



MINUTES

Greening Randwick Committee

Wednesday 2 October 2019

Meeting held at 6:00pm in the Randwick Room

Attendee Name	Organisation	Initials
Cr Kathy Neilson	Randwick Council	KN
Cr Lindsay Shurey	Randwick Council	LS
Cr Philipa Veitch	Randwick Council	PV
Joe Ingegneri	Randwick Council	JI
Kerry Colquhoun	Randwick Council	KC
Matt Leary	Randwick Council	ML
Peter Ryan	Community Representative	PR
Lynda Newnam	Community Representative	LN
Graham Turner	Community Representative	GT
Heidi Dokulil	Community Representative	HD
Michaela Sukopova	WIRES Representative	MS
June Keys	WIRES Representative	JK
Leanne	WIRES Representative	L

Item		Action
1.0	Welcome and Introductions	
1.1	Committee members and guest speakers were welcomed to the meeting.	Note.
2.0	Apologies	
2.1	Dennis Flaherty and Bronwyn Englaro.	Note.
3.0	Tree Plantings to Support Wildlife - WIRES	
3.1	<p>Representatives from Wildlife Information, Rescue and Education Service (WIRES) presented information on tree plantings to support wildlife.</p> <p>The presentation included the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The benefits of planting native flora to support native fauna such as the Flying foxes' reliance on native figs, and bottlebrush and birds feeding on grevillea flowers. That the RCC Tree Identification Manual was a valuable tool for tree identification in our area and should be promoted and more accessible on Council's website. PV suggested that the Manager Communications could be asked how this document can be promoted. WIRES preference for undertaking tree pruning at times that minimised impact on fauna (i.e. preferably not in spring). WIRES requested that operational tree staff are informed of impact of spring pruning on sourcing food and newborns. KC advised that Council prunes street trees mostly reactively as a consequence of impact on property and public safety. 	<p>Note.</p> <p>The RCC website be updated to improve access to RCC's Tree Identification Manual.</p> <p>The Tree Management Team be advised of this fact and consider practices to reduce pruning in spring.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where possible, dead branches and hollow trunks should be left in place in bushland to provided habitat. ML advised that his team already retain dead logs etc. for habitat. • The RCC Bushland team also support the “Native Havens” program which is designed to help residents and schools plan, create and maintain a native habitat garden. • WIRES requested that Council consider a minimum of 75% of native plants to be included in landscape plans for development assessments. • PV advised that data collected by WIRES could be shared through Council’s website. WIRES advised that they did not collect format data on their activities. • The loss of native shrub layers across Sydney has led to more Ibis and Noisy Miners. 	RCC to consider planting native shrubs across the LGA.
3.2	<p>WIRES advised that they support “green corridors” and that linking native vegetation greatly benefitted native fauna migration.</p> <p>Jl advised the committee that in the current Strategic Planning review there will be a consideration of “green corridors” and how they can be encouraged through the planning process.</p> <p>LN advised she was interested in the conserving native habitat within industrial land and how this could be ascertained.</p>	Note.
3.3	<p>WIRES asked about the water level at the “Environment Park” and if it were possible for Council to put more water into the wetland. ML advised that as this is a natural system, it is intended to fluctuate.</p> <p>Jl advised that previously bore water was being extracted from nearby Latham Park and that this had been suspended due to the low water levels in the wetland.</p>	Note.
4.0	Bushland Management	
4.1	<p>A presentation was made to the Committee by Council’s Supervisor Bushland and Coast Walk, Matt Leary on bushland management and managing biodiversity.</p> <p>The bushland and coast walk overview discussed the bushland management program, bushcare volunteers, biodiversity conservation, managing threatened and invasive species and education.</p> <p>The Randwick LGA is a biodiversity hotspot holding approximately ¼ of all indigenous plant species occurring in the Sydney basin. There are over 500 indigenous plant species and 258 bird species recorded.</p> <p>The Bushland Management Program manage threats to bushland to improve resilience, reinstate ecosystem functions, conduct record keeping, mapping of native vegetation and weeds, and manage environmental restoration grants.</p> <p>There are approximately 90 regular Bushcare volunteers working across 11 bushcare sites and 4 parkcare sites. Their contribution has had a significant impact on Randwick’s bushland.</p> <p>Committee members were advised of the threatened species, legislation to protect vegetation, and the threatened species, habitats and ecological communities managed by council.</p>	<p>Note.</p> <p>Note.</p> <p>Note.</p> <p>Note.</p> <p>Note.</p> <p>Note.</p>

	<p>The management of invasive species include a risk-based approach to implement the Biodiversity Act and a strategic approach to weed management. The presence of pest animals are monitored with limited controls available for urban pest animals. Recent changes to RCC work practices allowing proliferation of weeds into good bushland areas.</p> <p>Education campaigns include wildflower walks, Bushcare volunteer outings, school events and talks, the Ecoliving expo, UNSW volunteer expo and field trips.</p> <p>The aims for the future include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to improving health of local biodiversity. • Continue to increase area of native vegetation for habitat. • Improve habitat linkages. • Improve monitoring through use of technology. • Raise awareness of Randwick's unique natural heritage. • Increase the protection of native vegetation on private land through good planning reform. • Seek extra funding to enhance capacity of ecological restoration work. 	<p>Note.</p> <p>Note.</p> <p>Note.</p>
4.2	<p>PV, LS and KN congratulated Matt on his informative presentation. A suggestion was made for greater promotion of activities and data collection by the Bushland Team. ML explained he had ideas for interactive web information but limited resources to implement.</p> <p>ML advised that some data in regards to threatened species is sensitive and would need to be appropriately handled.</p> <p>LN advised that "Atlas of Living Australia" (ALA), which is crowd sourced would be a good depository for this information. Concerns were raised about the general community knowing about this website. ML advised that some of the RCC data is already located at ALA.</p> <p>LS asked whether we actively promote native bees. ML advised that native bees occur naturally and there is not further intervention.</p> <p>The committee discussed the significant benefit to native bush of intermittent fire burns. ML gave local examples where this had improved the biodiversity of the native species. PR spoke about "Firesticks" which is an indigenous corporation that provides, advocacy to protect, cultural and natural values through cultural fire and land management practices.</p>	<p>Note.</p> <p>Note.</p> <p>Note</p> <p>Note.</p> <p>ML to consider ways to incorporate burning as a bushland management task.</p>
5.0	Greening Randwick - Priorities	
5.1	<p>Council's Coordinator Open Space Assets, Kerry Colquhoun presented on the Greening Randwick Priorities. This included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improved planting and streetscape improvements RCC streets resolution - Background - Vision - Existing Framework - Issues - Proposed Priority Areas - Street Tree Masterplan 	<p>Note.</p>

	<p>The Committee had a general discussion on budget requirements and the resources required to ensure increased tree canopy and increased native shrub as habitat. There was dialogue around the environmental benefits vs aesthetic of streetscape/blister planting.</p> <p>Further discussion about RCC “Greening” related strategies and the documents that require updating to ensure relevance. E.g. Action Plan in Street Tree Masterplan (STMP).</p> <p>KC advised primary document for setting tree planting in the City is the Street Tree Masterplan and this directed planting priorities to arterial and sub arterial roads. KN advised that Anzac Parade south of Maroubra Junction could provide an area for significant tree planting.</p> <p>GT advised that Council needed to be cautious around planting sustainable species in the context of climate change and need to take into account the speed and magnitude of climatic change and reduction of water and humidity.</p> <p>PR advised that “The Which Plant Where” program assess species that are unlikely to thrive under the more extreme climates due to climate change and to find opportunities for new species and varieties to be planted.</p> <p>There was a general Committee discussion around budget requirements and consideration of Councillors to increase budgets to support further tree planting as a priority.</p> <p>The committee discussed immediate ways of increasing tree planting through Council promotion related to Christmas.</p>	<p>Note.</p> <p>Note.</p> <p>Note.</p> <p>Note.</p> <p>RCC to note for future species selection for projects.</p> <p>All Councillors to consider supporting further funding.</p> <p>All committee members to brainstorm ideas.</p>
6.0	General Business	
6.1	No issues were raised.	Note.
7.0	Next Meeting	
7.1	The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 5 February 2020 at the Randwick Council Administration Building in the Randwick Room.	Note.
8.0	Close	
8.1	The meeting closed at 8:40pm	Note.