

Bushland Newsletter

WINTER 23



On the go with Emily

The start of 2023 has seen heaps of action here in the Randwick Council Bushland network.

We welcome new nursery apprentice, Cassandra, enhanced interagency networks through several Roaming Bushcare events, completed a successful fencing project to protect an invaluable bushland patch and

commemorated the passing of one of our local greats.

This edition of the bushland Newsletter attempts to cover all these stories and more, so to save space for the content that's all from me!

Emily Strautins Randwick City Council Bushland Officer

NEWS UPDATE

Old Tramline

To honour the passing of local legend, Robert Golsby, the Old Tramline Parkcarers installed 129 plants the first session back in February at this beloved park.

Always very particular about what went into the park the selection included some of his favourites, and of course, plenty of colour.

With this burst of new life, we remembered Bob and what this area was when first started. We also demonstrated the ongoing commitment of local volunteers to continue to care for this special public place.

Read on to hear more on Bob's story inside.



Meet Cassandra

Hi everyone! My name is Cassandra Heneghan and I am the new council Nursery Apprentice.

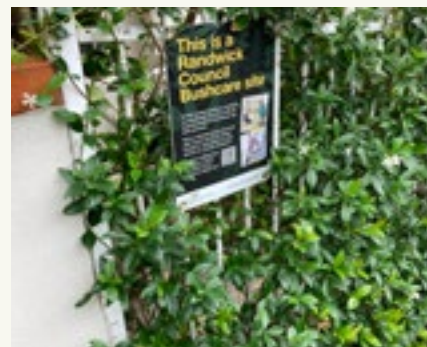
My background is in the food media industry, with a focus on appliance and recipe development. I started my horticultural journey growing what I could cook with and wound up landscaping my front garden. After starting a Diploma of Sustainable Living with the University of Tasmania, I found myself increasingly passionate about the link between our native wildlife and their habitat.

I have already learned so much from the team and am so grateful for the knowledge surrounding me. I look forward to meeting you all in the Nursery!



Bushcare site signs

When out and about across our local parks and reserves, you may have noticed our new Bushcare site signs popping up. The signs help communicate which areas are being supported by our volunteer network, building a sense of pride in the work we are doing and will hopefully help to attract some new volunteers.





Wassell Street Fencing Project

In May 2022 Council's bushland team was pleasantly surprised to find out that our grant application with the NSW Environmental Trust for restoring Critically Endangered Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub at Wassell Street, Chifley was successful.

A major component of the project consisted of removing the existing dilapidated timber and wire fence and replacing it with a powder coated galvanised pipe and wire fence with rabbit-proof wire netting. Contractors commenced work in late March 2023 utilising an excavator to help remove the existing fence and conduct some primary weed removal of Bitou Bush and Lantana around the site periphery. The new fence (roughly 500 metres in length) was then installed over the next few weeks and the rabbit-proof netting attached to the lower section of fence, travelling vertically underground and then elbowing back out horizontally into the surrounding soil. This crucial element will help to prevent rabbits from entering the site. If any rabbits, try to make their way under they will hit the netting and be unable to get any further. Further planned works including

rabbit monitoring, installation of educational signage and targeted weed management that will assist the ongoing long-term bush regeneration that occurs on site. Now complete, this new fence is a significant upgrade on the previous one and will help to play a crucial role in protecting the remnant vegetation present at Wassell St.

Clockwise from above: Expert machinery use to carefully install the fence without damaging precious native bush. New and reinforced to guard against nibbling intruders. The old rotting timber fence.



Roaming Bushcare Events



Our team has been extra busy attending and hosting a range of roaming bushcare events in the last few months. The first one involved hosting Woollahra Bushcare volunteers as they worked with our local Wylies Baths Bushcare group. The expanded team were able to install an additional 160 plants. We then returned the favour by visiting beautiful Parsley Bay, where volunteers had the opportunity to hear the history of a different part of Sydney and contribute by weeding and planting the lower slopes. After the session was a chance to explore more widely and have a dip in the biodiverse bay.

A second roaming bushcare closer to home was held at the entrance to the Western Malabar Headland walking track. This event brought together volunteers from the Friends of Malabar

Headland (FoMH), Botany Bay Kamay National Park and Randwick Council Bushcarers to collaboratively tackle the pervasive morning glory threatening the site.

Roaming Bushcare events like these provide a chance to explore new parts of Sydney and meet like-minded people who are also working hard to protect different pockets of bushland.

They are a chance to learn, through exposure to novel situations which hold different plants and priorities. It's also a fun way to connect to a wider network of people and opportunities, recognising that other people share our passion for the environment.

Thanks to everyone who got involved and to our hosts.



Winter wonders



Compact snack: the pure white *Correa alba*.

Growing some winter-flowering native species in your garden will not only provide a valuable food source for birds, insects and other wildlife, it will add colour to the garden during an otherwise fairly grey time of year.

Below is a brief list of some of the best winter-flowering native species.

Banksia

The nursery stocks a great range of banksia species ranging in size from the groundcover *Banksia integrifolia* 'Rollercoaster' to the mid-size *Banksia ericifolia* (Heath Banksia) and *Banksia spinulosa* (Hairpin Banksia), cultivars such as 'Honey Pots' and 'Birdsong', and the tall *Banksia integrifolia* (Coastal Banksia) and *Banksia serrata* (Old Man Banksia). Birds and bees love the nectar-rich flowers.



Nectar-rich: *Grevillea* 'Moonlight'

Grevillea

Like the banksias, grevilleas have masses of nectar-rich flowers. Cultivars include the long-flowering 'Suberb', 'Honey Gem' and 'Moonlight' and the indigenous *Grevillea speciosa* (Red Spider Flower Grevillea), a classic late-winter flowerer and *Grevillea* 'Winter Delight', a gorgeous groundcover.



Vigorous: *Hardenbergia violacea* (False Sarsparilla)

Hardenbergia

Hardenbergia can be grown as a vigorous climber or trailing plant and flowers from winter into spring. As well as the indigenous species *Hardenbergia violacea* (False Sarsparilla or Purple Coral Pea), the

nursery stocks a cultivar called 'Free N Easy', which has sprays of white flowers tinged with lavender.

Correa

Correas are a hardy, mainly smaller-growing species with attractive tubular flowers in colours ranging from the pure white of the indigenous *Correa alba* (White Correa) to the pale yellow of *Correa glabra* 'Coliban River' (Coliban River Rock Fuchsia) and the lime-tinged pink of *Correa reflexa* (Native Fuchsia).

Individual Species

Hakea laurina (Pincushion Hakea) has a gorgeous puffball-like pink and white flowers.

Philotheca myoporoides (Wax Flower) Profusion and Ruby Cascade are small shrubs with pink to deep pink buds that open to starry white flowers from late winter.

In addition, there are groundcovers such as *Scaevola* species (Fairly Fan Flower) and *Chrysocephalum apiculatum* (Yellow Buttons) that flower virtually year-round.

Vale Bob Golsby



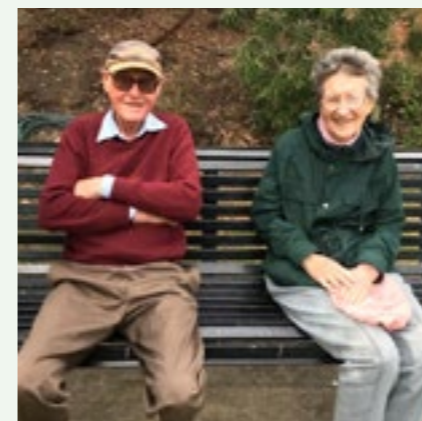
They might not have known his name, but hundreds of Coogee residents would have known Bob Golsby by sight – 'the older gentleman' hard at work in the park between Dudley Street and Carrington Road. To many people, Bob, who has died aged 88, was the Old Tramway Park.

In the wake of his passing, one local commented: 'Bob is such a big part of our memory of living in this area. We all just loved seeing him working in the garden and having a chat to him when we went through.'

In a 2017 letter to Randwick Council nominating Bob for a community service award, another local, Sharon Mooney, described the park as 'one of the best kept and most beautifully kept open space gardens in the Local Government area'.

'It is an area much appreciated by so many who regularly utilise the space to sit in, enjoy the sun, and/or to picnic in whilst enjoying the beauty of the gardens attached,' she wrote.

With the support of the council, the pocket park was established more than 20 years ago by a group of local volunteers on a barren section of the former tramline. Bob joined the



group soon after and became its most longstanding and energetic member, visiting the park almost daily while he was still physically able.

Later, Bob successfully lobbied for the establishment of the St Paul's Triangle garden across Dudley Street, effectively extending the park.

Bob's wife, Mary, had health issues and the couple had moved to Sydney from the bush to be closer to medical care. According to the late Dr Fred Orr, a psychologist who was similarly dedicated to the local community and who lobbied for the park to be named after Bob and Mary, the former farmer 'missed getting his hands in the soil'.

In a 2013 email to the council asking for the name change, Fred wrote: 'Bob, as all of the RCC landscaping and Community Nursery staff will know, has been the guiding force in making this lovely park a true gem in the Randwick community. Bob is there at 5.30am most mornings checking on the plants, planning the day's gardening agenda, and starting his 'stroll through conversations' with a huge number of local residents who have come to know the park as Bob's Place.'



In her letter nominating Bob for a community service award, one of many nominations submitted over the years, Sharon Mooney estimated that Bob spent 20 to 30 hours a week working in the park.

'He has overcome any physical difficulties which might be expected in old age in order to landscape, turn the soil, keep the gardens weeded and watered, replace plants as they died or were stolen, and to clean up after visitors,' she wrote.

'I do make a point of saying however that there seldom seems to be waste left in the area. I put this down to the respect people have for how beautiful the garden area is, and of this individual volunteer who created it for us all.'

The park regularly won awards in the council's annual garden competition – including Best Community Garden awards in consecutive years between 2014 and 2019.

The council recognised and appreciated the huge amount of work Bob put into the park. Bushland staff and parkcare volunteers visit monthly to help maintain the park, and council crews mow the grassed areas and collect green waste from the site. The nursery donates plants and, in turn, is able to use the park as a valuable source of plant cuttings.

The council has received further requests since Bob's passing



to name the park in his honour. A plaque on a bench in the park recognises his enormous contribution.

In her eloquent 2017 nomination, Sharon Mooney wrote: 'Mr Golsby demonstrates what a single person can achieve, and how they can make a difference. His actions reinforce that we are a community and should not expect council to take total responsibility for keeping our surroundings clean and beautiful. His example teaches us that we share accountability for the area we live in, and that our individual contributions can make a considerable difference.'

In the wake of Bob's passing Sharon said: 'In addition to creating a beautiful space for all, he added to it as a result of his happy presence as you would walk through. 'He will long be remembered for this reason.'

Bob Golsby with Matt Leary from the Bushland team, and other volunteers at work in the park.



From Sustainability



Randwick Sustainability Hub

Randwick Sustainability Hub is all about nurturing people passionate about sustainability and come together to create community.

The Hub is next to the Randwick Environment Park and offers a wonderful place to do this, with five demonstration permaculture gardens, a passive solar designed classroom, hall and rooms for hire, grassed area and BBQ.



By supporting community members with an idea and helping them to make it into a reality, there are now several sustainability focused groups based at the Hub with others on the way.

WIRES East Sydney is located at the Hub and they look after wildlife that have been injured and nurse them back to health until they can be released again. In an exciting new development, Randwick Council and the State Government have announced they will be funding the design and building of a brand new shelter to replace the existing 20 year old shelters.

Sydney Bee Club has an apiary on site and exists to promote and support urban beekeeping. They run workshops and field days on both European honey bees and Native Australian bees.

Organic Buyers Group meets each Thursday to divvy up fresh organic produce to its members. By buying in bulk the group can access certified organic produce at the same cost as non-organic produce from the supermarket. During COVID the strong sense of community was evident in the

way members helped each other out with food deliveries.

The recently formed Slow Fashion and Textiles Group meets each Tuesday to repair, repurpose or create projects of their own choosing. The members help each other with ideas, information and skills and the group also has equipment such as a sewing machine, knitting needles and embroidery frames available for use. Not only has it been heart warming to hear the stories exchanged while everyone works on their individual projects, but it has been exciting to see the site brightened up with textiles and knitted items also called "yarn bombing". This is particularly the case for the steel poles down the pathway to the pre-school which have been dressed in colourful woollen coverings. See if you can spot the knitted frogs!

Other projects in the pipeline are a tool library, community band and choir, and a photography/videography group. Let us know if any of this interests you.

You may wonder what some of these projects have to do with sustainability and why they are being supported by Randwick Council.

We know there are many people and groups out there that are already doing great things in sustainability. By supporting them rather than duplicating effort, we can achieve much more than we can separately. We also know that it takes the whole community to make a difference and that we need to work with lots of different people which means coming at this from different angles, some of which might seem indirect. If we can make taking action something that is social, engaging and relevant, then this will appeal to many more people. And of course, when you develop a relationship, you can travel even further along the sustainability journey together.

The groups mentioned above are examples of this in action. The groups are run by the community and the

Randwick Sustainability Hub simply supports them with space and promotions. If you've ever started a group, you'll know that this is very helpful. As the Hub is a centre for such activity, being located here has ongoing benefits for any group, not to mention being able to enjoy the beautiful gardens and setting looked after by another community group - PermaBees community garden volunteers - that meet every Friday morning.

Just as Addison Road Centre in Marrickville and CERES in Melbourne co-locate many like-minded enterprises, the Randwick Sustainability Hub helps to connect like-minded groups so that together they can find synergies that increase their impact in the world.



It's also very satisfying to find new and better ways of doing things simply because you ran into somebody or had an incidental chat that turned into something big.

If you have an idea that you'd like to take action on, get in touch with Julian Lee from the Randwick Sustainability Hub on julian.lee@randwick.nsw.gov.au. He'll either put you in touch with a group that would suit you or work with you to set up your own group with support from Council.

To find out more about what is going on at the Randwick Sustainability Hub visit: <https://www.randwick.nsw.gov.au/environment-and-sustainability/environmental-whats-on/sustainability-education-hub>



Got a snap to share? We'd love to share your recent photos of native plants, animals or you - getting out into nature. Please send your photos to bushcare@randwick.nsw.gov.au.

One of a series of wonderful scenes shot by budding photographer and bushcarer Shaomei Wang



Below (left to right):

A 'Floury Baker' Cicada observed sheltering on Marleen Zegerman's balcony.

Old Tramline Volunteers happy to show off their new hats.

Our Malabar Wetland Bushcare team, including friends from UNSW proud of a tremendous weed haul.



Working bee calendar

BUSHCARE

GROUP	LOCATION	DAY	TIME	JUN	JUL	AUG
Clovelly Bay	Opposite 18 Eastbourne Ave, Clovelly	4th Friday	9am-12pm	23	28	25
Dunningham Reserve	Adjacent 5-7 Major Street, Coogee	4th Thursday	9am-11am	22	27	24
Fred Hollows Reserve	Bligh Place entrance, Randwick	2nd Wednesday	9am-12pm	14	12	9
Gordons Bay	Access via UNSW Cliffbrook Campus Grounds, 45 Beach St, Coogee	1st Sunday	9am-12pm	4	2	6
Grant Reserve	Coogee Surf Life Saving Club carpark (south of the beach)	3rd Wednesday	9am-11am	21	19	16
Ladies Pool (Ladies Only)	At the entrance to the Ladies Pool, McIver's Rock Baths, Coogee	3rd Thursday	9am-12pm	15	20	17
Malabar Foreshore	Opposite 9 Bay Parade, Malabar (near Malabar Ocean Pool)	1st Saturday	9am-1pm	3	1	5
Malabar Wetland	End of Manwaring Avenue, Maroubra	3rd Wednesday	1pm-4pm	21	19	16
Maroubra Dunes	The South Maroubra SLSC car park	1st Thursday	9am-12pm	1	6	3
Prince Henry	Alternate between the corner of Jennifer and Harvey St or opposite 2 Millard Dr, Little Bay	2nd Saturday	9am-12pm	10	8	12
Randwick Environment Park	Access via corner of Dooligah Avenue and Burragulung Street, Randwick. Works take place within fenced area on the far side of the oval.	1st Wednesday and 2nd Sunday	9am-12pm	7 & 11	5 & 9	2 & 13
Wylies Baths	At the picnic tables above Wylie's Baths, Neptune Street, Coogee	3rd Tuesday	9am-12pm	20	18	15
Alison Road	Corner of Alison Road and Beach Street, Coogee	4th Thursday	1pm-3pm	22	27	24
Old Tramline	The reserve between Dudley St and Carrington Rd, Randwick	2nd Thursday	9am-12pm	8	13	10

NON-COUNCIL RUN GROUPS

Friends of Malabar Headland*	Contact Therese Weiss on 0403 532 655 or via malabarheadland@gmail.com for details.	2nd, 3rd and 4th Thursday	9am-1pm	8, 15, 22 & 29	13, 20 & 27	10, 17, 24 & 31
Little Bay Landcare*	Access between 119 and 121 Bilga Crescent, Malabar. Contact Kerry Gordon on 0411 245 985.	1st Saturday	8am-12pm	3	1	5
Kamay Botany Bay National Park*	Contact Ranger Sam Woodrow on 0467 159 279 or via samuel.woodrow@environment.nsw.gov.au for details.	Every Tuesday & 4th Saturday	Tues: 9am-12pm Sat: 8am-11am	6, 13, 20, 27 & 24	4, 11, 18, 25 & 22	1, 8, 15, 22, 26 & 29

* Denotes non-council run groups. Please contact organisers directly.

For more information contact the Bushcare Officer via: bushcare@randwick.nsw.gov.au