



# KILLCARE WAGSTAFFE TRUST NEWSLETTER

MAY 2009

## AGM followed by General Meeting

Sunday May 10 at 9.30a.m. at Maitland Bay Centre

Guest Speaker: (at about 10.30) –

**ALL VISITORS AND RESIDENTS OF KILLCARE WAGSTAFFE ARE WELCOME**

The Agenda will include on-going concerns and projects and plans for the future.

## ALLEN AND BERYL STROM – A tribute.

These two people did much to preserve the natural and historic nature of our Bouddi region, working tirelessly for the community, the environment and educational programs. They were involved in the environmental movement on the Central Coast from the 1960s until their deaths, Allen in 1997 and Beryl five years later.

Allen trained as a teacher and became interested in environmental education while at Yanco Agricultural High School where he “first began to question the accepted concepts of land use and the human impact upon the natural systems.” On returning to the city he involved himself with the Caloola Club, which aimed to provide first hand experiences with the environment. Allen



established the Education Officer Service at the Australian Museum then joined the staff at Balmain Teachers' College. At weekend camps, Allen combined field studies with bush-walking. His aim was to inspire and educate students to appreciate and knowledge of nature and the care of natural areas. He then became the Chief Guardian of Fauna of the Fauna Protection Panel (prior to the establishment of the NPWS). Allen was a pivotal member of the National Parks Association and the Nature Conservation Council of NSW. He returned to the Department of Education as Advisor in Conservation to establish conservation education in schooling, retiring in 1977, the year he was a recipient of the Member of the Order of Australia Award.

Beryl also trained as a teacher, her first appointment being to Normanhurst Public School with a kindergarten class. She subsequently taught at Bingara PS, Oak Flats PS and Batlow PS. Her enthusiasm for the outdoors saw her also become involved with the Caloola Club, and serve as secretary of the National Parks Association which brought her into close contact with Allen (The Caloola Club was an 'expeditionary society', aimed at educating and informing young people about the Australian natural and cultural landscapes and the

processes involved in its evolution and played a major role in the formation of the NSW National Parks Association). They married in 1967. An amazing partnership then ensued of continued tireless dedication in the public interest in environmental education and heritage issues. She and Allen were very much involved in the negotiations that led to the establishment of the NPWS in 1967 and worked together with Andrew and Lois Sourry in successful campaigns for the establishment of central coast national parks, including Brisbane Water, Wyrabalong, Wambina and Popran.

On retirement Allen became increasingly interested in Central Coast land use issues and Beryl enveloped herself in researching local history and the built environment. They supported each other in their new interests and quickly developed into a formidable duo, striving to retain the environmental values of the Central Coast. In 1978 Beryl attended a Gosford Council meeting after hearing of a development plan for a heritage shop, then rarely missed a council meeting until her death. Allen also attended, both questioning Council decisions and speaking in the public forum on important issues. They were foundation members of the **Killcare Wagstaffe Trust** and held positions on the committee. Beryl worked on numerous Gosford City Council committees and was actively involved in the Gosford City Coastal Open Space System(COSS). For service to community history and to the community Beryl was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in 1991.

Beryl researched and wrote many historical publications, her greatest legacy was to ensure most of the sites and buildings identified in her History and Heritage publication were listed as heritage items in a Gosford City Council Local Environmental Plan. They also co-write many publications and were instrumental in establishing the Woy Woy Environment Centre during the bicentennial year. They were an indispensable reference source and were generous with sharing their skills within the local and environmental community. They provided the scaffolding and information for community members to question Council decisions and encouraged others to formally object to development applications. Allen was knowledgeable about local Council and State legislation, particularly the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act. Well summed up by the Gosford Mayor's comment: "When the developers go for their bulldozers, we go for our Stroms!!" They are missed by many in our community for their profound impact on people's thinking of more than just themselves.

Following Allen's death the NSW Environmental Protection Agency implemented the \$10000 Allen Strom Eureka Prize in 1999 aimed at encouraging excellence in the design, implementation and evaluation of environmental education programs.

Beryl continued her work on a significant number of committees and died suddenly after a short illness in 2002. Their home "Miara", on the border of Bouddi National Park, was gifted to the NPWS by Beryl to be developed and become an environmental education centre, owned and managed by the NPWS; and that all their records, documents, maps, journals and photographs should be used as educational resources.

*Compiled from several sources especially Allan Fox and Andrew Sourry (lifelong friends of the Stroms) and Gary Nipperess (Beryl's son).*

## Weeds.

A weed is any plant that does not belong.

Now is the time for removing “*Easter Cassia*” (*Senna pendula*). This weed is a successful invader of disturbed or modified environments. It jumps the garden fence and spreads throughout bushland, outcompeting native shrubs, suppressing native groundcovers and degrading habitat for our wildlife. Easter cassia (*Senna pendula* var. *glabrata*) is a native of South America.

*Senna* was a very popular garden plant more than 30 years ago and is very common in Central Coast gardens. It’s naturalised in highly disturbed urban bushland and farmland in many areas of New South Wales. It is frequently seen along roadsides and on the banks of waterways.

“*Easter Cassia*” is a spreading or sprawling shrub usually growing 2-4 m tall, but occasionally reaching up to 5 m in height. Leaves are arranged compound (Divided into 3-5 pairs of dark green leaflet) and alternately along the stem. Leaflets have prominent yellowish-coloured margins. Around Easter it produces masses of bright yellow flowers followed by hundreds of brown, slender seed pods up to 12 cm long each containing 5–10 seeds.

If you have a small infestation, this plant can be easily hand pulled or dug out. The whole root system must be removed to avoid sprouting. Larger plants can be treated successfully using the cut and paint method (with undiluted Glyphosate (360 g/L)).

Help keep Bouddi’s environment weed free by encouraging your neighbours and friends to remove Easter Cassia from their gardens too. Be a great neighbour and offer to help elderly or disabled neighbours remove infestations on their properties. Every little bit counts!

Cassia is often confused with a native shrub *Breynia* (*Breynia oblongifolia*) as their leaves are similar, but Cassia leaflets grow in opposite pairs, while *Breynia* leaves are alternate.



(Some trivia). Easter Cassia belongs to the CAESALPINIACEAE family named after Andreas Caesalpini, Italian botanist and chief physician to Pope Clement VIII. In 1583 Caesalpini published *De Plantis Libri*, one of the first botany books of the Renaissance with a taxonomic system based solely on reproductive structures. Many staunch theologians of the time vigorously denounced sexuality in plants. According to Genesis 1, plants were created on the third day, and not until the sixth day were animals and people created, and the words "male and female." Photo: Ku-ring-gai Council

## Bullimah Spur and Three Lookouts

### Walk

Fairly easy 2km walk (40-60 minutes).

Start with the Maitland Bay track from beside the Maitland Bay Centre. Walk about 250 metres down to Panorama Rock for a fine view of Maitland Bay, passing the Bullimah Trail on your right.

Backtrack 50 metres and now follow the track to the Bullimah Lookout. Take it slowly for the first 200 metres of this trail and enjoy the array of Sydney Red Gums and rocky outcrops.



The walking from now on is an easy stroll out to a magnificent unfenced lookout. On the return (50 metres), note the large abandoned Brush-turkey nest on your right.

Just as you leave the large grove of Burrawang palms you will notice a minor informal track leading off to the left and up the ridge towards the houses. This short sharp rise will bring you out at the Marie Byles Lookout and an easy stroll back to the Maitland Bay Centre.

The Bullimah Lookout is a good vantage point when whales are travelling up or down the coast.

## DA35452/2008 - No 58-62 Araluen Drive Hardys Bay



This major proposed development from November last year surfaced again with only minor changes. Again we contacted Gosford City Council with a comprehensive list of our objections and concern for this proposed "over-development" as per summarised below.

- \* Contradiction of Gosford DCP 159 guidelines for "character".
- \* The scale and character of the development is unsympathetic to the area
- \* The removal of habitat for birds and mammals
- \* Removal of in excess of 100 mature Spotted gum and Iron Bark trees
- \* Congestion of the intersection during and after construction
- \* High visibility structure dominating the landscape
- \* Future pressure on infrastructure and roads
- \* Parking issues

First Name Last Name  
Suffix Address 1 CITY Postal Code

*This newsletter is also on the  
Newsletter page of our website.*

[www.killcarewagstaffetrust.org.au](http://www.killcarewagstaffetrust.org.au)