



# BUSHLAND NEWS

*KATANDRA BUSHLAND SANCTUARY NEWSLETTER*  
*Autumn 2019*

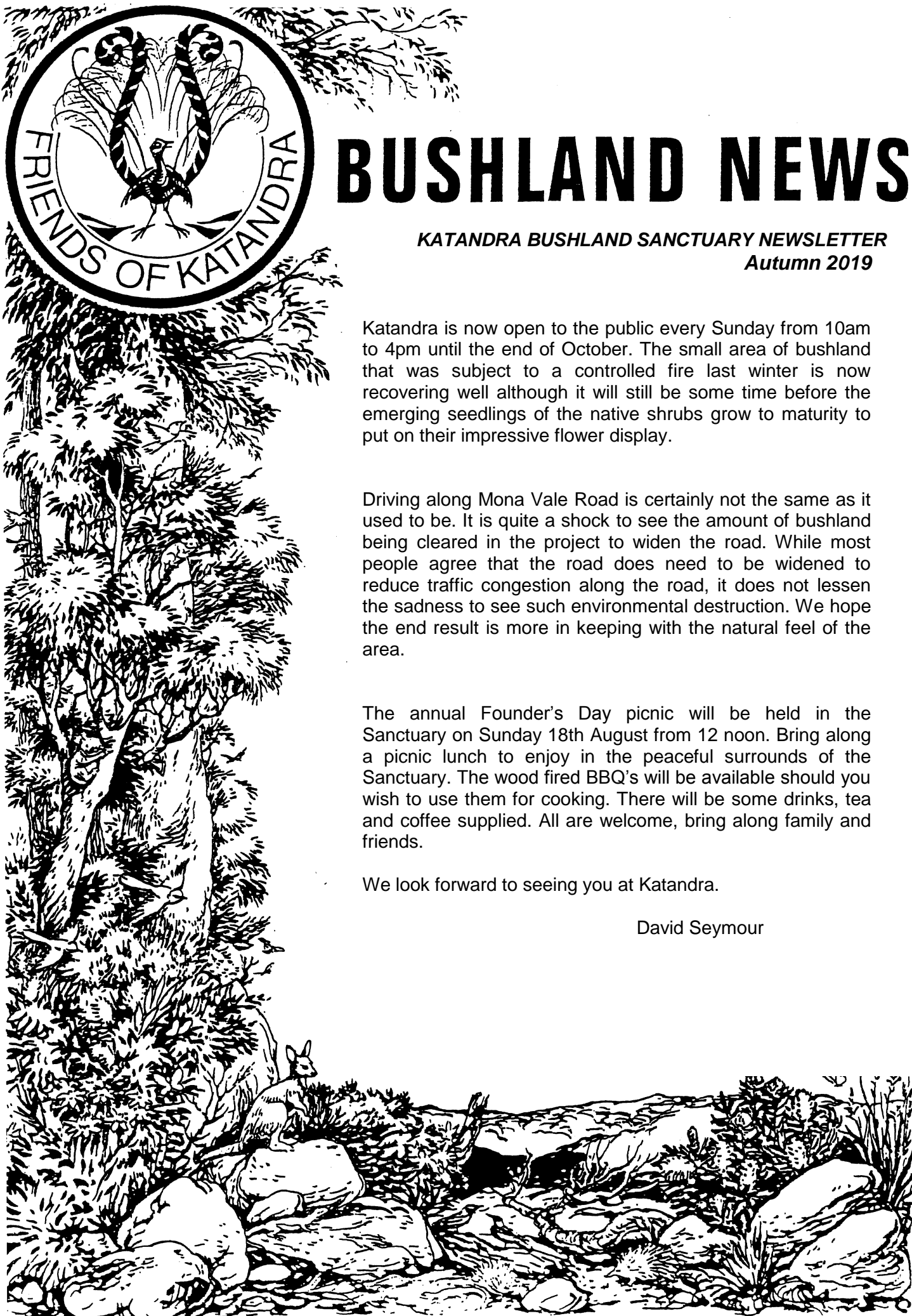
Katandra is now open to the public every Sunday from 10am to 4pm until the end of October. The small area of bushland that was subject to a controlled fire last winter is now recovering well although it will still be some time before the emerging seedlings of the native shrubs grow to maturity to put on their impressive flower display.

Driving along Mona Vale Road is certainly not the same as it used to be. It is quite a shock to see the amount of bushland being cleared in the project to widen the road. While most people agree that the road does need to be widened to reduce traffic congestion along the road, it does not lessen the sadness to see such environmental destruction. We hope the end result is more in keeping with the natural feel of the area.

The annual Founder's Day picnic will be held in the Sanctuary on Sunday 18th August from 12 noon. Bring along a picnic lunch to enjoy in the peaceful surrounds of the Sanctuary. The wood fired BBQ's will be available should you wish to use them for cooking. There will be some drinks, tea and coffee supplied. All are welcome, bring along family and friends.

We look forward to seeing you at Katandra.

David Seymour



## Asplenium nidus (Bird's-nest fern)



*Asplenium australasicum*, also known as the *Bird's Nest Fern*, is an epiphytic fern found in abundance in Katandra that prefers a shaded or semi-shaded position. It grows as a rosette of yellow-green fronds which can be a metre or more long and up to 20 cm wide.

Epiphytes are plants that grow on other plants but are not parasitic. This means that unlike parasitic plants, such as mistletoe, epiphytes harvest their nutrients from the surrounding elements including air, rain and falling leaf litter, without doing any harm to their 'host' plant. There are woody-epiphytes which are rooted into the ground, such as strangler figs, and non-woody epiphytes, like orchids and ferns.

*A. australasicum* also grows on rocks (lithophytic) and in the ground in well drained but moist soil containing a lot of organic matter. They can therefore commonly be seen at various levels throughout the rainforest areas. Its large fronds grow from a central point fanning outwards, creating a funnel which helps to collect rainwater and fallen leaves.



The common name of "Bird's Nest fern" is often used to describe a number of different species of *Asplenium* ferns with a similar appearance to *A. australasicum* including *A. nidus* which occurs on Cape York in north Queensland, and through New Guinea, tropical Southeast Asia and Africa and to Tahiti and Hawaii. *A. nidus* is a truly tropical fern as it will not grow in cooler regions. *A. australasicum* on the other hand is found right along the eastern coastal areas of Australia as far south as southern New South Wales and will tolerate moderate frost.

It can be distinguished from *A. nidus* by its prominent midrib under its fronds, giving the fronds a keeled appearance. The spores form on the underside of the fronds in lines which run parallel with the veins and oblique to the midrib.



*Parallel lines of spores on the underside of a bird's nest fern frond*

A 2015 molecular study published in the Australian Systematic Botany journal found that *Asplenium nidus* is polyphyletic, meaning that some populations were not closely related to others as they do not share a recent common ancestor — *A. nidus* from Madagascar, Vanuatu and New Guinea were more closely related to other species than each other. It was hence realised that more research work was needed to identify species across its range to delineate the taxon and identify cryptic species.

The *Asplenium* genus of ferns is commonly known as "spleenworts". There are about 700 species world-wide with around 30 native to Australia. The name is derived from the former belief (dating back to the ancient Greek times) that these ferns were useful for treating ailments of the spleen, not due to any direct medical evidence but due to the spleen-shaped sori (spore containing structures) on the back of the fronds.

## Mona Vale Road update

The widening of Mona Vale Road is well underway. Known as the “Mona Vale Road East Upgrade”, this \$140 million project involves building extra lanes between Foley Street Mona Vale to Manor Road at Ingleside. As can be seen in the accompanying photos taken on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2019, large areas of bushland have been cleared in readiness for the excavation work required.

The topsoil from these areas, which will contain a bank of native plant seeds, has been scraped up and stockpiled so that it can be used to cover areas that need to be revegetated once the roadwork has been completed. Fortunately there is a line of bushland between the cleared areas shown in the photos and the boundary of Katandra, minimising the direct impact on the vegetation in the Sanctuary.



*A view Mona Vale Road climbing past the closed eastern end of Lane Cove Road close to Katandra. A vegetated overpass is planned to cross the road near where the most distant cars can be seen in the photograph. The picture below shows the same corner after the completion of the planned works as viewed from up the hill looking back down the road (image from RMS).*



*Partly covered stockpiles of topsoil from the cleared areas of bushland can be seen on the left*



*The rockwall shown in the distance in this view up Foley's Hill forms part of the escarpment that continues to run north through Katandra. High on this part of the escarpment can be seen a chimney and other ruins from the house that was burnt out in the 1979 bushfire. Katandra shares a common boundary with this property.*



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](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 2019**

#### **SAUSAGE SIZZLE**

**Sunday 5th May, 12 noon**

Enjoy a sausage sandwich and drinks provided by the Trust.

#### **FOUNDER'S DAY**

**Sunday 18th 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 1st 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 2019**

(3rd Sunday March–November)

9 am Sunday 17 March

9 am Sunday 21 April

9 am Sunday 19 May

9 am Sunday 16 June

9 am Sunday 21 July

9 am Sunday 15 September

9 am Sunday 20 October

9 am Sunday 17 November

#### **PUBLIC OPEN DAYS 2019**

Each Sunday of July–October

10 am – 4 pm

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Katandra Bushland Sanctuary Trust  
PO Box 365 Mona Vale NSW 1660