



# KILLCARE WAGSTAFFE TRUST NEWSLETTER

November 2009

**General Meeting Sunday 1st November at 9.30a.m. at the Maitland Bay Centre**

**Guest Speaker: (10.30 am) – Sue Ellis from Ettymalong Creek**

## **Landcare Group**

ALL VISITORS AND RESIDENTS OF KILLCARE WAGSTAFFE ARE WELCOME

## ***The Maitland Bay Centre***

This newsletter will focus on the Maitland Bay Centre. which has an important place in our community and will shortly see the benefits of some substantial improvements, both inside and outside.

The original building, a fibro house now the downstairs part of the Centre, was built by John and Dulcie Wall in 1945 to house their growing family. From the outset a steady stream of passers by would drop in to get directions and a drink of water. This prompted the Walls to build an extension at the front to house a small shop and café in 1950 that was known as The Maitland Store.



Thelma Hall outside the Store in 1963

The trustees of the Bouddi Natural Park employed John Wall to do some work on the tracks and camping areas and held their meetings in the Store.

The building and business was sold to Ron and Thelma Hall in 1959. Ron continued the relationship with the trustees of the park and was appointed the first full time ranger in the early 1960's. They sold the business in the late 1960's but by 1970 it had declined and the shop closed. The NSWPS, established in 1967, bought the building in 1970 and it became the office and residence of the superintendent of the Boudi National Park until 1974 when it became empty again and was scheduled for demolition.

Fortunately this decision was reversed and the demolition money went towards refurbishment as a visitors centre which eventually opened in 1990. It is interesting to note that despite the building being built as a residence and business, it is its relationship with the Park and its role as a visitors centre that has persisted.

Since 1990, the Visitors Centre has been staffed by volunteers, largely from the Trust, and has been the site of many memorable exhibitions, The shop window has become a permanent exhibition space.

### ***Maitland Bay Centre needs volunteers***

The visitor information service operates from the Old Maitland Bay Store during weekends throughout the year. Several members have retired this year and more volunteers are needed to keep this important service going. The duties involve providing basic information about walks and facilities in the area and handling the sales of the available publications. Those involved find it a

rewarding contribution to local community life.

Would any members interested please contact Don Runcie on 43602 725

### ***Thanks to Gordon Adkins***

On behalf of the membership, the committee would like to thank Gordon Adkins for his many years of service with the visitors information service at the Maitland Bay Store. As well as acting as a volunteer, Gordon provided a vital link between the volunteers and the Trust in ensuring that the money collected was accounted for and delivered to the trust.

### **New Publications**

#### **Flora and Fauna of the Bouddi Peninsula**

Susie Peake a wildlife artist has prepared a colouring in book based on the fauna and flora of the Bouddi peninsula. She has collaborated with Ann Bowe from the Trust and Dave Kelly from the NPWS to produce this educational resource. Copies should be available very shortly. They will sell from the Maitland Bay Centre for \$10.

#### **Nature Diary**

Mark Attwooll has provided some copies of the very successful Nature Watch Diary. This contains month by month information about what is happening with the plants and animals of the Central Coast. Ample room is provided for recording your own observations. The Trust will endeavour to collate some of this information to help provide an ongoing record of observations. The diary sells for only \$5.

**Burnam Burnam's Wild Things and Bringing Back the Bush** are back in stock.

## ***Spring Festival***

The committee held a weed exhibition to contribute to the successful Spring Carnival held over the October long weekend. Despite the rain a steady trickle of visitors came, many of whom were surprised to find that they had been encouraging weeds in their gardens.

## ***Working bee for the MBC garden.***

The garden around the MBC has been looking a little sad in recent years. The property is listed as a heritage item and some of the prominent garden plants are included as part of the heritage value. However the garden areas as a whole don't fit in well with the surrounding bush and there is some weed invasion. A bit of sensitive work could markedly improve the look and feel of the Centre. A working bee has been proposed for an afternoon in December to remove the weeds, spread some mulch and plant some natives. A BBQ will follow.

## ***Toward 50/50 by 2020***

### **350**

Here's another number that has become part of the campaign to reduce global warming. 350 is the number that many scientists, climate experts, and progressive national governments are now saying is the safe upper limit for carbon dioxide--measured in "Parts Per Million" in our atmosphere. 350 PPM--it is the number humanity needs to get back to as soon as possible to avoid runaway climate change.

## **Hot Water Systems**

Installing some form of solar hot water system is one of the most obvious contributions to increasing the use of renewable energy. The two main types are:

### **1. Heat pump water heating system.**

This uses the principle of a refrigeration circuit, drawing heat out of one space into another. This becomes renewable when the heat pump is powered by solar power. Its benefits are that it doesn't rely on sunlight, is easy to install and can provide large amounts of hot water at all times so it is suitable for large scale installations such as hospitals and motels.

**2. Solar water heaters** These have the benefits of a clean decentralised system and give a huge boost to the environment when combined with water saving practices. Backup heating may be needed on cloudy days, the most efficient being on-demand gas or wood fired and electricity on a manual or programmable switching system. (Automatic systems that kick in when the water temperature falls below a certain level often lead to overnight heating of water making the solar system redundant).

The Woy Woy Rehabilitation Unit

The rehab unit at the Woy Woy public hospital is due to be downgraded and the equipment and beds moved to Kanwal. The Woy Woy Public Hospital Alliance (PO Box 242 Woy Woy 2256) would like to hear from you if you oppose this decision.

## ***Hardy's Bay Development***

As expected, the developers of the block next to the bottle shop, have taken their proposal to the Land and Environment court. The case should be next February or March. There is a meeting on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> Oct about this. A full report of the meeting will be given at the General meeting of the Trust.

As this proposal has been met with firm resolve by the Council and unprecedented community opposition, the court case will be a real test of the ability of a community and its local council to influence on the planning process.

## **Asparagus Fern (*Asparagus aethiopicus*)**



There are two types of weed called asparagus fern that grow locally. One is a climber with fine fern-like leaves. The other is more a ground cover and is the one discussed here.

This invasive weed, originally from South Africa poses a significant threat to bushland on the Bouddi peninsula.

Multiple branches, up to 60 cm long and with a covering of small spines, grow from a central crown. The root system is a dense mat of tuberous water bladders. Flowers are bell-shaped, white-pale pink clusters. Copious numbers of red berries are produced that are spread by birds. Humans also contribute to dispersal through the dumping of garden waste and soil that contains the crowns.

To remove this weed, gather all the fronds together (you'll need gloves) to expose where they emerge from the crown. Cut the roots around the crown with a knife, spade or pruning saw and pull the crown out of the ground. It often comes out quite easily

Dispose in the green bin. There is no need to remove the water bladders. If you can't dig out the plant then remove all the berries (red and green) to prevent further spread of this weed.

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