



# Killcare Wagstaffe Trust

## Newsletter

October 2012

### Next General Meeting

Sunday November 4th at 9.30 am  
at the Maitland Bay Information Centre.  
Guest Speaker after the meeting - TBA  
All visitors and residents are welcome

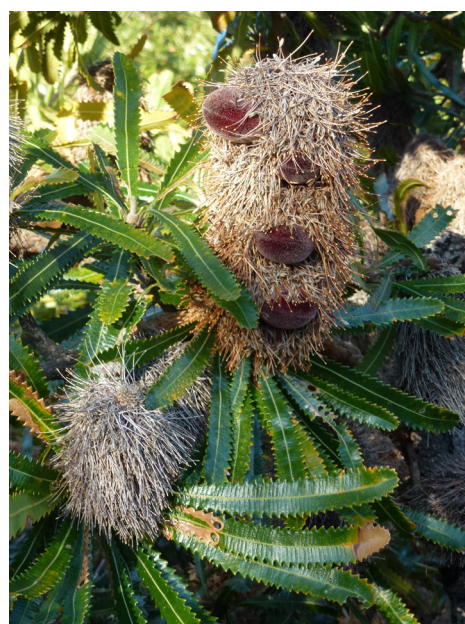
### Photo Competition

The Trust's photo competition, with the theme of Banksia, was judged and displayed at the Maitland Bay Centre over the October long weekend. Thanks to Alan Stott for organising this years event.

The winners were, in the digital category, Robyn Workman with "Crackneck Craggy" and in the print category, Fiona Lambell with "Banksia".

The display will remain at the centre for a little while longer. The winners will receive a framed print of their entry. The trust will also frame copies of the winning entries

*Crackneck Craggy*



### Changes to State Planning Process

The Trust put in a short submission in response to the State government's which proposed substantial changes to the planning and development process. A copy of our submission can be found on our website. We have also joined the Better Planning network which has been set up to consolidate the response of community organisations to these proposals.

The platform of the Network is:

1. Community engagement in decision-making is essential at every stage of the planning and development process.
2. Protecting our natural and cultural heritage is fundamental to the wellbeing of our communities.
3. Development must put local residents and communities first.
4. Strategic planning must be evidence-based.
5. Development must comply with strategic planning instruments.
6. Infrastructure goes hand in hand with development.

We remain deeply suspicious of any attempts to reduce community involvement in the planning and development process and any attempts to provide greater certainty to developers. The Committee intends to be actively involved in the development of the proposals.

## Fires

A dramatic escalation of a small fire on Lobster beach saw the Peninsula catapulted into the main news on Friday October 5th. The initial fire was a campfire that had been lit on Lobster beach that morning. Once it had got into surrounding bush it was fanned up the hill to the top of the ridge by the hot north westerly that was blowing that morning. The fires were on the job early and commenced backburning and fighting the fire directly.

A sudden change of wind direction to a southerly – which normally brings relief in a fire situation by turning the fire back on itself, reducing ambient temperature, increasing humidity and bringing the possibility of rain – pushed the fire over the ridge line into the valley above Pretty beach and along the ridge top towards Hawkes Head Drive. Suddenly Pretty Beach was in danger of immolation. Evacuation commenced and fire fighting efforts intensified with more crews being brought in and four water bombing helicopters employed.

By evening the worst was over and people were allowed to return to their houses. Backburning continued through the night and over the weekend.

A considerable amount of heathland has been burnt, particularly above Pretty beach between Hawkes head drive and the Wagstaffe fire trail. This should regenerate well but in the meantime is vulnerable to erosion and weed invasion.

A big thanks to all the fires involved and the other services that helped prevent any injury or serious property damage. It is also likely that previous hazard reduction burns helped reduce the extent and intensity of the fire.

If you would like to donate to the local fire brigade you can deposit into a special account set up by the Community Association: BSB 062246, Acct # 10240186, Acct Name WAGSTAFFE  
For those who prefer to pay by cheque, simply make payable to: WTKCA Fire Appeal & mail to: WTKCA Fire Appeal, PO Box 4069, Wagstaffe 2257.



## Putty Beach Road

Work on Putty Beach Drive and the camping area in Bouddi NP at the north end of Putty beach is progressing well.

The road is being realigned to travel behind the camping area, increasing safety and reducing dust and noise for campers. The revamping of the camping area involves re turfing, putting in an extra BBQ (making 4 in total) and two extra camping sites (making 20 in total).

All in all the work will result in much improved camping facilities, better access to the north end of the beach and better parking. We hope that it will be ready in time for this years summer holidays.

## Aerial Spraying of Bitou

NPWS undertook an aerial spray operation in Bouddi National Park on the seventh of August. A low concentration of herbicide was used and the effects should be showing now.

The chopper took off from Crackneck Lookout and flew along the coast of Bouddi targeting bitou. 14 hectares of the weed was sprayed including a trial section of Putty Beach Reserve. Other areas in the National Park that were targeted included Box Head , Tallow Beach, Maitland Bay , Caves Bay and Lobster Beach.



## Sewage Pump Breakdown

A recent breakdown of the sewage pump at the pumping station opposite the fire station led to raw sewage being discharged into the Bay. Repairs were carried out successfully. While no long term damage to the environment is likely from a single event, it is obviously highly undesirable and we will continue to keep an eye on the station. Please let us know of any future events if you become aware of them.



## JEANETTE BLOMFIELD

On October 3 2012 a group of Jeanette's friends met to celebrate her birthday and to say goodbye on the eve of her move to Queensland where she and her dog will live with her niece and family from now on. Her family felt that at 88 years of age it was no longer appropriate for her to live in her cliff top here in Killcare. She now seems very happy at the thought.

Jeanette graduated in Science from Sydney University and worked on the effect of variation in water quality on dialysis patients. She then worked for the Children's Medical Research Foundation attached to Camperdown Children's Hospital doing research into cystic fibrosis. At one stage she was a PhD candidate.

She moved to Killcare on her retirement in 1983. A keen environmentalist with a special appreciation for the beauty and interest provided by the Killcare and Bouddi National Park, beaches and bay side. Jeanette, a PhD in Science, joined the many compatible organisations in the area : Killcare Wagstaffe Trust, and the local bird watching group, initiated by Judy Adderly . She founded the Central Coast branch of the National Parks Association and the Weekday Walkers.

We also have Jeanette to thank for two important local publications: Bouddi Walks and Hawkesbury to Hunter which have produced a profitable income for the Trust. We wish her well in the next stage of her life.

