

## BOUDDI BUSHCARE

Bouddi Bushcare meets once a week and have been working on various sites in Bouddi National Park – tackling bitou and lantana at-

- Maitland Bay – (working along the beach and the northern headland )
- The coast walk from Maitland Bay track to Gerrin Point
- Maitland Bay Drive
- The coast track from Putty Beach to Bullimah Beach

The group were looking for a challenge so they were shown Rileys Bay – an area recently acquired from Gosford Councils COSS. The site had a weed density of over 70% being mainly thick bitou and lantana fringing onto mangroves and saltmarsh with a canopy of *Eucalyptus robusta* (Swamp Mahogany) and *Eucalyptus botryoides* (Bangalay).

Work began on November 1 2006



By May 2008 the group had cleared an area of 1.4 hectares moving into an Endangered Ecological Community – Swamp Sclerophyll Forest.

A 20m square quadrat was established on 24/7/07 with initial data showing Bare ground – 80% Plant cover 4% - Cut weed piles 16 % - - 64m<sup>2</sup> quadrat with 14 native species

When the quadrat was reassessed on 9/6/08 data showed - Bare ground 3% weed cover 10% plant cover 87%- weed piles still evident with vines growing over with 33 native species.

The site has shown remarkable resilience with over 50 native species taking the place of removed weeds. As well as new native species, new weed species have also appeared such as –Cotton Bush, Deadly Nightshade, Turkey Rhubarb and Blackberry all in all a total weed species list of 22 .



The importance of secondary and maintenance weeding is evident from work carried out on site – areas where thick bitou and lantana has been removed need to be reworked several months later to remove weed seedlings and regrowth. The amount of maintenance required decreases quickly and eventually the area will maintain itself. It is important in these situations not to over clear and to let the rate of native bush regrowth dictate the rate of weed removal



Native vines growing over removed weed piles



### Quadrat Data – Riley's Bay – 24/7/07

20 m quadrat

Canopy - < 30% cover 0- *Casuarina glauca* *Glochidion ferdinandi* *Eucalyptus botryoides*  
*Angophora costata*

Ground cover - *Geitonoplesium cynosum*, *Stephania japonica*, *Breynia oblongifolia*,  
*Carytia*, *Livistona australis*, *Notelea*, *Omalanthus*, *Guioa*, *Eustrephus latifolius*,  
*Oplismenis*, *Viola hederacea*, *Clematis*, *Pittosporum* , *Cissus antarctica*  
Total 14 native species

Bare ground – 80% Plant cover 4% Weed piles 16 % - - 64m<sup>2</sup>

### Quadrat Data – Riley's Bay – 9/6/08

20 m quadrat

Canopy -25% cover – two botryoides dead

Mid Storey – *Livistona australis*, *Indigofera australis*, *Omalanthus nutans*, *Glochidion ferdinandi*, *Pittosporum revolutum*, *Pittosporum undulatum*, *Notelea* , *Breynia oblongifolia*, *Stephania japonica*, *Clematis aristata*

Ground cover – Bare ground 3% weed cover 10% plant cover 87%- weed piles still evident with vines growing over

Weeds – *Lantana camara*, *Rubus fruticosus* , *Sida rhombifolia* *Ligustrum sinense*,  
*Conzya*

Natives – Seedlings – *Casuarina glauca*, *Eleocarpus reticulatus*, *Synoum glandulosum*,  
*Eucalyptus robusta*, *Notelea*, *Acmena smithii*

Other- *Cissus hypoglauca*, *Cissus antarctica*, *Stephania japonica*, *Tetragonia tetragonioides*, *Breynia oblongifolia*, - *Geitonoplesium cynosum*, *Sarcopetalum*, *Breynia oblongifolia*, *Omalanthus*, *Guioa*, *Eustrephus latifolius*, *Oplismenis* x 2, *Viola hederacea*, *Clematis aristata*, *Pratia purpurescens*, *Dichondra repens*, *Microleana*, *Dianella* ,  
*Pandorea pandorana*, *Kennedia rubicunda*, *Sigesbeckia*, *Centella asiatica*, *Hydrocotyle peduncularis*, *Passiflora cinnabarina*, *Geranium*, *Entolasia*  
Total 33 native species

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