BUSHLAND NEWS

KATANDRA BUSHLAND SANCTUARY NEWSLETTER
Winter 2025

Greetings from Katandra

Katandra's 2025 open season has begun with the Sanctuary open every Sunday 10am to 4pm from now until the end of October. Visitors can enjoy a casual walk around the approximately 2.5 km track (or 1.5 km if you take the inner circle shortcut) taking in the experience of being immersed in a variety of different types of bushland environments. The bushland remains healthy and essentially weed-free. In late summer a large *Eucalyptus piperita* (Sydney Peppermint Gum) fell in the Sanctuary, blocking the track and bringing down some smaller trees, one of which hung precariously overhead. With the help of a local tree services company, the dangerous tree has been removed and the track has since been cleared.

There have not been many plants seen flowering over recent months, however currently, the locally uncommon *Bertya brownii* is in flower with its small candle-like male flowers and the equally small star shaped female flowers all on the same plant, and many flowering buds can been seen developing on *Acacia ulicifolia* (Prickly Moses) and *Leionema dentatum* (Toothed Phebalium). These along with plants like *Boronia ledifolia* (Sydney Boronia) will be in full flower soon.

Numerous wallabies continue to be seen regularly throughout Katandra along with brush turkeys, king parrots and a variety of other birds.

You can contact us by email katandrainfo@gmail.com, phone 0431857407 or via the Contact Us page on the Katandra website.

We look forward to seeing you at Katandra.

David Seymour

Eucalypt Taxonomy

Taxonomy is the science of classification. It's trying to sort out, for the human mind, the array of diversity that occurs in nature. Originally, plant classification was based on morphological characteristics, the visible physical characteristics of a plant. Classification groups plants with similar characteristics, helping to allow evolutionary relationships to be understood. More recently developed technologies such as scanning electron microscopes and DNA sequencing have given much finer techniques for determining how closely related different species are. Plant taxonomy then is still very much a developing field as these studies continue to reveal more information. Changes to the classification of the plants collectively known as 'the **Eucalypts'** is a good example of continuing development.
The term '**Eucalypt'** is often used to describe a group of closely related trees that belong to the Eucalypteae tribe, a large tribe of flowering plants in the family Myrtaceae. These trees are commonly referred to as 'gum trees', for the sticky, gum-like substance (kino) that exudes from the trunk of some species.

Corymbia Angophora or Eucalyptus?

Over the years there has been a lot of debate and change as to how this tribe of Eucalypts has been broken up into different genera. For a long time most gum trees were classified in the genus ***Eucalyptus,*** with many different types of Eucalypt, eg the ***Corymbia*** (or Bloodwoods)

The smooth pinkish bark of Angophora costata

The rough 'crocodile skin' like bark of Corymbia gummifera (Red Bloodwood) with typical stains of oozing blood-red resinous kino

being considered as sub-genera of the *Eucalyptus* genus, while ***Angophoras*** (commonly called 'Apple' Gums) were kept as a separate genus.
In the 1990's the *Corymbia* group was split from *Eucalyptus* on the grounds that molecular studies showed that they were more closely related to *Angophora* than to other members of *Eucalyptus*. If *Angophora* was to be a separate genus, then *Corymbia* should be afforded the same status. This then meant that there were then 7 separate 'Eucalypt' genera

Eucalyptus – over 700 species
Corymbia (Bloodwoods) – approx.110 sp
Angophora (Apples) – 13 sp
Allosyncarpia – 1 species
Stockwellia - 1 species
Eucalyptopsis - 2 species
Arillastrum - 1 species

The few species of the latter 4 genera above are mainly confined to northern regions of Australia and above, having evolved from ancient lineages of the family Myrtaceae. Based on genetic, fossil and morphological evidence, it is hypothesised that they evolved into separate taxa before the evolution of the many species of the more widespread and well-known genera *Eucalyptus*, *Corymbia* and *Angophora*.
More recent studies have resulted in a proposal for the *Corymbia* genus to be split to produce a new genus ***Blakella***, removing 36 *Corymbia*

species to this new genus. The effect of this proposal would be to re-classify many well-known *Corymbia* to the new genus, including Lemon-scented Gum (*C. citriodora*), Ghost Gum (*C. aparrerinja)* and the Spotted Gum (*C. maculata* – commonly found growing in the Pittwater area). This proposal also raises the possibility of further 'splitting' of the eucalypts in the future. In response to this, it has now been suggested that all of the eucalypts be included in the one *Eucalyptus* genus. This would then require the creating of a series of subgenera groups within the *Eucalyptus* genus. Names of *Corymbia* and *Angophora* members would then have to be changed to reflect this new genus status. For example, *Corymbia gummifera* would become *Eucalyptus gummifera*. Problems are created when species names have already been used. Ridge-fruited mallee has the name *Eucalyptus costata,* so changing the name of *Angophora costata* (Sydney Red Gum) is not so simple. A suggested new name is *Eucalyptus apocynifolia*?

The debate over whether this latest proposed change is accepted is continuing. Currently the Australian Native Plant Society (ANPS) continues to use the separate *Corymbia* and *Angophora* genera.

Gumnuts of Corymbia gummifera and Angophora costata, both found growing in Katandra

Native Wildlife and Rat Poisons

Already suffering from the effects of habitat destruction and the presence of feral animals, our native wildlife is facing a new threat from the indiscriminate effects of the use of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs) - rat poisons.

There are a number of different types of rodenticides that can be used. Some are lethal after a single-dose while others require multiple doses to be effective. Rodents tend not to gorge on an unknown source of food. Instead they sample the food and wait and observe if it makes them, or other rats sick. Any sign of illness will make them (and others) avoid that food in the future, reducing the effectiveness of the use of this "food" as a rodent control. To avoid this "poison shyness", some types of rat poison are less toxic and slower acting, the time delay between first ingesting the poison and sickness avoids the rats associating the sickness to the "food". This is the rationale behind the use of the anticoagulant class of rodenticides. Rats will return to the food source and continue ingesting the poison, eventually building it up to lethal levels in their bodies.

"First-generation" anticoagulant rodenticides (FGARs) use chemical agents such as warfarin. These act by affecting the vitamin K cycle which normally produces essential blood clotting factors in animals. Internal bleeding could start if the body's reserve of anticoagulant runs out from exposure to enough of these chemicals. Low doses of warfarin are used in humans as a blood thinner to help reduce the chance of developing blood clots following surgery. In high doses, the toxic effects can result in massive internal bleeding leading to the death of the animal. Because of the time delay between feeding and sickness, rats return to continue feeding on the bait, gradually building up the poison to a level where it is lethal. The rodenticide kills only after multiple doses, so other rats do not associate any sickness to the food.

SGARs use the same basic principle, however they are much more toxic. They were developed in the belief that populations of rats would build up a resistance to the less toxic first-generation poisons. One feed of these second-generation poisons is enough to be lethal, however the time delay between ingestion and sickness means the rats have likely returned for many more feeds, increasing poison levels in their bodies to many times that required to be lethal.

Sick animals stumbling around are an easy prey for carnivores higher up the food chain, such as domestic cats and dogs or native animals like owls, eagles, snakes and quolls. Consuming a sick mouse or rat laced with a FGAR is a health problem. If the mouse or rat was laced with a high dose of a much more toxic SGAR it will likely be lethal. Other non-targeted animals, such as kookaburras, galah's, magpies, bandicoots and possums can also be affected if they consume baits left lying around. Testing has detected the presence of anticoagulant poisons in a high proportion of native animals in both Australia and overseas. In European and North American nations, these products are restricted to use by licensed pest controllers and banned for home use. Some nations have gone further and banned these poisons altogether. Unfortunately, in Australia, there are no restrictions with SGARs easily available alongside FGARs in supermarkets and hardware stores. As consumers we can make a difference by identifying and not purchasing such products.

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: $5 donation

KATANDRA BUSHLAND SANCTUARY TRUST
PO Box 485 Mona Vale NSW 1660

President: David Seymour
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Trustees: Marita Macrae OAM
Antony Westwood
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Bushland News Editors: Marita Macrae OAM
David Seymour

(Cover Design by the late Walter Cunningham)

Enquiries: phone – 0431 857 407,
email - katandrainfo@gmail.com
or via the Contact Us page on the Katandra website

Katandra website -
katandrabushlandsanctuary.com

DONATIONS

Donations to Katandra to help maintain the Sanctuary can be made by direct deposit. Katandra's bank details are below

Account Name –
Katandra Bushland Sanctuary Trust
BSB – 082132
Account No. - 509347998

PUBLIC OPEN DAYS 2025

Each Sunday of July–October
10 am – 4 pm

Picnic tables are available for use should you wish to bring along a picnic lunch to enjoy in the Sanctuary.

DIARY DATES 2025

SANCTUARY MAINTENANCE 2025
Maintenance days are generally the third Sunday of the month from March to November, from 9am. Please check by contacting us on 0431 857 407 as these dates and times may vary.

Volunteers are needed
If you can assist on maintenance days or with welcoming visitors to Katandra on open days, please phone 0431 857 407.

Katandra Bushland Sanctuary Trust
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