



FRIENDS OF KELLY'S BUSH

Newsletter Winter 2022

Dear Friends

How have you been managing over the last few months of rain? If like us you've been dodging the downpours, as you can imagine there have been lots of interruptions to our Monday bushcare schedule and plenty of soggy days. But now with the very welcome sunshine we have some respite and can start to get on top of the weeds. The upside of all that rain is currently we have a very green and healthy looking environment!

We're delighted to welcome our new Volunteer Coordinator, Michael Shilman to the team. His indepth knowledge of plant species and hands-on attitude has been extremely helpful in dealing with tough invigorated weeds.

Memorial to Joan Croll and the Battlers Sunday 22 May

Our thanks go to Annabel Croll for organizing a very successful tribute for her mum Joan, and all the Kelly's Bush Battlers. Joan, the last member of the group, passed away in February and many brave people ignored the rain and came along to mark her passing and to celebrate all those thirteen incredible women.

We heard from Joan's daughter Philippa, who spoke eloquently about her mother's outstanding achievements in women's health and in establishing the Sydney Square Diagnostic Clinic. Joan was also extremely proud of her other great achievement in being one of the courageous local women who ultimately changed the world! As her daughter recalled "Joan was always a campaigner... a big thinker. I once gave everyone in the family a swimming cap with a picture on it that seemed to suit them. Mum's had a light bulb on it, representing all those lightbulb moments that she had"!



Jack Munday, Joan Croll, Phil Jenkyn 29 June 2019

It was also a privilege to hear Jack's widow, Judy, give us a first-hand account of events leading up to the involvement of the unionists. Their commitment to help the Battlers was fundamental to the success of the Green Ban, which had far reaching effects and signaled a worldwide political movement. She also recalled how proud Jack was to be a friend of his 'morning tea matrons'!



We then heard from Jim Colman, environmental advocate, architect, planner and university lecturer who became a lifelong friend of Jack Munday and wrote a book dedicated to his activist history.

'The House that Jack Built' is a fascinating story of how an ordinary bloke from the bush became the key figure in a movement that would change the shape of our cities and bring about lasting political and legal reform. Jim regaled us with tales of Jack and two of his books were auctioned off, after which he kindly donated the proceeds to the Hunters Hill Trust.

Dean Letcher from the Hunters Hill Historical Society then gave us a very interesting perspective on the importance

of the Battlers' activism in changing the status quo of that time, and drew parallels with the success of the Teal Independents in the recent Federal election.



From left to right: Jim Colman, Lee McMahon, Judy Munday, Philippa Croll

Then on behalf of the Friends of Kelly's Bush, FoKB secretary, Maureen Flowers, announced the planting of a memorial *Banksia integrifolia* to commemorate the contribution of all the Battlers, joining the other iconic *Banksias* at the entrance to Kelly's Bush. While our bushcarers carried out the planting, Maureen reminded us of how the 'Battlers' came into being.

Joan was always very proud of being one of the original members of the Hunters Hill Trust which formed in 1968. The Trust fought hard to retain Clarke's Point in public hands and also lobbied for the whole of Kelly's Bush to be set aside as open space. At the council elections, the Trust supported those candidates who declared themselves aligned with community wishes to retain Kelly's Bush, and the candidates were duly elected as councilors.

However early in 1969, when AV Jennings asked the new Council to rezone Kelly's Bush, those same councillors did an about face and voted in favour of development! In Joan's words, 'shock and horror led to action', the Battlers were formed and the rest is history!





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We're very grateful to Bev Debrincat of the Habitat Network for being there on the day, and generously donating 50% of the profits from her native plant stall to the Friends of Kelly's Bush. This will greatly assist with the rehabilitation of the recently discovered terraced garden near the Alfred Street steps, part of the now demolished house belonging to the manager of the former Smelting Works.

A Date for Your Diary!

A long overdue **Working Bee** is being planned for **Saturday 27 August** from 11am to 1pm so please put that date in your diary and come along and help.

We will be working to plant and restore the old terraced garden beds as mentioned above. These beds and their sandstone walls were discovered buried under metres of weeds and although the site has now been cleared, it needs some final weeding and planting to bring it back to its former glory.

A light picnic lunch will be provided and we'll be in touch with further details nearer the date!



Some of our merry band of bushcarers from left to right: Charles, Judy, Maureen, Carolyn, Peter, Karyn, Lee, Jill and Leonie. Not present: Liz, Kate, John, Rosemary, Jim and Maureen F (behind the camera)

Become a Bushcarer....

Do you or any of your friends or neighbours have an interest in preserving our amazing local bush? In caring for Kelly's Bush, you will also be benefiting from a rewarding and healthy hobby.

If you'd like to 'try before you buy' please come along any Monday at the Weil Park entrance to Kelly's Bush. We usually enjoy a nice cup of tea and a chat around 10am so come along then and see what we're up to! You'll be made very welcome!

If you would like more information, please contact Hunters Hill Council's Bushland Co-ordinator, Jacqui Vollmer, at VollmerJ@huntershill.nsw.gov.au

Donate - or become a 'Friend'

If you can't join us to work in the bush, why not become a supporter? Donations would be much appreciated and very carefully used! If you'd like to become a 'Friend' and support us – the annual membership fee is only \$20. Simply email kellysbushfriends@gmail.com



Lovely Acacia parramattensis (Parramatta Green Wattle) already in flower!

Annual subscription \$20.00. Payment by bank transfer to:

- BSB: 802 841
- Account No: 100005913
- Laboratories Credit Union Ltd

Until next time....

*Maureen
Secretary
Friends of Kelly's Bush*



Kelly's Bush iconic banksias – a little ray of sunshine in the middle of winter