



Bidjigal News



Newsletter of the Bidjigal Reserve Trust

Edition 3 8 December 2010

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 Lands.

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From the Chair



It is with great pleasure that I am able to announce that the Draft Bidjigal Reserve Plan of Management is now available for public comment. The 96 page document prepared by Ecological Australia and Gondwana Consulting provides a comprehensive coverage of the features and issues associated with the Reserve. The management framework and the table of actions contained within the Plan provide clear directions and priorities for the Board over the next five years.

I would therefore encourage everyone to read and make comment on this final draft of the Plan before it is presented to the Board for its endorsement and recommendation to the Minister for adoption and implementation early in the new year.

As this will be our last newsletter for 2010 I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest and support over the past year and to wish you a safe and enjoyable Festive Season and a Happy New Year.

David Wilmshurst

Plan of Management

The draft *Plan of Management for Bidjigal Reserve* is now available for public comment.

The draft plan features:

- coverage of the key issues associated with the Reserve.
- a clear management framework
- a comprehensive table of specific actions
- Over 20 topographic maps, figures and tables.

Copies of the Plan can be viewed at:

- Land and Property Management Authority Level 12, 10 Valentine Ave Parramatta (Mon-Fri 9.00am -4.00pm)
- Darug Research and Information Centre 71 Seven Hills Road, Seven Hills (Mon, Tues, Fri 9.00am-2.00pm Sat Sun 9.00am-3.00pm)

Alternatively copies of the Plan can be down-loaded from

- www.ecoaus.com.au

- www.lpma.nsw.gov.au (Public Exhibition/Information)

Mail submissions to:
Bidjigal Reserve PoM
Ecological Australia Pty Ltd,
PO Box 12
Sutherland NSW 1499

Email Submissions to:
bidjigal@ecoaus.com.au

Closing date:
Friday 17 December 2010
5.00pm.

Board Action

Since the last edition of *Bidjigal News* the Board has met on 6 October, 3 November and 8 December.

The main focus of these meetings was to monitor and review the progress of the consultant's work on the Plan of Management.

Other activities have in-

cluded applying for a wide range of grants to assist with work in the Reserve and other fund raising initiatives.

Copies of the Board's Minutes are available from the Board's website 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



Bent Cassinia



Mountain Devil



Heathy Parrot Pea

Flora Photos: Wendy Goonan

Bush Care in Bidjigal Reserve, 2010.

The Bidjigal Reserve Trust Board recognises with thanks, the efforts of our volunteers.

The Blue Gum Creek bushcare group has made wonderful progress since its first day in April this year. Leader Ann Parks, members Irene, Michelle and Robert, and generous helpers have worked on removing weeds and planting suitable native plants along the creek bank east of the new fire trail crossing.

Blue Gum Creek is normally a gentle stream but grows rapidly in steady rain, even if the rain is on the other side of the M2. This means the banks need protection from erosion. The shady creeklines in the reserve are popular roosting places for Powerful Owls, but the owls don't roost in the deciduous *Acer negundo*, an exotic species that has invaded the creeks from

street and garden plantings in neighbouring suburbs. Growing over the Acers and other trees

also abundant and those treated include pavonia, crofton weed, and grasses.

To replace the weeds and improve habitat and creek bank stability, over 65 trees, plants, shrubs and climbers have also been planted.

To assist with and supplement this group's work the Trust has recently won a grant to deal with the

woody weeds and weedy vines further up and down the creek and behind homes further up the hill. This grant includes training for more volunteers, so that more of the community can become skilled bush carers.

The group meets onsite (where the fire trail crosses Blue Gum creek on the new culvert) at 10am on the second Sunday of every month and welcomes assistance, so if you are interested contact Ann on 0428678209.



and shrubs along the creek were various weedy vines, especially balloon vine and honeysuckle. *Tradescantia* (aka Wandering Jew or Trad) covered the ground in several places.

The bushcare group has treated and removed vines including *Tradescantia*, balloon vine and honeysuckle, and woody weeds such as Privet, *Acer negundo*, and lantana. Herbaceous weeds are

Bidjigal Treasure

Eastern Bentwing-bat
(*Miniopterus schreibersii oceanensis*)



The Eastern Bentwing Bat has chocolate to reddish-brown fur on its back and slightly lighter coloured fur on its belly. It has a short snout and a high 'domed' head with short round ears. It weighs up to 20 grams, has a head and body length of about 6 cm and a wingspan of 30-35 cm.

Caves are the primary roosting habitat, but also use derelict storm-water tunnels, buildings and other man-made structures.

Snippet

Weed Removal

The Trust has contracted Ecohort to carry out bush regeneration in the reserve. This has achieved a reduction in noxious and environmental weeds close to three residential neighbourhoods, as well as along the creek banks where our bushcare team is working. This work was funded by a noxious weeds grant from the LPMA and Trust funds.

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