

What is Bushcare?

Bushcare is a volunteer-based program managed by Councils. The program aims to protect, conserve and restore bushland areas under the care and control of Council. This is done through the use of recognised bush regeneration techniques and methods. Bushcare or bush regeneration, unlike general weed control that only removes a specific weed (such as lantana along the sides of roads, railway lines etc), strategically removes weeds, so a sustainable indigenous plant community can be reestablished.

Bushland is a valuable part of the urban landscape. Bushland provides visual amenity, recreation, habitat, biodiversity and ecosystem services such as clean air and water. But due to pressures in urban areas from recreation, fire management, stormwater control, bushland areas need to be managed and maintained correctly to keep them in a healthy and safe.

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.

Through its Bushcare program, Council aims to regenerate, protect and preserve urban bushland areas within the Bayside Council area with 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
- ▶ Personal accident and public liability insurance for approved Bushcare activities
- ▶ Promotion of the Bushcare program and related activities

If you would like to become a bushcare volunteer please, complete the Bushcare Volunteer Application form and return to Council.