



RHHFFPS

Wallumetta

Newsletter of the Ryde-Hunters Hill Flora and Fauna
Preservation Society Inc.

Website: <http://rydehffps.org.au/>

Member of the Nature Conservation Council of NSW (NCC)
and founding member of the Powerful Owl Coalition

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We acknowledge the Wallumedegal, original inhabitants of the Ryde – Hunters Hill area.

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Many members will welcome the recent change of government for the Australian Parliament and in particular the election of Jerome Laxale in Bennelong. At the time of writing the final result for Bennelong has not been announced by the Australian Electoral Commission but according to Antony Green from the ABC Jerome is on track to win the seat. As Mayor of Ryde Jerome has been a consistent supporter of the efforts of the Society and we look forward to continuing this productive relationship with Jerome in the Federal Parliament.

Apart from this, what else is of direct interest to the Society with the change of government? Priorities that we have pursued include the review of the Environmental Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act, the health of the Parramatta River catchment, protecting the Great Barrier Reef, protecting our native flora & fauna, Marine Parks and clean energy.

The policies of the new government were set out in 'Labor's plan to protect our environment' and are available on the internet via the following link:

<https://www.alp.org.au/policies/protecting-our-environment>

These policies are a welcome move towards the priorities that we have pursued. In particular the policy concerning [Environmental Law Reform and a National Environmental Protection Agency](#) goes towards addressing our concerns about the EPBC Act. The policy states:

Labor will provide a full response to the Samuel Review, and commit to ongoing consultation on law reform, to make sure our environmental laws work better for environmental protection.

Another policy that is welcome is restoring the funding of the Environmental Defenders Office. The EDO has played a vital role in successfully conducting legal challenges to decisions that have adverse environmental consequences.

There is not sufficient space to discuss in detail all of these policies and members are encouraged to follow the link for more information. Our role now is to take the opportunity that these policies present to further our objects as set out in the Society's constitution.

Frank Breen,

President

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KOALAS LISTED AS ENDANGERED SPECIES

Koalas have just been listed as endangered under the Biodiversity Conservation Act in NSW.

While the whole country was distracted by the federal election, the NSW government quietly announced the Threatened Species Scientific Committee's finding.

Clearing of habitat for agriculture is a key driver of the koala's decline.

The NCC believes this must be a total reset for how koalas are managed in this state, to turn their plight from a downward trajectory to one of recovery. The devastating endangered listing of koalas comes as no surprise in a state where the government refuses to protect habitat. Koala numbers have been in freefall for years and the NSW Government must act immediately to protect their habitat.

To save koalas, we have to protect their trees. It is not complex.

But koala habitat continues to be destroyed because of weak government policy that prioritises land clearance for grazing, agriculture, urbanisation, timber harvesting and mining. The government is wilfully approving the destruction of koala habitat across the state; a problem that is projected to be much worse under climate change.

NCC will:

- Work with other organisations to demonstrate widespread concern about this issue and pressure the government through sharing intel and strategy, open letters to government and shared media statements;
- Help passionate nature-lovers meet their MPs face to face to insist on better protections for koalas. We know from experience that MP meetings are one of the most powerful ways to make politicians pay attention to the issue. Coordinating supporter meetings with MPs in Sydney, on the North Coast and the South Coast; and
- Mount a high-profile mass media and social media campaign exposing the massive decline of native species and their habitats under the government's mismanagement. This will generate grassroots pressure around the issue in the lead up to the 2023 state election.

Koalas are now more vulnerable than ever. The NSW government does not take its responsibility to protect this species seriously. We must step up and do everything we can to protect it.



STREAMLINING ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS

"The federal government's so-called environmental reform package is a gift to coal and gas giants and a kick in the guts for threatened wildlife and the Australian bush," Nature Conservation Council Chief Executive Chris Gambian said. "This package is just a green light for coal mines. It strips away hard-fought protections for native species under the pretext of efficiency. The government's phrase, '*Streamlining Environmental Assessments*', is code for unconstrained development and would strike terror into every koala's heart if they knew what was going on. If Keith Pitt is happy, our koalas should be nervous."

Let us hope the new federal government will act quickly to amend this package.

GREEN ELECTRICITY GUIDE - FROM GREENPEACE

By switching to greener electricity providers, together we can force dirty coal and gas out of the grid and bring more renewable electricity in, sending a clear message to electricity companies that it's time to get serious about tackling climate change.

- **What is The Green Electricity Guide?**
It has done all the research into the greenest electricity providers so you don't have to.
- **Why is switching electricity providers so important?**
It's one of the quickest and easiest ways to make a BIG impact.
- **What should I look for in a green electricity provider?**
Break down what separates the green providers from the big climate polluters.

The Greenest Providers in New South Wales

Providers at the top of The Green Electricity Guide are making huge strides to bring more renewable energy into Australia's electricity system. And lots of them have innovative new ways to empower customers and local communities to take more control over electricity generation.

1. Enova Energy
2. Diamond Energy
3. Momentum Energy
4. Energy Locals
5. Indigo Power
6. CoPower
7. Nectr Energy
8. Amber Electric
9. Powershop
10. Mojo Power



The Middle of the Pack

These providers aren't the worst, but you could definitely do better! They often buy their electricity straight from the open market, which is dominated by coal, and aren't moving quickly enough to transition to renewable energy.

The Big Climate Polluters

These big climate polluters are holding Australia back from achieving a renewable energy future. They rely on highly polluting coal and gas for much of their electricity generation and aren't doing nearly enough to clean up their act.



36. Origin Energy
37. Energy Australia
38. Powerdirect
39. ActewAGL
40. AGL Energy

For full details and the reasoning behind each ranking, see <https://greenelectricityguide.org.au/>
The website has a form you may complete, to facilitate changing your energy provider.

ALBATROSS DIVORCE RATES SET TO SOAR

From Australian Birdlife March 2022 p.16: "Birds in Focus"

Black-browed Albatrosses, like most seabirds, usually mate for life. Monogamy helps build trust as the pair alternates between lengthy food-gathering trips and egg incubation duties.

However, the incidence of divorce among albatrosses has increased greatly in recent years, coinciding with the warming of the world's oceans. The major catalyst of divorce is the failure of an egg to hatch or a chick to fledge.

Scientists are concerned that rising sea-surface temperatures, affecting the availability of the marine life that albatrosses feed on, are being reflected in a rising divorce rate among albatrosses.

These food shortages generally force albatrosses to forage ever further afield, expending more energy. The increased length of time spent away from the colony may cause elevated levels of stress hormones in its body; it may also increase the stress levels of the bird sitting patiently on the nest awaiting its return.

The result may be the 'partner-blaming hypothesis', in which a female albatross wrongly associates increased stress levels with a perceived substandard performance by the male, rather than being the indirect result of environmental factors. So she thinks the male is the cause of nest failure and breaks up the pairing.

SANDY THE PURE DESERT DINGO

Published by Qamariya Nasrullah in Cosmos, 23 April 2022

International collaboration of researchers sequenced the genome of the pure desert dingo.

Last year, it was revealed that dingoes (*Canis lupus dingo*) in Australia have pure ancestry and that there is little interbreeding with domestic dogs – just 0.6%.

The full genetic sequence of Sandy Maliki, a wild-born pure Australian desert dingo has now been published in *Science Advances*. Led by researchers at La Trobe University, including dingo advocate Professor Bill Ballard, this international collaborative effort has confirmed that pure dingoes are intermediate between wolves (*Canis lupus*) and domestic dog breeds (*Canis lupus familiaris*).

Sandy Maliki was discovered in 2014 as a three-week-old pup near the Strzelecki Track in the central Australia desert, along with her sister and brother. Sandy became of international interest when she won the "World's Most Interesting Genome" competition in 2017.



Sandy the pure desert dingo...



and as a pup at three weeks of age. Credit: Barry Eggleton / UNSW

NARRABRI COAL MINE EXTENSION

On 1 April 2022 the NSW Independent Planning Commission released the Notice of Determination for the Narrabri Underground Mine Stage 3 Extension Project (SSD 10269). Here is the executive summary...

Narrabri Mine is an existing underground coal mine located within the Narrabri Shire Local Government Area approximately 25 kilometres (km) south-east of Narrabri and approximately 60 km north-west of Gunnedah. Narrabri Coal Operations Pty Ltd is the operator and sought development consent for the Narrabri Underground Mine Stage 3 Extension Project which involves the continuation of longwall mining in a new southern extension area until 2044. The Project seeks the continued use of existing underground and surface infrastructure and to maintain the annual extraction rate of 11 million tonnes per annum under the existing Stage 2 development consent (08_0144).

On 19 November 2021, the then Minister for Planning asked the Independent Planning Commission to conduct a Public Hearing into the Project and determine the State significant development application (SSD 10269). On 19 January 2022 the Department of Planning and Environment finalised its whole-of-government assessment of the Application. In accordance with section 4.5 of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979*, the Minister for Planning is the consent authority for the Project. The Commission may determine the application as the Minister's delegate under an Instrument of Delegation signed by the then Minister for Planning on 28 September 2011.

Commissioners Professor Mary O'Kane (Panel Chair), Professor Chris Fell and Professor Snow Barlow constituted the Commission Panel. As part of its determination process, the Panel met with representatives of the Applicant, Department, Narrabri Shire Council, Gunnedah Shire Council, the Independent Advisory Panel for Underground Mining and also conducted a virtual site inspection.

The community raised concerns in submissions to the Commission regarding subsidence, water, greenhouse gas emissions, biodiversity, noise and Aboriginal cultural heritage. The Commission also received submissions in support of the Application, citing its positive social and economic benefits through the provision of employment for the local area and region.

Key issues which are the subject of findings in this Statement of Reasons include: subsidence, groundwater, greenhouse gas emissions, biodiversity, rehabilitation and mine closure, economics, social costs and benefits, noise, air quality, Aboriginal heritage, visual impacts and waste management.

After consideration of all the material, and taking into account the community's views, the Commission determined that development consent should be granted, subject to conditions. The Commission found that the Project would achieve an appropriate balance between relevant environmental, economic and social considerations and the likely benefits of the Project, warranting the conclusion that an appropriately conditioned approval is in the public interest. The Commission has imposed strict conditions on its development consent which seek to prevent, minimise and/or offset adverse impacts and to ensure ongoing monitoring and appropriate management of the Site.

In imposing conditions on the approval, the Commission set Greenhouse Gas (GHG) performance measures which the Applicant must not exceed during the life of the mine. Conditions also require the Applicant to develop and implement a Scope 1 Emissions Minimisation Plan aimed at achieving Scope 1 GHG emission intensities commensurate with the availability of new technologies and maintenance of the 2022-2031 predicted level of GHG emission intensities for the life of the mine.

Subject to the imposed conditions, the Commission was satisfied that the Project can achieve the requirements of the *SEPP (Resources and Energy) 2021* and the relevant strategic policy positions with respect to the reduction of fugitive emissions and the recognition of the importance of the continuation of the extraction and exportation of coal to the NSW economy.

Our Society has since made a further submission, pointing out inaccuracies in some data used in arriving at this conclusion.

IS YOUR SUPERANNUATION USED FOR ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY INVESTMENTS?

After years of delay, super funds now have to disclose all their investments. The recent release of this information reveals all of the big super funds are investing members' money in two of Australia's most climate-destructive companies, gas giants Woodside and Santos.

Market Forces has analysed the investment holdings of the default (or largest) investment options of Australia's biggest super funds, and discovered exactly how much of members' money these funds are investing in Australia's two largest oil and gas companies. Despite many of these super funds claiming to support the goals of the Paris Agreement and net zero emissions by 2050, all are still invested in these two climate wrecking-companies, both of which have oil and gas expansions plans that are incompatible with the climate goals super funds claim to support.

To discover how your fund compares, see

<https://www.marketforces.org.au/super-funds-woodside-santos-exposure-april-2022/>

NSW PLANNING BACKFLIP

Reported in The Sydney Morning Herald: <https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/minister-bows-to-developers-and-scrap-draft-net-zero-planning-rules-20220405-p5aazn.html>

Local member and Planning Minister Anthony Roberts has bowed to property developers and scrapped his predecessor Rob Stokes' draft planning rules for greener and more sustainable housing development, declaring the industry had spoken and he had listened.

The rules, known as the Design and Place State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP), put a premium on environmental standards, requiring all developments to mitigate and adapt to the risks of climate change. They were part of a draft plan for all NSW buildings to operate at net zero emissions "well before 2050".

On 5 April 2022, to the rapturous applause of developers, Minister Roberts announced that policies to make urban development more environmentally sustainable and homes and suburbs more liveable would be dumped. *"I've heard you, the government has heard you,"* minister Roberts told the developer's lobby.

He must be deaf to all the planning experts and community voices who want better planning policies. He must be blind to the scientific reality that extreme weather events triggered by climate change means we must design our buildings and communities to protect ourselves.

The Design & Place State Environment Planning Policy drafted under former planning minister Rob Stokes sought to implement new standards to reduce energy wasted by buildings, make them more resilient and to make urban environments more liveable. It sought to increase tree canopy and greenspaces.

Premier Perrottet replaced Mr Stokes in the planning portfolio with Mr Roberts, who promptly killed off these planning reforms.

SINGLE-USE PLASTICS BANS

One of the groups our Society supports is **Boomerang Alliance**, and since their establishment in 2003 they have made an impact. Bans on single use plastics are being introduced across the nation; by 2023 Australia will be fully covered with container refund schemes; new bottle to bottle plants are being built; and a global plastic pollution treaty is being negotiated.

It's a good start but there is ongoing work:

- to introduce reusables (bags, cups or foodware)
- challenge of fruit and veg plastic packaging
- expanding Plastic Free Places, and
- making the circular economy a reality.

The table shows who has done what and when, and who is considering action.

South Australia led the way in most categories of single-use plastic bans, followed closely by Queensland and the ACT,

and now other states are making ground - especially Western Australia, where regulations ban the heavyweight (commonly 15c) plastic supermarket bags and helium balloon releases are banned. Queensland was the first to ban polystyrene foodware and plates, cups and bowls (if not enclosed with a lid) and ACT will be the first to ban plastic-stemmed cotton buds (from July 2022).

At this stage it looks like the only thing NSW may blaze a trail in is banning plastic fruit stickers – if South Australia doesn't get there first. They are thinking about it!

ITEMS	NSW	ACT	VIC	SA	WA	QLD	NT	TAS
Lightweight Plastic Bags	✓ Jun 2022	✓ Nov 2011	✓ Nov 2019	✓ May 2009	✓ July 2018	✓ July 2018	✓ Sep 2011	✓ Nov 2013
Heavyweight Plastic Bags		●		●	✓ Jan 2022	●	●	
Plastic-Stemmed Cotton Buds	✓ Nov 2022	✓ Jul 2022	● Feb 2023	●	✓ Jan 2023	●		
Plastic Coffee Cups and Lids		●		●	✓ Jan 2023	●		
Plastic Straws	✓ Nov 2022	✓ Jul 2022	● Feb 2023	✓ Mar 2021	✓ Jan 2022	✓ Sep 2021	●	
Plastic Stirrers	✓ Nov 2022	✓ Jul 2021	● Feb 2023	✓ Mar 2021	✓ Jan 2022	✓ Sep 2021	●	
Plastic Cutlery	✓ Nov 2022	✓ Jul 2021	● Feb 2023	✓ Mar 2021	✓ Jan 2022	✓ Sep 2021		
Plastic Plates and Bowls	✓* Nov 2022	●	●** Feb 2023	●	✓ Jan 2022	✓**** Sep 2021	●	
Expanded Polystyrene Foodware	✓ Nov 2022	✓ Jul 2021	● Feb 2023	✓ Mar 2022	✓*** Jan 2022	✓ Sep 2021	●	
Expanded Polystyrene Packaging		●			✓ Jan 2023	●		
Oxodegradable Plastics	●	✓ Jul 2022		✓ Mar 2022	✓ Jan 2023	●		
Microbeads	✓ Nov 2022	●		✓ Mar 2022	✓ Jan 2023	●		
Produce Bags	●	✓ Jul 2022		●	✓ Jan 2023	●		
Helium Balloon Releases					✓ Jan 2022		●	
Plastic Fruit Stickers	●			●				
Plastic Cups (cold drinks and food, any temperature)					✓ Jan 2022	●		
EPS Fruit/Meat Trays				●		●		

Banned items in each state and the progress of future bans as at April 2022

*without lid
**plates only
***containers only
****unenclosed

 Legislated Ban
 Proposed Ban
 Decision Pending (no specific date)

FRACKING: NEGATIVE EFFECTS ON PREGNANCIES

Based on an article by Matilda Handsley-Davis, published by Cosmos 6 April 2022

Higher risk of congenital abnormalities and preterm birth is linked to fracking wells in Canada.

In Australia, fracking has been controversial for some time and has recently been back under the spotlight due to plans to frack for natural gas in the Northern Territory's Beetaloo Basin and oil in the Kimberley in Western Australia. The Beetaloo Basin proposal is the subject of a Senate inquiry.

Proponents of fracking plans point to expected economic benefits. But experts have repeatedly raised concerns about:

- Effects continuing fossil fuel exploration and development on Australia's ability to meet targets to reduce carbon emissions and avoid catastrophic climate change
- Concerns about water contamination
- Potential to trigger earthquakes, and
- Damage to Indigenous cultural sites and practices.

The health risks of fracking are also an area of active research.

A new study (see <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/article-abstract/2790802>) examined data collected between 2013 and 2018 from more than 34,000 pregnancies in rural areas of the province of Alberta, Canada.

Researchers found a significantly higher incidence of congenital anomalies (adjusted risk ratio of 1.31) and babies who were small for their gestational age (adjusted risk ratio of 1.12) born to mothers who lived within 10 kilometres of at least one fracking well. These results were supported after adjusting for several other factors, including parental age, multiple births, foetal sex, obstetric comorbidities, and the socioeconomic status of the area where the family lived.

For those living in areas within 10km of 100 or more fracking wells, the risk of spontaneous preterm birth was also significantly elevated (adjusted risk ratio of 1.64). Previous studies from the United States had found associations between proximity to fracking sites during pregnancy, and increases in preterm birth and low birth weight.

The study design could not determine a direct causal relationship, but the research team proposed several potential mechanisms that could explain it. These included groundwater contamination and changes in air quality due to fracking, as well as reproductive toxicity of chemicals present in the fracking fluids that are pumped underground.

Implications for Fracking Proposals in Australia

In Australia, fracking is not yet as widespread as it appears to be in Canada, and most fracking shafts are in sparsely populated locations, but it doesn't follow that these risks should be taken any less seriously, particularly when the population at risk already experiences health disparities. For example, the area around the **Beetaloo Basin** is home to several towns and communities with a large Indigenous population. And our federal government is set to use \$50 million of taxpayers' money to subsidise the project.

Another concern is that, if the development goes ahead, it will be managed by mining companies with predominantly overseas ownership, so profits will go out of the country. The cost to Australians will be not only the \$50 million grant, but also unknown ongoing health care expenses and, of course, permanent environmental damage.

For more information on this project, see <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-03-22/nt-beetaloo-basin-gas-exploration-senate-inquiry/100918448>

SYNTHETIC TURF UPDATE - BANNED FROM GLADESVILLE RESERVE

Hunter's Hill Council unanimously voted in the 21 March meeting to *"cease consideration of the installation of turf that includes synthetic materials for sports fields at Gladesville Reserve"*.

This is a tremendous result for everyone, ensuring that Gladesville Reserve is retained as a natural grass playing field that remains open and accessible to all members of the community.

The motion, as put forward by Deputy Mayor Krassoi and seconded by Councillor Quinn, was:

That Council:

- 1. Cease consideration of the installation of turf that includes synthetic materials for sports fields at Gladesville Reserve and direct its efforts to a proposal and costings to upgrade the playing field at Gladesville Reserve, including: addressing subsidence; soil remediation; a well designed drainage system; stormwater collection for reuse on site; levelling; irrigation; and installation of the best suited natural turf;*
- 2. Review and revise the draft Henley Precinct Open Space Plan of Management to remove the use of synthetic turf in Gladesville Reserve, other than for cricket pitches;*
- 3. Facilitate a further public meeting to follow on from the facilitated forum held on 22 February 2022, to discuss Gladesville Reserve and report the feasibility of options being considered.*
- 4. Refer consideration of future sporting needs in the community to the Sport and Recreation Advisory Committee for advice; and*
- 5. Work with the Sustainability Advisory Committee to investigate a policy of Climate First, consistently with Council's acknowledgement of a state of climate emergency and our Sustainability Action Plan, to guide:*
 - a. Public space design and projects; and*
 - b. Council's feedback to government bodies who operate in our LGA*

The fact that the motion was carried unanimously is recognition of the needs of the broader community and that those needs can be met by an upgraded natural grass surface. The support of all who signed the Sustaining Gladesville Reserve petition and advocated for natural grass achieved a great result for present and future users of Gladesville Reserve.

Further Community Consultation... and the inevitable trade-off

Following the success of the forum held on 22 February 2022, Hunter's Hill Council proposed a further public meeting to consider options for upgrading Gladesville Reserve, including the expansion of the playing field by 50%, requiring changes to the amenities block and playground. This will result in the removal of several mature trees, but in the overall scheme of things this sacrifice should cause less environmental damage than the use of synthetic turf on the oval.

Meanwhile, in the City of Ryde:

Artificial turf is still favoured for planned developments such as at Meadowbank Park.

In 2013, Council engaged consultants to devise its Synthetic Surface Action Plan 2016-2026. It noted that "...demand for access to consistently available playing areas for field sports outstrips supply of available facilities and that the gap will widen as population in northern Sydney continues to grow."

Potential strategies to increase the supply of sportsfields include:

1. Developing sports fields on greenfield sites (conversion of former tip or industrial sites)
2. Increase community use of existing natural turf or school sports fields
3. Community access to synthetic sports fields in schools, including private schools
4. Increasing the maintenance regime on natural turf sports fields for increased training and competitions (may require significant capital costs on drainage and irrigation)
5. Improving floodlighting to spread the load on natural turf surfaces
6. Convert natural turf to synthetic surfaces

Our Society has written to the Mayor and Councillors, raising the issues about artificial turf reported here and in previous editions of Wallumetta. We ask them to reconsider its use.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE FIELD OF MARS

Wildlife



Ducklings near the Visitor Centre have grown up and enjoy the long unmown grass and damp soil after the autumn rains... and more ducklings have appeared! These Pacific Black Ducks were spotted along Buffalo Creek early in May.

Plant life thrives in the moist conditions but in some places the tracks are a bit overgrown, with

muddy conditions discouraging bushwalkers. Neither the conditions nor the “No Bikes” signs discourage some cyclists, who are damaging tracks in upper areas of the Reserve, but...

Bushcare Devastation at Cemetery Creek 2 Site

In 2021, the City of Ryde Council Natural Areas staff submitted a work order for lopping of some marked trees along the Fire Trail on the NE side of the cemetery. This work was done recently. To the dismay of our bushcare volunteers, instead of simply walking in with a chainsaw, they drove an excavator along the trail. It resulted in damage adjacent to the Tyrell Park gate and then a swathe of bushes and ground covers pruned and bulldozed along the trail to about 50 metres from the eastern corner of the cemetery. In places, the machine drove into the bush to dump the logs and prunings, resulting in many native plants being crushed and leaving wheeltracks up to 45cm deep.



Plants being nurtured at the Cemetery Creek 2 bushcare site were destroyed, including species of *Acacia*, *Einadia*, *Hakea* and *Prostanthera*.

Regular readers will recall that this site won first prize in the Bushcare section of last year's City of Ryde Spring Garden Awards. Now we are not sure whether it will be worth entering the site in 2022.

Visitor Centre

Our service continues to provide community education and appreciation of Field of Mars Reserve.

Cool fine autumn days have brought back many walkers to enjoy the bushland, often with no wind and dappled sunlight shining down between the trees. As winter approached, we had more wet weather with a corresponding decline in visitor numbers.

INVITATION: JOIN OUR VISITOR CENTRE TEAM! to keep the Visitor Centre open 9am-5pm on weekends and public holidays. Our roster of 4-hour shifts is negotiated according to your availability. No specialised skills are required, and Alfred happily provides the training needed. Most visitors' questions are answered in the maps and range of free leaflets we have available.

COMING EVENTS:

Wallumattagal of Turrumburra: Local Indigenous History - 2pm Saturday 18 June 2022

Dr Peter Mitchell will present a one-hour illustrated talk at the Field of Mars Environmental Education Centre., to explore what little we know of the lifestyle, cultural values and history of the snapper fish people of the Dharug Nation in the area of Ryde and the Lane Cove River. This presentation will tackle four questions:

- What was life like in 1787? Social structure, and knowledge.
- How did the Dharug live in their environment? - Resources and land management.
- What happened to the clans at and after contact? - Displacement, decimation and notable individuals.
- Can this story help us move forward? - Practical land management + challenges of the Uluru statement.

Dr Peter Mitchell OAM was a geomorphologist in the School of Earth Sciences at Macquarie University. He has spent 30 years as a consultant to archaeologists dealing with Aboriginal sites and communities over much of Australia. He is very aware of our unfinished business with original Australians and will attempt to link the murky past with a brighter future.

Afternoon tea will be available afterwards at the Visitor Centre.

Forest Therapy Walks – 10am Sunday 26 June + Sunday 17 July

Society member Karen Oliver will be conducting free forest therapy walks at Field of Mars Reserve as part of her training with the International Nature and Forest Therapy Alliance. Current available dates are 10am-1pm Sun 26 June, and 10am-1pm Sun 17 July. If you would like to attend a walk, please contact her directly at karen@deruecologies.com

Grey-Headed Flying Foxes and Other Bats – 2pm Saturday 23 July 2022

Tim Pearson, of the Ku-ring-gai Bat Conservation Society, will present a talk about Sydney bats (including microbats) at the Field of Mars Environmental Education Centre.

Wildflower Walks – 10am and 2pm Saturday 6 August 2022

Society members will lead walks to the upper areas of the Reserve where, at this time of year, shrubs are expected to be flowering in abundance.



Clean Up Australia Day – still awaiting dry weather!

If you are interested in taking part in our Field of Mars site (for members only) on whichever day it is rescheduled, please contact Alfred on 02 9879 6067.

PAST EVENT:

Forum on Climate Change and the Environment

was well-attended by the candidates for the local federal seat of Bennelong, but we were a little disappointed by audience numbers – only about 20 – which we feel did not reflect the true extent of community concern for environmental issues.

It was interesting to hear the various thoughts of the candidates and their responses to some very thought-provoking questions.



Photo by Cathy Goswell

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!

Please pay by direct transfer to our Commonwealth Bank account: RHHFF PS INC GENERAL ACCOUNT 062171 - 0090 1574. Include your name in the transaction description; and email your name, address and phone number to rhhffps@gmail.com

Alternatively, you may pay by cash or cheque: Complete and hand in this form with payment in a sealed envelope at the Field of Mars Visitor Centre or post to: RHHFFPS, PO Box 552, Gladesville 1675.

NAME:

Address:

Phone:

Annual Membership (add \$10 for newsletter to be sent via Australia Post):

\$

Individual \$ 15 (+ \$ 10)

Family \$ 35 (+ \$ 10)

Concession \$ 10 (+ \$ 10)

(Students/Pensioners) Donation

Total Payment:

Email address - please print clearly:

WIN THIS YARNKNIT* RUG

IN COOL NATURAL COLOURS!

Tickets \$2 each / 3 for \$5 – at the Visitor Centre...



or pay to Commonwealth Bank account:

RHHFF PS INC GENERAL ACCOUNT 062171 - 0090 1574

Put "Raffle" + your name and phone number in the comment, and we will then make the tickets for you.

Proceeds support the work of our Society.

The winning ticket will be drawn at our Society's next Annual General Meeting.

* This new rug was handknitted and kindly donated by members of the Holy Spirit Yarnknit Group.