

27<sup>th</sup> February, 2014

# Network News Flash!



## Progress Report on Popes Glen Project

The weeds don't know what hit them!

But first, the "boring" bits. A letter was received from The Trust acknowledging our first-year progress report and releasing the second-year funds. It also included some quite encouraging words; I don't think is appropriate to include extracts here, but the letter in full is available to all personnel involved.

So, on to the second, less stressful year now that we

have all our systems set up.

More preparation & weed removal by our keen contractors. Most of the willows that were treated in Year 1 have died & been cut down, with most of the larger debris earmarked for re-use on site.

While they get all the hard work, volunteers have been busy measuring & recording in addition to their "normal" Bushcare.

It is vital that progress be fully documented against our Project Objectives. So this year's vegetation surveys have recently been completed, which will be compared with our baseline data taken prior to work starting on site. We can report that in one survey transect, the coverage of Small-leaf Privet in 400 sq. m has been reduced from 14% to Zero! More in the next newsletter plus a column on Adaptive Management.

## Happenings

Community involvement has begun in earnest. About 20 students & staff from Blackheath Primary School attended a Council-run stream health excursion. After giving students background information on the creek, catchment and frogs as water health indicators, a water bug survey was conducted by students under Council supervision. Bushcare volunteers & students carried out simple chemical tests at the same time. The PG Coordinator thanked the students for their interest & knowledge.

Major engineering work was due to begin this week, but a huge infestation of European Wasps at the key location has meant a delay for safety reasons. One contractor was stung but not seriously affected. Volunteers have been reporting conditions while Council is looking at options to overcome this latest problem. Fingers are definitely crossed.

Prepared by Paul Vale, for Blue Mountains Bushcare Network and Popes Glen Bushcare Group



Public School Water Bug Survey in Popes Glen Reserve Nov. 2013



European Wasps enter & leave nest near Popes Glen, Blackheath in 2007

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