



Bidjigal News



Newsletter of the Bidjigal Reserve Trust

Edition 2 20 September 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



Last week I took the opportunity to join one of the bushwalks through the Reserve and couldn't help notice the intensity and diversity of the spring display of native flora. I would strongly recommend a visit to the Reserve in coming weeks.

Since the last newsletter the Board has been busy in discussions with the consultants preparing the Plan of Management for the Reserve. Signs are that we are now nearing a final draft which will be placed on public display for community comment. Following its adoption this important document will direct the work of the Boards for the next five years.

For those with a strong interest in the Reserve there is a vacancy on the Board that you might like to consider. I am sure that you will find contributing to the work of the Board most rewarding.

David Wilmshurst

Plan of Management

Progress toward preparing a Plan of Management for the Bidjigal Reserve is well advanced and on target for public display and comment in the very near future.

The BRTB has met with Ecological Australia, the consultants contracted to

prepare the Plan. Discussions focused on the key issues identified through consultation with and submissions from all major stakeholders associated with the Reserve.

Work is now proceeding to develop a wide range

of options and strategies to address the identified issues.

Once completed the draft Plan will be made available for further public comment and then presented to the Minister for Lands for approval and adoption.

Spring/Summer Bidjigal Bushwalk Program

The Bidjigal Reserve Trust Board in conjunction with Boronia Tours has organised an exciting bushwalk program for the coming months. Tours usually last about two hours and cost \$8.00 adults and \$4.00 child or \$20.00 family. For bookings contact Jennifer Phone: 9634 3163, Mobile: 0407 456 577, Email: jennifer@boroniatours.com

Sunday 26 September 10.00am – 12 noon

Nature Walk Blue Gum Creek North Rocks

This walk will follow the sandstone valley of Blue Gum Creek and also explore the open woodland on the sandstone ridge above the creek.

Thursday 7 October 10.00am -12 noon

School Holiday Walk Darling Mills Creek West Pennant Hills

Visit a waterfall and a sandstone shelter, find plants used for bush tucker and bush medicine and enjoy the spring wildflowers.

Sunday 14 November 10.00am -12 noon

Bush Tucker Walk Platypus Track Castle Hill

Walk along Excelsior Creek to find some of the plants used for bush tucker and bush medicine.





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

- Board meetings have been held on 27 May, 29 July, 26 August.
- That a sum of \$7500 from the vegetation management funds be allocated to general weed management.
- That the BRTB ensure that matters of compliance are included in the Plan of Management and the Agreement of Offer of Services for the Reserve from the Hills Shire Council.
- That the BRTB request the M2 Upgrade keep it informed of works that may impact the Reserve.
- That the report from Sydney Water on the planned maintenance of its assets north of Renown Road be accepted.
- That the BRTB approve the expenditure for the preparations of quotes for design and construction of creek rehabilitation works.
- That the BRTB accept the proposal from Boronia Tours to conduct bushwalks within the Reserve.
- Future meetings of the BRTB will be conducted on first Wednesday of each month
- Minutes of meetings are available from the Board's website.

Bidjigal Treasures

Epacris purpurascens var. *purpurascens*

Epacris purpurascens var. *purpurascens* is from the heath family and is commonly known as the Port Jackson Heath.

It is a stiff prickly shrub reaching 1-1.5m high. The flowers are star-like in shape and white to pink, each in the fold of a single leaf.

This rare plant is found in a habitats that include damp places in woodlands on sandstone in and around Sydney.

Not in abundance within the Reserve the plant is at increasing risk because of inappropriate track creation and weed invasion from surrounding properties.

The plant is listed as vulnerable under the NSW Threatened Species Act 1995.



Epacris purpurascens var. *purpurascens*

Snippets

Report Boneseed

Boneseed is one of the worst weeds in Australia because of its environmental impact, invasive ability, and serious potential to spread

Boneseed invades native bushland and forms dense thickets that smother native plants and prevents regeneration. Contact secretary@bidjigal.org.au

Board Vacancy

A vacancy currently exists on the Board for an additional trustee member.

Members of the general and business community are invited to apply for the

position.

Further information and details of the position and its requirements can be obtained from the Trust's website or by contacting secretary@bidjigal.org.au



Boneseed flower and foliage

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