

Enjoying Microbats on your property.

by Julia Hamilton

Recently I was fortunate enough to participate in a Microbat information evening led by Microbat expert Dr Brad Law (NSW DPI) and Mark Chidel (The Hills Shire Council) and hosted by the Greater Sydney Local Land Service and Hawkesbury City Council.

It was a fabulous evening, and we learned that Microbats are a protected species and that it is a real bonus to have them roosting in tree hollows on your property or even in your roof.

Microbats play a vital role in the health of ecosystems. They eat a wide range of insects, including mosquitoes, moths, beetles and bugs, helping to keep their numbers in check. Good foraging areas for Microbats include over water or around trees-especially big trees. You can often see Microbats at dusk, patrolling along tree lined corridors like roads or tracks like a silent flash.

More importantly we also learned simple ways how we can create ideal habitat for these gorgeous little creatures on our own land. Most Microbats rely on shelter like tree hollows in large, old trees, dead trees and dead limbs on live trees. The number of hollow-bearing trees is declining as more and more large old live and dead trees are being removed. As the number of roost sites decreases, bat populations will decline. Without adequate numbers of roost sites for shelter, bats are vulnerable to predators and less able to successfully rear their young.

If you want to enjoy Microbats in your neighbourhood, retain large trees as it takes decades to create suitable nesting hollows. Rather than felling a tree, ask an arborist for advice on safe pruning. If you want to provide sites for Microbats, consider mounting nesting boxes and plant locally native tree species.

Contact us: StillCreekLandcare@iinet.net.au, ph: 9653 2056. Look us up on Facebook or StillCreekLandcare.com.au.



Cumberland Orchid Circle Inc.

The next meeting of the Cumberland Orchid Circle will be on Wednesday 26th March 2014 in Barton Hall, which is situated in Gough Drive (off David Road), Castle Hill. The meeting will start at 8.00pm and will last approx 2.0 hrs. At the meeting, orchids in bloom will be benched for a monthly point score competition. The guest speakers for March will be Circle members Yin and Sau-wan Chan speaking about their orchid journey to Cairns area.

At each meeting there is a sales table selling plants brought along by members, in addition to accessories used for orchid culture. During our supper interval, there will be time to "compare notes" and seek advice from other members.

Visitors & new members are always welcome. For more information, contact the Circle's secretary on 0412 982 830.



Slc. Wendy's Redstone 'Carmela'

Creating an Australian Garden – NSW Seniors Week Event

Wednesday 19 March 2014 - 10am – 12:30pm

At the Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden, 420 Mona Vale Rd St Ives

The event is free and will have capacity for up to 50 pre-registered participants.

Bookings: Call the Wildflower Garden Office on 9424 0353 or email kwg@kmc.nsw.gov.au

Join celebrity garden guru Angus Stewart for a celebration of native plants and gardens! The Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden is home to over 500 species of native plants and a diversity of fauna. Learn about the unique Sydney Sandstone habitat and get expert advice on how to create or improve a native garden on your property. A complimentary morning tea will be served.

The participants will have an opportunity to direct their native gardening questions to gardening expert Angus Stewart. Our rangers will showcase some of the different walks and trails through the garden, explain their grading and

suggesting walks suited to different abilities for future visits. Angus will demonstrate some practical gardening tips like how to prune a native grevillea. Each participant will be sent home with a native plant to encourage them to get outdoors, plant and care for a seedling in their own garden (plants will also be suitable for pot / patio cultivation). The two community groups active in the garden (Bushcare and APS) will have a suitable forum to showcase their activities and welcome new members.

In addition, the event will showcase the newly renovated Bushland Education Centre garden which Angus Stewart has agreed to co-design. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony and tours of the garden.



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2014
March
Sunday 23rd
April
Sunday 27th

Dural Galston Probus Club

Dural Galston Probus Club will hold its AGM at 10am on Thursday March 20th, at The Galston Club, 21-25 Arcadia Road, Galston. The AGM will be followed by lunch at the Galston Club to welcome the new committee. Contact Anne 9653 1004.

