
BUSHCARE

CELEBRATING CITY OF HOBART'S
BUSHCARE SUCCESS STORY





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CITY OF HOBART'S
BUSHCARE PROGRAM IS A REMARKABLE
COMMUNITY SUCCESS STORY.
LOCALS HELP CARE FOR AND REGENERATE
THE CITY'S BUSHLAND, WITH SUPPORT
FROM HOBART CITY COUNCIL.
IN 2014 THE AWARD-WINNING PROGRAM
CELEBRATES 21 YEARS.



FOREWORD

In 2014 we celebrate 21 years of Bushcare helping to rejuvenate and protect Hobart's bushland areas.

The City of Hobart recognises the value and strength in working with the community. By working in partnership with Bushcare groups, the Council is ensuring that the natural values of Hobart's bushland areas are protected now and into the future.

In this publication the City of Hobart celebrates the remarkable achievements that have made Hobart's Bushcare program such a success. This book is a tribute to the hundreds of individuals who have dedicated their time, expertise and passion to making a difference in Hobart's bushland areas, and is an inspiration for the next generation of Bushcare volunteers.

Sue Hickey
Lord Mayor, City of Hobart

POWERED BY INSPIRATION

City of Hobart's Bushcare program is part perspiration and mostly inspiration. It proves the power of community action.

In 21 years, volunteers from Cornelian Bay to Wellington Park, Sandy Bay and beyond have conducted more than 3000 working bees dedicated to caring for Hobart's bushland.

Their passion for place is unrivalled in Tasmania. Hobart's Bushcare is a State leader and one of the country's most successful urban volunteer programs.

The program's roots go back the 1980s, when the Hawke Government's Decade of Landcare fuelled growing community interest in land management and conservation issues.

In Hobart, a group established by South Hobart residents in 1990 became the country's first in an urban area to attract Landcare funding. The group used it to restore bush on a steep, eroded bank on the edge of Wellesley Park soccer oval.

Hobart City Council did site preparation works for the project, establishing a pattern

of support and cooperation for volunteers working to improve bushland.

In 1992, Friends of Knocklofty became the first group to conduct regular, coordinated working bees at a Hobart bushland site. The following year, Hobart City Council appointed a Bushland Manager, paving the way for establishment of a program to support groups and adoption of the Bushcare name.

In the past 21 years, Bushcare volunteers have contributed \$1.65 million worth of labour in regenerating the city's bush reserves and improving habitat for bird life, bandicoots and other creatures. That equates to about 55,000 hours of labour.

More importantly, it adds up to a movement ignited by a love of local reserves, appreciation for their preciousness, and a willingness to engage in their care and protection. Bushcare is proving to be an enduring force, with a momentum reaching into the future.



When you get on-site and see the changes, it's really motivating. I feel privileged to see the cycle of change, with new people coming and showing a passion for what they do.

Paulus Toonen, Bushland Operations Manager,
City of Hobart

IT SEEMS THAT THE BETTER THE KNOCKLOFTY RESERVE IS KEPT, THE MORE PEOPLE USE IT, WHICH IS GREAT TO SEE.

Astrid Wright, convenor
Friends of Knocklofty Bushcare



valley street bushcare

Energising each other

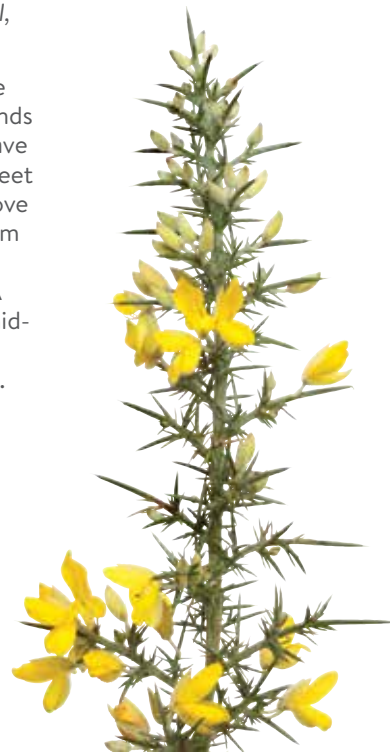
Peer pressure is a positive, energising force in Hobart's Bushcare. Groups often give each other a hand or develop joint projects to deal with shared problems.

As one volunteer says: "It's really inspiring to help another group or have them help you".

The Lambert Gully and Mount Nelson groups have a history of cooperating in removal of weeds, such as cotoneaster, and in education and awareness-raising. Through their joint efforts they have shown that sharing time and resources results in more effective outcomes, with a bonus of renewed motivation.

The two groups produced a popular booklet in 2005, *Where City Meets Bush: a Guide to Local Bushland* (Mount Nelson, Tolmans Hill, Sandy Bay).

In another example, on the other side of the city, Friends of Knocklofty members have given a boost to Valley Street Bushcare's efforts to remove gorse and blackberries from Leonard Wall Valley Street Reserve in West Hobart. A final combined attack in mid-2014 means the reserve is largely free of both weeds.



knocklofty bushcare



Janet Ault and Antony Ault,
knocklofty bushcare



Astrid Wright,
knocklofty bushcare

BIG HEART FOR HELPING

From industrial chemist to bushland volunteer is an obvious continuum for one of the elders of the Bushcare program, Antony Ault (73). It's all part of his commitment to caring for our world as part of his deeply-felt Christian faith.

In his role at the Risdon zincworks, he created a process that meant jarosite, a waste product of zinc refining that had been dumped at sea, could be replaced by paragoethite, which could be smelted to recover remaining zinc, lead and precious metals. "I spent 25 years creating and implementing a process which had the same outcome as making Knocklofty beautiful," he says. "My Christian faith is about looking after people and the environment."

Antony, known as Tony for many years until he reverted to his baptismal name, is reminded of the fruits of his labour every day. His Rose Bay home has a view upriver to his former workplace and across the water to Knocklofty Reserve.

He and his late wife, Janet, were West Hobart residents when they attended the original meeting to form Friends of Knocklofty. Antony

prepared funding submissions and reports, participated regularly in working bees and projects, and was the group's convenor for 12 years, relinquishing the role to care for Janet. In 2008 he was the inaugural recipient of the Bushcare Legends Golden Secateurs Award.

These days, Antony finds it astonishing to recall how far Knocklofty has come. "It was like you were in a wasteland, except once you got to the top there were virtually no weeds at all."

Despite all the hard work, Antony believes he has gained more than he gave. "I developed wonderful, lasting friendships and have learned so much," he says.

Since the sudden death of his second wife, Jennifer, last year, Antony has helped support those who have suffered loss, through involvement in his church and the community. He continues to be active with the Rambos bushwalking group, hosts others at his home, volunteers with Bushcare when he can, and tries to find the time for gardening and native plant propagation.

Nurturing a love of nature

Hobart's youngest Bushcare group nurtures a small but important Sandy Bay pocket of remnant vegetation – and its growing appreciation by local children.

While McAulay Reserve's two hectares is dwarfed by sprawling bushland on kunanyi / Mount Wellington or nearby Mount Nelson, its urban location provides a vital habitat corridor for species like the endangered swift parrot.

Local residents recognised its precious role in 2010 when they formed Friends of McAulay Reserve Bushcare. Hobart City Council purchased the land in the 1960s from a man who was instrumental in the establishment of Tasmania's hydro-electric scheme, physics Professor Alexander McAulay.

The group has actively engaged local children, inspiring students from Waimea Heights Primary School to connect with nature in the reserve.

Friends of McAulay members are helping to ensure the long-term rehabilitation of the reserve, which is located between Churchill Avenue and Norfolk Crescent, and have conducted regular creek clean-ups. The frequent appearance of home-baked cakes at working bees has helped maintain enthusiasm.



Ridgeway bushcare



Crescent Honey-eater



Sue Drake, Ridgeway bushcare

Where there's a will...

Focusing on what's possible rather than any roadblocks seems to be a way of life for Sue Drake.

Ridgeway Bushcare had folded soon after she moved into the area in 1997 but she soon resurrected it. Sue (67) was already a seasoned Bushcarer, having worked with the South Hobart group to complete a major project at Wellesley Park.

She was motivated by what she had experienced growing up in New Zealand. "When I was living there, I saw weeds were overtaking many places but here we can still do something about it," she says.

The Ridgeway group is small but dedicated and has made a real difference to the area, particularly in reducing gorse. One location gives Sue particular satisfaction, on a slope at former McDermotts Farm, sweeping down towards southern Waterworks Reserve. "We got some funding for weed removal and some plantings. I really like seeing that slope," she says.

Following retirement from the workforce in 2012 due to illness, the former bushwalker adapted to being less physically active as a volunteer. With a background in maths, physics, computer programming and data analysis, she uses her logistical and administrative skills to benefit nature.

She has been secretary of Birdlife Tasmania for about four years, managing the group's membership system, and is secretary of Friends of Pittwater and Orielton Lagoon. For 15 years she also co-ordinated the Cradle Mountain Run. Her partner, Bruce Longmore, was in the original group to complete the Overland Track event in 1981.

She has been convenor of the Ridgeway group since re-establishing it. Her commitment was acknowledged in 2009 when she was presented with the Bushcare Legends Golden Secateurs Award.

BETTER BUSH, BRIGHTER FUTURE

A winning makeover

Two decades ago, relatively few people ventured to West Hobart's Knocklofty Reserve, despite its prime position overlooking the River Derwent. Fast forward to now and the reserve attracts thousands of visitors a year.

Since Friends of Knocklofty formed in 1992, volunteers have worked to rehabilitate the Frog Dam and publish a booklet for primary schools, *Bringing the Frogs Back to Knocklofty*; remove willows and other weeds; restore rare plant communities and wetlands; and improve habitat for the endangered swift parrot and eastern barred bandicoot.

They have reduced soil erosion and replanted degraded areas. In 2013, the group removed the last accessible stands of primary gorse at Knocklofty. It was a mighty milestone, given that the weed infested large areas of the reserve in the early '90s. The group has helped to clear woody weeds from about 110 ha of the reserve's total 144 ha.



Brown Tree Frog

Their work to improve community appreciation of the reserve includes establishing information panels in the reserve. In 2007, they created the Glover Track in conjunction with Hobart City Council, the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens and the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery. The track starts at the Poets Road entrance and follows the route of colonial artist John Glover to the site where he painted one of his signature works, of a view of Hobart and surrounds.

Through direct efforts and success in obtaining major grants for employment of contractors, the group's members have changed the face of Knocklofty, helping to reinstate its true beauty.

*Impressive
achievements.
Long-term
improvements.*

*pushcare groups are
restoring bushland in
Hobart's reserves for
generations to come.*

*Their efforts make a
difference now and
are helping to build*

- a better future!

CLARE'S LOOKING AHEAD

It's a long way from living in a tent in the forests of western Madagascar doing conservation research but Clare Hawkins (47) has an eye on the future.

A Ridgeway Bushcare volunteer, Clare is helping protect local bushland and the creatures who live there, one weed-busting effort at a time.

"There are many weeds we can't eradicate so all we can do is control them and encourage native vegetation to flourish," she says.

Clare sees programs like Bushcare as having the potential to make an important difference to the prospects of more than 700 threatened animals and plants in Tasmania.

A threatened species zoologist specialising in mammals, she grew up in the United Kingdom, where she studied badgers. She spent more than two years in a tent while researching cat-like fossas for her PhD, before arriving here to do research on Tasmanian devils and spotted-tailed quolls.

You might catch her singing with a number of local choirs, including the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra Chorus, when she's not working to protect threatened species through her job and volunteer role.



clare hawkins,
ridgeway bushcare



eastern barred bandicoot



fern tree bushcare

IT'S A VERY MEASURABLE DIFFERENCE THAT WE MAKE TO OUR ENVIRONMENT. YOU SEE THE WEEDS YOU'VE REMOVED AND LATER, HOW THE NATIVE VEGETATION FLOURISHES.

Clare Hawkins, Ridgeway Bushcare

IT'S EASY TO FEEL OVERWHELMED BY ALL THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS IN THE WORLD. BUSHCARE GIVES US A WAY TO DO SOMETHING POSITIVE.

Clive Calver, Fern Tree Bushcare



clive calver,
fern tree bushcare

Holding the line

Fern Tree Bushcare volunteers spend most of their time tackling the prickly problem of holly. Meanwhile, Wellington Park Bushcare participants have taken on infestations of gorse, Spanish heath and renegade exotic pines.

The two groups are holding the line against rogue weeds on kunanyi / Mount Wellington.

Fern Tree volunteers focus on escaped garden plants that invade the lower slopes of the mountain, mainly above the Pipeline Track. Weeds like cherry laurel, cotoneaster, blackberry, and foxglove infiltrate native vegetation. But holly is the main offender and the group, with help from contractors, has removed more than 150,000 plants in the past few years.

Volunteers recently conducted a successful community awareness project, encouraging private landholders to take action against holly, which develops dense thickets blocking the growth of natives.

Wellington Park Bushcare works to prevent weeds alongside tracks from gaining a foothold on the mountain.

With help from partnerships with Hobart and Glenorchy City Councils, Wellington Park Management Trust and Tasmania Parks & Wildlife Service, volunteers have supported rehabilitation of several hectares of bush.

In 2005, they protected a significant population of coral heath (*Epacris acuminata*), at the time a threatened species, from Spanish heath.



HOBART'S GREAT LOVE AFFAIR



South Hobart bushcare



Each month, Bushcare volunteers donate hours of labour. It is part of their love affair with Hobart's bushland and the sense of place it provides in combination with the mountain and river.

Whether they can spare an hour or a day, most are motivated by their deep appreciation of local nature, flora and fauna and the opportunity to demonstrate their connection through practical means.

Some have lifetime connections with a particular reserve – "I've been going to Knocklofty for 40 years". Others are newcomers who are fascinated by the nature they have discovered over their back fence.

Bushcare's Bandicoot Times newsletter in 2011 noted that:

Some of the founding members have a continuous association with Bushcare. Robert Rands from the Waterworks Landcare Group must be one of the longest serving Convenors. Sue Drake, Ingrid Colman, Andrew Hingston, Grant Hayward, the Hendersons, the Aults and Peter Franklin have pulled and poisoned a lifetime of weeds by now and still their passion has never waned.



*students,
Mount Nelson bushcare*



*Mayumi Otsuka,
Mount Nelson bushcare*



*students,
Mount Nelson bushcare*

*beautiful
backyard*

As a child in the world's biggest city, Tokyo, Mayumi Otsuka could never have imagined that one day she would have a backyard of more than 170 ha.

A former international student at the University of Tasmania, Mayumi (57) went to a Mount Nelson Bushcare taster in 2011 and was hooked. She gains great satisfaction from helping care for the bush in Bicentennial Park and being part of the local community network.

"It's great to see big piles of weeds. It is also good to work with like-minded people as a team. It's fun, good for your health and you can gain knowledge while you exercise," she says.

Mayumi works for the Department of Education's International Education unit. She encourages Japanese students to participate in Bushcare because she knows first-hand the benefits.

"Everyone was very kind and helpful when I first started. Also, it is important that we are protected when doing Bushcare – volunteer work is supervised, there are safety provisions and we are insured," she says.

In the past three years, Mayumi has helped about 80 Japanese high school students participate in Bushcare as part of study tours she has organised.

We tell others by our actions that there are lots of small things we can do to maintain our environment.

Mayumi Otsuka, Mount Nelson Bushcare

The Legends

It's all about acting on enthusiasm for local bushland when it comes to the official Bushcare legends.

Hobart City Council in 2008 introduced the annual Bushcare Legend Golden Secateurs Award to recognise outstanding volunteer efforts.

Award recipients are:

2008 - Tony Ault
founding member
Friends of Knocklofty

2009 - Sue Drake
convenor
Ridgeway Bushcare

2010 - Peter Franklin founding
member Wellington Park
Bushcare

2011 - Sue Gillespie
convenor
Cornelian Bay Bushcare

2012 - Greg Kidd
convenor
Mount Nelson Bushcare

2013 - Andrew Hingston
founding member
Mount Nelson Bushcare



*Peter Franklin
Wellington Park bushcare*



Golden secateurs



*Greg Kidd,
Lambert Gully, Wellington Park and
Mount Nelson bushcare*



*Lambert Gully
bushcare*

BUSHCARE DYNAMO

Greg Kidd is Bushcare's equivalent of a frequent flier. While he is a modest fellow, the retired primary school teacher is a dynamo in his efforts on nature's behalf.

He volunteers with three groups – Lambert Gully, Wellington Park and Mount Nelson, where he is currently convenor. It all started with a simple trip to the local shop, where he saw a notice seeking participants for the Lambert Gully group. He joined in 2001.

"I was brought up to be a giver rather than a taker. I have always made an effort to help others. I enjoy being outdoors and as there are plenty of weeds in my suburb, Bushcare was an excellent group for me to have some impact in improving the natural vegetation," he says.

Greg (58), who lives at Mount Nelson, has always relished working with timber and restoring furniture and his skills as a self-taught handyman are in demand with his Bushcare groups.

His incredible commitment was recognised in 2012 when he became a recipient of the annual Bushcare Legends Golden Secateurs award.

Not one to sit still for long, he is also a volunteer with Wildcare, which helps protect and care for Tasmania's national parks and conservation reserves.

"The greatest satisfaction is knowing that I have made a small contribution in some way for the common good of others and their enjoyment," he says.

**GIVE IT A GO AND
YOU MAY SURPRISE
YOURSELF WITH HOW
REWARDING IT IS.**

Greg Kidd, Mount Nelson Bushcare

passion for place in action

"I love the bush and enjoy bushwalking, so getting involved with the friends of Truganini Reserve to care for our 'local patch' was a natural extension of my interests."

Peter Sands, volunteer with Friends of Truganini Reserve Bushcare for 17 years.



Truganini bushcare



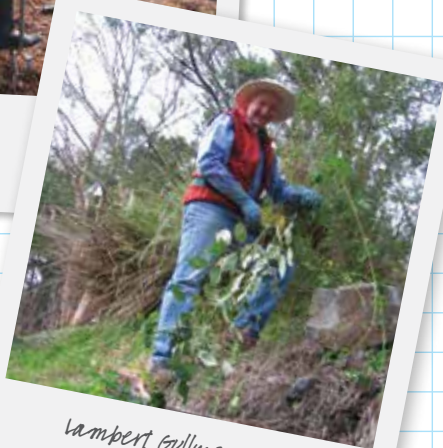
Tasmanian Land Conservancy bushcare



South Hobart bushcare



McAlway bushcare



Lambert Gully bushcare



Rangaroo Valley bushcare



Waterworks Valley bushcare



Tasmanian College of English bushcare

You have to truly care about a place to take on the formidable challenge facing Rangaroo Valley bushcare volunteers. They have been waging war on a vigorous South African plant, *Montbretia*, for more than a decade. The plant causes habitat loss and is widespread along New Town Pivulet. Watch out *Montbretia* - Rangaroo Valley is not a group to give up.

Soldiers who died in World War I will not be forgotten, thanks to friends of Soldiers Memorial Avenue. Formed in 2002 and now with more than 300 members and supporters, the group has played an important role in restoration of the Avenue of Honour, with 230 trees planted, more than 480 plaques installed and regular working bees for clean-ups, maintenance and weed removal.



Soldiers Memorial bushcare



"Working with bushcare is a good way of connecting with the bush and people."

Dave Graddon, Waterworks Valley Landcare

Bushcare gets to the heart of what it is to have a good life. It enriches volunteers and the community.



Lambert Gully Bushcare



Wellington Park Bushcare

Cakes, fun and friendship

Chocolate biscuits, cakes, a coffee plunger and a huge pile of weeds – all signs of something much bigger going on every month in Hobart’s bushland.

On the surface, Bushcare volunteers are making a huge difference to the reserves where they work. However, their involvement is creating something much bigger that is harder to measure but fundamental to a good life.

It’s about a sense of purpose, being part of a meaningful movement, having fun and lively conversations, making friends, learning, and sharing the knowledge that is gained. Not to mention enticing morning or afternoon teas.

What do Bushcarers value?

“Getting your hands dirty is an antidote to the demands and sophistication of life. It’s great to get your hands in the soil.”

“It’s terrific to have a laugh, to be accepted no matter how much or how little you can do or the amount of time you can give.”

“Learning about the bush, weeds, flora and fauna is wonderful. Then you get to help educate others.”

“Taking action with a common goal is really satisfying long after you’ve done a working bee.”

“It feels really good to give something back and then to see visitors go there and enjoy it.”

“Happiness, a sense of purpose, wellbeing. That’s really special. You see people who have stayed with groups for a long time.”

Volunteers come from diverse backgrounds and include current or retired professionals, tradespeople, scientists, teachers and nurses; children, parents, grandparents and grandchildren; international students; bushwalkers and dog-walkers.

Some have physical or other limitations on what they can do but all are made welcome and their contribution appreciated. As one Bushcarer says:

“Anyone can be part of it and will be valued.”



Grassland Workshop



Lansdowne Crescent Primary School, planting



Derwent Foreshore Project

Creative combinations

The art of coming together creatively is a cornerstone of Bushcare's success in Hobart. For more than two decades, the community has benefited from successful short-term and long-term partnerships. At the same time, the collaborative approach has invigorated projects and groups to make the most of resources and shared goals.

Bushcare groups in the past – and now – have collaborated with schools such as Hobart College, Lansdowne Crescent Primary School, The Hutchins School, Mount Stuart Primary School, Waimea Heights Primary School and The Friends School. Groups have worked in conjunction with Wellington Park Management Trust, Tasmania Parks & Wildlife Service and Conservation Volunteers Australia.

In 2013, Forestry Tasmania corporate volunteers helped Fern Tree and South Hobart Bushcare groups to chainsaw large holly trees, cotoneasters and ornamentals. The Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens has worked with the Cornelian Bay group on the river foreshore.

In just one example of how effective partnerships can be, experts from the botanical gardens and the Tasmanian Herbarium in 2011 presented a hugely successful Grassland Workshop, supported by NRM South and the Understorey Network. Bushcare volunteers were able to participate, gaining a greater understanding of native grasses.

The Bushcare program has partnered with the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery for weed awareness, while Friends of Knocklofty has attracted support from a reserve neighbour, Optus. The Knocklofty group is also a sub-contractor responsible for managing vegetation under Aurora's feeder lines in the reserve, leading to a reduction in disturbance and environmental impact.

Bushcare's focus on collaboration was formally recognised in 2011 and 2012, when the program won the Tasmanian Local Government Landcare Partnership Award.



Neighbourly care

Birds can carry holly berries or blackberry seeds for kilometres and plants don't stop at fencelines or boundaries. That means Bushcare sometimes works with private landowners to reduce problems in bushland reserves.

Assisting landowners can be crucial in some instances, such as the Fern Tree group's work on private land to help remove mature holly trees, the main bush invader in that area. Another example is Friends of Knocklofty, which helps those adjacent to the reserve in removing woody weeds that can be seed sources for problem plants.

The Tasmanian Land Conservancy, however, has tackled the issue from the opposite direction.

The organisation is the 'neighbour' for Pearce's Park, on the edge of Porter Hill Reserve and Mount Nelson. It has formed its own Bushcare group to target weed outbreaks before they can affect the nearby bushland and gully.

It also remains vigilant in digging out escapee agapanthus from the garden alongside its office and removing spent flower heads to prevent seeds spreading.



Thomas Powell-Davies,
Knocklofty bushcare



Tawny frogmouth



spider

THOMAS' CURIOUS MIND

Computer programming, foreign languages and Bushcare? It sounds like a strange mix but talk to 12-year-old Thomas Powell-Davies and you'll understand that the link between his favourite school subjects and working in the bush is all about learning and curiosity.

A Year 8 student from West Hobart, Thomas opted to volunteer with Friends of Knocklofty as part of a Health Challenge at The Friends' School. Now it's a shared family experience. His mother, Hermione, is also involved and his sister, Julia (10) goes to working bees when she can.

"Living in Hobart, we are really lucky to have a lot of bush near the city. Bushcare helps make sure it doesn't get choked up with weeds so the animals and humans alike can enjoy it," Thomas says.

He mainly participates in gorse removal and one day estimated how many gorse plants the group had removed. "It was in the thousands!"

Thomas gets a great deal of satisfaction from his work and also enjoys meeting others in his neighbourhood and the sense of being able to contribute.

His Bushcare experience also gives him a different kind of learning from music, maths and other school subjects he enjoys. One special experience stands out for him.

"When we were ridding a gully of gorse and hawthorn, we saw some tawny frogmouths and a scorpion in the same day."

For Hermione, it is important work.

"I like to think that by being part of a group that cares for bushland close to the city it means there is a better chance it will be preserved for future generations, too."

LIVING IN HOBART WE ARE REALLY LUCKY TO HAVE A LOT OF BUSH NEAR THE CITY.

Thomas Powell-Davies, Friends of Knocklofty Bushcare



push kids - snow!



push kids fun



learning

Sister program a big hit

Little did Bushcare organisers know in the early days, when they began running a fledgling series of community activities in Hobart bushland, that it would strike a chord with locals.

The nature-based program grew up quickly to become Bushcare's big sister in 1996. Bush Adventures now operates four programs of activities throughout the year, as well as special free events – all providing fun, discovery and learning. More than 2000 adults and children have participated annually in recent years, gaining a deeper appreciation of Hobart's bushland and its cultural and natural values.

The 'Just for Adults' program ranges from guided walks, talks and activities, such as Wildflower Wander on kunanyi / Mount Wellington, to evening drinks and nibbles to hear Macrofacts on Microbats before heading off through Knocklofty Reserve on a bat-spotting mission.

In the 'Go Wild, Go Solo' program, children who are 10 years or older participate without a parent in a range of problem-solving and

teamwork activities that connect them to bushland environmental values and adventure, including *Survival of the Fittest* and *Geocaching*.

The 'Bush Kids' program is organised for age groups from 2-5 years, 5-7 years and 7-10 years and has included activities as diverse as rock climbing, a *Frog Pond Adventure*, *Masked Owl Masquerade*, and Hobart's own outdoor game show, *Survivor Tasmania*.

'For the Whole Family' program offers shared, quality experiences in the bush for adults and children, such as the ever-popular night walk at Waterworks Reserve.

Special events have ranged from Bushcare's *Major Day Out* to inventive options that help connect older members of the community with bushland areas. *Growing Wilder* events are an important part of the social calendar for older locals, with Bush Adventures collaborating with Hobart City Council's Positive Aging Team to transport participants to a bushland area for morning tea, a guided walk or activity such as pétanque, and a barbecue lunch.



BUSHCARE IS A BAROMETER OF COMMUNITY ATTACHMENT TO THE CITY'S BUSHLAND.

Rob Mather, Group Manager Open Space, City of Hobart



Andrew Hingston, Mount Nelson and Lambert Gully bushcare

GIVING AND RECEIVING

Andrew Hingston's affinity with nature runs deep, back to a time when he found solace removing weeds from the family farm.

As a socially anxious young man, he could roam the farm with a purpose, taking on ragwort, thistles, gorse and blackberry and enjoying his own company.

These days he gets immense satisfaction from helping care for "some gorgeous and varied bushland" and, unlike his younger self, an important part of the pleasure is doing the work with a community of like-minded people.

Andrew (51) has a wealth of knowledge that is appreciated by Bushcare. He has a degree in Forest Ecology, did Honours investigating the impact of feral bumblebees in Tasmania and a PhD on blue gum pollinators. He is currently a freelance ecologist, surveying birds for Forestry Tasmania, and takes personalised bird-watching tours for a local nature-based tourism business.

He also manages to fit in volunteering with Source Community Wholefoods and coaches a children's soccer team.

"But the most important part of my life is being a father," he says.

Andrew was instrumental in the formation of the Mount Nelson group in 1999 and was its convenor until 2012. He is also active in the Lambert Gully group. He was the 2013 recipient of the Bushcare Legend Golden Secateurs Award.

"The groups I belong to have provided me with the opportunity to meet some of the wonderful people in my neighbourhood and to develop many important friendships."



GIVE IT A TRY

You never know who you might meet, what you might discover, or where it will take you in life!

Andrew Hingston, Mount Nelson and Lambert Gully Bushcare

DOUBLE STRENGTH DEAL



Hobart's Bushcare is an Australian leader. Other cities and regions often ask about the secrets of its success and they soon discover that it's no secret at all.

Local Bushcare is founded on twin strengths – Hobart City Council's active support and leadership and the community's unwavering commitment to its bushland.

"Bushcare is going strong at a time when volunteering is declining," says Jill Hickie, the Council's first Bushland Manager, appointed in 1993.

More than 450 people volunteered with Bushcare in 2013. Speak to the volunteers and they don't mind saying that a big part of the reason is that they feel valued by the Council.

"It's a personal thing that's conveyed in a range of ways, from the newsletter to the respectful interactions, provision of jackets and even tools that are sharp," according to one group convenor.

Each Bushcare group has a member of the Council's Vegetation Management Team

or "bush crew" assigned to it for support in planning site works and conducting working bees, including orientation for new members. A Bushcare trailer equipped with tools and protective gear is provided for working bees. Volunteers have insurance cover and are kept informed through a regular newsletter, Bandicoot Times, and convenor meetings.

Members also have opportunities to contribute to Council development of bushland policies and management practices.

In 2013-2014, volunteers contributed more than 3000 hours of labour, mostly at working bees but also in promoting reserves and weed awareness, preparing grant applications and supporting bushland events.

The Council also provides volunteer training opportunities in partnership with organisations such as NRM South and Greening Australia, from practical basics of fire ecology to remote first aid.

Recognition of volunteers and their valuable efforts includes a popular annual BBQ, where the Bushcare Legend Golden Secateurs Award is announced.



waterworks valley bushcare



ridgeway bushcare



valley street bushcare, wildlife in your back yard event

The National Landcare Awards celebrate the achievements of individuals and groups that make a valuable contribution to the land and coast where they live and work.

Hobart's Bushcare program has won awards that include:

-
- 2012
Tasmanian Local Government Landcare Partnership Award.
-
- 2011
Tasmanian Local Government Landcare Partnership Award.
-
- 2002
National Landcare Local Government Award.
-
- 2001
Tasmanian Local Government Landcare Award.
-



SUE'S NO SLOUCH

Sue Gillespie (67) is a serial volunteer, going back to her university days. The Cornelian Bay convenor helps out in the Garden Mates program and also supports residents at a local nursing home.

Bushcare is particularly dear to her heart, though. She likes a chat while she works, the sense of achievement in getting rid of boneseed, box thorn and other weed pests, and the chance to watch the changing moods of the bay she has been enjoying for more than six decades.

For Sue, it's also about the friendly and efficient support from Hobart City Council.

The feeling is evidently mutual. Sue's contribution is highly valued and this was demonstrated in 2011, when she was the recipient of the annual Bushcare Legend Golden Secateurs Award.

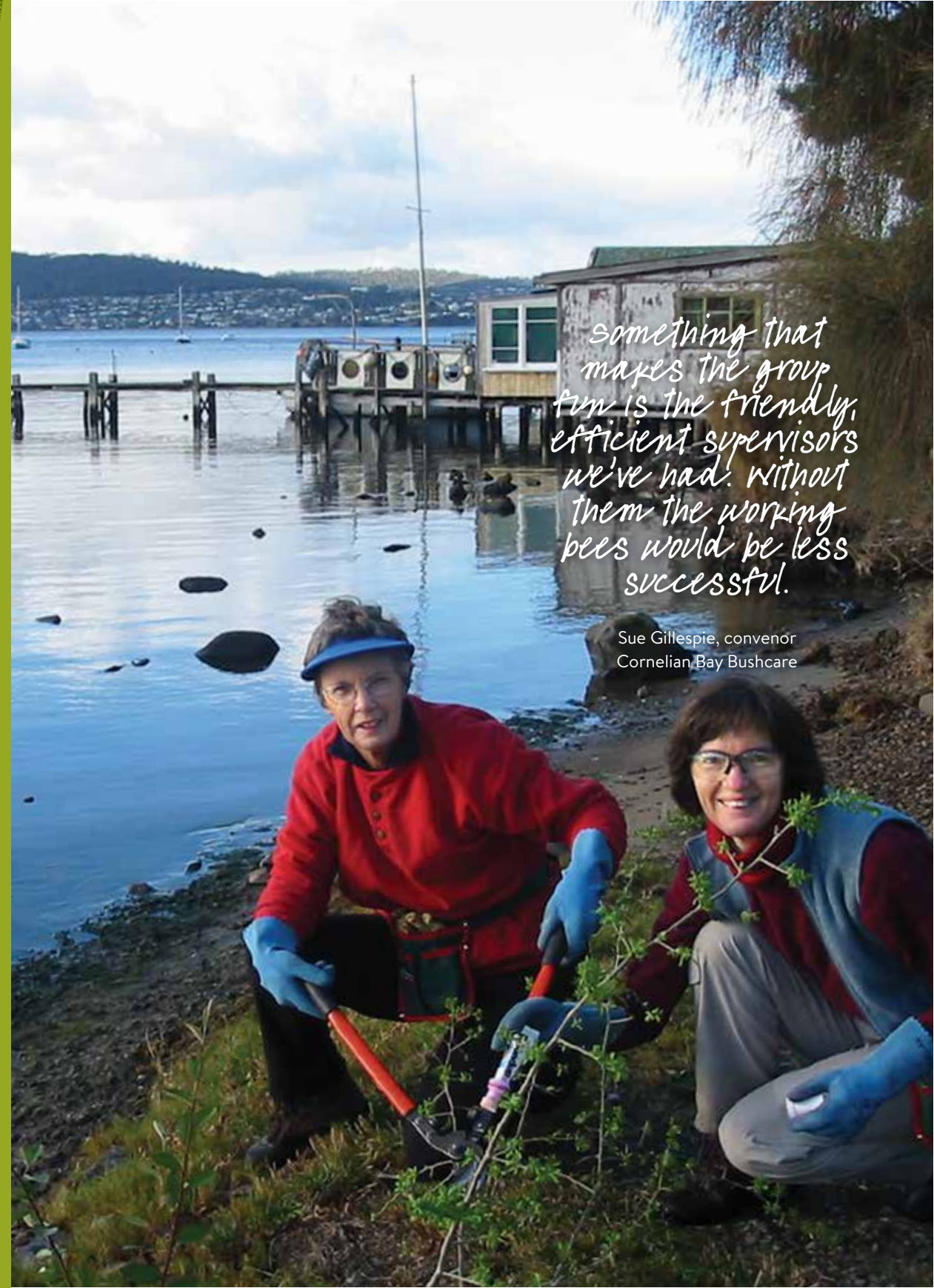
Life is full to the brim for her. As well as taking care of her own garden, playing tennis and learning French, she is a keen bushwalker, avid reader, member of two choirs and loves to

travel with her husband, as well as spend time with her three children and six grandchildren.

"As a child I swam in the bay and also at the local swimming baths which were in use till the Olympic Pool opened. I enjoy the bay and the ever-changing weather and tides, the proliferation of birds and the great views to the bridge and mountain," she says.

Her strong connection to Cornelian Bay fuels her sense of satisfaction, whether it's gathering rubbish or helping fill a ute with rogue gazanias.

"I certainly recommend Bushcare to anyone. It's good to be involved in a community activity that not only benefits you but also the local area, making it a better environment for all to enjoy."



Something that makes the group fun is the friendly, efficient supervisors we've had. Without them the working bees would be less successful.

Sue Gillespie, convenor
Cornelian Bay Bushcare

EXTENDING OUR BUSHLAND

Hobart takes its bushland seriously, appreciating that it's a defining characteristic of the city.

As part of this, Hobart City Council for more than a decade has worked on a bushland acquisition strategy.

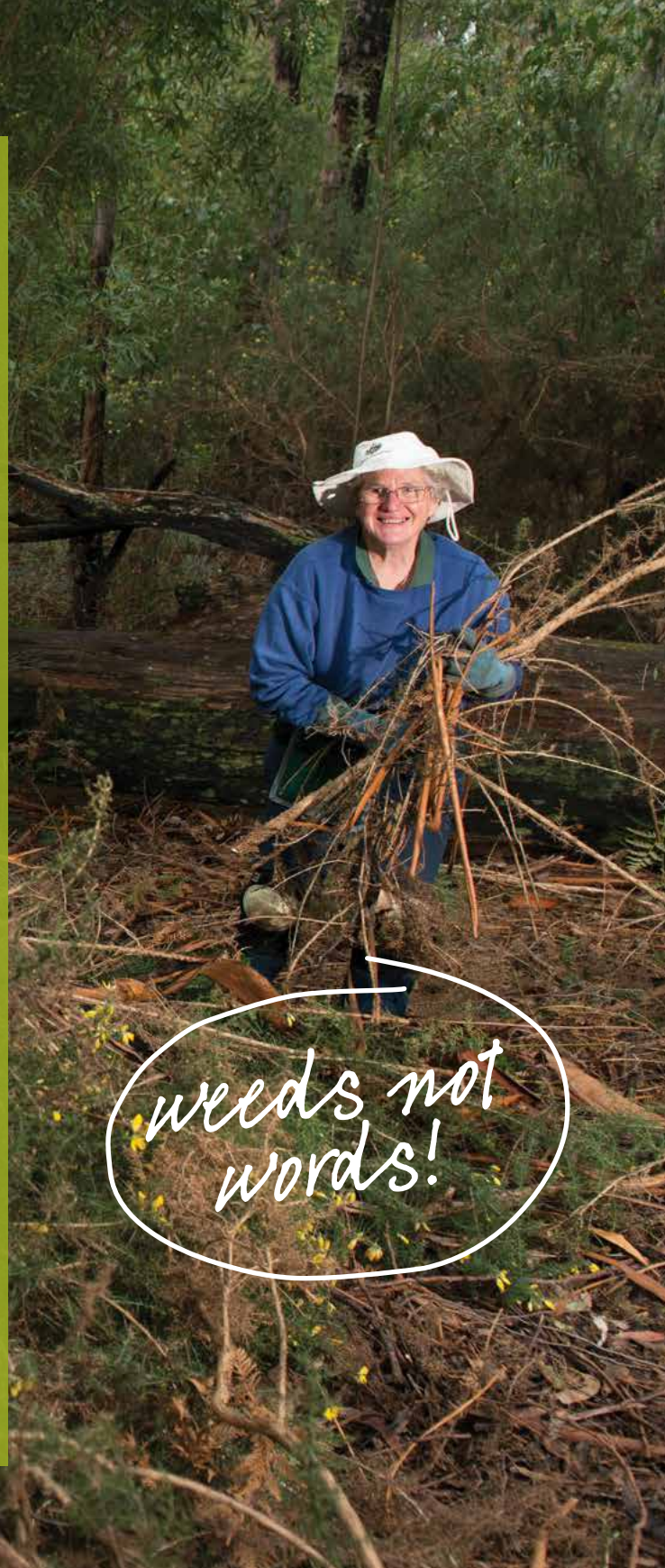
Starting with an Open Space Plan in 2000 to identify key sites, it established a Bushland Fund and has pursued federal grants in conjunction with its own contributions.

While all acquisitions are significant, some are standouts from the perspective of local biodiversity or community benefits.

Mount Nelson's Bicentennial Park was established in 2004 with the purchase of 48 ha of bushland combining Skyline Reserve and Lambert Park. Bicentennial Park has remnant native bushland providing habitat for endangered species like the swift parrot. Few Australian cities have managed to preserve such an important environmental corridor.

In South Hobart, the purchase of two properties in 2009-2010 enabled Council to complete an integrated route for the popular bike and walking trail through Hobart Rivulet Park. The trail links to the CBD.

Since 2000, Council has purchased a total of 177 ha to strengthen Hobart's bushland connections.



weeds not words!



waterworks valley bushcare



rangaroo valley bushcare

Letting the bush heal itself

Think bush regeneration, think tree-planting, right? Actually, that's not the case.

While planting with native species was once popular, the understanding of how best to support bush regeneration has radically transformed in recent decades.

As a leading program in bushland protection and restoration, Bushcare adopts latest practices. Part of this is working in accordance with principles evolved from those established in the 1960s by pioneers of bush regeneration, Joan and Eileen Bradley.

As one volunteer says, it's about "weeds not words!"

Taking action means removing weeds to foster natural regeneration, relying on the native seed bank in the soil to do the rest. Using the Bradley method, volunteers also start with areas least affected by weeds and work out to those with greater infestations.

"This approach works with the natural resilience of the bushland," says Jill Hickie, Hobart City Council Senior Park Planner.

She did a study trip to Ku-ring-gai Council in Sydney before Bushcare was formed. Ku-ring-gai had pioneered the Bushcare approach.

"I think nowadays there's a much broader appreciation of the natural system we're working with and the fact that it's better to reduce our intervention," she says.

Weeding is also not the whole story. Maintenance of areas is important, given that weeds can persist. Gorse seeds, for example, can survive in the soil for 100 years and vigilance is needed for early removal of new plants.

Council also supports Bushcare groups by sharing new methods to tackle weeds and conducting trials, such as testing the use of different herbicide treatments to prevent montbretia squeezing out native vegetation along New Town Rivulet.

TIMELINE

1992

Friends of Knocklofty formed following a community meeting organised by Melva Truchanas. The group is the first to conduct regular volunteer working bees at a Hobart bushland site.
Waterworks Valley Landcare established to restore bush on the urban fringe.



1993

Hobart City Council appoints its first Bushland Manager, Jill Hickie.

1994

Hobart City Council establishes a bush crew, now officially known as the Vegetation Management Team, with part of its role to support volunteer groups working in bushland.
Bushland Manager travels to Sydney to learn from Ku-ring-gai Council, who pioneered Bushcare in Australia.

1995

Bushcare adopted as the program name.
Community support for bushland groups grows rapidly. New groups established: Cascades Landcare; Lambert Gully Bushcare; Guy Fawkes Rivulet Landcare; Friends of Domain; Friends of Truganini Reserve.
About 100 people volunteer with Bushcare groups during the year.

1996

Hobart City Council's first Bushcare Coordinator appointed.
Popular annual Bushcare BBQ for volunteers is introduced.
Kangaroo Valley Bushcare established, initially in response to South African weed, montbretia.
Fern Tree Bushcare established, focusing on removal of holly.

Bushcare trailer developed, incorporating tools and equipment for use by Bushcare groups.
Hobart City Council develops an interpretation program as an extension of Bushcare. The program, now Bush Adventures, provides environmentally-focused community activities in Hobart's bushland reserves.

1997

Bush crew supervisor, Paulus Toonen, develops the Bushcare symbol – an illustration of the bandicoot, which is incorporated into the Bushcare logo when it is designed.



1998

Bushcare convenors begin meeting regularly as the program structure continues to develop.

1999

Hobart City Council begins developing site-specific rehabilitation plans for Bushcare sites where Bushcare volunteers are active. The first plan completed is for Waterworks Valley Landcare.
Waterworks Valley is also the subject of the first management plan for a bushland area where Bushcare is active. The plan,

published by the Waterworks Valley group and Hobart City Council, is funded by the Natural Heritage Trust.
Mount Nelson Bushcare established.
Bushcare's first mascot, Tassie Tiger, begins making regular appearances, although records indicate that it may have been introduced earlier.

2000

Ridgeway Bushcare established to reduce weeds in a range of eucalypt communities.

The School of English Bushcare established, now the Tasmanian College of English Bushcare, with overseas student volunteers.

2001

First issue of *Bandicoot Times* newsletter published.
South Hobart Bushcare established to focus on Wellesley Park, bringing Cascades Landcare to an end.
Bushcare program wins Tasmanian Landcare Local Government Award.



2002

Hobart City Council wins National Landcare Local Government Award, with the Bushcare program central to its nomination. Friends of Soldiers Memorial Avenue formed to promote restoration and preservation of the avenue, on Queens Domain. Cornelian Bay Bushcare holds its inaugural meeting. The group works on a remnant coastal strip of rare vegetation.

Huon Road Bushcare formed to tackle roadside weeds. Wellington Park Bushcare formed by bushwalkers after discovery of gorse and Spanish heath close to the Collins Cap summit. Betty the Bandicoot is Bushcare's new mascot.

2003

Hobart's Bushcare program is one of eight in Tasmania to attract National Heritage Trust funding. From late 2002-2008, Bushcare groups attract about \$500,000, mainly Federal grants for rehabilitation of bushland to preserve biodiversity and fauna habitat.

Bandicoot Times reports a "record 14 Bushcare groups" are operating. Weedbuster Week mascot, Woody Weed, is introduced.

2004

Valley Street Bushcare formed to care for Leonard Wall/Valley Street Reserve and Providence Gully in West Hobart, close to Knocklofty Reserve.

Friends of Truganini awarded first prize, community category, Dr Edward Hall Environmental Awards.

2005

Hobart City Council adopts the first Bushcare policies and procedures.



2006

Friends of Knocklofty wins the Tasmanian Landcare Nature Conservation Award. Bluebell the Bandicoot takes over Bushcare mascot honours.

2008

Inaugural Bushcare Legend Golden Secateurs award. The first recipient is Antony Ault, a stalwart of Friends of Knocklofty. Hobart City Council gives Bushcare hats and vests to regular volunteers. Release of *Bushland Management Strategy 2007-2017*.



2009

Tasmanian Land Conservancy Bushcare established to work in Pearce's Park, Lower Sandy Bay. Sue Drake, Ridgeway Bushcare convener, awarded the Bushcare Legend Golden Secateurs.

2010

Friends of McAulay Reserve conducts its inaugural meeting and working bee in November. Peter Franklin, founding member of Wellington Park Bushcare, awarded the Bushcare Legend Golden Secateurs. Bushcare launches its promotional video.

2011

Hobart's Bushcare wins Tasmanian Local Government Landcare Partnership Award. Sue Gillespie, long-term volunteer with Cornelian Bay Bushcare, awarded the Bushcare Legend Golden Secateurs.

2012

Hobart's Bushcare again wins Tasmanian Local Government Landcare Partnership Award.

Greg Kidd, volunteer with multiple groups since 2001 and Mount Nelson group convener, awarded the Bushcare Legend Golden Secateurs.

2013

More than 450 people volunteer with Hobart Bushcare groups during the year. Friends of Knocklofty remove the last accessible stands of primary gorse from the reserve.

Friends of Truganini remove last accessible stands of primary boneseed from the reserve. Andrew Hingston, an instigator of Mount Nelson Bushcare and volunteer for more than 15 years, awarded the Bushcare Legend Golden Secateurs.

2014

Sixteen Bushcare groups continue to operate across Hobart, from Cornelian Bay to kunanyi / Mount Wellington, Mount Nelson and Truganini Reserve. They have evolved over time in response to emerging needs and volunteer interests, resulting in some groups merging and others separating to focus on more specific challenges.

As dynamic, growing groups it is likely that they will continue to evolve in the future. Public recognition that Bushcare volunteers have contributed about \$1.65m worth of labour in caring for Hobart's reserves since the program's inception.



**SHARE THE ENERGY,
ENJOYMENT AND
SENSE OF PURPOSE
IN GIVING THE BUSH A
HELPING HAND. WITH
16 BUSHCARE GROUPS,
THERE'S BOUND TO BE
ONE NEAR YOU –**

Cornelian Bay Bushcare
Fern Tree Bushcare
Friends of Knocklofty Bushcare
Friends of McAulay
Friends of Soldiers Memorial Avenue
Friends of Truganini
Kangaroo Valley Bushcare
Lambert Gully Bushcare
Mount Nelson Bushcare
Ridgeway Bushcare
South Hobart Bushcare
Tasmania College of English
Tasmanian Land Conservancy Bushcare
Valley Street Bushcare
Waterworks Valley Landcare
Wellington Park Bushcare

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