



NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF NSW

*protecting nature through community action*

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NEWSLETTER NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF NSW INC No 115

Spring edition

**SOUTHERN SYDNEY BRANCH**

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### In This Issue:

- Branch AGM and member nights
- Wedding Cake Rock
- Our Wildlife – Split-towed Lacewings
- Our Wildlife – Humpback Whales
- Special Places – Barren Grounds
- Wildlife Surveys in our Shire
- Campaign News – the proposed biodiversity Reforms

And, of course, proposed activities!

**BUSINESS MEETINGS** All are welcome to attend, have your say and hear what's happening in the NPA. Contact Peter on 95287341 or Gary on 95701813 for details. Held on the 3rd Thursday of alternate months.

**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 now held on the fourth Wednesday of the month, except when this coincides with school holidays. This means that you can all attend Australian Plants AND NPA talks. That is a bargain.

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.

## Our Branch

On September 28<sup>th</sup> the Branch will hold its next member evening. This will also be our AGM at which our Executive is elected. Please do not be shy in putting yourself forward. While I am very pleased with the commitment of our entire team it is always good to have new volunteers, new activists and new voices.

Elections will be held for the following positions:

- President
- Vice President
- Hon Secretary
- Minutes Secretary
- Hon Treasurer
- State Council delegates (four positions)

And it would be great if there are volunteers who can help by becoming the Newsletter editor, help in webpage design, help as campaign volunteers. None of these positions need be elected. Just come along and say what you would like to do. We'll listen!!! Truly. Or, if you prefer, give me a call.

Brian Everingham, Branch President  
[Brian.everingham@gmail.com](mailto:Brian.everingham@gmail.com) or 02 952092341

### Members Evenings 2016

**28 Sept "The story of Thomas Cook and the development of modern tourism".** Founded in 1841 Thomas Cook Travel recently celebrated its 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Guest speaker Gerald Davis will highlight the fascinating history and achievements of one of the world's great pioneering travel companies

**3 Nov "To Tropical North Queensland by Campervan and 4WD truck"**

Gary Schoer will share his experiences of birds and other beasts, aboriginal culture and remote national parks on an 8 week journey through some of the most isolated and stunning landscapes in Australia. Anyone contemplating a trip through this region will pick up hints on what to see and do and how to be safe where many potential hazards occur, all of which are manageable. Gary is a keen Canon photographer and always tries to get "the shot" of challenging subjects.

The NPA offers members over 1000 free midweek and weekend activities a year including bush walks, canoe trips, bike rides, biodiversity surveys, bird watching, and family trips. Activities cater for all levels of fitness. Easy/short walks, day bushwalks, overnight bushwalks, week bushwalks, educational walks, conservation work.

8pm Sutherland Multi-Purpose Centre

123 Flora St Sutherland (near Belmont St)

**Admission Free   All Welcome**

## Wedding Cake Rock



Branch members who have walked the Coast Track over the past year will have noted and been aghast at the situation at Wedding Cake Rock. Indeed, in The Leader, July 27 2017 Cheryl Kay wrote, reference to a visit she made on July 17<sup>th</sup>,

“There were at least 18 people who had climbed the barrier, including approximately six young children under the age of ten, one man in a suit and tie, and one woman in six inch stillets ....”

NPA believes that we should be pushing for the government to respond to the need for environmental and safety information along the coast track in particular. If the Baird government and NSW Tourism are promoting the track/ Wattamolla picnics etc they have a responsibility to the people who go there and to the protection of the Royal NP. We do not think safety fences and look out platforms are the way to go. They are unsightly and ineffective. Instead there should be NPWS Discovery Rangers every weekend paid for by the government to communicate with visitors and manage the attractions that are being promoted.

## Our Wildlife Split-Toed Lacewings



Nymphid lacewings are also known as Split-toed Lacewings, and include the Blue-eyed Lacewing *Nymphes myrmeleonides*, a large yellow lacewing with larva that live in the ground and resemble the traditional antlion (hence the *myrmeleonides* name). Other Nymphid larvae like the one above - probably a *Myiodactylus* - lurk on plants, long curved jaws ready to snap on anything that wanders within reach. The fringed edges help break up its outline, making it harder for predators and prey to spot.

Anything unfortunate enough to be caught by the hooked jaws will be drained of its body fluids by other mouthparts, and then discarded. Other families of lacewings might use the shrivelled corpse as part of a disguise.

Once the larvae is ready to pupate, it will spin a loose cocoon of silk and debris, and when ready to emerge again chew their way out, and moult into an adult.

Text by Daniel Heald; image by Brian Everingham



## Our Wildlife Whales



Humpback Whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*)  
Photograph by Ken Griffiths

Between May 24<sup>th</sup> and July 31<sup>st</sup> 2016 volunteers kept a watch on passing whales on their northern migration. They have been doing this since 1997.

According to Geoff Ross, the NPWS wildlife management officer, by the end of the season there were 2995 humpback whales sighted. In 1997, that first year, only 147 were seen. Now the only country that actively hunts whales is Japan and it is thrilling to see the recovery of this species as a result of conservation efforts. Whales are now shot by cameras instead of harpoons and bring much happiness to those on the shore and those who pay to see them by tourist boats!

The data is entered and helps inform the threatened species programs. For any information on the NSW listing of this species go to

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedSpeciesApp/profile.aspx?id=10914>

It is part of the Saving Our Species program. On that go to

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/savingourspecies/managementstreams.htm>

## **Special Places Barren Grounds**

In June 2016 an NPA party visited the delightful Barren Grounds Nature Reserve.



Situated in the Southern Highlands, east of Budderoo National Park and west of the city of Kiama, this 2024 hectare reserve is surely high on the list for anyone wishing to visit and enjoy our wildlife. In addition, it is blessed with spectacular lookouts to east and west.

Barren Grounds is a typical hanging swamp plateau. In the Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia they are listed as part of the Budderoo National Park Heath Swamps (code: SB005NS) and it is noted that they “cover an extensive area and form a consolidated area of swamp which is undisturbed by rural or urban landuses (and that they) ... play an important hydrological role by acting as a source of groundwater discharge”.

It is just as well. They are sometimes referred to as “Temperate Highland Peat Swamps” and as such they are naturally restricted within the landscape, are susceptible to changes in water flow, level of the water table, and structural damage. Several such important swamps have been damaged, such as the Wingecarribee Swamp and the Wildes Meadow Swamp and recent impacts from longwall mining appear to have caused serious damage in other such wetlands on the Woronora Plateau. In 2005 the Threatened Species Scientific Committee was sufficiently concerned about the long term fate of these important wetlands that they recommended that this ecosystem be listed as endangered and that a recovery plan be developed as a matter of high priority.

Barren Grounds Nature Reserve operates within a Plan of Management for Budderoo National Park, Macquarie Pass National Park, Barren Grounds Nature Reserve and Robertson



Nature Reserve. Its heathland communities are also found in parts of Budderoo National Park and in Morton National Park (for example, on the Tianjara and Little Forest Plateaus). On its eastern escarpment there are also extensive and important stretches of cool temperate rainforest. This rainforest corridor forms part of an important remnant of what was once extensive rainforest in the Illawarra and according to Mills “contains the major area of coachwood *Ceratopetalum apetalum* warm temperate rainforest in NSW, the northern limit of plumwood *Eucryphia moorei* cool temperate rainforest and the southern limit of a significant number of subtropical species.”



## Campaign News

### 1. The Biodiversity legislation

*The Branch has made representations to our local MLA's regarding the proposed biodiversity legislation before Parliament. The following, for example, was sent as a reminder to Mark Coure, Member for Oatley. We intend to push this further and call on members to also write to their local MP.*

*Land clearing in NSW accelerates with almost two-thirds of it 'unexplained'*

*I would like to share something with you Mark and seek your action in restoring some sanity to proposed changes in land clearing and biodiversity legislation.*

*National parks Association of NSW has no faith in the proposed changes to legislation related to biodiversity and land clearing. Don't take only our word for it. See what eminent scientists have to say about the fiasco.*

*Please communicate NPA's and NPA's Southern Sydney Branches desire for the Minister for Environment to demonstrate leadership by addressing these very real concerns rather than sticking to a grossly flawed plan whose implementation has clearly been delayed due, we would suggest, to the major gaps already demonstrated in its credibility.*

For details of what this means the following link provides a very comprehensive summary.

See: [http://www.lindsaytaylorlawyers.com.au/in\\_focus/index.php/2016/05/proposed-reforms-for-land-management-and-biodiversity-conservation-in-nsw/#.V6J0is5OLIU](http://www.lindsaytaylorlawyers.com.au/in_focus/index.php/2016/05/proposed-reforms-for-land-management-and-biodiversity-conservation-in-nsw/#.V6J0is5OLIU)

Ref: LTL *in focus* article" at: [http://www.lindsaytaylorlawyers.com.au/in\\_focus](http://www.lindsaytaylorlawyers.com.au/in_focus)

And do remember to see what NPA and NCC set out in our Vision for Nature Conservation in NSW. It can be accessed at:

[http://www.nature.org.au/media/2005/a\\_vision\\_for\\_nature\\_conservation\\_in\\_new\\_south\\_wales\\_november\\_2014.pdf](http://www.nature.org.au/media/2005/a_vision_for_nature_conservation_in_new_south_wales_november_2014.pdf)



## Wildlife Survey - Shire

Note that residents are being encouraged to photograph local fauna and report it on the Sutherland Shire Council's new fauna reporting page!

<https://cms.ssc.nsw.gov.au/Outdoors/Environment/Plants-and-Bushland/Report-Local-Fauna>

There is a need to find out more about the wildlife we share our homes with. By collating data, we can make science-based decisions to properly conserve and manage the diverse animals that visit and live in the Shire.

The information you provided will be current and can be collected on a large scale, including both public and private land. It will provide a great range and depth of data for analysis and research.

This will be a useful resource in decision-making and planning of works in many areas of Council as the data can measure the health of natural ecosystems by detecting changes in fauna numbers and species type.

Important sightings that can be verified will be passed on to the NSW BioNet. BioNet is a State wide portal for accessing information about plants and animals in NSW



Beautiful Fire Tail in Royal National Park

## Activities

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September  
Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September  
Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September  
Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September  
Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October  
Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> October  
Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October  
Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November

Curra Moors (Grade 3)  
Kamay Botany Bay National Park (Grade 3)  
Otford to Burning Palms via Garrawarra (Grade 3)  
Photography at Oatley Park (Grade 2)  
Blue Gum Forest via Lockley's Pylon (Grade 4)  
Wahroonga to Mt Ku-Ring-Gai via Bobbin Head (Grade 3)  
Photography at Bonnie Vale (Grade 1)  
Manly to North Head via Shelly Beach (Grade 2)  
Katoomba to Mount Solitary (Grade 4)  
Faulconbridge to Springwood (Grade 3)

There is something for everyone!!!! Well, no full pack walks but we are looking for more walks leaders. Tempted?

And by then the summer edition will be out!



The cliffs at Kamay-Botany Bay National Park

Note that for all activities Brian Everingham can be contacted on [brian.everingham@gmail.com](mailto:brian.everingham@gmail.com)