

## MALABAR HEADLAND WESTERN ESCARPMENT WALKING TRACK

On Saturday 17th February the new Western Escarpment Walking Track was officially opened by Randwick Mayor Lindsay Shurey. The walk opens up the western section of Malabar Headland National Park and is a joint initiative between Randwick City Council and NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service. "This new track is critical in providing a healthy habitat for humans, wildlife and plants and ensures that Randwick remains a liveable city," said Mayor Shurey.

The 1.15km walking track provides a direct connection between South Maroubra Beach and Malabar Beach. The walk also links with the National Parks and Wildlife Service Boora Point Walking Track which follows the coastline, meaning walkers now have the choice of a 3km coastal walk, 1km inland walk or do both for a 5.5km loop around Malabar Headland.

Visitors will be able to appreciate the natural beauty of the area whilst making their way up onto the escarpment where there are uninterrupted views over Malabar Headland, Maroubra Beach and Botany Bay from a natural sandstone platform. Along the way walkers will transition past different vegetation including the Critically Endangered Ecological Community known as Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub. Keep an eye out for smaller birds flitting between the scrub down low, predatory birds flying overhead in search of prey or whales cruising along the coast during winter and spring.

The walk forms part of Sydney's famous Coastal Walkway and Council has future plans to build a continuous path along the entire coastline between Clovelly in the north and La Perouse in the south. The Western Walking Track will be open seven days a week and is located in an area of the headland that will not be impacted by the ANZAC Rifle Range shooting days. The Boora Point Walking Track remains closed when the ANZAC Rifle Range is in use so check safety messages and alerts before visiting. You can check shooting days and times at the National Parks and Wildlife website here: <http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/visit-a-park/parks/malabar-headland-national-park/local-alerts>

Please note: There is limited disabled or pram access throughout the walking track due to steep gradients. Unfortunately due to the challenging topography it was not feasible to make the track fully accessible. Being part of the National Park this walk is also off limits to our furry four legged friends!





# on the go with Dan

After a warm and dry start to the year let's hope we are in for some pleasant autumn weather! It's a great time of year to be outside and the cooler weather should provide us with an excellent opportunity to get some native plants in the ground and help to fill out some of the sparse areas on our sites.

Read on to find out about natives for pots, a vulgar vine, a beautiful banksia and a riveting read.

**Dan**  
Randwick City Council Bushcare Officer

# what's on



## Weed Watch

Madeira Vine – *Anredera cordifolia*

Madeira vine is an invasive climber that is native to South America. It has fleshy, heart-shaped leaves that are 2 to 15cm long, and fragrant, cream-coloured flower spikes up to 30cm long. In Australia it has been used as an ornamental plant in gardens, but has become an invasive environmental weed, blanketing and smothering both shrubs and trees. Today it is widespread and common in coastal, summer-rainfall dominant areas of NSW, including margins of rainforests. It has also spread to drier inland areas, and its distribution is increasing.

### How does it spread?

Madeira vine flowers in summer, and reproduces through the production of thousands of tubers (underground) and bulbils (aerially along the stems). The small light brown or green potato-like bulbils fall to the ground as the vine ages. The tubers and bulbils can remain viable for many years, making control very difficult.

### Control

Successful control of Madeira vine requires all the tubers and bulbils to be removed or killed. Control activities are long-term, and require regular follow-up for many years. Single control activities generally cause disturbance that results in vigorous regrowth and can lead to worse infestation levels unless dedicated follow-up occurs.

Physical removal can be practical for small or immature infestation sites, or as a follow-up measure to remove persistent tubers. Tubers, bulbils and vegetative material must be disposed of appropriately, as they will regrow if they are left in contact with the soil. Skirting the vine is another option if it is growing high in the canopy. This involves cutting the vine and removing the actively growing tubers and roots from the soil whilst leaving the material in the canopy to rot away. However, cut vines can remain 'alive' in the tree canopy for up to 2 years (surviving on energy from the aerial bulbils). Cutting and pulling the vines from the canopy should be avoided as this results in a shower of variable bulbils.

Herbicides can be effective and the main application techniques are scrape and paint and foliar spraying, with best results occurring during the warmer months. Scrape and Paint applications involve scraping sections of the vine down to white fibrous layer with a knife and immediately painting the exposed area with concentrated herbicide. Foliar spraying is usually conducted with a backpack-style herbicide sprayer known as a knapsack. A combination of these two methods can be particularly effective.

Reference: NSW Weedwise ([weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au))



Aerial Bulbils



Heart-Shaped Leaf



Habit with flower spikes

## PERMABEE GARDEN VOLUNTEERS

Kitchen garden, forest garden, wild food and native plant garden, aquaponic and vertical garden or seed saving — what appeals? Those gardens are the choice on the regular Friday Permabee volunteer days. They're a chance to do, to learn, and to get a little easy outside exercise.

**When:** Weekly on Fridays from 9:30am – 12:30pm

**Location:** Permaculture Interpretive Garden  
Randwick Community Centre, 27 Munda St  
Randwick groundcovers it decided to come along for a drink!



## POLLINATION AT THE CALYX

In the plant world, colour is the essential ingredient for pollination. Watch as The Calyx is transformed into an ever changing kaleidoscope of colour in the new, free floral display Pollination. Curated by the horticultural team at the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney, the display features a collection of plants and flowers showcasing the role colour plays in nature's magnificent act of pollination.

Garden beds of vibrant coloured orchids, daisies, gardenias and lilies are set against the backdrop of the display hero – the green wall. The wall, the largest of its kind in Australia, standing 6 metres high and spanning 50 metres, showcases the pollination theme with Dichondra, Syngonium and Heuchera.

**Pollination at The Calyx is open until August 15th 2018, 10am – 4pm daily.**



Brachyscome multifida

## WILD POLLINATOR COUNT

Australia has lots of native pollinator insects that are often overlooked as European Honey Bees get all the attention! All around the country these little critters pollinate crops and gardens but we still need to do a lot of research to identify them, understand their ecology and how our actions affect them. The Wild Pollinator Count gives you an opportunity to contribute to pollinator conservation by watching any flowering plant for just 10 minutes between April 8-15. You don't need to be an entomologist to take part! Visit [wildpollinatorcount.com/](http://wildpollinatorcount.com/) for more info.

# POTS ARE TOPS



*Acmena Allyns Magic*



*Recycled trough planter*



*Scaevola aemula*

If you have a small garden, a patio or balcony, potted plants are the perfect way to grow a beautiful garden and are increasingly popular in our urban areas where outdoor space can be limited. A huge range of plants grow well in pots and Australian native plants are no exception. Apart from some large trees such as eucalypts, many groundcovers, grasses, shrubs and small trees can be grown in pots and with some TLC they'll thrive.

When thinking about what plant you'd like to grow and what type of pot to put it in have a good look at your space. Is it sunny or shady? Does it get hot? Is it exposed to wind or salt? If it's hot and windy a tough native plant with leathery or smaller leaves will suit. If it's shady you can choose plants which are adapted to lower light levels such as lilly pillies, dianellas and possibly ferns if it's a sheltered spot.

Size does matter when it comes to selecting a pot. Larger pots give plants room to develop a healthy root system, which means more foliage on top. Watering larger pots is easier too as you don't have to water as often and there's less chance of the pot drying out between watering.

Pots and containers come in a range of materials and designs, making it easy to find the right fit. Terracotta pots look great and have an earthy feel but are also porous so will dry out more quickly, especially in hot spots. An alternative to these are glazed pots which are sealed and do not dry out as quickly. If you're after a more lightweight option there are plenty of pots made from fibreglass or plastic which make it easier to move pots around if needed and they're also durable. You can also get creative and use what you've got at home or source recycled items to upcycle into potted art. Examples include washing machine metal barrels, concrete troughs, wheelbarrows and large cooking pots and pans. If your pot or container doesn't have drainage you can drill some holes in the base quite easily.

Choosing a good quality potting mix is fundamental in giving your plants a good growing environment.

Soil can be too heavy for pots, while potting mix provides aeration and drainage to promote healthy plant growth. Look for potting mixes which meet the Australian standard; these have either a black or red Australian standard symbol

on the potting mix bag and both are good quality mixes. A black label indicates a regular grade potting mix which does not contain fertiliser, so you need to add this separately. A red label indicates a premium grade potting mix which has fertiliser to last for at least three months and may have extras such as a wetting agent. For Australian native plants select a potting mix which is specific for natives.

Good watering is key to growing a healthy potted plant. A plant's needs will vary according to how much light, heat and wind it receives so the most effective way to check if your plant needs watering is to feel the potting mix. If the mix is moist you can wait and once it feels dry you can give it some water. If you do this for a while you'll get to know how often that plant needs watering.

If your potted plant does dry out significantly it can become difficult to re-wet the mix. If the pot is smaller you can soak the whole pot in a bucket of water or otherwise apply some wetting agent to the top of the mix.

Australian natives generally prefer good drainage so raise your pot or container on feet and this will help any excess water to drain away.

The maintenance of potted plants is generally similar to caring for those planted in the ground: apply fertiliser regularly in the warmer months, prune shrubs to keep them bushy and compact and keep an eye out for plant pests and diseases. One main difference is that potting mix will break down and degrade over time and ideally is replaced with new potting mix every two years or so. To do this take the plant out of the pot, do some root pruning if the roots are circling around the plant, put in new potting mix and water. If the plant has outgrown its container, this is a good time to repot.

The nursery team has compiled a list of their favourite native plants for pots. These plants are reliable, beautiful and are available from the nursery.

**Anigozanthos cultivars (Kangaroo Paws)** – A stunning feature plant with clumping foliage that will grow from 60cm to 2m tall with showy flowers in vibrant colours such as orange, pink, red and yellow. Grows well in a sunny location and appreciates good drainage.

**Scaevola aemula (Fairy Fan Flower)** – Low growing plant to 40cm high with bright purple flowers in spring and summer. Full sun to part shade. Great to use in pots and provides a beautiful cascading effect in hanging baskets.

**Acmena or Syzygium species (Lilly Pillies)** – An attractive group of shrubs of varying sizes with soft green foliage and red, pink or bronze new growth. Mostly cream flowers in summer followed by edible mauve, pink or red berries. Full sun to part shade. Responds well to pruning. A reliable potted plant and can be mass planted in troughs to create a screen. Great for topiary.

**Casuarina 'Cousin It' (Cousin It She-oak)** – A distinctive groundcover with pine needle-like foliage that provides a sculptural sweeping or cascading effect. Full sun to part shade. Great for wide pots.

**Baeckea virgata 'Nana' (Dwarf Baeckea)** – A fast-growing compact shrub to 75cm high and 1m wide with vibrant green fine-textured foliage. Masses of delicate white flowers in spring and summer. Full sun to part shade. Lovely bun-shaped potted plant.

**Brachycome 'Amethyst Form' (Cut-leaf Daisy)** – A lovely groundcover to 10cm high and 50cm wide with bright pink flowers throughout the year. Full sun to part shade. Great for potted colour.

**Xanthorrhoea resinosa (Grass Tree)** – A clumping native grass tree to 2.5m tall with brown flowers on a tall spike in winter. Grows in full sun to part shade and likes regular moisture. Great architectural feature.



*Kangaroo Paw 'Bush Revolution'*

## bushcare

GROUP	LOCATION	DAY	TIME	MARCH	APRIL	MAY
Bundock Park	Car park on Donnellan Circuit, Clovelly	Friday	9.00am – 11.00am	9	13	11
Fred Hollows Reserve	Bligh Place entrance, Randwick	Wednesday	9.00am – 1.00pm	14	11	9
Gordon's Bay	Access via UNSW Cliffbrook Campus Grounds, 45 Beach St, Coogee	Sunday	9.00am – 1.00pm	11	8	13
Grant Reserve	Vehicular entry to Coogee Surf Life Saving Club	Wednesday	8.00am – 10.00am	21	18	16
Ladies' Pool	McIvers Rock Baths, Grant Reserve, Coogee	Sunday & Thursday	9.00am – 11:00am	4 & 15	19 only	6 & 17
Lake Malabar	End of Manwaring Avenue, Maroubra	Wednesday	1.00pm – 4.00pm	21	18	16
Long Bay Foreshore	Corner of Howe Street and Bay Parade, Malabar	Saturday	9.00am – 1.00pm	3	7	5
Maroubra Dunes	South Maroubra SLSC car park	Thursday	9.00am – 1.00pm	1	5	3
Prince Henry	Alternate between opposite 2 Millard Dr, & the corner of Jennifer & Harvey St, Little Bay	Saturday	9:00am – 1:00pm	10	10	14
Randwick Environment Park	Corner of Dooligah Avenue and Burragulung Street, Randwick	Wednesday & Saturday	9.00am – 12 noon	7 & 17	4 & 21	2 & 19
Wylies Baths	At the picnic tables above Wylies Baths, Neptune Street, Coogee	Tuesday	9.30am – 11.30pm	13 & 27	10 & 24	8 & 22
* Little Bay Landcare	Between 119 and 121 Bilga Crescent, Malabar. Contact Kerry Gordon on (02) 9311 7647 for more information.	Saturday	8.00am – 12 noon	3	7	5
* Magic Point (Malabar Headland)	Contact Claire Bettington on (02) 9344 8589 for the meeting place.	Thursday	9.00am – 1.00pm	1, 8, 15, 22, 29	5, 12, 19, 26	3, 10, 17, 24, 31
* Malabar Headland West	Contact Don Kerr on (02) 9311 2665 for the meeting place.	Sunday	9.00am – 1.00pm	4, 11, 18, 25	1, 8, 15, 22, 29	6, 13, 20, 27

\* Denotes non-Council run groups. Please contact organisers directly.

## parkcare

GROUP	LOCATION	DAY	TIME	MARCH	APRIL	MAY
Alison Rd	Corner of Alison Road and Beach Street, Coogee	Wednesday	8.00am – 10.00am	28	N/A	23
Clyde Street	Clyde Street Reserve, Randwick	Saturday	1.00pm – 3.00pm	17	21	19
Old Tramline	Dudley Street entrance, Randwick	Thursday	8.00am – 10.00am	8	12	10

# NATIVE PLANT OF THE MOMENT



What a beauty!

## *Banksia ericifolia* – Heath Leaved Banksia

*Banksia ericifolia* is unquestionably one of the most beautiful and versatile *Banksias* in Australia. Not only is it one of the most colourful species when in flower, but the birds go mad for it too! Being one of the few native shrubs that carries a heavy load of blossom over winter it is an extremely important species for nectar feeding birds such as honeyeaters. It is a round bushy shrub to 5m high and 4m across and is very hardy in most situations. It is usually abundant in heaths and woodlands along coastal NSW, southern tablelands and the Blue Mountains. In a garden setting it is useful as a screen or hedge because of its dense habit and is relatively tolerant of coastal conditions. Large cylindrical orange flower spikes to 30cm long and 6cm diameter appear in autumn and winter, varying in length of spike and depth of colour.

## New Holland Honeyeater – *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*



**Description:** The New Holland Honeyeater (16-19cm) is mostly black and white, with a distinctive large yellow wing patch and yellow edges on the outer tail feathers. It has a small white ear patch, a thin white whisker at the base of the bill and a white eye. Males and females are similar, but females are slightly smaller in size. Young birds are browner and have a grey eye. This honeyeater is an active bird, and rarely sits still long enough to give an extended view.

**Distribution:** The New Holland Honeyeater occurs throughout the southern half of Australia from around Brisbane, Queensland, to just north of Perth, Western Australia.

**Habitat:** Usually appears singularly or in pairs in heaths, dry sclerophyll forests, woodlands and gardens, mainly where banksias and grevilleas are found. It is inquisitive and known to mix with other types of honeyeaters.

**Diet:** New Holland Honeyeaters are active feeders. They mostly eat the nectar of flowers, and busily dart from flower to flower in search of this high-energy food. Other food items include fruit, insects and spiders. Birds may feed alone, or gather in quite large groups with most feeding taking place in the lower areas of bushes and thickets.

**Breeding:** The cup shaped nest is made of bark and grasses, bound together with spider web. It is lined with soft material and placed in a bush or tree, anywhere from ground level up to 6 metres. Both sexes feed the chicks. A pair of adults may raise two or three broods in a year. Breeding can occur year round but is mainly in the summer and winter with clutch sizes of 2-3, incubation time of 18 days and a nesting period of around 2 weeks.

Call: The call is a harsh "chik" when feeding, a rapid staccato whistle when alarmed and a high pitched "phseet" when perching. When in danger a group of honeyeaters will join together and give a loud alarm call.

Reference: Australian Museum (<http://australianmuseum.net.au>)

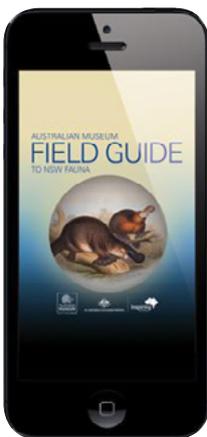
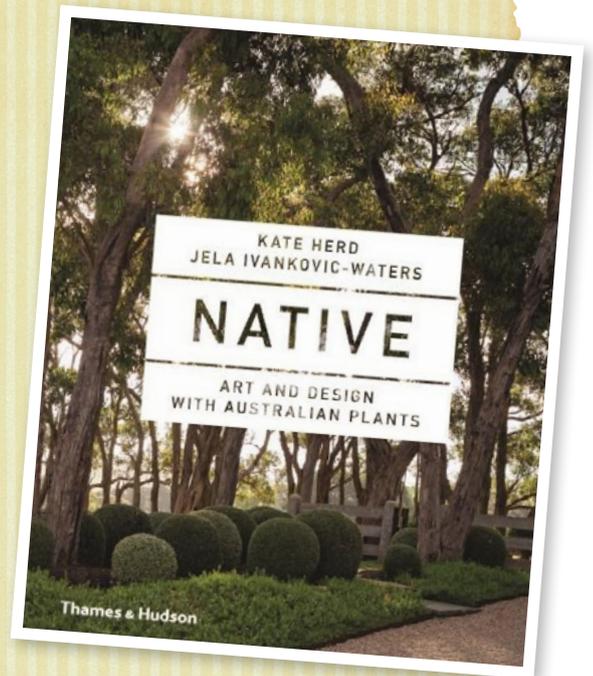
# book review

## **NATIVE: ART AND DESIGN WITH AUSTRALIAN PLANTS** *BY KATE HERD*

Australian plants have long been known for their absolute versatility and hardiness in the garden. This book surveys the way native trees, shrubs, flowers and foliage can be put to surprising and beautiful uses by some of the most creative people working with plants today. Its brilliant photographs provide an ideal source of inspiration when seeking the perfect feature plant for a space of any size.

Chapters covered include: Feature Foliage, Flowering Meadows, Rare Beauties, Sculptural Forms, Shady Spaces and Shapely Low Covers. Each chapter outlines the usefulness of a palette of native plants and how they can be selected and placed into a garden setting to best effect.

Individual species information is wonderfully practical, describing growth habit, role, and adaptability to horticultural and designed settings, maintenance tips, and tolerances for soil, aspect, water and exposure. So, while the aesthetics of each plant are important, this guide also demonstrates the plant's contribution to a broader ecology, a response to climate and of course, its performance in a garden setting.



### **Field Guide to NSW Fauna App**

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