



# BUSHLAND NEWS

*KATANDRA BUSHLAND SANCTUARY NEWSLETTER  
Autumn 2020*

Katandra will remain closed to the public until further notice. The open season, which was due to start at the beginning of July, will most likely be affected by the world virus pandemic and its status will be guided by the government policies of the time. Updates will be provided in the winter edition of the Bushland News and on the Katandra website.

The bushland in Katandra has rejoiced in the recent rains that have fallen this year following the extremely dry 2019. The creeks are now flowing well and a lot of new plant growth is springing up, particularly in the section affected by the controlled environmental burn 18 months ago.

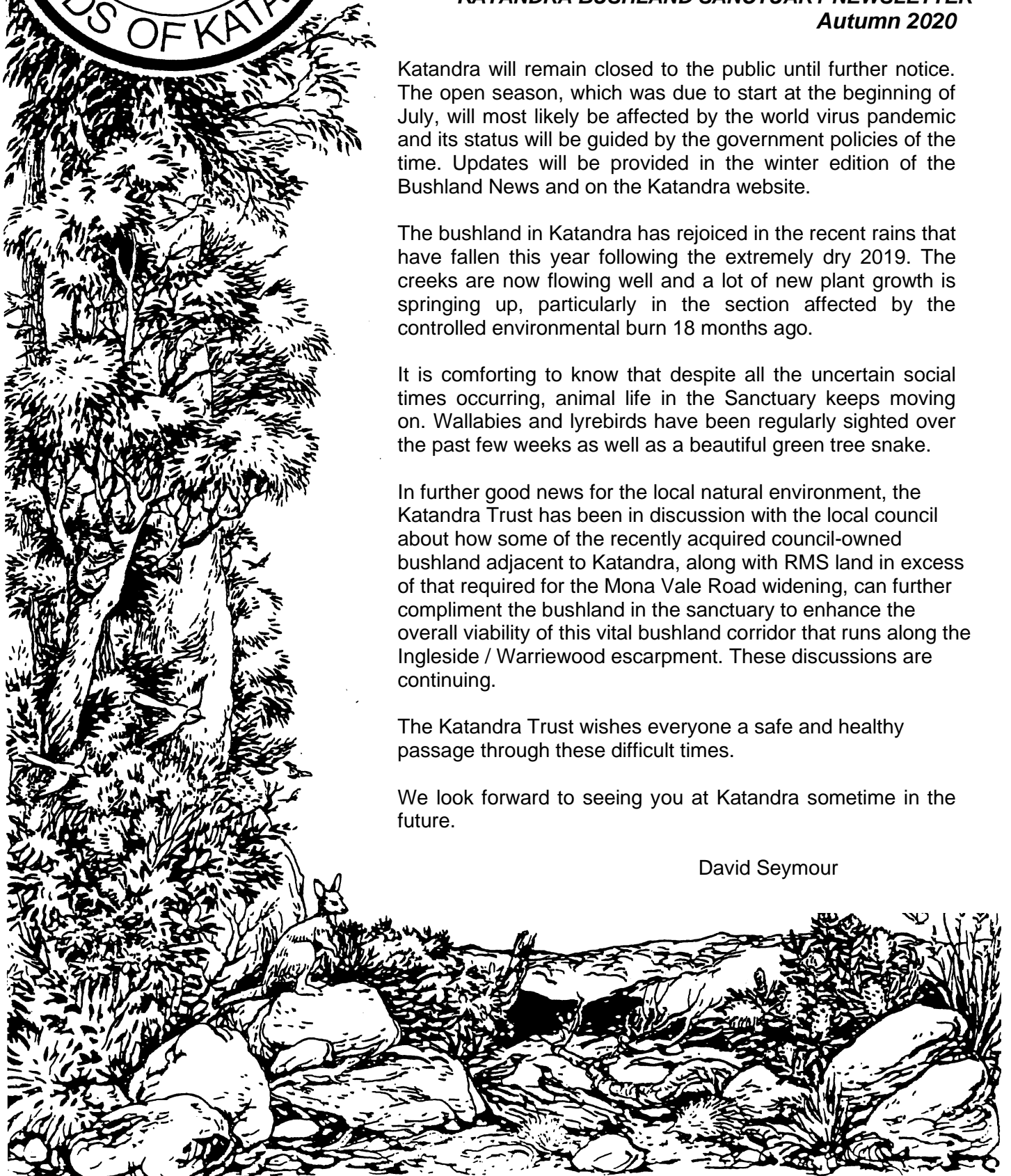
It is comforting to know that despite all the uncertain social times occurring, animal life in the Sanctuary keeps moving on. Wallabies and lyrebirds have been regularly sighted over the past few weeks as well as a beautiful green tree snake.

In further good news for the local natural environment, the Katandra Trust has been in discussion with the local council about how some of the recently acquired council-owned bushland adjacent to Katandra, along with RMS land in excess of that required for the Mona Vale Road widening, can further compliment the bushland in the sanctuary to enhance the overall viability of this vital bushland corridor that runs along the Ingleside / Warriewood escarpment. These discussions are continuing.

The Katandra Trust wishes everyone a safe and healthy passage through these difficult times.

We look forward to seeing you at Katandra sometime in the future.

David Seymour



## Sanctuary Maintenance

Katandra's regular workdays have been cancelled for the foreseeable future. Normally every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month (excluding the hot summer months), personal health safety and the physical distancing regulations have necessitated this action. This doesn't however mean that all maintenance work has ceased. Some tasks that can be carried out by two people working individually have been done including much needed repair work on some of the steps along the steeper sections of the walking track that winds its way through the Sanctuary.



*The Katandra yurt and the veranda platform that has been in need of repair. The tree to the left of the platform is an *Angophora costata*.*

Another maintenance task in progress is the replacement of the veranda platform at the front of the yurt building. This yurt was built in the early 1980s so is well over 30 years old. It survived the fire in 1994 with only a very small section of the veranda suffering slight damage near the xanthorrhoea grass tree (shown on the left of the yurt entrance in the photo above). Further damage was averted by quick action from Don and Ruth Seymour who visited the Sanctuary not long after the fire passed through to find the timber smouldering. Hopefully the new platform can also serve the Sanctuary well for another 30 years or more.

## Eucalypts

Eucalypt trees are synonymous with the Australian landscape. The term 'eucalypt' is used to describe members of the seven genera belonging to the Eucalypteae tribe in the Myrtaceae family of plants. The three Eucalypteae genera represented by the most species are *Corymbia* (93 species), *Angophora* (10 species) and *Eucalyptus* (758 species). Thus not all Eucalypts are *Eucalyptus*.



*Repaired steps on the track leading up the escarpment near the beginning of the walking track.*

Nearly all of these species are endemic to Australia however some are also found in Papua New Guinea and nearby Indonesia.

The name eucalyptus comes from two Greek words, "eu" (meaning "well") and "kalypto" (meaning "covered"), referring to the cap-like covering (operculum) that protects the flower buds. This cap, made from sepals and petals that have fused together, falls off when the flower opens revealing a flower that features a mass of stamen but no petals.

These operculum caps appear as hats on the gumnut babies in May Gibbs' iconic series of illustrated stories about Snugglepoot and Cuddlepie. The 'gum nut' is the woody fruit left behind after the flower dies off.



*Numerous showy stamen take on the role of the absent petals in attracting pollinating insects or birds to Eucalypt flowers (Photo Aust Plant Society Sutherland group).*





Gum nuts from *Cormbium* species in WA

The shape and arrangement of the flower buds, length of stem on the buds, the shape and structure of the operculum and size and shape of the gumnuts are all key features that help distinguish and identify eucalypt species. Other features that help identification are the size, shape, structure and arrangement of the leaves and the type of bark present on the lower trunk and upper branches.

Katandra is home to eight different species of eucalypt which represent a range of different bark types –

Smooth bark

- ***Angophora costata*** (Sydney Red gum or Smooth-barked Apple),
- ***Eucalyptus haemastoma*** (Scribbly Gum),
- ***Eucalyptus punctate*** (Grey Gum),

Rough stringy or fibrous bark

- ***E. scias*** (Large-fruited Red Mahogany),
- ***E. umbra*** (Broad-leaved White Mahogany)

Rough flaky bark

- ***Corymbia gummifera*** (Red Bloodwood),

Rough, very hard bark

- ***E. paniculata*** (Grey Ironbark),

Fine short fibrous bark

- ***E. piperita*** (Sydney Peppermint Gum),

Species in the *Angophora* genus were given the common name of “apple” by the early European explorers because their foliage and show of flowers resembled that of apple trees, even though they do not bear any apple-like fruit and

are not closely related to apple trees.

Another tree found growing in Katandra that is often associated with the Eucalypts is ***Syncarpia glomulifera*** (Turpentine).

Eucalypts are often referred to as “gum trees” due to the sap or “kino” that exudes from the bark of some species. This kino is not actually a “gum” as true gum is a water-soluble sap, kino is not soluble in cold water.

Eucalypts are also well known for the oils produced in glands within their leaves. It is the presence of this volatile and flammable oil that adds to the ferocity of bushfire in the Australian landscape. The blue haze over distant Australian bushland is due to this eucalyptus oil evaporating from leaves due to heat from the sun. Eucalyptus oil distilled from leaves is used for a wide range of applications including as an antiseptic, flavouring, fragrance, insect repellent and cleaner.

Eucalypts are well adapted to fire. Most species have dormant epicormic buds beneath the protective bark along their trunks that sprout after fire. Many also have lignotubers at the base of the trunk that also contain dormant buds well protected underground.

The evolutionary history of Eucalypts is not well documented. Interestingly the oldest fossils currently identified as Eucalypts (dated as being 52 million years old) have been found in Patagonia in Argentina despite no Eucalypts being found naturally occurring in South America today. This possibly suggests that there were species growing when Australia was part of the Gondwana “supercontinent” over 100 million years ago.

Eucalypts today have evolved to be able to grow in a huge range of climates, from the arid inland areas to temperate woodlands, wet coastal forests and sub-alpine regions. They have now been exported and grown in many other parts of the world where, free from native insects that normally feed from them, they are among the fastest growing trees in the world.



*C. gummifera*



*E. umbra*



*E. piperita*



*E. paniculata*

Katandra website: [www.katandra.org](http://www.katandra.org)

### **KATANDRA BUSHLAND SANCTUARY**

Foley's Hill, Lane Cove Rd, Ingleside NSW  
Department of Lands Reserve No 86487  
Founder: the late Harold Alfred Seymour  
Managed by Katandra Bushland Sanctuary Trust.  
Phone: 0431857407

OPEN: Every Sunday: July, August, September,  
October

HOURS: 10 am — 4 pm

ADMISSION: \$3 donation

### **KATANDRA BUSHLAND SANCTUARY TRUST PO Box 365 Mona Vale NSW 1660**

President: David Seymour

Vice-President: David James

Secretary: (acting) David Seymour

Treasurer: Peter Hammond

Minutes Secretary: David Malin

Bushland News Editor: Marita Macrae

(Cover Design by the late Walter Cunningham)

**Enquiries: phone 0431857407 or by email  
information@katandra.org**

### **Volunteers are needed**

If you can assist on maintenance days or with  
welcoming visitors to Katandra on open days,  
please phone 0431857407

## **DIARY DATES 2020 – TO BE REVIEWED**

### **SAUSAGE SIZZLE - CANCELLED**

~~Sunday 3rd May, 12 noon~~

~~Enjoy a sausage sandwich and  
drinks provided by the Trust.~~

### **FOUNDER'S DAY – SUBJECT TO REVIEW**

~~Sunday 16th August, 12 noon~~

~~Bring your lunch to cook on the wood burning  
BBQs. The trust will provide 'dessert', drinks, tea  
and coffee.~~

### **CHRISTMAS PARTY**

~~Sunday 6th December, 4.30 pm~~

~~Cold meats, drinks and salads are provided, but  
please feel free to bring along some sweets or  
savouries to share before or after. Also enter the  
raffle to win one of Ruth's sort-after Christmas  
cakes.~~

### **SANCTUARY MAINTENANCE 2020**

(3rd Sunday March–November)

~~9 am Sunday 15 March~~

~~9 am Sunday 19 April~~

~~9 am Sunday 17 May~~

~~9 am Sunday 21 June~~

~~9 am Sunday 19 July~~

~~9 am Sunday 20 September~~

~~9 am Sunday 18 October~~

~~9 am Sunday 15 November~~

**CANCELLED UNTIL  
FURTHER NOTICE**

### **PUBLIC OPEN DAYS 2020**

~~Each Sunday of July–October~~

~~10 am — 4 pm~~

**TO BE REVIEWED AT A LATER DATE**

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Katandra Bushland Sanctuary Trust  
PO Box 365 Mona Vale NSW 1660