



Bushcare **Broadcast**

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Announcement

To find out more and to keep up to date with Georges River Bushcare please like and follow us [facebook.com/GRCBushcareVolunteers](https://www.facebook.com/GRCBushcareVolunteers)

If you're a Bushcare volunteer and have a great story to tell about your site or something of interest you saw during one of your Bushcare sessions please feel free to send it to bushcare@georgesriver.nsw.gov.au for consideration in the next BUSHCARE BROADCAST

Bushcare Calendar

Sunday 30 July 2023
National Tree Day
Beverly Hills Park, 10.00am-1.00pm

Sunday 30 July 2023
Native Plant Giveaway
Mortdale Council Depot, 9.00am-2.00pm

Friday 1 September 2023
Wattle Day
Oatley Park, 9.00am-11.00am

For more events check Council's 'What's On' page

Clarendon Road Reserve CRIF Event

In February, the Bushcare team were joined by some great volunteers who helped at Clarendon Road Reserve. Plenty of weeds were removed including Lantana and invasive grasses, which invade estuarine areas. One lucky volunteer spotted Alligator weed – a priority weed in the Sydney region, which was removed and disposed of correctly by Council's Biosecurity Officer. This event was a milestone of the Crown Reserves Improvement Fund (CRIF) program.

Weeding invasive grasses



Removing Alligator weed



Planting Day at Poulton Park

Some keen volunteers gathered to plant much needed shrubs and grasses in a bare area of Poulton Park, benefiting the local vegetation community. Even the torrential downpour could not stop these dedicated hard workers who planted out over 800 shrubs and grasses native to the surrounding bushland. This event was a milestone for the Local Land Services (LLS) grant Council received for the site.



Volunteers planting out the 800 native shrubs and grasses of differing species



Shipwrights Reserve Plantings

Shipwrights Bay Reserve in Blakehurst received funding through the Crown Reserves Improvement Fund (CRIF) program. Hundreds of species from the vegetation community found on-site were planted to help increase canopy and biodiversity. Species included Coastal Banksia which is a favorite food source for yellow-tailed black cockatoos. The photos below show volunteers planting out the site.



PLANT PROFILE:

The Woody Pear, *Xylomelum pyriforme*. Dharawal-Meridja-couroo

The Woody Pear is a small tree 2-4m high. Its leaves can look like a Waratah leaf however Woody Pear leaves are opposite, the Waratahs are alternate. It belongs to the *Proteaceae* family. Like all Protea species, it responds well to fire through its lignotuber, which is the thick woody bulge at the top of the root system. This protects the tree from fire and allows for new growth. Recent DNA sampling suggests the Woody Pear is closely related to the *Lambertia* genus which includes the well-known Mountain Devil. The Woody Pear flowers in late spring on a spike inflorescence and are white covered in rusty coloured hairs. The fruits, of course, resemble a pear and are covered in fine velvety skin which hardens when mature.



Trad Smut Update

The recent release of the leaf smut fungus (*Kordyana brasiliensis*) targeting the pesky Wandering Trad (*Tradescantia fluminensis*) has been working well in the 3 sites it has been released. As this weed can form dense carpets smothering the ground from protentional native regeneration of grasses and forbs, it is a welcome addition to the Bushcare arsenal to help with weed control. Releasing this biological control has enabled Bushcare volunteers to shift focus from hand weeding Trad all the time and move onto other potential problems occurring within the sites. If you're wondering how the smut fungus works, it spreads through spores and needs wandering trad leaves to survive. It enters the leaves of wandering trad through the leaf's air pockets called stomata and slowly uses the energy of the plant for its own use. This decreases the amount of chlorophyll the plant needs to survive. How cool is that!

Trad smut fungus on leaves at Lime Kiln Bay



It's All Yellow

As Spring draws near, GRC's Biosecurity Officer is planning weed inspections. This year they are concentrating on three priority weeds that are all yellow – Boneseed (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera* subsp. *monilifera*), Spanish Broom (*Spartium junceum*) and Scotch Broom (*Cytisus scoparius* subsp. *scoparius*). These all have bright yellow flowers which make them easier to locate when spring flowering occurs.

These three yellow-flowered weeds have a limited distribution in Georges River and are all priority weeds in the Greater Sydney Region. There is a control order in place for Boneseed in NSW – meaning that all plants must be destroyed, and the land kept free of the plant. Boneseed has been found in Kingsgrove, Riverwood and Oatley and is usually located close to the rail corridor. It is easily identified by its bright yellow daisy flowers and fleshy leaves.

Spanish Broom and Scotch Broom have been found in isolated numbers, mainly in the gardens of residents. Both shrubs are covered in attractive yellow "pea" flowers in spring and are toxic to humans.

More information on these weeds can be found at on DPI's NSW WeedWise website. If you think you have seen any of these weeds, please contact Council on 9330 6400 or mail@georgesriver.nsw.gov.au.



Boneseed (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera* subsp. *monilifera*),

Updated Weed Management Plan.

The Greater Sydney Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan has recently been updated. The five-year Plan is a guide to which weeds are a priority in our region and outlines how we manage weeds in Georges River and across Greater Sydney. Biosecurity is everyone's responsibility, and the Plan helps

determine how government, industry and community will work together to reduce the impact of weeds on is everyone's responsibility, and the Plan helps determine how government, industry and community will work together to reduce the impact of weeds on industry, people, biodiversity and infrastructure. You can read more about how the Plan was produced and find a link to the plan at [Regional Strategic Weed Management Plans - Local Land Services \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.lls.nsw.gov.au) or visit www.lls.nsw.gov.au.

Volunteers removing Asparagus fern from Gannons Park on a training day.



There are some great apps available to download on your phone such as the DPI's WEEDWISE app and WeedScan which outline biosecurity duties and control methods.



WeedScan

Utilities

GET



NSW WeedWise

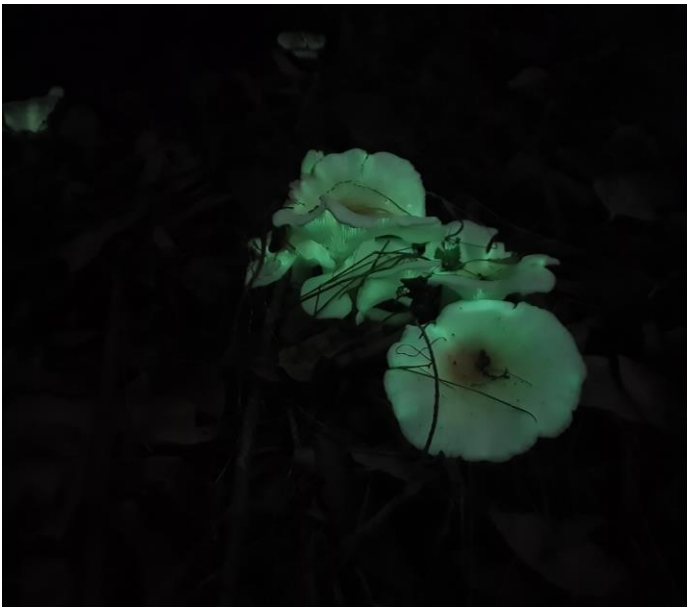
NSW Department of
Primary Industries

OPEN

Ghost Fungus

This is *Omphalotus nidiformis* or Ghost fungus. This mushroom plays an important role in breaking down wood and recycling nutrients back into the soil. They love to hang out with Eucalyptus, Acacias, Hakeas and Banksias. The glowing is from bioluminescence properties.

Note: This mushroom is not edible and will cause vomiting and cramps. Please Do Not eat wild mushrooms without proper identification.



Vegetation Community:

Coastal Enriched Sandstone Dry Forest

This vegetation community is the most common throughout our LGA. Comprising of around 24% of all bushlands in the Georges River area, this community is dominated by the stunning Sydney Red Gum (*Angophora costata*). Coastal Enriched Sandstone Dry Forest is described as a tall open eucalypt forest with an understorey of dry sclerophyll (hard leaves) shrubs and ferns and herbaceous flowering plants and ground covers. Good examples of this community occur in Gannons Park, Poulton Park, Carss Park, Oatley Park and Kyle Williams Reserve in Blakehurst which currently contains the largest population of the Bonnet Orchid (*Cryptostylis erecta*).

As this vegetation community covers 174ha of the LGA, it provides vital habitat for flora and fauna and provides green corridors for species to move through such as the threatened Powerful Owl and 5 vulnerable species of microbats. Photo below shows CESDF in Oatley Park.



We Are Controlling Foxes

Fox control was undertaken at several key bushland reserves as part of the Crown Reserves Improvement Fund to eradicate pest species from Crown Reserves.

A total of 23 foxes were removed from these bushland areas over the three-month period of an intensive program, running from April to June 2023.

The program has helped to protect our native wildlife and improve biodiversity in the Georges River Council area.

If you spot a fox within Georges River Council, please report sightings through the Feral Scan website: <https://www.feralscan.org.au/foxscan/> so we can control these pesky ferals!



Bushcare Grants and Projects:

Georges River Council Bushcare has two current grants running: Shipwrights Bay Reserve and Oatley Park. Both these grants are provided by the Crown Reserves Improvement Fund (CRIF) program. Contractors and Bushcare volunteers have been helping to improve the condition of these bushland reserves by reducing the number of weeds, canopy preservation and rubbish removal. Native planting carried out has also helped to increase species diversity within the reserves.

Become a Bushcare volunteer

Snap the QR code or go to Council's website and register to be a Bushcare volunteer.



Bushcare Fun Stats



Fauna stats: Buff-banded Rail, Echidnas, Satin Bowerbird, Sacred Kingfisher, Powerful Owls



Best natives to plant: Tea Trees, Grevilleas and Bottlebrushes.



Trees planted: 178 canopy species



What is flowering: Wattles and Banksias



**GEORGES RIVER
BUSHCARE**
Volunteers