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SOUTHERN SYDNEY BRANCH

Newsletter Issue No. 110, Winter 2015

**If undeliverable return to:
PO Box 312, Engadine, NSW 2233**

News and Notices

Southern Sydney Branch Annual General Meeting, 22 July 2015

The Branch AGM will take place at 8 pm prior to the talk/slideshow. All positions will be declared vacant. Branch members are encouraged to attend and nominate. You can nominate in advance if you are unable to attend on the night. This is an opportunity to get involved in the organisation of the Branch or just help with an NPA display at your local fete. All it takes is a few hours a month, no experience necessary. All nominations are most welcome. Our Branch Committee meetings are held once a month (Feb to Nov) 8 pm to 10 pm in the Sutherland Shire. [CLICK TO COMMENT.](#)

Your Branch Needs You

We are in need of volunteers to join the Branch Committee to help with Branch campaigns and activities. Also needed are walks leaders.

Branch Committee meetings which are held in members' homes are friendly and informal. If interested please ring Brian 95209341 or Peter 9528 7341 for more information. [CLICK TO COMMENT.](#)

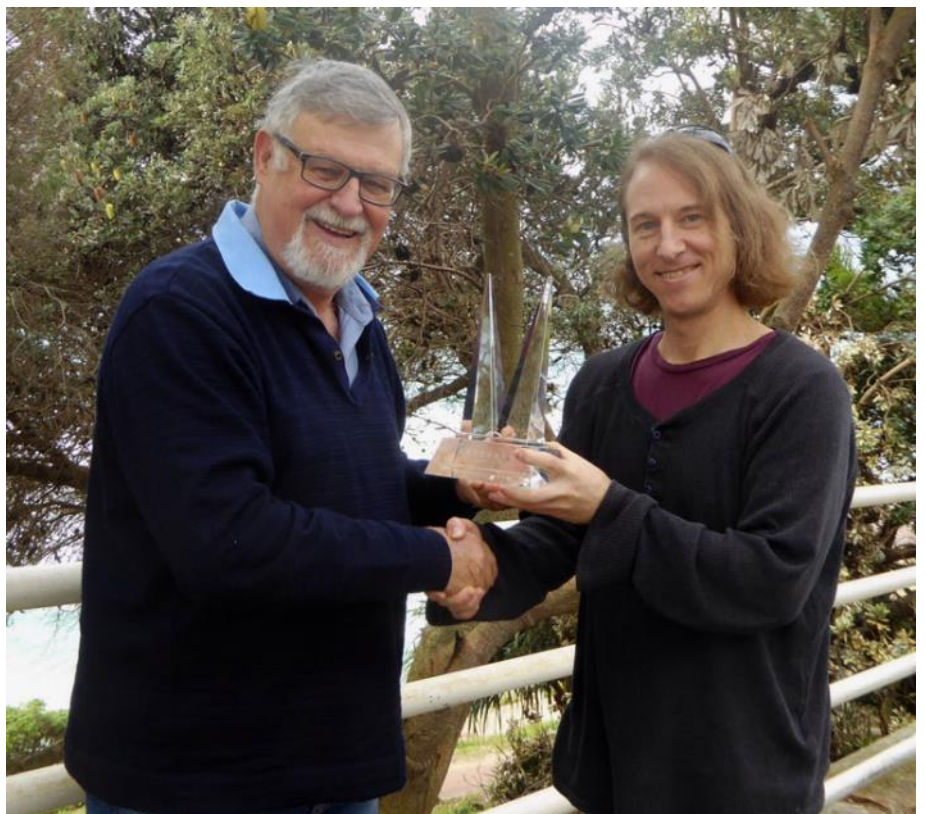
Peter Dowson and Antenna Award

After National Parks Association won the Antenna Award for the best nature and conservation documentary film on community television, we decided to pass the trophy on to our voluntary cinematographer. Pete Dowson is here seen receiving the award from Gary Schoer,

one of many NPA members who contributed to the film. Pete's Company, Digital Storytellers largely concentrates on selling messages for organisations that have an environmental or social justice emphasis. He has been a generous donor of pro bono work to NPA over several years, but now organisations such as the World Bank have realised that Pete and his talented team can help advance human dignity on a world scale. We thank Pete for his contributions to the NSW environment movement and for his acceptance of an advi-

sory role to NPA Southern Sydney Branch on audio-visual messaging.

Green Corridors of Southern Sydney can be seen at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NsqjQD3rObg> and the record of our marine conference held at Pete's stamping ground at Bondi Beach can be seen at <http://www.sydneymarinepark.org.au/videos-and-references.html>. If you want to be kept up to date, and even become involved in the campaign go to <http://www.sydneymarinepark.org.au>



Branch Secretary, Gary Schoer, handing Antenna Award trophy to Peter Dawson. Photo: John Prats.



NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF NSW
protecting nature through community action

National Parks Association of NSW is a non-profit community organisation which seeks to protect and conserve the complete range and diversity of species, natural habitats, features and landscapes of New South Wales.

NPA Southern Sydney Branch:

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Strategy meetings: All are welcome to attend, have your say and hear what's happening in the NPA. Contact Brian Everingham on 0419260236 for details. Held on the 3rd Thursday of the month.

Branch meetings: Come and meet other members from your local area, new members and friends are most welcome. These meetings are organised for you, are informal, informative and relaxing. An interesting evening is guaranteed and supper is provided. These meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of the month (except Jan and Dec).

The venue for Branch meetings is the Multi-Purpose Centre, 123 Flora St Sutherland (near Belmont St) 3 minutes walk from the railway station and with plenty of parking. All meetings commence at 8.00pm.

Next Newsletter:

Members are most welcome to submit articles for the newsletter. These could be on walks, trips, flora and fauna, observations and relevant historical accounts. Post to PO Box 312, Engadine, NSW 2233 or email to ssydney@npansw.org.au.

Deadline for articles is **16 August 2015**. Suggestions re newsletter are welcome. Views expressed in the newsletter are those of the authors alone.

Website:

The newsletter can be viewed in colour on the web at:

<http://branches.npansw.org.au/southernsydney>

Visit us on [Facebook](#)

From the Newsletter Editor

After 10 years in the position of Newsletter Editor, I have decided not to nominate for the position at next months Branch Annual General Meeting.

However, when available, I will continue to provide assistance to the Branch committee including to whoever takes up the position of Newsletter Editor if required.

I thank all those who contributed to the publication of our newsletter during my time as editor, including Fae in Head Office, Phil Proops and all other past or current members of the committee who contributed articles and photos, specially Gary Schoer, Brian Everingham and

Peter Vaughan.

Editing our newsletter has been a most interesting and rewarding experience for me and I urge others to come forward and nominate for this or other vacant positions in our Branch. You can be assured that you will always get assistance and advice from a friendly team.

John Prats
Newsletter Editor

Welcome to New Members

NPA Southern Sydney Branch welcomes our new members:

Ms Ying Liu
Mr Guo Jun Liu

Ms Li Wang
Mrs Jenni Jessup
Mr Bryan Jessup
Ms Leah Jessup
Ms Ida Zhou



View of Woronora River, the suburb of Bonnet Bay and, on the bottom left, part of Still Creek from Friendship Park.

A Suburban Walk

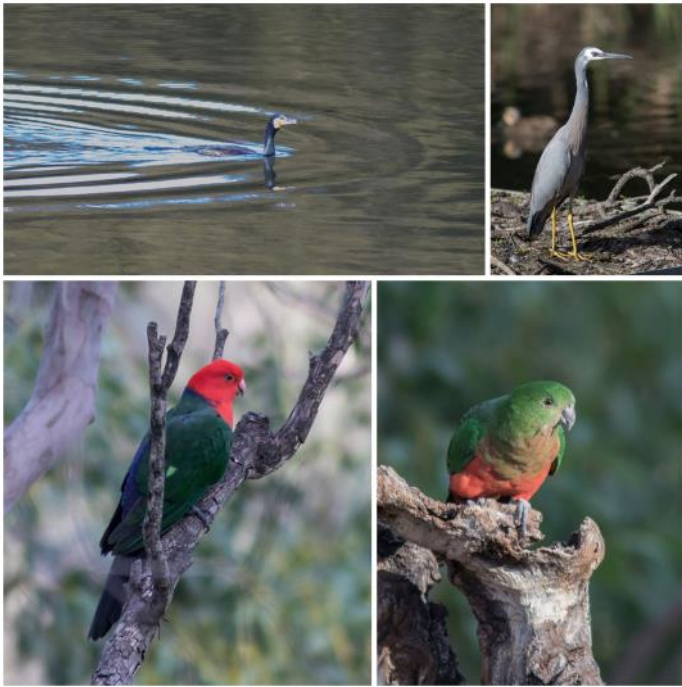
By John Prats

(All photos by the author)

Sometimes we don't realise what nature has to offer right at our doorstep. Around the Sutherland Shire there are many patches of bushland that can just be as reach in flora and fauna as our national parks.

This was proven to me on a walk with Lloyd Hedges and his friends from Illawong to Menai using bush-tracks and firetrails and, to avoid private land in some areas, a bit of road.

The landscape was mostly dry sclerophyll interspersed with creek line vegetation and mangrove areas. Although some parts of our route suffer from urban runoff and weed infestation, there were native orchids, fungi, and native flowers along the way. We also saw signs of swamp wallabies and powerful owls. Some of the areas had remains of homes constructed close to the Woronora River dating back from days when residents relied on river



Birds from top left clockwise, Cormorant on Woronora River; White-faced Heron; King Parrot (female); King Parrot (male).

transport before the roads on the escarpments came into existence. We also came across a huge aboriginal shell midden which, according to an expert in our group, had been previously scoped up to provide for lime. As Sydney didn't have any lime a lot of these middens were collected by settlers to convert to lime for cement.

Eventually we arrived at Still Creek, believed to have been named because of the whisky still that was located in the area. We did keep our eyes open for any remains of a still but didn't see any. Perhaps a more thorough search may be required.

We arrived at Menai right at

lunchtime, and after having a meal and resting, we proceeded to return via firetrails above the gullies. This provided more opportunities to view native flowers and fungi. Along one of these firetrails we sighted a male and female king parrot which seemed to me to be preparing a nest.

Getting close to the home we stopped at Friendship Park to admire the view of Still Creek and the Woronora River.

All in all it was a marvelous sojourn into the wild so close to home. Let's hope that these remnant bushland and their rich diversity of flora and fauna will remain for future generations to admire. ♣



Orchids from top left clockwise: White Fingers *Petalochilus, catanatus*; Toothed Helmet Orchid *Corybas pruinosus*; Pixie Caps *Acianthus fornicates*; Spurred Helmet Orchid *Corybas aconitiflorus*.



Fungi from top left clockwise: *Ramaria sp.*; *Clavulina-subrugosa* *Ramaria-ochraceosalmonicolor*; Puff Balls

Oatley Park, February 3rd 2015

By Brian Everingham
(All photos by the author)

And on my first official NPA walk for 2015, a Grade 1 half morning stroll through Oatley Park with camera, we may not have found too much but what we did find was worth the effort.

Starting with this Rainbow Lorikeet! What better way to begin the day while waiting for the entire party to gather! It offered great colour contrast against the blue sky.

There were many other things to see and photograph. One example was a Little Wattlebird feeding a much larger baby, a young Koel.

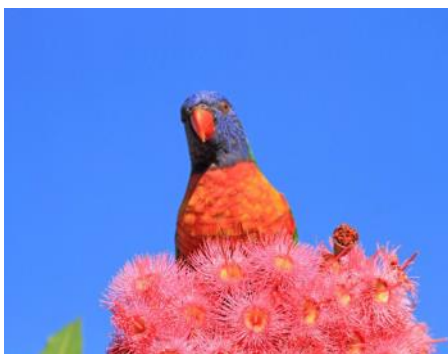
Another example was this Ringed Xenica, *Geitoneura acantha*¹. It looked very sharp, as though it had just emerged from its chrysalis. It was also very co-operative. It gave everyone a chance to take its photo, albeit with wings closed.

And naturally we got distracted by the scenery. In addition, we found Sacred Kingfisher feeding its young, a host of insects and spiders and even delightful lizards.

So if you like nature, if you like photography, NPA does also cater for you! Look out for these events. They often occur on Monday or Tuesday mornings but they can happen any day

Cont'd next page

of the week



Rainbow Lorikeet enjoying beautiful eucalyptus blossom.

1 Identification The Ringed Xenica is an orange and brown butterfly with distinctive eyespots. The forewings have a single eyespot above and below the wing. The hindwings have a single eyespot above and two spots on the underside. **Size** Length: 39mm - 42mm **Habitat** sheltered slopes and shady gullies in open forest, woodland **Food** larvae feeds on plants such as Joycea, Poa and Themeda species **Range** south east Queensland, eastern New South Wales and southern Victoria.

<http://www.ozanimals.com/Insect/Ringed-Xenica/Geitoneura/acantha.html>



Ringed Xenica.



View of Georges River from Oatley Park.



View of Lime Kiln Bay from the footbridge.

SSC Bushcare and Snake-tongued Orchids.

By Lloyd Hedges

The amount of knowledge in the SSC Bushcare community is impressive. They even know things Dr Google does not. For instance, several years ago Andy McCormack, a Bushcare officer,

who had moved on, contacted me after coming across *Cryptostylis hunteriana* in the Royal NP - a first and only the second discovery in Sydney. After photographing it and getting volunteer Margaret Bradhurst to confirm its ID, I published a piece in the SSC Bushcare Bulletin on it and a Bushcare volunteer Steve Deards responded and took me to see another one in the Illawarra.

A couple of years ago while digging out African love grass at our Bushcare site we unexpectedly came across a Green-

hood (*Pterostylis*) orchid that was unfamiliar. With the help of Margaret Bradhurst we learned that the species name was *ophioglossa* which means snake-tongued. It was the first time this species had been recorded in Sutherland shire and only the second time in Sydney

Just recently when the subject came up while chatting with Steve Deards he said he had come across the species years before at another Bushcare site. We checked it out and so it proved.



Pterostylis ophioglossa. Photo: Lloyd Hedges.

So now Sutherland shire has this orchid in two locations. I wonder if there are more?

Both sites have been exposed and north facing - unusual for a Greenhood. So if you come across a Greenhood in such a location and it has a prominent forked tongue contact your local Bushcare officer as you may have discovered another Snake-tongued orchid population. ♣



Cryptostylis hunteriana. Photo: Lloyd Hedges.

Seven Mile Beach National Park

By John Prats
(All photos by the author)

Last March we visited Seven Mile Beach National Park and stayed in a caravan park at Gerroa. A good thing about this place is its closeness to Southern Sydney, just about two hours drive and you're there.



Swamp Wallaby—this one was a regular, always grazing in the late afternoon next to the track..

Except for the section extending to the Coomonderry Swamp, this National Park is mostly a narrow strip between the sea and the road yet it is rich in wildlife. The Plan of Management for the park mentions 135 species of birds plus mam-



Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo.



Sunset at Seven Mile Beach National Park.

mals such as brush-tailed possums, common ringtail possum greater glider, sugar glider, swamp wallaby, short-beaked echidna, long nosed bandicoot, bush rats and at least 10 species of insectivorous bats. The Coomonderry area is home to the threatened green and golden bell frog *Litoria aurea*. This rich biodiversity makes this national park an ideal place for viewing and photographing wildlife.

The caravan park where we stayed has access to the beach and the Crooked River which gives one a choice of scenery. A word of warning though for those contemplating a quiet stay in the caravan park—being so close to populated areas, it can be very busy on weekends, school holidays and public holidays. Children,

bicycles and dogs (it's pet friendly) rule! Lucky for us we were there mostly outside these peak periods.

Besides being an ideal place for enjoying nature, another thing I like about this place is that, if you get tired of the wild, there are towns nearby to visit including Berry, just a 12-minute drive away, where you can go shopping and/or wine and dine in one of the many cafés and restaurants in town.

For those who wish to learn more about this National Park and the adjoining Comerong Island Nature Reserve see: <http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/visit-a-park/parks/Seven-Mile-Beach-National-Park> ♣



Delightful Red-capped Plover in various poses. The park is a great place for waders and other birds.

Australian Plant Society - Sutherland Group Activities

The Sutherland Group meets at 8 pm every third Wednesday of the month from February to November at the GyMEA Community Centre, 39 GyMEA Bay Road, GyMEA. All visitors are welcome. For more information access the website at <http://www.austplants-nsw.org.au/>

NPA Southern Sydney Branch Activities

Note: all slideshows are free and are held at 8pm at the Sutherland Multi Purpose Centre 123 Flora St Sutherland (near Belmont St). The NPA offers members over 1000 activities a year, the activities below are just a sample, the full activities program is in NPA's quarterly publication "Nature New South Wales" and in the NPANSW website: <http://goo.gl/fyFZE5>.

13-Jun, Sat, Royal NP

Bundeena to Little Marley Beach via Jibbon Head and return. Some sandy conditions. Gr 3; Dist: 18km; Asc/Desc: 450m; Map: Port Hacking Limit: 15.

Brian Everingham Email: brian.everingham@gmail.com Tel: 9520 9341, 0419 260 236
Contact leader for details.

16-Jun, Tues, Royal NP

Morning photography session at Wattamolla. Dependent on weather. Gd:1; Dist: 5km; Asc/Desc: 100m; Map: Port Hacking; Limit: 10

Brian Everingham Email: brian.everingham@gmail.com Tel: 9520 9341, 0419 260 236
Contact leader for details.

20-Jun, Sat, Blue Mountains NP

Wentworth Falls - Charles Darwin Walk - Grand Stairway - National Pass - Conservation Hut - Charles Darwin Walk - Wentworth Falls.

Gd: 3; Dist: 12km; Asc/Desc: 900m
Map: Katoomba, Limit: 15
Brian Everingham Email: brian.everingham@gmail.com Tel: 9520 9341, 0419 260 236
Contact leader for details.

23-Jun, Tues, Botany Bay NP

Photographic morning in the Kurnell section of Botany Bay National Park. Gd: 1; Dist: 5km; Asc/Desc: 50; Map: Port Hacking; Limit: 10

Brian Everingham Email: brian.everingham@gmail.com Tel: 9520 9341, 0419 260 236
Contact leader for details.

24 Jun, Wed, Talk/Slideshow:

"Saving our Species" is a conservation program that aims to maximise the number of threatened species that can be secured in the wild in NSW for 100 years. Anyone who undertakes or is interested in threatened species conservation can get involved. Guest speaker from the Office of Environment and Heritage.



View of Little Marley Beach. Note: there's a walk from Bundeena to Little Marley on 13 June.

12-Jul, Sun, Royal NP

Heathcote to Heathcote via Audley and Uloom Ridge

Gd: 3; Dist: 15; Asc/Desc: 630; Map: Port Hacking; Limit: 15

Brian Everingham Email: brian.everingham@gmail.com Tel: 9520 9341, 0419 260 236
Contact leader for details.

22 Jul, Wed, "WIRES – Wildlife Information Rescue Education Service"

a not-for-profit organisation of volunteers dedicated to the rescue/caring for/ rehabilitation of native wildlife.

Guest speaker Anne Turnbull will provide an insight into how the organisation operates and how people can become involved either working with animals or in other ways

28-Jul, Tues; Sydney Harbour NP

Photography morning; South Head. Gd: 1; Dist: 5km; Asc/Desc: 50m; Limit: 10

Brian Everingham Email: brian.everingham@gmail.com Tel: 9520 9341, 0419 260 236
Contact leader for details.

15-Aug, Sat, Blue Mountains NP

Katoomba to Mount Solitary return. Gd: 4; Dist: 16km; Asc/Desc: 1350;

Map: Jamison; Katoomba. Limit: 12
Brian Everingham Email: brian.everingham@gmail.com Tel: 9520 9341, 0419 260 236
Contact leader for details.

18-Aug, Tues, Royal NP

Slow photography and birdwatching morning on the CurraMoors.

Gd: 2; Dist: 10km; Asc/Desc: 100; Map: Port Hacking; Limit: 10

Brian Everingham Email: brian.everingham@gmail.com Tel: 9520 9341, 0419 260 236
Contact leader for details.

26 Aug, Wed, "Engaging the community with citizen science"

Citizen science is a tool to get the wider community to contribute to nature conservation.

The NPA's citizen science officer, Margaret Law, will share how the NPA currently engages its 5,000 registered citizen scientists and our plans for the future. Learn how you can contribute to nature conservation.

29-Aug, Sat, Blue Mountains NP

Blackheath – Popes Glen – Govetts Leap – Junction Rock – Evans LO – Braeside Track – Blackheath. Gd: 4;

Dist: 18km; Asc/Desc: 1250m; Map: Katoomba; Mount Wilson; Limit: 12

Brian Everingham Email: brian.everingham@gmail.com Tel: 9520 9341, 0419 260 236
Contact leader for details.

23 Sep, Wed, "Circumnavigating Spitzbergen..Arctic wildlife and Tundra flowers"

This remote Island, well above the Arctic Circle close to Greenland has one small town, with the rest being wilderness. Rifles and bear scarers accompany every stroll. Gary and Bronlyn Schoer will share images and stories of their expedition and discuss how climate change might affect the Arctic regions.

Not a member of
NPA but would like to
know more about
joining?

See: <http://www.npansw.org.au/index.php/join-npa/become-a-member>

SLIDESHOWS WANTED for 2015

NPA Southern Sydney Branch has free slideshows each month at Sutherland. The meetings are very relaxed and informal. We need guest speakers for 2015. If you would like to present a slideshow or PowerPoint presentation please contact Peter Vaughan 95287341.