



# BUSHLAND NEWS

*KATANDRA BUSHLAND SANCTUARY NEWSLETTER  
Spring 2020*

Katandra's has been able to remain open to visitors for this year's Open Season despite the issues relating to the Covid-19 virus. There have been good numbers of visitors each Sunday, no doubt keen to be active and get outdoors. With a few added restrictions to the number of people in the yurt at any one time, a stroll around the Sanctuary's 2.5 km bush track is an ideal activity that can be done in a covid-safe manner.

Unfortunately, however, it has been necessary to cancel Katandra's Christmas party, originally set down for Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December,

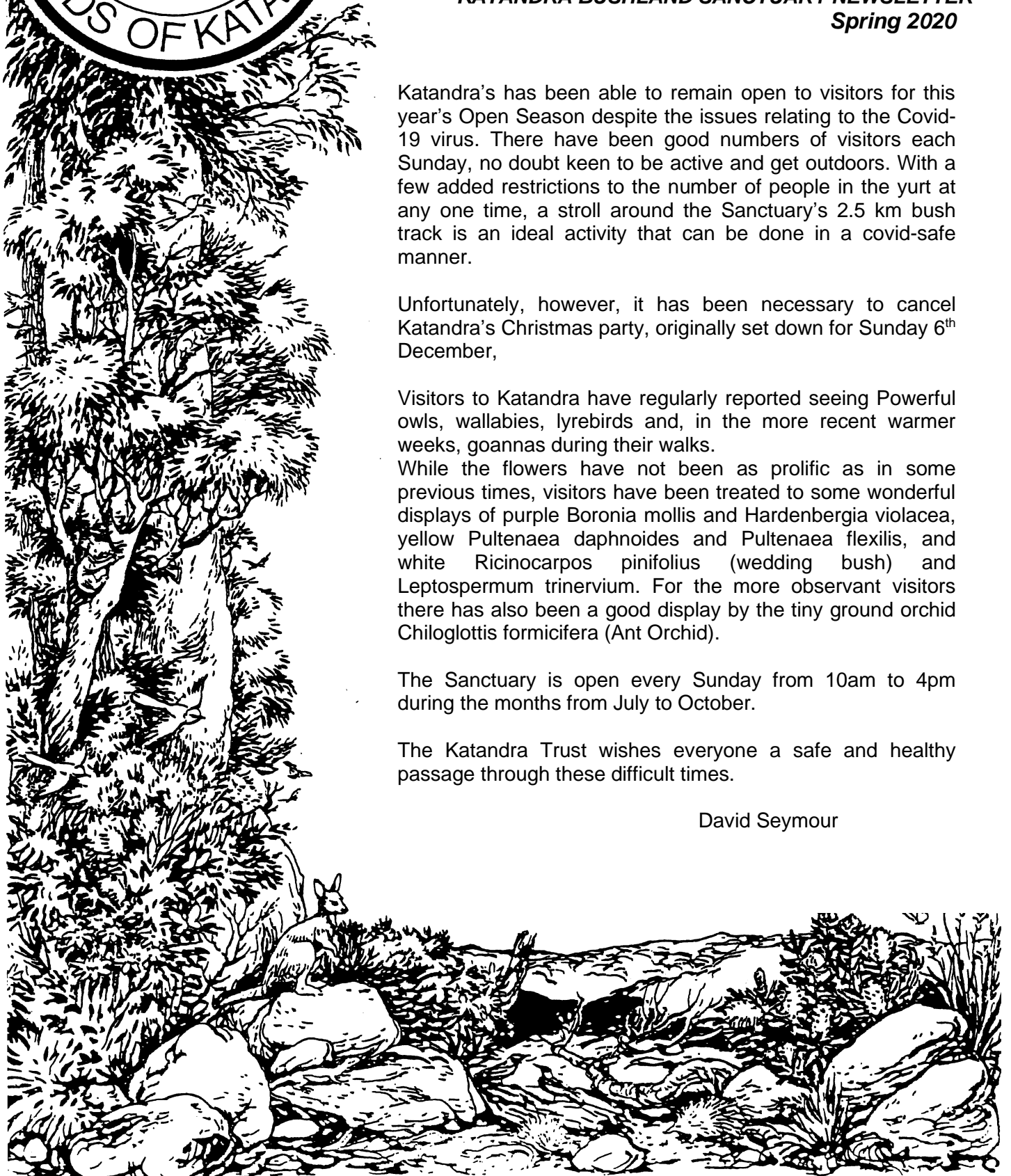
Visitors to Katandra have regularly reported seeing Powerful owls, wallabies, lyrebirds and, in the more recent warmer weeks, goannas during their walks.

While the flowers have not been as prolific as in some previous times, visitors have been treated to some wonderful displays of purple *Boronia mollis* and *Hardenbergia violacea*, yellow *Pultenaea daphnoides* and *Pultenaea flexilis*, and white *Ricinocarpus pinifolius* (wedding bush) and *Leptospermum trinervium*. For the more observant visitors there has also been a good display by the tiny ground orchid *Chiloglottis formicifera* (Ant Orchid).

The Sanctuary is open every Sunday from 10am to 4pm during the months from July to October.

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

David Seymour



## Genus Zieria

The different *Boronia* species of plants are well known for their four petal flowers, but they are not the only ones. The *Zieria* genus of plants, which belong to the same Rutaceae family as *Boronia*, also display flowers with four petals.



*Flowers of Boronia pinnata with four petals and eight stamen*

The leaves of all Rutaceae species are dotted with glands containing strongly aromatic volatile oils. This family also includes the economically important citrus trees.

Plants in the genus *Zieria* are shrubs or small trees. There are about 60 species of *Zieria*, all of which are endemic to the eastern states of Australia, except for *Zieria chevalieri*, which is found in New Caledonia.

One species, *Zieria parrisiae*, is listed as "critically endangered" (found growing only in a small area near Pambula on the NSW south coast), a further eleven are listed as "endangered" and eight as "vulnerable".



*The tiny, solitary four-petal flower of Zieria pilosa growing in Katandra*

*Zieria* flowers have four fused sepals alternating with four petals. There are four stamens and four carpels with their styles fused. The fruit has four lobes, each containing one or two seeds. (*Boronia* flowers have eight stamens.)



*The four-lobed fruit typical of the Zieria species. A leaf comprising of three leaflets is also shown.*

Katandra is home to two species of *Zieria* – *Z. smithii* and *Z. pilosa*.

Also known as "lanolin bush" or "sandfly zieria", *Z. smithii* is a shrub growing to a height of about 1 ½ - 2 metres. It has small white flowers growing in large groups which can be quite spectacular as the whole plant flowers all at the same time. The flowers usually appear in spring and have petals only about 3-4 millimetres in length. The dark green leaves are composed of three leaflets with the middle leaflet slightly larger. The Pyrethrin-like oil in its leaves is a good insect repellent.

*Z. pilosa*, also known as "hairy ziera", is a smaller shrub only growing to about 1 metre. It has single white to pale pink flowers, also with petals about 3-4 millimetres in length, which can appear all year round but usually in late spring / early summer.

### Christmas party cancelled

Unfortunately, due to uncertainty caused by the Covid-19 restrictions, the Katandra Christmas party initially set down for the first Sunday in December has been cancelled. It is hoped that issues related to the virus pandemic ease next year, allowing functions held in the Sanctuary at various times during the year to go ahead. More information will be provided in future editions of the Bushland News.

## Powerful Owls

Sightings of Powerful owls in Katandra continue on a regular basis. These sightings are particularly encouraging considering the unfortunate disturbing of a nearby nest site earlier in the year. The owl in the adjacent photos was seen, with its possum prey, by visitors to the Sanctuary in late September.



Members of the public are encouraged to report sightings of powerful owls by sending an email to [powerfulowl@birdlife.org.au](mailto:powerfulowl@birdlife.org.au) with the location (street address or GPS location), an attached photo or call recording (if you have it), details of when the owl was seen or heard and anything interesting noticed about where it was or what it was doing (eg holding prey, perched on a tree branch etc).

## Fauna Overpass



If you have recently driven west along Mona Vale Road you may have noticed the concrete structure that has been constructed on the hill just past the now closed intersection with the eastern end of Lane Cove Road. This is part of the foundation of the vegetated overpass which has been planned to cross the road at this point.



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: Julie Emerson  
Bushland News Editor: Marita Macrae

(Cover Design by the late Walter Cunningham)

**Enquiries: phone 0431857407 or by email  
[information@katandra.org](mailto: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 – CANCELLED

~~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– CANCELLED

~~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

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Katandra Bushland Sanctuary Trust  
PO Box 365 Mona Vale NSW 1660