



BUSHLAND NEWS

KATANDRA BUSHLAND SANCTUARY NEWSLETTER
Summer 2021

Best wishes for the New Year.

This summer has seen a lot more rain fall than in the previous summer. The bushland has responded with a lot of new growth and many young seedlings popping up. I am sure that the other bushland areas around the state affected by the wild bushfires last summer will also be relishing this wetter summer.

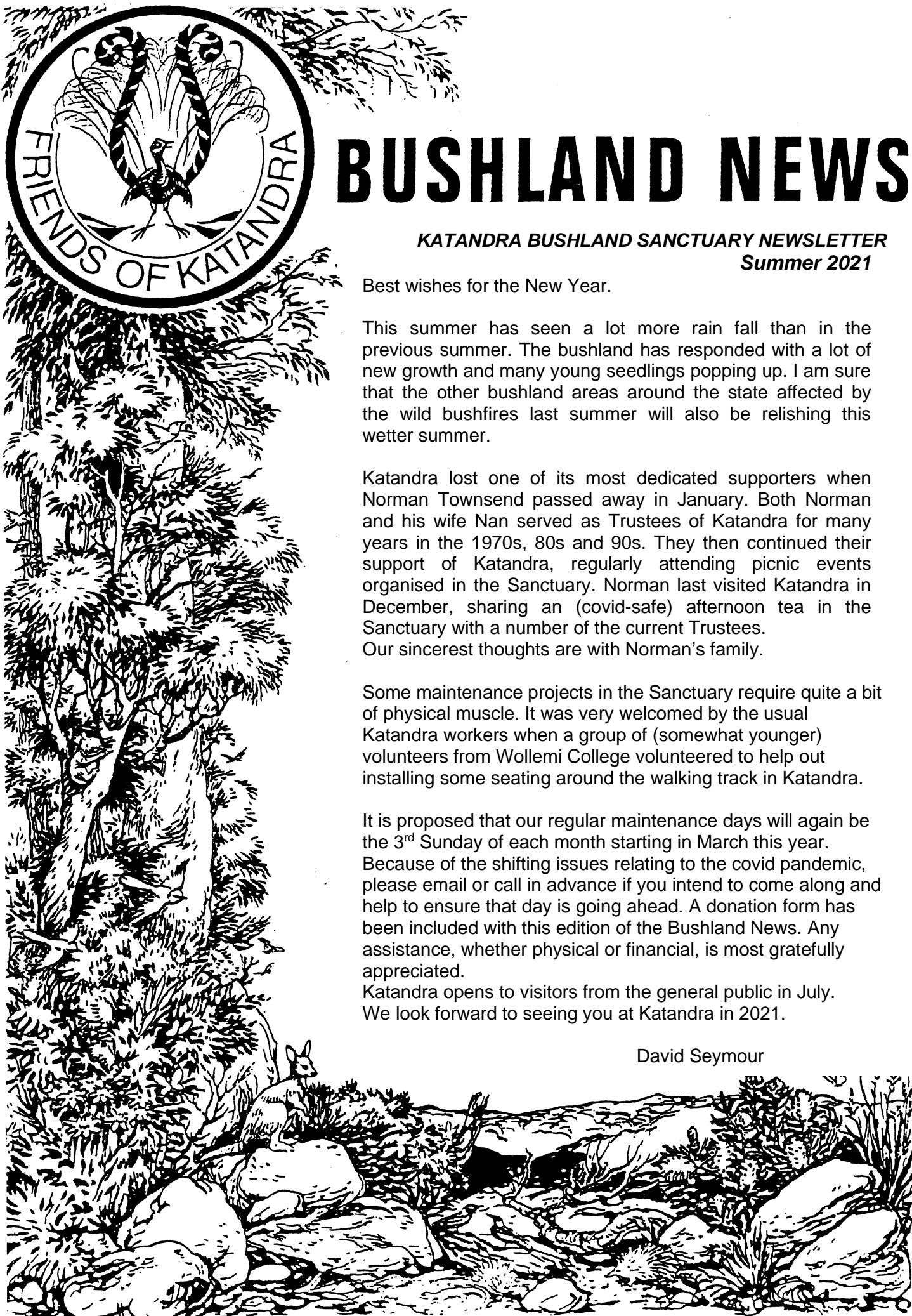
Katandra lost one of its most dedicated supporters when Norman Townsend passed away in January. Both Norman and his wife Nan served as Trustees of Katandra for many years in the 1970s, 80s and 90s. They then continued their support of Katandra, regularly attending picnic events organised in the Sanctuary. Norman last visited Katandra in December, sharing an (covid-safe) afternoon tea in the Sanctuary with a number of the current Trustees. Our sincerest thoughts are with Norman's family.

Some maintenance projects in the Sanctuary require quite a bit of physical muscle. It was very welcomed by the usual Katandra workers when a group of (somewhat younger) volunteers from Wollemi College volunteered to help out installing some seating around the walking track in Katandra.

It is proposed that our regular maintenance days will again be the 3rd Sunday of each month starting in March this year. Because of the shifting issues relating to the covid pandemic, please email or call in advance if you intend to come along and help to ensure that day is going ahead. A donation form has been included with this edition of the Bushland News. Any assistance, whether physical or financial, is most gratefully appreciated.

Katandra opens to visitors from the general public in July. We look forward to seeing you at Katandra in 2021.

David Seymour



Friends of Katandra

PO Box 365 Mona Vale NSW 1660



I / We,
(full name)

of
(address including postcode) (phone)

Email : (please print clearly).....

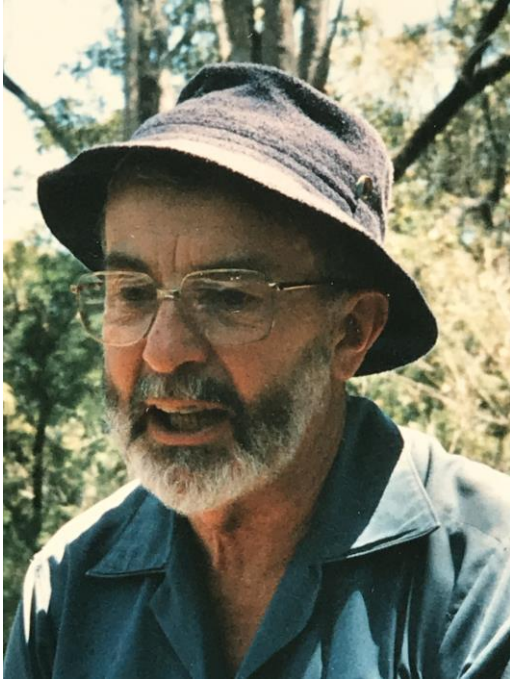
- ☐ would like to join the Friends of Katandra mail list and receive copies of the
Bushland News quarterly newsletter
- ☐ would like to make a donation to assist in caring for the sanctuary. I enclose a
cheque / money order made payable to the Katandra Bushland Sanctuary Trust for
- ☐ \$10.00 ☐ \$15.00 ☐ other (please specify).....

Alternatively donations can be made by direct deposit into the Katandra Bushland
Sanctuary Trust account BSB 082132 Account No. 509347998

Signature.....

Date.....

Vale Norman Townsend



One of Katandra's most staunch supporters, Norman Townsend, passed away in January.

Having first visited Katandra in the early 1970's, Norman and his wife Nan quickly began to share Harold Seymour's dream of preserving this precious parcel of local bushland. Sadly, Nan passed away in January 2020. Norman was one of a working group of about 5 or 6 men who spent countless hours regularly doing maintenance and construction. Projects included constructing bridges over creeks, a wooden Yurt to act as an information and display centre, an



Norman in a more typical pose, working in Katandra with Charlie Goodman.

amenities block, all the while continuing to maintain the walking track and keep it clear of fallen trees. Norman was also quick to sing the praises of the "women's group", which included his wife Nan, for their tireless work. "The women clear all the weeds and rubbish from the Sanctuary. They work extremely hard and if it wasn't for them the place would be overrun with lantana or other weeds."

An article in "Your Garden" magazine in 1990 quoted Norman as saying :- "My wife and I decided to join the (Katandra) Trust here after just one visit to the place."

"We were both inspired by Harold, who said he wanted to maintain the bushland so future generations would see it just as Captain Cook did."

This inspiration seems clearly evident in this poem below, written by Norman for the 10th Anniversary of Katandra being gazetted as a Bushland Reserve.

ANNIVERSARY DAY ... KATANDRA 1977

To keep it as it was when Cook arrived –
The high ideal of one
Who has given to generations yet to be
A morsal of creation
Once trodden, barefoot,
By a race of different hue

Small portion kept
That in a world where
Each man makes his god in his own image
We each may be reminded
That all we make
Falls short when laid beside
That fragile beauty
Of the blossoms of the Spring.

A patch, drab green
That in its time
Dons Solomon's array
Bedecks itself
Reflects the gold of sun
The blue of sky,
The pristine purity of snow
To reproduce itself.

And to our charge is given
The care, the task
That generations yet to be
May see this plot –
As t'was when Cook arrived.

..Norman Townsend (1977)



Norman and Nan Townsend share a quieter moment in the bushland they most dearly loved.

School Visit

Last December, a group of 26 students visited Katandra along with a few teachers as part of their end-of-year activities program. They were from Wollemi College, a boy's Catholic secondary school at Werrington in Sydney's western suburbs.

The boys volunteered their time to help with any labour-intensive projects required in the Sanctuary. They first learned about Katandra from one of their teachers who, after regularly driving past the Katandra sign on Mona Vale Road, looked up the Katandra website on the internet.



A student team preparing to begin carrying the materials down the track (top right), seat construction (lower right) and the finished product (above)

The project completed on the day of the visit involved the boys installing seats around the walking track, similar to the seat that Nan and Norman Townsend are shown sitting on in the picture to the left. Some seats were to replace older existing ones that were in poor condition, while others were extra seats in new locations. Each team of boys was tasked with carrying the materials to the nominated site, levelling the ground, then constructing the seat.

All of the boys (year 9 students – around 15 to 16 years old) were fantastic workers, willingly helping each other and seeming to thoroughly enjoy their bushland excursion. In all 8 seats were installed, resting places that will no doubt be welcomed by future visitors to the sanctuary as they walk around.

Following their morning's work in Katandra the boys enjoyed a picnic lunch at Bungan Beach before returning home.

The Katandra Trust is very thankful of the boy's fantastic work and of their teachers for coordinating the visit. All involved were wonderful ambassadors for their school.



Katandra website: 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**

Volunteers are needed

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

DIARY DATES 2021

SAUSAGE SIZZLE (to be confirmed)

Sunday 2nd May, 12 noon

Enjoy a sausage sandwich and drinks provided by the Trust.

FOUNDER'S DAY (to be confirmed)

Sunday 15th August, 12 noon

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

CHRISTMAS PARTY (to be confirmed)

Sunday 5th 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 2021

(3rd Sunday March–November)

9 am Sunday 21 March

9 am Sunday 18 April

9 am Sunday 16 May

9 am Sunday 20 June

9 am Sunday 18 July

9 am Sunday 19 September

9 am Sunday 17 October

9 am Sunday 21 November

PUBLIC OPEN DAYS 2021

Each Sunday of July–October

10 am – 4 pm

Katandra Bushland Sanctuary Trust
PO Box 365 Mona Vale NSW 1660