



KILLCARE WAGSTAFFE TRUST
NEWSLETTER
August 2011

**Sunday August 7th at 9.30a.m. at
Maitland Bay Centre
AGM (postponed) followed by General Meeting
Guest Speaker: (at about 10.30).**

ALL VISITORS AND RESIDENTS OF KILLCARE WAGSTAFFE ARE WELCOME

August Meeting

Apologies for having to put off the May General meeting. A series of travel plans, illnesses and family crises meant that it was beyond the committee to get a newsletter out and even be present at the meeting. This means that the August meeting will be the AGM. ***All office bearers will be up for re-election.*** New committee members would be welcome.

Fortunately it has been a relatively quiet time for the Trust over winter. The major matters that have required attention were to keep pressure on Council over its attempts by Gosford Council to zone the COSS lands as RE1, registering our objections to the new proposal for the blocks next to the bottle shop, and the proposed developments for the land next to the Liberty service station at Empire Bay.

The walking maps continue to sell well and we have had to get another 4000 printed. Many thanks to Kay Linton Mann for her tireless efforts in distributing them and to those who sell them. These are our main source of income and we would have to increase the cost of membership to cover even our basic running costs without them.

Putty Beach Reserve

Bush regeneration work continues at the southern end of the Putty Beach Reserve. Putty Beach Bushcare works on Thursday morning. A work for the dole worker has put in some very substantial efforts in clearing Bitou, and there have been some intermittent works by a Juvenile Justice group. Unfortunately this is unlikely to make a significant impact on the major weed infestation in the bulk of the reserve in the near future.

A plan of management was prepared by the Trust and the Bushcare group and was submitted to the council in 2009. A series of personnel changes in the Council has meant that the plan has disappeared into the ether. It has recently been resubmitted to the new bushcare officer so it can be endorsed and used to apply for funds for more substantial work to be done on the

site. Some funds are already available for use on COSS lands which include the Reserve and will be employed to support the current work.

Beach Carparks

The planting areas in and around the beach car parks have been looking tired and neglected. Malcolm McCall and family are going to work with Council to improve their look and feel.

Hardy's Bay Foreshore

Another project that fell into the ether at Council (it must be very crowded down there with unfinished projects) was the foreshore plan. Although that project is well and truly dead, the need for some improvements remains. As reported at the last Trust meeting, the Council has agreed to assist with a plan for the Hardy's Bay foreshore between the public toilets and the RSL club. A sub-committee was formed to help with this plan. Emma Wallace from Council has visited the site with a member of the sub-committee and has agreed to prepare a plan based on the committee's suggestions. As there is no money for substantial improvements, it will be modest and include:

- Some repairs to the sea wall
- Improvements to the drainage, hopefully aimed at preventing the erosion of holes behind the seawall and the washing away of soil from the reserve.
- Improvement of soil quality which should lead to better grass cover
- Some modest plantings to help break the reserve up into more intimate areas without preventing walking access from one end to the other or interfering with the views from the properties opposite.

The foreshore between the public toilet and the bridge over mudflat creek was also inspected. Emma also agreed that there needs to be a plan of management to protect the remaining Casuarinas and to prevent further erosion of the bank.

Mudflat Creek works

The first stage of flood mitigation work has begun around Mudflat creek. These works aim to improve protection to property from flood events and involve improving stormwater flow into the Creek. It will not improve flow along the creek nor do anything about the siltation in the creek.

Maitland Bay Centre

The next stage of improvements to the downstairs area at the Maitland Bay Centre is almost complete. New displays, storage areas are up. A new timber window has been installed to replace the aluminium one.

Fox Baiting

A fox baiting program was carried out in Bouddi National Park in June and July. There was a good take of baits which should result in a further reduction of foxes on the Bouddi Peninsula. The baiting program will be repeated in September /October this year. Local residents continue to report increasing evidence of wallabies and bandicoots in the area.



Coastal Track Work – Bouddi

Upgrade of the coast walk continues – work has been undertaken on the track down to Caves Bay and continues on the Maitland Bay track.

Bushcare in Bouddi and Cockle Bay

Four groups continue to work in Bouddi National Park – Mourawaring Moors (Macmasters Beach), Wagstaffe Point, Lobster Beach and Rileys Bay and two in Cockle Bay Nature Reserve. 20 people traveled to Lobster Beach by boat on World Environment Day to continue bush regeneration work. New volunteers always welcome at all groups, just telephone Deb Holloman on 43204224.

Dates for your diary;

- a. Wagstaffe War on Weeds September 17,
- b. Rileys Island Regen day October 10

Grants from the local CMA have assisted with on ground work being undertaken by professional contractors at Rileys Bay, Cockle Bay, Lobster, Iron Ladder, Tallow, Maitland Bay and Caves Bay. Aerial spraying had to be postponed three times due to adverse weather conditions. It is anticipated that the aerial spraying will now take place in April \ May 2012.

Weed Profile- *Acetosa sagittata* – Turkey Rhubarb

A native of South Africa this plant is a perennial climber with papery winged seeds and underground tubers that can be as large as a potato – up to 10 cm long and as deep as 1 metre. It is highly invasive and will colonise after other weeds have been removed. It will smother other plants. Spread by seed, tubers and rhizomes

This newsletter of the Killcare Wagstaffe Trust Inc. was written by the President David Legge and Deb Holloman. Design/layout/printing by the web coordinator Terry Jones. The newsletter is available on our website.

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86 year old Volunteer Neil Desailly – tackling Bitou at Maitland bay

Contractor Work – Rileys Bay



Contractor Work Palmers Lane – Cockle Bay Nature Reserve

NPWS boat in Rileys Bay – spraying Lantana and Bitou



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