

**foke**



FRIENDS OF  
KU-RING-GAI  
ENVIRONMENT INC.

## Media Release:

**4 September 2015**

**For Immediate Release**

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### **Sheldon Forest Walk Celebrates Biodiversity**

Friends of Ku-ring-gai Environment (FOKE) will celebrate September's Biodiversity Month with a guided walk through Sheldon Forest, Turramurra on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2015 starting at 10 am. Sheldon Forest is Public Land of great ecological rarity.

The two hour walk will highlight why Sheldon Forest is such a significant forest to Sydney.

FOKE Committee member, Janet Harwood, says "More people need to know just how rare Sheldon Forest is. It is so unique that both the Federal and State governments have formally recognised how special environmental protections are needed for this forest".

"Sheldon Forest has some of the tallest trees to be found in Sydney. It is also one of the few remaining patches of Blue Gum High Forest left in the world. Once this forest covered the whole of the Northern Sydney region. Now there is less than 1% left. "

"This rare urban sanctuary is so important for a future city. Just imagine how valuable this forest will be in 50-100 years' time – and it's walking distance from, not one, but two, railways stations" says Janet Harwood.

"Sheldon Forest is a wildlife sanctuary. Its tall trees provide vital hollows for a wide variety of birds, tree and ground-dwelling wildlife. It takes decades for trees to develop these hollows. However with increasing pressures on their removals, many of these vital habitats are disappearing."

"One of Sydney's rarest of owls – the Powerful Owl – can still be heard calling late in the evening in the forest. Sheldon Forest is also the home for Ku-ring-gai's much loved beautiful parrots - – King Parrots, Eastern and Crimson Rosellas, Corella, Bower Bird, Whipbirds as well as an abundance of little birds."

FOKE was formed in 1994 to defend and promote Ku-ring-gai's cultural, built and natural heritage. It continues to actively defend Ku-ring-gai's environment. Recently it met with the new member for Ku-ring-gai, Mr Alister Henskins briefing him on how significant Ku-ring-gai's environment is to the nation.

#### **Guided Walk: Sheldon Forest**

**Date: Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

**Time: 9.45 am for a 10am start– 12noon**

**Meet: Warragal Road entrance to Sheldon Forest (not far from Pacific Highway opposite junction with Terrigal Road)**

**Bring: Water, snack and wear walking shoes**

**Bookings: Janine Kitson 9498 2402**

**Cost: Free**

**For media comment, please call Kathy Cowley on 9416 9007**

2009 NATIONAL TRUST HERITAGE AWARDS HIGHLY COMMENDED

2008 NSW GOVERNMENT HERITAGE VOLUNTEERS AWARD

2000 FOKE, WINNER, NSW HERITAGE OFFICE CULTURAL HERITAGE CONSERVATION AWARD

*"HERITAGE WATCH OVER OUR PLACE OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE –KU-RING-GAI"*

KEEP AUSTRALIA BEAUTIFUL COUNCIL (NSW) METRO PRIDE AWARDS.