

Cumberland Orchid Circle Inc.

The next meeting of the Cumberland Orchid Circle will be on Wednesday 27th April 2016 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. This month's meeting is a Cultural Night and members who are having problems with any plant or have a question about anything associated with orchids are encouraged to bring it up at the meeting, where other members can offer advice about the problem. If you are bringing along a plant for advice, please let an experienced member see the plant before you bring it into the hall as we do not want a diseased plant in the hall which is liable to infect other plant in the hall. Circle member Graeme Russell will also talk about 'What judges look for in award judging'.

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 Publicity Officer on 9481 8895.



Laelia tenebrosa 'Rainforest',

Restoring Carrs Bush

By Barry Lees

An unpleasant surprise awaits those who remove a mature privet tree - a thousand privet seedlings spring up to replace it! This is happening in our restoration area in Carrs Bush. A lush carpet of seedlings about 5cm high has appeared, powered by sunlight that was not there previously. We don't like spraying because it kills new natives hiding among the privet, so hand weeding is used. Among other things, bushcare teaches you patience!

You may remember that in August last year, we advised that our Landcare group had obtained a \$40000 grant over 3 years to restore a section of Carrs Bush, part of Fagan Park in Galston. The work is being done near the electricity tower at the corner of Bayfield and Carrs Roads. Since then, contractors and Landcare members have cleared privet, blackberries, honeysuckle and Ochna near the tower and on Carrs Road. You can now walk through some sections that were almost impenetrable.

Having received a sizable grant, some would expect to see bobcats and trucks removing trees, moving soil, reshaping the ground, planting new trees and laying turf, like most landscaping sites. For our work, you would be very wrong! Bush regeneration is about people crawling around in the undergrowth using small hand tools and a lot of knowledge. Experienced bush regenerators know the name of every plant, whether it is a native to the area or introduced, and how to efficiently remove the 'baddies' and encourage the 'goodies'. We get great satisfaction seeing an area change its character over time. We rejoice when natives reappear after being crowded out by weeds for years. We are governed by the speed at which the bush regenerates, not to a faster human timescale. Many workfaces are open at once, all being independently managed to avoid overclearing.

A small amount of replanting will be needed in badly degraded areas, using plants grown from local seed. However most plants will be supplied by the bush itself, from seed that has been dormant in the ground or spread from adjacent good bush. Once again, patience is the key.

Most of Carrs Bush is absolutely glorious. If you would like to help us restore the remainder, you would be welcome at occasional Landcare working bees, or you could join the Bushcare group. Call Barry Lees on 9653 3691, or go to www.stillcreeklandcare.com.au or Facebook.

APRIL 2016



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Leon & Katrina Milne

Ph/Fax: 9651 2102 | Mobile: 0416 175 466

Email: katrina@langlands.com.au

www.langlands.com.au

474 Galston Road, Dural 2158