

Pittwater's Trees

We need to plant trees to replace the many lost in the April storm. Many were big trees of great age, remnants of the woodland that once covered much of the area. Pittwater Council website can advise on what trees are suitable for your area. Go to http://www.pittwater.nsw.gov.au/property/native_gardening

The Council is having extra plant give-aways to encourage tree planting. Contact Karin Nippard, Council's Bushland Manager on 9970 1111 for information.

When selecting a tree, it is tempting to plant one from a big pot, but in fact a small tubestock tree will grow faster and develop a better root system. The square cross section of the tube makes the roots grown straight down. Bigger round pots often contain roots that are circling the pot inside and once planted they don't spread out to support the tree. That tree is more likely to succumb to wind. Plant where tree roots will not be affected by future development, excavation, changes in drainage or soil level. Any staking should allow a bit of movement as this encourages the tree to develop strong roots.



Tubestock plants already have roots that are ready to spread out and stabilise the tree

Australian native birds and animals really need tree hollows in Eucalypts and Angophoras. The tree will be at least 100 years old before such holes can develop. You won't be around to see that Powerful Owl nesting or the parrot excavating a rotten branch to enlarge a smallish hollow.

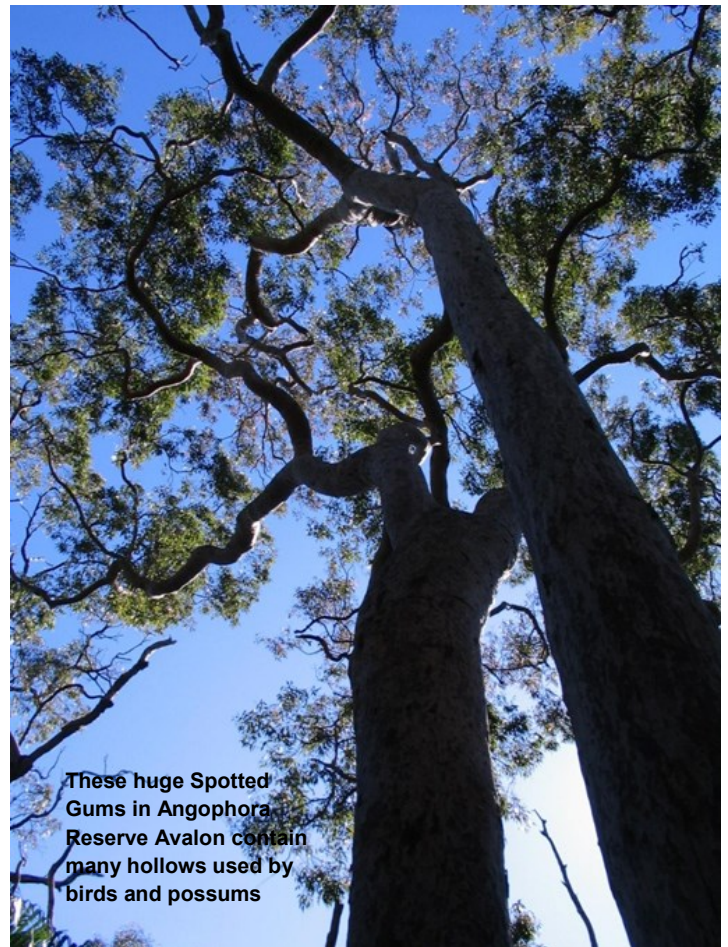
So don't delay! Now is a good time as the soil is moist. The tree will grow roots and be ready to take off in spring. Plant a tree with your kids and grandkids, and for the birds and

animals they will love and care for.

Who needs hollows in Pittwater?

Powerful and Boobook Owls, Dollarbird, parrots and cockatoos, White-throated Treecreeper, Brushtail and Ringtailed Possums, Sugar, Squirrel and Feathertailed Gliders, Eastern Pygmy Possum, microbats (insectivorous), Brown Antechinus, Wood Duck, Kingfishers, Kookaburras, also reptiles and invertebrates.

For more information about hollows, how they form and the use animals make of them see: <http://www.ecomagazine.com/paper/EC12338.htm>
Vanishing Trees could leave cities bereft of Wildlife. See <http://www.ecomagazine.com/?paper=EC14315>.



These huge Spotted Gums in Angophora Reserve Avalon contain many hollows used by birds and possums

Wildlife Camera at Rocky Point

PNHA's wildlife camera has been loaned for a month to the Rocky Point Bush-care group to be used in their Eastern Pygmy Possum Project on the Western Shores.

The Project was kick-started by a local resident's discovery of an Eastern Pygmy Possum in a Towlers Bay laundry basket. This was just the second recorded sighting of a Pygmy Possum on the Western Shores of Pittwater in European times.

Starting with two nesting boxes, local interest in the monitoring project has grown. So far thirty-two nesting boxes have been purchased by locals eager to be part of the monitoring project. The nesting boxes have been placed on resi-

dences stretching from McCarrs Creek to Coasters Retreat

In January this year Rocky Point Bush-care successfully attracted a Greater Sydney Local Land Services mini-grant to purchase 2 cameras to support this project.

Following a Wildlife Camera Monitoring Workshop held on Rocky Point the project team are now completing their training with each team member spending a week setting the camera up at night and checking the results each morning. In the meantime the PNHA camera is being used to monitor potentially active nesting boxes.

Other visitors to the nesting boxes, such as Feather-tailed Gliders and Antechinus, will also be recorded.

(Contributed by Lesley Stevens)

Post Script: The PNHA Camera will stay at Rocky Point for a while as though no EP Possums have used the nests to date, many Feathertailed Gliders have been recorded using the nesting boxes.



Members of the Rocky Point Bushcare Group set up a nest box on tree trunk to left of the group



Sonja Elwood, Pittwater Council Fauna officer, sets up a fauna camera to record Eastern Pygmy-Possums using a nesting box. The camouflaged camera is fastened to tree in lower left corner of photo.



The nest is a hollowed log, with a hole a few centimetres from the top. A metal flap across the top can be removed to check the nest. Above left, a glider goes into the nest hole head first. Above Right: a closer view of another nest. Right: Eastern Pygmy Possum Rocky Point.



PNHA – grants

We received a Minigrant of \$1500 for tree planting and community engagement, and \$15000 for Stage 3 of Pittwater Estuary Care, from Greater Sydney Local Land Services. The focus is on planting along Careel Creek, Avalon, and continuing restoration of saltmarsh and shorelines around Careel Bay. We have had two planting days so far. Pittwater Council will engage bush regeneration contractors and contribute financially to the project.



**Local Land
Services**
Greater Sydney

Mullet Creek Biodiversity Restoration Project

About to enter its fourth year, this project is transforming the weedy area of Mullet creek just below the Irrawong waterfall. Tubestock has been planted here and up at the Wesley Street entrance to the southern arm. Wallabies have found the tubestock tasty so areas have had to be fenced temporarily.

Contract weed control work is occurring along both branches of the creek above the waterfall. Elanora Country Club, near the top of the catchment, has contributed to the project by removing woody weeds which could have sent seeds to the creekline below.

Funded and operated by the NSW Environment Trust, this project aims to engage the community in the project. The bushcare group meets at the end of Irrawong Road on the third Saturday afternoon each month.

The next meeting will be Saturday July 18, 1pm.



Minigrant Tree Planting Days

Pittwater Council and PNHA have planted along Careel Creek May 23 and near Etival Street North Avalon, June 27th. The eastern bank of Careel Creek is being transformed from a weedy wilderness to a corridor of native vegetation linking Avalon Dunes with Careel Bay/Pittwater Estuary Care grants and great support from Pittwater Council.



Bangalley Landcare

This group established a few years ago recently scored a grant of \$55,000 to fund bush regeneration over three years, the money to be spent on reserve and on adjacent private land.

Bangalley Headland is one of Pittwater's best bushland reserves. Many of the adjoining properties are large blocks with good bushland in their backyards, but in need of maintenance. The Landcare group was set up in the hope of helping these property owners maintain their bushland to the same standard as the reserve bushland. The grant is from the Federal Government's Landcare program, through Greater Sydney Local land Services. The group will coordinate their work with Pittwater Council's bush regeneration program in the reserve.

We are hoping this model of residents receiving help in caring for private land contiguous with reserve bushland can be applied to other bushland reserve areas in Pittwater.

PNHA webpage update – pnha.org.au

With vibrant photos and a Facebook feed, you can now keep up to date between newsletters with what we're doing.

Follow us on facebook.



The PNHA Facebook page needs you to "like" it. Our PIMAG Facebook page keeps you in the loop about our Indian Myna campaign. Sharing and "Liking" the pages helps spread our environmental messages. If you don't use Facebook, ask your friends children or grandchildren to look at the pages.

Pittwater Indian Myna Action Group

This PNHA campaign is gathering momentum. Pittwater Council is supplying PG wire traps and CO2 gas for RSPCA approved euthanasia. We lend traps to volunteers for use on private land. We can organise euthanasia for you. See our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/MynaProblems/timeline>

Contact PNHA or through the PIMAG Facebook page if you can help get rid of Mynas.



What Rat is That?

This ABC Catalyst program shows how a remote sensor fauna camera can help identify nocturnal visitors.

Link: <http://www.abc.net.au/catalyst/stories/4145912.htm>

Is it a Rat? See this link to the Australian Museum

<http://australianmuseum.net.au/is-it-a-rat>

All these animals live in the Pittwater area, The Water Rat is thought to live in Narrabeen Lagoon and Bush Rats and Brown Antechinus are common – but nocturnal.

These articles came from a web page Back Yard Buddies article: How to tell a Native Rat from an Introduced Rat. See: <http://backyardbuddies.net.au/b-mail-newsletter/current-b-mail#two>

Don't forget PNHA has a camera members can borrow to capture images of local fauna. It will be available when the Eastern Pygmy Possum project at Lovett Bay is completed in a few months' time.

Stop the Chop Campaign

We await the announcement of the revision to the Code 10/50 Clearing for Bushfire Protection provision. Pittwater's trees have taken a beating from this – and often for reasons other than bushfire protection. This pile of logs was dumped in Cicada Glen Road at Ingleside in May.



Pittwater Natural Heritage Association

Birdwatching and Other Activities 2015

August 3 and October 12

Bahai Bushcare

Contact us if you can help during our next bushcare days in a really interesting place, saving **Grevillea caleyi**.

Please contact David Palmer 0404171940 to join in.

Sunday 16 August

Chiltern Track is our Spring Wildflower Walk

The wildflowers should be at their peak. There will be an expert plant guide to study the wildflowers, and birdwatchers are welcome to join the walk and explore the track for birdlife. Always something to see here.

At 9.00am, meet at the fire trail gate at the start of the track, nearing the end of Chiltern Road, Ingleside.

Please book for this event by emailing pnhabirdwatching@gmail.com or phone Marita 0439 409 202.

Sunday 20 September

Irrawong Reserve

The rainforest habitat at this reserve is renowned for bird species not commonly seen in Pittwater.

Where: 8.00am. Meet at the far end of Irrawong Road, off Garden Street, North Narrabeen.

Sunday 15 November

Warriewood Wetlands

The Wetlands' variety of habitats supports many species, making it one of Sydney's birding hotspots.

Where: 7.30am. Meet at Katoa Close, North Narrabeen.

Report—May 24 Chiltern Trail

The highlight of this morning was Brown-headed Honeyeater. Not a rare bird but uncommonly seen. A hint of what's to come with flowering Styphelia and Crowea.

Orb-weaving Garden Spider

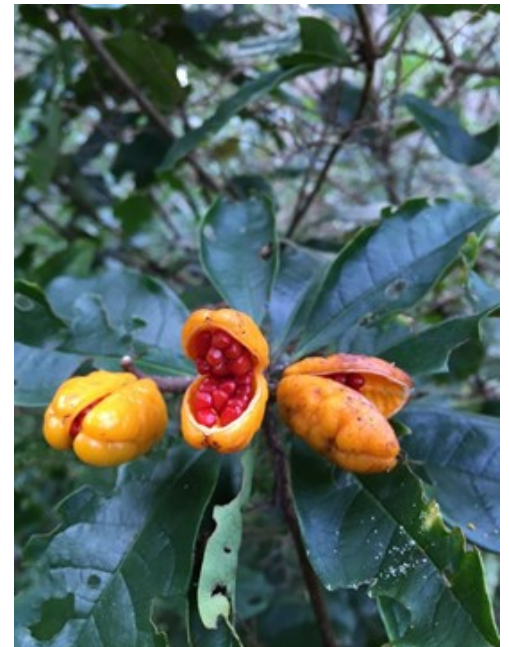
Eriophora transmarina.

This familiar species displays great variations in colour and patterns on its abdomen. This one was near Careel Creek in Avalon in April.



Winter Colour

Pittosporum revolutum's clusters of small yellow flowers produce spectacular fleshy seed pods with sticky red seeds in autumn. It's a small local native shrub with attractive foliage, happy in light shade on damp soils.



A Rare Orchid, Mona Vale Road and Ingleside Land Release

The Angus Onion Orchid, *Microtis angusi*, was originally found in one disturbed site beside Mona Vale Road near Kimbriki Tip.

This terrestrial orchid is listed as endangered under both the NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 and the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. As part of the environmental assessment for the Mona Vale Road upgrade, Roads and Maritime Services have identified this species along the road corridor in Ingleside. They now need to conduct field surveys to find out if and where else the orchid is present in Ingleside, to comply with State and Commonwealth government requirements.

They will be conducting surveys for the orchid in early spring. Samples will be then subject to genetic testing so that they can confirm their identity and distribution. The known distribution of the Angus Onion Orchid is very restricted and any new locations could potentially change the understanding of the species' preferred habitat and ecology. The knowledge gathered from these surveys will give important information that will contribute to the Biodiversity Certification Assessment.

Note from PNHA: We could not find a good image of the orchid, For more information see:

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedSpeciesApp/profile.aspx?id=10531>

PNHA opposes Pittwater Council Amalgamation

We have joined the Pittwater Forever group of 19 community groups. We believe Pittwater Council and its community can be demonstrated to be Fit for the Future and that Pittwater's boundaries should not change.

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.

Contact Details: Tel/Fax 02 9918 3368

Email: pnhainfo@gmail.com

www.pnha.org.au