



## FRIENDS OF KELLY'S BUSH Newsletter Summer 2023

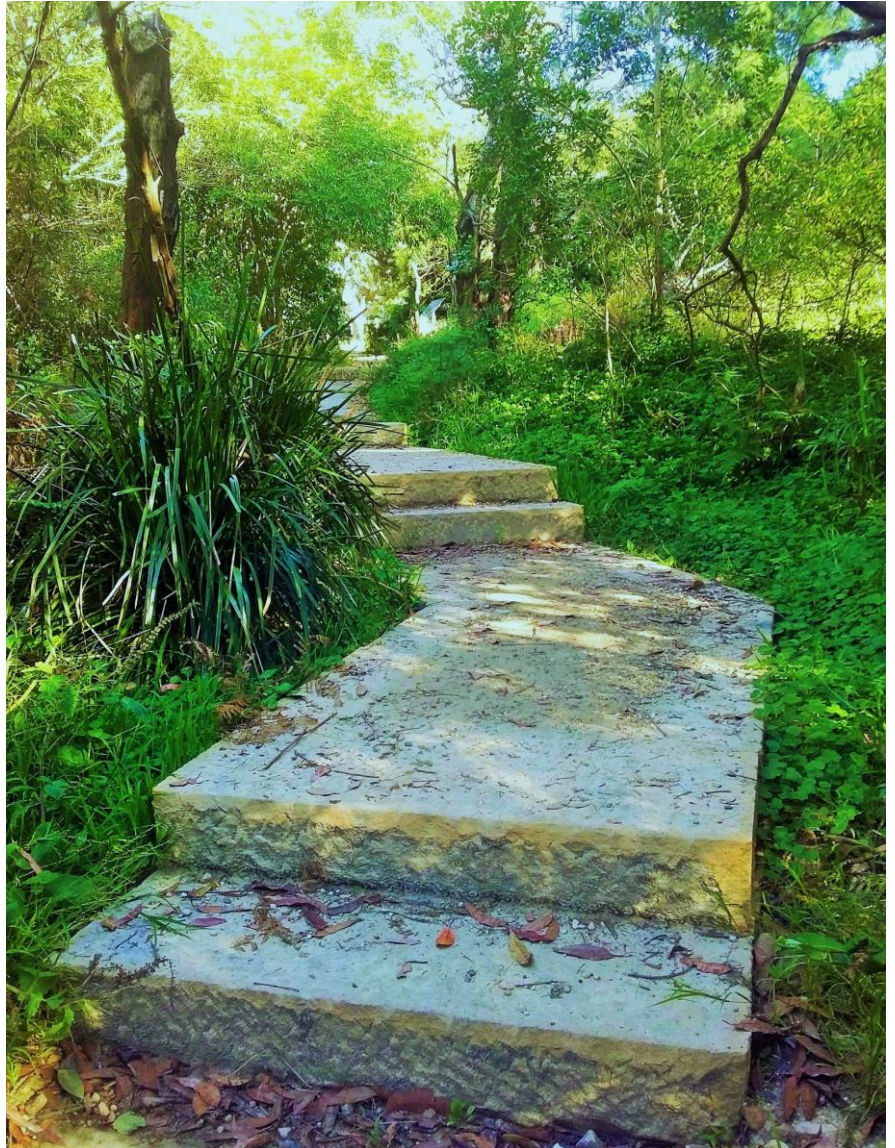
### *Dear Friends*

Happy 2023 and I'm sure we're all hoping for a much better year!

We celebrated a huge milestone in September 2022, when we finally got the beautiful walking track that Kelly's Bush has long deserved! You've probably already enjoyed walking on this excellent path, with its sandstone steps and fibre-reinforced-walkways, expertly constructed by Australian Bushland Constructions. Thanks to Jacqui Vollmer for her research on the best contractor for this project and to Councillor Ross Williams for his persistent efforts in obtaining funds. It's a pleasure not having to worry about slipping on loose stones or negotiating muddy patches and we're delighted that this upgrade has now made the walking track safe for locals and visitors alike.

In the weeks before Christmas we had quite a few working Mondays washed out due to the long spell of rain, but hopefully the recent more settled weather means we can get back to our regular routine. We're well and truly into summer and are officially back in the bush now that school holidays are over.

Sadly, the weeds have also enjoyed a huge growth spurt from the rain. Even the entrance, so carefully and skillfully tended by Leonie over many seasons has succumbed to an abundance of Trad. Leonie, who has had some recent health challenges, trained under Joan Bradley (who set up the method of bushcare that we use today) and has been a dedicated bushcarer for almost 50 years! She is a mine of information for us all and is also our 'PR' lady at the Weil Park entrance where she always has a smile and a welcome for the many visitors to the Bush! We hope she will be able to rejoin the team in due course.



*Kelly's Bush smart new walking track*

A long overdue Working Bee was held at the end of August and we were very grateful that Michael (our Volunteer Co-ordinator) encouraged some of his landcare friends to join us to tackle the ever present Morning Glory and Trad covering the garden terraces of the now demolished Smelting Manager's house. We are also very grateful to Jacqui, Council's Bushland Coordinator, for obtaining many new

native plants for the weeded areas which has helped consolidate the soil and prevent further inundation.

Additional continuous weeding and new planting by the team has helped to regenerate the bush above the Alfred Street steps, between the steps and the Lookout and along the new walking track which is greatly assisting the regeneration in these areas.





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## ***Friends of Kelly's Bush***

### ***Time to renew your membership!***

It's that time of year again and we would appreciate receiving your membership renewal ASAP. This helps replenish our very small financial reserves! Annual subscription is still only \$20.00. Payment by bank transfer to:

- Friends of Kelly's Bush
- BSB: 802 841
- Account No: 100005913
- Laboratories Credit Union Ltd

### ***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 at [VollmerJ@huntershill.nsw.gov.au](mailto:VollmerJ@huntershill.nsw.gov.au)

*Until next time....*

*Maureen  
Secretary*



*Flannel flowers*

We have also been thrilled to discover that the wet weather has produced more than just weeds! For instance, Michael found the patch of Flannel Flowers above, growing from beneath a rock, that we think might date way back to when they were in abundance in Kelly's Bush and loved to extinction by the locals.

And it has also been a wonderful year for native orchids, especially Hooded Orchids (*Cryptostylis erecta*) and Bearded Orchids (*Calochilus campestris*). The rain has really produced some amazing things - opposite is another rare find - a Bearded Orchid happily thriving in the bush!



*Bearded Orchid*

### ***Donate - or become a 'supporter'***

Any donations are much appreciated and very carefully used! If you can't join us to work in the bush, why not

become a 'Friend'. The annual membership fee is only \$20. Simply email [kellysbushfriends@gmail.com](mailto:kellysbushfriends@gmail.com)

*Kelly's Bush is a symbol of our lost land. Take away Kelly's Bush and you take away one more assurance that, in man, is left a possibility for the future. The unborn Australian will ask for his birthright and be handed a piece of concrete.*

*Kylie Tennant 1970*