



Bidjigal News



Newsletter of the Bidjigal Reserve Trust

Edition 5 24 November 2011

Bidjigal Reserve

Bidjigal Reserve is a 186 ha bushland Crown Reserve in The Hills Shire, NSW.

The name of the Reserve recognises the Bidjigal people, members of the Darug Nation, the traditional custodians of the area now dedicated as the Reserve.

The Bidjigal Reserve Trust Board consists of ten voluntary members appointed by the Minister for Primary Industries.

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From the Chair



I would like to begin this newsletter with a big THANK YOU to all the residents and reserve neighbours who registered their interest to be involved in some way with Bidjigal Reserve. The response has been very promising and the Trust is now working closely with those interested, to identify a Volunteer Coordinator who will become our liaison with the *Friends at Bidjigal*.

If you haven't registered your interest yet and would like to play some part in the Trust's ongoing management of Bidjigal, please contact the secretary for a nomination form and volunteer today!

As the remainder of this newsletter outlines there has been a lot of positive activity in the Reserve since our last newsletter and along with our growing band of volunteers the Trust has been actively involved in making things happen. Thanks again to all the volunteers who make the work of managing this magnificent natural asset possible and I would like to wish you all a safe and splendid festive season.

Steven Brett

Board Action

Since the last edition of *Bidjigal News* the Trust Board has met on 7 occasions.

Plan of Management

The Trust has now submitted the Plan to the Minister for Primary Industries, Katrina Hodgkinson for adoption.

Reserve Signage

Further consultation with The Hills Shire Council and its Eric Mobbs Reserve s355 committee, has led to some changes in the proposed signage. This has caused a short delay, but we will commence erecting signs at major track heads in the coming months with track intersection post-markers to follow in the new year.

Bridge Building

The pedestrian footbridge on Murri-Yanna Track is being replaced thanks to

grant funding provided through the State Government's Community Building Partnerships grant

Maintaining Tracks

Funding provided by the State Government Department of Primary Industries weed control grants will be used in the coming months to reduce the unsightly weeds along major tracks in the Reserve in accordance with the Reserve's Vegetation Management Plan.

Powerful Owl Habitat

Using grant funding provided by the Federal Government (Caring for Our Country Community Action Grant), the Trust has engaged a contractor with a long history in the Reserve to conduct bush regeneration and volunteer training in Bidjigal. If you would like to be involved – get in touch today...!

Bushfire Protection

A planned Hazard Reduction Burn carried out in West Pennant Hills last month was deemed a great success by fire fighters and neighbours alike. In all 13 Hectares of reserve bushland was control-burned using on-ground crews and airborne incendiaries. Our thanks to the crews from Rural Fire Service, Fire and Rescue NSW and National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Friends@Bidjigal

As mentioned above the Friends are a growing group of local residents and reserve neighbours who are interested in Bidjigal. Find out more by contacting the Trust today...!

Copies of the Board's Minutes are available from www.bidjigal.org.au



Darling Mills Creek

“The bushland of the Darling Mills Valley is of regional conservation significance as it includes plant communities and species which are of restricted distribution in western Sydney. It is an important habitat for an unusually high number of plants which are inadequately conserved in western Sydney.”

Fauna Impact Study for the Darling Mills Creek Stormwater Management Study



Caladenia catenata



Dianella caerulea



Patersonia sericea

Flora Photos: Wendy Goonan

Caring for our bushland

The *Noxious and Environmental Weed Control Handbook* is a free handbook published by NSW Department of Primary Industries.



Its 88 pages lists all 150 noxious and environmental weeds you need to target as well as outlining the best control methods, registered herbicides and the safest and most effective practices.

The handbook is available from the NSW Department of Primary Industries Bookshop on 1800 028 374 or online www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/weeds

Bush Neighbours Living near urban bushland reserves brings with it a responsibility to take special care not to invade or damage its sensitive and fragile existence.

Some ways in which caring *Bushland Neighbours* can help to care and protect bushland areas adjoining

their properties are:

- Choose native plants suitable for your location .
- Avoid or remove plants that will spread into bushland.
- Don't extend your backyard into bushland.
- Manage garden waste

- Choose plants that don't require too much water.
- Use friendly pesticides and fertilisers
- Don't feed native fauna
- Be a responsible pet owner
- Reduce fire hazards

Visit The Hills Shire Council website for information and useful downloads relating to Bidjigal Reserve and being a valued *Bush Neighbour*



www.thehills.nsw.gov.au/Bushland-and-Reserves.html

Be prepared - bushfire precautions for your home

- Cut back any overhanging trees or shrubs and dispose of cuttings appropriately.
- Check the condition of your roof and replace any damaged tiles.
- Non-combustible fences are the most effective at withstanding the intense heat generated by a bush fire.
- Clean leaves from the roof, gutters and downpipes and fit quality metal leaf guards.
- Plant trees and shrubs that are less likely to ignite due to their low oil content.
- If you have a water tank or swimming pool consider installing a Static Water Supply sign.
- Enclose underfloor areas.
- Store wood piles well away from the house and keep covered.
- Keep garden mulch away from the house.
- Make sure the pressure relief valve on LPG cylinders face outwards.
- Ensure you have a hose which is long enough to reach every part of the home.
- Remove and store any flammable items away from the house.
- Have a non-combustible doormat.
- Call Rural Fire Service 96541244



Thanks and Appreciation

Since our last newsletter both Carol Isaacs and Michael Cameron have resigned from the Board. During seven years of outstanding and selfless service Carol was instrumental in driving the Board towards its purpose and responsibilities. Likewise Michael brought drive and energy at a critical time in the Boards development. Their expertise and commitment will be greatly missed. From all, thanks Carol and Michael.

To be placed on Bidjigal News mailing list please forward name and email address to secretary@bidjigal.org.au