



BUSHLAND NEWS

*KATANDRA BUSHLAND SANCTUARY NEWSLETTER
Autumn 2023*

Greetings from Katandra.

Previous editions of the Bushland News have highlighted some of the rare or uncommon plants found in Katandra. This edition continues this theme, taking a look at some of the rainforest trees of the **Lauraceae** family.

While there has been a lot of attention given to the continuing work widening Mona Vale Road, there was a time, of course, when this road did not exist and the main road linking Mona Vale to the North Shore was Lane Cove Road, parts of which still exist passing by Katandra across Ingleside. This road was once used for hill climb events. See the story inside.

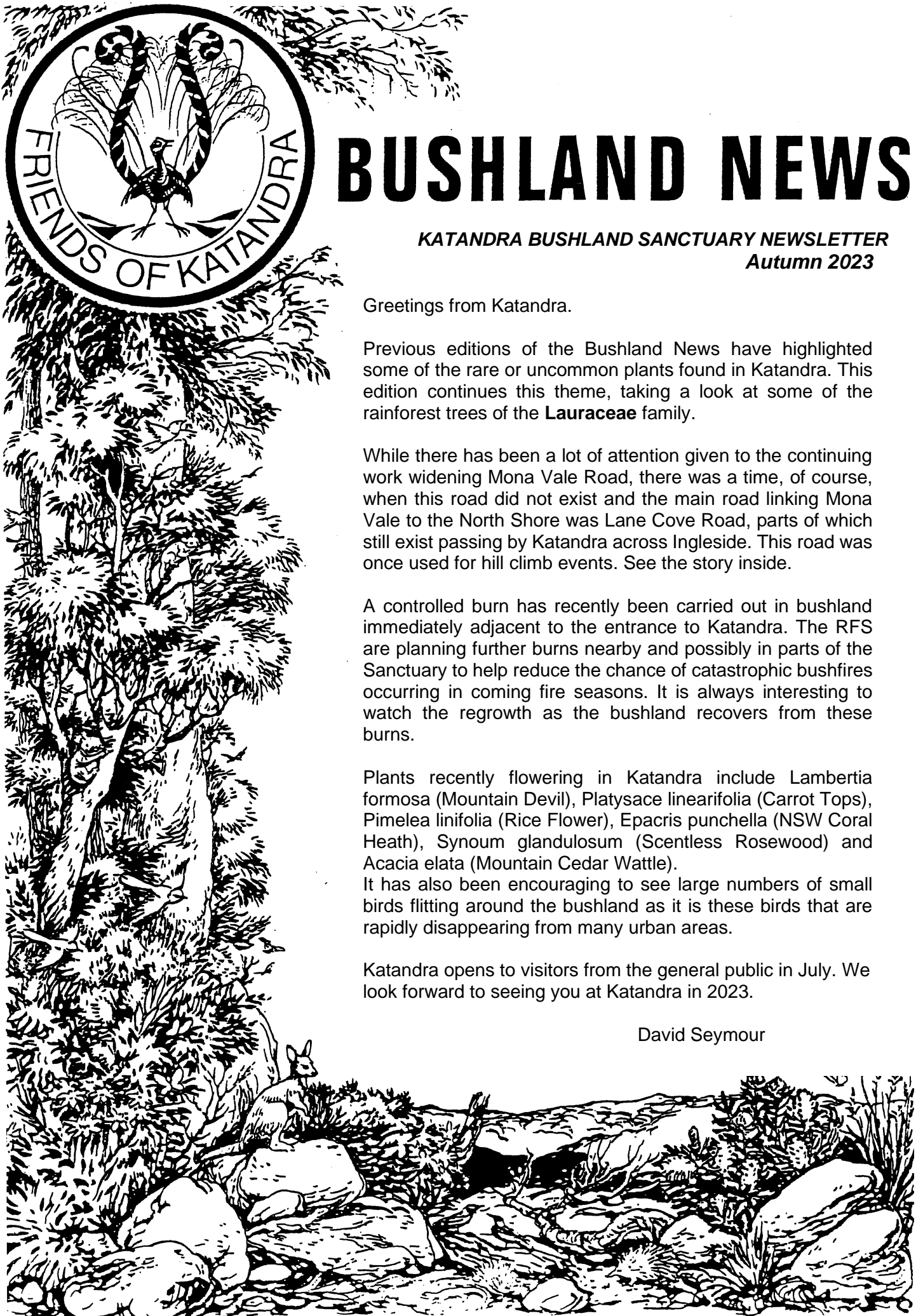
A controlled burn has recently been carried out in bushland immediately adjacent to the entrance to Katandra. The RFS are planning further burns nearby and possibly in parts of the Sanctuary to help reduce the chance of catastrophic bushfires occurring in coming fire seasons. It is always interesting to watch the regrowth as the bushland recovers from these burns.

Plants recently flowering in Katandra include *Lambertia formosa* (Mountain Devil), *Platysace linearifolia* (Carrot Tops), *Pimelea linifolia* (Rice Flower), *Epacris punchella* (NSW Coral Heath), *Synoum glandulosum* (Scentless Rosewood) and *Acacia elata* (Mountain Cedar Wattle).

It has also been encouraging to see large numbers of small birds flitting around the bushland as it is these birds that are rapidly disappearing from many urban areas.

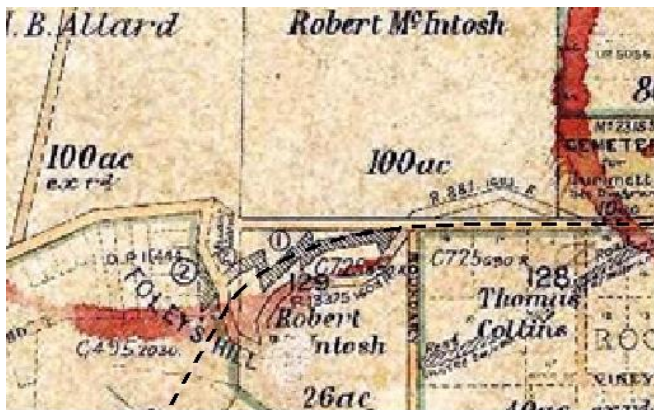
Katandra opens to visitors from the general public in July. We look forward to seeing you at Katandra in 2023.

David Seymour



Foley's Hillclimb

The hillside on which Katandra is situated is known as Foley's Hill, so named for the Foley family that ran a dairy farm across areas of the land on which Mona Vale is now situated. The map image below shows the line of the road (known as Lane Cove Rd) winding up the hill prior to the route of the modern-day Mona Vale Rd.



Katandra occupies much of the land granted to Robert McIntosh and incorporates a section of Emma Street (straight road shown centre which was never constructed). The approximate route of today's Mona Vale Rd is shown by the dotted line

During the 1950's this road was used for hill climb events which involved cars and motor bikes doing time trials up the road past the entrance to Katandra to see who could climb Foley's Hill the fastest. These hill climb events were organised by the Manly, Warringah Sports Car Club and Northern Districts Motor Cycle Club.

The lasting memories of those who witnessed these hill climb events usually involves the loud noise of the cars and particularly the motor bikes as they made their ascent up the winding road.



Jill O'Brien at the wheel of her Austin Healey Sprite at Foley's Hill in 1959.

Photo: John Keesing.

Uncommon Flora in Katandra

Previous editions of the Bushland News have highlighted some of the rare or uncommon plants found in Katandra. This edition continues this theme, taking a look at some of the rainforest trees of the **Lauraceae** family that are not commonly found in the Sydney area. Katandra is home to three such species, namely *Cryptocarya glaucescens* (Jackwood), *Cryptocarya microneural* (Murrogun) and *Endiandra sieberi* (Corkwood).



Bark of Endiandra sieberi (Corkwood)

Lauraceae

Often referred to as the Laurel family, **Lauraceae** is represented by about 2800 member species world-wide, 90 of which are found in Australia within 8 genera. Because the Laurel family is so ancient and was so widely spread over the Gondwana supercontinent, member species are often found in relict populations isolated by geographical barriers (eg on islands or tropical mountains).

Laurel trees are an important source of many essential oils. Their leaves contain microscopic oil dots which give a pleasant odour when crushed. Bay leaves from the Bay Laurel are used in cooking while other laurel species are a source of medicinal products, spices (eg cinnamon, sassafras) or oil-rich fruit (avocado). The sap within the plant is often toxic so many laurel trees are valued for producing fragrant timber that is not susceptible to insect attack. *Cinnamomum camphora*, the Camphor Laurel tree is considered a noxious weed in many parts of NSW.

Cryptocarya glaucescens, commonly known as Jackwood, Native Laurel or Brown Beech, is a



Fruit and leaves of Cryptocarya glaucescens
Image – Peter Woodard

medium sized tree growing to 35 metres. It grows in rainforest areas in NSW and Queensland, being abundant in the Royal National Park and Illawarra area but is not common in Sydney. The bark is smooth grey when young but thick, fissured, fibrous and dark reddish brown on older trees. The base of the trunk on large trees can often be buttressed. Leaves are alternate, elliptical, 6-13cm long, tough, shiny, concave and taper to a blunt point at the end. They are green on the upper surface but blueish-green below. Like most local species of Lauraceae the central vein on the leaves is a strong pale-yellow colour. Flowers are small (5mm wide), pale green, numerous in panicles and appear from October to December. The fruit is a shiny black drupe with a wrinkly surface about 20mm wide.

Cryptocarya microneura, known as Murrogun is very similar to *C. glaucescens*. The two species often occur together and *C. microneura* is also uncommon in the Sydney area. Flowers of *C. microneura* are more white and slightly larger



White flowers appearing in panicles of C. microneura. Image – Robert Whyte

(about 8mm wide), the fruit is slightly smaller (about 15mm wide) when compared to *C. glaucescens* and the leaves are not blueish-green below.

C. microneura is a larval host plant for the butterflies *Chaetocneme beata* (Common Red-eye Butterfly), *Netrocoryne repanda* (Eastern Bronze Flat Butterfly) and *Graphium sarpedon* (Blue Triangle Butterfly).



Graphium sarpedon (Blue Triangle Butterfly), found in areas of South East Asia as well as in eastern Australia. Image - CSIRO

Endiandra sieberi or Corkwood is also a medium sized tree (to 30m) uncommon in the Sydney area. Its leaves are similar to *C. microneura* except smaller (5-9 cm long). Its bark is pale fawnish grey, thick, corky, deeply fissured and hard. In colonial times its bark proved to be an unsuccessful cork substitute. The flowers of *E. sieberi* are small, white and in axillary panicles. After flowering in spring, it produces fruit in the form of shiny, smooth, deep blue or purple drupes up to 25mm long. The straight trunk of large trees is sometimes shortly flanged but not buttressed at the base.



Fruit and foliage of Endiandra sieberi
Images – Peter Woodard

Katandra website -
katandrabushlandsanctuary.com

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 365 Mona Vale NSW 1660

President: David Seymour
Vice-President: Roberta Conroy
Secretary: (acting) David Seymour
Treasurer: Peter Hammond
Minutes Secretary: Julie Emerson
Bushland News Editors: Marita Macrae

(Cover Design by the late Walter Cunningham)

Enquiries: phone 0431857407 or by email
information@katandra.org

PUBLIC OPEN DAYS 2023

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 2023

FOUNDER'S DAY (to be confirmed) **Sunday 16th August, 12 noon**

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

SANCTUARY MAINTENANCE 2023

(3rd Sunday March–November)

9 am Sunday 19 March
9 am Sunday 16 April
9 am Sunday 21 May
9 am Sunday 18 June
9 am Sunday 16 July
9 am Sunday 17 September
9 am Sunday 15 October
9 am Sunday 19 November

Volunteers are needed

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

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PO Box 365 Mona Vale NSW 1660