



# 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](mailto:bushcare@georgesriver.nsw.gov.au) for consideration in the next BUSHCARE BROADCAST.

## *Bushcare Calendar*

### **Friday 18 November 2022**

Pollinator Week, Poulton Park  
9.00am-12.00pm

### **Wednesday 23 November 2022**

Bushcare Christmas Party, The Castle  
Oatley Park  
11.00am-2.00pm (Active volunteers only)

## Biological control for Wandering Trad released in Moore Reserve and Ogilvy St Reserve Nth



Trad Smut on infected leaves

This Summer Bushcare is introducing a new weapon in the battle against weeds in our Bushland. They have released a leaf-smut fungus as a biological control to help with the control of the environmental weed Wandering Trad.

Wandering Trad (*Tradescantia fluminensis*) is an herbaceous groundcover native to South America. It is a widespread weed in Georges River and forms dense “carpets” that smother native plants. It thrives in low light conditions and out-competes native species reducing the diversity and health of our native vegetation. Wandering Trad can also cause skin irritations in domestic pets and people.

Bushcare is working in partnership with CSIRO and other participants across NSW to release the Trad smut, which is native to Brazil, in suitable locations. The smut-fungus grows best in humid, shaded conditions and will be released in Moore Reserve, Oatley and Ogilvy Street Reserve North, Peakhurst. It is expected that the smut-fungus will take 6 months to establish and should spread out from the initial infection point within 12 months.

In the long term, Bushcare hopes that the Trad smut will reduce the amount of chemical and mechanical control of Wandering Trad required in our reserves and aid in the natural regeneration of native plants in Georges River.

More information on the CSIRO Trad smut biological control can be found at [Smut to the rescue – CSIROscope](#).

## Georges River Council National Tree Day Event.

This year's National Tree Day event was held at Beverly Hills Park (Black Forest Reserve). A great number of participants turned up to do their bit for the environment by creating what will soon to be vegetation layers within the plant community on the reserve. The participants planted 1000 native grasses, shrubs, small trees and a few canopy trees with a pocket of the reserve lacking native plants.

Oatley Lions Club helped by providing a well-earned BBQ sausage on a roll, for our hungry volunteers after a great effort in planting and watering the plants. Oatley Flora and Fauna members were also on hand to lend support throughout the morning. A big thank you to the Mayor of Georges River Council for his contribution in planting some trees. Another thanks to the International Peace Youth Group for bringing their enthusiasm for planting trees on the day. To all other members of the community thank you for showing up and helping plant out all our plants, we couldn't have done it without all your help and support.

Georges River Council Bushcare are so proud of you all turning up to plant a tree. We cannot wait to see them all grow up, not only providing vital structure to the plant community, but contributing to the overall biodiversity of the site too.

Thanks again and hope to see you all at the next tree day planting event.



Volunteers planting trees

## Wattle Walk Carss Bush Park

In celebration of National Wattle Day, the Bushcare team lead an intrepid & enthusiastic group of individuals on a guided walk through Carss Bush Park. We braved the early morning drizzle and jumping ants before enjoying the natural beauty of the reserve. The brilliant displays of our local wattles were in full effect, providing a wonderful opportunity to learn about how great Acacias are. We also learned how many wattles act as a seasonal calendar for first nations people and the many uses those wattles have.

# The brilliant displays of our local wattles were in full effect.



Bushcare Officer John showing the wattle

## The Red Triangle Slug

Did you know that the Red Triangle Slug is Australia's largest native land slug. The red triangle on its back contains its breathing pore. Native slugs only have 1 pair of tentacles whilst introduced species have 2 pairs.

These slugs can be found in a variety of habitats all along the east coast of Australia. They feed on microscopic algae growing on the surface of smooth barked Eucalypt & Angophora trees, leaving behind a scalloped track.

*The Bushcare team stumbled across this pair, just after some heavy rains doing their thing in Lower Gannons Park on the track towards Heinrich Reserve.*





Showing TAFE students differing techniques of weeding

## Bushcare Partnership with Padstow TAFE Horticulture

Georges River Council Bushcare have teamed up with Padstow TAFE Horticultural students for some community engagement and to show students the principles and practices of Bushland Regeneration. This program has helped students understand ecological practices within a bushland environment, showing students the different techniques required to tackle weeds in urban bushland reserves. Bush regeneration principles and practices were outlined to the students from hand out sheets from the Australian Association of Bush Regenerators (AABR) and overall, the students had a productive day out in the field to help GRC Bushcare team treat and remove some environmental weeds such as Lantana and Asparagus fern.



**Fauna stats:** Yellow Tailed Black Cockatoos, Channel-Billed Cuckoos and Dollar Birds have arrived.



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



**Trees planted:** 128 canopy species.



**What is flowering:** It's Spring and the sandstone vegetation is on full display.

## Bushcare Grants and Projects

GRC Bushcare's latest grant project funded by Local Land Services is for Poulton Park where we will be doing some plantings with the Bushcare group, other organisations and events to improve habitat and biodiversity. Check out the Pollinator Week event being held in Poulton Park and register your spot here <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/pollinator-week-tickets-257640318127> to come along.

These signs will be installed very shortly around the park to inform the general public of what's happening:



## Clarendon Rd Reserve Project

Clarendon Rd Reserve project is up and running with contractors working within the vegetation communities on site to help improve native canopy stability and reduce the amount of weeds present within the Estuarine Swamp Oak Forest and the Sydney Hinterland Apple-Blackbutt Gully Forest. The funding is provided through the Crown Reserves Improvement Funds program (CRIF).

