



# KILLCARE WAGSTAFFE TRUST NEWSLETTER November 2011

**Sunday November 6<sup>th</sup> at 9.30a.m. at Maitland Bay Centre - Guest Speaker: (at about 10.30).**

ALL VISITORS AND RESIDENTS OF KILLCARE WAGSTAFFE ARE WELCOME

### **Camphor Laurel eradication.**

The Camphor Laurel (*Cinnamomum camphor*) is a native of China. It was introduced to Australia in the 1820s as an ornamental tree for use in gardens and public parks. The first ones were sent as cuttings from Kew Gardens in England and were being propagated by the NSW Royal Botanic Gardens for distribution throughout the growing colony by the 1830's. Their bright green foliage is a stark contrast to the darker eucalyptus leaves and it is thought that their introduction represented an attempt to make the Australian landscape more European looking.

The seeds are attractive to birds and pass intact through the digestive system, ensuring rapid distribution. It invades areas where forests have been cleared or disturbed, usually for pasture or cultivation. Although they prefer wetter regions, they are spreading further up catchments and hillsides, and westward into drier areas with poorer soils. It has been declared a noxious weed in many parts of Queensland and New South Wales.



Camphor Laurel leaves

The massive and spreading root systems disrupt urban drainage and sewerage systems and degrade river banks. The camphor content of the leaf litter helps prevent other plants from germinating successfully, helping to ensure the camphor's success against any potentially competing vegetation.

At a recent committee meeting it was mentioned that there were a growing number of small to medium sized camphor laurels scattered over the peninsula. As they can turn into very large trees it would be prudent to do what we can to minimise the infestation and perhaps virtually eradicate them.

The first step is to identify each individual on the peninsula. We ask that members keep a note of any camphor laurels they notice and report them via email (killcarewagstaffetrust@gmail.com) or mail (PO Box 4009 Wagstaffe) or at the next meeting.

Camphor Laurels can be identified by strong yellow leaf veins and distinctive sweet smell when leaves are crushed. If you are having difficulty identifying the plant contact the Trust. Eradication is by frilling and scraping and painting. Future actions include encouraging the community, starting with our own members to get rid of any on our own properties and negotiating with council and the NPWS to get rid of any on their reserves.

### **Water Levels in Brisbane Water**

Unsurprisingly, the dominant influence on the water level in Brisbane water is the normal tidal flow.

During a high tide, the high water levels can be exacerbated through a combination of wind and waves coming from the south hindering the flow of water out of the mouth of Brisbane Water. The more extreme events will cause foreshore inundation over low lying areas, such as Davistown and Empire Bay.

The events that trigger these conditions are usually **East Coast Lows** (ECL). These move parallel to the coast and generate severe winds (which tend to be southerlies, as low pressure systems cause the air to rotate in a clockwise direction) extreme waves and high rainfall. They usually occur in the winter months.

The projected rise in sea levels (40 cm in 50 years and 90cm in 100 years – according to the State Government) will simply compound extreme events. Flooding becomes more severe and more frequent.

While the run-off from extreme rainfall does not contribute significantly to the high water levels, the high water levels can prevent the stormwater from reaching the Brisbane Water. Creeks rise and drains become overloaded which contribute to flooding of low lying areas. The areas around Mudflat creek and Fraser road and the creek between Highview and Como are particularly vulnerable to this type of flooding.

For more information on how Gosford Council views the problems associated with flooding you could view these two webpages.

- <http://www.gosford.nsw.gov.au/environment/coastal-management-planning-1/coastal-management-planning/?searchterm=cause%20of%20flood>
- <http://www.gosford.nsw.gov.au/flooding/living-with-floods-1?searchterm=cause+of+flood>

## **Maitland Bay Centre**

The Maitland Bay rejuvenation is progressing well. Downstairs is a large mural depicting four ecosystems – Heath, Woodland, Coastal and Rainforest.

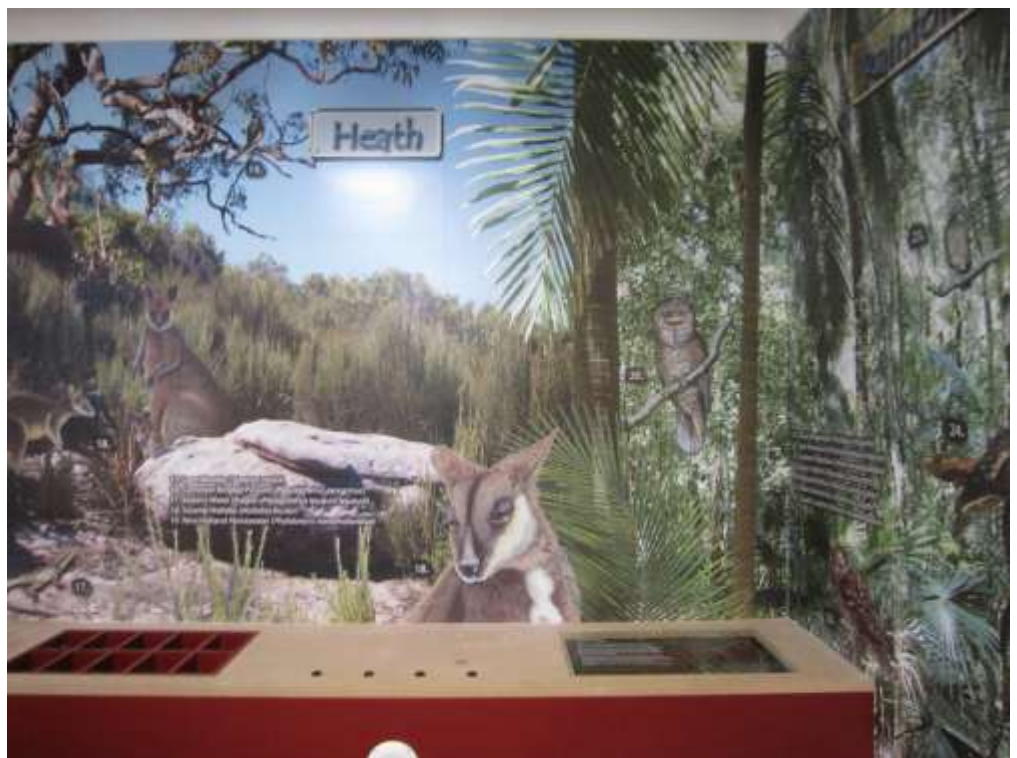
Jim Doe, a local artist, took photos of the ecosystems and painted animals that inhabit them. His son-in-law John then scanned the paintings and placed them onto the photos. The result is stunning. All the animals have been numbered and named. See how many you can identify!!!! Jim and John did all the work voluntarily.

New sound buttons have been added including Powerful Owl, Boobook Owl and Bush Stone curlew. The Maitland Bay Wreck display has been revamped as well



## **Hazard Reduction Burns**

NPWS carried out a hazard reduction burn from Scenic Rd Kilcare Heights down to Pomona Rd Empire Bay in September. The burn went well with an echidna and two large swamp wallabies seen fossicking around the burnt area the next day. Another hazard reduction burn took place at Pearl Beach in October. Any further burns this season are reliant on suitable weather patterns



## **Membership**

The committee has decided that 2, 3, and 5 year memberships will be offered for next financial year. This will allow members to enjoy the benefits of membership without the hassle of sending in the subscription on an annual basis. As we are in a healthy financial situation,

the annual membership fee has not had to rise for some time – perhaps since the inception of the trust.

### **FOX Baiting in Bouddi**

NPWS will be laying fox baits in Bouddi National Park Between October 12 and November 30. The reduction in fox numbers is having a positive effect on native fauna with many recent sightings of Swamp Wallabies and Bandicoots in the area.

The red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) was first introduced into Australia in the 1870s for recreational hunting. Foxes spread across southern Australia in the late 1800s and early 1900s; coinciding with regional extinctions of several native Foxes suppress animal populations, particularly medium sized ground-dwelling and semi-arboreal mammals, ground-nesting birds and freshwater turtles. Foxes have also caused the failure of numerous attempts to reintroduce native fauna into areas of their former range.



### **Spring Birds**

The coming of spring sees migratory birds returning to the area – with their distinctive calls and habits.

In late September and early October each year, Common Koels arrive in Australia from their northern winter homes to breed. The Koels leave southern Australia in about March. Their call is a loud slow ‘ko-weel ko-weel. Very obvious in the early morning !!!!!



Channel Billed Cuckoos (Pictured above) migrate to Australia in October from New Guinea and Indonesia. They return after the breeding season in March April. Their call is described as a hoarse trumpet ‘hoink hoink’

These two birds are cuckoos which parasitise native birds by removing eggs from their nests to lay their own eggs. The Cuckoo chicks are raised by the unsuspecting host.

The Dollarbird arrives in northern and eastern Australia in September each year to breed. In March or April the birds return to New Guinea and adjacent islands to spend the winter. Their call is a distinctive chatter.



**Killcare Wagstaffe Trust Inc.**  
**PO Box 4009 Wagstaffe 2257**  
[killcarewagstaffetrust@gmail.com](mailto:killcarewagstaffetrust@gmail.com)  
[www.killcarewagstaffetrust.org.au](http://www.killcarewagstaffetrust.org.au)