



Bidjigal News



Newsletter of the Bidjigal Reserve Trust

Edition 4 2 May 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 Lands.

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Contact Us

T: 9686 3149
E: secretary@bidjigal.org.au
W: www.bidjigal.org.au

PO BOX 382
Baulkham Hills
NSW 1755

ISSN 1838-0794

From the Chair



Let me first welcome all readers to this newsletter and encourage all residents, in particular Bidjigal Neighbours, to register their interest and get involved..!

As the newly elected Chair of the Bidjigal Reserve Trust Board this is my first column for our newsletter and I would like to commence by expressing my sincere thanks and appreciation to former Chair, David Wilmshurst, and Deputy Chair, Carol Isaacs, for the outstanding contribution they made to the Trust and Bidjigal Reserve during their terms of office.

As outlined elsewhere in the newsletter there are a number of changes to the executive of the Trust Board and I look forward to working with them and the other members of the Board in undertaking the challenging task of managing Bidjigal Reserve so that it realises its full potential as a highly valued natural asset and community resource.

Over the past months the Board has been busy undertaking a number of significant activities that are outlined below but include - finalising the Plan Of Management, undertaking discussions with M2 Motorway authorities, commencing work on improving signage throughout the Reserve, replacing one of the bridges within the Reserve, planning and implementing a range of bushfire protection measures and commencing a program to further inform our neighbours about the role of the Trust and how they can become involved by becoming a *Friend of Bidjigal*.

Steven Brett

Board Action

Since the last edition of *Bidjigal News* meetings were held on 6 February, 9 March and 13 April.

At the February meeting the following members were elected to the executive committee:

Chair: Steven Brett
Secretary: Wendy Goonan
Treasurer: Brian Powyer
Deputy Chair: Michael Cameron

Plan of Management – following extensive community and stakeholder consultation late last year, a draft Plan is being finalized for the Minister's approval prior to it being adopted by the Trust.

Reserve Signage – Work has commenced to arrange for the erection of signs at major track heads and

track junctions in the Reserve.

Bridge Building – Plans and specifications for the construction of a 12m pedestrian bridge along the Mari-yanna Track have been sought to replace the now dangerous creek crossing.

Friends@Bidjigal – a program to contact all Bidjigal neighbours by mail has commenced. From this the Trust hopes to build a list of residents who are interested in the Reserve and establish a 'friends' group that can assist with organizing and coordinating volunteers, events and communication of key information.

Bushfire Protection – the Trust is actively in-

involved with regional bush fire management and using funds from the Rural Fire Service will be establishing and maintaining Asset Protection Zones at designated areas around the reserve.

M2 Motorway talks have continued with M2 Motorway authorities in relation to works associated with the widening of the M2 Motorway that impact on Bidjigal Reserve and nearby bushland.

Track Maintenance - undertaking an ongoing program to maintain and improve walking tracks within the Reserve.

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."

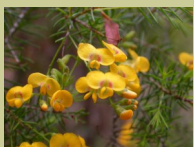
Fauna Impact Study for the Darling Mills Creek Stormwater Management Study



Bent Cassinia



Mountain Devil



Heathy Parrot Pea

Flora Photos: Wendy Goonan

Powerful Owls Need Possums

Possums, both brushtail (*Trichosurus vulpecular*) and common ringtail (*Pseudocheirus peregrines*) are common, both within Bidjigal and elsewhere, most probably in your garden.

They are treasures because they are one of the most important items in the diet of the Powerful



Common Ringtail Possum (*Pseudocheirus peregrines*).
Photo: Pavel German

Owl, which uses Bidjigal and much of the Darling Mills Creek catchment as its territory.

Bidjigal is surrounded by wonderful possum habitat – mature leafy gardens full of all sorts of possum food, and lots of nesting sites in vegetation, sheds and roofs.

In fact, in the Sydney region, there are now more possums in the suburbs than in bushland areas. And once a top order predator's favourite prey is abundant, then an increase in the top order predator, in this case Powerful Owls, can be expected.

In a recent article, Martyn Robinson of the Australian Museum claims that *Powerful Owls are now seen so regularly*



Brushtail Possum (*Trichosurus vulpecular*) Photo: Qld Dept of Environment and Resource Management

they barely rate a mention.

Powerful Owls depend on thick, shady vegetation for roosting and old (> 150 years) eucalypts with hollows large enough for breeding. This habitat is found within Bidjigal and other areas of nearby bushland.

However, it is us, with our gardens full of possums which are now important in providing much of their diet and maintaining their numbers.

Carol Isaacs

Understanding Our Logo

This distinctive logo, was designed by Bundeluk and Chris Tobin, both members of the first Trust Board. The design is highly relevant and specific to Bidjigal Reserve, the name of which commemorates the Bidjigal people (members of the Darug Nation) who lived in the area prior to European settlement.

The significance of the logo features are:

- The central feature of the logo is a human right hand which indicates custodianship. It represents

the custodianship of the Bidjigal Reserve Trust, the past custodianship of the Darug Nation and their continuing role in this today.

- The lizard is the bidjiwong or eastern water dragon, a species very common in Bidjigal Reserve. This also represents the fauna of the reserve.
- The gum leaf is a gesture of peace and in its stylised form also represents a Darug shield.

It represents the flora of the reserve.

- The ring of black dots looks like a ring of stones and signifies protection.
- The colours of the other dots are green for the flora, blue for the water and brown for the earth, the natural elements of the Reserve.



Carol Isaacs

NOTICE: SAFETY WARNING

Due to construction work on the M2 Bridge over Darling Mills Creek access through Bidjigal Reserve along the Murri-yanna Track has been closed. Signs at entry points to the Murri-yanna Track provide a map showing the approved detour for the duration of the work.

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