

Pymont Ultimo Landcare Inc

Convenor's Annual Report 2018-19

PUL was incorporated in 2006. We work on Wednesday and Sunday mornings. This year we continued removing weeds and planting infill. We hosted children from Ultimo Public School for a National Tree Day event. We also participated in the City's National Tree Day at Arthur (Paddy) Grey Reserve.

The area around the weighbridge was signed off as being safe, and we have been steadily weeding and planting there. Weed regrowth is reducing in some areas but elsewhere weed infestations still require regular treatment. We have lost some trees and shrubs due to the dry conditions, but we will replace them.

The City of Sydney provides mulch from Australian Native Landscapes, and plants through Randwick Native Nursery and Cornucopia Nursery in Gladesville. We thank the City and both nurseries for their continuing support. The City's *Urban Ecology Strategic Action Plan* continues to inform our work. We enjoy cooperation from the Wattle Crescent apartments, with access to toilets, water and occasional power. Users of the Jones Street Pocket Park pathway encourage our efforts to restore native habitat for animals such as blue tongue lizards and possums. Similarly, we appreciate access to water from the Clifton Apartments in Quarry Master Drive and Richmond and the 120-122 Saunders Street stratas.

42 volunteers (including 12 guests - corporate and students) worked 1,277 hours (up 10% on last year) by weeding, watering, planting, mulching, rubbish collection, and purchasing plants:

Quarry Master Drive/Clifton	25 hours
Saunders Street	130 hours
Wentworth Park	636 hours
RMS site (Bank Street)	91 hours
Carmichael Park	31 hours
John St/QMD ramp/stairs	43 hours
John St Pocket Park	143 hours
Fish Market Light Rail Ramp	33 hours
Pirrama Rd Bus Stop	88 hours
Western Escarpment (Antias) or "Other"	31 hours
Plant Purchase	27 hours

Volunteers collected 125 cubic metres and 169 bags of green waste, plus 9 bags of garbage.

The Wildlife Corridor Project

Weeding and infill planting at established sites have been our main focus, but we continue to spend time cleaning up rubbish, especially at the Fish Market Station where we have failed to persuade Council, RMS or TransDev to install a rubbish bin. As we do not have access to adjoining sites, weeds continue to encroach, despite our efforts to cover exposed soil with mulch and groundcover. The main invaders include *Celtis sinensis*, asthma weed, fountain grass, balloon vine, crofton weed, nut grass, *Koeleria paniculata*, *Bidens pilosa*, asparagus fern, turkey rhubarb and pampas grass. Nevertheless, and despite the drought, we enjoyed a wonderful display of spring flowers, including grevilleas, wattles and indigoferas. We are hopeful that Council will soon install a tap on Paradise Reserve, so that we can water areas on the ramp more safely.

The Saunders Street site continues to be a great showcase. So is the Wentworth Park Station site: despite the invasion of weeds from the side of the railway cutting, and a colony of cats. The

site needs less maintenance overall and is now ablaze with golden wattle and pink grevilleas. Plans for the depot site next door include removing the brick fence under the lillipillis, and extending our garden area into the new development. We look forward to working with their landscape people on this.

Carmichael Park has been replanted and mulched but the site receives little winter sun and is subject to desiccating winds.

Council has employed National Trust bush regenerators, who have begun to plant natives to complement our plantings.

The City takes an active interest in our work on John St Pocket Park. We continue to ensure that exotics are kept out of our native plantings. The site is vulnerable to infestation from weeds on the cliffs above.

Some members attended a native bee workshop run by Council. Subsequently a native bee hive was installed in John St Pocket Park. There is not much visible activity, but we have high hopes.

The Fish Market Station planting has been particularly successful, despite prolonged dry spells, rubbish, and lack of water.

Management

PUL is overseen by the Executive and Committee:

Mary Mortimer, Convenor

Elizabeth Elenius, Deputy Convenor

Karen Wyatt, Secretary

Bob Huntsman/Patrick Moulton, Treasurer (Patrick is Acting Treasurer)

Leone Huntsman, Public Officer (Karen is Acting Public Officer)

Trish Curotta, Website, Trina Hodgson, Liz Adolphe, Committee

Liz Adolphe, Statistician

The Committee meets regularly with volunteers to plan the work and events. We have a fairly healthy bank balance to buy tools, equipment and insurance. However, we will need more money in the next year or two, and need to apply to Council for a matching grant and/or seek a corporate donation.

Publicity

A comprehensive website www.pyrmontultimolandcare.org.au is maintained by Trish Curotta. We display our banner at Wentworth Park light rail station, with additional signs there and at the evolve* site. Our visi-vests have PUL's name on the back and our sites have notices advising people about PUL. PUL is also publicised in *Jacksons Landing What's On* .

A Big Thankyou

I thank all the Committee for their support . I liaise with volunteers, Council and suppliers, Elizabeth Elenius manages plant orders; Trish Curotta maintains the website; Bob and Leone Huntsman have kept track of the finances and corporate requirements for many years, and Patrick Moulton and Karen Wyatt have now taken over these tasks; and Liz Adolphe continues to compile our statistics. All volunteers provide amazing catering for the morning teas we provide for corporate groups as well as their enthusiastic work in bringing the bush to the city. Thank you all so much.

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