

PNHA flies in road ecology expert to give advice to Minister

Pittwater Natural Heritage Association has taken a bold initiative by bringing one of Australia's leading road ecologists to Pittwater to speak to Planning Minister Rob Stokes about fauna crossings and corridors for the planned Mona Vale Road Upgrade and Ingleside Precinct residential development. We are concerned that an upgrade of Mona Vale Road to four lanes and a residential development in Ingleside could isolate native fauna in Katandra Bushland Sanctuary and Ingleside Chase Reserve, leading to local extinctions.

Associate Professor Darryl Jones from Queensland's Griffith University is an ecologist working in the field of urban ecology and wildlife management. He has studied the use of fauna overpasses and underpasses and wildlife connectivity in urban environments. He spoke to Minister Stokes about his long term monitoring of the Compton Road Overpass in Brisbane

Professor Jones also spoke at *Roads, Wildlife Links and Development*, a public information evening at the Tramshed Community Arts Centre on Monday 9 November along with Dr Bradley Law, a leading researcher in local native fauna. The capacity crowd was treated to two inspiring presentations showing what can be done to understand the habitat and connectivity needs of local fauna. Representatives from PNHA will be taking this information to a meeting with Roads and Maritime in the near future.



Left to right: Darryl Jones, Marita Macrae, Bradley Law, Jacqui Marlow, David Palmer. (Image: Michael Mannington Volunteer Photography)

Bangalley Headland Landcare Group



Contract bush regeneration has now started on five blocks of Landcare Group members' private bushland in Binburra Road, Avalon.



Local Land Services
Greater Sydney

This bushland adjoins the Bangalley Reserve above. Residents will work with other Landcare Group members to learn how to identify native plants and weeds and manage the land themselves in future. The funding is from a Community Landcare grant, through Greater Sydney Local Land Services and will run for three years.

Landcare Group members Paul Boler, Marc Depret and Paul Mahon discuss plans for the bush regeneration to come with Grant Auld (in hat), supervisor for Toolijooa, the contractors.

Ingleside and Mona Vale Road Update

After our successful public information evening “Roads, Wildlife Links and Development” at the Narrabeen Tramshed Community Arts Centre, the PNHA Fauna Connectivity campaign group await the next stages in the Mona Vale Road Upgrade and Ingleside Precinct residential development.

These two developments are interrelated as the full development of 3500 dwellings in Ingleside depends on completion of the upgrade of Mona Vale Road, so we expect that the two developments will proceed side by side.

At the moment NSW Roads and Mari-

time Services is evaluating the community feedback to its Review of Environmental Factors for the Mona Vale Road East upgrade. The next stage will be to complete the detailed design and obtain funding from the state government. Construction is expected to begin in 2016/2017.

The next stage in Planning for residential development in the Ingleside precinct will be the release of an Indicative Layout Plan for the Ingleside Precinct. This is expected to occur before Christmas and will be on exhibition for about two months.

While we wait we are meeting with RMS staff and gathering more research to inform our campaign. The main focus of our campaign is to get Roads and Maritime Services and the Department of Planning and Environment (Planners for the Ingleside precinct) to work together on a holistic plan for fauna connectivity across Mona Vale Road and through the Ingleside precinct.

The PNHA fauna connectivity mission is



to change this to this



Two Spring Orchids of Ingleside

While searching in Ingleside for the Angus Onion Orchid (far right), we came upon the spectacular Golden Donkey Orchid (left). However, it is this modest orchid with many green flowers about 3mm long that is delaying the process of the Ingleside Land Release as it is an endangered species. Botanists searched for its flowers in September and October to determine just where it occurs. After flowering it disappears for another year. (Images: M.Macrae)



Upper Mullet Creek Biodiversity Restoration Project

This project is now in its fourth year. Quite a lot of the tubestock has survived wallaby browsing. This quarter million dollar six year grant project is funded by NSW Environmental Trusts. Weeds are relentless however and the recent rain is a boon to them as well as the natives planted and naturally regenerating. The bushcare group meets on the third Saturday of each month and would love your help. We meet at 2pm at the far end of Irrawong Road at the start of the walking track to the waterfall. Contact Helena Dewis, Pittwater Council Bushcare Officer on 0408 164 235.

Pittwater Environmental Foundation (PEF) is running this project in partnership with Pittwater Council. You can

make a tax deductible donation to environmental projects in Pittwater through PEF.

Email: contact@pittwaterenvironmentalfoundation.org.au
or phone 9997 3459



**Pittwater
Environmental
Foundation**



Crab Spider

Sidymella rubrosignata

Every cluster of flowers had one female spider lying in wait to catch visiting insects. Only one male among about 20 females, and he was on a leaf away from the flowers.

Here's a good website for spiders, great images and information.

[www.arachne.org.au/
default.asp](http://www.arachne.org.au/default.asp)

You can click on the index on the left of the Home Page to see different types of spiders. The links don't work super fast, so be a bit patient. More information about *Sidymella rubrosignata*:

[www.arachne.org.au/01_cms/
details.asp?ID=2113](http://www.arachne.org.au/01_cms/details.asp?ID=2113)



Sidymella rubrosignata on
Pittosporum revolutum

Christmas Shopping

A \$10 pack of six PNHA cards makes a good small gift. Choose from several packs: Pittwater Birds, Yellow Flowers, Red Flowers, Mixed Flowers, Pittwater Landscapes. Light to post overseas too. Single cards are \$2.00 each.



PIMAG – support for our Indian Myna trapping campaign grows

The Pittwater Indian Myna Action Group sub-committee is making steady progress on our Myna trapping program. A good response to our Facebook page and a recent article in the Manly Daily has led to more traps being distributed to schools, businesses and residents in the Pittwater area. We have also had a number of enquiries from other council areas and are encouraging people to establish trapping programs in their own locality to complement the PIMAG program. For more information or to request a trap go to the PIMAG Facebook page or email pnhainfo@gmail.com

That Mynas do take over nesting hollows from native fauna was observed in the Warriewood Wetlands recently. A few years ago PNHA put up nesting boxes for Sacred Kingfishers whose nesting holes disappeared when the arboreal termite mounds collapsed. One box at least is now occupied by a Myna family. We expect Pittwater Council will move nest boxes further up the creek where kingfishers are breeding in surviving termite mounds.



AGM at Katandra September 20

David Palmer gave an update on PNHA's campaign to retain fauna connectivity through the Ingleside precinct and across Mona Vale Road.

Pittwater Natural Heritage Association's interest in this area began with our successful campaign to preserve the Warriewood Escarpment from residential development. We are now campaigning to preserve fauna movement between Ingleside Chase Reserve (Warriewood escarpment), Katandra Bushland Sanctuary and Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park. For more information on the campaign see "*Ingleside and Mona Vale Road Update*" on page 2.

Then Jayden Walsh described his hunt for a Spotted-tailed Quoll and the richness of species of our local birds and other fauna.

Our 2015 Committee was re-elected for 2015-16.

Chair: Marita Macrae

Vice Chair: Kerry Smith

Secretary: David Palmer

Membership Secretary: Robyn Hughes

Treasurer: Mark Turner

Committee members: Gary Harris, Julie Bennett, Annette Bonnefin.

Do you have a Brush or Scrub Turkey in your Garden?

Have a look at this link to get some tips on how to have Scrub Turkeys AND a garden. Read: <http://www.abc.net.au/gardening/stories/s4348083.htm> or <http://iview.abc.net.au/programs/gardening-australia/FA1405V036S00> to see the action.

PNHA Camera Trap

Our PNHA Camera trap is now back from Rocky Point on the western shores, where it has been spying on nest boxes. Many Feathertail Gliders have been spotted but so far no Eastern Pygmy Possums.

If you would like to see who is in your garden at night, you can borrow this camera. Contact us on 0439 409 202 or pnhainfo@gmail.com

What is PNHA doing?

Keep up to date on the latest PNHA events with our Facebook and Web pages.

PNHA Membership grows.

We now have 103 financial members.

Is your membership up to date?

Update on PNHA Activities

Birdwatching at Warriewood Wetlands on 15 November

Sadly, the morning of our last outing of the year was rainy and overcast so we had to cancel the walk, but a few hardy birdwatchers turned up anyway. While the rain held off we walked into the Wetlands and were rewarded with excellent sightings of some uncommon species—an adult and juvenile Black Bittern, and a white morph Grey Goshawk. We also had good views of an Eastern Spinebill feeding its young. Warriewood Wetlands never disappoints!

Royal Botanic Gardens staff demonstration of seed collecting at Baha'i Temple

Grevillea caleyi seed is rare and precious. PNHA's volunteer Bushcare morning on December 7 had staff of the

Royal Botanic Gardens collecting seed for propagation and long term storage in the Mount Annan PlantBank. This is an important back-up facility which ensures that the species will be preserved if it suffers loss in its natural habitat. They demonstrated their techniques to the volunteers.

Meanwhile our bush regeneration project at the Baha'i Temple continues with the dedicated team of volunteers from PNHA and the Baha'i congregation assisting profes-

Each boat-shaped seed pod contains two seeds that are shed when it splits open. The trick is to know when it is going to split.



sional bush regenerators to help the recovery of this critically endangered grevillea.

We are always in need of more volunteers so if you are interested in helping call David Palmer on 0404 171 940

Pittwater Estuary Care 3 – progress

The most visible work so far is near Barrenjoey Road and Etival Street where Coral trees have been removed. This wet area is a remnant of the wetland filled in with rubbish in the 60s over which Hitchcock Park and the dog exercise area have been constructed.

The community planting day here on November 28 helped reinstate native vegetation.

The Etival unleashed dog exercise area has an interesting list of birds sighted in the trees and in the nearby mangroves. An illustrated sign about them will go up in the park as part of this project.

Also at the Careel Bay end of Etival St a new sign about the migratory waders and other birds that use the mudflats will be installed.

Unleashed dogs in this area have disturbed waders and numbers of birds are much lower than previously. Some dog owners are aggressively insistent that the rules do not apply to them.



Coral tree stumps have been painted with blue-dyed glyphosate to stop regrowth

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.

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