

Bush Telegraph

Bushcare Newsletter

www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au

Winter 09



Trumper Park Bushcare

The Trumper Park Bushcare site began mid last year, it is made up of one large site with a dedicated group meeting every Friday and the first Saturday of the month. The team are passionate, hardworking volunteers that have removed tonnes of weeds. The site was previously weed infested with such weeds as Lantana, Madeira Vine, and Celtis trees.

As you can see from the photos the intensity of weed removal and re-growth of native vegetation has been fantastic.

It is envisioned that this site will be re-vegetated to simulate an open forest. It is unfortunate that parts of this site are so degraded that there is hardly any natural seed bank left. This means we have to re-vegetate with locally endemic plant species that are collected and grown in Council's nursery. Most of then degraded soil profiles occur where soil levels have been changed in the past, including when the site was used for dumping rubble from excavations such as the Domain carpark in Woolloomooloo, and the train tunnel between Edgecliff and Bondi Junction.

Brief History Trumper Park

The indigenous inhabitants of the area that is now Woollahra comprised members of at least two Aboriginal clans – the Cadigal on the southern shore of Port Jackson from South Head west to Petersham and the Birrabirralah of South Head and nearby coastal areas. Due to the inaccessibility of the surrounding area consisting of waterfalls,



Site after to lantana removal 2009

creeks and dense scrub, Aboriginal people may have been using the area for some time. Subsequent occupation and clearing of land through land grants and settlement hastened the demise of traditional Aboriginal land use within the Sydney area.

In the early years of the Sydney colony what is now Trumper Park was characterised by dense bush and scrub, swamp land, and creeks draining the valley. In the early 1800s, industries (such as a distillery, tannery, and quarry) and residential subdivisions occurred on land adjacent to the park. Quarrying of sandstone occurred within the park in the 1800s.

Trumper Park originally Hampden Park Oval was built on reclaimed swamp, Glenmore Brook runs down and under its middle today. It was named in honour of Viscount Hampden, Governor of New South Wales (1895-99) The name of the park was changed in 1931 to honour one of Paddington's cricketing heroes, Victor Trumper (1877-1915).

Geology

The rugged sandstone outcrops in the park were highly valued, and were quarried as building material in the early days of the development of Paddington. The sandstone was quarried for several decades from about 1914 until 1967.

Today Trumper Park is a vibrant park used for sport and recreation, and is being further rehabilitated by a dedicated group of volunteers.

Bushcare Liaison Officer message

Hello Bushcarers,

Welcome to another edition of the of the Bush Telegraph. What a strange season it has been, with hot and cold temperatures combined with wet and dry days, it has certainly let a few species of weeds hang around a bit longer than usual. This edition looks at some of the work the Bushcare team has completed at Trumper Park over the last year such as removing tonnes of lantana and Madeira vine. The Pacific Pale Duck that often frequents Trumper Park Pond is our fauna of the month. Our weed this term is fleabane which is a persistent annual plant which tends to come up everywhere. I have revisited Whale watching as it is that time of year again to observe our Cetacean friends migrating along our coastlines. Our flora of the month is the beautiful Isopogon, which is very rare in Woollahra, but a great plant to grow at home. Also featured is a story on one of our local schools completing a two week education program at Trumper Park, helping us weed and monitor water quality. As we go to press, like everyone I have just seen the imagines of the Cooper Park landslip, and the gargantuan amount of sediment it has deposited on the old grassed amphitheater. Fortunately Councils' recent rehabilitated pond at the top of Cooper Park Creek was spared a blanketing of sand, and may have actually collected and stopped any silt moving further down stream. Council is working with Sydney Water and relevant organisations to stabilise the area.

Rudi Adlmayer



Site prior to lantana removal 2008

Fauna Corner

Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa*

Family: Anatidae

Order: Anseriformes

Pacific Pale Ducks are part of the dabbling ducks family, which include Mallards, Northern Shovelers, Australasian Shovelers, Australian Grey Teals, Chestnut Teals, Garganey and Northern Pintails.

Dabbling ducks eat insects, floating vegetation from on or underneath the surface, seeds, and in shallow water they may dredge food from mud and graze around the edge of water. The introduced Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, often interbreeds with the Pacific Pale Duck .

Identification: It is a large dark duck with two lines on its face, with green or purple back tail feathers, with white underwings. It is possibly the most common duck in Australia.

Voice: The male voice is a soft three noted quack, whilst the female is a loud descending six noted quack.

Nest: They nest in in tree hollows or grass cups in reeds or grass, and line nests with feather down. They lay up to 8 to 10 whitish or greenish eggs.

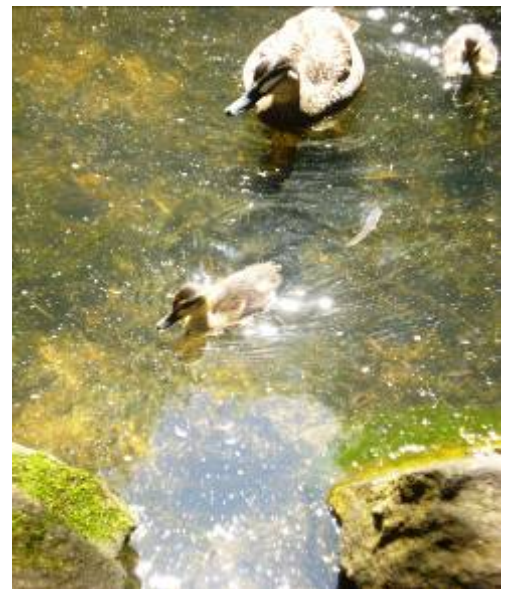
Range: Pacific Pale Ducks range throughout Australia most common in the south east and south west of Australia. They are common residents in isolated forest pools to tidal mudflats and can be nomadic on wetlands throughout Australia too. Its range also extends throughout the Pacific region.

Pacific Black Ducks are usually seen in pairs or small flocks and readily mix with other ducks. In the wild, birds are often very wary of humans and seldom allow close approach however birds in urban ponds become quite tame.

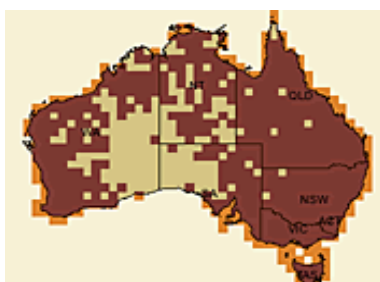
Pacific Black Ducks will mate coinciding with the availability of sufficient food and water, and often with the onset of heavy rains or when waterways are at their peaks. Courtship is accompanied by a ritual of displays including preening, bobbing and wing-flapping. This behaviour can be often initiated by the female, and, other than copulation, the male helps little in the breeding process. Often, two broods will be raised in a year. The number of offspring produced may seem quite high, but only 20% of these will survive past two years of age.



Pacific Pale Ducks Trumper Pond



Pacific Pale Ducks Adult and juvenile Trumper Pond



Population abundance Pacific Pale Ducks

<http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/images/maps/anas-superciliosa.gif>

The Pacific Black Duck is closely related to the species of Mallard, *A.platyrhynchos*, introduced into Australia from the Northern Hemisphere. The two species are very similar in habits and occupy the same niche in the two regions. The two species will interbreed in situations where Mallards have been released.



Pacific Pale Ducks Trumper Pond

Weed Control Update

Fleabane *Conyza bonariensis*

Description: It is a widespread weed of cultivated land, bushland areas, wasteland and roadsides. Found growing most of the year, but most prevalent in summer months.

Leaves: Are narrow lanceolate leaves which are green to grey in colour, measuring 2-6cm in length, they are toothed and covered in fine hairs. Upper leaves are smaller and linear.

Flowers: Flowers are arranged in pyramidal panicles (many branched flowers). The capitulum (flower head) is greater than 2mm in diameter and looks like a flower bud. Flowers occur at the ends of the branches. Surrounding each flower are involucral (bell-shaped leaf-like) bracts (a modified leaf looking like a flower) 3-5mm in length, the inside of each bract is white sometimes tinged purple or red.

Fruit: The cypsela (fruit) is a linear shaped seed approximately 1.5mm long, straw coloured, covered in hairs with 16-20 noticeably longer at the top that are white or pink. It flowers from spring to autumn.

Habit: It is an erect perennial, with rough stems branching at the base of the plant with tapered leaves covered in stiff hairs. It grows 20-75 centimetres in height.

Control : Seedlings can be removed manually by carefully removing and avoiding any other native seedlings that may occur there. Larger plants can be removed, taking care to remove any seedheads with secateurs as seeds will blow in the wind and spread. In more disturbed sites plants can be sprayed with Glyphosate, (Roundup™) .

Always read label and use correct Personnel Protective Equipment when using pesticides.

Notes: *Conyza canadensis* var. *canadensis* and *Conyza bonariensis* can easily be confused with *Conyza canadensis* and *Conyza albida* which are also weeds. *C. canadensis* can be distinguished from *C. bonariensis* in that unlike *C. bonariensis* it can grow up to 1.5m high, the involucral bracts (leaf-like structures surrounding the flower head) have a brownish inner surface and the hairs (pappus) of the seed are cream. *Conyza albida* has bracts of the flower head that are hairy as in *C. bonariensis* but differ in that there are no long hairs near the apex of the bracts. But hey they are all weeds.



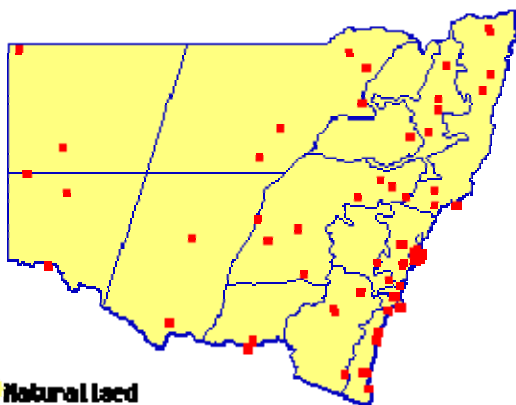
Fleabane flowerhead



Fleabane seedling



Fleabane plant Gap Park



Source: B.A. Auld and R.W. Medd, 1987. *Weeds and illustrated botanical guide to the weeds of Australia.*

<http://www.weeds.org.au/cgi-bin/weedident>

Carolin R, Tindale MD (1993) 'Flora of the Sydney region.' (Reed: Chatswood, Australia)

Population and abundance of *Conyza bonariensis* in NSW.

Source:

<http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/avh/tmp/NSWsubmap4688243000.gif>australia

Whale Watching Season

Yes folks, it's that time of year again. Our Cetacean friends are moving north again to breed in the warmer area of Australia's eastern coastlines. Whales include the Humpback and Southern Right Whales. Other whales you may see include: Minke, Blue, Sei, Fin, False Killer, Orca (Killer Whale), Sperm, Pygmy Right, Pygmy Sperm, Brydes and the White Whale Migaloo.

Whales appear to have evolved from a group of primitive animals called *Mesonychids* that also gave rise to grazing hoofed animals. Fossil records show cetacean ancestors returned to water and evolved into their recognisable forms over 50 million years ago. Approx 38 million years ago, ancestral cetaceans evolved into two groups, which is differentiated by their feeding methods and structures.

The first group developed teeth and the ability to echolocate and include Dolphins, Porpoises, Sperm and Pilot Whales, and Orcas. The second group adapted to feeding to smaller prey such as plankton and small fish, in place of teeth they have bristle like teeth on the upper jaw called *Baleen* which sieve the prey from water. Species include Southern Right, Humpback, and Minke Whales.

Cetaceans range in size, the Blue Whale comes in at 33 metres and 120 tones and the Hector's Dolphin is just 1.5 metres long and weighs only 60 kilos.

Whales were hunted in Australia and New Zealand usually following European exploration. They were hunted for their blubber, baleen, sperma-ceti, teeth, and ambergris.

It is estimated that two million whales were killed in the 20th century, the onslaught reduced whale migration to at least 5% of former numbers.

Today there is evidence that Humpback and Southern Right populations are slowly recovering around Australian coasts, however species such as the Antarctic Blue Whales appear to have barely recovered in the last 30 years and may never recover from the impact of whaling.

Where to see whales

During July whales can be seen migrating from the coastal cliff walk around Vaucluse near the Macquarie Lighthouse. Look for spouts of water coming from the whales blowhole. Bring binoculars. Boat cruises also take passengers out, giving you a closer look.

- Humpback Whales
- Southern Right Whales
- Breeding Grounds
- Feeding Grounds

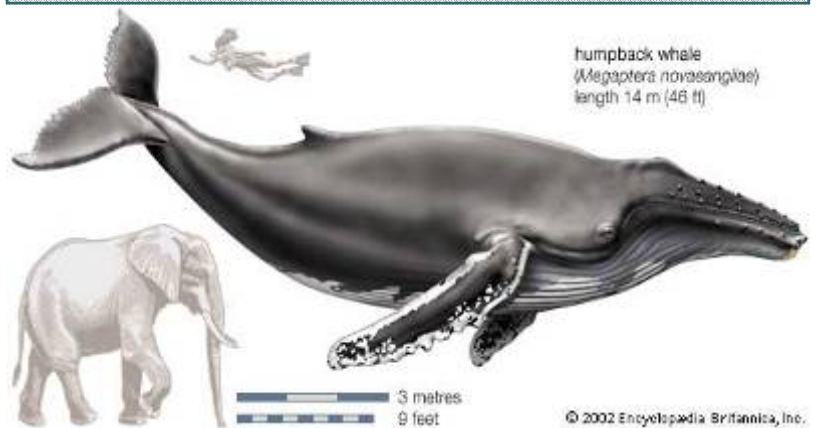
FREE Whale Watching & Coastal Cliff Walk

Come whale watching and enjoy a beautiful coastal cliff walk with Woollahra Council on Sunday 14 June 2009.

Look out for Humpback Whales heading north with the help of a National Parks Discovery Ranger from 9.00am – 12.00pm at Lighthouse Reserve, Old South Head Road, between Georges Road and Cambridge Avenue, Vaucluse. Participants are encouraged to bring binoculars.

At 10.30am, just 100 metres south of whale watching, join the 90 minute guided coastal cliff walk from the Obelisk, near Macquarie Lighthouse, to Gap Park. Walk along the breathtaking coastal cliffs and learn about the natural and cultural history of the area.

The coastal cliff walk is an easy grade with a few steps. Please bring wet weather clothing, sunscreen and good walking shoes. Light refreshments will be served at completion of the walk. **Bookings are essential.** Call on 0423 020 648 to reserve your space.



Whale Migration Australia.

Source: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/plantsanimals/WildAboutWhales>.

Grammar Junior School Bushcare

In March this year we were joined by Grammar Junior School who participated in a two week environmental program where they built a vegetable garden, and learnt about native animal ecology with their scientist in residence Anthony Stimson.

As part of this training Grammar School came to Trumper Park to investigate the environment in and around the pond. With a stream watch kit generously lent by Celia Busted, Woollahra Councils Environmental Education Officer, the boys measured the water quality which included measuring temperature, turbidity, (the cloudiness or haziness of a fluid caused by individual particles), and pH. They also discussed how the chemistry of the pond affected the life in the pond. Nets were used to collect macro invertebrates (animals that are visible with the naked eye and are without a backbone), that live in the pond, and identified them using keys to see what species existed in the pond.

Following the stream watch program, the class worked on our Bushcare site with Woollahra Councils Bushcare Liaison Officer, where students learnt about the values of urban bushland, which included cultural and natural values. The boys learnt how bushland can provide habitat for native animals in urban areas, as well as playing an important role in conservation too. The boys then got their hands dirty helping with weed removal, and learning how weeds can damage our natural environment.

All in all the time Grammar School students attended was enjoyable and Woollahra Council thank them for their hard efforts over the weeks.



Flora Corner Broad-leaf Drumsticks *Isopogon anemonifolius*

The Isopogon is beautiful native plant that is perfect for a native or ornamental garden. It is a tough hardy plant with magnificent yellow flowers, and striking cones. Today there are many varieties and cultivars of Isopogon too.

Distribution: Widespread and common to the coast extending to the Blue Mountains. Occurs to Southern Tablelands, South Coast, and North to Queensland.

Description: A tall shrub growing to 1 to 2 m. With leaves shaped like plants in the Anemone family.

Leaves: Are deeply dissected into 3 segments, which are again divided and lobed at their leaf tips.

Flowers: Flowers are a beautiful yellow, and are crowded into dense globular heads. Their cones are rounded and woody.

Habit: Isopogon will grow in shallow sandy soil, and grow in dry eucalypt forest, and heathland.

Notes: The word Isopogon is derived from the words 'isos' meaning equal, and 'pogen' meaning beard. A reference to the hairs on the fruit.



What's on and around the place

June 09

Sunday 14 June — Whale Watching and Coastal Cliff Walk

9.00am—12.00pm Look out for humpback whales as they head north then join a 90min guided coastal cliff walk to Gap Park. Bring wet weather clothing, sunscreen and good walking shoes. Bookings essential, call Lani Payne on 9391 7057.

July 09

Friday 31 —Tea Topic Tim Entwistle

The Worlds Best Botanic Garden a talk by Tim Entwistle. Location Woollahra Council, 536 New South Head Road, Double Bay. Contact Library and Information Service, 9391 7100.

August 09

Sunday 30 —Trumper Park Walk & Bushcare Training

10.00am-1.00pm Come and learn about Trumper Park and join a Bushcare group. Free morning tea and training. Meet at 10am at Trumper Park Pond. Bookings essential, call Rudi on 0423 020 648

Saturday 1 — Cumberland Plain Walk.

This walk through Cumberland Plain woodland led by the renowned Sydney flora expert Alan Fairley.
Meeting place: Lake Gillawarna parking area on Henry Lawson Drive, near corner of Flinders Road. Heather Stolle, 9547 1692 for car pooling before the event, 0425 291 879 on the day.

September 09

Sunday 13 Biodiversity Month

10.00am - 12.00pm Biodiversity Month is held in September each year and aims to promote the importance of protecting, conserving and improving biodiversity both within Australia and across the world. Celebrate Biodiversity month and National Threatened Species Day, with a walk at Parsley Bay Vacluse, and learn about the amazing biodiversity that occurs at the jewel in the crown of Woollahra Council bushland reserves.
Meet at Children's playground area.
Contact Rudi Adlmayer 0423 020 648 bookings essential.

October 09

November 09

Bushcare Woollahra
Bushcare Woollahra

Bushcare Newsletter

If undelivered please return to
Bushcare Liaison Officer PO Box 61

If you are interested in becoming a Bushcare volunteer, contact Councils Bushcare Liaison Officer on 0423 020 648. For more information, log on to www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au, or email bushcare@woollahra.nsw.gov.au.

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