# Berry Landcare

## The Original Berry Landcarers:

Three hundred years ago the Wodi Wodi clan inhabited the land south from Lake Illawarra to the Shoalhaven. The people did not identify themselves by the language they spoke, for they spoke several, but by the clan within which they lived. Each clan comprised 50-250 men, women and children belonging to hearth groups of no fewer than 15 people who regularly shared a cooking fire. They would move on to another camp site after a few days not only to leave country to rest and recover but also to show respect the country they were moving through. The sites were near permanent water but above the flood line. The clan remained on the coastal plain during the warm seasons taking advantage of the abundant marine resources. In the cold and stormy seasons they would move away from the coast to the many rock shelters and deep valleys of the escarpment.

The clan always travelled along a songline or storyline, a pathway journeyed by a creative spirit while bringing their country into existence. These songlines threaded the continent. Some people of affiliated clans would travel kilometres to Illawarra for the whale festival or to enjoy the mass-migration of four species of eels down Illawarra’s many creeks. Songs and stories were highly valued and song makers and story tellers travelled far and wide, as far as Appin, Lake George, Albury and beyond.This culture had been working for these inhabitants of the Illawarra since the last ice age for about 10 thousand years. This information comes from “A history of Aboriginal Illawarra Vol 1” (jacobsmary76@gmail.com).

## Native Plants used by the Wodi Wodi people:

Gymea Lily: Stems as poles for fishing or supports for a gunya. Roots roasted to make cakes. Leptospermum: Tea and insect repellent, brooms and gunya structure. Lomandra: Base of young leaves edible, used as a thirst quencher and tastes like raw peas. Leaves used for dilly bags and bandages. Seeds ground to a flour for damper. Melaleuca Paper Bark: Used as cooking wrapping, bedding and baby napkins. Hardenbergia violacea: Tea substitute high in vitamin C. Tastes of Sarsaparilla. These are just a few of many examples. Anybody interested in Bush Tucker go to “Grow your own Bushfoods” by Keith and Irene Smith.

Remember that Local Native Plants are for sale at the Berry Public School Native Nursery every Thursday after school.

## Working Bees for November 2016:

Alexandra Street Parkcare: 9-11 am Friday 18th November: Gail Paton 44487915.

Broughton Vale: 2-4 pm Sunday 6th November: Barry Virtue 44641389.

Bong Bong Road: 9-11am Sunday 13th November Julia Woinarski 4464 2084.

Bundewallah Bushcare: 2-4pm Sunday 27th November: John Clark 44643911.

Camp Quality: 9-11am Sunday 20th November: Hugh Sheil hugh.sheil@realtimecom.com.au or Jeanne Highland 4464 1271.

David Berry Hospital: 3-5pm Saturday 19th November: Leslie Pigott 44643241.

Mount Coolangatta: 1-3 pm Saturday 19th November: Nola Barker. Mobile 040944-6418, nolajbarker@live.com.au. Time to be advised. Meet at end of Roxbrough Rd, Far Meadow.

Mark Radium Park: 9-10am Friday 25th November: Rodney Cole 4464 1475.

Princess St. Park, 9 - 11am Monday 28th November, Terry Oades, 44643651.

Tindalls Lane: Time to be advised, contact Jim Jefferis 4464 2988.

Information can also be found at Berry Landcare on Facebook.

**Plant identification service:** Please contact Harvey Blue 4464 1880 or Ian Parker, 4448 6359.

Visit our pages at:  <http://www.landcare.nsw.gov.au/groups/berry-landcare> for more on Berry Landcare and late changes to working bee details. Information can also be found on Facebook.