



Mosman Parks & Bushland Association

Dear Members and Supporters

It was lovely to catch up with so many of you at the AGM on 26th July 2022. Thank you for braving the winter air and the lurking viruses.

Dr David Robertson, Chair of the Mosman Environmental Foundation gave a talk on declining biodiversity and unsustainable agricultural production in NW NSW with particular reference to old growth Coolabah and Black Box - now an endangered ecological community. Dr Robertson presented an interesting perspective on the issues for farmers and graziers, including the complexities and variety of legislation they have to get their heads around.

Dr Robertson commented on the enthusiasm of our group, as evidenced by the many questions and the queue of people with more questions after the talk was finished. He has forwarded me photos, maps and the text for a similar talk he gave to lawyers earlier in the year. If anyone would like me to send a copy, please let me know.

for the benefit of those who couldn't attend the AGM, I attach the Annual Report.

Exciting news

Mosman Parks & Bushland was among the first group of four recipients to receive a grant from the Mosman Environmental Foundation.

Our grant is for \$9,790 and will pay for professional weeding of Asparagus fern and other weeds at Chowder Head (Gooralgal), Sydney Harbour National Park, in areas that are too inaccessible and dangerous for our regular team of volunteers. It is particularly significant and appropriate for this work to be done in an area where the Bradley sisters made their discoveries about bush regeneration. Eileen, in particular, was credited at her death in 1976, with having left the 40 acres of Chowder Head in virtually pristine condition. In 1995, a group of volunteers, consisting of MPBA members and others, was formed under the auspices of NPWS to work on part of Chowder Head near Morella Road, which had become particularly weed infested. Bush regeneration is painstaking work, but the group is proud of its achievements in "Bringing Back the Bush" to this site. With the significant help that the grant will bring to the group's efforts, this headland has the potential to become an example and model of what can be achieved in bushland.

Landcare Conference site visit

Kicking off such opportunities is a Site Visit as part of the National Landcare Conference on Tuesday, 23rd August. Anne Cook, our in house historian and our authority on the Bradley sisters, and I, will be leading the walk through the site. The day trip starts with our site and then goes on to Lane Cove Bushland, the Coal Loader at North Sydney and ends at Kelly's Bush. The connecting theme for the sites being the role that preserving bushland plays in saving public land.

Andrew Scott, North Sydney's bushcare officer has put this excursion together for Landcare and has organised a booklet and video to accompany it.

We would be delighted to show off our beautiful Chowder Head to any interested members or friends. Please let me know if you would be interested in joining a walk at a future date.

Landcare Conference Talk

I shall be a Stream Speaker on the following day of the Conference - Wednesday, 24th August at 4.15 in the Urban Landcare section. The title of my presentation is: The Bradley Sisters - the Origin and Development of Bush Regeneration and its Ongoing Relevance.

If anyone would like to watch the talk, you can register as a virtual delegate free of charge. Go to <https://nationallandcareconference.org.au/> Registration is at the top. Then Register as a Virtual Delegate.

A new Committee Member

We are delighted to welcome Jenni Hagland to the MPBA Committee.

Jenni has been taking an active role in Mosman environmental initiatives, with a particular emphasis on climate change. I asked Jenni for a summary:

She began her environmental career in 2007 when she started with the Carbon Disclosure Project (now known as the CDP in London) and worked alongside Paul Dickinson and Tom Rivett-Carnac (now climate change superstars). Her involvement with environmental initiatives in Mosman began in 2015 when she and her family moved here. She started a parents' sustainability group at Mosman Public School which fundraised and got solar for the school in 2019. In the same year she began working with Zero Emissions Sydney North as Program Leader for Schools which offers schools

free downloadable guides, resources and consulting to help them become more sustainable. In 2020 she piloted the Zero Emission Schools Network here in Mosman and all schools in the Mosman LGA take part in the Network. Currently she is also the Queenwood's Parents Association's Sustainability Coordinator. She completed her Climate Reality Leadership training (Al Gore's climate training program) in 2020. She became a member of MPBA in 2020 after joining our planting team on the "Zali slopes" below Rawson Park.

I think you will understand how pleased we were when Jenni accepted our invitation to join the committee.

Mosman Council's Draft Climate Action Plan - Resilience and Adaption Strategy - open for comment until 26th August

You can find it in YOUR SAY on Council's web site. MPBA will make a submission, of course, but it is important for Council to hear from individual residents on this important matter. When we reflect on the northern rivers recent flood experience the readiness and ability of any community to deal with the impact of climate change is very clear. The resilience and adaptation strategy aims to identify what could be done by the community as well as council and others in a changing climate. Council wants your ideas and this is a chance to share them.

A special request from our Treasurer

Brian Watters tells me that our subscriptions are down somewhat on last year. He asked me to remind you that our various expenses include insurance, hire of the hall for our AGM, attendance at conferences, memberships of groups such as the Nature Conservation Council etc.

Those of you who did not attend the AGM may have overlooked your subscription payment. I attach the subscription form with details of how to pay.

Your membership is very much appreciated and it strengthens our voice.

With sincere regards
Kate Eccles OAM, President
18 Aug 2022