

# BANDICOOTtimes

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A PROGRAM OF



City of **HOBART**

# Bushcare Roundup



**Sjaan Field**  
Program Officer Bushcare

Welcome to Bushcare's 25th anniversary edition of the Bandicoot Times.

We hope you enjoy this little trip down memory lane – we've trawled through hundreds of historical photos to bring you some of the best. I particularly love the personal messages from our Bushcare Legends, these truly special volunteers encapsulate the essence of Bushcare and have made significant contributions of our precious bushlands.

Bushcarers don't sit still for long, and the same can be said of the Bushcare program, which has at times boasted as many as 16 separate volunteer groups working across Hobart. Clearly, our community cherishes our unique natural environment and has embraced the volunteer spirit.

Bushcare is all about connecting people with nature, and so it only makes sense that we have

initiated other nature-based programs at the City of Hobart, including Bush Adventures, the Walking Book Club and Trackcare.

Over the years our staff have worked with thousands of Bushcare volunteers. We have been extraordinarily lucky to have met each and every one of you, working side by side protecting and restoring Hobart's beautiful bushlands.

We would also like to thank our partners, which include the Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service, the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Bookend Trust, Nature Trackers, BirdLife Tasmania, the Tasmanian Land Conservancy, Landcare Tasmania, other councils, scouts, schools, UTAS and many others.

To all of you, thank you!



Our 2018 Golden Secateurs winner Janet Stone celebrates 25 years of Bushcare with Martin Stone, Vicki Martin and Caroline Corrigan.

**Cover photo:** A timeless photo from earlier days at Bushcare with Yasmin Shoebridge, Greg Kidd on the right and John Sawbridge.



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The Friends of Knocklofty celebrate the release of our special 21st anniversary Bushcare book in 2014.

# A city surrounded by nature



Lord Mayor of Hobart,  
Councillor Anna Reynolds

A recent survey of Tasmanians revealed that easy access to the bush, beaches and other natural areas is the number one lifestyle factor when it comes to why we love living in this beautiful state.

Clearly, the bush is in our DNA.

Hobart, of course, is no exception. We are surrounded by incredibly diverse native bushland. This natural wonderland is made up of coastal reserves, dry forest, wet forest, nationally important grasslands, patches of rainforest and even alpine areas. What other Australian capital city can boast such natural diversity right at its back door?

And of all the people who live in Hobart or visit our beautiful city and explore our bushland reserves with their woodland forests, stunning waterfalls, secret groves and alpine vistas, there can be little doubt that the people most passionate about Hobart's incredible natural landscape are our Bushcarers.

On most weekends throughout the year – apart from a brief respite over summer – the City of Hobart's Bushcare volunteers brave the elements to keep our bushlands healthy and robust.

They love getting their hands dirty, digging out bushland weeds, putting in new grasses and shrubs, cleaning up rubbish and monitoring for wildlife.

There is always a cuppa and biscuits at the end of every working bee and time to catch up with others. Bushcare is as much about the friendships our volunteers develop with each other as it is about protecting the natural world.

I had the pleasure of attending Bushcare's 25th anniversary at the Queens Domain before Christmas. There was a real sense of camaraderie among the 100 Bushcare volunteers who joined the celebrations. The joy, dedication and passion they bring to caring for our bushland reserves and to each other was clearly evident.

I also presented the Bushcare Legend Golden Secateurs Award to Janet Stone from the South Hobart Bushcare Group. Janet was humble and a bit shocked to receive the recognition, but anyone who knows Janet and the incredible work she puts in as a volunteer will agree that she was the perfect choice for our 11th Golden Secateurs Award.

Our volunteers are the backbone of Bushcare, they are also our best bushland ambassadors – promoting Bushcare to the Hobart community. The effort you put in to caring for our bushland helps enrich our community, our connections with each other, and our connections with nature.

Thank you, Lord Mayor Councillor Anna Reynolds





**'Get involved in Bushcare, you won't regret it. You'll be part of a movement that protects our beautiful natural environment, its birds, insects, reptiles and marsupials.'**

Sue Drake, Golden Secateurs winner 2009, Ridgeway Bushcare Group

The Fern Tree Bushcare Group clearing out the weed holly back in 2004.

# Celebrating 25 years of people caring for nature

Although we are celebrating 25 years since the City of Hobart established its Bushcare program, you have to dig a little deeper to get to the real heart of this story.

The first inkling of what was to come started in the 1980s when the Hawke Government's Decade of Landcare sparked nationwide interest in restoring local bushland. Then, in 1990, a group of South Hobart residents became the first in urban Australia to attract Landcare funding. They used it to restore bushland on a steep and eroded bank.

The City of Hobart was there from the start, helping the South Hobart residents through site preparation, then working with the Friends of Knocklofty, the first group to conduct regular

working bees. In 1993 it appointed a bushland manager, paving the way for the establishment of a program to support groups and the adoption of the Bushcare name.

Since those humble beginnings, Bushcare has blossomed into a vital part of the City of Hobart's commitments as the steward of its bushland.

There are now 13 Bushcare groups and almost 500 volunteers working in reserves across Hobart. They help maintain and restore degraded areas by planting native grasses and shrubs, track maintenance and clearing out invasive weeds that would otherwise choke local flora and threaten wildlife.





# Best office in the world

Our Bushcare volunteers work in some amazing places, including the beautiful but often extreme alpine environment of kunanyi/Mt Wellington, the foothills of Fern Tree, its wet forests and fern-laden gullies.

Our volunteers protect and restore grasslands at the Queens Domain, look after the foreshore at Cornelian Bay, keep native bushland at Knocklofty Reserve healthy and thriving, and much, much more.

Some of our volunteers are keen hikers, and travel long distances to access remote areas. Others revel in the social side of working in their local patch of bushland, meeting new people and sharing a sense of camaraderie.

And when volunteers aren't planting trees and shrubs, or tackling weeds, Bushcare offers plenty of other opportunities to get active in nature, including wildlife monitoring and clean-up events.

So, here's to another 25 years of Bushcare!





# Celebrating Bushcare through time

## 1992

Friends of Knocklofty is formed, and is the first group to start regular working bees. Waterworks Valley Landcare soon follows.



## 1993

Jill Hickie is appointed the City of Hobart's first bushland manager.



## 1994

The City establishes a team to manage its bushland reserves and support volunteer groups working in bushlands.



## 1995

The Bushcare program is launched and new groups are established: Cascades Landcare, Lambert Gully Bushcare, Guy Fawkes Rivulet Landcare, Friends of Domain and the Friends of Truganini Reserve.

## 1996

Our first Bushcare Coordinator Kerry Heatley is appointed, the annual BBQ starts and a new program later to become Bush Adventures is launched. Kangaroo Valley and Fern Tree Bushcare groups are formed.





### 1997

Bush crew supervisor Paulus Toonen develops what will become our logo, an illustration of the bandicoot.

### 1998

Bushcare conveners begin the first of regular meetings as the program structure develops.

### 1999

Site-specific rehabilitation plans are prepared for Waterworks Valley Landcare, others will soon follow. Mt Nelson Bushcare is established and our first mascot, the Tassie Tiger, starts making regular appearances.

### 2000

Ridgeway Bushcare is established to reduce weeds in eucalypt forests.

### 2001

The first issue of the Bandicoot Times arrives, hot off the press. South Hobart Bushcare joins the fold, bringing Cascades Landcare to an end, and the Bushcare program wins the Tasmanian Landcare Local Government Award.



## 2002

Friends of Soldiers Memorial Avenue is formed and Cornelian Bay Bushcare holds its first meeting. Betty the Bandicoot becomes our new mascot, and Huon Road and Wellington Park Bushcare groups are also formed.

## 2003

We attract National Heritage Trust funding and there are now 14 Bushcare groups in Hobart. Our Weedbuster Week mascot, Woody Weed, enters the world stage.

## 2004

Valley Street Bushcare is formed and the Friends of Truganini is awarded a first prize in the Dr Edward Hall Environmental Awards.

## 2005

The City of Hobart adopts the first Bushcare policies and procedures.

## 2006

Friends of Knocklofty wins the Tasmanian Landcare Nature Conservation Award and Bluebell the Bandicoot takes over as our mascot.

**'Bushcare is an ideal way to get involved with your local community. You don't need experience, age does not matter and there are no physical requirements. You get fresh air, exercise, social interaction at coffee time and a good feeling about improving the land.'**

Astrid Wright, Golden Secateurs winner 2016, Friends of Knocklofty Bushcare Group

## 2007

From late 2002 through to 2008 Bushcare groups win half a million dollars in mainly federal grants to rehabilitate bushland and wildlife habitat.

## 2008

Antony Ault, a Friends of Knocklofty stalwart, receives the inaugural Bushcare Legend Golden Secateurs award. Regular volunteers get Bushcare hats and vests and the City releases its Bushland Management Strategy 2007-2017.

## 2009

The Tasmanian Land Conservancy Bushcare group is established.

## 2010

The Friends of McAulay Reserve holds its first meeting and working bee and Bushcare moves to the big screen with the launch of its first promotional video.

## 2011

We win the Tasmanian Local Government Landcare Partnership Award.

**'Bushcare gives people a unique experience. They can actually make a lasting contribution to the very real improvement of Hobart's bushland.'**

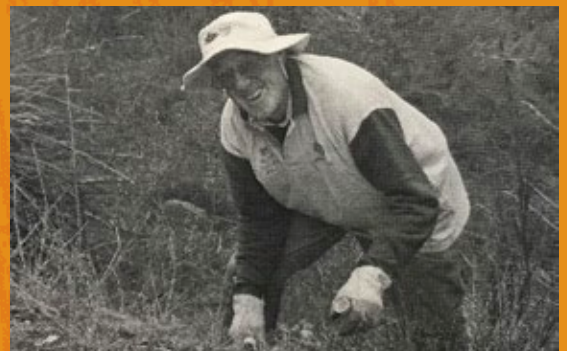
Peter Franklin, Golden Secateurs winner 2010, Friends of Wellington Park

## 2017

Hobartians are given the chance to gain a deeper understanding of environmental stewardship through books by joining our new Bushcare Walking Book Club. We enter the realm of social media by starting a Bushcare Facebook page.

## 2018

Fern Tree Bushcare almost completely eradicates the newly-discovered bushland weed *Daphne laurel*, we join hundreds of volunteers to clean up after the devastating May floods, and at the end of the year the Bushcare family gathers at the Queens Domain to celebrate 25 years of Bushcare.



**'I love being able to be part of restoring God's creation so that it is a blessing for all to enjoy, and Bushcare is a way of empowering me to do that.'**

Janet Stone, Golden Secateurs winner 2018, South Hobart Bushcare Group





**'Hobart's urban reserves really showcase the local native flora. Without Bushcare it would all have been smothered in weeds.'**

Andrew Hingston, Golden Secateurs winner 2013, Mount Nelson Bushcare Group

## 2012

For the second year running Bushcare wins the Tasmanian Local Government Landcare Partnership Award.

## 2013

More than 450 people volunteer with Bushcare in a single year. The Friends of Knocklofty celebrate a huge achievement – removing the final stands of primary gorse – and the Friends of Truganini also celebrate a milestone, destroying the last accessible patches of boneseed in their reserve.

## 2014

Sixteen Bushcare groups now operate across Hobart as they continue to evolve with emerging needs and volunteer interests. The public recognises the valuable work Bushcare makes to the Hobart community, estimated at \$1.65 million since its inception.

## 2015

Bushcare develops the City of Hobart's new Trackcare program, which teaches volunteers track building skills and how to look after bushland tracks in our reserves.

## 2016

University of Tasmania students are given the chance to get involved in Bushcare through our collaboration with UTAS Cares, connecting students with groups caring for the environment.

**'Bushcare is special to me because at Knocklofty Reserve we converted a wilderness of weeds back into the native bushland it had been before European settlement.'**

Antony Ault, Bushcare's first Golden Secateurs winner and former Friends of Knocklofty champion



## Bushcare Legend Golden Secateurs Winners

2018 – Janet Stone

2017 – Gavin Wright

2016 – Astrid Wright

2015 – Ingrid Colman

2014 – Greg Summers

2013 – Andrew Hingston

2012 – Greg Kidd

2011 – Sue Gillespie

2010 – Peter Franklin

2009 – Sue Drake

2008 – Antony Ault





Lambert Gully Bushcare crew show off their latest haul of red hot poker

# Your story is our story

Every one of our volunteers has a story to tell about how they got involved in Bushcare, and while each story is different, there are recurring themes – a love of the Australian landscape, a passion for looking after it and a desire to do something good for the community.

Ingrid Colman has been with Lambert Gully Bushcare since its inception and first working bee in 1994.

‘The whole reason we moved to Mt Nelson was because of the bushland in Lambert Gully,’ she says.

‘It is an amazing haven, a real refuge from the noise and busyness of urban life. On hot days and in the evenings it is just gorgeous, follow the creek down

and pretty soon there is no evidence of the houses around you.

Being a Bushcare volunteer you really get a feel for how finely balanced our bushlands are,’ says Ingrid. ‘If you lose a particular native plant then you could lose a local butterfly or bird that relies on it for food.’

When Ingrid first started with Lambert Gully Bushcare Group, huge mature trees of the weed cotoneaster had invaded the gully. Once a popular ornamental plant in Tasmania we now know cotoneaster is a serious bushland invader.

‘We made huge inroads with this weed,’ she says. ‘I don’t think there are any cotoneaster trees left, but we have to

remain vigilant. Lambert Gully is surrounded by houses and garden weeds escaping into the nearby bushland and are a continual source of frustration.’

Of course, a Bushcarer’s work is never done. The group has removed plenty of banana passionfruit, gorse and blackberry, but they are yet to get on top of red hot poker, which have taken off along the storm water drains.

But don’t worry, now that red hot poker are in their sights, it’s just a matter of time.



# Watching Bushcare flourish over a quarter of a century

Two people at the City of Hobart with a long and abiding love of Bushcare are Jill Hickie and Rob Mather.

Jill is now a senior park planner at the City, but back in 1993 she was appointed its first bushland manager.

'Looking back at Bushcare's 25 year history I see a program that emerged from very small beginnings in the early nineties,' she says.

'At the start there were just a couple of groups operating. The Friends of Knocklofty was tackling an area previously known as Woodmans Hill. It had been neglected for decades and was smothered in gorse. Not far away the South Hobart Bushcare Group was rehabilitating a large erosion gully in Wellesley Park.

'In 1995 our first Bushcare coordinator was appointed. Kerry Heatley quickly expanded the program and we soon saw an increase in the number of both Bushcare groups and people

prepared to give up their weekends to care for the bush.

'Today Bushcare is a vibrant community volunteer program that has also diversified to Trackcare.'

Rob is now Group Manager Open Space, and responsible for the management of the City's extensive bushland reserves network.

'We have a committed team at the City of Hobart that looks after the tracks and trails in our bushland reserves, its infrastructure, which includes critical fire trails, and of course ensuring our natural areas are kept healthy and environmentally robust.

'I see our Bushcare volunteers as an extension of that team. They work incredibly closely with our Bushcare staff, and are very much part of the family.

'If you wanted to gauge just how much Hobartians love their local bushland, take a look at the number of people who have volunteered with Bushcare over 25 years. It is a remarkable achievement.'

## Where we volunteer

Australasian Bat Night | World Environment Day | Bio Blitz

Christmas Pageants | Fairs | National Tree Day

Families Week | World Wetlands Day

Festival of Bright Ideas | National Bird Week

International Volunteer Day | National Science Week

World Habitat Day | Get Outside | Go Wild

Healthy Hobart | Home Expo | Seniors Week

Knocklofty Open Day | Lambert Gully Bug Hunt | Grow Wild

Orchid Walks | Plant Giveaways | Threatened Species Day

Plant Swaps | Royal Hobart Show | School Fairs

Sustainable Living Festival | Harmony Day | Tall Ships

Where Where Wedgie | Clean Up Australia Day

National Volunteer Day | Wildlife Expo



**CELEBRATING**

**25**

**YEARS**

**BUSHCARE**



For more information: [hobartcity.com.au/bushcare](http://hobartcity.com.au/bushcare)



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