

Gecko Newsletter



Autumn 2021 No 84

Blue Mountains City Council Bushcare Program

IMAGE: Pink Flannel Flowers

Bushcare Blue Mountains - bigger, better and brighter than ever before

Despite the restrictions imposed on Bushcare last year due to COVID-19, we were delighted to see the formation of one new Bushcare, and two new Landcare groups in the Blue Mountains. With the addition of these groups, there now over 60 Bushcare groups across the Blue Mountains, ranging from Lapstone in the Lower Blue Mountains to Mount Victoria in the Upper Blue Mountains and across to the basalt-topped Mount Wilson.

There are a wide range of meeting days and times to suit everyone. No previous experience is necessary, just enthusiasm! Our Bushcare Officers provide training for all skill levels.

If you're interested in joining - bring a hat, drinking water and wear suitable clothing and sturdy shoes.

For further information go to:
www.bushcarebluemountains.org.au/join-bushcare/

Blow a raspberry to blackberries (Biosecurity begins in our own backyards!)

By Sandy Benson (Bushcare Team Leader)

The La Niña climatic cycle has arrived, bringing with it summer rain that has seen the Blue Mountains green for the first time since 2018. Native vegetation that struggled during the drought now looks healthy and is a most welcome sight. However, with this rain, weeds and in particular, Blackberry, have also flourished in every neighbourhood across the Mountains. Past observations reveal that with sufficient moisture in the soil, Blackberries undergo rapid and almost complete recovery. With a high degree of invasiveness and aggressive spread, Blackberries are a serious threat to the natural ecosystem.

The magnitude of the weed problem is enormous due to the elongated nature of housing development and its interface with bushland in the Blue Mountains City Council (BMCC) Local Government Area (LGA). Bushland and blackberry is literally found on each of our doorsteps. BMCC devotes considerable resources to weed management as a whole, but it is not possible to address every blackberry

infestation. Blackberry can only be successfully managed through the co-ordinated and sustained efforts of all public and private land owners as well as managers across multiple tenures – including Council managed land, land managed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Crown Land or Freehold land. Biosecurity begins in our own backyards! So if you have a 'Blackberry problem' then start in your own backyard, as every plant controlled can prevent a mature plant from producing 1800 seeds per year and spreading into the bushland.

If you require any further information on Blackberry (or other weed) control click on the following link www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/documents/priority-weeds-information-booklet or please pick up a booklet from the BMCC front office.



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Remote Bushcare

Actinotus forsythii

By Karen Hising, Jan Allen, Paul Vale and Keith Brister

The Bushcare Team has recently been receiving reports and photographs of the beautiful Pink Flannel Flower (*Actinotus forsythii*). The Pink Flannel Flower is an annual, but it is not seen often, as it does not appear every year. The seed can lie dormant for many years, but with specific climatic and environmental conditions, following fire and then rain, the plant will germinate and produce a spectacular display.

Actinotus forsythii is in the Apiaceae Family (Carrot, Parsley and Celery). It is a herbaceous, wiry plant, with deeply lobed leaves, which are grey and velvety. Each flowerhead is similar to a daisy, which is a cluster of separate male and female flowers surrounded by velvety, "petal-like" bracts. The central flowers are a deepish pink colour and the outside bracts are a very pale pink. There have also been sightings of an occasional white flower.



IMAGE: *Actinotus forsythii*
CREDIT: Keith Brister

Flowering, when it occurs, is usually in Summer or occasionally, in Spring. Fluffy seeds form in a globular head, which are dispersed by the wind.

This species prefers to grow in shallow, skeletal soils on ridges, where there may be some seepage.

Actinotus means "bearing rays", referring to the petal-like bracts surrounding each flowerhead. The species is named after William Forsyth, a plant collector, who worked in the early 1900s. William Forsyth collected the Type specimen in 1902 from Blackheath and Maiden and Betche described *Actinotus forsythii* in 1902. The link below shows the Type specimen collected by William Forsyth and associated information. <https://plantnet.rbg Syd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&photo=3%3E%203&file=92/804/NSW257679.jpg>

With fire appearing to be a trigger for germination and flowering for this species, we wonder if a local bushfire mentioned in an article from the *Barrier Miner* Newspaper (published in Broken Hill) on Monday, 31 December 1901 (see link below) may have contributed to the appearance of this plant, and enabled William Forsyth to collect the Type specimen. <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/44312366>

Locations of sightings should not be publicised widely, to protect them from flower-pickers and unscrupulous native plant thieves.

If you see them, enjoy the display while they last!

References:

<http://anpsa.org.au/a-for.html>

<https://bie.ala.gov.au/species/https://id.biodiversity.org.au/node/apni/2916305>

<https://bmnature.info/flora-pink-flannel-flowers.shtml>

<https://plantnet.rbg Syd.nsw.gov.au>

<https://trove.nla.gov.au>

A brief Bushcare internship

Over the summer break Bushcare was fortunate to have intern and university student, Lauren Clackson attend many of our Bushcare groups. Lauren, who is studying Environmental Futures, was motivated to get into the bush to help the environment and learn about our native bushland. You may have met Lauren in your groups – she worked with many of our Bushcare Officers and volunteers and learnt a lot about the Mountains while attending groups from the lower to the upper Mountains.

Lauren's first day was at Fairy Dell Bushcare Group in Springwood with Bushcare Officer, Tracy Abbas. Lauren received a warm welcome from the group followed by an induction. Tracy introduced her to local species and priority weeds such as Trad and Ehrharta grass and showed her how the area at the top of the Fairy Dell Track experiences

sedimentary run off from roads and urban areas. Lauren said she was surprised at how relaxing and oddly satisfying weeding is! The team has done a great job at the site and there is a rich variety of natives coming through including Basket Grass, Weeping Grass, Commelina and Bracken Ferns.

Lauren said "If anyone is contemplating joining Bushcare, I would highly recommend it. Bushcare offers a great way to meet new people, learn about our native species, clear your mind, and spend time in nature."

Lauren enjoyed meeting everyone immensely. She said, "Being around like-minded people and seeing how much you care about restoring our native bushland has really inspired me. Thank you to the Bushcare team and volunteers for being so welcoming. I hope to continue working with you in the future."

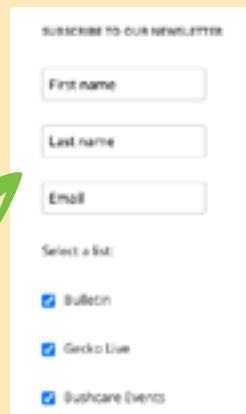
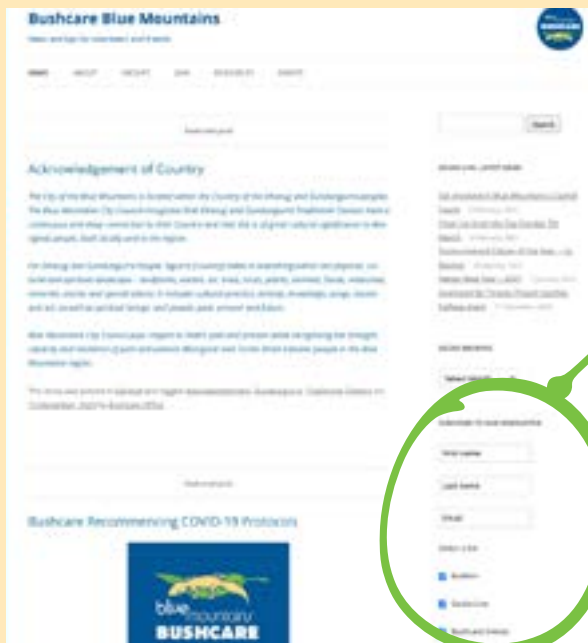
Saving the Trees - one Gecko at a time

By Erin Hall

Sustainability is important to Bushcare so the Gecko newsletter will be moving online. If you would like a printed copy, contact your Bushcare Officer and request that they bring a copy onsite for you.

The Gecko will continue to be produced quarterly with articles taken from the Bushcare Blue Mountains website and published in a PDF format that will be available on both the Blue Mountains City Council, and the Bushcare Blue Mountains websites.

Our monthly events updates will continue via email and we will add a link to the latest stories from Bushcare so we can all keep up to date with what is happening. To sign up to receive the Gecko to your mailbox, go to the front page of the website at: www.bushcarebluemountains.org.au. On the right side under the Gecko Live latest news navigation is a section to subscribe to our newsletter.



Add your name and email into this section to subscribe. You can choose to receive as much or as little information as is relevant to you and you can unsubscribe at any time.

The options are:

Bulletin

The Bulletin is the news that does not fit into the Gecko, events or network updates. Bulletins don't happen regularly but tend to include articles advertising extra volunteer positions that may be available and the coming and going of staff.

Gecko Live

The Gecko Live is our news feed. This is where we put articles that would otherwise have been published in the Gecko Newsletter. These get published as they come in and are then compiled for the newsletter.

Bushcare Events

This is a list of events that Bushcare co-ordinates. It also includes events from other agencies that align with the regeneration of natural areas and that provide learning opportunities.

Bushcare Network

This is a quarterly meeting that is supported by Council. Members from Bushcare groups come together to plan, discuss and work through issues that relate to the Bushcare program as a whole.

Before and after photos from Wentworth Falls Lake

For groups that have been working on their sites for many years, it might be time to revisit these sites and take your 'after' pictures. This 'before' photo was taken in 2003 when the Wentworth Falls Lake Bushcare Group planted out the area next to the footpath off Waratah Road. The shrub growth has screened in the area and provided much needed habitat.



IMAGE: WWF Lake Bushcare @ Waratah Rd Feb 2003
CREDIT: BMCC/ Wentworth Falls Bushcare Group



IMAGE: WWF Lake Bushcare @ Waratah Rd Dec 2020
CREDIT: James Bevan BMCC

Get Involved in Blue Mountains Crayfish Count

By Alice Blackwood

Bushcare volunteers and Blue Mountains community members can contribute to building knowledge about our local freshwater crayfish species, as part of an exciting new citizen science project, the Blue Mountains Crayfish Count.

Council's Healthy Waterways Team runs annual crayfish surveys in three areas and waterbug surveys at more than sixty sites, but we are unable to conduct formal surveys in every stream - that's where you come in!

By collectively gathering more data on crayfish, this helps us get a better picture of the health of our crayfish populations, and in turn, the health of our waterways. It may also allow for the early detection of pollution incidents and their potentially negative impacts on our environment.

As part of the launch of the project, we've made some short videos about crayfish. These summarise the differences between our native spiny crayfish and yabbies, their importance, and some things you can do to help protect them. There's also some great underwater shots of some beautiful Giant Spiny Crayfish (*Euastacus spinifer*). Check out the videos at Council's YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/BlueMtnsCityCouncil/videos>.

The Blue Mountains Crayfish Count is a project within iNaturalist. You can join the project and submit observations either through the iNaturalist website or app. For more information go to <https://inaturalist.ala.org.au/projects/blue-mountains-crayfish-count>.



IMAGE: Giant Spiny Crayfish *Euastacus spinifer*
CREDIT: BMCC Healthy Waterways Team

Regenerate Project

By Emma Kennedy

With school excursions and incursions off the menu for most of the year due to COVID-19, 2020 presented big challenges for Council's **Connecting Kids to Nature Program**.

Not to be held back by this, we teamed up with the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre to deliver the **Regenerate Project** - a creative project looking at how Australian bushland responds to fire. The Project also celebrated the 20th Anniversary of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (GBMWH).

We are delighted to report that the project has been a big hit in local schools, with over 2,500 children taking part.

HOW THE PROJECT WORKED

School children across the Mountains were invited to create beautiful leaf artworks to represent the burning and regeneration that occurs in Australian bushland during and after bushfires. We focused on two species of Eucalypt impacted by the 2019-20 bushfires: *Eucalyptus deanei* and *Eucalyptus punctata*. Each school was sent printed leaves to decorate as well as a kit with information and activities about the 2019/20 fires, their impact on the GBMWH, how Eucalypts respond to fire, and which birds and animals are found in local Eucalypt forests.

The finished leaves were then collected and installed as a spectacular, public hanging display in the foyer of the Cultural Centre. The installation was on display throughout the January school holidays.

<https://www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/media-centre/artwork-at-blue-mountains-cultural-centre-reflects-growth-and-resilience>



IMAGE: The leaves in place at the Cultural Centre CREDIT: BMCC

New Narrow Neck Bushcare group

By Pip Walsh

In late 2019, before bushfires and COVID, a few mature Pampas Grasses were noted along parts of Glenraphael Drive, which is off Cliff Drive at Narrow Neck, Katoomba. The sighting was flagged with a friend, who suggested we start up a new Bushcare Group.

As part of our investigation, we realised that we had several small drainage lines where various weeds were flourishing and if we tackled them, we could help protect the Escarpment Complex vegetation and a population of the threatened species *Pterosphaera fitzgeraldii* (formerly known as *Microstrobis fitzgeraldii*).

Pampas Grass has become a dim memory, and has now been overtaken by our dedicated Holly hunting, as well as a bit of Privet, Cotoneaster, Himalayan Honeysuckle and Ivy hunting for variety. At some stage, we will have to tackle the Montbretia. Bushcare veterans realise we have years of entertainment ahead. We do have a fair bit of manoeuvring through the bush to get to our weedy targets, but the effort is made worthwhile when we break for morning tea and look out over the valley below and across the southern Mountains.

We now have a regular, core team, but since formally becoming part of the Bushcare Program from November 2020, we would be pleased to welcome more members. We meet on the first Saturday morning of the month. Contact Pip Walsh pipwalsh@ozemail.com.au or Karen Hising (Bushcare Officer) khising@bmcc.nsw.gov.au



IMAGE: The Narrow Neck Bushcare Group from left to right: Pip, Andrew, Lynda, James, Madi and Paul.
CREDIT: BMCC with Andrew Cox's camera

Allendale Landcare Group

The Allendale Landcare Group has been formed by Blackheath residents Eva and Bill Johnstone at their property within the Popes Glen Creek catchment, with support from Blue Mountains City Council, Greater Sydney Landcare, and NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service.

This property was largely burnt during the 2019-2020 summer fires. The fires burnt both native and exotic vegetation, including Blue Mountains Swamps. Secondary ecological succession since these large disturbance events is continuing, including the re-sprouting or germination of diverse assemblages of native plants.

The Landcare group has enthusiastically attracted grants to engage both contractors and volunteers to conduct priority post fire weeding, erosion control and planting. We look forward to the ongoing success of this new venture as the Allendale Landcare Group undertakes ecological restoration, and improves ecological function and ecosystem services of the local bushland.



IMAGE: Blackheath residents, Eva and Bill Johnstone on their property
CREDIT: James Bevan

Report a Koala Sighting

Science for Wildlife is working to find koala populations to help conserve them. Once the populations are found and mapped, and the threats to koalas identified, the information is shared with land managers, rural fire services and community groups to protect koalas and restore koala habitats. To report a koala sighting go to:

<https://scienceforwildlife.org/how-to-help/join-our-koala-project/>



The Butterfly Effect

Works have begun to Butterfly Hill-topping site at Lawson

By Erin Hall

Did you know that Bellevue Park at Lawson is a very special site that provides a hill-topping site for butterflies. What is a hill-topping site I hear you ask and why is that such a big deal?

A hill-topping site is a site where butterflies can come to mate. Hill-topping behaviour refers to those species that have adult males that congregate on prominent or raised areas. The males establish territory there as a way of finding mates. Mating occurs and then the females head off to find a place to lay their eggs. Certain hill-tops are favoured by different species and they return every year.

Why is this important? Hill-topping sites are disappearing due to development such as housing and the building of highways. Butterflies, like many insects are under threat from these developments and the clearing of vegetation. The loss and/or degradation of sites used for hill-topping by butterflies is listed as a Key Threatening process in the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.

This project was made possible with funding from the Greater Sydney Local Land Services.

The project involves:

- Signage to help the community understand why this site is so important.
- Removal of large woody weeds.
- Rehabilitation of the area at the top of the hill. Rocks have been placed on the hill as resting sites for butterflies. Some vehicle access will remain but the compacted turning area will be built up with soil (due to the potential for subsurface indigenous artefacts) and replanted with native vegetation.
- Planting native vegetation to provide feeding plants for butterflies.



IMAGE: *Delias aganipipe* (Wood White) CREDIT: Martin Purvis

New Blackheath Community Farm Landcare Group

By Lis Bastian

Just over four years ago, the Blackheath-based not-for-profit **The Big Fix** was generously given access to land at Mountains Christian College in West Blackheath to work with the community to establish a permaculture-inspired Community Farm. The Farm grows community first and foremost, collects and stores locally-acclimatized seed, and shares produce with volunteers. The farmers meet every Sunday from 10am and usually work until around 2pm. All are welcome.

A year ago, after the basic farm infrastructure was established, the farmers began to extend their focus to the bushland around the farm itself. They are keen to ensure that the whole eco-system they are part of is being optimally managed.

Initially, the farmers worked with Lyndal Sullivan and Marianne Bate to learn more about bush regeneration. Their enthusiasm then led to the formation of a new Landcare Group in November 2020, which works with Council's Bushcare Officer, Karen Hising. The Landcare Group meets at the Community Farm from 1.30pm to 4.30pm on the first Saturday of the month.

In the short time the group has been working, it has already cleared over 40m of dense *Agapanthus* and other weeds. Karen has also taken the group on a tour of the whole school site to look at how woody weeds throughout the property can be tackled in the long term. The work at the school site complements other initiatives in West Blackheath that have been undertaken by the Woody Weed Wander Bushcare Group and the Remote Bushcare Program.

If you are interested in knowing more about the Community Farm and the Landcare Group, and how you can be involved, please contact the Co-ordinator Lis Bastian on 0407 437 553.

Information about The Big Fix can be found via the link: <https://thebigfix.org/>



IMAGE: The Blackheath Community Farm Landcare Group from Left to right: Sue, Karen, Marianne, Sarah, Kathryn, Elaine. Lis, the coordinator, is taking the photo.

Poison Hemlock

By Jan Allen

Hemlock, Carrot-fern *Conium maculatum* L.

Plant Family: *Apiaceae* [*Umbelliferae*], The Carrot Family

One of my earliest memories is of my wise mother drawing an urgent breath at the sight of this weed and declaring, 'Ah, Hemlock! Don't go near that plant!' Yet, as Bushcarers, we may find ourselves both nearby, and in need of removing this non-native plant.

So, what do we need to know about this dangerous flat-leaved, Parsley/Coriander look-a-like that favours, but is not exclusively found in damp sites?

Recent rains following drought, more open land following the bushfires and the nutrient flush from the fires have resulted in the vigorous growth of Hemlock. It was in full flower in mid-November last year, in areas I visited along the Darling Causeway. It was also around Lithgow and Hartley on roadsides and railway embankments, along watercourses and in farm paddocks. So, it is undoubtedly elsewhere in the Blue Mountains.

There are abundant NSW Herbarium records for the Central Tablelands; for the Northern and Southern Tablelands; all Coastal subdivisions and for some of the Western Slopes.

Native to Europe and North Africa, Hemlock is a widespread exotic weed. It is much the same height (up to 2.5 metres) as Wild fennel and they are sometimes found growing together. Hemlock looks similar to parsley with thinner, more drooping leaves. Eating the plant or seeds can prove fatal! Having been sentenced to die, Socrates was required to drink a preparation made from Hemlock.

Please Take Care

- Do not eat Hemlock, wear gloves and protective clothing, do not crush it with bare hands to assess the acrid smell, keep a barrier between it and your skin and eyes.
- All parts of the plant are poisonous, particularly the leaves and seeds
- Correct identification is essential, so do not rely on just one characteristic, for example 'purple blotches on the stem' as these may not be obvious. There is excellent information and images on the Brisbane City Council website at: <https://weeds.brisbane.qld.gov.au/weeds/hemlock>.

This includes images of the seedlings we may find later

- Also, the NSW flora ONLINE entry for *Conium maculatum* L. gives a detailed description.
- Mostly for its potential to poison stock, it is listed on the Department of Primary Industries' NSW WeedWise site: <https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/Hemlock>

Removal

- Hand pulling from the base, with protective clothing and eyewear recommended to be worn, as the taproot may resprout.
- Bag and remove, but not to a compost bin. Toxins may remain for up to three years.
- Equally, leaving pulled material in situ is not recommended.
- Mechanical harvesting and line-trimming is not advised because of the spread of sap and difficulty in gathering all cut material.
- Seedlings will undoubtedly follow.

You may not see this plant often or in great abundance, but I strongly advise learning about Hemlock so that you will recognise it when you see it.

If you believe you may have been poisoned by this plant, call the **Poisons Information Line on 13 11 26**.



IMAGE: Flowers and seed buds of the Poison hemlock
CREDIT: Jan Allen



IMAGE: Habitat of the Poison hemlock
CREDIT: Jan Allen



IMAGE: Stems of the Poison hemlock
CREDIT: Jan Allen



IMAGE: Leaves of the Poison hemlock
CREDIT: Jan Allen

All creatures great and small

Snowy Mountains Humpback Slug *Cystopelta cf. astra*

By Jan Allen

A curious Blackheath Centenary Reserve resident likes the wet.

I first noticed this 2 centimetre long, tadpole-like slug on wet mornings in late 2015, but recent drought years saw it fade from my mind. With our 'soggiest year since digital records' - its back.

This inspired me to find out more.

'Australian Land Snails Volume 1 - A field guide to Eastern Australia species' features almost 800 species, many yet to be formally described by our few, dedicated malacologists (the branch of zoology that studies molluscs).

This native, semi-arboreal invertebrate belongs to a small group of air-breathing, herbivorous semi-slugs found most commonly in the leaf-litter of wet sclerophyll forest, feeding on lichen and biofilm on tree trunks. It is important that its habitat is not disturbed.

I am grateful to the iNaturalist expert for explaining that the 1937 description *Cystopelta astra* is currently applied for animals in Southeast NSW, but as more than one species may be present, the placement of cf. indicates certainty about the genus plus uncertainty, but comparability with the species *astra*.

Reference: 'Australian Land Snails Volume 1 - A field guide to Eastern Australia species'

Stanisic et al. 2010



IMAGE: *Lomatia* and the snail
CREDIT: Jan Allen



IMAGE: Snowy Mountains Humpback Snail
CREDIT: Jan Allen

Feral Scan - Fox Scan

Have you seen a fox... or seen any evidence that they've been on your property?!

FoxScan is a purpose-built community website for recording fox sightings, as well as the impacts of fox attacks and control activities (e.g. baiting & trapping).

It is a free resource for landholders, Landcare groups, community groups, local Councils, professional pest controllers and biosecurity groups that has been designed by landholders for communities. Click on the link <https://www.feralscan.org.au/foxscan/> for instructions on how to use the app and other useful resources.

Go to <https://www.feralscan.org.au> - to see what other pests you can record.



These events will follow COVID-19 protocols - bring your own drink and snack (unless otherwise specified). Numbers will be limited and safe social distancing will be maintained.

MARCH

Remote – Porters Pass (Blackheath)

Saturday 13 March 8.30am – 4pm

Come and join us at this new remote location - Porters Pass, Blackheath. A beautiful site in the Upper Mountains working along the creek above the falls. There will possibly be some walking in the creek so be prepared for wet feet. A medium level of fitness and some bushwalking experience is needed as there is some scrambling involved.

Bookings essential. Book by Wednesday 10 March with Steve on 4780 5623 or email sfleischmann@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

Hazelbrook Weed Walk and Talk (Burgess Falls)

Sunday 28 March 1 – 4.30pm

Come and learn about the bushland in Hazelbrook. This series involves some easy weeding followed by an interesting walk in the local area.

Bookings Essential. Book by Thursday 24 March by clicking the link <https://www.bushcarebluemountains.org.au/event/hazelbrook-weed-walk-and-talk-burgess-falls-4/>

For further information contact Nathan 4780 5623 or nsummers@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

Updating your Bushcare Webpage (online with Zoom 2 Sessions day and evening)

Monday 29 March

12noon – 1pm & 6 – 7pm

Learn you how to use the WordPress phone app, set up your page, add a heading, add photos, and any other tips that we have found useful. Any member of the group can contribute.

To register for this on-line Zoom training click the RSVP by 22 March link <https://www.bushcarebluemountains.org.au/event/zoom-fun-with-wordpress-updating-your-bushcare-website/>

or <https://www.bushcarebluemountains.org.au/event/zoom-fun-with-wordpress-updating-your-bushcare-website-session-2/> or email ehall@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

APRIL

Ruth's Revenge (MinneHaha Falls, Katoomba)

Thursday 1 April 9am – 12pm

Come and join Ruth's friends to commemorate her birthday at Minnehaha Falls Reserve by attacking her arch nemesis – Montbretia!

For further information contact Steve Fleischmann at sfleischmann@bmcc.nsw.gov.au or 4780 5623 by Thursday 25 March.

Popes Glen Swampcare, Remote Bushcare and Great Grose Weed Walk (Blackheath)

Saturday 10 April 9am - 4pm

Approximately one year after fire, native regeneration is well underway. However a combined effort is needed to prevent reproduction or at the very least reduce propagule pressure of Gorse and Broom in 2021. Be part of this large combined BMCC/NPWS event – morning tea and lunch provided.

Bookings Essential. Please RSVP by Friday 2 April at <https://www.bushcarebluemountains.org.au/event/pop-es-glen-swampcare-remote-bushcare-and-great-grose-weed-walk/>

For further information contact James on 4780 5623 or jbevan@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

Kodala Lane Working Bee (Glenbrook)

Sunday 11 April 1.30 – 4.30pm

You are invited to join the Kodala Lane Bushcare Group at Glenbrook Lagoon for their quarterly Bushcare session. Come and join us as we restore the bushland at Kodala Lane.

Bookings Essential. Book by Wednesday 7 April. Click the RSVP below

<https://www.bushcarebluemountains.org.au/event/kodala-lane-working-bee-2/>

For further information contact Nathan on nsummers@bmcc.nsw.gov.au or on 4780 5623.

Fungi Foray (Blackheath Coachwood Glen)

Saturday 17 April 9.30am – 12.30pm

Join us on Fungi Foray in the Upper Mountains to view this fascinating and colourful world. You don't need any previous knowledge, just a keen eye for spotting and an interest to learn more. Bring sturdy walking boots – walking on uneven muddy tracks.

Bookings Essential. Book by Wednesday 14 April. Click the RSVP below <https://www.bushcarebluemountains.org.au/event/fungi-foray-birdwood-gully-springwood/>

MAY

Rocklea Swampcare (Hazelbrook)

Friday 7 May – 9am - 3pm

This little known mid-mountains Blue Mountains Swamp has been part of the landscape-wide Swampcare program since 2014. There is plenty of primary work to be done on a variety of weeds – Erica, Buddleia, Privet, and Crofton Weed. Lunch and morning tea donated by Hominy.

Bookings Essential. Please RSVP by Wednesday 28 April at <https://www.bushcarebluemountains.org.au/event/swampcare-rocklea-swamp-hazelbrook/>.

For further information contact James on 4780 5623 or jbevan@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

Fungi Foray (Springwood, Birdwood Gully)

Saturday 8 May 9.30am – 12.30pm

Join us on Fungi Foray in the Lower Mountains to view this fascinating and colourful world. You don't need any previous knowledge, just a keen eye for spotting and an interest to learn more. Bring sturdy walking boots – walking on uneven muddy tracks.

Bookings Essential. Book by Wednesday 14 April.

Click the RSVP below [https://www.](https://www.bushcarebluemountains.org.au/event/fungi-foray-birdwood-gully-springwood-2/)

[bushcarebluemountains.org.au/event/fungi-foray-birdwood-gully-springwood-2/](https://www.bushcarebluemountains.org.au/event/fungi-foray-birdwood-gully-springwood-2/)

Hazelbrook Weed Walk and Talk – (Gloria Park)

Sunday 23 May 1 – 4.30pm

Come and learn about the bushland in Hazelbrook. This series involves some easy weeding followed by an interesting walk in the local area.

Bookings Essential. Book by Thursday 20 May. Click the

RSVP below [https://www.bushcarebluemountains.org.au/](https://www.bushcarebluemountains.org.au/event/hazelbrook-weed-walk-and-talk-gloria-park-4/)

[event/hazelbrook-weed-walk-and-talk-gloria-park-4/](https://www.bushcarebluemountains.org.au/event/hazelbrook-weed-walk-and-talk-gloria-park-4/)

For further information contact Nathan on nsummers@bmcc.nsw.gov.au or on 4780 5623.

Senior's Week Festival 1 April – 30 April

The Blue Mountains Seniors Festival is an opportunity to promote a better understanding of seniors within the community and the value they add to our lives. It is also an opportunity to encourage older people to lead active lifestyles and to participate at all levels in our community. This year, Seniors Festival will be held from Thursday 1 April to Friday 30 April 2021.

<https://www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/seniors-week>

Great Grose Weed Walk – Autumn 2021

For further information contact Grant Purcell on 0499 699 150 or grant.purcell@environment.nsw.gov.au

March

- 19 March Katoomba Creek
- 13 – 14 March Protect the Blue Gum Forest
- 28 Sunday - Braeside Blitz

APRIL

- 9 Friday – Headwaters of the Grose
- 10 Saturday – Popes Glen (BMCC/NPWS)
- 16 Friday – Headwaters of the Grose
- 25 Sunday – Braeside Blitz

MAY

- 1-3 Saturday to Monday – Grose River 3 day event

We would love to hear from you and encourage Bushcare volunteers to submit stories for publication in the Gecko. *Blue Mountains City Council has the right of final approval of this publication and reserves the right to make editorial changes including but not limited to, style and substance. Although care has been taken in compiling and checking information contained in this publication, Blue Mountains City Council shall not be held responsible or in any way liable for any errors, omissions or inaccuracies.*

For more information contact your local Bushcare Officer or email bushcare@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

Or to join Bushcare head to bushcarebluemountains.org.au/join-bushcare



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