



FRIENDS OF KELLY'S BUSH Newsletter Winter 2025

Dear Friends

What a year it's shaping up to be! As you know, we have a major fight on our hands trying to protect our precious Kelly's Bush from private interests that seek to exploit this public amenity.

The Friends of Kelly's Bush and other community organisations are joined 'parties' with Council to defend the Battlers' hard-won legacy in the Land and Environment Court in early September. With the latest proposal to expand the Woolwich Marina around the Kelly's Bush foreshore and beyond, we will be arguing the case for the public's right to free and fair access to this area **all over again!**

It was heartening to see so many of us gathered at the Horse Paddock on Sunday 15 June when we came together to highlight the devastating implications for this historic site. The protest even made the front page of the TWT!



The public views from Kelly's Bush Parkland under threat

The amended development proposal is extremely concerning as there is a complete lack of recognition of the social, historical and cultural importance of this site and the unacceptable loss of its visual connection to UNESCO listed Cockatoo Island and Spectacle and Snapper Islands. The expansive views will be

obscured by moored vessels, some up to 25m long and 3 storeys high. The presence of a parking lot of massive vessels will also impact the views of Kelly's Bush Parkland from passing ferries and tourist traffic, taking away the public's enjoyment of this precious inner harbour heritage precinct.

We are also extremely concerned about the effect that increased noise and 24/7 illumination will have on Kelly's Bush wildlife and peaceful public waterfront.

The fire risk that an expanded marina poses has also not been acknowledged, with large vessels carrying high fuel loads and new technologies becoming the new fire hazards. We had an example of this when 'Andiamo' caught fire at Woolwich Dock in 2023. To have this risk parked right next to Kelly's Bush is a disaster waiting to happen, with difficult access for fire engines navigating one road and narrow streets in an emergency.

LOCALS PROTEST AGAINST WOOLWICH MARINA PLANS

LOCAL RESIDENTS gathered at the Horse Paddock foreshore in Woolwich on Sunday to protest the expansion plans of the Woolwich Marina, which they say represents a privatisation of Sydney harbour which will destroy Kelly's Bush foreshore and also affect UNESCO World Heritage-listed Cockatoo Island.

SEE PAGE 5

Locals at Chelsea Point Reserve protesting the expansion plans for Woolwich Marina on Sunday. TWT On-the-Spot PHOTO (Michelle Hayward)



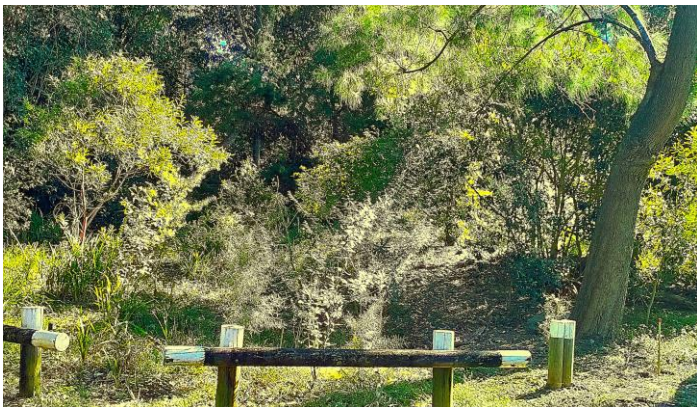
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A Regen Success!



As you can see from the pictures above and below, we've had great success in regenerating the site adjacent to the Alfred Street entrance to Kelly's Bush.



We cleared persistent weedy growth at the Working Bee last September and, with Michael's regen expertise, have since replanted and re-seeded the site with shrubs and grasses. The native bushland is now thriving with help from our happy band of bushcarers pictured opposite!

Friends Evening & AGM ***Monday 18 August 6pm***

Our 'Friends' Evening is a great way to connect with other like-minded individuals who are keen to support and preserve our local piece of history! **So please come along** on Monday 18 August at 6pm to the Woolwich Pier Hotel when we can have a good catch up over a glass or two of wine and some nibbles.

It's always interesting to review our year in the bush and, at our AGM that will follow at 6.30pm, we will be discussing ways of encouraging new 'Friends', to ensure that our precious bush is not forgotten and continues to be valued and supported.

We'd love to see you there and for catering purposes **please RSVP by email to kellysbushfriends@gmail.com**

Become a Bushcarer

If you, or someone you know, is considering a rewarding and healthy hobby as a bushcarer, please contact Council's Bushland Co-ordinator Jacqui, for more information: VollmerJ@huntershill.nsw.gov.au

Become a Friend

If you can't join us in the bush, why not become a supporter? Membership is still only \$20 pa. Simply email kellysbushfriends@gmail.com

Until next time...
Maureen, Secretary FoKB



L to R: Rosemary, Judy, Maryanne, Peter M, Maureen, Jim, Charles, Peter C, Liz, Catherine