



FRIENDS OF KELLY'S BUSH

Newsletter Summer 2026

Dear Friends

A happy new year to you all and very best wishes for a peaceful and successful 2026.

Our bushcare summer season has so far been mixed, with the weather performing at both ends of the scale and even sometimes keeping us out of the bush.

Nevertheless there has been real progress particularly at the Alfred Street entrance, where native bushland has been very successfully regenerated after the removal of a good many invasive species. Have a look next time you park at the Lookout and admire the results!

We're also doing our best to stop the advance of some very aggressive patches of Ochna, Privet and Morning Glory in other parts of the bush. These will need some serious fire power, so we'll let you know the date of our next Working Bee in the hope you can join us! We'd appreciate any help you can give us - and a light picnic lunch is on offer!

As you know, we were delighted that last month the Land & Environment Court dismissed the Appeal by Woolwich Marina **to extend around Kelly's Bush Park foreshore**. The determination can be found at <https://www.caselaw.nsw.gov.au> under NSWLEC 148. We await a potential appeal.

This proposal to take away the public's quiet enjoyment of this precious inner harbour heritage precinct, and the important connection between Kelly's Bush and Cockatoo Island, was an insult to the Battlers' hard-won legacy.



A bird's eye view of Kelly's Bush (lower right) - the forerunner of the newly State Heritage Listed 'Green Necklace' of protected sites across Sydney Harbour

Source: J Wotherspoon

Since that first Green Ban was put in place over 50 years' ago, and the land was subsequently saved for public use by the Wran Government in 1983, the Bushcarers and Friends of Kelly's Bush have sought to care for and protect this area.

We were pleased that the words below formed an important part of Justice Beasley's judgement:

"I have ultimately reached the conclusion that, from foreshore locations within the public domain, the visual impacts of the Proposal would be such that development consent should not, and cannot, be granted. These visual impacts are closely linked to what I also consider to be significant impacts on heritage items within Sydney Harbour."

It just goes to show that community can make a difference to ensure our public spaces are preserved for the benefit and enjoyment of all, and not just for an exclusive few.

Thank you for your ongoing support and you will notice that, on the reverse of this newsletter is an appeal for more of our community to join us.

We would be very grateful if you could please help spread the word and encourage your friends and neighbours to join the **Friends of Kelly's Bush**, so that we have even more voices speaking up for this special place!

Until next time
Maureen
Secretary FoKB



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We need you!

*If you appreciate walking in Kelly's Bush and enjoying its flora and fauna, or just wish to help preserve areas of native bush for future generations, please consider becoming a member of the **Friend of Kelly's Bush** and adding to the voices speaking up for this precious world famous site.*

As demonstrated by the recent threat to the foreshore and waterways of this historic area, the more voices we have defending it, the more effective we are.

You will receive 2 newsletters a year, be kept up to date with the latest news from our team of bushcarers and be informed of local issues affecting this special place that was saved for the public by the Battlers over 50 years ago.

Annual membership is only \$20 a year. To join us simply email your name and contact details to kellysbushfriends@gmail.com and make a bank transfer to:

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

Thank you