

# STILL CREEK LANDCARE OUR INVITATION TO OUR COMMUNITY

By Chris Noon

- Have weeds you want to get rid of?**
- Want to know your weeds and how best to destroy them?**
- Want to know which weeds are the biggest worry?**
- Want to know the best natives to plant at your place to replace weeds?**

Your local landcare group has been running working bees at our properties for some years now. This is usually to remove weeds or plant natives where the weeds have been removed.

Now we invite residents to join us on these working bees. It happens once a month on a Saturday or Sunday morning for 2 hours.

We have been inactive during the COVID-19 lockdown but as the restrictions ease we will be restarting shortly. We will follow all the rules and protocols required to keep us safe.

**This is how it works.**

- Each month we work on someone's property
- We do this for a couple of hours
- Then finish with morning tea
- When we have done everyone's property, we start the cycle again



**Would you like to join us? Feel welcome and contact us via:**

Phone: Nick 9653 2056 Website: [stillcreeklandcare.com.au](http://stillcreeklandcare.com.au)  
Email: [StillCreekLandcare@inet.net.au](mailto:StillCreekLandcare@inet.net.au)

**ENVIRONMENT**

# HIDDEN IN THE HILLS CLIMBERS AND SCRAMBLERS

By Lachlan Turner

There are a number of scramblers or climbers that twine and climb their way up and over other shrubs and bushes.

One such climbing plant is Apple Berry Dumpling (*Billardiera scandens*). Not uncommon, but not easily identified as it twines its way around its supporting plant which grows in the understorey. Its branches have been recorded at almost 3 metres in length.

The small bell shaped flowers mature into small elongated cylindrical fruits which hang unobtrusively from the ends of branchlets. Flowering occurs between September and December, the fruits being edible when ripened.

Because this plant is able to grow in almost any environment and soil type in the local bushland, its habitat is quite extensive.

Another climbing plant that can easily go un-noticed is one named Love Creeper (*Comesperma volubile*). It is a delicate plant with smooth shiny stems that usually grow to about 1 metre in length. Its name is derived from its ability to tie itself in knots around its supporting plant.

The Love Creeper favours moist open forest but can survive in protected locations in heathland. Flowering period is from July to December.

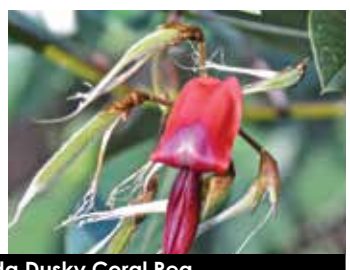
Yet another, but one that is more obvious when in flower, is the Dusky Coral Pea (*Kennedia rubicunda*). Its bright red flowers and large green leaves are most visible from July to November.

It is a much more vigorous plant which will climb its way over its supporting host to the point that it may weigh that plant down.

Also there is the vigorous climber *Hardenbergia violacea* (Purple twining pea), that was the subject of the December 2019 edition of this column. It can be found in flower from late July to early October.



*Comesperma volubile* Love Creeper



*Kennedia rubicunda* Dusky Coral Pea



*Billardiera scandens* Apple-berry Dumpling flower



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