

Pymont Ultimo Landcare Inc

Convenor's Annual Report 2019-2020

PUL was incorporated in 2006. We work on Wednesday and Sunday mornings. This year we continued removing weeds, planting infill, mulching and watering when needed. The pandemic has caused many cancellations, including National Tree Day, the involvement of Ultimo Public School students and continued engagement with Atlassian volunteers.

A number of school students began the service section of the Duke of Edinburgh award with us. Unfortunately they had to suspend their activity because of the pandemic. We expect they will return - probably next year.

We have also had the frustration of losing access to two important areas of our work. Transport for New South Wales declared the brick wall behind the Wentworth Park light rail platform unsafe, and fenced off the area beside the Wattle Crescent apartments. A rock fall caused the Office of Strategic Lands to fence off the upper side of Jones Street Pocket Park. Despite repeated requests to both authorities, no action has yet to be taken by either authority.

The native bees installed by the City in Jones Street Pocket Park continue to thrive. We await the honey we were promised.

The City of Sydney provides mulch from Australian Native Landscapes, and plants through Randwick Native Nursery. Sadly Cornucopia Nursery in Gladesville closed and we need to find another source of indigenous plants. We hope to obtain suitable plants from White's Creek.

The City's *Urban Ecology Strategic Action Plan* continues to inform our work. We have enjoyed cooperation from the Wattle Crescent apartments, with access to toilets, and occasional water and power. Similarly, we appreciate access to water from the Clifton Apartments in Quarry Master Drive and Richmond and the 120-122 Saunders Street stratas. Users of the Jones Street Pocket Park pathway encourage our efforts to restore native habitat for animals such as blue tongue lizards and possums.

We have good support from Jenny Kent, Council's new volunteer co-ordinator. Council has installed a water tank in Paradise Reserve, and it has been filled with recycled water, so that we can water areas on the ramp more safely. Negotiations continue about the location of a water tank at Wentworth Park light rail stop.

Council's National Trust bush regenerators have planted some natives.

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 light rail stop 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, *Koelreularia 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.

Sadly, Bob Huntsman died last year. We are grateful to him for years of service as our treasurer. We also thank Leone Huntsman for her service as our public officer.

We work on many sites around Pymont. They are listed below.

41 regular volunteers + 117 guests (corporate, schools and National Tree Day) worked 1,610 hours (up 26% on last year) by weeding, watering, planting, mulching, rubbish collection, and purchasing plants:

Quarry Master Drive/Clifton	113 hours
Saunders Street	69 hours
Wentworth Park light rail	939 hours
RMS site (Bank Street)	65 hours
Carmichael Park	30 hours
John St/QMD ramp/stairs	29 hours
John St Pocket Park	165 hours
Fish Market Light Rail Ramp	95 hours
Pirrama Rd Bus Stop	71 hours
Plant Purchase/admin	34 hours

Volunteers collected 120 cubic metres and 165 bags of green waste, plus 9 bags of garbage.

Management

PUL is overseen by the Committee:

Mary Mortimer, Convenor

Elizabeth Elenius, Deputy Convenor

Karen Wyatt, Secretary and Public Officer

Patrick Moulton, Treasurer

Trish Curotta, Website, Amanda Dunn, Liz Adolphe, Committee

Liz Adolphe, Statistician

The Committee meets regularly to plan the work and events. We have a fairly healthy bank balance to buy tools, equipment and insurance. However we will need to build our funds in the next year or so, and are negotiating with Council and the community bank for appropriate support.

Publicity

A comprehensive website - www.pymontultimolandcare.org.au - is maintained by Trish Curotta. Karen Wyatt has created a PUL profile on social media with an Instagram account and promotion of our work on Pymont Locals Facebook. So far this has led to one new member and a couple of visitors. We display our banner at Wentworth Park light rail stop, with additional signs there and at the evolve* site. Council has promised signs for Jones Street Pocket Park, but we are yet to see them. Our visi-vests have PUL's name on the back and our sites have signs. PUL is also publicised in *Jacksons Landing What's On*.

A Big Thankyou

I thank everyone for their support. I liaise with volunteers and Council, 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. Volunteers now take more responsibility for managing the work, especially Deb Yeo, who has taken over from Harold Adolphe on Wednesdays. Thank you all so much.

Mary Mortimer, Convenor,
9518 8681; 0410 679 204; mary.mortimer@bigpond.com