal National Park

Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment organised a forum at the Tramshed on November 25, 2013 at which there were three speakers after Neil Evers had given a Welcome to Country.

Allan Murray, recently appointed Chairman of the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council (MLALC) outlined their plans for negotiating a National Park over their land in Oxford Falls, Belrose and Terrey Hills, plus crown land that is under claim by MLALC. The proposal includes Waratah Park (formerly Skippy Park) in Terrey Hills which would become the focal point where tour buses could bring people for an introduction to Aboriginal culture before being taken out in small groups by Aboriginal guides to visit sites in Ku-ring-gai, Garigal or Gai-mariagal National Parks.

Lenore Fraser gave a brief overview of how Aboriginal National Parks are typically organised. She pointed out that four of the NSW co-managed parks were transferred from existing National Parks. However, two more recently established parks are on Aboriginal land that is being leased back by NPWS for co-management as National Parks. This is the model being proposed for this area.

John Seidel explained how bio-banking operates, how the land

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being cleared and the land to be off-set are assessed and what happens to the money paid by the developer who is buying credits and received by the landowner whose property is being improved and conserved for its biodiversity value. Part of the MLALC proposal is to register the land for bio-banking purposes where the land must be conserved, improved and managed for an increase in biodiversity.

The proposal is still be assessed by Treasury and NPWS staff.

Judith Bennett

Pittwater Estuary Care

PNHA's two grants for this project totalling \$40,000 are now expended. The works funded have included extensive planting and weed control along Careel Creek and in the saltmarsh areas of Careel Bay. Several *Asparagus Fern* Out Days were held on the Pittwater Western Shores and at Barrenjoey Dunes. Bush regeneration contractors and many volunteers were involved in this work, supported with extensive extra work by Pittwater Council.

The funding came from the Federal Government's Caring for Our Country program through the former Hawkesbury Nepean CMA.

We thank the many volunteers who participated at planting days and AFODs, Michael and Sarah at Pittwater YHA at Morning Bay, the Morning Bay and Lovett Bay Bushcare groups, the National Parks and Wildlife Service and Optus RockCorps for their involvement.



Upper Mullet Creek Biodiversity Project

Have you walked to the Irrawong waterfall recently? Great changes have happened in the last year since massive weed clearance revealed the creek below the Irrawong waterfall.

Tubestock planted by the Mullet Creek Bushcare group are now making progress. Snacking Swamp Wallabies have been thwarted by a series of fences around the planting areas. Seedling weed regrowth is relentless for the time being as the area was heavily weed infested for many years but as tubestock grows big enough to cast shade, this will diminish.

Meanwhile we continue to plant and weed, bringing back the biodiversity to this degraded part of Mullet Creek.

The bushcare group meets on the third Saturday of each month, at 2.30pm in the summer months.

For more information contact Helena Dewis, Pittwater Council Bushcare Office, Helena_dewis@pittwater.nsw.gov.au or on 0408 164 235.

PNHA Monitors Birds of Upper Mullet Creek

PNHA is assisting with this project by regularly recording birds at three sites over the six year life of the project. The data will be collated to estimate the effect of the on-ground work of the project (weeding and planting) on the bird population. The method is that used by Birdlife Australia to compile the long-running Australian Bird Atlas and the data is submitted as part of the Atlas project.

The whole Mullet Creek area and its surrounding bushland in Ingleside Chase Reserve, from its Ingleside catchment area down to Narrabeen Lagoon, is one of the outstanding bird habitat areas of Sydney.

Membership Application

I would like to join Pittwater Natural Heritage Association. I agree with the PNHA's aims: raising awareness of and preserving our unique Pittwater natural environment.

Name:..... Signed:.....

Address:..... P/Code

Email:..... Ph:..... Date:.....

I would like a **paper copy** OR **emailed** newsletter (circle your choice). Membership fee: \$20 or \$10 pensioner/student. To pay your membership, you can deposit electronically into our account at the Commonwealth Bank: BSB 062 208, account no.10168467. Type your surname in the reference box so we know who the membership is for. Alternatively make cheque payable to: **Pittwater Natural Heritage Association** or **PNHA**. Post cheque payable to **Pittwater Natural Heritage Association** to PNHA, PO Box 187, Avalon Beach NSW 2107.