



FRIENDS OF KELLY'S BUSH

Newsletter Winter 2023

Dear Friends

It's been a quiet few months after all the special commemorative events for Kelly's Bush and the Battlers over the previous year. The weather has also been kinder to us which has meant we've managed to have some beautiful Mondays working in the bush.

We were disappointed that a wild storm sheered off two of the branches of our beautiful signature *Banksia serrata* (below) which stood for many years at the Weil Park entrance to Kelly's Bush. Now it's just one large bare trunk but is still providing valuable habitat for wildlife.



It was fortunate therefore that we had already planted another *Banksia integrifolia* to commemorate the Battlers, which is now carrying the baton for this iconic KB species.



Lantana and Us

This year we've continued to battle the invasive weed *Lantana camara* which, thanks to valiant efforts over the years has lost a lot of ground and is being confined to small areas of the bush. Although it's still around, Peter, who has made it his mission to eradicate it, gives us a rundown of the current situation:

"Lantana, was first introduced as an ornamental garden plant in about 1841. It quickly escaped domestic cultivation and within 20 years was established in the wild. For over ten years our volunteers have been working on its eradication which is finally proving successful. However, every so often we come across a patch of it that surprises us with the length of its branches which can shoot up 5 or 6 metres towards the sun! We have recently found such monsters in dense bushland just off Nelson Parade and we will be spending the next few months cutting them

down and getting rid of them "root and branch". It's gratifying to know that there are less and less of these patches and we look forward to finally winning the battle!"

New Planting

We've been delighted to be in a planting phase this year with some beautiful plants being made available to us by Council. These have been used to revive newly weeded patches and as you can see below, the former degraded area next to the Alfred Street steps has now been revitalized!





And there's more.....!

Another area of success has been at the side of the path near the Weil Park entrance where, thanks to Judy's diligent efforts, a patch of invasive weedy *Tradescantia fluminenss* (Trad) has been eradicated and a flourishing native *Hydrocotyle peduncularis* (Pennywort) has now taken over. Have a look when you're next passing.....

Invasive Trad



Native Pennywort



Dob in a Dumper!

We've recently had two serious incidences of garden waste being dumped in the bush. One was a load of mulch which may have been done in good faith but is detrimental to native bushland and introduces weeds. The other was cactus plants which were already rooting when they were found. This wastes our volunteers' time and effort to clean up these areas and detracts from our essential work. So if you know of anyone thinking that the bush is a convenient place to dump their garden waste, please let them know it is not acceptable. If you see anyone doing this, please email VollmerJ@huntershill.nsw.gov.au

Two Dates for Your Diary!

Working Bee - 2nd Sept 2023

Our next Working Bee will be on Sat 2nd September from 11am to 1pm. This is always a great occasion to come along and meet a friendly bunch of people and do some great work on a particular area in our lovely bush. No experience needed! A light picnic lunch will be provided so please join us for a rewarding and enjoyable couple of hours. Last time we worked on restoring the historic terraced garden beds of the old demolished house, which have now been replanted with natives to bring the terraces back to life.

Our existing 'Friends' will be sent an email nearer the date but if you are not a 'Friend' and would like to join us please don't hesitate to email kellysbushfriends@gmail.com

AGM - 21st August 2023

On Monday 21st August, we will be holding our Annual General Meeting at the Woolwich Pier Hotel. It's always interesting to review our year in the bush and plan for the future, over dinner and a glass or two of wine! We'll send a reminder nearer the date.

And finally – our lovely *Greenhood Orchids* are now flowering and delighting us with their delicate form!



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

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

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

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

Until next time....

Maureen
Secretary
FoKB

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