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Updates from our Executive Committee

Membership update: With the Membership grace period ending for the last Financial Year, our membership continues to hold steady. As members drop off, new members sign up and we are especially gladdened that our new members are actively working in the Garden.

Demolition of old child care centre – a bit of a set back: We thought that we were progressing well with the demolition of the child care centre with the DA lodged and onto the next steps however, due to an administrative error – the Landscape Plan was not included in the original DA – it has been pushed back another month. In a discussion with Council, we have asked, once all approvals have been received, for a projected timeline for the completion of the demolition and we will of course keep you updated on any and all progress.

Pathway upgrade: The pathway upgrade to and from the recently reconstructed stone bridge is back on course. The excavators are in and weather permitting, we should see this finished in a few weeks.



Council gardeners update: In addition to the gardeners' regular maintenance, you may have noticed a lot more activity – staff and trucks – in the Garden so we thought we'd catch you up on what's happening:

- Cleanup on the top Clivia bed and pathway is ongoing with digging and grubbing out loads of self seeded and sucker stems as well as removing the morning glory before it strangles those beds.



- Plants from the Tree and Vegetation Management Plan are beginning to go in.



- And to cope with all this activity, a revised vegetation refuse schedule with designated drop sites has been set up to ensure the Garden looks clean and tidy.

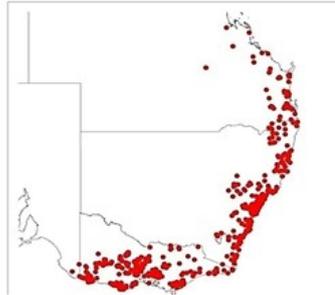


How Powerful Owls live and breed in our cities – the topic at our September Get-together

Dr Holly Parsons, the Urban Bird Program Manager for BirdLife Australia, shared her passion for birds that live in an urban environment and their issues with co-habitation. This particular presentation was on owls, but focused on the Powerful Owls that are found along the east coast of Australia, even here in Manly, in Ivanhoe Park Botanic Garden.

Distribution

Powerful owls live in forests. They can also be found in the suburbs of Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane



Powerful Owls can live up to 20 years and they mate for life. They do not start breeding until they are about 5 years old. The eggs are laid in late May and the female stays in the nest for 2-3 months with the male feeding her during that period.

Powerful Owl Breeding

March/April – cuddle up and share a roost tree (Black She-oak, Turpentine, Coachwood). Lots of calling.

Late May - early June

- female enters hollow (in trunk)
- 2 eggs laid a few days apart

July – Aug

Incubation 35 - 38 days, fledge 7-9 weeks. Male feeds females (and chicks)

Dec - March Dispersal

standline together in stn airline times

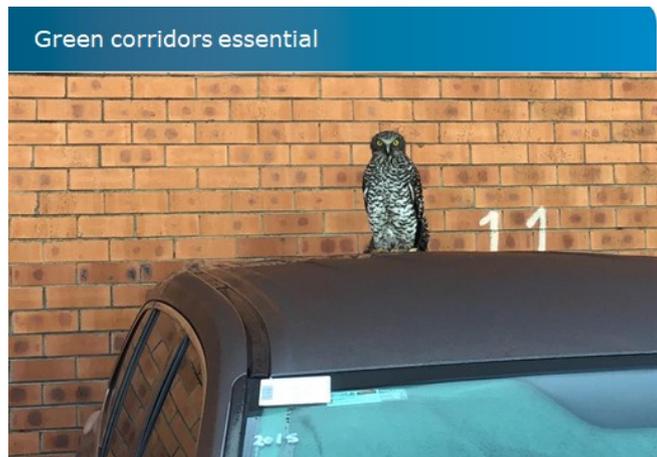


They usually have two chicks which are about two-third the size of the adults and have white feathers when fully fledged. After 4-5 months the chicks leave the nest but are not ready to fly and hunt until 6-7 months.



The owls are territorial and use the same hollows over again. They need access to big tree hollows and a good understorey for the chicks when they are juveniles. Angophoras are their preferred tree and until now providing nesting boxes has not been successful so green corridors are important.

As space is becoming limited with 1.42 chicks per territory, one of the trends we see more frequently for our urban Powerful Owls is birds ending up in odd spots: in workshops, schools, supermarket loading docks and car yards. We might expect out of place roosting when young birds are finding their way to new territory as they leave home and move into the world, however, this inopportune roosting is also being seen increasingly in adult Powerful Owls and part of the reason for them becoming “stranded” in the wrong spots may be because the landscape elements that allow them to move are being increasingly lost from the urban space as tree cover is lost.



Northern Beaches

Birdlife Australia has been running the Powerful Owl Project in Sydney for 10 years.

They train people to locate and record owls in their local area. In 2000, 25-30 pairs were logged.

More recent records show an increase in numbers with 260 pairs now identified, particularly in the Northern Beaches, Central Coast and Sutherland Shire.

- 33 sites since 2011
- 26 active/known in 2021
- 26 chicks at 18 known breeding sites (2 failures)
- This year – early days...

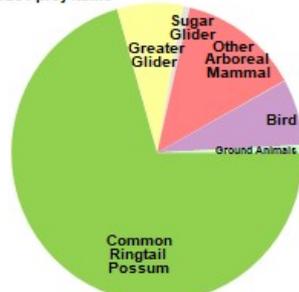


standing together to stop extinctions

Their favourite food is possum – they can eat up to 300 a year but in urban areas they are now eating a wider variety of land animals including rats. And that has become a problem.

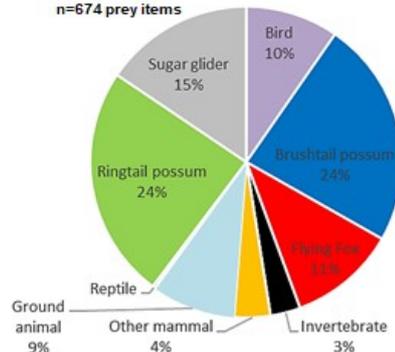
PO diet shifts in the Sydney Region

19 territories
n=1201 prey items



Kavanagh (2004)

84 territories
n=674 prey items



BirdLife Australia is also monitoring the deaths of Powerful Owls. Last year they recorded 85 dead owls – 10% of the population. The No. 1 cause is car strike followed by animal attacks. Of particular concern is the presence of rat poison ingested by the owls as a result of eating rats. Rat poisons contain anti-coagulants and the second generation poisons are worse. It is not only owls but many other native animals and birds that are affected by rat poison.

Anti-coagulant rodenticides

- Effectively blood thinners
- “first generation” FGARs
 - multiple dose: wafarin, coumatetralyl, diphacinone
 - Break down in body fast
- “second generation” SGARs
 - single dose: difenacoum, brodifacoum, bromadiolone and difethialone.
 - Accumulates in liver and slow to break down
- Most off the shelf baits are SGARs



BirdLife Australia is lobbying local councils and large suppliers such as Bunnings to ban second generation rat poisons from general sale to the public. There is currently a review by the APVMA into rat poisons. More information can be found on www.actforbirds.org/ratpoison.

For more information please visit BirdLife Australia <https://birdlife.org.au/> and to participate in the Aussie Bird Count starting October 17, click here <https://aussiebirdcount.org.au/>.

There are six different types of owls in Australia – four are listed as threatened but all are in decline due to habitat loss, loss of tree hollows for breeding and land clearing.



1. Powerful Owl – the largest of the owls with a 4m wing span
2. Masked Owl – only found in Australia
3. Barn Owl – found all over the world
4. Boobook / Mopoke Owl – the smallest owl
5. Barking Owl
6. Greater Sooty Owl – the rarest

Bunnings – an extraordinary Working Bee

Each year Bunnings, who are committed to participating in the communities in which they operate, contribute to local, regional and national causes, charities and organisations. This year we were one of the recipients, thanks to our relationship with Bunnings Balgowlah.

So on a sunny Tuesday in September, a Bunnings Community Project Team of more than 20 managers from Bunnings stores around N.S.W., descended upon the Garden to work with us to achieve, in just a few hours, the most incredible results at this extraordinary Working Bee.



Three teams tackled three different areas:

- On a section along the lower tramway route, wooden edging was installed as well as plantings and mulch application.



- In the recently cleared Sensory Garden, shrubs, flowering aromatics and herbs were planted and then mulched.



- Along the south embankment along Sydney Road, Monstera and other weeds and plant debris were cleared and some of the trees were ringed with mulch to prevent damage from whipper snippers and mowers.



We couldn't have asked for a more hard-working and cheerful group and we are so thankful for their support.

Our September Working Bees

Saturday's Working Bee:

We lucked out with the weather so we were able to accomplish a lot. There was weeding in the Australian native garden; assembling and testing the new hose reel; distributing the remaining mulch left over from the Bunnings Working Bee; and lastly, checking the new plants in the fragrant garden. Thanks to Lloyd, Roger, Gordon, Simone, Chris, Pat, David and Victor.





Wednesday's Working Bee:

We were prepared to cancel this Bee because of threatened rain, but the weather was on our side again. It was a small enthusiastic group that included our new member, Daiki, who received his WH&S induction from Tony, our Working Bee Supervisor.

Lynn looked after the storeroom and issued and recorded equipment



Toni and Judy transplanted *Liriope* into a garden bed near the bowling green.



Chris, Daiki and Tony moved that huge pile of cut Monstera we left after working on the rock shelf to a designated pickup area to be collected by our Council gardeners.



**Have you considered joining our Working Bees?
Do you want to make a difference in our wonderful Botanic Garden?**

We do have a lot of fun and with a variety of tasks there's something to suit all levels of fitness and/or preference. We work in the Garden the third Saturday of each month and the Wednesday following, so let us know if you're interested: info@friendsivanhoeparkbotanicgarden.com

The Wildflowers of North Head



The Guest Speakers at our October Get-together will be Judy and Geoff Lambert.

Judy will give us a slide presentation which is a virtual walk-around of the great wildflowers at North Head this spring, and then both Judy & Geoff will be available to answer questions.

We hope to see you there. Tuesday, October 11 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at The Manly Club on Gilbert Park. Grab a drink or have dinner beforehand then join us in The Lounge.

Spring Plant Sale Saturday, October 22 on The Corso



We're hoping for another successful fund-raising plant sale so please come down to The Corso with your friends and family to snap up some Spring bargains. Every plant sold will help us continue our work in the Botanic Garden.

You'll find us under the large fig tree on The Corso from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

A note to Members

**We will need your help in setting up, selling and packing everything away on the day.
Look for an email from Sandy Hudspith with more information.**

The Tree of the Month Project – an aromatic native



Close to the stone bridge there's a quite spectacular rainforest tree endemic to Australia – Oliver's Sassafras (*Cinnamomum oliveri*). It is a wonderfully aromatic tree – from the bark, leaves, twigs, flowers to the cut wood – and one that has multiple uses from essential oils to fragrant drawer liners.

Oliver's Sassafras

Cinnamomum oliveri

Cinnamomum – from Ancient Greek word (κιννάμωμον)
and via Latin – referring to the spice, cinnamon;
oliveri – named after Daniel Oliver (1830 – 1916) a
British botanist at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

Also known as: Camphorwood, black sassafras
and Cinnamon Wood



Cinnamomum oliveri is aromatic however, true
cinnamon comes from the bark of *Cinnamomum verum*
and *Cinnamomum cassia*.

Go to our webpage to find out more about our wonderful trees. This link will take you there: [Our Trees](#).

Around the Garden

Around the Garden in between the raindrops – spring blooms, courting Kookaburras, and a brush turkey redistributing our newly laid mulch.



Dates for our upcoming Get-togethers and Garden Working Bees

2022 Monthly Get-togethers

Month	Date	Time
October	11 th	7.00-8.30pm
November	8 th	7.00-8.30pm
December	Christmas Celebration	TBA

2022 Garden Working Bees

Saturday Working Bees 3rd Saturday of the month

Month	Saturday	Time
October	15 th	9.00-11.00am
November	19 th	9.00-11.00am
December	17 th	9.00-11.00am

Midweek Working Bees Wednesday after the Saturday Bee

Month	Wednesday	Time
October	19 th	9.00-11.00am
November	23 rd	9.00-11.00am

Keep up to date with happenings at Ivanhoe Park Botanic Garden
by visiting our website anytime

www.friendsivanhoeparkbotanicgarden.com

Or email us at

info@friendsivanhoeparkbotanicgarden.com

And please, Follow, Like and Share our Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofIvanhoeParkBotanicGarden/>

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