

<b>Subject:</b>	Bushland and Environment Advisory Committee ( Extra-ordinary Meeting) – Minutes of Meeting
<b>File No:</b>	COR2010/56/1
<b>Document Ref:</b>	D17/84490
<b>Venue:</b>	Meeting Room, Level 1A, 1 Pope St, Ryde
<b>Date:</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> June 2017
<b>Time:</b>	6.00pm                      Started at:6.00      Closed at: 7.15pm
<b>Chair:</b>	Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jane Stott
<b>Meeting Support (MS):</b>	Linda Smith – EA to the Mayor and Councillors
<b>Staff Convenor:</b>	Sandra Payne - Natural Areas Coordinator
<b>Circulation:</b>	Councillor Information Bulletin

**Committee Role:** Advises and makes recommendations to Council on the matters relating to enhancement, preservation, conservation and management of natural areas, wildlife and their habitat corridors and local indigenous vegetation and environmental health and sustainability issues and initiatives within the City of Ryde. The Committee also act as a Project Reference Group for the development, implementation and monitoring of a Biodiversity Plan for the Ryde Local Government Area

#### Committee Members as per the Terms of Reference

Present	Apology	Name	Position Title	Organisation
x		Councillor Jane Stott	Chairperson	City of Ryde
	x	Councillor Denise Pendleton	Delegate	City of Ryde
	x	Councillor Terry Perram	Delegate	City of Ryde
x		Libby Lawson	Bushcare representative	East Ward
x		Peter Brown	Bushcare representative	West Ward
	x	David Thomas	Bushcare representative	West Ward
x		Bev Debrincat	Environmental/sustainability stakeholder representative	
x		Jill Hartley (from item 2)	Environmental/sustainability stakeholder representative	
	x	Pamela Reeves	Environmental/sustainability stakeholder representative	
	x	Michele Cooper	Industry Representative	NPWS
x		Justin Alick	Community Representative	
x		Geoff Hudson	Community Representative	
x		Simone McGinley	Community Representative	Central Ward volunteer

#### City of Ryde Staff

		Name	Position Title	Organisation
	x	Sam Cappelli	Manager - Environment Health and Building	City of Ryde
x		Kylie McMahon	Senior Coordinator Environment	City of Ryde
x		Sandra Payne	Natural Areas Coordinator	City of Ryde
x		Sean Simpson	Natural Areas Project Officer	City of Ryde
x		Linda Smith	EA to the Mayor and Councillors	City of Ryde

#### Observers and presenters

		Name	Position Title	Organisation
x		Cathy Merchant	Bushcare Volunteer	
x		John Boyle	Bushcare Volunteer	
x		Chris		
x		Anne Carey	Consultant and speaker	Applied Ecology
X		Meredith Brainwood	Consultant and speaker	Applied Ecology

Details		Action	Responsibility and Date
1.	<p><b>Welcome by the Chair, Deputy Mayor, Cllr Jane Stott</b></p> <p>The attendees and apologies as above were noted.</p>	Received	
2.	<p><b>Flora and Fauna Study 2017 – Presentation of autumn findings by Anne Carey and Meredith Brainwood from Applied Ecology</b></p> <p>This year's study focussed on Upper Buffalo Creek bushland reserves, Kittys Creek bushland reserves and Terrys Creek bushland reserves.</p> <p>Key points from the presentation included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Flora and Fauna studies follow on from studies in 2006, 2007 and 2008 by Biosphere and Anne Clements and Associates in 2016.</li> <li>- The methodology is the same that was employed in 2006 by Biosphere. The same quadrat locations were also used so the data can be compared to previous studies.</li> <li>- 4 quadrats were located along Terrys Creek in Pembroke Park and Somerset Park, 2 along Buffalo Creek at Burrows Park and Pidding Park, 2 in Field of Mars Reserve and 1 along Kittys Creek at Portius Park.</li> <li>- Quadrat surveys (20m x 20m): Timed searches for mammals, reptiles and invertebrates (2 per season, autumn and spring)</li> </ul> <p>Detailed flora surveys including % cover classes (Braun-Blanquet)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- General surveys for reserves to develop species richness inventories</li> </ul> <p><b>FAUNA SURVEY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Nocturnal birds were searched for with recorded calls.</li> <li>- Hairtubes were used in some locations along with infrared cameras. Spotlighting was also employed for nocturnal animals including mammals, nocturnal birds, fish and invertebrates.</li> </ul>	Presentation received.	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Anabat was used to measure microbat activity.</li> <li>- The invertebrate surveys involved looking in soil and leaf litter, under bark, in foliage and under rocks.</li> <li>- Opportunistic surveys ie dip netting in creeks were also employed.</li> <li>- Additional plant species were identified through random meanders in areas.</li> <li>- Ground truthing of vegetation mapping was undertaken</li> <li>- Braun Blanquet cover classes were used for species present in the quadrats</li> <li>- Some species found by the previous consultants (Biosphere) were not recorded in this survey such as seagulls and pelicans.</li> <li>- There was a decline in the number of day birds detected at Terrys Creek and Kittys Creek, but this could be explained by the previous inclusion of anecdotal data and that the survey period may have been too late to capture some of the migratory birds.</li> <li>- The grey shrike thrush was not spotted this year, but was present in 2007</li> <li>- 9 mammals were detected including bandicoots, wallabies, ringtail possums, brushtail possums but excluding bats.</li> <li>- 11 species of reptiles and frogs were found including: Eastern Water-skink, Dark-flecked Garden Sunskink, Pale-flecked Garden Sunskink, Three-toed Skink, Broad-tailed gecko, Eastern Water Dragon, Red-bellied Black Snake, Brown-striped Frog, Common Eastern Froglet, Green Stream Frog, Peron's Tree Frog</li> <li>- 9 species of bats were found including 3 which are threatened (Large Bent-winged Bat, Large-footed Myotis and Grey-headed Fly-fox)</li> <li>- Along Terrys Creek 1 native fish species was detected – The Striped Gudgeon</li> <li>- Mosquito Fish (<i>Gambusia sp</i>) are a problem but the natural enemy of this fish is also found in the location.</li> </ul>		
	FLORA SURVEY		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Both native and introduced plant species were measured.</li> <li>- 210 native plant species were identified in Terrys Creek with 137 introduced species (included non-local natives)</li> <li>- At Kittys Creek included 156 native plant species and 67 introduced species (included non-local natives) were identified</li> <li>- At Upper Buffalo Creek 166 native plant species were recorded and 132 introduced species (included non-local natives).</li> <li>- Field of Mars had the greatest number of native plant species: 229 native species and 80 introduced (included non-local natives).</li> <li>- The rough shelled QLD nut (<i>Macadamia tetraphylla</i>) is listed as vulnerable in NSW but was found in Portius Park, Laurel Park and Burrows Park. It is 700 km from its usual range</li> <li>- Some species found in 2007 were not located during this survey but may be found in the Spring survey when they are flowering.</li> <li>- Factors that could contribute to changes in species richness : 2007 species lists include pooled data from spring and autumn surveys. Some species are difficult to find except in spring, especially orchids. Some species are difficult to identify except when flowering and/or fruiting – usually in spring (or summer)</li> <li>- Changes in the plant names and perhaps even mistakes in identification may have contributed to the differences.</li> </ul> <p>NEXT STEPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Spring survey will be undertaken in September 2017. Intensive searches for <i>Pimelea curviflora</i>, <i>Epacris purpurascens</i> in Field of Mars Reserve, and <i>Melaleuca deanei</i> in Somerset Park</li> <li>- Targeted surveys for gliders and swamp wallabies in Field of Mars Reserve</li> <li>- Native vegetation ground truthing has begun at a number of the sites, Vegetation communities are defined by characteristic species, described in Vol.2 of <i>The Native Vegetation of the Sydney Metropolitan</i></li> </ul>		
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	<p><i>area</i>. Office of Environment and Heritage. Confirmation of community identity occurs when enough native species are present in a 0.04 hectare sample site (ie a 20x20m quadrat)</p>		
3.	<p><b>Question Time and Committee Discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A comment was made regarding the sighting of turtles.</li> <li>- It was noted that the biggest threat to turtles is from foxes which dig up and eat the eggs before they hatch.</li> <li>- At the Field of Mars, mesh is now laid on the ground to provide protection to eggs when they are laid. This depends on sites being identified at the time the eggs are laid.</li> <li>- The use of man-made hollows for small animals was raised.</li> <li>- It is possible to cut hollow in existing trees or to harvest hollows from old felled trees for relocation.</li> <li>- A question was raised as to fox numbers.</li> <li>- There has been less evidence of foxes impacting on native animal populations in our parks and reserves, but still sightings along roads and private property, particularly where there are chickens.</li> <li>- It is necessary to find the dens and take action at that time to seriously impact numbers.</li> </ul> <p>Councillor Stott offered thanks on behalf of the Committee for the work and presentation provided by Applied Ecology.</p>		
9.	<p><b>Next Meeting :</b></p> <p>The next meeting will be held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2017.</p> <p>This will be the last meeting prior to the Council election which will be held in September 2017.</p>	Noted.	