# Pittwater Online News



May 12 - 18, 2013: Issue 110

## Happy Mother's Day 2013 - Flowers For all Mums

## Past Features

## Archives

Flower Panels and Photos by A J Guesdon, May 11th, 2013.

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# Pittwater Online News



**May 12 - 18, 2013: Issue 110**

## Articles This Week:

Mullet Care Bush Care Project Update

DIY Hints: Growing Your Own Winter Vegetables by Paul Johnson

Pacific Black Duck Bath - a delight for the eyes!

Eastern Rosella - and a little more about our progression to protecting our birds instead of exporting them or decimating them.

Swamp Mahogany Flowering - our Mother's Day 2013 flowers

Artist of the Month for May 2013: **Chuck Bradley**- Scotland Island photographer with an exhibition at Manly Art Gallery

All Previous Articles

**Profile: May 2013 - Pittwater Organisations: Southern Cross Wildlife Care - saving all sick, injured and orphaned wildlife under our southern skies**

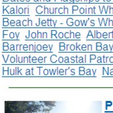
**Previous Profiles:**

Barton Lynch Shane Withington Commodore Sloper Herminie Swainston Teresa Cutter Joanne Brigden-Jones Tamara Sloper Harding Katie Spithill Chris Salisbury Doug Crane Henry MacPhillamy Aim for the Stars Foundation Broken Bay Marine Rescue Pittwater Environmental Foundation Rotary Club of Pittwater Sophie Haythornthwaite Joan Fisher Mark Ferguson Veteran Carolyn McKay Christine Hopton Ian White Jack Elsegood Robert Grace Colin Casey Bob Waterer The Surfers Group The Palm Beach Yacht Club Pittwater Natural Heritage Association Pittwater Friends of Soibada Pam Bayfield Denise Casey Lynda Hill Belinda Grundy Paul Christie Neil Evers Andrew Holder Ian Curlewis Lange Theory Phil Colman-Peter Mitchell and Exploring tidal waters on Australia's temperate coast Geoff Clarke Palm Beach Sailing Club The Populaters Pittwater Camera Club Dragonfly Environmental Pittwater Community Hub Pittwater Community Arts Hayley Turner Samantha Shaw Danielle DuBois Mumpreneurs Neil Johnston Simon Hyland Paul Wheeler Ian McGiffen Brian Friend Pittwater Council Zonta Club of Northern Beaches Sydney Northern Beaches Symphonic Wind Ensemble Bei Loon Dragon Boat Club Margaret Molloy OAM Patricia Giles OAM Doreen Cherry Cindy Goode Milman Stephen Marr Bob Hamilton Simon Abbott Peter Rumble Graham Spong Sailability Pittwater Mona Vale Hospital Auxiliary Avalon Active Seniors Group Northern Beaches Orchestra Sonia Elwood June Lahm Valerie Vickers Karen Draddy Betty King David Hanley Les Ball Paul Webb Malo Legardinier E G Constructions Integrity Candles Monatones The Narrabeen Lakes Ladies Probus Club Inc. Nina Curtis Robyn McWilliam Gretel Pinniger Ted Blackall Edwin Barnard Doug Elliott Anthony Patrick Chandler Walter 'Waf' Wardle Avalon Beach RSL Fishing Club Avalon Voices Surfing Mums Inc. Northern Beaches Social Riders Stephanie Brown Judith Bennett Gemma Rasdall Gwnneth Ross Peter Verrills Tom Gilbert Tony Carr Gwenyth Sneesby Bobbie Squire Philip Bond Save Mona Vale Hospital Committee Southern Cross Wildlife Care

**History: May 2013 - The NAVY in Pittwater:** this year's **Avalon Tattoo, is on June 15th, 2013.** Each year it is the turn of one of our Services to present the Challenge and this year it's our RAN Cadets; To Prelude this we will look at some of the long and varying links with the Navy - **Royal Navy and Royal Australian Navy Ships Visit Pittwater and Broken Bay – Training Days, Fleet Exercises and the Love of the Navy**

**Previous History Pages:**

Marie Byles Lucy Gullett Kookoomgiligai Frank Hurley Archpriest JJ Therry Sir Patrick Gordon Taylor Bowen Bungaree W. Bradley 1788 Journal Midholme Loggan Rock Cabin La Corniche La Corniche II Lion Island Bungan Beach Botham Beach Scarred Trees Castles in the Sand Dame Nellie Melba lunches at Bilgola Spring, 1914 First to Fly in Australia at North Narrabeen Mona Vale Golf Club's Annual Balls Governor Phillip camps on Resolute Beach Ruth Bedford Jean Curlewis Mollie Horseman Charlotte Boutin May Moore Neville W Carley Leon Houreux Frederick Wymark Sir Adrian Curlewis Bilgola Heron Cove Mullet Creek Shark Point Woodley's Cottage A Tent at The Basin Collin's Retreat-Bay View House-Scott's Hotel Bilgola Cottage and House The First Pittwater Regatta Women Cricketers Picnic Filmed In Pittwater Governor Phillip's Barrenjoey Cairn Waradieel Season The Church at Church Point Governor Phillip's Exploration of Broken Bay, 2 – 9 March 1788 Petroglyths: Aboriginal Rock Art on the Northern Beaches Avalon Headland Landmarks Steamers Part I Pittwater Aquatic Club Part I Woody Point Yacht Club Royal Motor Yacht Club Part I Dorothea Mackellar Elaine Haxton Neva Carr Glynn Margaret Mulvey Jean Mary Daly Walter Oswald Watt Wilfrid Kingsford Smith John William Cherry George Scotty Allan McCarrs Creek Narrabeen Creek Careel Creek Currawong Beach Creek Bushrangers at Pittwater Smuggling at Broken Bay An Illicit Still at McCarr's Creek The Murder of David Foley Mona Vale Outrages Avalon Camping Ground Bayview Koala Sanctuary Ingleside Powder Works Palm Beach Golf Course Avalon Sailing Club Mona Vale Surf Life Saving Club Palm Beach SLSC Part I - The Sheds Warriewood SLSC Whale Beach SLSC Flagstaff Hill Mount Loftus Pill Hill Sheep Station Hill SS Florrie SS Phoenix and General Gordon Paddlewheeler MV Reliance The Elvina Florida House Careel House Ocean House and Billabong Melrose -The Green Frog The Small Yacht Cruising Club of Pittwater Canoe and I Go With The Mosquito Fleet - 1896 Pittwater Regattas Part I - Dates and Flagships to 1950 Shark Incidents In Pittwater The Kalori Church Point Wharf Bayview Wharf Newport Wharf Palm Beach Jetty - Gow's Wharf Max Watt Sir Francis Anderson Mark Foy John Roche Albert Verrills Broken Bay Customs Station At Barrenjoey Broken Bay Water Police Broken Bay Marine Rescue - Volunteer Coastal Patrol Pittwater Fire-Boats Prospector Powder Hulk at Towler's Bay Naval Visits to Pittwater 1788-1952



**Park Bench Philosopher: Misplaced, Forgotten, or Displaced Australian Poets: *THE KANGAROO HUNT; OR, A MORNING IN THE MOUNTAINS.* *BY CHARLES HARPUR.***

**News From Our Inbox** Towards a quantum internet - UNSW, National Library of Australia - New pictures released, University of Sydney's Professor Steve Simpson has been announced as a new Fellow of the Royal Society, Cyclist's benefit from helmets clearly shown, Dive Into A Wave...ummm?, Home is where the health is - UNSW insight on NSW Govt. Initiative, Hawaii Dolphins Play Using Whale Snouts As Slides!, Have You Seen This Dog?, Chicken Police, Excuse me... where's my food?, Milky Way Black Hole Snacks on Hot Gas, Run Underwater, Killer whales surprise couple on boat, Health Papers Published this week: Epilepsy Cured in Mice Using Brain Cells; Portable Device Provides Rapid, Accurate Diagnosis of Tuberculosis + Other Bacterial Infections; Protein Complex May Play Role in Preventing Many Forms of Cancer; Discovery May Help Prevent Chemotherapy-Induced Anemia; Discovery Helps Show How Breast Cancer Spreads; Magnesium May Be as Important to Kids' Bone Health as Calcium

**Events: PCA Heritage Evening,** Artists Trail 2013, NT Forum, PB Market, Baby Animals and Tin Sparrow at Mona Vale, Bodacious Cowboys at Palm Beach Golf Club, Aboriginal Forum at Narrabeen, Avalon RSL- Karoke World Championships, Mother's Day 2013, Northern Beaches Music Festival, Author Talks at MVL, Psychic at Pittwater RSL, **Songs For Soibada III**, Paddling-Walking, ANMM Exhibitions and Kids Events, RMYC Events, Pittwater Camera Club, FoNLC Activities and much much more.

**Food: Mushrooms:** What would Autumn be like without enjoying the best fungi on offer and tasting the rich earthy pungency of the season?

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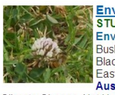
**Community News: Songs for Soibada - 2013 - Jack Vidgen to Perform, Mona Vale Hospital Auxiliary - Volunteers Needed, Celebrating National Volunteers Week 2013 At Mona Vale Library**, Historic lifejacket principles promote safety across international borders, WHITE PAPER DISCUSSION SESSIONS - EVENT REGISTRATION, New Northern Beaches Hospital Highlights Transport Fix Needed Now, Alexander's Lost World - David Adams, Car Park Sale in support of SLSC Nippers, Solo exhibition in Newtown - Tracy Ponich, Water, Wind & Ice by Robin VF Smith, Elvis to open St Ives Show, SUCCESSFUL LOOSELY WOVEN CONCERT IN AVALON, Sydney Writers Festival 2013, Different walks of life, same goal: Stay Smart Online, Sustainability Lane at the Pittwater Wine & Food Fair, Avalon Golf Course Special until end of June 2013, BowelCare is on again for 2013, Sly Dogs Unplugged at Church Point Cafe, Pittwater Artists Trail May 2013, Future of boating on Sydney Harbour open for public comment, Awards For Public Sector Excellence, Southern Cross Wildlife Care May 2013 Critters of the Month - Theodore and Blossom, referendum to secure direct federal funding for communities, Funding Opportunity For Local Fishing Groups, Pittwater Milestones Trivia Evening - Unravel the Strands of Time, CUPPA FOR CANCER AT MONA VALE LIBRARY, CAREEL CREEK FLOOD STUDY ON EXHIBITION, COMMEMORATE SORRY DAY AT NORTH NARRABEEN, Bushcare Notices - May 2013, Our Councils Notices, Fed. Govt. Media Releases this week and more



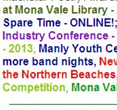
**Environment: CAREEL CREEK FLOOD STUDY ON EXHIBITION, Pittwater Environment Stories this week:** Mullet Care Bush Care Project Update - May 2013, Pacific Black Duck Bath - a delight for the eyes!, Eastern Rosella, Swamp Mahogany Flowering, **Australian Environment stories this week:** Climate Change, Not Human Activity, Led to Megafauna Extinction, A new approach to judging the impact of invasive species, Plants 'Talk' to Plants to Help Them Grow, Sending the gungu home + Global Highways of Invasive Marine Species Calculated, May Environment Activities, Paint Rocks with Glow In The Dark Paint, 2013 Northern Beaches Local Business Sustainability Award, ONLINE BIODIVERSITY CALENDAR,**COOEE May 2013**, **FishMap**, New App for Gardeners, local Environment groups, and organisations.

**Lynda Hill: Update 8.5.13: Managing The Pace And Grounding The Vision: May's Solar Eclipse in Taurus**

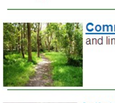
**Pictures: Pacific Black Duck Bath - a delight for the eyes!**

**Children:** Pacific Black Duck taking a bath at Careel Creek, **Songfish - The Northern Beaches community choir for children - FREE Singing Session, University of Sydney's *Compass – find your way to higher education* - Year 3 Students visit, Marine Art at RMYC, PITTWATER SHORT STORY COMPETITION, Rudimental - "Feel The Love", Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards - 2013, Tom Terrific- Go West young Manfred, National Geographic online fun For little kids, The Superman Show - episode 1,** LET'S READ NATIONAL EARLY LITERACY CAMPAIGN, **Picture Books Online, A picture book for little children (1812), Mona Vale Library - Young Runarounds!, Children's Storytime at Mona Vale Library**

**Youth: The ECO. Clean Beach Initiative is looking for Australia's most passionate ECO. Warrior to be the face of its movement! Interested? Zoe Elliot with Lincoln Smith - Black Dog, Getting Air - South Avalon - 7.5.2013, Feedback - Music Conference for Young People (JUNE 2013), Workshop for parents and supervisors of learner drivers,** Sydney Writers Festival 2013 – May 20-26; Youth Events, Triple your Jays hottest 100 over 20 years, PITTWATER SHORT STORY COMPETITION, Get Smarter in your Spare Time - ONLINE !, Cyberbullying Rampant Among High School Students: National Cyber Security Awareness Week, 20 to 24 May 2013, New 'Bone-Head' Dinosaur Hints at Higher Diversity of Small Dinosaurs, Animal Antics, National Youth Awards, Mona Vale Library - Duke of Edinburgh Awards, The Project Gutenberg Library of Australiana, Bands Playing Locally, NOrthern Beaches Youth Bands Facebook Page, RMYC Marine Art Comp., Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards - 2013 + links and help 4U, **Author Talks at Mona Vale Library - Andrew Tink, Get Smarter in your Spare Time - ONLINE!; over 700 Free Courses on offer, Music Industry Conference - FREE to attend, Youngbloods Contest - 2013, Manly Youth Centre Kangaroo Street is bringing back more band nights, New Facebook Page for young bands on the Northern Beaches, The Line, National History Competition, Mona Vale Library - Duke of Edinburgh Awards.**

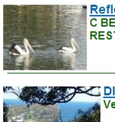


**Seniors: 2013 COTA NSW Survey**, DEEMING RATES SHOULD BE ADJUSTED, The Benevolent Society has turned 200 this week - First Old Age Pension in the world approved after Benevolent Society campaign - 1901, Melbourne's Cable Trams + MARVELLOUS MELBOURNE : QUEEN CITY OF THE SOUTH, 1910, Soup of the Day, For YOUR GRANDCHILDREN !! C/- Bill Gates, Good Vibrations (1966), Health Papers Published this week: Missing Link in Signals Contributes to Neurodegeneration; Dynamic Behavior of Progenitor Cells in Brain Discovered; Social Connections Drive the "Upward Spiral' of Positive Emotions and Health; Boosting 'Cellular Garbage Disposal' Can Delay the Aging Process AvPals **Term 2 2013 - Computer Classes for Seniors at Newport**, How to make symbols using your keyboard, National Seniors Literary Prize 2013, local Support and Education Activities.



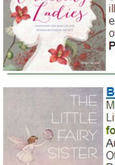
**Community Clubs:** Updates on Activities and links to sites.

**Artist of the Month: May 2013 Chuck Bradley**- Scotland Island photographer with an exhibition at Manly Art Gallery

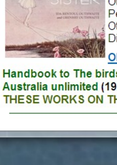


**Reflections:** by George Repin. **This week; J C BENDRODT AND PRINCES RESTAURANT**

**DIY Hints: Growing Your Own Winter Vegetables by Paul Johnson**




**Collector's Corner:** ***Collecting Ladies - Ferdinand Von Mueller and Women Botanical Artists*** by Penny Olsen AM - extensive and well researched insight, illuminated by beautiful illustrations and examples of their works, this is for students of Botany and art lovers. **Interview with Penny Olsen**




**Books:** The Little Fairy Sister, A Boy Like Me, Lani's Story, The Lucky Culture, Secret Life of James Cook, **David Rivett - Fighter for Australian Science** (FREE), Ecology of Australian Freshwater Fishes, Flora of the Otway Plain and Ranges 2 - Daisies, Heaths, Peas, Saltbushes, Sundews, Wattles and Other Shrubby and Herbaceous Dicotyledons

**Old Books - May 2013**

**Handbook to The birds of Australia (1865) by John Gould and Australia unlimited (1918?) by Edwin James Brady READ THESE WORKS ON THE SITE- ONLINE**

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# Mullet Creek Bush Care Project Update – May 2013

The new Mullet Creek Bushcare group planted about 120 trees and shrubs near Irrawong waterfall on April 21. They also put up a wire fence to keep them safe from the local swamp wallabies. Some familiar bushcarers were there, but also many local people. For many of them this was a new experience. The weather was perfect, the waterfall was roaring, Scarlet Honeyeaters were chirping high up in the Swamp Mahoganies, now coming into bloom. The afternoon tea was magnificent too.

A Large Project grant to Pittwater Environment Foundation from NSW Environment Trust is funding six years of bush regeneration and fauna monitoring in the Upper Mullet Creek area. Pittwater Council is a partner in this project.

Being amongst the beauty of the bush, birds and other animals in this part of Ingleside Chase Reserve are really special, attracting birdwatchers from far and wide. Lyrebirds and swamp wallabies are sometimes seen here, as well as Eastern Yellow Robins, Rufous Fantails and other birds that enjoy the eucalypt forest and rainforest environment.

This forms part of largest remaining sandplain wetland in Sydney, has the largest remaining stand of Swamp Mahogany in Sydney, is home to three endangered ecological communities of vegetation and is the habitat of over 20 threatened species of fauna including birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians and over 170 species of birds including some 10 migratory species.

Just one of the species planted this day gives you some insight into the forethought accompanying every part of this project:

**Bolwarra or Native Guava**, *Eupomatia laurina, Eupomatiaceae*
This small tree has black branches that grow more than 1 m long. Pale, heavily scented flowers have no petals or sepals and appear in summer. The urn-shaped berry is 15-20 mm in diameter and turns from green to brown through winter.
Where it is found: Bolwarra is widespread in or near warmer rainforest and moist eucalypt forest on the coast and lower ranges. In New South Wales it is found on the coast and tablelands. It also occurs in Queensland, Victoria and New Guinea.
Uses: Bolwarra berries have an interesting taste with soft, sweet flesh and strong, spicy seeds. The whole fruit can be dried, crushed and used to flavour foods such as ice-cream. The fibrous bark was used as raw material for manufacturing fishing lines (Turbet 1989). The bark was prepared in the same way as that described for *Eucalyptus agglomerata*.
***Marita mentioned a symbiotic relationship with a caterpillar is required for pollination*, Michael Mannington.**

**Winter Feast**
Coast Banksia is now providing honeyeaters and lorikeets with a feast . Local birds such as Little and Red Wattle Birds, White-cheeked Honeyeaters and the inescapable Noisy Miners rejoice in this Banksia. In turn they pollinate the flowers which will produce seed next summer.

Each Banksia "flower" in fact has hundreds of tiny flowers, an arrangement called an inflorescence. On this, the flowers open in succession over a couple of weeks, starting at the top, so the feast is prolonged. The botanical name Banksia integrifolia means it is named for Sir Joseph Banks. Most Banksias have leaves with saw-tooth edges. This one does have such leaves as a very young plant, but as an adult the leaves have smooth edges so integrifolia means the leaves are whole.

The hard work of heavy weeding has been done by bush regeneration workers, funded by a $250K grant to Pittwater Environmental Foundation (PEF)from the NSW Environmental Trust, a project that will run over 6 years. Now the pleasure of planting is taking place to restore this wonderful place.

**Two Bush Care days are coming up** offer everyone who visits this reserve or lives near here to invest in this great project; yes, you can plant a tree and then wander among the bush for years to come, seeing it grow.

Pittwater Environmental Foundation - Irrawong Planting Day
**Sunday May 19th, 1pm - 3pm.**
Did you miss planting at Mullet Creek last month? It's on again: May 19th, 1pm. Go to Irrawong Waterfall from **west end of Irrawong Rd, Warriewood.** Wear enclosed shoes and long trousers, bring gloves and a drink. Tools and afternoon tea and good company provided. More info: pittenvfound@gmail.com

Park near the corner of Irrawong Rd and Epworth Place, Warriewood and follow signs to the planting site. Wear long trousers, long -sleeved shirt and sturdy shoes, bring gardening gloves. Tools and afternoon tea provided.

**Sunday May 26th, 9am - 12 noon**
Mullet Creek's south arm near Wesley Street Elanora is also being weeded and the planting day here is on **Sunday May 26, 9am to noon** at the **Wesley St entrance**, **Elanora**. Wear long trousers, enclosed shoes and bring gloves. We'll do a fabulous morning tea, supply tools and plants.

Pittwater Council is a partner in this project with PEF. More information: Helena Dewis, Pittwater Council bushcare officer: helena_dewis@pittwater.nsw.gov.au

Pittwater Environmental Foundation accepts tax deductible donations and applies for grants for environmental projects in the Pittwater local government area. www.pittwaterenvironmentalfoundation.org.au

**Some simple things you can do to help protect this wonderful area**
What happens upstream in a catchment affects the creek downstream. Weed, seeds and pollutants are easily transported down through the catchment and stormwater drains to end up in the creek and wetlands. By some simple actions, you can improve the health of this dynamic creek ecosystem!
**Do**
Put weeds, lawn & garden clippings in compost or vegetation bins.
Protect wildlife by keeping dogs on a lead and cats inside at night.
Use No-Phosphate detergents, slow release fertilisers and low-toxic garden sprays.
Wash your car on the lawn and contain any oil leakage.
Encourage native animals: plant local native plants; install a frog pond, nest box or rocks and logs for lizards.
Cover bare soil or sand with a tarp, mulch or plants. Repair erosion.
**Don't**
Don't use snail bait or toxic garden chemicals – they kill native fauna.
Don't wash your car on a driveway.
Don't dump rubbish, oil or chemicals.
Don't put garden waste or cuttings close to creeks, bushland or drains
From: http://www.pittwater.nsw.gov.au/cec/projects/completed_projects/mullet_creek_catchment_care_project

**Previous Reports on this Project and associated history:**

Pittwater Environmental Foundation
Bushcare Major Day Out and $250k Wetlands Grant - Irrawong Reserve
Rare Giant Burrowing Frog Discovered in Pittwater - Pittwater Environment Foundation and Pittwater Council bring you one of the best Environmental news stories for this year
Mullet Creek

**Pittwater EcoWarriors - MULLET CREEK BUSH-CARE GROUP DAY 1 - Published on May 6, 2013**
**The first volunteer day in the rescue of Mullet Creek.**
**"Incantation" courtesy of www.agostinomusic.com - duo Agostino guitars.**

The waterfall in flood on 2/2/13, photo by Marita Macrae.

**Photos by Marita Macrae and Michael Mannington, 2013. Video courtesy John Illingsworth, Pittwater ECOWARRIORS.**

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# Pittwater Online News

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## Eastern Rosella

This Eastern Rosella was photographed during the week in northern Pittwater, feeding on the ground on grass seeds. A stunning coloured small parrot, our bush and trees beside our waterways once teemed with these birds and their many cousins. The Rosella is named in Indigenous dreamtime legends as among the first birds to have sung here, and signifies true love or lifelong commitment in the Jenolan Caves region and is called *'Bur-ood-ir'* in the Kuthung, or Kattang, dialect of Australian Aborigines living along the southern bank of the Karuah river and the south shore of Port Stephens, New South Wales. The name 'rosella' stems from early settler's naming of a bird common to the Rose Hill area.

Like so many of our colourful birds this genus was seen as both a pest and a crop to be harvested and sent overseas for sale during the early stages of European history in Australia. Although a less conscious mindset now exists, regular reports of bird smugglers point to a constant need for vigilance in looking after all our native birds.

Learning the science and ecology we have allowing her kelpie to chase an Australian Ibis from its field beside local wetlands underlines that locally and nationally we are still not sure to what makes the world beautiful or the sentient rights of all other beings.

A sample of our progression to 'enlightenment' or basic intelligence is below for your interest:

The Eastern Rosella (*Platycercus eximius*) is a rosella native to southeast of the Australian continent and to Tasmania. Named by George Shaw in 1792, it is sometimes considered a subspecies of the Pale-headed Rosella (*P. adscitus*). The term White-cheeked Rosella has been used for a species or superspecies combining the Pale-headed and Eastern forms. Hybrids of the two taxa have been recorded where their ranges meet in northeastern New South Wales and southeastern Queensland. Three subspecies of Eastern Rosella are recognised:

- *P. e. eximius*, Victoria and southern New South Wales. Black feathers on the back have green margins. Rump is pale green.
- *P. e. elecica*, northeast New South Wales and southeast Queensland. In the male the black feathers on the back have golden yellow margins, and greenish-yellow in the female. The rump is bluish-green. This subspecies is also called the Yellow-backed Rosella, often abbreviated to GMR.
- *P. e. diemenensis*, eastern Tasmania. White cheek patches are larger and the red on the head is darker.

The Eastern Rosella has a red head and white cheeks. The beak is white and irises brown. The upper breast is red and the lower breast yellow, fading gradually to green on the abdomen. The feathers of the back and shoulders are black, and have yellowish or green margins giving rise to a scalloped appearance. Rump is pale yellow to green. Sexes are similar, but juveniles are duller, especially amongst grasses in lawns.

The Eastern Rosella uses one of its feet (usually the right foot) to hold food items.

Breeding occurs in spring and early summer and up to seven white eggs are laid in tree hollows. Eastern Rosellas mate for life. The female chooses and prepares the nesting site, usually a hollow in a eucalypt tree (but in urban gardens use a nest box) and the artificial site). Eggs are laid on a decayed wood bed and the female incubates the eggs while the male regularly feeds her. The young may be fed for a while after they fledge.

They are sometimes kept as a pet due to their beautifully coloured plumage. Intelligent creatures, which can be trained to whistle a wide repertoire of tunes and may even learn to speak a few words or phrases. Rosellas have been popular companion parrots; however, they require a great deal of attention and many toys to satisfy their need for social interaction and mental stimulation.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. Retrieved 23 April 2013, from The Free Encyclopedia. Retrieved 22:00, May 7, 2013, from http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Eastern_Rosella&oldid=549630258

**JURY WAS NOT UNANIMOUS**

THE July meeting of Pine Shire Council, with three presidents, **favored placing the Eastern Rosella (*Platycercus eximius*) on the list of birds to be dealt with by the Pests Destruction Board.** The bird is reported to be responsible for loss of maize by allowing rain to enter the cob after it has picked at them. JURY WAS NOT UNANIMOUS. (**1945, July 19**) *Queensland Country Life* (Qld. : 1900 - 1954), p. 5. Retrieved from http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article97092700

**Rosella to be tried for life as pest** for the second time in four years, the beautiful Eastern Rosella parrot, alias Platycercus eximus, is on trial for its life.

Reason is' the parrot's alleged damage to grain crops. The Brisbane and West

Moreton Pest Board decided this week to ask the Government to declare the parrot officially a pest, and to put a price, on its head. This followed petitions presented by Councillors W.J. Smith and W.J. Wolff, and signed by grain growers who said that the amount of grain eaten and destroyed by this parrot far outweighed any value it might have as an insect-eating bird. Four years ago a similar request was made to the Government, but after hearing evidence from other shires the Government decided that insufficient proof had been given that the rosella's grain-eating proclivities outweighed its natural beauty and insect eating capabilities. **The annual report presented to the Pest Board at its meeting this week showed that in 1948 – 49 nearly £740 was paid for the destruction of the Rosella's – 51,743 pests —31,526 sparrows(at 2d. a head); 2578 sparrow eggs; 1065 flying foxes (6d.) ; 3004 scrub magpies(6d.) ; 2264 bee eaters (4d.); 1698 crows (1!) ; 1679 starlings (6d.) ; and 29 starlings' eggs.** The board stated that starlings and sparrows not only carried lice, but were threatening to oust native birds and insect-eaters by appropriating their nesting grounds and causing a food shortage. Rosella to tried for life as pest (**1949, September 3**). *The Courier-Mail* (Brisbane, Qld. : 1933 - 1954), p. 3. Retrieved from http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article49674426

**MUSEUM FEATURETTE**



**Rosella was once Rose-hiller . The rosella parrot is generally accepted as having been a corruption of "rose-hiller"-a name early settlers applied to a very common bird in the suburbs of Rosehill, NSW.**

The rosella is on show at the Adelaide Museum.

Rosella is now applied to a number of brightly-coloured parrots, which occur in the wetter parts of Australia and Tasmania. The Adelaide rosella, the local member of the well-known red parrot (or crimson rosella) of eastern Australia, is numerous in the Mount Lofty Ranges. Its greenish young ones maybe seen in flocks with brick-red colored elders. This color difference has led some learned men to assert that there is more than one species of large parrot in Adelaide. The yellow rosella is common along irrigation areas of the River Murray. The green rosella lives in Tasmania and Bass Strait islands.

In the eastern States, the eastern rosella occurs as well as the red lowry , and it is also in small numbers in the Mount Lofty Ranges.

In Queensland, another species, the pale-headed or Moreton Bay rosella is a predominantly blue and yellowbird with whitish head. Northern Australia has its own rosella, the mealy or northern rosella. Similar in habits to its cousins of the south, it is a black-headed bird, with much yellow in the plumage.

The smallest of the group, the western rosella, occurs in south-western Australia. It is at once distinguished by its yellow cheek patches. These are mostly blue (as in the eastern rosella) in other species. Although rosellas do much harm 'certain horticultural areas' they are charming birds, and should not be molested un-less they become nuisances. They are popular cagebirds. MUSEUM FEATURETTE. (**1951, April 23**). *Barrier Miner* (Broken Hill, NSW : 1888 - 1954), p. 3. Retrieved from http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article45213

**AN ABORIGINAL LEGEND.**

(From a Correspondent of the Dark Telegraph.)Those who believe that the aborigines of Australia have had no oral traditions handed down to them are greatly mistaken, for they seem to have had a great many, and at their corroborees or festivals they retail little else than legendary lore. From some of the more intelligent of the Hotspur and Crawford River blacks I have eliminated the meaning of several of their historical phrases, the most interesting of which appears to be "The Two Moons." They say that long before the white man's first fathers, before the tarpaulins of the white fellows' ships were seen on the waters, Hotspur was a great country and very warm. In its forests roamed kangaroos and other native animals, but there were no white fellows' dogs, and birds' eggs were plentiful. The name of the country was Lewvhotte(sic). On its plains were abundance of sweet yams, and at all times water to boil them. There were two moons in those days-a red moon and a white moon. The white moon was very small, and the red moon very large. The white moon was much nearer to the earth than they are, but at length the great silent (big mealie) got angry, the white moon went away, the beasts and birds and the yams withered, and the hot springs became cold. **Then jumped up a class of smaller animals, and the rosella and white cockatoo.** The legend used seems to support the opinion of those who attribute an asterodal origin to Hew Holland, for if such an origin was possible the earth would assume the appearance of a great moon, always present to the astronomer, and more particularly to the inhabitants of the Wellington Caves, New South Wales, the remains of gigantic kangaroos and wombats have been found, which living must have far exceeded in size those whose skeletons in the present age. Although no remains of the yarnes can be found, they are abundant in the yam (1722[sic]) an terrible, sup-posed to be nearly as large as New Holland, passed across the Pacific Ocean so near its surface as to cause great devastation in its course. It is also supposed to have been the cause of the sinking of the islands and continental parts now found in those of the earth. What would appear a fatal addition to the velocity of the asteroid was the enormous heat which the water come from which supplied the boiled springs?" And unless we suppose the aqueous vapour in the form of ether through which the asteroid passed could be condensed in sufficient quantity for that purpose, we must assume that the legend was acquired from the missionaries in the early days of the colony. AN ABORIGINAL LEGEND. (**1870, September 1**). *Kilmore Free Press* (Kilmore, Vic. : 1870 - 1954), p. 4 Edition: MORNING . Retrieved from http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article76955339



GEELONG, Tuesday. A number of New Australians were fined in Geelong City Court today for having shot native birds in a sanctuary at the You Yangs Park. **The men had shot red wattle birds and white winged choughs**, which, they told, a Forestry officer, were, "good for eating." Alf Pica, Clifton st., Richmond, was fined £5 for shooting in a sanctuary, andwas ordered to pay 5/, the value of a red wattle bird he had shot, and £1/18/8 costs. Antonio Gitto, Cecil st., South Melbourne, who shot seven white-winged choughs, was fined £5 for shooting in a sanctuary, and ordered to pay 35/ and 15/ costs. Don Demarte, Cael st., North Melbourne, who shot five red wattlebirds, a fantail cuckoo, an eastern rosella and a crimson rosella, was fined £5 and ordered to pay 30/ and15/ costs. Leo Italiano, Peel st., North Melbourne, was fined £5 for trespassing on a sanctuary in search of native game. Mr A. Dunbavin Butcher, Fisheries and Game Department director, last night said destruction of native birds in Victoria was one of the biggest problems facing his department. Many migrants regarded our birds as "delicacies" and killed them for food. A costly campaign had been held in migrant hostels and organisations employing migrants to explain that native birds were protected, but it had failed. **Migrants killed native birds** . (**1955, June 16**). *The Argus*(Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1957), p. 7. Retrieved from http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article71888308

**AUSTRALIAN BIRDS.**

A special reporter of the Adelaide Register, writing in that paper on the 4th of February says:

Being a great lover of Australian birdsI often drop in to Mr John Foglia's shop at the west end of Rundle street to see if any rare or rare specimens have come to hand. For the last few weeks the trappers have been arriving from the country with large consignments of parrots and finches, and most of the birds found their way to Mr Foglia, as for years he has been preparing for the large shipment which he is taking away to Europe by the **S S *Rhein***, which will sail this afternoon. Nearly always when I left the bird shop I could not help regretting that South Australians know so little about their own beautiful native birds, and our ignorance of our own fauna is emphasized by the fact that the police seized 4000 or 5000 of Mr Foglia's birds at Port Adelaide on Friday afternoon, and then, realising that they had made a mistake, restored them and paid the dealer all expenses. It was rather childish for the police office to remark "They are the last birds I'll seize" because he had committed a blunder.



RHEIN," N. GERMAN LLOYD.

**Mr. Foglia is the largest bird dealer in Adelaide**, and he has been in the trade longer than anyone else here. This afternoon I visited his premises and **found that the birds ready for shipment. They numbered about 13,000, and were all for the Western Australia and at Colombo, and the total shipment will then aggregate 14,900.** The dealer has secured eleven tons of room on the top deck of the German boat. This alone costs £65. The expense is heavy in other directions. For instance Mr. Foglia is taking three men with him to look after the birds, and since the price of that is £25 per ton, he pays £75 for their passage. Then there is the food for the next year when Mr. W. Foglia, a son of Mr. J. Foglia, superintended a shipment home, canary seed was only £15 per ton, so the increased expense in this line alone is about £30. The great thing is to get the birds away in good condition, and as there was his many thousands of them to be fed for thirteen weeks, but this year he got them right on the spot. The present consignment cost £10 a week to keep.

**The great majority of the birds comprise the pretty green and yellow shell parrot or warbling grass parrot and the bright cheerful little zebra finch. One year Mr. Foglia shipped 10,000 shell parrots, while on another occasion his son took home15,000.** "I could sell them all to one big dealer," he remarked, "and I took three of these dens from seven o'clock on the morning till seven o'clock at night, to count them." *The Illustrated Book of Canaries and Cage Birds. English and Foreign* "gives some interesting particulars concerning the introduction of this graceful grass parrakeet, another name by which this bird is known. **Dr. Gould, whose "*Birds of Australia*" is a monument to the memory of the naturalist and his clever wife, took the first pair of his shell parrots to England in 1840.** Between 1840 and 1850 a pair of these little birds was worth from £20 to £25. About 1850 to 1855 a pair would cost about £5. Between 1855 and 1858 larger numbers of these parrakeets reached Europe, and their price sank to a couple of sovereigns. Then the importation of the birds increased enormously. The total importation of budgerigars, still another name for the bird, in London in the first six months of 1870 was over 50,000 pair, and they all found buyers. Twenty years ago Dr. Russ estimated that from 10,000 to 25,000 shell parrots were annually imported. Of late years there has been a remarkable decrease in the number of these birds brought to England. It was then nearly a common a cage bird as the canary. More or less pure varieties of them have been bred mostly in Belgium. Even a blue variety has occurred, and at least one breeder has, through careful selection, produced a breed of unusual size. It is to happen the other day who told me he had caught a pure **yellow shell parrot.** Flying with the flock of its green companions, it looked like a beautiful yellow butterfly. Like the grass parrakeets, the zebra finches are hardy cage birds, and they breed readily in captivity. Anyone who has travelled about the country at all will remember having seen flocks of these tripping little fellows. An English amateur once exhibited at the Crystal Palace a cage containing thirty-five zebra finches, the result of one season's breeding from two pairs.



Included in the 10,000 birds are a large number of the splendid-plumaged diamond sparrows or painted finch. These birds are wonderfully distributed over the country and are invariably noted at waters by explorers. **One case in the shop contained a dozen Lauderaster's or Mitchell's cockatoos.** This is one of the most beautiful and elegant of the genus yet discovered, but it does not readily learn to talk. **Mr. Foglia is also taking with him a fine lot of rose-breasted cockatoos, commonly called galahs, and twenty or thirty corellas, both of which varieties are capital talkers. A bird which Mr. Foglia is taking home for the first time is a bright, happy, nasty, brown pigeon, called the plumed partridge bronzewing.** They come from central Australia. They should carry well and find eager buyers in England. **One specimen of the little green pigeon is going over the sea, while the magnificent bronzewing and exquisite lavender-coloured crested pigeons are well represented. Included in the shipment are waxbill finches, diamond doves, bower birds** (about whose playgroundsquite a story could be written), **and Cape Barron geese**. The last-named birds are wholly protected, but Mr. Foglia has a sworn testimony that these birds were bred in captivity.



**The parrakeets in the collection are the grass or blood rump, the many-coloured, the blue bonnet or crimson bellied, Victorian rosella, Adelaide parrakeet, scrub rosella, the rock pebler, the blue-backed grass, the cockatiel, and five pairs of the exceedingly rare and exquisitely tinted Bourke's grass parrakeet**. The last-named was discovered by Major Sir Thomas Mitchell on the banks of the Bogan, New South Wales. With the exception of the Princess Alexandra parrakeet, this is the most difficult bird to procure, and it is much sought-after in England. Mr. Foglia expects to pick up a number of Port Lincoln parrots in Western Australia.



Mr. W. Foglia took a pair of **Prince Alexandra parakeets** to England last year, and they were subsequently purchased by Baron Rotshchild. There are not more than twenty of these birds in captivity. About the finest specimen in South Australia is one in the possession of Mr. K. K. Thomas. This was one of the birds the late Mr. C. Winnecke brought to Adelaide, and one of the few survivors of that lot. Mr. Thomas obtained the parrakeet when it was a fledgling and he has had it for ten years. It has been fed on canary seed, mixed plant food, and a little thistle. Mr. F. C. Benda, of the Northen Territory Department, has a hen bird (the cock died) which has laid several eggs. Mr. Gundy, of the Mount Torrens Agricultural Society, has two specimens, and Mr. L. C. E. Gee four birds. The only specimen that came under Gould's notice was shot at Howell's Ponds by Stuart's expedition and was brought back by Sir F. G. Waterhouse. Gould named it after the then Princess of Wales, now Queen of England. In the December number of the Public Service Review Mr. Lionel Gee describes a trip he took along the Hale River in company with a companion from Trinity College Cambridge and Fred, a



black boy.

Right: Magpie lark, Grallina cyanoleuca



Incidentally Mr Gee went to see if he could procure some **Princess Alexandra parrakeets**(above). Having described Clarenville, Mr. Gee says, "The usual cluster of aborigines, is in evidence, and we interview Jemima. Jemima is a stout, comely aboriginal lady of a certain age; but she has influence with the other natives and knows the habits of birds. Therefore, to Jemima we turn with a benign and philanthropic manner suggestive of benefits to come, for we want to get some young *Alexandra parrakeets*." Which was that one long-tail fellow sit down, Jemima ?' we asked. Long-tail fellow sit down all about this time,' him make 'em nest same time this away,' and Jemima points to the northward with her chin – blacks always point with the chin. 'You get 'emme little fellow ?' we asked. Me get 'emall right,' she said. 'Me give it plenty tucker, plenty baccia,' we said. ' All right, me get em nother day,' replied Jemima. And so the bargain was completed, and, it may be mentioned, faithfully kept on both sides. The birds do not nest in the hats itself, but near the head of its northern tributaries, and the sable Diana and her satellites had fortnight's 'walkabout' before they secured the specimens, which afterwards, with infinite pains and trouble, were triumphantly carted down to Adelaide. The boss of Clarenville gave us some interesting particulars regarding those birds. They are irregular in their visits; that is, they do not come to the ranges at all in bad seasons, but when the seasons are good and water and seeds are abundant, they appear regularly about the middle of September, and disappear again about the middle of December; and even when they are plentiful (according to the blacks) white men do not often see them, a fact which we afterwards verified. Trinity said that they migrated between Java and central Australia, but the scribe, remembering the opinions of ornithological experts in Adelaide - that the birds do not leave Australia- made a statement to that effect. Trinity became incoherently profane. The scribe derided. Trinity was understood to convey amid 'language' that he had actually seen the birds in Java. The scribe humbly apologised and suddenly remembered that Charley Winnecke (who has been called from labour) had once in conversation with him surmised that the birds came from tropical islands to the north-west."

In the way of animals Mr. Foglia **is taking kangaroos, euros, wallabies, opossums, bandicoots, and native squirrels** . Mr. Foglia goes first to Belgium. He expects to have his biggest sale at Antwerp. **AUSTRALIAN BIRDS** . (**1905, March 1**) *Morning Bulletin* (Rockhampton, Qld. : 1878 - 1954), p. 3. Retrieved from http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article53634503

**Photos by A J Gueedon, May, 2013.**


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**May 12 - 18, 2013: Issue 110**


## THE KANGAROO HUNT; OR, A MORNING IN THE MOUNTAINS.

**BY CHARLES HARPUR.**

AT length a belt of cedars tall
In a broad scoop, [a] and undertwined
With brushwood of each gadding kind.
And with the rankest vines,-is all
That interposing hides a scene
Where hunter never hath bootless been.'
'Tis entered-and a sound up springs,
Of lashing boughs and rushing wings!
In a desultorious throng,
Before, athwart, above, along,
What birds their varied plumes display
Many and beautiful are they!
The dove on burnished pinion strong
Hurries afar in sounding flight,
And the yevowalas (*b*) unfold
Their pointed wings of verdant gold
And fleetly flaming to the light
Above the doming cedars' height,
Each one singly hits the view
Like a volant crystolite.
And the rosella flashes through
The foliage orange, green, and blue
Mingling to one checkered hue.
It seems a creature of rainbow birth,
Though somewhat tarnished by the damp
Of its after life on earth ;
Or the scarlet satin bird (*c*)
Hangeth like a golden lamp
Where the berried bird is stirred :
While haply the king parrot, showing
Fall aloft his broad red breast,
Like a vast blood-rich ruby glowing,
Near it boldly sits at rest.
Or troops of rooks in loud Alarm
Mount the trees from arm to arm; (*d*)
While crowds of nameless twittering things
With rich-ringed glossy eyes, and necks
A]1 streaked and interstreaked, and wings
Spangled with rows of spark-like specks,
And tails with broad bailed blazonings.
And crimson backs, and bosoms bright
As the breast of a cloud in a sunset sky,
Or glance afar in gleamy flight
O'er the leafy domes of the cedars high,
Or lighten through the nearer shade,
Or sparkle aloft like stars new-rayed,
Or stream in flocks, fright-disarrayed,
Like shattered meteors by (*e*)
With these the noisy yellow-bill,
And the ground parrakeet, (*f*) screaming shrill
About of some high tussock near
It starts at once into the clear,
And seems while swiftly shooting higher
Imped with plumes of subtle fire;
So vividly it hues the light
As thus it blazes forth in flight;
And the whining quail that skims the brush,
And the soaring pie, (*g*) and the dodging thrush,
Precede the hunter as he pushes
Through clinging vines and flaunting bushes,
Or sternly chides the loitering dog
That scents the wild cat in the hollow log,
Or one that in pursuit would fly
As oft the dooaralli (*h*) rushes bounding by.

(a) Or delve, as I had written in explanation, but looking into Johnson, I find the word delve defined as a ditch, a pitfal, a den, &c. I had previously understood it to mean a broad dip in the land, regularly bevelling' from side to side, as if scooped out by art; and I still fancy that this is the idea it would convey to the country English, and to all those who have ruralised somewhat more than great lexicographers are in the habit of doing.

Delves, then, or scoopes of the kind mentioned in the text, are often several miles long, by about a quarter of a mile wide, though in places much narrower. And even when they occur on tablelands, or on the backs of broad ridges, the soil in them is more than commonly fertile, it being chiefly an alluvion from the rising grounds on either tide. Hence they are always thickly timbered, and with trees of an extraordinary height, and are densely brushed besides with white cedars, kerrijongs, and a great variety of wild vines and wood-creepers. Out of this undermas.s of umbrage, the boles of the taller trees shoot up like crowds of pillar?, supporting faralolt a second edition of dense foliage intertwined with runners of the kind described in a note to a subsequent portion of the Poem; and which mass of greenery, but for these its pillary supporters, were not unlike in distant appearance to a long and heapy stratum of darkly verdant cloud.

The multitude and variety of the feathered inhabitants of localities such as these are easily accounted for, by the fact, that many of the vines and creepers peculiar to them, are exceedingly prolific of seed-berries, and are besides the murmevrous haunts' of innumerable insects.
[b) *Yeroncala* is an aboriginal name of the blue mountain parrot"- the most splendid, to my thinking, of all our parrots. The rosella may be the more showy bird for a mouient, but even it will bear no comparison with the blue-mountainer. Those persons who have only seen this bird encaged, can have but a very imperfect notion of its native beauty. To arrive at an adequate ideaof this, we must snare or shoot in the forest afull plumed cock *yerowala;* and then the lustrous green of the whole back and wings, the bright yellow of the breast, and the indescribable blue of the head, do indeed compose for it an array most royal,

(c) This species of the satin-bird is somewhat rare. The whole of the back, including the wings, is of a bright red or scarlet. In a commoner sort the back and wings are of a glossy black; and in another 6pecies (if I recollect aright) the same divisions of the plumage are of a vivid straw colour our future ornithologists will look in vain for many kinds of birds which they will find mentioned in the earlier colonial records. Being rare even at first, these beautiful creatures often become exi met, and partly for the reason, that not only species, but whole genera of birds are confined in Australia to special, and, in some cases, very limited localities. I do not know whether this is so much the case in other new countries, but any observer of such matters who has travelled far into our interior, must be well aware that such is very remarkably the fact here. I have myself seen two sorts of parrots in the Kerrijong district that have never seen elsewhere, and particular birdsi n particular localities that I have beheld out of them. Nay, I saw, when a boy, in the wood about Windsor, no less than four peculiar kinds of birds, which I have never since met with, although.
I have travelled extensively over the country, and in almost every direction.

The unchecked increase of the large tree climbing guana in the waste portions of those districts in which the aboriginals have become extinct or nearly so, is a main cause of the edinction also of many kinds of our native birds. So numerous have these guanas become in the woods of our partly located districts, that in passing through these a mid-summer, we are apt to start one of them up every second or third tree ; Midhence, in such places only the nests of those birds that incubate early in the Spring and wholly exempt from the liability of being plundered by them. And if only for this reason, it is a pity that we Colonists do not esteem them as great a table delicacy as our sable forerunners-the former lords of the soil-undoubtedly did. For no doubt, when not too old, they are excellent eating,-something in taste between fish and fowl; and when baked, as the Blacks bake them, that is covered up like a damper in hot ashes, they have an exceedingly rich and stomach-provoking savour.

(d) What is here called the rook is a gregarious bird having much the appearance of our black magpie, but with less white under the wings and none in the tail. When at rest or alight, it appears to be thoroughly black, the white places under the wings being only perceptible while they are spread in flight. On being started from the ground, where it feeds, it, flies heavily to one of the lower arms of the nearest tree, from which it then hops to a higher, and a higher, as described in the text, rounding the trunk at each stage of ascent, until it reaches the top,-when, deeming itself pretty safe it would seem, it quietly looks down upon the cause of its previous alarm.

(e) Those persons who are unacquainted with the surprising brilliancy of many of our native birds, may be inclined to question the descriptive veracity of the text. They may suspect that its illustrations are too glossy, as the phrase goes. Yet its most vivid pictures are but faint copies of the originals. How indeed could the splendour of the regent bird, for example, be adequately compassed in words, or fully granted even in idea ? That superb creature must be seen with the bodily eveind in the full plumed glow of its forest freedom ere we can have a believing conception of anything so gorgeous. Then the diamond -bird, with its sky blue wings be-droptd with miniature stars,-how flight a poet fully describe it, or a painter, even sufficiently paint it? And so of many others of our Australian birds - things of beauty' that Poetry can only catalogue at the best, and Palatine suggest.

(f) What is here called the ground parrakeet, from its always feeding upon the ground-on grass seed it is likely-is a small bird of exceeding beauty. To some extent it is even more splendid than the Yerowala. Its prevailing colour is green, variagated with bright yellow blazes in the wings and tail. While at rest, however, it is a small queen bird of no very brilliant appearance; but no sooner are its wings and tail dispread in flight, than it becomes vivid as fire. There are, however, several varieties of this kind of parrot, all somewhat different coloured ; and one of these, though less splendid than the one above described, is yet more intensely beautiful upon a close inspection.

(g.) As I have before noted, there are at least two kinds of so called magpies - the ' black and white,' or Australian magpie proper, and the' black' or migratory magpie, a bird less spotted. Both of these birds are remarkable for the beauty of their eye, though the former is not in this respect at all comparable with the latter; the eyes of which are so strikingly fine, that my son Washington, when about four years old, was wont to refer to it through this characteristic-calling it' the big black bird with the new eyes.'

(h) *Dovralli* is the name the Blacks of some parts of the interior give to the animal commonly called the Kangaroo-rat.
(To be continued.)
THE KANGAROO HUNT; OR, A MORNING IN THE MOUNTAINS. (1860, October 6). The Australian Home Companion and Band of Hope Journal (Sydney, NSW : 1859 - 1861), p. 13. Retrieved May 11, 2013, from http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article72484897

" Blue mountain parrot is what we call now rainbow lorrikeet

Judith Wright, in Authority and Influence: Australian Literary Criticism 1950-2000, states, "*Charles Harpur seems to have chosen his calling early. His life from his youth onward was to be remarkable for the tenacity and dedication with which he clung to the almost impossible task of laying the foundation for an Australian poetry, under conditions that would have discouraged most writers.*"

**Charles Harpur** (1813-1868) Determined to be labelled Australia's 'first poet' Charles Harpur pursued a literary career and was known as a critic through publication of many pieces in colonial Australia. Born on 23 January 1813 at Windsor on the Hawkesbury river to Joseph Harpur and Sarah, née Chidley, both convict transportees who arrived in 1800 and 1806 respectively, Charles Harpur seemed determined to become a respected amateur naturalist (a then popular fashion) and was aided in this pursuit as is father became a schoolmaster and taught him or gave him access to English poets.

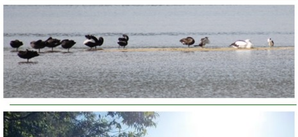
The patronage of Governor Lachlan Macquarie, John Macarthur, Samuel Marsden and theThomas Hassall family benefited Joseph Harpur materially and in social status, so that a prosperous home and its leisure, access to private libraries, and his father's encouragement enabled Charles to acquire an education beyond what would otherwise have been his lot. During four decades Harpur's contributions to the periodical press were undoubtedly more numerous than those of any other Australian writer. These were either literary: verse and criticism; or political: republican, against transportation, for self-government and adult franchise, for opening up of the land. His writings were given these directions very early, for even in the 1820s other Australian youths, Currency Lads, had literary as well as political ambitions for their country. Among these were Charles Tompson, Joseph Harpur, John Walker Fulton and Horatio Wills. William Charles Wentworth was their hero. Horatio Wills's paper, the *Currency Lad*, published Harpur's early verse.

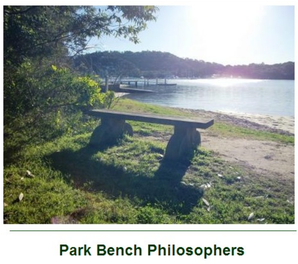
Harpur associated with, and his work was admired by, literary men of the day: Duncan, Nicol Stenhouse, Henry Halloran, Henry Parkes, W. G. Pennington, James Norton, Dr John Le Gay Brereton, D. H. Deniehy and Henry Kendall. The last two were ardent admirers, though there were less panegyrical critics. After a period of belittlement some modern critics have come to claim a higher place in our estimation for a poet who, in the words of Henry Mackenzie Green, was 'the first to break through the tough crust of a crude materialistic age and compel the attention of at least a few to the fact of poetry's emergence in this new country' and who, as Judith Wright sees him, 'remains the most significant, because the most many-sided and thoughtful, of our nineteenth-century poets, until Brennan began writing at the end of the century'.

Besides being a poet, Harpur saw his role as that of a patriot, not a chauvinist, whose task it was to help make his country worthy of esteem, and to lead and to warn and to strike at wickedness in high places and in low, and like some Hebrew prophet to thunder judgment. While, he said, nothing could shake his belief in God, he rejected all Christian sects, Unitarianism coming nearest to his conception of religion. But his standards were high, his standards for individual righteousness and for collective and governmental morality. He could not keep silent, whether it were friend or foe who offended. There was much to thunder about in mid-century Sydney and much to sadden a sensitive poet with the outlook of a seer and prophet.1.

1. J. Normington-Rawling, 'Harpur, Charles (1813–1868)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/harpur-charles-2158/text2759

Charles Harpur (1813-1868), by unknown photographer, 1860s National Library of Australia, nla.pic-an23436164





## Park Bench Philosophers

**We welcome contributions from all Pittwater residents in the form of anecdotes, memories, stories, poems or even matters you'd like to see addressed or changed in our area.**

**If you have something you'd like to share, something you'd like to start a discussion about, or even just a poem or story from yesterday or today we want to hear from you.**

Contact us at: pittwateronlinenews@live.com.au

**Please note that Pittwater Online News does not endorse any of the content of works contributed. Articles which contain swearing or may offend others will not be accepted. Please note that all works are posted unedited; you are the author, this is your page. Word Limit: 2000.**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# Pittwater Online News

Your trusted local community newspaper

Wednesday, 1 May 2013

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## Author/Artist Talk

Tuesday 14 May, 10.30 am - 12 noon

Free Reading Room, Mona Vale Library

Mona Vale Library, Pittwater Council's Free Reading Room, Mona Vale Road, Mona Vale

Pittwater Council's Free Reading Room at Mona Vale Library is hosting an Author/Artist Talk on Tuesday 14 May, 10.30 am - 12 noon.

Author Jeanette Rowe will be talking about her book, Whales That Sing, and Artist Jo Hall will be talking about her book, Australian Bush Flowers.

Whales That Sing is a delightful story about a humpback whale who is born with a song that no one can hear. Jeanette Rowe's book is beautifully illustrated by Jo Hall.

Australian Bush Flowers is a book of botanical paintings by Jo Hall, with descriptions of the flowers by Jo Hall and Jeanette Rowe.

Jeanette Rowe is a Pittwater author who has written a number of books for children. Jo Hall is a Pittwater artist who has had a number of exhibitions of her botanical paintings.

Whales That Sing and Australian Bush Flowers will be available for purchase at the talk.

Bookings are essential. Please call Mona Vale Library on 9970 1111 to book your place.

Mona Vale Library, Pittwater Council's Free Reading Room, Mona Vale Road, Mona Vale

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Sponsored by Pittwater Council's Free Reading Room, Mona Vale Library

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## Songs for Scholars 2013 - Get a Digger Involved

Tuesday, 30 April 2013

# Pittwater Online News

Front Page | Contents | Park Bench Philosophers | Profile of the Week | History | Children | Youth | Seniors | Environment | Food | Lynda Hill | Pictures | Community News | Inbox News | Books | Events | Artist of the Month | Reflections | DIY Hints | Collector's Corner | Past Features

**May 12 - 18, 2013: Issue 110**


## Southern Cross Wildlife Care

***"If I can do something to alleviate the stress, pain and suffering of these animals....that's why I do this work."***
***Dr. Howard Ralph, Founder***

Recently we attended a fundraiser for Southern Cross Wildlife Care and met the great team led by Dr. Howard Ralph, a skilled veterinarian who has saved thousands of our native wildlife of every furred, finned, scaled and feathered kind. Southern Cross Wildlife Care has an affirmed policy of '***every critter is welcome because every creature belongs***'. However, Wildlife veterinarians with this level of skill are few and far between. Add to that a commitment that has developed the apparatus required and worked out the chemical balance needed to administer anaesthetics to animals weighing from a few grams to several kilograms and you get some insight to the level of care constantly being developed and maintained here. This does not communicate witnessing a tall giant hold gently a tiny injured ringtail possum and instantly know what is wrong and what can be done to heal this though. A sense of someone who has done this so well and for so long they breathe it is solid, tangible, replete.

If all those he has saved could speak Dr Ralph would have been Australian of the Year every year for decades now and those who support his work deftly communicate in a language you too speak what our Australian Native animals are saying right now.... 'save us, help us, we are being maimed, shot, trapped, hunted, run over and left in agony at the sides of your roads, killed to the point of extinction.'

Every place has unique wildlife that have developed and made gardens of Eden all around the world, in air, water and on earth. If we continue to lose our doe eyed and brilliant ones at the rate we currently are we will lose much more then the purest essence of our land, we will also lose our sentient connection with knowing what it is to really be alive. You cannot buy being able to stand in your yard and hear one bird after another sing through the trees and all this brings to your senses, not if the birds are all gone. You cannot purchase any visual entertainment that will let you experience being in scrubland and hearing then seeing a kangaroo come towards you then bound across your path before the bush is quiet again. You cannot buy being really really alive even if it is the one thing you may be here to know, to taste and experience. You can invest in it though, make sure your children may know this too, go without your coffee in cafes for a week, and put the cents/sense saved into this kind of work. You will get a tiny trill of it then, maybe even see a doe eyed wonderful blinking wisely at you out the corner of your eye.

This week we are very privileged to share a small insight into another Pittwater wonder – the Southern Cross Wildlife Care organisation and its works. We thank Lindy Stacker, one of the SCWC volunteers, for her generous help in compiling this profile and answering our questions.

When did Southern Cross Wildlife begin?

Southern Cross Wildlife Care was launched over 5 years ago now. It was the brainchild of Dr Howard Ralph, the founder and chief veterinarian.

What does SCWC do?

SCWC was established solely for the purpose of treating injured, sick and orphaned wildlife. No wild creature in need that passes through our doors is ever rejected. They all receive the care and attention that they deserve by our incredible vet and volunteer vet nurses and our small team of committed 'helpers'. We are in the privileged position of having our own consultant veterinarian with special expertise in the treatment and care of native fauna and who has a wealth of experience in this undervalued field. Howard is highly skilled but more importantly 'highly compassionate'. Many people can acquire these skills but compassion and empathy is a rare virtue, especially when one **receives no remuneration** for their dedication. Howard has in fact devoted most of his life to treating wildlife on a 24/7 basis. He never has any down time and has had few holidays in the decades he has been caring for our precious wildlife that so few others value with this level of concern.

Please share an insight into the scope of these works.

Howard treats animals (wildlife) from hundreds of miles away and some carers come from interstate. Remarkable as this is, these wildlife carers often have no one else to turn to and go to great lengths to ensure that their 'friends' receive the best treatment available. Howard never gives up even on the most hopeless of 'cases' whilst they have breath in their bodies. Birds come to him that have not even had their broken wings strapped or splinted by other vets. These procedures would take only a few minutes. Many are not given pain relief or sedatives. Fractures are a constant issue, with many not treated at all ie. with splints/ bandage strapping or anti- biotics. Our aim is of course to return all these desperate creatures back into their original 'habitat' but this isn't always possible. Our carers spend a lot of time following various procedures in order to rehabilitate all of these animals in need. Some animals die sadly even under the expert care of Howard, who takes every loss to heart. Even though Howard has a admirable success rate(considering many animals are bought to him on death's door)some animals can't be saved regardless of the attention and expert medical care they receive. Having said this, I actually have seen Howard resurrect the dead in front of my very own eyes. Howard does create miracles.

What plans for the future does SCWC have?

Howard will continue to work to save wildlife until he absolutely no longer can. Even then I believe we will have to forcibly hold him down. We are always looking for dedicated veterinarians who are willing to offer their time (volunteer) to assist Howard and to become better skilled in relation to the many species of wildlife we are fortunate to have in this country. One of our major achievements was to establish our wildlife care centre at Braidwood (near Goulburn). This has been a dream of ours for many years. It is a facility with up to date medical equipment and we are all very proud of this achievement which came to fruition without any government funding. All of the renovations, equipment and medical supplies was financed by kind supporters, friends and many fundraisers.

How can everyone help?

People can assist SCWC by volunteering their skills ie: veterinary, medical; experienced wildlife carers; fundraising; "IT" skills; media; admin; website etc. We are always having to address the issue of finances as we are a non commercial veterinary service for wildlife in need, who obviously don't have cheque books in their pouches. It is a constant concern and struggle of ours when we are pre-occupied with the care and treatment of the escalating amount of wildlife that we have to deal with. Just becoming a member of SCWC for $45 a year would be a great help. Regular monthly donations however small, would be a wonderful gift and we could plan ahead knowing that we had x amount of funds that we could count on. Our small team of volunteers are all unpaid even our amazing vet Howard, so all funds raised go directly towards our precious wildlife. We are now TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

Are there any favourite release sites in Pittwater?

It's hard to pick one or two favourite sites in Pittwater, it's a beautiful area and the entire Pittwater basin is amazingly spectacular. We are very lucky to be living on the northern beaches. Release sites for wildlife are becoming more and more difficult to find though. Some wildlife can not be re-homed in their original 'habitat' because the area or site is totally inappropriate and unsafe.

What is Southern Cross wildlife Care's 'motto for life' or a favourite phrase you try to live by?

Essentially our motto for life would be '***appreciate our wildlife***'... often we are the last hope for wildlife and Howard certainly puts life back into the wild. ***Do no harm*** I believe Howard would say and value those who are defenceless.

***Be a voice for wildlife for they deserve our concern and empathy.***

**Southern Cross Wildlife Care Website at: southerncrosswildlifecare.org.au/wp/**

Dr. Howard Ralph, 2013.

Left to right: Eira Battaglia (NB Roadkill); Peter and Sue Glasson, Lynleigh Grieg, Lindy Stacker, Dr Howard Ralph (all Southern Cross Wildlife Care); Sonja Elwood (Sydney Wildlife). Front: Kayleigh Grieg.


**Copyright Southern Cross Wildlife Care, 2013.**

Tweet | Like | +1

May 12 - 18, 2010, Issue 318

# Royal Navy and Royal Australian Navy Ships Visit Pittwater and Broken Bay – Training Days, Fleet Exercises and the Love of the Navy

The fleet that was engineered as short term to the needs of WWII, 1,500 vessels to equip the Royal Navy and the Commonwealth of Nations, was destined to be scrapped or sold off to other navies. Many of the ships were built in Australia. The Royal Navy's Pacific Fleet was based in Australia and operated out of Sydney Harbour during the Korean War.

Pittwater has always been a haven for ships and since women in the Royal Navy and the Royal Australian Navy first joined the ranks in 1941 and 1942 respectively, Pittwater has been a haven for them. **HMS Tobruk** (1941 - 1946), **HMS Anzac** (1941 - 1946), **HMS Quadrant** (1941 - 1946), **HMS Quiberon** (1941 - 1946), **HMS Quilliam** (1941 - 1946), **HMS Quickmatch** (1941 - 1946), **HMS Quality** (1941 - 1946), **HMS Quentin** (1941 - 1946), **HMS Quadrille** (1941 - 1946), **HMS Quail** (1941 - 1946), **HMS Quest** (1941 - 1946), **HMS Quorn

# Pittwater Online News



May 12 - 18, 2013: Issue 110

## Welcome...

to our brand new page for all you who are not teenagers yet but like finding out about what's interesting for you. On this page we'll share news, events and bring you some great entertainment from a the past and the present.

If you have something you want to share or something you'd like us to find out more about you can contact us here; we'd love to hear from you!! Just talk to mum or dad about it first and make sure you have their permission and let them give you a hand.

**For you this week:** Pacific Black Duck taking a bath at Careel Creek

### Planting seeds on the front lawn for tomorrow's students - 9 May 2013

The University of Sydney's iconic front lawns became a giant outdoor classroom for 700 eight- and nine-year-olds yesterday.

For most of these students, drawn from 13 primary schools across Sydney, maths has been the greater weed and the south west, Year Three Discover University was their first hands-on experience of university life.

"The event is part of the "Discover" phase of our programs," said Annette Cairnduff, Director of Social Inclusion at the University of Sydney. The initiative also includes activities at each school before and after their University visit.

The students left with stones of mummies, marshmallows, beebots and bridge making - and possibly a bit of Hogwarts. More importantly they have now been to a university campus, met and talked with students, academics and researchers, and got a feel for what goes on at the University of Sydney," added Cairnduff.

Each child undertook four of 32 activities provided by 13 faculties at the University, as well as by theARC Centre of Excellence for the History Of Emotion, Sydney University Sport and Fitness and theSydney University Museums and Gallery.

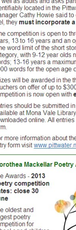
Ruqaya from Fairfield Public School learnt about some of the basics of engineering: "We got to build a bridge with lollies and we had to put blocks together and see how much they weighed." Her friend Marthoua learnt about an important issue for the continuing spread of illness: "I washed my hands and cleaned them and checked them with a special light to see if there were still germs."

Chloe from Revesby South Public School was given a set of paintings and asked to design an art exhibition, before moving onto a class about power in Australia: "We went to an art gallery and we learnt how to put pictures together and be art curators. Then we learnt about the Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, and voting."

Annette Cairnduff says the idea behind the program is the crucial role early exposure to tertiary education plays in the choices children make later on. "Research tells us that the majority of students who are currently at university began thinking about it in primary school," she says.

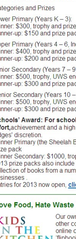
Last year more than 12,000 primary and high school students participated in the University's Compass program. More than 30,000 students have taken part in the program since it began in 2009. "We are really starting to see the impact of our work in schools as the kids move up through into high school and senior school," Cairnduff said.

"We couldn't do this work without the terrific and dedicated engagement of staff and students from faculties and central areas of the University," she added.



The University of Sydney's *Compass – find your way to higher education* ( Compass') program encourages primary and secondary school students to participate in higher education.

It is a partnership between the University of Sydney, the NSW Department of Education and Communities, and selected secondary and primary schools in Sydney. This partnership will also expand to regional areas of NSW during 2012.




PITTWATER COUNCIL

### PITTWATER SHORT STORY COMPETITION

Pittwater residents with a flair for writing are invited to enter the 2013 Pittwater Short Story competition. The competition which is run by Mona Vale Library and Berkelouw Books is open to children as well as adults and asks participants to write a short story that is identifiable located in the Pittwater area. Mona Vale Library Manager Cathy Howie said to give entries a distinctive Pittwater feel, they **must incorporate a reference to 'sandy feet'**.

"The competition is open to three age groups, including 9 to 12 years, 13 to 16 years and an open age group," said Mrs Howie. "The word limit of the short story varies depending on the age category, with 12 year olds needing to submit no more than 500 words; 13-16 years a maximum of 1000 words and no more than 2000 words for the open age category."

Prizes will be awarded in the three age categories, with book vouchers on offer of up to $300 in the open category. The competition is now open with **entries closing on 7 June**.

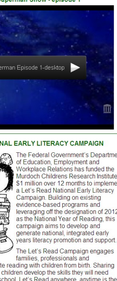
Entries should be submitted in hard copy only. Entry forms are available at Mona Vale Library and Berkelouw Books or can be downloaded online. All entries must be accompanied by an entry form.

For more information about the competition and to download an entry form visit www.pittwater.nsw.gov.au/library

### Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards - 2013

The Awards - **2013 poetry competition dates: close 30 June**

The oldest and largest poetry competition for school aged children in Australia. The aim of the Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards is to capture




the imagination of school students across Australia, inspiring them with a passion for poetry and a love of country. It is a unique national project, giving Australia's youth a voice and an opportunity to strive for excellence in literature.

Categories and Prizes

Lower Primary (Years K – 3)
Winner. $300, trophy and prize pack
Runner-up. $150 and prize pack

Upper Primary (Years 4 – 6, Inc. Year 7 in QLD, WA, SA)
Winner. $400, trophy and prize pack
Runner-up. $200 and prize pack

Junior Secondary (Years 7 – 9)
Winner. $500, trophy, UWS engraved iPod Touch and prize pack
Runner-up. $300 and prize pack

Senior Secondary (Years 10 – 12)
Winner. $500, trophy, UWS engraved iPad and prize pack
Runner-up. $300 and prize pack

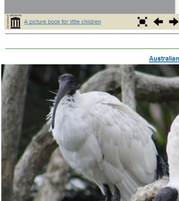
**Schools' Award: For schools that demonstrate effort,**achievement and a high standard of entries, awarded at the judges' discretion
Winner Primary (the Sheelah Bader award) : $1000, trophy and prize pack
Winner Secondary: $1000, trophy and prize pack
2013 prize packs also include a unique trophy and a wonderful collection of books from a number of publishing houses and businesses.
Entries for 2013 now open, **click here to enter online**

### Love Food, Hate Waste Cookbook

Our own Pittwater Council has joined with other councils in our area to produce an online cookbook especially for children. This 'flipbook' Program allows you to read through and get some great ideas on how to use leftover veggies to make great pasta or make mini pizza. Yum !

Love food hate waste book HERE

### The Superman Show - episode 1




### LET'S READ NATIONAL EARLY LITERACY CAMPAIGN

The Federal Government's Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations has funded the Murdoch Childrens Research Institute $1 million over 12 months to implement a Let's Read National Early Literacy Campaign. Building on existing evidence-based programs and leveraging off the designation of 2012 as the National Year of Reading, this campaign aims to develop and generate national, integrated early years literacy promotion and support.

The Let's Read Campaign engages families, professionals and communities to promote reading with children from birth. Sharing books from birth helps children develop the skills they will need when it's time to start school. Let's Read anywhere, anytime is the national campaign call to action for families, carers and early childhood education professionals to share rhymes, songs and stories and books every day. The campaign uses a multi-tiered approach to engage families, professionals and communities in a range of messages relevant to children's early literacy development from birth to five years.

Let's Read was developed by the Royal Children's Hospitals Centre for Community Child Health, Melbourne.

DOWNLOAD A FREE READING PACK!

These reading tips and tools support families to share rhymes, songs and stories with children anywhere, anytime from birth to five years.

### A picture book for little children (1812)

Trial Singing Session and Sign up, Avalon Rec. Centre, May 16th

### Songfish - The Northern Beaches community choir for children

Songfish is a vibrant choir for school aged kids. There are no auditions, we sing and play music because it's fun. And, yes, we are planning to do other cool stuff like write songs, make film clips, dance, drum and create amazing artwork with local artists.

**Our aims are to:**

Make friends and music.

Have fun singing, dancing, drumming and doing workshops with local artists.

Create a positive environment that is non-judgmental and fosters emotional intelligence and compassion.

Learn how to support each other and sing with real harmony.

Put on fabulous performances that benefit our community and the world!

Venue: Avalon Recreation Centre. Cost: Free (but you must register).

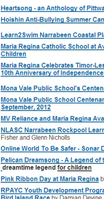
**Register:** /www.songfishchoir.com/pdf.html

**5 Week Program**

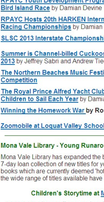
Starts Thursday 23rd May at the Avalon Recreation Centre. Cost $50 (or less depending on the number of participants). Time: 4.30 to 6pm. Website: www.songfishchoir.com/

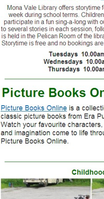
**Songfish Choir is not for profit**

### Rudimental - "Feel The Love" ft. John Newman




### Tom Terrific- Go West young Manfred (1958)




**National Geographic online fun For little kids:**

Online Fun, games and a magazine they can subscribe to, all vetted by industry experts on this award winning website

HERE

### Keep children safe online

The Easyguide to Socialising Online is available here

The Cybersafety Help Button is available to download free of charghere

More information about the ACMA's Cybersmart program is here

**Stories for you already run:**

Adrenalin 360 Surf and Skate Competition and Kids Festival

Are You up to the RED BELT CHALLENGE by Hoshin Australia

ArtFest 2013 - Biannual Children's Art Exhibition

Australian Ibis for Children

Avalon Bulldogs Season Open Pictorial

Avalon Sailing Club Teaches A Novice To Sail

Bilgola Plateau Public School - Sustainable Practices

Bilgola Student and Avalon lady attend Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Veterans 6th Annual Commemorative Service at Hyde Park.

Bilgola Plateau's NAIDOC Week Celebrations: Darinyung Sculpture and Under A Starry Sky

Dance Fever 2012 by Peta Wise

Grandparents Day 2012 by Peta Wise

Harvest Day 2012 at Maria Regina Avalon by Alexis Conn and Peta Wise

Heartsong - an Anthology of Pittwater Poetry Launched

Hoshin Anti-Bullying Summer Camp 2012

Learn2Swim Narrabeen Coastal Platform Tour for children

Maria Regina Catholic School at Avalon: Christmas Crafts for Children

Maria Regina Celebrates Timor-Leste's 10th Anniversary of Independence 2012

Mona Vale Public School's Centenary Launch

Mona Vale Public School Centenary Festival Day 15th of September, 2012

MV Reliance and Maria Regina Avalon - Clareville Outing

NLASC Narrabeen Rockpool Learn to Swim Program by J P Fisher and Glenn Nicholls

Online World To Be Safer - Sonar Dolphins Arise!

Pelican Dreamsong - A Legend of the Great Flood - dreamtime legend for children

Pink Ribbon Day at Maria Regina by Joanne Seves

RPAYC Youth Development Program Graduates Win 2012 Bird Island Race by Damian Devine

RPAYC Hosts 20th HARKEN International Youth Match Racing Championships by Damian Devine

SLSC 2013 Interstate Championships - at Newport

Summer is Channel-billed Cuckoos Season - Fledglings 2013 by Jeffrey Sabri and Andrew Teale

The Northern Beaches Music Festival's YOUNGBLOOD'S Competition

The Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club Teaches over 600 Children to Sail Each Year by Damian Devine

Winning the Homework War by Rosemary Smith

Zoomobile at Loquat Valley School, Bayview

### Mona Vale Library - Young Runarounds!

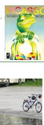
Mona Vale Library has expanded the books available through their 7 day loan collection of new titles for younger readers. These are all books which are currently deemed 'hot' in local book stores. To see the wide range of titles available have a look HERE.

**Children's Storytime** at Mona Vale Library

Mona Vale Library offers storytime for pre-school children every week during school terms. Children and their carers come and participate in a fun sing-a-long with our story teller as well as listen to several stories in each session, followed by some craft. Storytime is held in the Pelican Room of the library in front of the service desk. Storytime is free and no bookings are required. Storytime Sessions

**Tuesdays 10.00am - 11.00am**
**Wednesdays 10.00am - 11.00am**
**Thursdays 10.00am - 11.00am**

## Picture Books Online



Picture Books Online is a collection of classic picture books from Era Publications. Watch your favourite characters, stories and imagination come to life through Picture Books Online.

**Childhood...**

### Children's Bedtime Story - Cosmo The Boat Cat

Tweet Like G+1

Australian Ibis for Children



Tweet Like G+1

# PittwaterOnline News



May 12 - 18, 2013, Issue 129

**Front Page Issue** 129 May could be for people who say it's 'my 1st birthday' or maybe more than their own number! Anyway, The next issue will be the 130th issue of PittwaterOnline News. Thanks for your support and readership.

For your chance to win, send us a letter of how you're helping the environment in your community. Letters must be received by Monday 13 May 2013.

**Sunday May 26**, 11.15am, Performance Studio, **Free, no bookings**

**FUN AND GAMES WITH LIBBY AND JOTHAM**

Tickets inside the hall, suitable/recommended for children 5 to 12 years. Join Libby and Jotham for a fun filled hour of singing, games, puppets and stories. Libby is a children's entertainer who has been described by parents and children alike as a wonderful mix of Play School, Hi-5 and Wiggles. Jotham is a talented young musician who has been playing the piano since he was 3 years old. He is also a keen sportsman and plays soccer, cricket and tennis.

**Get Smarter in your Spare Time - ONLINE !**

New Starting 30th of April 2013 - Online Courses Commencing. Learn a Practical Skills this Autumn/Winter. **Free open courses** in industry skills, Business, Trades, Health, Community Services, Arts and Creative Industries. Learn from the comfort of your own home, at your own pace, with the support of your tutor and fellow students. Get an education, here's your chance!

Call 1300 799 232 or visit www.tafensw.edu

Get free online courses in high demand training universities. The collection of courses are FREE from dozens of the finest and most prestigious universities around the world. Learn from the comfort of your own home, at your own pace, with the support of your tutor and fellow students.

**Collaborating Pentecost Victoria High School Students Identify Solar Energy Solutions for Rapid Pacific Island Development** - May 1, 2013 - **Only one a class of 30 high school students from Pentecost Island in Vanuatu has ever seen electricity, nothing in the world of power.** Now, they're learning how to harness the sun's energy to power their village. Through a series of games & using a computer for something other than school work, students are learning about solar energy. Their goal is to design a solar system for their village. Pentecost Island is one of 83 islands that make up the Pacific island nation of Vanuatu.

Pentecost Victoria High School students threatened the self-sufficiency of their village by cutting down trees for firewood. Now, they're learning how to harness the sun's energy to power their village. Adventure ABC, Kitwill, Jihad of Deeds/Jannat and Alphamania are all part of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation's (ABC) "Although teenagers generally are interested in computer games, they're not usually interested in learning about them. Now, students are using what they've learned to brainstorm ways to solve problems in their village."

The lessons have adapted ideas from the Kitwill Youth Rock Science Challenge, which was developed by Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) science teacher Jihad of Deeds/Jannat and Alphamania.

For the first time, the 2011 science project students attended the Asia Pacific Conference in Fiji. Here, they presented their ideas to a panel of international judges. Students from Australia, Fiji and Vanuatu gathered to take a computer for something they've not been allowed to touch before. Now, they're learning how to harness the sun's energy to power their village.

Here's a link to a computer for something they've not been allowed to touch before.

Here's a link to a computer for something they've not been allowed to touch before.

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# Pittwater Online News



May 12 - 18, 2013, Issue 110

## May 2013 - States of Culture

**News Tree:** Melbourne, Cadle Trams and Melbourne in 1910.
Suggestions can be forwarded to the editor HERE

### Melbourne's Cable Trams by Neville Govett between 1922 and 1940.

George Cowell, 1788-1868, arrived in Van Diemen's Land in 1823 and in 1826 he and his wife Mary Ann (nee Kent) and their family settled in Melbourne. Cowell was a brother of Mary Ann Kent, wife of Governor Sir George Arthur, and a cousin of Duke of Kent. In 1853 he purchased Parklands at Kurrajong, Victoria from William Kent and Cowell Street, Curl Curl, Sydney was named after him including William Street (now Clement Place), Cowell Street, Cowell Crescent, Cowell Lane, Clement St. Cowell served with the British Army in Ireland and India and was a Captain in the 39th Foot. He served later in Korea during the Crimean War and was promoted Major in 1851.



The Melbourne cable tram system was a unique cable car public transport system from 1885 to 1940 in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. The system grew to 28 kilometres (17.7 miles) of double track by 1891, and operated 115 trailer cars and 510 motor cars and trailers, with 1,312 employees. The system was the largest cable tramway outside the United States of America. Cable trams were introduced to combat the congestion caused by horse trams, which were unable to climb the steep hills in the city centre. The Melbourne cable tram system was developed by Francis Clapham, the Chief Engineer of the Melbourne Tramway and Lighting Company (MMTL). The first line, from Spring Street to Richmond, was opened on 11 November 1885. The system was progressively extended to electric trams with the last Melbourne cable tram service ceasing on 11 December 1940. Only a few cable trams survive around the world - **compared with the original cable systems in the world** - comparable with the San Francisco and Chicago cable tramway systems. Melbourne's cable tramway system was the most extensive in the Southern Hemisphere, and possibly the world's largest cable tramway network. The network in Melbourne was built by local engineers, and was considered to be one of the most successful, and was operated by the Melbourne Tramway and Omnibus Company from 1885 to 1916 with the exception of the North/West tramway, which was operated by the Melbourne Cable Tramway Company operated by the Government, and Lygon/Elgin Line, which was operated by the Melbourne Tramway Trust. Eventually all of the North/West tramway was transferred to the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board (MMTB) in 1919.

Although the first electric tram was introduced in 1889 at Brighton Beach, it was not until 1906 that the first electric tram ran in the city centre, and the cable tram system was not completely replaced by electric trams until 1940. The Melbourne cable tram system was built by the North Melbourne Electric Tramway and Lighting Company (NMETL). The first line, from Spring Street to Richmond, was opened on 11 November 1885. The system was progressively extended to electric trams with the last Melbourne cable tram service ceasing on 11 December 1940. Only a few cable trams survive around the world - compared with the original cable systems in the world.



**MARVELLOUS MELBOURNE - QUEEN CITY OF THE SOUTH, 1910**

Scenes shown include: Panorama of Melbourne from the Eastern Hill; Flinders Street; Bourke Street; Collins Street; Swanston Street; a moving view from the cable tram; Elizabeth Street; Collins Street; Little Collins Street; and Elizabeth Street, Main buildings shown include: Town Hall; Post Office; Parliament House; Victoria Barracks; Government House; Treasury Gardens; Shrine of Remembrance; Exhibition Building; Flagstaff Gardens; Observatory; Statue of the Nicholas Children; Statue of Burke and Wills; Statue of Queen Victoria; Royal Mint; Flinders Street Station. Shipping in the Yarra and St Kilda Pier.



AVALON COMPUTER PALS FOR SENIORS
HERE



Avalon Computer Pals



**GIVE IT TO YOUR GRANDCHILDREN !**

Grandparents, have you ever given any money to your grandchildren as a gift, and then wished you hadn't? Or have you ever bought a present for your grandchildren, and then found out that they already had it? Or have you ever bought a present for your grandchildren, and then found out that they already had it? Or have you ever bought a present for your grandchildren, and then found out that they already had it

# Pittwater Online News



**May 12 - 18, 2013: Issue 110**

## Climate Change 'Not Human Activity' Led to Megafauna Extinction - May 5, 2013

Most species of megafauna - animals over 44 kg - died out in Australia around the time humans arrived, a major review of the available evidence has concluded.

The research overturns the claim that humans were responsible for the extinction of the megafauna in a process of "extinction window" between 40,000 and 50,000 years ago, and points the finger instead at climate change.

**An international team led by the University of New South Wales, Australian National University, Griffith University, Queensland, the University of New England, and the University of Washington, carried out the study. It is published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.**

"The interpretation that humans drove the extinction rests on circumstantial evidence and assumptions that are now in question. Humans may have played some role in the form of 'prey naïveté' that were still surviving when people arrived about 45,000 to 50,000 years ago, but the timing of their disappearance does not support a human role," Professor Chris Johnson from UNSW, the lead author of the study.

"There has never been any direct evidence of humans preying on extinct megafauna in Sahul, or even of a tool kit that was specialised for hunting them," he said.

About 90 giant animal species went extinct in the Sahul region, which included mainland Australia, New Guinea and Tasmania.

"These lowlanders included the largest marsupial that ever lived - the two-tonne Diprotodon - as well as the largest monitor lizard that ever lived - the seven-metre Megalania. Their disappearance also guarantee the size of large saltwater crocodiles with toxic saliva and the largest flightless birds, including the emu, cassowary, Tasmanian and bush chicken (a.k.a. heath hen)," said Associate Professor Gifford.

The review concludes there is only firm evidence for about 9-14 megafauna species still existing when Aboriginal people arrived. About 50 species, for example, are absent from the fossil record of the last 10,000 years.

Recent studies of Antarctic ice cores, ocean sediments from Australia, and other environmental indicators also suggest Sahul became significantly drier and colder during the megafauna extinction window, with a major drying event around 50,000 years ago.

Arguments that humans were to blame have also focused on the traditional Aboriginal practice of burning the landscape, but the research suggests that the fire history of the continent was more likely driven by changes in climate than by the presence of hunting-gathering societies before people arrived.

"It is now increasingly clear that the disappearance of the megafauna of Sahul took place over tens of thousands of millennia under the influence of inexorable, albeit erratic, climatic forces unrelated to the presence of humans."

Stephen Wroe, Judith H. Field, Michael Archer, Donald K. Grayson, Gifford J. Price, Julien Louys, J. Tyler Faith, Gregory E. Webb, Iain Davidson, and Scott D. Mooney. **Climate change frames debate over the extinction of megafauna in Sahul (Pleistocene Australia-New Guinea).** PNAS, 2013 DOI: 10.1073/pnas.1302547110

Picture: Artist's reconstruction of a marsupial lion - Thylacoleo carnifex. (Credit: Peter Schouten)

## Plants "Talk" to Plants to Help Them Grow

May 7, 2013 — Having the ability to regulate seed germination, finely tuned to the world's certain upon arrival, is crucial for survival. BMC Ecology (2013, 13:19)

Scientists from the Universities of Bristol, UK, and Oldenburg, Germany, have examined why flatter, and ecological factors in the seed's environment, such as light and temperature, are the latest issue of Ecology Letters.

Animals and plants can hitch a ride on cargo ships, hiding as stowaways in containers, or clinging to the hulls of ships. Soon after arriving in their new environment, these species can form self-sustaining populations. Some of these species become pests, causing huge economic losses and even threatening native species by extinction. Invasive species are a major problem in coastal ecosystems.

Coastal regions, such as the San Francisco Bay or Chesapeake Bay, have been studied extensively for many decades. Species can use the locals or effects to fishermen, farmers, tourism and industry create billions of dollars in damage each year. Despite considerable efforts, only engineers are now trying to prevent the introduction of species without knowing when and where it may occur, their possibilities remain limited.

As part of the research project, funded by the Volkswagen Foundation, Dr Melanie Weiss from the University of Bristol, UK, has ship voyages in 2007 and 2008. Depending on the destination travelled to each ship, the researchers estimated the probability that species from the ballast water would survive. Species that were successful could not. Although this probability is in the order of a single voyage, the numbers quickly add up because modern cargo traffic volumes are enormous.

Professor Bernd Blasius from the University of Oldenburg and one of the mathematicians involved in the study, has developed mathematical models of shipping routes, ship sizes, temperatures and biogeography to come up with local forecasts of invasion probabilities.

The map below reveals the hotspots of invasions: the east coast of such as Singapore and Hong Kong but also US ports like New York and Long Beach as well as the Spanish port of Algeciras are probably. These waterways are notoriously busy, but traffic is not the only factor.

The North Sea, for example, does not rank among the top ten endangered regions despite intense shipping. Temperatures here are too cold for species from warmer regions. Ballast water, however, arrives from the other side of the Atlantic pose a serious threat to the North Sea. Most readers are predicted to originate from the North American east coast.

H. Seebens, M. T. Gastner, B. Blasius. The risk of marine bioinvasion caused by global shipping. Ecology Letters, 2013; DOI: 10.1111/ele.12075

Picture: The risk of marine bio-invasion caused by global shipping around the world. The brighter colour, the higher the probability of higher bio-invasion risk. (Credit: Image by Dr Michael Gastner)

## Paint Rocks with Glow In The Dark Paint

May 5, 2013 — Globalisation, with its ever increasing demand for cargo transport, has inadvertently spurred the spread of alien species. The latest invasion fleas research has mapped out the regions most forward to date for importing potentially invasive species with the highest number of cargo ships.

## Australian Native Foods website: http://www.anfi.org.au/

## What Does PHNA do?

**On-ground bush regeneration, eg. Asparagus Fern Cut Days**
**Activities, guided walks, bird-watching**
**Quarterly informative newsletter, online or paper**
**Plant sales and group for basket environmental news and events**
**AGM with Guest Speaker**
**Liaise with Council and others in managing gardens for Native Vegetation and fauna habitat**
**Lobbies Pittwater Council and State Government on environmental issues affecting Pittwater's bushland**
**Provides support to Council for PNHA-approved grant applications for environmental projects**
**Publications: Introductory Field Guide to Birds of Harrowood Bottlebrush & Ivanovia Reserves, 525 Birds, Plants & Animals with photos of Pittwater Reserves and Noosa $2.00**

Email: pnhainfo@gmail.com Or click on Logo to visit website. PEOPLE

## Pittwater Environment Stories this week:

Mullet Cave Bush Care Project Update - May 2013
Pacific Black Duck Bath - a delight for the eyes!
Eastern Rosella - and a little emotional tour progression to protecting our birds instead of exporting them or decimating them.
Swans Mangrove Flowering - our Mother's Day 2013 flowers



## CAREEL CREEK FLOOD STUDY ON EXHIBITION

Pittwater Council will publicly exhibit its draft flood study for the Careel Creek catchment from Monday 6 May to Wednesday 5 June 2013 at Mona Vale Customer Service Centre and Avalon Library. Around 650 properties were classified as being flood-prone in a 1 in 100 year flood event in the Careel Creek area in 1998.

Careel Creek Catchment Flood Study

General Manager Mark Ferguson said that the study had been completed at the direction of the NSW government's floodplain policy on flooding.

"Pittwater Council has a duty and assist the Council in making flood related planning decisions and to inform property owners as well as informing residents of the potential risks of flooding in the area," he said.

"We're also inviting affected property owners to face-to-face or over the phone meetings with the Council's engineers to discuss the findings in the study."

To view the study, visit www.pittwater.nsw.gov.au/envision

## Cottage Inn Re-Opens - 7 May 2013

## A new approach to judging the impact of invasive species - 7 May 2013

The native lace monitor (Varanus varius) is a natural invasive fox for the same food as the red fox.

The impact on native species from the introduced Australian native animals needs to be taken into account.

Long-term stress not just numbers of outright deaths, University of Sydney research has shown.

"We also showed that sometimes 'the hunted' adapt more than 'the hunter' in response to the introduction," said Dr Queenie Chan, Research Associate in the University's School of Biological Sciences and lead author of the study published last month in PLOS One.

"Research in Australia has never focused on how reptile predators, like goannas and snakes, respond to the arrival of a new predator, like the lace monitor because there is no native predator in the ecosystem to which they would be naïve," said Dr Chan.

It shows that reptile populations are no more vulnerable to the presence of foxes, introduced to Australia more than 150 years ago, than in their native range. Foxes are predators, but still survive due to their vulnerability to disease, presenting a potential danger to the ecosystem.

Another component of the research is the suggestion of using lace monitors as a biological control agent to help conserve native species. Lace monitors are large, up to 1.7 kg and 2 m long, and will not eat other species as well. By 7 May 2013 [illegible]

Marine turtles are one of WWF's global flagship species and one of the most charismatic species in the ocean. Sadly, they are also threatened by human activities and are found in coastal waters, estuaries, turtles and to increase their natural resources.

Marine turtles are found in waters from temperate groups such as the Lonnger Aboriginal Community & the Outback Reference group, scientists from James Cook University and the Queensland Government's Environmental Protection Agency, and rangers from the Queens Beach Action Group and Indigenous Ranger Program. Read HQ Aquarium in Townsville. WWF-Australia helps fund turtle research and rehabilitation facilities.

http://www.wwf.org.au




## Our bluays are facing a new threat

340,000 blue whales were killed in the Southern Ocean. The few thousand that remain around Australia face a new threat – the increasing number of ships using the busy shipping lanes between Australia and Asia. Dr Vanessa Pirotta from Macquarie University has researched shipping. If WWI International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) to [illegible] amount's own whale's population and to protect the seismic testing being considered by the Federal Government in the Great Australian Bight.

Antarctic blue whales may exceed 25m in length and 180 tonnes in weight. Despite being called 'pygmy' blue whales, this subspecies is the largest animal on earth. Blue whales are found in all of the world's oceans but it is their return to the whales sighted in Australian waters are pygmy blue whales.

**What's so special about the Bonney Upwelling?**

An upwelling is an ocean phenomenon that makes wind driving deeper, cooler ocean water to the surface to replace surface water. The Bonney Upwelling is a feeding ground for krill and other tiny animals. This in turn attracts a host of larger animals, including species such as fish, dolphins, seals, penguins, albatross and other seabirds also host to feed there. The upwelling is also a protection area for the endangered Southern Right Whale, a migratory species that whale feeding events from Rutte, South Australia to Point Cape Chivey, Victoria. Blue whales also feed further west in the Great Australian Bight and off Kangaroo Island.

**Offshore oil and gas exploration**

The same richness of life that sustains so many species is also the organic origin of large hydrocarbon deposits that underpin the oil and whale feeding grounds. This has attracted oil and gas companies to the area. Over the last 50 years, there have been more than 300 wells drilled in the search for oil and gas under the Great Australian Bight. Seismic surveys use a series of intense air gun blasts to do this. These blasts are louder than a jet engine and can travel for hundreds of kilometres as sound waves to communicate.

Like all whale and dolphin species, blue whales have a highly developed acoustic sense and rely on communication for breeding. They use sound to navigate, locate prey and predators, attract mates and communicate with each other. Seismic surveys can disrupt whale behaviour, cause physical damage to whales, disturb animals such as seismic surveys, can force whales away from important habitats, and can cause whales to change their migration routes. Increased communication and, at closer range, can cause permanent damage to their hearing.

See more at: http://www.ifaw.org/australia/our-work/whales/save-our-bluays

## May Environment Activities



**Pittwater Environmental Foundation - Weeding Planting Day**
**Sunday 19th May, 10 - 1pm.**
Join us as we keep planting at Elvina Creek last month!! It's on again: May 19th, 1pm. Go to the Elvina Creek Reserve entrance at the end of Iris Warriewood. Wear enclosed shoes and long trousers, bring gloves and a drink. Tools will be provided. Morning tea will be provided. More info:
pittenvfound@gmail.com

Park near the corner of Regina Rd and Epworth Place, Warriewood and follow signs to the planting site. Wear long trousers, enclosed shoes, bring drinking water, planting gloves. Tools and afternoon tea provided.



**Sunday May 26th, 9am - 12 noon**
Bushcare at Elvina Creek. Elvina Street Elanora is also being weeded and the planting day focus is on Sunday May 26, 9am to noon at the Wesley St entrance, Elanora. Wear long trousers, enclosed shoes, bring drinking water, hats as a shade area may be limited. Gloves provided.

This is one of the largest Bushcare projects hosted by the Pittwater Environmental Foundation and Pittwater Council. The project offers residents the chance to explore this little known and picturesque area of Pittwater, while helping to restore the natural bushland. Activities include weeding, planting and bush regeneration. Bushcare is on Burrinjuck Fog, if you'd like to help, please wear sturdy closeout shoes, bring drinking water and a hat. Gloves, tools, planting and morning tea are provided.

Where: **Meet at the grassed area at 49 Wesley Street, Elanora Heights.** When: Sunday 26 May, 9.30am - 12.30pm. All welcome! RSVP and more information: Bushcare Officer 9970 1307 or Wesley_Bushcare@pittwater.nsw.gov.au



## Botany Online

From Ben' about our Botany Online page:

BOTANY Online - The Internet Hypertextbook

... all that students are eager to know ! BOTANY online discovers the fascinating world of plants, algae and fungi. Here you will find a wealth of information, images, activities and tutorials for students and teachers. BOTANY online is open for all kinds of changes and suggestions ... your participation keeps it alive!

Botany Online CONTENTS PAGE

Above: from the Australian Plant Pathos puffout - **Marss petrel** Puffout grasses - Dark Petrelflowerss - NATURAL HISTORY OF BIRDS OF THE WORLD - Pittwater Bird Art Table 6 - Gera. **NMG** Dolphin Editing, Peter Seay & Rus

## Kimbriki Resource Recovery Centre



**Coastal Environment Centre**



**The Coastal Environment Centre (CEC) is a multi-award winning regional community environmental learning centre, and is located at the Kimbriki Resource Recovery Centre. It is celebrating its 21st birthday in December.**

More at: www.pittwater.nsw.gov.au/cec

**Monthly Ocean Newsletter - sample - would like to receive Council's environmental newsletter via email, please contact mail_box@pittwater.nsw.gov.au**

**May 2013 Newsletter Includes information on: Avalon/Care Planting Activities, Volunteers needed, Workshops and Events, and great articles HERE.**



## 2013 Northern Beaches Local Business Sustainability Award

Warringah and Pittwater Councils are urging local business people to get inactive and promote their sustainability practices by participating in the Sustainability category of the 2013 Northern Beaches Local Business Awards.

"This is the second time the Sustainability Award has been included in the Northern Beaches Business Awards and we're extremely excited to be running the sustainability category of this important event," said Warringah Mayor, Michael Regan. "The aim of the Sustainability Award is to highlight the innovative practices of local businesses that have put in place practical measures to operate in a more liveable and healthy Warringah."

Pittwater Council Mayor Jacqueline Townsend said there were a range of ways that businesses could demonstrate their commitment to sustainability, including by reducing energy and water use, providing more flexible working conditions for their staff.

"Pittwater has a well-established program of assisting local businesses to become more sustainable and save on energy costs and we encourage them to enter the awards.

"Businesses entering the Sustainability Business Award need to demonstrate the integration of sustainable practices to business planning, operations and marketing, such as:

• Reducing energy, water, waste and waste to landfill
• Using environmentally friendly materials, supplier products and services
• Promotion of environmentally friendly building systems, such as rainwater tanks, insulated
walls etc
• Partnerships with community sectors
• Rewarding staff and family friendly conditions
• Using ethical business practices
• Providing staff and customers with sustainable transport options

**Businesses have until Wednesday 12 June to nominate** for the Sustainability Business Award. Nominations can be submitted online at 2013.nbbusinessawards.com.au

**Customers of local businesses can nominate businesses** for the Customer Service Award in 29 different categories **by Friday 17 May.** For more information or to vote, visit warringah.nsw.gov.au

**The 2013 Northern Beaches Local Business Awards Wednesday 7 July**
**Miramare Ballroom, Terry Hills**



**Community Gardens bring people together and enrich communities, they build a sense of place and shared communication.**

Pittwater Community Gardens is a network of people who grow and accessible food gardens in public places throughout the Pittwater area. Our aim is to encourage people to grow healthy fabulous local, organic food that you can not afford and good food. We also aim to provide opportunities to develop



**Pittwater's Environmental Foundation**

Pittwater Environmental Foundation was formed in 1973 to protect the natural environment of the Pittwater local government area through the Pittwater Council Environmental Levy. Directors were appointed by Pittwater Council. Our



## PROFILE

About 37% (about 160 ha excluding National Parks) of the original Pittwater bushland remains. Most of this is in small fragments and is under threat from weeds, development, pollution and changes in public ownership. All remaining natural bushland is subject to environmental degradation. Pittwater Environmental Foundation, attempt to protect, regenerate and restore bushland and wildlife habitat in the area. Within Pittwater 38 species of plants or animals are listed as threatened species under the NSW Threatened Species Act 1995. There are two endangered populations (Koala and Spotted Gliders) and eight endangered ecological communities or types of bushland. To enrol in their environmental activities



## Antarctic Ocean Alliance

In just 6 months the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources will meet in Germany to revisit their proposal to establish the largest network of marine reserves in the Southern Ocean.

If you want the meeting in Germany to be a success, add your friends and family to sign our petition:




Join The Wave!
Save the Southern Ocean

www.antarcticaoceanalliance.org



## So many fish, one great map.

From clambering rockpools on the exit of your fishing line, to finding out which fishes occur in your local waters, FishMap has the answers. FishMap is a new online resource that allows you to explore and discover which fish species occur in your area and in locations around Australia and throughout the marine waters of Australia's continental shelf and beyond. FishMap is a free, online resource that provides information and tools for almost all of Australia's marine fishes, displayed as photographs and illustrations, distribution maps and current scientific and common names. FishMap was developed by CSIRO's Oceans and Atmosphere Flagship and the Atlas of Living Australia (ALA).

FishMap was officially launched on Tuesday 26 February 2013 and is available on the Atlas of Living Australia website: http://fishmap.ala.org.au

Top: FishMap on the Atlas of Living Australia provides the geographical and depth distribution of fishes, as well as photographs and illustrations. (Credit: Image courtesy of CSIRO)






Share | Like

## CSIRO – New App for Gardeners

How does your garden grow? Find out what's under your feet with CSIRO's new app. The app is free and can be seen across apps in 2013 on our blog. http://ow.ly/jFQKO



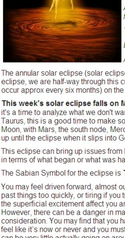
## Birdlife Australia - New Website and Quarterly Magazine

BirdLife Australia has begun a quarterly publication of its magazine Wingspan. See www.birdlife.org.au/publications/wingspan

This organisation, which has been going for over a century now, have been a leading authority and champion for the protection of Australia's birds, achieved by combining research, conservation action, education and advocacy. Many of their activities create real and positive outcomes. They state that almost 200 species of birds in Australia are considered threatened at present. Many of these species are in decline and their habitat is being collated, and see if you could help them out as a volunteer or donor.

May 12 - 18, 2013: Issue 110


## Managing The Pace And Grounding The Vision: May's Solar Eclipse in Taurus



*The golden moments in the stream of life rush past us, and we see nothing but sand; the angels come to visit us, and we only know them when they are gone.* **George Eliot**

*Every event that a man would master must be mounted on the run, and no man ever caught the reins of a thought except as it galloped past him.* **Oliver Wendell Holmes**

*I am not a speed-reader. I am a speed understander.* **Isaac Asimov**

*All human joys are swift of wing. For heaven doth so allot it. That when you get an easy thing, You find not haven't got it.* **Eugene Field**

*The cloud never comes in the quarter of the horizon from which we watch for it.* **Elizabeth Gaskell**

*Every cloud has a silver lining.* **Proverb**

*A great wind is blowing, and that gives you either imagination or a headache.* **Catherine the Great**

The annular solar eclipse (solar eclipses are always on a new Moon) in Taurus is the second of three consecutive eclipses. So, with this eclipse, we are half-way through this current eclipse season. The last eclipse was a lunar eclipse (these always fall on the full moon and occur approx every six months) on the 26th April in Australia and the 25th in the United States. The next lunar eclipse is on May 25.

**This week's solar eclipse falls on May 10 in Australia and May 9 in the United States.** This is a south node solar eclipse, meaning it's a time to analyze what we don't want in our lives, to find what we need to release or let go of and to make plans for the future. Being in Taurus, this is a good time to make some positive affirmations around money along with issues of self worth. This is a very Taurean new Moon, with Mars, the south node, Mercury, the Moon, the Sun and Pallas Athena all in Taurus. Venus, the ruler of Taurus, is in Taurus right up until the eclipse when it slips into Gemini.

This eclipse can bring up issues from last November as this eclipse is a reversal of that eclipse. This is a chance to see how you're going in terms of what began or what was happening then.

The Sabian Symbol for the eclipse is **Taurus 20: Wisps Of Clouds, Like Wings, Are Streaming Across The Sky.**

You may feel driven forward, almost out of your own control. In doing so you run the risk of either going past things too quickly, or tiring if you try to resist the momentum of forward push. It may be best to let the superficial excitement affect you and then be prepared to go back and sort out the details later. However, there can be a danger in making decisions and taking action too quickly, without enough consideration. You may find that you have no choice. You have an opportunity before you, and it could feel like it's now or never and you must seize the day. Another element of this Symbol is that there can be very little actually going on around you, but there is so much going on over your head. Your imagination is active, but perhaps you are not really aware of it. You may find that your mind is working out what to do in this situation and in the next day or so "the coin will drop". Enjoying the pleasant "weather" around you and allow the natural energies to blow away the confusing aspects of your life.

**Keywords:** Fleeting opportunities or inspiration. Feeling things "in the wind". Seeking a change in the weather. Thinking on your feet. Doing things at a fast pace. Placing too much importance on the fast movement of the issue at hand. Wasting energy on non essentials. Things floating in the air. Going at full tilt. Skywriting. Vapor trails. Here one minute, gone the next. Messages read from clouds. Planes. The beauty of the sky.

**The Caution:** Resistance to the creative flow. Superficial excitement. Unstoppable progress. Destructive development. Forces beyond your control. Making uniformed or uninformed decisions on a whim. Not thinking things through. Impatience. Continual impermanence. Lack of rest or sleep. Contrails. Chem trails. Weather control.

It can be instructive to think back to the last time there was a solar eclipse in Taurus on this degree. It was May 1994. What were you doing then? What were your hopes and dreams then? What did you seed at that time?

With Taurus, there's a longing for family, perhaps for procreation, a longing for connection, and to be able to fulfill your physical and/or financial needs.

**Pallas Athena**, who represents the smart warrior woman, is smack on this solar eclipse. To learn more about Pallas Athena's mythology click here

**The Karmic Condition** (the degree before) this new Moon is **Taurus 19: A New Continent Rising From The Ocean**. This speaks of rising up out of the past and embracing new beginnings, new territory, new possibilities. This degree is especially strong as just hours after the eclipse, Mercury moves onto this degree. A few days later, Mars transits this degree, so this is very much a time of embracing the new.

*One does not discover new continents without consenting to lose sight of the shore for a very long time.* **Andre Gide**

**Keywords:** Enormous potentials emerging. New trends and ways of being. Sudden eruptions of talent or fields of endeavor. The greenhouse effect. Global warming. Atlantis and other ancient underwater cities. Evolution. Patience. Developing slowly but surely. Emerging generations of people. New environments. Things feeling suddenly foreign. The birth of a nation. Migration.

**The Caution:** Continually seeking "new worlds" rather than finding a place in the existing one. No responsibility for the birth of the new. No respect for the old or established. Not shifting or evolving.

*There are continents and seas in the moral world, to which every man is an isthmus or inlet, yet unexplored by him.* **Henry David Thoreau**

As this is a south node eclipse, it has the feeling of having to define where we are now, what we are truly capable of and taking steps to heal the past in order to move into the future. Scorpio, a rather reptilian sign, is where the north node is and it has only Saturn in Scorpio at the moment for company in that sign. This can bring about a tug-of-war between what you want, what's possible and where you want to be. All that lovely Taurean energy is pulling us back to a place of safety and comfort, or so it may seem to some. Others may feel a strong desire to push forward, but it seems some backing off is required in order to get a sense of the fuller picture.

**The Quest Symbol** (the degree after) the eclipse degree is **Taurus 21: A Moving Finger Points To Significant Passages In A Book.** This degree can have us wanting to write a book, a blog, a letter, or, perhaps, a poem. It can also bring the desire to learn, to study something, to take what is significant in terms of the messages we are meant to hear.

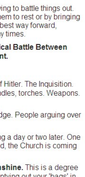
*The telephone book is full of facts, but it doesn't contain a single idea.* **Mortimer Adler**

**Keywords:** Finding the essential details of a situation and disregarding the rest. The cursor on the computer screen. Reading and writing books. Keeping records. Instruction manuals. Lawyers and the law. Editing. Reviewing. Reference books. Reading the Oracle. Memories. Quoting scripture. Testimony. Rules.

**The Caution:** Doing things because they need to be done and only going by the rules of the book. Automated responses. Religious fundamentalism. Only doing those things that are officially sanctioned. Not observing the entire picture. Keeping tallies. Flaunting the rules.

Venus rules Taurus and it moves into Gemini right on the eclipse. This can help bring a new perspective, especially as the first degree of Gemini is so perceptive, so "seeing" and knowing - when we have the 'eyes' to see.

**Venus** is on **Gemini 1: A Glass-Bottomed Boat Reveals Undersea Wonders.** This is a very insightful degree, and it's by looking at life through a set of lenses that work for you that you get to see below the surface to what is really going on.



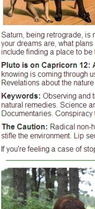
*The world will never starve for want of wonders; but only for want of wonder.* **Gilbert Keith Chesterton**

**Keywords:** Being able to see "within" to forms that are not usually observed by others. Clairvoyance. Observance of psychic phenomena. Connecting with the collective unconscious. Spiritual gifts that enlarge ones perspective. Amusement and wonder at natural beauty. Glass, lenses, refractions of light. Panoramic views. Water. Boats. Vehicles of discovery.

**The Caution:** Putting up barriers of social safety to avoid involvement in deep emotions. Overemphasis on safety concerns. Watching things from a distance, leading to separation and estrangement. Looking in the wrong direction. Cool, detached attitudes.

Mars is in Taurus and will be transiting over the eclipse point about 5 days after the eclipse. This is likely to have things speeding up somewhat. Mars also passes over the South Node a day or two after the eclipse, bringing the possibility of being roused enough to let definitively let go of what is bothering you or no longer needed.

**Mars** is on **Taurus 15: A Man With A Silk Hat, Muffled Against The Cold, Braves The Storm.** This Symbol speaks of putting on a happy, dignified and brave face, even if we're feeling like screaming into the wind.



**Keywords:** Inner poise being more important than outer appearances. Braving stormy weather. Ploughing on through difficulties. Being willing to weather storms and take on the hard times. Having tasks or errands to perform when one would rather not. Hats, scarves and muffles. Sudden change of circumstances.

**The Caution:** Not showing your true feelings. Superficial show of strength. Not noticing things improving. Always looking for the 'elements'. Complaining and whining instead of carrying on with the task at hand. Wanting to be pampered and not face up to life's storms. Considering appearance before all else. Superficiality. Insufficient or inappropriate clothing or apparel.

With Mars transiting the Moon's south node, many may experience the feeling of having to battle things out. Whether it is an internal or an external battle, coming to terms with things by laying them to rest or by bringing 'light' to situations may be key. Walking away from arguments or battles may be the best way forward, especially if you have 'fought' this fight before, had this battle perhaps a few too many times.

**The Moon's south node** (a particularly karmic point) is on **Taurus 17: A Symbolical Battle Between Swords, The Disciples Of Might, and Torches, The Disciples of Enlightenment.**

*Imagination is the one weapon in the war against reality.* **Jules de Gaultier**

**Keywords:** The battle of "might versus light". The Spear of Destiny. Spiritual differences. Arguments. The story of Hitler. The Inquisition. The Crusades. Bringing love and light to war zones. The pen being mightier than the sword. Peace marches, Candles, torches. Weapons. The might of the media.

**The Caution:** Controlling those around with rational or brute force rather than with inner enlightenment or knowledge. People arguing over ideals. Forcing opinions on each other. Religious conflicts. War rallies. Propaganda.

In the few days before the eclipse, Mercury will be going over the above 'battle' degree Symbol, with Mars following a day or two later. One hopes that the current warming in the world will be contained and dissipated. In Australia and elsewhere in the world, the Church is coming under fire for the sexual abuse of children.

**Mercury** is on **Taurus 18: A Woman Airing An Old Bag Through A Sunny Window To Give It Air And Sunshine.** This is a degree of bringing light and air to dark corners. This can be on many levels; you may be cleaning out your cupboards, emptying out your 'bags' in some way, airing them and renewing them. In some cases, it's a matter of throwing things out. You may have clothes, shoes, bags, linen or other possessions that are cluttering up your life and it could be time to let go of those things that are just getting in your way. It is true that often our possessions end up owning us.

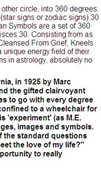
As this is Mercury on this degree, it is also, and probably more importantly, about cleaning out those habits, thoughts, beliefs or sabotage mechanisms that keep you chained in unhealthy habits or relationships. This degree is very much about bringing what was hidden to the surface so those things can be dealt with.

**Keywords:** Psychoanalysis. Past life regressions or memories. Doing domestic chores with a feeling of purpose. Work shopping ideas. Bringing light and freshness to old feelings. Renewal. Throwing out the old or outlived. Cleaning out rooms. Renovations. Letting the sunshine in.

**The Caution:** Expecting others to take responsibility for cleaning up and airing out. Hanging on to outworn things and memories. Airing one's 'dirty laundry' in public. Rehashing old situations. Going over the same ground over and over. Bringing up issues when it's inappropriate. Depressed attitudes.

*Better keep yourself clean and bright; you are the window through which you must see the world.* **George Bernard Shaw**

**Jupiter** is on **Gemini 20: A Cafeteria With An Abundance Of Choices.** This is a great degree for Jupiter to be on during this eclipse as it can mean that we often do have choices, even if we feel that we don't. The trick is to choose the thing that gives you the most nourishment, the most freedom of expression, the best sense of freedom. Especially as this is Jupiter, there's a desire to be able to reach out for the things you want in life, and with Gemini is reinforcing the idea of the Law Of Attraction - that our thoughts can (and do) create our lives and control the directions we might head in.



**Saturn** is on **Scorpio 8: A Silvery Moon Shining Across A Beautiful Gem Of A Lake.** This speaks about the need to get below the surface of things. This is quite a strong 'reflective' degree and one of the more interesting Scorpionic images in that it asks us to get below surface appearances in order to nut out what is really happening. Saturn here can be rather resistant to new insights or impulses, but the trick is to discern what is true and what is merely a projection from yourself or others. Seeing life as a mirror can lead us to understand where we can be most effective as well as those areas that we have no place in exploring. Saturn on this degree shows the need to understand your boundaries; where you begin and end and where others fit into your story. Each year, on Halloween, the Sun is on this degree and this motif of the moon on the lake is often seen in Halloween images - often with a bat or a pumpkin somewhere to add to the Halloween flavor.

Hence, this can a bit of a trick-or-treat moment in time as there can be a feeling of not knowing what is truly yours and what belongs with someone else. With a desire to delve, great depths can be seen and learned and issues resolved. Forgiveness is always key with Saturn in Scorpio.

**Uranus** is on **Aries 11: The President Of The Republic Or The Ruler Of The Country.** Uranus on this degree asks us to reach into our sense of personal power and to broadcast into your world a sense of being able to be in charge of your life. This is a powerful degree and it really ramps up the feeling for the Uranus/Pluto square that we are experiencing. Uranus is often the rebel, the one who wants us to be authentic. Aries backs this up and this President Of The Republic degree makes it even more so. So, it's about being prepared to drop back into a sense of self that is deep and authentic.

*What government is the best? That which teaches us to govern ourselves.* **Goethe**

**Keywords:** Developing willpower. Inner power, discipline and integrity. Discipline of thoughts, emotions and actions. Leadership, power and ability along with their responsibilities. Accepting responsibility for one's actions. "Calling the shots". Rulers, presidents, leaders. Taking charge. The need for loyal subjects. Being voted in. The democratic process.

**The Caution:** Taking control. Lording it over everyone. Being overbearing. Not allowing others to be in charge of their own lives, health or situation. Egotistical and self-centered. Undermining others through a lack of self-awareness or confidence. Being larger than life. Dictators and tyrants. Military Governments.

**Neptune** is on **Pisces 6: A Parade Of Army Officers In Full Dress.** This degree, especially with Neptune on it, can indicate the feeling of having to 'turn up', do what needs to be done, looking after others, being someone others can count on, having a sense of duty and feeling like you're on duty in some way. The trick is to be up and doing what feels authentic to you, not just doing it because others expect it of you. Of course, with Neptune here, there is bound to be some measure of having to perform, having to front up and do the right thing, but in general there's a need to remember what you want to get involved in and what you don't.

**Keywords:** National pride on display. Reminders of those putting life and limb on the line for kin and country. Uniforms, hats. People seeking recognition from the community, regardless of what they've personally achieved. Patriotism. Memories of war. Being committed to service. Medals. Stripes. Uniformity. Grinning and bearing it. Projecting the "right image". Drills and routines. Displays of courage. Assembling together. Braiding and piping. Spit and polish. Parades and marching. Police and law enforcement. Guns and bayonets. The importance of looking good.

**The Caution:** 'Stiff' and unfeeling displays. Having special privileges that others don't. Doing what one must do. Hiding behind a façade. Not being prepared, or able, to show one's true self. "Drill sergeants" who scream and shout. People parading their importance. False courage. Taking the glory away from the little people. Wearing anything.

Saturn, being retrograde, is moving backwards into a nice trine relationship with Neptune, showing the desire, or the need, to define what your dreams are, what plans you want to put into operation and how you see the structures of your life supporting you. For some, this will include finding a place to be that provides them with a sense of purpose and adventure.

**Pluto is on Capricorn 12: A Student Of Nature Lecturing, Revealing Little Known Aspects Of Life.** So much knowledge and knowing is coming through us now. Whether you are a 'teacher' or a 'student', there is much to be learned on a deep, trans formative level. Revelations about the nature of life and nature are likely to be coming forward now, sometimes in surprising ways.

**Keywords:** Observing and translating so others may learn. Green politics. Issues the conservatives don't want revealed. Nature and natural remedies. Science and its rewards and drawbacks. Issues such as global warming. Whistle blowers. Natural healing methods. Documentaries. Conspiracy theories.

**The Caution:** Radical non-humanistic views. Intellectual smugness. 'Lecturing' and browbeating. Modern technological advances that stifle the environment. Lip service to conservation issues.

If you're feeling a case of stop-go, stop-go, stop-go, it's no wonder with all this Taurus energy going on.

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Lynda Hill, FAA Pract. Cert. has been a professional astrologer for more than 18 years, 2010 marked her 25th lecture tour of the Australian to the many lectures she has conducted for astrologers and the public throughout Australia, England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, Russia, South Africa, New Zealand and Canada. Lynda is the astrologer for Take Five Magazine, and writes astrological commentary for publications all over the world. She divides her time between Sydney's beautiful Northern Beaches and the World Heritage-listed Blue Mountains (when she's not travelling the world delivering lectures).

To schedule a psychic astrology reading with Lynda or to give feedback or ask questions, please email her at sabiansymbols@gmail.com


### What are the Sabian Symbols?

The ancients divided up the sky, just like any other circle, into 360 degrees. They assigned each of the 12 constellations (star signs or zodiac signs) 30 degrees each: 12 times 30 = 360. The Sabian Symbols are a set of 360 phrases of words that correspond with each of the 360 degrees of the wheel of the zodiac, from Aries 1 to Pisces 30. Consisting from as little as 2 words (Virgo 2: 'A Harem') to as many as 21 words (Taurus 5: 'A Youthful Widow, Fresh and Soul-Cleansed From Grief, Kneels at an Open Grave to Receive the Secret of Eternal Life), each one of these Symbols holds both a story and a unique energy field of their own. These images hold meaning for those degrees of the signs. Although the Symbols have their foundations in astrology, absolutely no knowledge of astrology is needed to use them.




**The Sabian Symbols were given birth in San Diego, ???California, in 1925 by Marc Edmund Jones, a noted American astrologer and spiritualist and the gifted clairvoyant Elsie Wheeler. Jones was interested to find a set of word images to go with every degree of the zodiac. Elsie Wheeler was an extraordinary clairvoyant confined to a wheelchair for most of her life. Jones chose Elsie Wheeler as his partner in this 'experiment' (as M.E. Jones called it) as she had a remarkable ability to "see" messages, images and symbols. She used this talent to help her clients, but was rather weary of the standard questions she received, such as "when will I be rich?" and "when will I meet the love of my life?" She was eager to take part as she believed that this was an opportunity to really contribute something to astrology.**

**For more Information:** click here


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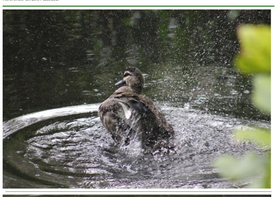
## Pacific Black Duck Bath

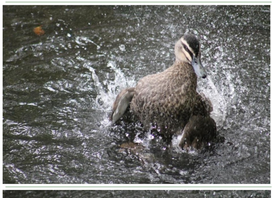
These delightful Pacific Black Ducks were photographed taking a bath on Careel Creek during the week, not an easy task when you have waterproof feathers, but certainly necessary to keep them protected.

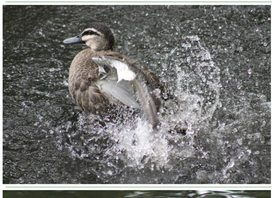
The Pacific Black Duck (Anas superciliosa) is mostly mid-brown in colour, with each feather edged buff. The head pattern is characteristic, with a dark brown line through the eye, bordered with cream above and below and a dark brown crown. The upper wing colour is the same as the back, with a bright glossy green patch in the secondary flight feathers. The white underwing is conspicuous in flight. Young Pacific Black Ducks are similar to the adults but duller.

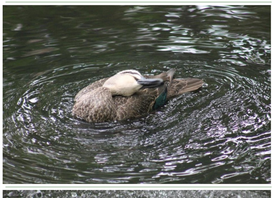
The Pacific Black Duck is closely related to the Mallard, A. platyrhyncos, introduced into Australia from the Northern Hemisphere. The two species are very similar in habits and occupy the same niche in the two regions. The two species will interbreed in situations where Mallards have been released. The Pacific Black Duck is one of the most versatile of the ducks, feeding in a wide variety of habitats, including saltmarsh, mangroves and mudflats. Pacific Black Ducks are usually seen in pairs or small flocks and readily mix with other ducks. In the wild, birds are often very wary of humans and seldom allow close approach. It is found throughout Australia and the Pacific.

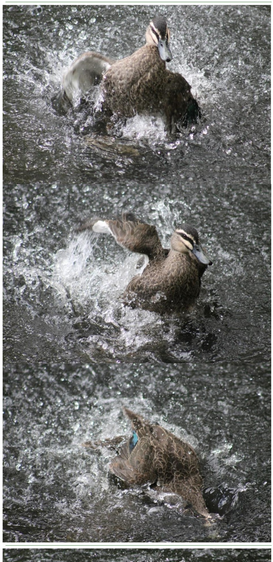
Reference: Birdlife Australia.

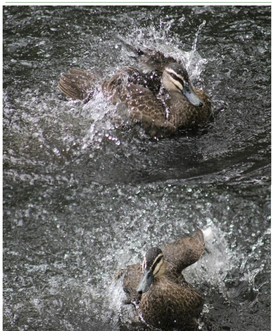


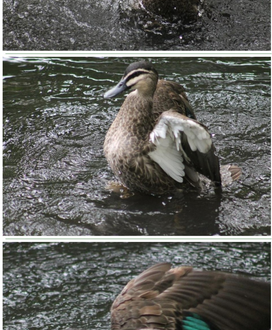












Photos by A.J Guesdon, May 2013.

# Pittwater Online News

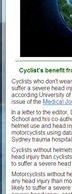


**May 12 - 18, 2013: Issue 110**

**Pittwater Online News receives a lot of information from various sources each week. For Your Interest and Benefit/Information**

## Towards a quantum internet from UNSW - Published on May 1, 2013

A UNSW-led team of Australian researchers has achieved a breakthrough that brings the prospect of a network of super-fast quantum computers - connected via a quantum internet -closer to reality.




## Cyclist's benefit from helmets clearly shown - 6 May 2013

Cyclists who don't wear a helmet are almost six times more likely to suffer a severe head injury than their helmeted counterparts, according University of Sydney research published in the latest issue of the Medical Journal of Australia today.

In a letter to the editor, Dr Michael Dinh from Sydney Medical School and his co-authors reported on "the relationship between helmet use and head injury severity" in both pedal cyclists and motorcyclists using data from 348 patients admitted to seven Sydney trauma hospitals between July 2008 and June 2009.

Cyclists with helmets were 5.5 times more likely to suffer any head injury than cyclists wearing helmets and 5.5 times more likely to suffer a severe head injury than their protected comrades.

Motorcyclists with helmets were 2.6 times more likely to suffer any head injury than motorcyclists with helmets and 3.5 times more likely to suffer a severe head injury. Additionally, for patients with severe head injury, costs of treatment in hospital were around three times higher for helmeted patients than for those who had worn a helmet, the authors wrote.

"The protective effect of helmets in relation to any head injury prevention therefore appears to be greater in pedal cyclists compared with motorcyclists," they wrote.

"[Our] results add to the growing weight of observational data supporting the use of helmets, which should therefore be considered in the protective behaviour for pedal cyclists as they are for motorcyclists."

The Medical Journal of Australia is a publication of the Australian Medical Association.

## Health Papers Published this week:

### Epilepsy Cured in Mice Using Brain Cells

May 6, 2013 — Epilepsy that does not respond to drugs can be halted in adult mice by transplanting a specific type of cell into the brain, UC San Francisco researchers have discovered, raising hope that a similar treatment might work in severe forms of human epilepsy.

UCSF scientists controlled seizures in epileptic mice with a one-time transplantation of GABA-releasing interneurons, cells that inhibit the brain's excitatory signals. In these circuits, into the hippocampus, a brain region associated with seizures, as well as with learning and memory. Other researchers had previously used different cell types to exert cell transplantation experiments and failed to stop seizures.

Cell therapy has become an active focus of epilepsy research, in part because current medications, even when effective, only control symptoms and not underlying causes of the disease, according to Scott C. Baraban, PhD, who holds the William K. Bowes Jr. Endowed Chair in Neuroscience Research at UCSF and led the new study. In many types of epilepsy, he said, current drugs have no therapeutic value at all.

"Our results are an encouraging step toward using inhibitory neurons for cell transplantation in adults with severe forms of epilepsy," Baraban said. "This approach might also be useful for controlling seizures and rescuing cognitive deficits in these patients."

The findings, which are **the first ever to report stopping seizures in mouse models of adult human epilepsy**, will be **published online May 5 in the journal Nature Neuroscience.**

During epileptic seizures, extreme muscle contractions and, often, a loss of consciousness, the brain's electrical activity spikes to such high levels that it sometimes be seriously injured. Epilepsy can cause malfunction behind these effects is the absence of of many excitatory nerve cells in the brain at the same time.

But the UCSF study, the transplanted interneuron cells quenched this synchronous, nerve -signaling firestorm, eliminating seizures in half of the treated mice and dramatically reducing the number of spontaneous seizures in the rest. Robert Knowlton, PhD, a postdoctoral fellow in the Baraban lab, guided many of the key experiments.

In another experiment, UCSF researchers reported May 2 that they found a way to reliably generate human HGE cells in the laboratory, and that, when transplanted into the brain, the cells similarly spurn off functional inhibitory nerve cells. That research can be found online in the journalCell Stem Cell.

Humans forms of epilepsy are characterized by inhibitory nerve cells within the hippocampus plaza a critical role. MGE cells are progenitor cells that form early within the brain and are capable of generating mature inhibitory nerve cells called interneurons.

**Journal References:**

Robert F Hunt, Kelly M Girskis, John L Rubenstein, Arturo Alvarez-Buylla, Scott C Baraban. **GABA progenitors grafted into the adult epileptic brain control seizures and abnormal behavior.** Nature Neuroscience, 2013; DOI: 10.1038/nn.3392

Carol E Tanaka, Pamela Chen, Yunshuo Tang, Daniel G. Southwell, Nadine Chalmers, Daniel Vogt, Christina M. Arnold, Ying-Jun J. Chen, Edouard G. Stanley, Andrew G. Elefanty, Yoshiki Sasai, Arturo Alvarez-Buylla, John L. Rubenstein, Mark R. Kreitzer. **Presynaptic GABAergic Control of NMDAR Collaterals Mediates Ca Oscillations and Local Excitation in Neocortical Networks.** Cell Stem Cell, 2012; 10 (6): 673 DOI: 10.1016/j.stem.2012.04.002

## Portable Device Provides Rapid, Accurate Diagnosis of Tuberculosis, Other Bacterial Infections

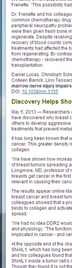
May 9, 2013 — Researchers at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) investigators first developed to diagnose cancer has been adapted to rapidly and accurately detect the DNA of tuberculosis bacteria, a technology that, appearing in the journal Communications and Nature Nanotechnology describe portable devices that combine microfluidic technology with nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) to not only diagnose these important infections but also determine the presence of antibiotic-resistant bacterial strains.

"Rapidly identifying the pathogen responsible for an infection and testing for the presence of resistance are critical not only for diagnosis but also for deciding which antibiotics to give a patient," says Ralph Weissleder, MD, PhD, director of the MGH Center for Systems Biology (CSB) and co-senior author of both papers. "These technologies could be used at the point of care or in a resource-limited setting over standard culturing practice, which can take as much as two weeks to provide a diagnosis."

Investigators at the MGH CSB previously developed portable devices capable of detecting cancer biomarkers in the blood or in very small tissue samples. Target cells or molecules are first labeled with magnetic nanoparticles, and the analyte is then passed through a micro NMR system capable of detecting and quantifying levels of the labeled targets. The technology has been used to detect cancer cells and drug-binding antibodies. As detection method used in the earlier studies - that it would accurately detect the specific bacteria. Instead the team switched to targeting specific nucleic acid sequences.

The system described in the Nature Communications paper, published on April 23, detects DNA from tuberculosis bacteria in small sample samples. After DNA is extracted from the sample, any of the target sequence that is present is amplified using a standard procedure, then cluttered by polymer beads containing complementary nucleic acid sequences and labeled with magnetic nanoparticles that cause the beads to clump together in the presence of DNA. The sample is then incorporated into the device - which is about the size of a standard laboratory slide - detects als TB bacterial DNA present in the sample.

Tests of the device on samples from patients known to have TB and from healthy controls identified all positive samples with no false positives in less than three hours. Existing diagnostic procedures can take weeks to provide results and can miss up to 40 percent of infected patients. Results were even stronger for patients infected with HIV, who often have low levels of TB bacteria in their samples due to high levels of HIV TB bacteria - and specialized nucleic acid sequences developed by the research teams were able to distinguish treatment-resistant bacterial strains.




Picture: On this 2.5-by-3.5-inch cartridge, DNA extracted from sputum samples is amplified in the chambers on the left. Tiny bead sequences are magnetically labeled in the microfluidic mixing channels in the center and then detected by the NMR system on the right. Image courtesy of the Center for Systems Biology, Massachusetts General Hospital.

## Protein Complex May Play Role in Preventing Many Forms of Cancer

May 6, 2013 — Researchers at the Stanford University School of Medicine have identified a group of proteins that are mutated in about one-fifth of all human cancers. The finding suggests that these proteins, which are members of a protein complex that affects how DNA is packaged in cells, work to suppress the development of tumors in many types of tissues.

The broad reach of the effect of mutations in the complex, called BAF, rivals that of another well-known tumor suppressor called p53. It also furthers a growing notion that these so-called chromatin-regulatory complexes may function as much more than mere cellular housekeepers.

"Although we knew that this complex was likely to play a role in preventing cancer, we didn't know that it was quite so important," said postdoctoral scholar Cigall Kadoch, PhD. "It's often been thought that these complexes play supportive, maintenance-like roles in the cell. But this is really changing now."

Kadoch is the lead author of the study with postdoctoral scholar Dana Hargreaves, PhD. Gerald Crabtree, MD, professor of developmental biology and of pathology, is the senior author of the study, published online May 5 inNature Genetics.

Chromatin-regulation complexes work to keep DNA tightly condensed, while also granting temporary access to certain portions for replication or to allow the expression of genes necessary for the growth or function of the cell.

Members of Crabtree's laboratory have been interested in BAF complexes and their function for many years. Recently, they published in the journal Nature that exhibited subunits within these complexes can convert human fibroblasts to neurons, which points to their instructive role in neuronal development and, possibly, cancer.

"Somehow these chromatin-regulatory complexes manage to compress nearly two yards of DNA into a nucleus about one one-thousandth the size of a pinhead," said Crabtree, who is also a member of the Stanford Cancer Institute and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator. "Their ability to control transcription of the DNA, if the DNA to be replicated and selectively expressed in different cells - all without tangling. In 1994 we reported that complexes of this type were likely to be tumor suppressors. Here we show that they are mutated in nearly 20 percent of all human malignancies thus far examined."

Kadoh-Kadoch, Diana C. Hargreaves, Courtney Hodges, Laura Elias, Lena Ho, Jeff Ranish, Gerald R Crabtree. **Proteomic and bioinformatic analysis of mammalian SWI/SNF complexes identifies extensive roles in human malignancy.** Nature Genetics, 2013; DOI: 10.1038/ng.2628

## Discovery May Help Prevent Chemotherapy-Induced Anemia

May 6, 2013 — Cancer chemotherapy can cause peripheral neuropathy - nerve damage often resulting in pain and muscle weakness in the arms and legs. Now, researchers at Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University have discovered that chemo also induces an insidious type of nerve damage inside bone marrow that can cause delays in recovery after bone marrow transplantation. The finding, which was published online today in Nature Medicine, suggests that adding a combining chemotherapy with nerve-protecting agents may prevent long-term bone marrow injury that causes anemia and may improve the success of bone marrow transplants.

Constantly regenerating and maturing, the hematopoietic (blood-producing) stem cells in our bone marrow produce trillions of red blood cells (RBC) every day. Cancer chemotherapy is notorious for injuring the bone marrow, leading to anemia, or low RBC counts. Bone marrow chemotherapy harms the bone marrow's stem cells.

Anemia can lead to numerous health problems including chronic fatigue, tachycardia (abnormally rapid heartbeat), cognitive impairment, shortness of breath, depression and dizziness. In addition, studies have shown that cancer patients who develop anemia have a 66 percent increased risk of death compared with cancer patients without anemia.

In an earlier study, senior author Paul Frenette, M.D., professor of medicine and of cell biology and director of the Ruth L. and David S. Gottesman Institute for Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine Research at Einstein, found that sympathetic nerves within bone marrow directly affect the movement of hematopoietic stem cells. The body's sympathetic nervous system helps in controlling most internal organs - increasing heart rate and diverting blood to parts of the eye, for example.

"Since many chemotherapeutics used in cancer treatment are neurotoxic, we wondered whether they might also damage sympathetic nerves in bone marrow and thereby impair the ability of hematopoietic cells to regenerate and to manufacture RBCs," said Dr. Frenette. "This question hadn't been examined before."

Dr. Frenette and his colleagues treated mice with seven cycles of cisplatin, a chemotherapeutic commonly used to treat cancer. The mice developed severe peripheral neuropathy problems similar to those seen in cancer patients. The mice were then given fresh bone marrow transplants to see how well their marrow would regenerate. Cisplatin-exposing them stem cells, the cisplatin-treated mice had delayed recovery of blood counts compared to controls - suggesting that the poor cisplatin effects on the nerves in the bone marrow were also damaging hematopoietic cells from regenerating. By contrast, mice treated with carboplatin - a non-neurotoxic chemotherapy - recovered blood ability to produce blood after bone marrow transplantation.

Daniel Lucas, Christoph Scheiermann, Andrew Chow, Yoav Kunisaki, Ingmar Bruns, Colleen Barrick, Sandra Tessmer, Paul S Frenette. **Chemotherapy-induced bone marrow nerve injury impairs hematopoietic regeneration.**Nature Medicine, 2013; DOI: 10.1038/nm.3160

## Discovery Helps Show How Breast Cancer Spreads

May 6, 2013 — Researchers at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis have found a way that breast cancer cells may spread to the lungs. The finding could help others to develop aggressive tumors that spread. The finding opens the door to drug treatments that prevent metastasis.

It has long been known that women with denser breasts are at higher risk for breast cancer. This greater density is caused by an excess of a structural protein called collagen.

"We have shown how increased collagen in the breasts could increase the chances of breast tumors spreading and becoming more invasive," says Gregory D. Longmore, MD, professor of medicine. "It doesn't explain why women with dense breasts get cancer in the first place. But once they do, the pathway that we describe is relevant in causing their cancers to be more aggressive and more likely to spread."

The results appear online May 5 in Nature Cell Biology. Working in mouse models of breast cancer and breast tumor samples from patients, Longmore and his colleagues found that collagen fibers that are visible in the surrounding tumor cells, DDR2, binds to collagen and activates a multistep pathway that encourages tumor cells to spread.

"We had no idea DDR2 would do this," says Longmore, also professor of cell biology and physiology. "The functions of DDR2 are not well understood, and it has not been implicated in cancer - and certainly not in breast cancer - until now."

At the opposite end of the chain of events initiated by DDR2 is a protein called SNAIL1, which has long been associated with breast cancer metastasis. Longmore and his colleagues found that DDR2 is one factor helping to maintain high levels of SNAIL1 inside a tumor cell's nucleus, a necessary state for a tumor cell to spread. Though they found it is not the only protein keeping SNAIL1 levels high, Longmore says DDR2 is perhaps the one that is the most potential to be inhibited by a drug.

"It's expressed only at the edge of the tumor," says Longmore, a physician at Siteman Cancer Center at Washington University and Barnes-Jewish Hospital and co-director of the Section of Molecular Oncology. "And it's on the surface of the cells, which makes it a good target for drugs because it's so much easier to get a drug to the surface of cells."

Longmore emphasizes that DDR2 does not initiate the high levels of SNAIL1. But it is required to keep them elevated. This mechanism that keeps tumor cells in a state that encourages metastasis requires constant signaling - meaning constant binding of DDR2 to collagen.

If that continuous signal is blocked, the cell remains cancerous, but it is no longer invasive. So a drug that prevents DDR2 from binding with collagen would not cure cancer, but could block invasion of breast tumors into the rest of the body.

Xiuli Zhang, Gerard Phillips, Jeff Ruth, Kevin Engle, Julie L. Price, David Piwnica-Worms, Kevin W. Eliceiri, Patricia J. Keely, Gregory D. Longmore. **The collagen receptor discoidin domain receptor 2 stabilizes SNAIL1 to facilitate breast cancer metastasis.** Nature Cell Biology, 2013; DOI: 10.1038/ncb2743

## Magnesium May Be as Important to Kids' Bone Health as Calcium

May 6, 2013 — Parents are advised to make sure their children drink milk and eat other calcium-rich foods to build strong bones. Soon, they also may be urged to make sure their kids eat salmon, almonds and other foods high in magnesium - another nutrient that may play an important role in bone health, according to a study to be presented Sunday, May 5, at the Pediatric Academic Societies (PAS) annual meeting in Washington, DC.

"Lots of studies look for children to have healthy bones. One of these appears to be magnesium," said lead author Steven A. Abrams MD, FAAP, professor of pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. "Calcium is important, but, except for those children and adolescents with rec- tive rickets, may not be more important than magnesium.

While its known that magnesium is important for bone health in adults, few studies have looked at whether magnesium intake and absorption are related to bone mineral content or density. This study aimed to fill that gap.

Researchers recruited 63 healthy children ages 4 to 8 years old who were not taking any multivitamins or supplements that contained any of the study. Children were hospitalized overnight twice so their calcium and magnesium levels could be measured.

Participants then received four oz hypoallergenic, lactose-free formula and beverages served during their hospital stay contained the same amount of calcium and magnesium from the amount of formal day based on the diaries. Foods and beverages were weighed before and after each meal to determine how much calcium and magnesium they consumed. Researchers also collected urine samples and analyzed them for calcium and magnesium.

While hospitalized, children's levels of calcium and magnesium were measured using a technique that involved giving them non-radioactive forms of magnesium and calcium, called stable isotopes, intravenously and orally. Urine was collected for 72 hours. By measuring the stable isotopes in the urine, the researchers could determine how much calcium and magnesium were absorbed into the body. Bone mineral content and density were measured using total body dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry.

Results showed that the amounts of magnesium consumed and absorbed were two predictive of how much bone children had. Dietary calcium intake, however, was not significantly associated with bone mineral content or density.

"We believe it is important for children to have a balanced, healthy diet with good sources of both minerals, calcium and magnesium," Dr. Abrams concluded.

The above story is reprinted from materials provided bymerican Academy of Pediatrics

**Disclaimer:** These articles are not intended to provide medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of *Pittwater Online News* or its staff.

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## Killer whales surprise couple on boat - April 29, 2013




## National Library of Australia - New pictures released.

Mother's day is today! **Here's** a freshly published set on Flickr some gorgeous pics of mothers and their children from our collection. Do any have any personal resonance with you?



Our Pick: Unidentified baby lying in a hollowed out pumpkin ; part of a mixed selection of lantern slides and negatives from John Flynn's teaching days in Gippsland, and early AIM [Australian Inland Mission] **Flynn, John**, 1880-1951.

Title devised by cataloguer based on accompanying documentation.; Part of the Australian Inland Mission collection.; Photograph of a photograph.; Condition: Silvering; scratched.; Also available in an electronic version via the Internet at nla.gov.au/nla.pic-an24358465.

## Charles Perkins Centre's Academic Director honoured - 6 May 2013




The University of Sydney's Professor Stewe Simpson has been announced as a new Fellow of the Royal Society. The honour sees him join a fellowship of the world's most eminent scientists, engineers and technologists from the United Kingdom and Commonwealth, including more than 80 Nobel Laureates.

Fellows are elected for life through a peer review process and current Fellows include Jennifer Doudna, Martin Evans, Stephen Hawking, Harry Kroto, Tim Berners-Lee, Paul Nurse and John Sulston.

Academic Director of the Charles Perkins Centre, Professor Simpson is one of the world's foremost entomologists and nutritional biologists.

The Society has acknowledged how Professor Simpson's "seminal work on locust swarming has provided a unifying framework, ranging from chemical events in nervous systems of individual insects to mass migrations, using data from biochemistry, ecology, population genetics, neurophysiology, biochemistry, behaviour, molecular genetics, statistical physics, computer science, engineering, robotics, evolutionary theory and landscape ecology".

His work on nutrition has spanned some insects to humans, and has found significant practical applications in aquaculture, conservation biology, medical ecology, gerontology, immunity and human metabolic disease."

The Society also acknowledged how Professor Simpson's discovery of the role of the gut microbiota in developing a unifying framework, ranging from chemical events in nervous systems of individual insects to mass migrations, using data from biochemistry, ecology, population genetics, neurophysiology, biochemistry, behaviour, molecular genetics, statistical physics, computer science, engineering, robotics, evolutionary theory and landscape ecology".

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Professor Simpson is the development of the Charles Perkins Centre's research and education strategies. The Centre aims to tackle the burden of obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease by translating the work of the University of Sydney into real-world solutions. Professor Simpson's multidisciplinary work has revolutionised the understanding of the dietary causes of human obesity and ageing. It has transformed the way we think of how new perspectives can yield paradigm shifts in understanding and provide novel solutions.

Sir Paul Nurse, President of the Royal Society, said: "Science helps us to better understand ourselves and the natural world around us and has a huge role to play in future economic prosperity and the health of our planet and its 7 billion people. In the coming decades we will face many challenges and science will provide many of the solutions. Our Fellows and Foreign Members are leading the way in tackling climate change and tackling disease. These scientists who have been elected to the Fellowship of the Royal Society have already contributed much to the scientific endeavour following in the footsteps of pioneers such as Newton, Darwin and Einstein and it gives me great pleasure to welcome them into our ranks."

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## Home is where the health is – UNSW – April 2013

A report by UNSW's Social Policy Research Centre has shown how providing stable housing for people with mental illness has reduced NSW hospitalisation rates by over 60% and saved $30 million in hospital costs.




## Hawaii Dolphins Play Using Whale Snouts As Slides!




Many species interact in the wild, most often as predator and prey. But recent encounters between humpback whales and bottlenose dolphins reveal a playful side to interspecies interaction. In two different locations in Hawaii, scientists watched as dolphins "rode" the heads of whales. The whales lifted the dolphins up and out of the water, and then the dolphins slid back down. The two species seemed to cooperate in the activity, and neither displayed signs of aggression or distress. Whales and dolphins in Hawaiian waters often interact, but playful social activity such as this is extremely rare between species.



## Milky Way Black Hole Snacks on Hot Gas - 7th of May, 2013

The Herschel space observatory has made detailed observations of surprisingly hot gas that may be orbiting or falling towards the supermassive black hole at the centre of our Milky Way galaxy. Herschel is a European Space Agency mission with important NASA participation.

"The black hole appears to be devouring the gas," said Paul Goldsmith, the U.S. project scientist for Herschel at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, Calif. "This will teach us about how supermassive black holes grow."

Our galaxy's black hole is located in a region known as Sagittarius A*, - or Sgr A* for short - which is a nearby source of radio waves. The black hole has a mass about four million times that of our sun and lies roughly 26,000 light-years away from our solar system.

Even at that distance, it is a few hundred times closer to us than any other galaxy with an active black hole at its center, making it the ideal natural laboratory to study the environment around these enigmatic objects. At Herschel's far-infrared wavelengths, scientists can peer through the dust in our galaxy and study the turbulent innermost region of the galaxy in great detail.

The biggest surprise was the hot gas in the innermost central region of the galaxy. At least some of it is at 1,832 degrees Fahrenheit (around 1,000 degrees Celsius), much hotter than typical interstellar clouds, which are usually only a few tens of degrees above absolute zero, or minus 460 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 273 degrees Celsius).

The team hypothesizes that emissions from strong shocks in highly magnetized gas in the region may be a significant contributor to the high temperatures. Such shocks can be generated in collisions between gas clouds or in material flowing at high speed.

Using near-infrared observations, other astronomers have spotted a separate, compact cloud of gas unexpectedly to just a few Earth masses spiraling toward the black hole. Located much closer to the black hole than the reservoir of material studied by Herschel in this work, it may finally be depleted on later this year.

Spacecraft, including NASA's Nuclear Spectroscopic Telescope Array (NuSTAR) and the Chandra X-ray Observatory, will be waiting to spot any X-ray bursts as the black hole enjoys its feast.

Read the full ESA news release

Herschel is a European Space Agency mission, with science instruments provided by consortia of European institutes and with important participation by NASA. NASA's Herschel Project Office is based at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, Calif. JPL contributed mission-enabling technology for two of Herschel's three science instruments. The NASA Herschel Science Center, part of the Infrared Processing and Analysis Center at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, supports the United States astronomical community. Caltech manages JPL for NASA. Picture: This artist's concept illustrates the frenzied activity at the core of our Milky Way galaxy. The galactic center hosts a supermassive black hole in the region known as Sagittarius A*, or Sgr A*, with a mass of about four million times that of our sun. The Herschel space observatory has made detailed observations of surprisingly hot gas that may be orbiting or falling toward the supermassive black hole. (Credit: ESA/C. Carreau)

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# Pittwater Online News




Mother's Day
Sunday 10 May 2015
Bookings Essential
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Author/Artist Talk
Meet Phillip Gwynne at Mona Vale Memorial Hall
Saturday 9th May 2015 at 2pm
Limited Seats Available Book Now to Avoid Disappointment
Tickets $15 Adult $10 Concession
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MOTHERS DAY
SUNDAY 10 MAY
a lucky clover
live music
lunch
Mother's Day
Sunday 10 May 2015
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May 12 - 18, 2013: Issue 110

## Growing Your Own Winter Vegetables

**by Paul Johnson**

Whether you made successful use of our previous piece on building your own raised vegetable or not, everyone can take advantage this article on producing the best winter veggie crop.

Growing your own vegetable garden is a rewarding process; once you get into it, it also becomes an addictive source of pride.

The most important thing to consider when planting your veggies is seasonality. Vegetables and herbs are all designed to handle different conditions of their native homeland; hence some flourish in our winter climate, while others simply wilt under the cold conditions.

Coming into Sydney's temperate May the best veggies for planting are:

Broad Beans
Cauliflower
Carrot
Sprouts
Lettuce
Onions
Peas
Spinach

Once you have figured out which of these veggies will suit you best you should align your rows in a north/south direction. This allows the optimal sunshine to each plant and prevents shading from neighbouring plants in the bed.

Sow the seeds densely since many of the seeds will never germinate; you want to hedge your bets at this stage more is better! Sow each seed at twice the depth of its own thickness for a seed 5mm thick you will sow it 10mm deep into the soil.

Use a "drill" a straight stick would work perfectly and press it lightly into the soil to the correct depth. Place your seed in and cover it back to the level of the surrounding soil. Use a flat even surface, such as a hoe, to gently pat the soil over the top of the seeds. This process ensures that the seeds are in contact with the soil on all sides, and is vital for correct germination. Sprinkle the garden bed with water, being careful not to drown the seeds!

Continue to keep the soil damp but not wet until the second set of leaves are produced by your vegetables. Once this takes place you will want to separate the plants so that they have plenty of space to grow.

That's it! All you need to get your new veggie patch started this month!

**Products and further friendly advice available at Mona Vale and Avalon Johnson Brothers Mitre 10.**

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