



Dear Friends

A belated happy new year to you all and let's hope for a peaceful and healthy 2025!

We're now back in the bush and reflecting on how much has been achieved last year. Our AGM in August helped us focus on some of the successes, including a huge amount of new planting in the bare patches along the new walking track and beside the Alfred Street car park, which our Working Bee on the 7th September further consolidated.

In addition we have made excellent progress at the Kelly's Bush site adjoining 2 Alfred Street, which has been fully cleared of weeds and planted with natives. More planting to come once conditions allow, which will be completed by April. Jacqui has confirmed that Council is still committed to installing a star picket and wire fence to protect the bush and define the boundary of the house likely to be demolished.

Woolwich Marina

As you know, one of the big issues on our radar this year is the proposal to extend Woolwich Marina, which was rejected by Council and the Sydney North Planning Panel but is now in the Land and Environment Court.

Friends of Kelly's Bush are one of the 'Parties' joining with Council to fight this alarming expansion. The first stage of the Conciliation process was held onsite on the 19th September but subsequent to that after weeks of delay, the applicant withdrew from the process at the last minute, and decided to move to a full Appeal Hearing starting on the 4th September 2025.



One of the tranquil views of Kelly's Bush foreshore that will be lost with any expansion of the Marina

Any amended plans must be released by 2nd April and we fully expect that these will show an even greater impact on Kelly's Bush foreshore and the alienation of public space - completely at odds with the saving of this site for the community.

This is a shocking proposal in a sensitive historic area and we have no intention of abandoning the fight!

Please get involved by visiting the **Save Our Shores** website <https://www.sossaveourshores.com.au/>



This ground level view will be mostly obscured by moored vessels, some up to 9 metres high



FRIENDS OF KELLY'S BUSH Newsletter Summer 2025

Tree Loss at Horse Paddock

We had some tragic news recently with the poisoning and destruction of 38 trees, including a significant 100+ year old Moreton Bay Fig and 2 Eucalypts, on the border of Kelly's Bush at Horse Paddock in Woolwich.

The area is managed by the Harbour Trust who are working with both the NSW Police and the AFP to investigate this crime. This is yet another deplorable attack on our mature trees by selfish individuals who are determined to destroy anything that stands in the way of their view.

The **SOS** team are holding a 'Vigil for our Trees' near the site on



One of the enormous trunks of the Moreton Bay Fig with visible drill holes

A VIGIL FOR OUR TREES
THEY DON'T HAVE A VOICE BUT WE DO



9 February 2025, 5 - 6 pm
End of Margaret Street
behind the carpark, Woolwich

Sunday 9 Feb from 5-6pm. Meet at the end of Margaret St, Woolwich, behind the car park. Come along if you can.

This destruction is even more tragic as it has been estimated that these huge trees provide over their lifetime, **16 times** the value to the community, compared to small trees!

Become a 'Friend'

Please consider becoming a 'Friend of Kelly's Bush' and encouraging your neighbours to do the same. This will add to the number of voices speaking up for this special place! Membership is only \$20 a year. Email kellysbushfriends@gmail.com and we'll keep you up-to-date with all the latest Kelly's Bush news.

Existing 'Friends'

It's that time of year again!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS FOR 2025 ARE NOW DUE

Please renew by 28 February

Annual membership is still only \$20

Payment by bank transfer to:
Laboratories Credit Union Ltd
BSB: 802841
Acct: 100005913

VALE MARGARET SHAW

Many of you will know Margaret Shaw who sadly passed away recently aged 91 after a notably full and active life.

Passionate about the protection of our precious bushland, she became a founding member of the Ryde-Hunters Hill Flora & Fauna Preservation Society in 1966, formed to save the Field of Mars Reserve from being converted into a massive garbage tip. This success led to her involvement in supporting the Battlers for Kelly's Bush, where lessons learnt were usefully applied to the campaign.

The **History of the Battle to Save Kelly's Bush**, Margaret's account of these community triumphs, was published in 1996.

Brigid Dowsett

Until next time...

**Maureen
Secretary
FoKB**