



# Bidjigal News



Newsletter of the Bidjigal Reserve Trust

Edition 6 30 May 2012

## Bidjigal Reserve

Bidjigal Reserve is a 186 ha Crown Reserve bushland 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



Welcome to the Winter edition of our Bidjigal Newsletter. We have been a very busy board since our last newsletter, with all of our projects moving along substantially

The biggest and most exciting news is the formal adoption of the **Bidjigal (D1010489) Reserve Plan of Management** by the General Manager, Crown Lands. The detailed 100 page Plan provides a structure around which the present and future management of the reserve can be framed. The project commenced mid 2009 and was funded by a grant from then NSW Department of Lands. Written by consultant EcoLogical Australia, it has had substantial input from community members, reserve users, local and state government departments and of course the Bidjigal Reserve Trust. The Plan is now available for download from the Trust's website and is being provided to local libraries and high schools.

Another major milestone has been the inaugural **Friends at Bidjigal BBQ** held April 21<sup>st</sup>, at Ted Horwood Reserve near the entrance to Bidjigal. Around 30 volunteers came along and talked bush over a sausage sandwich and many then took a guided walk down to the swollen creek and back. It was a great day and thanks go to our Volunteer Coordinator, Jacquie for getting this started.

If you haven't registered your interest yet and would like to play some part in the ongoing management of Bidjigal, please contact Jacquie on 0439 711 077.

*Steven Brett*

## Board Action

### Plan of Management

Now adopted.

### Reserve Signage

Two major entrance signs have been erected at track heads in Eric Mobbs Reserve and at the Heidi Place fire trail.

A further track head sign is proposed for Ted Horwood Reserve and also in the coming months, track intersection bollards will be installed on major tracks.

### Bridge Building

Our new Bridge on the Murri-Yanna track has now got a seat for weary walkers.

### Maintaining Tracks

Maintenance works to reduce the unsightly weeds along major tracks in the Reserve will continue in accordance with the Reserve's Vegetation Management Plan.

### Powerful Owl Habitat

Bush regeneration and volunteer training in the reserve has been ongoing as part of the project to increase Powerful Owl Habitat in Bidjigal.

As mentioned above the number of volunteers is a growing group of local residents and reserve neighbours who are interested

in Bidjigal. Find out more by contacting Jacquie on 0439 711 077 today.

### Bushfire Protection

Another Hazard Reduction Burn was carried out in the Reserve last month, this time in the Sophia Crescent area of North Rocks.

### Bidjigal on Facebook

Bidjigal Reserve can now be found on Facebook - go to <http://www.facebook.com/BidjigalReserve>



Caladenia catenata



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

## National Archaeology Week: Bidjigal Walking Tour

Two well attended and highly successful bush walks were recently undertaken to celebrate National Archaeology Week.

The two hour tour was led by archaeologist Tessa Corkill and Jennifer Farrer of Boronia Tours.

Commencing in Carlingford the tour visited two significant Aboriginal sites. The first being a rock-shelter that was excavated in the 1990s and the second a magnificent over-

hang with rock art on the wall.

Members of all the walking parties were amazed to discover that within the rock-shelter many thousands of stone artefacts had been found dating back at least 10,000 years. Making it one of the oldest known occupation sites in Sydney.

As the tour followed the creeks and winding bush tracks through the reserve the enthused trek-

kers saw many plants used by Aboriginal people in their daily life and crossed the creeks that would have been home for many native species such as yabbies, eels, bidjiwong and platypus.



Walkers under ancient overhang

## Murri-Yanna Track Re-Opens

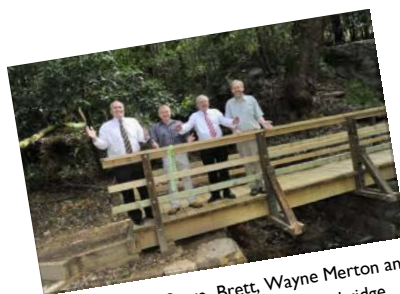
With the news that the Murri-Yanna track has re-opened bushwalkers and local residents will once again be able to access and traverse the full length of the main walking track within the Reserve without having to follow the

detours put in place for the eM2 extensions to the bridge over Darling Mills Creek.

The Murri-Yanna track (meaning *long walk* in the local Aboriginal Darug language) stretches from West Pennant Hills to North Parramatta and is planned to link with the newly formed Arthur Phillip Walk along the Parramatta River.

will be pleased to see that a new bridge has been installed just beneath the M2 motorway, making this section of the track safer and far easier to negotiate.

The new bridge was funded through a Community Builders Partnership Grant (\$30,000) from the NSW government and was recently opened by David Elliott (MP) and Wayne Merton .



David Elliott (MP), Steve Brett, Wayne Merton and David Wilmshurst at opening of new bridge.

Those familiar with the track

Further track improvements are planned for the near future.

## Thanks and Appreciation—Volunteer Get-Together

At the recent Friends of Bidjigal BBQ, Ann Parks, dedicated bush regenerator, was recognized for her outstanding contribution and services to the Bidjigal Reserve and neighbouring bushland .



Tony's Family Photos



Volunteers Get-Together



A chit-chat and snag



Ann Parks

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