

# FUTURE EVENTS & TALKS

**Allen Strom—a remarkable Chief Guardian of Fauna**

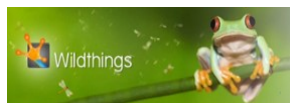


SATURDAY 20 JUNE, 2015 10am-12 pm **Cost \$35**



Who was Allen Strom (1915-1997) and why in 1958 was he appointed NSW's official "Chief Guardian of Fauna"? How did he forge a generation of young people to commit themselves to the conservation movement before the term 'greenie' was even heard of? Learn about his pivotal role in founding the National Parks Association of NSW and the Nature Conservation Council of NSW—two of NSW's most significant environment organisations. Bookings essential. Course No: 52WK099 Contact WEA, SYDNEY, Ph: (02) 9264 2781 Tutor: Janine Kitson

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**Let's Get Serious About Habitat *Wildthings Talkfest***

Sunday 19th July from 12noon

Turramurra Masonic Hall, Pacific Hwy, Turramurra [www.wildthings.org.au](http://www.wildthings.org.au)



**Annie Wyatt & the Conservationists of the National Trust**

SATURDAY 27 JUNE 10.30-11.30 Northcott Function Centre, 1 Fennell Street, North Parramatta Enquiries 9635 8149

**JOIN FOKE—Ku-ring-gai's environment needs you!**

## FOKE Membership Form

Name (incl title)

of Home Address:

Suburb: .....

Postcode: ... ..

Telephone: .....

Email:

Hereby applies for membership of Friends of Ku-ring-gai Environment Inc. (FOKE). In the event of my admission as a member, I agree to be bound by the rules of the Association for the time being in force.

Signature

Date

Membership Fee

Annually January—December

☐ Ordinary \$10

☐ Concession (student/senior citizen) \$ 5

☐ Donation —

Amount enclosed —

Date received: .....

Date admitted: .....

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Email [info@foke.org.au](mailto:info@foke.org.au)

[www.foke.org.au](http://www.foke.org.au)

[www.facebook.com/friendsofkuringgai](http://www.facebook.com/friendsofkuringgai)



2015 FOKE Heritage Festival Event  
in association with the National Trust's Heritage Festival

## Sheldon Forest Walk



FOKE was formed in 1994 to defend and promote Ku-ring-gai's cultural and natural heritage.



FOKE is a Ku-ring-gai community group that defends the environment by opposing inappropriate and unsympathetic overdevelopment.

**Sunday 10 May, 2015**

Meet at Sheldon Forest entrance, Warragal Road, off Pacific Hwy, Turramurra. Tour starts at 9.45am for 10 am start. Bring hat, water, snack and wear good walking shoes. Finishes at 12 noon. Free. For bookings ring (02) 9416 9007

## FOKE FUTURE EVENTS & TALKS

### TURRAMURRA HERITAGE WALK

Sunday 17 May, 2015 9.45am for 10am start



Walk through Turramurra's unique village that highlights Turramurra's indigenous, Federation and Interwar history with its unique architecture, garden suburbs, and magnificent remnant forests. Meet at Turramurra Railway Station Ticket Office. Free. a hat, water, snack and wear good walking shoes. For bookings ring (02) 9416 9007.

### PLANNING in the PUBLIC INTEREST

Talk by Award Winning Architect Philip Thalís

Wednesday 27 May, 8pm

FOKE AGM Guest Speaker, Philip Thalís, Architect & winner of original Barangaroo design competition will talk on how planning must be in the public interest. At Killara Uniting Church Hall, Five Ways, crn Arnold St & Karranga Ave. Free. Enquiries ring (02) 9416 9007.

### Bushcare in Sheldon Forest

Bushcare for Sheldon Forest is held on the 3rd Sunday of each month. New members welcome. For more information contact Janet Harwood 9449 1448.

# Sheldon Forest — for a future city?

Sheldon Forest is one of Sydney's rarest patches of Blue Gum High Forest and Sydney Turpentine-Ironbark Forest. It is the last remaining stretch of forest that connects the Lane Cove National Park to the Pacific Highway. It also a rare forest that is in walking distance from two railway stations —Turrumurra & Pymble Railway Stations.

Sheldon Blue Gum High Forest is a tall, open forest dominated by Sydney Blue Gums and Blackbutts. In 2007 this forest community was formally recognized as a Critically Endangered Ecological Community, protected under both the *NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* and the *Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. This Sydney forest is of national significance because of its rarity.

Sheldon Forest is a critical bird and wildlife sanctuary for Sydney. The forest provides important habitat for many vulnerable native animals including ground dwelling bandicoots and bowerbirds. These forest trees also contain vital hollows that take decades to form and which wildlife, like the Powerful Owl, is utterly dependent on. The number of old trees with hollows in gardens and along streets has seriously declined.

Originally Blue Gum High Forest covered large areas of the ridgelines of northern Sydney. Today less than 3% of the original forest remains. The BGHF is restricted to Wianamatta shale soils along the North Shore ridge line where the Pacific Highway and railway corridor run—an area targeted for high density.

The BGHF forest is also connected to many other majestic canopy trees throughout the North Shore ridges and valleys. Today it faces extinction due to the cumulative impact of multiple rezonings for apartment buildings that not only clears these trees and bushland but also removes its soil and seed bank. Indeed urban development is sanctioned in this environmentally sensitive area by all levels of government even though it is one of Sydney's most critical habitat for native wildlife and birds. Good planning?

The Blue Gum High Forest has been diminished since the early 1800s—first by the timbergettes, then by farmers and then for housing. However in recent years the clearing has intensified by pressure for high density to cater for Sydney's population increases. This has resulted in irreversible habitat loss, forest fragmentation, urban runoff, and weed invasion.

In 2013 FOKE gained a Ku-ring-gai Council grant to produce two educational signs to raise awareness of the importance of this rare urban forest.

It is now long overdue to consider how to guarantee the highest protection for Sheldon Forest, that was listed as critically endangered ecological community in 2007.

Why was the most vulnerable section zoned as 'RE1 for Public Recreation' in 2015?

Why wasn't all the forest zoned 'E2 for Environmental Conservation'?

Why was a long term lease granted to recreational groups occupying the forest?

Why was a recreational site included in a biobanking agreement for Sheldon Forest?

When will the Commonwealth and NSW government fulfil their statutory obligations for a recovery plan for this Critically Endangered Ecological Community?

*...surely it is better to stop the process of forest destruction...than to leave to future generations the work of repairing damage that should never have been allowed to take place*  
- Baulder Byles, Forester and Conservationist, 1932

# Timeline — Ku-ring-gai's Forest History

- 1800s **Ku-ring-gai's Timber Era** - Convict saw mill established on Lane Cove River near today's Fiddens Wharf Rd, Killara. Most of NSW's Red Cedar gone by 1850s. Most of Ku-ring-gai's highly prized blue gums cut and taken by bullock teams to Fiddens Wharf, to be ferried via the Lane Cove River to Sydney for building materials for Sydney's wharves and housing.
- 1850
- 1850s **Ku-ring-gai's Orchard Era** - Remaining Blue Gum High Forest often burnt for orchards.
- 1890 **Ku-ring-gai's Garden Suburb Era** - Railway comes to North Shore. Australia's most comprehensive repository of fine 20th century domestic architecture set in the context of BGHF.
- 1894 Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park declared as Australia's second national park.
- 1910 Conservationists concerned that many Australia's native birds & wildflowers faced extinction.
- 1915 Forest League NSW branch formed. Deep concern about forest loss.
- 1920s Richard Dalrymple-Hay, appointed as first Commissioner of Forests in NSW [1895], proposed the acquisition of a demonstration forest—the St Ives Dalrymple-Hay Nature Reserve.
- 1927 Annie Wyatt founds the Ku-ring-gai Tree Lovers' Civic League. Cresswell O'Reilly elected as Councillor to Ku-ring-gai Council [1927-1935; 1944-1948] and becomes Ku-ring-gai mayor [1929-1933] and is known as 'the Tree Mayor'. Becomes President of the Australian Forest League [1935-1936; 1939-1940] and is the founding President of the National Trust [1945].
- 1934 Annie Wyatt and the Ku-ring-gai Tree Lovers Civic League petition Ku-ring-gai Council to purchase land in the Dalrymple Hay Forest, St Ives and saves it as a viable forest.
- 1944 'Save the Trees, Conserve Our Forests' Conference. Attended by Annie Wyatt, Gordon resident, who formed the motion to create the National Trust of Australia (NSW).
- 1945 Post war housing demands accelerate forest depletion aided by powerful new machinery.
- 1948 Sheldon Forest acquired by an enlightened Ku-ring-gai Council who approached Lady Blanch Mary Sheldon, wife of Sir Mark Sheldon (1871-1956) to purchase her land "for the purpose of the improvements and embellishment of the area".  
Visionary NSW Fauna Protection Act acknowledges habitat is vital for protection of wildlife.
- 1950s Koalas still exist in Middle Harbour bushland, St Ives.
- 2000 Environmental Baseline Studies establish environmental sensitivity and limitations to Ku-ring-gai's urban development. Ku-ring-gai Council's Draft Residential Strategy 2000 [Michael Harrison, Travis McEwan Group] acknowledges that "Ku-ring-gai exhibits environmental splendour of such a scale it is of national significance." NSW Government rejects Strategy.
- 2004 **Ku-ring-gai's High Density Era begins** - LEP 194 allows high density residential development. Ku-ring-gai starts to lose its habitat for urban wildlife—gardens, remnant forest and wildlife corridors connecting its three national parks—Lane Cove, Garigal and Ku-ring-gai.
- 2007 Community groups save two blocks of privately owned land within the St Ives Blue Gum High Forest is purchased and brought into public ownership and saved from development.
- 2007 BGHF ecological community listed as critically endangered by Commonwealth legislation.
- 2007 Community groups protect the remnant BGHF along the Pacific Highway between Beechworth and Warragal Road from rezoning as it threatens Sheldon Forest.
- 2013 Sydney records its hottest day ever on 18 January 2013 peaking at 45.8°C. City of Sydney adopts Urban Forest Strategy 2013. Where is Ku-ring-gai Council's Urban Forest strategy?
- 2014 Ku-ring-gai Council endorses Sheldon Forest as a Biobank site to enable it to receive grant funding from the Office of Environment and Heritage for the purpose of conservation. At the same time the most vulnerable section to be zoned as Recreational.
- 2015 Sheldon Forest remains under huge pressure from cumulative impacts of multiple rezonings for high density in BGHF areas. These include Pacific Highway, Avon Street, Beechworth Street, Duff Street and Finlay Street in Turrumurra and Fox Valley Road in Wahroonga.