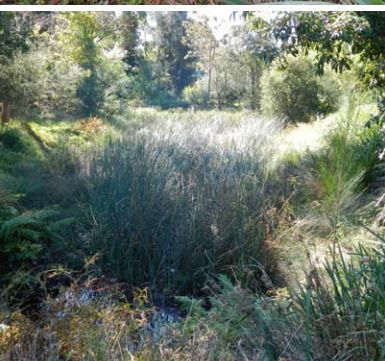


# Bayside Bushcare Volunteer Program



## WHAT IS BUSHCARE?

Bushcare is a volunteer-based program managed by local governments. The program is aimed at the protection, conservation and restoration of bushland areas under their care, control and management. This is done through the use of recognised bush regeneration techniques and methods. The general aim of bush regeneration and Bushcare is *to restore and maintain an ecosystem in which natural regeneration can occur.*<sup>1</sup>

Bushcare or bush regeneration is concerned with the strategic removal of the majority of weeds present and the establishment of an indigenous plant community. Generally, weed control is concerned only with the removal of a specific weed (such as lantana along the sides of roads, railway lines etc).

All urban bushland areas need to be managed and maintained correctly to keep them in a healthy and safe state. Planning for recreation, fire management, stormwater control, regeneration and future use are all part of bushland management. Because of the considerable pressures upon urban bushland areas, they are becoming more important and valuable.

The term 'bush regeneration' was first introduced in 1971 by the Bradley sisters and consisted of three basic principles:

1. Always work from the 'good bush' or areas with indigenous vegetation towards the weed infested areas;
2. Make minimal disturbance; and
3. Let the rate of native plant regeneration dictate the degree of weed removal.

Council, through its Bushcare program, aims to regenerate, protect and preserve urban bushland areas within the Bayside Council area through the support and management of volunteers for the enjoyment of future generations.

## WHAT DO BUSHCARE VOLUNTEERS DO?

- ✿ Weed removal and control
- ✿ Re-vegetation when required
- ✿ Track maintenance
- ✿ Seed collection
- ✿ Socialising
- ✿ Undertake training

## WHAT DOES COUNCIL PROVIDE?

- ✿ Coordination and supervision of groups
- ✿ Training, professional guidance, direction and technical assistance
- ✿ Materials such as tools, gloves and a hat
- ✿ Rubbish collection
- ✿ Opportunities to meet new people
- ✿ Personal accident and public liability insurance for approved Bushcare activities
- ✿ Promotion of the Bushcare program and related activities

To join fill out the *Bayside Bushcare Volunteer Application Form* (overleaf) and return it to Council.

1. From Sutherland Shire Council (1998) Introduction to Volunteer Bush Regeneration in the Sutherland Shire.

# Bayside Bushcare Volunteer Application Form



## Applicant Details (Please print clearly - All information is strictly confidential and will only be used for Bayside Bushcare purposes.)

|   |            |            |
|---|------------|------------|
| Title<br><input type="checkbox"/> Mr <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs <input type="checkbox"/> Ms <input type="checkbox"/> Miss <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please state) |            |            |
| Family Name   |            | Given Name |
| Postal Address  |            |            |
| Suburb  |            | Postcode   |
| Home Phone  | Work Phone | Mobile     |
| Date of Birth (required for insurance purposes only)  |            |            |
| Email Address   |            |            |

Would you like to receive emails about environmental issues or upcoming environmental events?

Yes ☐ No ☐

## General Information

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Do you have any qualifications and/or experience in bush regeneration?<br>(eg TAFE Certificate, First Aid Certificate, Bushcare Permit with another Council) - give details | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <hr/> <hr/>   |  |
| Other skills that may be of use:  |  |
| <hr/> <hr/>   |  |
| Are there any medical or physical conditions that may affect the work you can do as a Bushcare volunteer? (eg Asthmatic) - give details                                     |  |
| <hr/> <hr/>   |  |
| Group, Park or Reserve you would like to join (if known):   |  |
| <hr/> <hr/>   |  |

## Applicant Declaration

- ☐ I agree to work under the guidance and supervision of Bayside Council staff.
- ☐ I agree to read and follow the *Bushcare Manual* and Work Health & Safety procedures.
- ☐ I understand that I am volunteering my services to Council and will not receive any remuneration.
- ☐ I understand that I can withdraw from this volunteer program at any time.

Signature

Date

Please forward completed form to: **NRM Officer, Bayside Council, PO Box 21, Rockdale NSW 2216**  
or email to: **bushcare@bayside.nsw.gov.au**