

P N H A N E W S

Autumn 2026 Issue 107

Pittwater Natural Heritage Association - thinking locally, acting locally

Fauna Corridor Land Campaign

We are pleased to report that PNHA's campaign for protection of the Ingleside fauna corridor land adjacent to the fauna bridge on Mona Vale Road East is moving steadily in the right direction as our lobbying at both state and local government levels leads to action.



On the local government level Northern Beaches Council has resolved (unanimously) to investigate options for the protection of the land. Council has sent letters to The NSW Department of Planning, Transport for NSW and the Department of Environment, asking them to liaise with council on ways to protect the bushland corridor.

On the State government front our local MPs, Jacqui Scruby and Michael Regan, have agreed to co-sign a letter to Penny Sharpe, Minister for the Environment, asking her to work with other government departments on the matter.

Protection of this land is essential to enable native wildlife which crosses Mona Vale Road East by the fauna bridge or the underpass to move through the landscape to Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park.

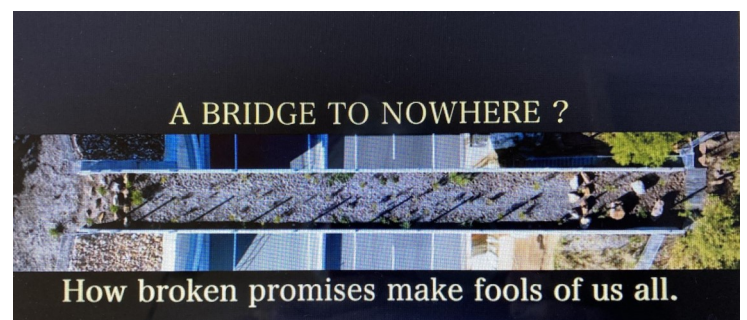
Looking east across the fauna bridge on Mona Vale Road East Photo: D.Palmer

As previously reported, native animals including wallabies and bandicoots have been recorded on the fauna bridge, and as the vegetation becomes denser the number of species using this corridor should increase.

What's the Problem?

Watch: A Bridge to Nowhere? Video on YouTube

Press Ctrl and Click on the image to find out.



INSIDE: Sylvia's Books, , Bee Hawk Moth, Weeds Round Table, Pampas Grass, Manly Dam Biodiversity, Project Restore of Posidonia, Blue-faced Honeyeaters, Praying Mantis mating, Autumn Wildflowers



Protecting Pittwater's Environment

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Sylvia's Wildlife Books

You might have met Sylvia Saszczak and seen her books at our AGM in October last year. Have a look at the article on [page 18 March 2026 issue of Pittwater Life](#) to read how she is introducing primary students to our local wildlife and environment. PNHA is supporting her wonderful work.

One of Sylvia's book is about Sydney Wildlife Rescue. Here she is at the SWR mobile vet clinic:

L-R Margaret Woods, Sydney Wildlife Rescue animal carer and PNHA committee member, Sylvia, veterinarian Dr Sang Tran.



Bee Hawk Moth

If you have Gardenias in your garden, watch out for the spectacular caterpillar of this moth. It won't eat more than a few leaves the plant can spare. The caterpillar changes its colour and patterns as it grows. This one was on a gardenia in North Narrabeen, but there are several native food plants.



Left: an early stage, and right, a few days later. Hawkmoths have a tail spike that is not a sting. The caterpillar will pupate in leaf litter underneath the food plant.

Images: Kerry Smith



The Bee Hawk Moths, *Cephanodes* species, are distinctive green, yellow and black striped Hawk moths, with a wingspan of about 4cm.

The moths lose the scales on their wings with their first wing flutters, giving them the appearance of a large bumble bee. This is emphasised when the moth hovers in front of flowers while feeding.

This and more Hawkmoth information plus this image of the moth go to the [Australian Museum](#) website.



Weeds Round Table

Several times a year PNHA member Conny Harris convenes a Weeds Round Table with bushcare folk and council staff. She first leads a walk to some bushland area to look at weeds and native vegetation. Then we meet with council staff and share concerns, information and expertise about weeds, showing our specimens.

At the recent meeting we looked at two serious weeds from South America.

1. **Madeira Vine** *Anredera cordifolia*, is in bloom now, with showy catkins of tiny white flowers on the trees it is climbing, making it visible in the landscape, below right. Thankfully it doesn't set seeds but spreads by falling aerial tubers, right. Is it in your garden or bushcare site? More about it [here](#).



2. Sticky Nightshade

Solanum sisymbriifolia is now appearing in our area. Find out about it [here](#). A super prickly shrub 1m tall with red berries. Take a photo and let council know if you find it:

bushcare@
northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au

Contact PNHA if you would like to attend these meetings.



We mentioned to staff we had noticed weeds along the roadside on Mona Vale Road East. Fleabane is obvious but worse is Pampas Grass whose seeds can spread for kilometres. We raised our concerns with staff who undertook to find out who is responsible for roadside maintenance.

Next day staff reported that **Transport for NSW** is responsible for maintenance and engage a weed management contractor **ConnectSydney** to do this. We hope they get to work soon. See: <https://au.linkedin.com/company/connectsydney>

Dept of Planning have many vacant bushland blocks that sit adjacent to this corridor and have a contractor that actively manages weeds. Some of the pampas beyond the fenceline boundaries will be on their land.

NBC staff have reiterated the urgent need for control of the currently flowering Pampas grass throughout the corridor (Mona Vale Cemetery to Manor Road-both sides) including those identified within their old site office, 30 Walana Crescent.

Staff reported they have also recently found pampas clumps along the boundary within Ingleside Chase Reserve, below the fauna crossing footprint on the south side of the road and will organise for the contractors to control as soon as possible.



Pampas Grass

<https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/Pampasgrass>

Save Manly Dam

The Save Manly Dam Catchment Committee has used a Federal Government and a Northern Beaches Council Grant (supplemented by Australian Conservation Foundation) to commission some of Australia's top ecologists to survey, monitor and record the amazing flora and fauna that calls this place home. The Committee commented: more data we collect, the greater chance we have of conserving these irreplaceable natural wonders and protecting them from local extinction. Want to be a citizen scientist and help this project?

Click on the link for more info: <https://manlydambiodiversityproject.org/>

Project Restore

This seascape restoration initiative is based in Sydney Harbour, working to restore degraded marine habitats so both humans and marine life can thrive. The project is based at the Sydney Institute of Marine Science in Mosman and is part of the broader NSW Government Seabirds to Seascapes Program. A key focus of the project is the recovery of the endangered seagrass *Posidonia australis*. This species is listed as endangered under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) and faces significant threats. In Sydney Harbour, populations have declined over centuries due to impacts such as block and chain moorings, anchoring, pollution, and coastal construction.

To bring these vital meadows back, Project Restore is translocating seagrass from nearby estuaries ,including Pittwater, while also addressing one of the primary causes of decline—traditional boat moorings. Translocation involves collecting seagrass fragments from healthy donor meadows and replanting them at restoration sites. Over the past two years, the project has achieved a survival rate of 80%.

The most exciting part is that you can help restore these endangered seagrass meadows. By joining the citizen science program, **The Storm Squad**, community members play a vital role in collecting naturally washed-up *Posidonia australis* fragments from local beaches and depositing them at designated seagrass collection points.



In Pittwater, a collection point has been installed on the jetty behind The Joey at Station Beach. The Project Restore scientists are asking local community members to walk along Station Beach and collect these fragments. The best time to collect is at low tide following storm events where there has been strong wind and swell. This is when the shoots can become detached and wash ashore.

Watch this short video explaining the collection process: [Seagrass Collection Stations](#)

Find out more about Project Restore & the Storm Squad here: <https://projectrestore.sims.org.au/get-involved>

Project Restore is generously funded by NSW Environmental Trust and in partnership with the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water as part of the Seabirds to Seascapes Program, Project Restore aims to enhance and regenerate urban marine habitats by recovering lost seagrass meadows, enhancing kelp forests, installing living seawall panels, and deploying artificial fish habitats at key sites within the harbour.

Tom Burd
Operations Coordinator Project Restore
Sydney Institute of Marine science



The Pittwater shoreline after wild seas is where to find pieces of *Posidonia* for translocation. **Tip for collectors—take a bucket to keep the seagrass wet.**



Blue Faced Honeyeater

An unusual bird for Pittwater, these fledglings came from a nest near Careel Bay in January. Image: Alison Guesdon

The **Blue-faced Honeyeater** is a large black, white and golden olive-green honeyeater with striking blue skin around the yellow to white eye. The crown, face and neck are black, with a narrow white band across the back of the neck. The upperparts and wings are a golden olive green, and the underparts are white, with a grey-black throat and upper breast. The blue facial skin is two-toned, with the lower half a brilliant cobalt blue. Juvenile birds are similar to the adults but the facial skin is yellow-green and the bib is a lighter grey. This honeyeater is noisy and gregarious, and is usually seen in pairs or small flocks. It is known as the Banana-bird in tropical areas, for its habit of feeding on banana fruit and flowers. Reference: This information and image of adult bird: [Australian Museum](#)



Praying Mantis *Pseudomantis albofimbriata*

Mating praying mantises by torchlight, Avalon. Is this a loving embrace?

We wondered about the fate of the male, on left hand side. He runs the risk of having his head bitten off while mating, or soon afterwards. Observations about mantis cannibalism [here](#) relate to various mantis species and the risks males take in mating.

Grahame Milledge, entomologist at the Australian Museum, commented on our picture: "I suspect he made his getaway. They don't always get eaten and she looks pretty plump already."

Autumn Wildflowers

The rain after the hot dry weather brings out flowers that enjoy autumn.



Carrot Tops *Platysace linearifolia*



Flax-leafed Wattle *Acacia linifolia*



Banksia oblongifolia



Mistletoe *Amyema congener*



Grey spider Flower, *Grevillea buxifolia*



Leptospermum rotundifolium



Sunshine Wattle *Acacia terminalis*

Membership of **Pittwater Natural Heritage Association Landcare Group** is open to all who share our aims of caring for the natural environment of the Pittwater area and working to enhance and protect it. You can find a Membership Application form on our website <http://pnha.org.au/join/> or contact us on pnhainfo@gmail.com for one to be sent to you.

Cost \$20 per year, \$10 unwaged.