



Bidjigal News



Newsletter of the Bidjigal Reserve Trust

Edition I 25 May 2010

Bidjigal Reserve

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

The name of the Reserve commemorates the Bidjigal people, members of the Darug Nation, who lived in the area prior to European settlement.

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

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From the Chair



Welcome to the first edition of Bidjigal News, the official newsletter of the Bidjigal Reserve Trust. Amongst the many reasons for publishing a regular newsletter is the need to inform the broader community about the activities and decisions of the Trust Board relating to the task of managing and maintaining the Reserve. It is also hoped that the newsletter can assist to better inform the community about the Reserve, its biodiversity, ecological importance and of the magnificence of its many natural features, all of which are inextricably linked to the cultural heritage that dates back over thousands of years.

I trust that the newsletter fulfils its purpose. If you have any suggestions on how it can be improved we would welcome your comments.

David Wilmshurst

New Board Meets

The Minister for Lands, Tony Kelly, announced the members of the new Bidjigal Reserve Trust Board on 24 December 2009.

The newly appointed Bidjigal Reserve Trust Board held its first meeting on 12 February 2010.

At this meeting David Wilmshurst was elected as Chair, Wendy Goonan as Secretary and Steven Brett as Treasurer.

Two subsequent meetings

were held on the 25 March and 29 April. A summary of the major decision taken by the Board is included later in this newsletter



Bidjigal Reserve Trust Board Members

L to R Tony Williams, Lex Dadd, John Riley, Michael Cameron, Steven Brett, David Wilmshurst, Leanne Watson, Carol Isaacs, Wendy Goonan, Brian Powyer, Adrian Lewis

Plan of Management

During its October 2009 meeting, following an extensive tendering process, the Board took the decision to engage Eco Logical Australia to prepare a Plan of Management for the Reserve.

In March 2010 Eco Logical Australia invited key stakeholder groups, other special interest groups and members of the general public to

forward their views and ideas on how the Reserve should be managed for the benefit of the community over coming years.

A wide range of ideas and opinions were submitted to the consultants and these are now being incorporated into a well researched and comprehensive plan.

It is anticipated that a draft consultative document will be available for further comment later this year.

Following consideration of the final comments the Plan will be finalized and presented to the Minister for approval and adoption by the Board.

Progress updates will be available from our website. <http://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



Apple Berry



Milkmaids



Sun Orchid

Flora Photos: Wendy Goonan

The Board In Action

Meeting on a monthly basis the Board has held three meetings this year. A summary of decision includes:

- The Board accepted The Hills Shire Council's offer to establish Asset Protection Zones behind Candowie Crescent and other agreed areas around the Reserve.
- The Hills Shire Council was advised that the Board prefers to use a set of stepping stones to cross Darling Mills Creek and repair an existing bridge rather than to proceed with the construction of a new boardwalk.
- The Board will seek expressions of interest to conduct guided bushwalks in the Reserve.
- The Board will meet with The Hills Shire Council to develop an agreement regarding a range of Council services required to improve and maintain the Reserve.

- The Board will support fox baiting to be carried out by Council in the Reserve in May.
- The Board will assist NSW Fire Brigade and the Rural Fire Service and Lands and Property Management Authority in the organisation of prescribed burns planned for the Reserve this year.

Copies of the approved minutes will be placed on the Board's website. <http://www.bidjigal.org.au>

Bidjigal Treasures

The Powerful Owl is a large owl with a relatively small head and a rounded tail. It is dark grey to dark grey-brown above, with white barring, and off-white below, with distinctive dark v-shaped chevrons. The eyes are yellow, set in a dark grey/brown facial mask. The Powerful Owl is endemic to eastern and south-eastern Australia, mainly on the eastern side

of the Great Dividing Range.

The Powerful Owl is a carnivore and top order predator that eats mainly medium to large tree-dwelling mammals.

Powerful Owls have been seen in the Reserve during the day in the gullies close to the creek line and their distinctive *Hoo Hoo* call can be heard at night.

For further information see Birds in Backyards: <http://birdsinboxyards.net/species/Ninox-strepera>



The Powerful Owl

Snippets

Man Found In Bushland

A man suffering multiple injuries spent two nights in Bidjigal Reserve before being found. He was suffering a broken ankle, chest injuries and hypothermia. Police are investigating how the man obtained his injuries and why he was at the reserve.

Bidjigal Burn

On Sunday 16 May about 60 members of NSWFB, NSWRFs and Community Fire Units undertook a prescribed burn in the Reserve that covered about 12 ha from Bron Close to the junction of the Burruga Track and Excelsior Creek.

New Darug Centre

The Darug Tribal Aboriginal Corporation has opened their new *Darug Research and Information Centre* in the Grantham Heritage Park, 71 Seven Hills Road, South, Seven Hills NSW. Enquiries darug-tribal@live.com.au

"In the end, we will conserve only what we love, we will love only what we understand, and we will understand only what we are taught." Baba Dioum

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