

# PNHA NEWS

Winter 2018 Issue 76

Pittwater Natural Heritage Association – thinking locally, acting locally

## PNHA Update

### Ingleside Land Release

In their latest update on the Ingleside Planned Precinct, the Department of Planning and Environment flag their intention to release the rezoning package for the Ingleside Precinct in late 2018. It appears that they are being delayed by the need to do more work on bushfire risk assessment and biodiversity certification.

PNHA is still pushing for improved fauna corridors and better protection for biodiversity. For example we believe there are serious flaws in the assessment and treatment of Coastal Upland Swamps within the precinct, an ecological community listed as endangered by both state and federal governments.

Our submissions and lobbying have already led to additional investigations of this endangered ecological community, but we believe that there are still more to be found, the full extent of some has not been mapped, and the proposed protections for this EEC are not adequate.



A vegetation community typical of Coastal Upland Swamps. This area has not been identified as a CUP by the DP&E biodiversity consultant.



PNHA is planning to engage our own biodiversity consultant to investigate fully the number and extent of Coastal Upland Swamps in the Ingleside Precinct. Development too close to such swamps would affect the hydrology that creates them, causing their destruction.

Seepage from swamps still occurring weeks after a rain event. Note the holes of freshwater crayfish in the bank in Waratah St Ingleside

## PNHA Grant Projects

### Mona Vale Basin Bushcare support

This \$12000 grant to PNHA from the NSW Government Stronger Communities program provides the volunteers with more help from contract bush regenerators. The site, at the eastern end of Bassett St, contains coastal dune vegetation on one side and Littoral Rainforest Endangered Ecological Community on the opposite side. A lot of planting has been done on the formerly very weedy site and despite the hot dry summer is making good progress.



The bushcare group meets on the first Saturday morning of each month. Contact Karin Nippard, Northern Beaches Council Bush Management Officer on 0417 040 945 if you'd like to help.

### Careel Creek Vine Weeds project

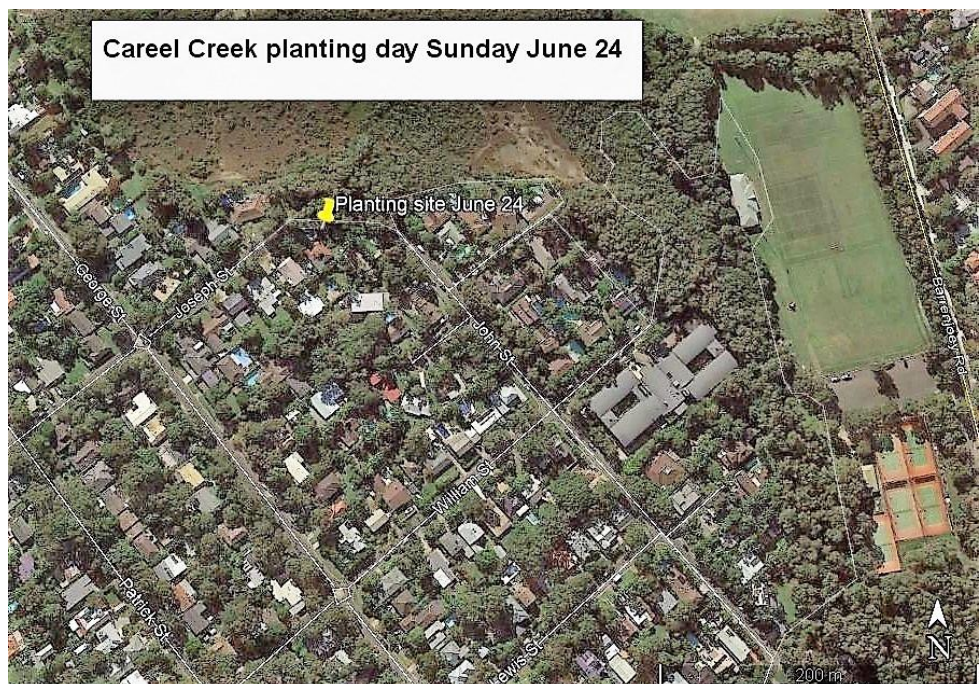
**A Community Planting Day will be held on Sunday June 24, 9-12.**

We'll meet on the pedestrian walkway between end of John & Joseph Street Avalon. See map:

Wear hat, enclosed footwear and long pants and sleeves. Bring gloves if possible. Tools, morning tea and good company provided.

Our grant of nearly \$24000 from Greater Sydney Local Land Services is paying contractors to deal with vine weeds such as Morning Glory that smother native plants, on the ground and up trees, and also buying tubestock native plants.

Careel Creek Bushcare group works on the fourth Saturday morning of each month, at various locations along the creek and nearby. The project is run in partnership with Northern Beaches Council. Contact [pnhainfo@gmail.com](mailto:pnhainfo@gmail.com) for more information.



## Narrabeen Lagoon Aquatic Walkway

We have objected to what we believe is an unnecessary and expensive solution to the problem of bringing up to standard about 70m of the track around Narrabeen Lagoon. We think it is a visual blight on the natural reedy and wooded lagoon shore. We objected also to lack of enough community consultation.

## Bayview Golf Course DA for a Seniors Living complex

We have opposed this DA as we consider it would impact the flora and fauna of the area. A family of endangered Powerful Owls is known to nest nearby. A large number of native trees would be destroyed. We cannot condone incremental loss of bushland and the precedent this would set for further loss.

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## Articles

### At last – Cash for Containers

#### The Return and Earn machine at Warriewood

To find this machine, drive to western end of Namona St Warriewood. Or enter from Jacksons Rd by turning in towards the Narrabeen Sports Centre. It's on the eastern side of the Sports Centre building.

We couldn't see any signage – but found our way based on the advice of others.

**Warriewood too far to go?** A Return and Earn Machine is also located in the western side of the parking area of Pittwater RSL



at Mona Vale.

**DIGITAL REFUND**

1. Download the myTONRA app
2. Link your PayPal account

Scan barcode to sign in  
Your personal barcode is located in the myTONRA App

Returns your containers

Select PayPal on the screen to transfer the refund to your account

**RETAIL REFUND**

Returns your containers

Take voucher from machine

Use your voucher for a cash refund or a saving at Woolworths

**DONATE YOUR REFUND**

Returns your containers

Choose your charity or community fundraiser

Donate your refund

**ELIGIBLE DRINK CONTAINERS:**

Most 150ml to 3-Litre drink containers are returnable if they are made from:

- Glass
- Plastic
- Aluminium
- Steel
- Liquid paperboard (cartons)

Containers should be empty, uncrushed, unbroken and have the original label attached. If a container is not eligible for a refund, please use a recycling bin.

Wine, spirits, cordial and plain milk containers are generally NOT eligible\*

Problems with the machine?  
Call TONRA Cleanaway: 1800 220 699 or email: enquiries@tcrw.com.au

\* For more information about the scheme and what's eligible go to: [www.returnandearn.org.au](http://www.returnandearn.org.au)

It will be interesting to see the effect on Clean Up Australia Day rubbish collected next March.

## Saving *Grevillea caleyi* at the Baha'i Temple

Did you know that people come from the other side of the world to help save this plant?



Here's Celine Dorey from Montpellier in France, staying at the Pittwater YHA. She's in front of one of the biggest ones at the Baha'i site.



And here's why: its conservation status has been changed from Endangered to Critically Endangered, meaning it's even closer to extinction than before. So we are delighted to be finding new seedlings (right) at the Baha'i Temple. PNHA manages the volunteer component



of the work on the site, part of the Office of Environment and Heritage Saving Our Species Program.

**Contact [pnhainfo@gmail.com](mailto:pnhainfo@gmail.com)** to be added to the mailing list for Baha'i Bushcare, which happens every two months on the first Monday of the month.

August 6 will be next work morning, 8.30-noon.

One of several magnificent Hairpin Banksias *Banksia spinulosa* flowering in the garden beds around the Temple area. Each flower spike actually consists of perhaps thousands of tiny individual flowers. The topmost flowers open first, the lowest open last. Western Australia Banksias open from the base first.

## Fauna in the 'burbs

We know about the local birds, mostly big, bold and noisy ones, and possums. But we humans are just one species among many among the varied wildlife here in Pittwater.

If you live in Ingleside you are extra likely to meet some at close quarters.

This **Diamond Python** may be the reason why rats don't live in the roof of this house at Ingleside. This python is more common than we realise, but they are very discreet and harmless to people. Some people say: if you don't have rats around, you probably have a python in the roof.



The postman got a surprise. Mum and baby **Brushtail Possum** were moved to another home.



Luckily the tasty vegies are behind a wire fence, so the **Swamp Wallaby** will stick to browsing the bush and lawn.

The **Bush Turkey** male and his mound. He can rearrange your garden for you, but to his own design.....



This **Southern Leaf-tailed Gecko** is inside by accident. Its flattened body enables it to hide in narrow spaces, and maybe slide under a door? It hunts insects at night.

A young **Tree Cricket**, also called **Raspy Cricket**, found shelter just inside the car door. Its antennae are huge. We wonder if the broken one will be repaired when it sheds its exoskeleton as it matures. This cricket is a nocturnal hunter with strong jaws and may bite the hand that helps it! For more info: <https://australianmuseum.net.au/grasshoppers-crickets-katydid-and-locusts-order-orthoptera>



## Talking Turkey – Citizen Science Project

The Australian Brush Turkey (*Alectura lathami*) would be familiar to many of us in the Pittwater area, in gardens or bushland. Image: Neil Fifer



Unlike most birds, they do not brood their eggs. The male constructs a nest mound of up to 3 tonnes of soil and leaf litter. The decomposition of the litter keeps the pile at 33 degrees. Once the female has laid her eggs there, her parental duties are over, as the male keeps the temperature stable by adding or

removing litter. The chick emerges from the pile as an independent little bird, already to able fly and find its own food. Though they can recognise predators, many die in their first year.

The mound building and scratching for food does not endear them to people who value their gardens.

There is plenty that is not known about these birds. What are they eating? How and why are they moving through the city and spreading to new areas? What effect do they have on other wildlife? These are some of the questions this project aims to answer.

Matthew Hall, a PhD candidate from Sydney University, co-supervised by ecologist Dr John Martin from the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney, and in collaboration with Taronga Zoo, will place GPS transmitters onto brush turkeys throughout the Sydney region.

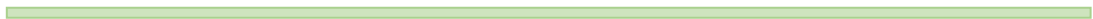
**Report a turkey.** Note any brush turkey sightings on the Wingtags app, or email [brush.turkey2@gmail.com](mailto:brush.turkey2@gmail.com) or visit <https://www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/science/the-wingtags-project/brush-turkey>



Reference: The Gardens magazine, Winter 2018, of the Foundation and Friends of the Botanic Gardens.



As well as Brush Turkeys, **Sulphur Crested Cockatoos** and **Australian White Ibis** are also being researched by Wingtags. See: <https://www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/science/the-wingtags-project> You can report sightings on the Wingtags app, or email sightings to [Cockatoo.Wingtag@gmail.com](mailto:Cockatoo.Wingtag@gmail.com) or to [ibis.sightings@gmail.com](mailto:ibis.sightings@gmail.com)



## Pittwater Owls

You are awake at night, owl time. What's that two-note hoot?

The **Powerful Owl** is now breeding in the Northern Beaches area.



Listen for the call at this link:

<http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/species/Ninox-streua>

Or are you hearing a **Southern Boobook**?

<http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/species/Ninox-novaeseelandiae>

Or could it be a **Barking Owl**? like a small dog, with a quick *woof woof* ?

<http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/species/Ninox-connivens>

Image: Powerful Owl with Brush Turkey prey. Lyn Priebus, Bayview.

## Membership Application

I would like to join Pittwater Natural Heritage Association. I agree with the PNHA's aims: raising awareness of and preserving our unique Pittwater natural environment.

Name:.....

Signed:.....

Address:.....

P/Code .....

Email:..... Ph:.....

Date:.....

I would like a **paper copy** **OR** **emailed** newsletter (circle your choice). Membership fee: \$20 or \$10 pensioner/student. To pay your membership, you can deposit electronically into our account at the Commonwealth Bank: BSB 062 208, account no.10168467. Type your surname in the reference box so we know who the membership is for. Alternatively make cheque payable to: **Pittwater Natural Heritage Association** or **PNHA**. Post cheque payable to **Pittwater Natural Heritage Association** to PNHA, PO Box 187, Avalon Beach NSW 2107.

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