

The vegetation of Katandra Bushland Sanctuary (Lyn McDougall Jan. 2000)

This small reserve (11.5 ha) at Mona Vale is managed by a Department of Conservation and Land Management Trust for the conservation of native flora and fauna. It is an important educational resource for students and the public.

A plateau and an escarpment borders the western edge of the reserve with most of Katandra on the hillside below with easterly aspect. The reserve is dissected mainly by Katandra Creek.

Approximately 350 native plant species have been identified by Robert Coveny of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney. There are 33 fern species, 1 cycad, 1 conifer, 99 monocots (including 24 orchids) and 216 dicotyledons (see attached list).

Vegetation communities represented in Katandra are as follows:

Above the escarpment is woodland e.g. with *Corymbia gummifera*, *Angophora costata*, *Xanthorrea arborea*, *Acacia oxycedrus*, *Ricinocarpos pinifolius*, *Dodonea triquetra*, *Pimelea linifolia*, and wet heathland e.g. with *Banksia ericifolia*, *Viminaria juncea*, *Acacia suaveolens*, *Callicoma serratifolia*, *Gahnia sieberiana*.

On the hillside below, Open-forest is in more exposed, drier areas e.g. with *Eucalyptus umbra*, *Corymbia gummifera*, *Eucalyptus piperita*, *Angophora costata*.

In sheltered areas of the hillside is moist Tall Open-forest e.g. with *Syncarpia glomulifera*, *Allocasuarina torulosa*, *Eucalyptus scias*, *Livistona australis* and shrubs *Prostanthera denticulata*, *Bertya brownii*, *Boronia thujona*, *Boronia mollis*, *Ceratopetalum gummiferum*, *Logania albiflora*, *Pultenaea flexilis*.

Along the creeklines is closed-forest e.g. with *Ceratopetalum apetalum*, *Tristaniopsis laurina*, *Todea barbara*, *Cissus hypoglauca*.

Katandra is particularly important for the conservation of the following plant species:

Ferns

Tmesipteris truncata: uncommon, primitive fern on trunks of King Fern *Todea barbara* in

Katandra Creek. Only recorded once in Garigal NP and not common in Ku-ring-gai Chase NP, locally restricted (Sherringham & Sanders 1993)

Orchids

Acianthus caudatus: Regionally significant (Sherringham & Sanders 1993).

Chiloglottis reflexa: Regionally significant (Sherringham & Sanders 1993).

Shrubs

Asterolasia correifolia: locally restricted (Sherringham & Sanders 1993).

Bertya brownii: coded 2RC on the national rare species list (Briggs & Leigh 1996). Only Sydney records are Mona Vale and Deep Creek, the southern geographical limit. Local conservation status poor, regionally significant (Sherringham & Sanders 1993).

Boronia mollis: Conserved only in Katandra and Berowra Valley Bushland on Sydney 1: 100 000 map sheet (Benson & Howell 1994). Large population in Katandra

Boronia thujona: Uncommon in Sydney area, recorded in nearby Garigal NP but much more common in the moist open-forest of Katandra (Benson & Howell 1994, L.McD. observations).

Maytenus silvestris: Locally restricted (Sherringham & Sanders 1993).but frequent in Katandra.

Prostanthera denticulata: Local endemic, uncommon (Benson & Howell 1994), prolific in Katandra.

Trees

Cryptocarya glaucescens: Closed-forest (rainforest) species, not listed for any other reserve on Sydney 1: 100 000 map sheet (Benson & Howell 1994).

Cryptocarya microneura: Closed-forest (rainforest) species, not listed in any other reserve on Sydney 1: 100 000 map sheet (Benson & Howell 1994).

Endiandra sieberi: Uncommon tree, regionally significant (Sherringham & Sanders 1993).

Eucalyptus scias: Tall trees in Katandra's moist open-forest. Local populations, rare on Sydney 1: 100 000 map sheet (Benson & Howell 1994). Local conservation status fair (Sherringham & Sanders 1993).

References:

Benson, D. & Howell, J. (1994) The natural vegetation of the Sydney 1: 100 000 map sheet. *Cunninghamia* 3(4): 677–787.

Sherringham, P.R. & Sanders, J.M. (1993) Vegetation survey of Garigal National Park and surrounding Crown Lands (NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service: Hurstville).