

Picture taken from the book "Myles and Milo" by Peter Meredith, published by Allen & Unwin (1999)

# Bushcare in Myles Dunphy Reserve

## Small reserve: big impacts

By Heather Stolle, Bushcare Officer  
2007



**Hurstville** City Council

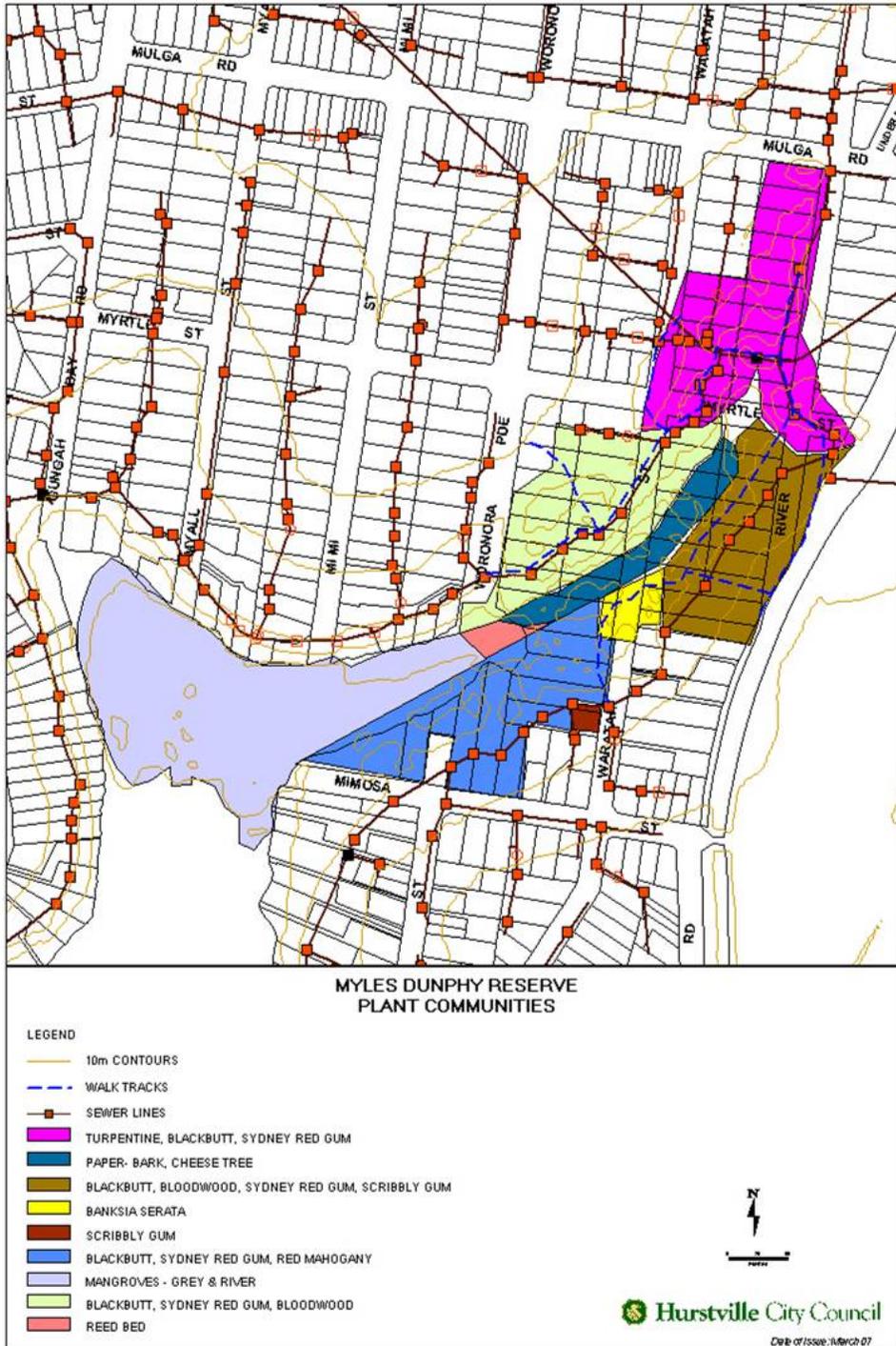


## Big impacts since European arrival

- Different grazing regimes, no more bandicoots, wallabies, kangaroos, potoroos, bettongs, koalas etc.  
Replaced with cattle, goats and all having their favourite plants to eat.
- Today, the only grazers are invertebrates, a few mammals and the fox.
- No more ground scratching (turning of mulch) fauna such as the Lyre Bird.
- **Logging** of favoured trees would have changed the range of large tree species.
- People picking their favourite blooms such as the *Waratah* or *Boronia*, has had an impact.
- **Different fire regimes**, too much or too little, usually during the cooler months.
- **Drainage, increased stormwater runoff**  
This could reduce if this valuable resource was caught and stored.
- **Dumping** of garden refuse.
- Laying of sewer pipes.

- **Climate Change** – Drought, the drying of the Sydney bushland. Summers of 2004 to 2006 saw the deaths of *Banksia serrata* and large trees such as Blackbutts growing in shallow soil on north/west facing slopes. There have been deaths of many other species including the regenerating native seedlings. In some areas the semi deciduous Cheese Trees lost all of their leaves but a good number recovered with decent rain at the end of 2006.
- **Council and residents** have a long history of **inappropriate planting** eg: *Lomandra hystrix* from Queensland, Hybrid Blueberry Ash (pink flower), *Allocasuarina torulosa*, Melaleucas, Lilly Pillys on dry north facing slopes, Western Australian Eucalypts.
- **Bordering exotic/weed infested properties eg: Railcorp**
- The nursery industry continues to **promote and sell invasive species**.
- **Incremental development.**
- **Encroachment** by neighbouring properties. (firebreaks are allowed, sensitive to the native plant community, no permanent structures)
- **Isolation by development.**  
Isolation stops or reduces the genetic flow of plants and animals.  
Appropriate street tree planting and corridors would enhance the genetic diversity.

# Myles Dunphy North Turpentine, Blackbutt, Sydney Red Gum





The shady summer canopy of the Cheese Tree.



The fruit of the Cheese Tree look like tiny mozzarellas and lasts for most of the summer. Popular food for many birds.



Turpentine & Sydney Red Gums

Logged trees: Turpentine,  
Blackbutt



Turpentine capsules

*Eucalyptus resinifera*





Before 2002. Piles ready for burning



Pile burns by Mortdale Fire Brigade



After 2006 burn. Regeneration of numerous native species



Prolific native regeneration including Melaleucas



Encroachment by neighbouring properties

Garden refuse covering rubble

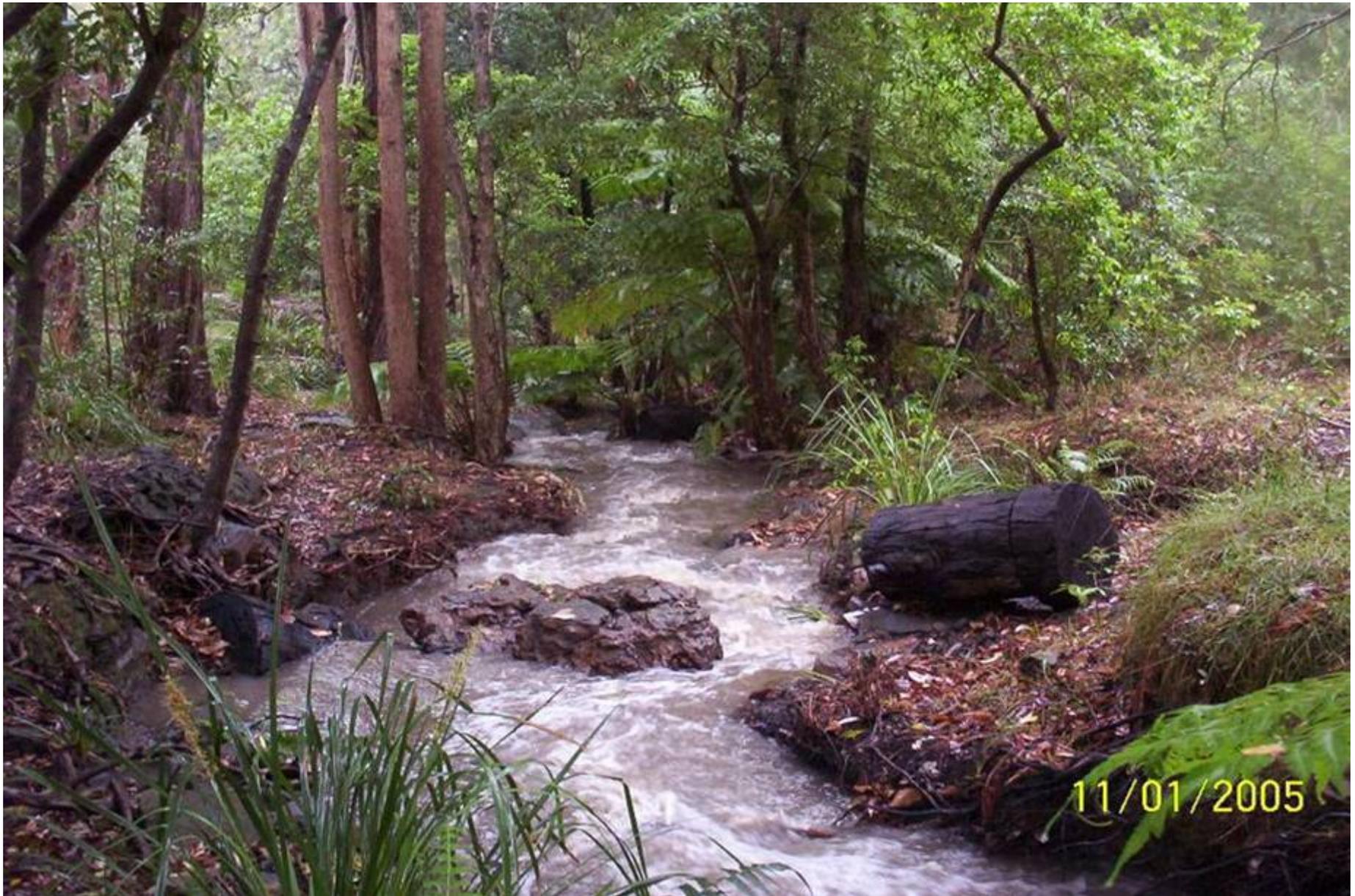




Greenhood orchids



Wandering Jew is habitat for frogs and prevents erosion along the bank.



Water level after a 15min. Shower. Note previously washed down logs.



Eroding bank



Bowling Club car park edge. Before 2001. Bamboo, Madeira Vine, Caster Oil Plant



Volunteers hand weeding around small regenerating native plants



Once an invasive weedy border is reduced. Young Blackbutts, *Casuarina glauca*



Before 2001. Madeira Vine, Morning Glory, Cape Ivy, Potato Vine, Lantana



Bowling Club car park edge. Edge being maintained, keeping vines at ground level.



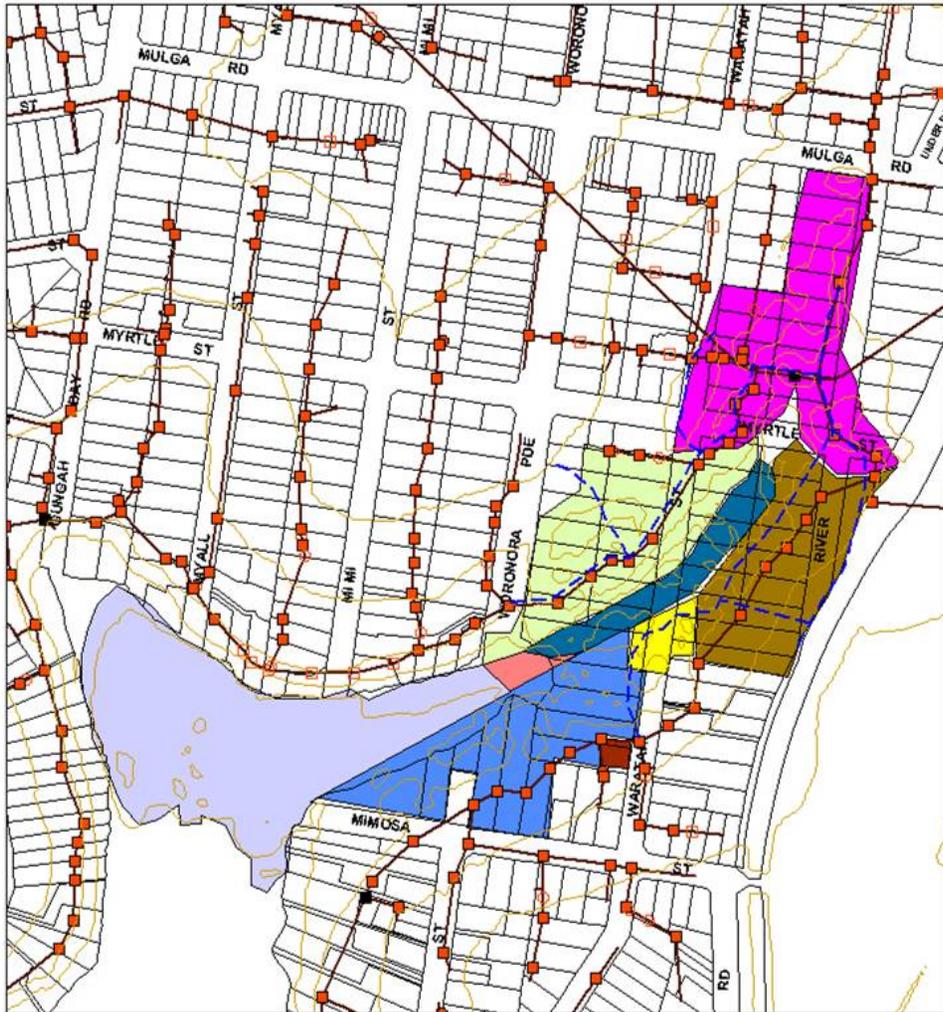
Madreia Vine with tubers



Madiera Vine smothering the Mangroves at Salt Pan Creek



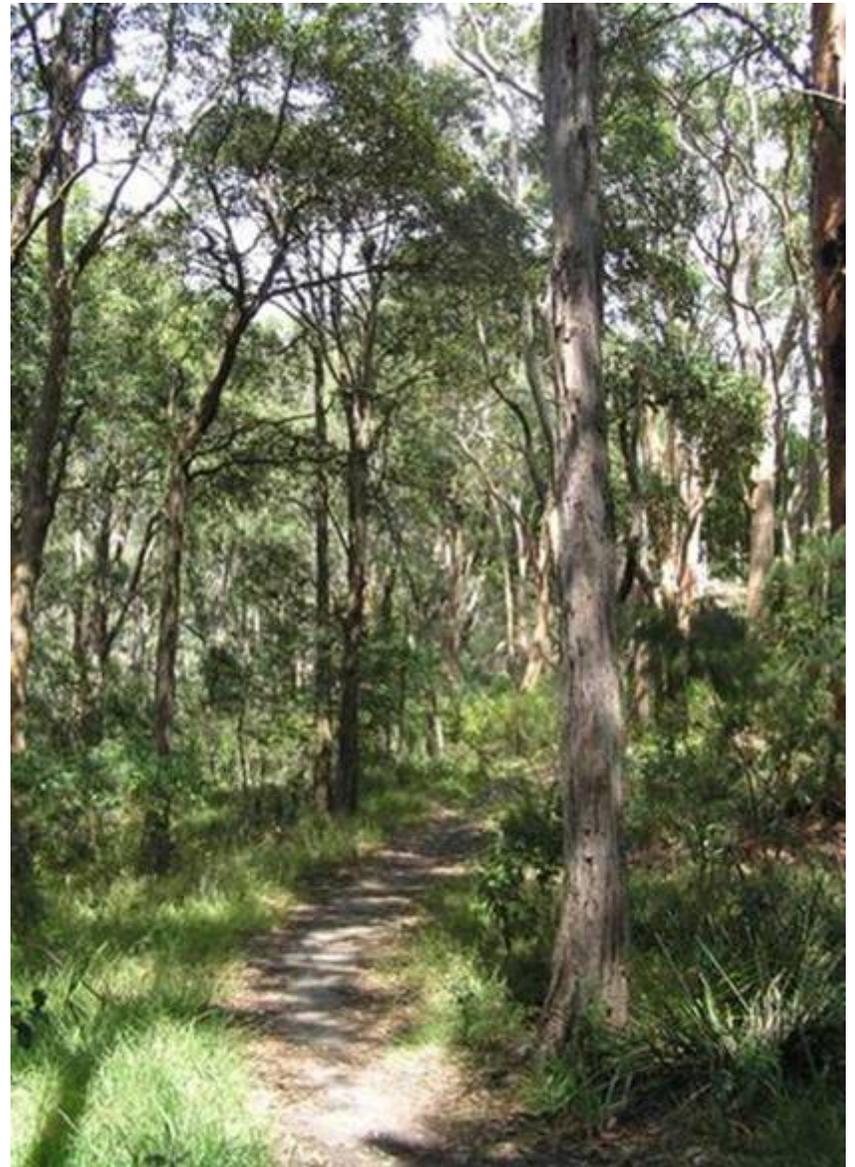
Railcorp's weed border. Madeira Vine, Potato Vine, M&Ms, Privets, Fleabane



**MYLES DUNPHY RESERVE  
PLANT COMMUNITIES**

**LEGEND**

-  10m CONTOURS
-  WALK TRACKS
-  SEWER LINES
-  TURPENTINE, BLACKBUTT, SYDNEY RED GUM
-  PAPER-BARK, CHEESE TREE
-  BLACKBUTT, BLOODWOOD, SYDNEY RED GUM, SCRIBBLY GUM
-  BANKSIA SERATA
-  SCRIBBLY GUM
-  BLACKBUTT, SYDNEY RED GUM, RED MAHOGANY
-  MANGROVES - GREY & RIVER
-  BLACKBUTT, SYDNEY RED GUM, BLOODWOOD
-  REED BED



Bush Crew's site.  
South aspect.

Turpentine, Sydney Red Gum



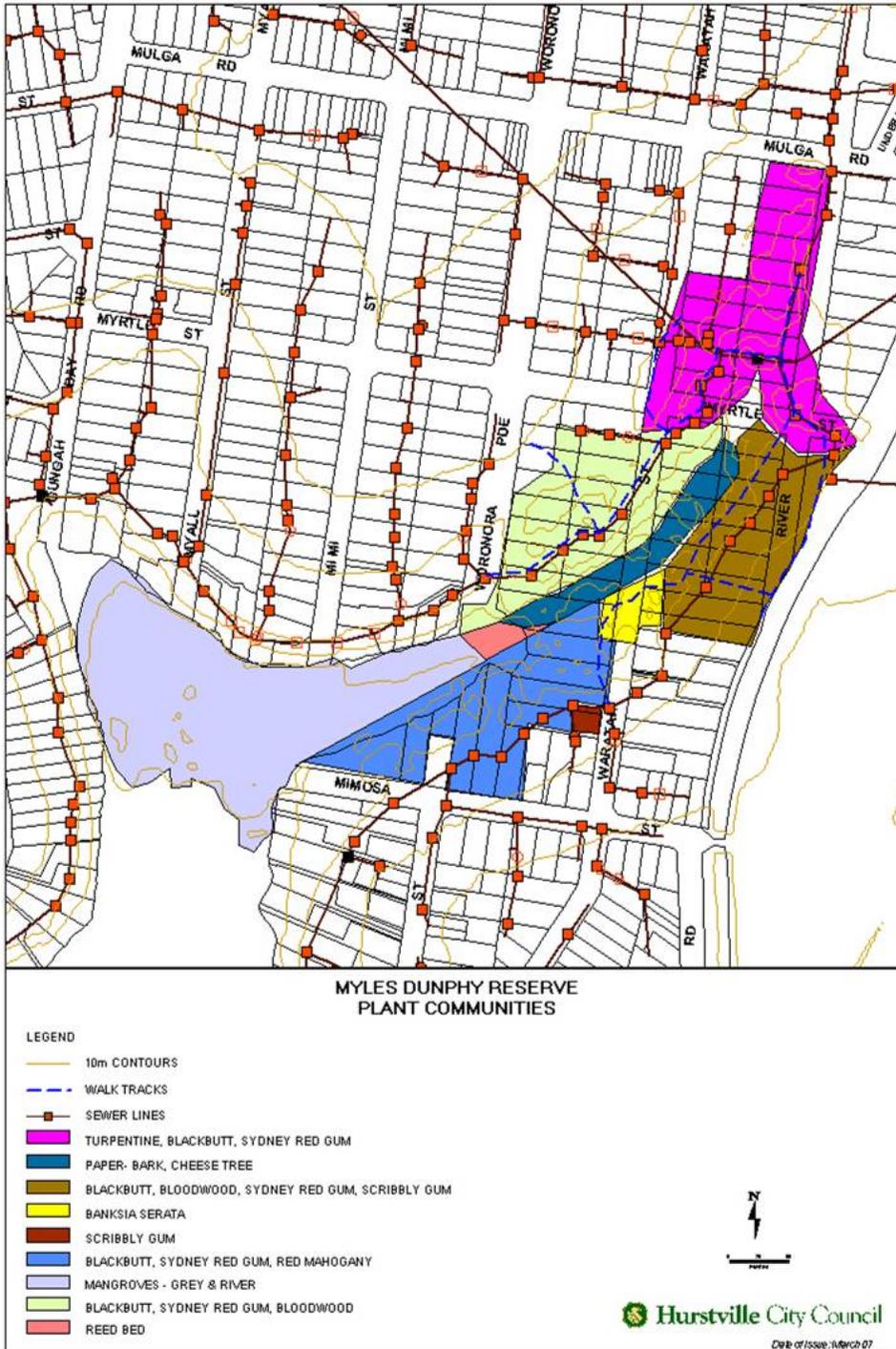


April 2007 Right – regeneration from a 2003 broad burn

**Blackbutt** with many hollows of varying sizes.

It is not a good idea to picnic beneath its canopy.





Paper Barks, Cheese Trees gully





South of the bowling club. Cheese trees, struggling Paper Barks (Melaleucas)



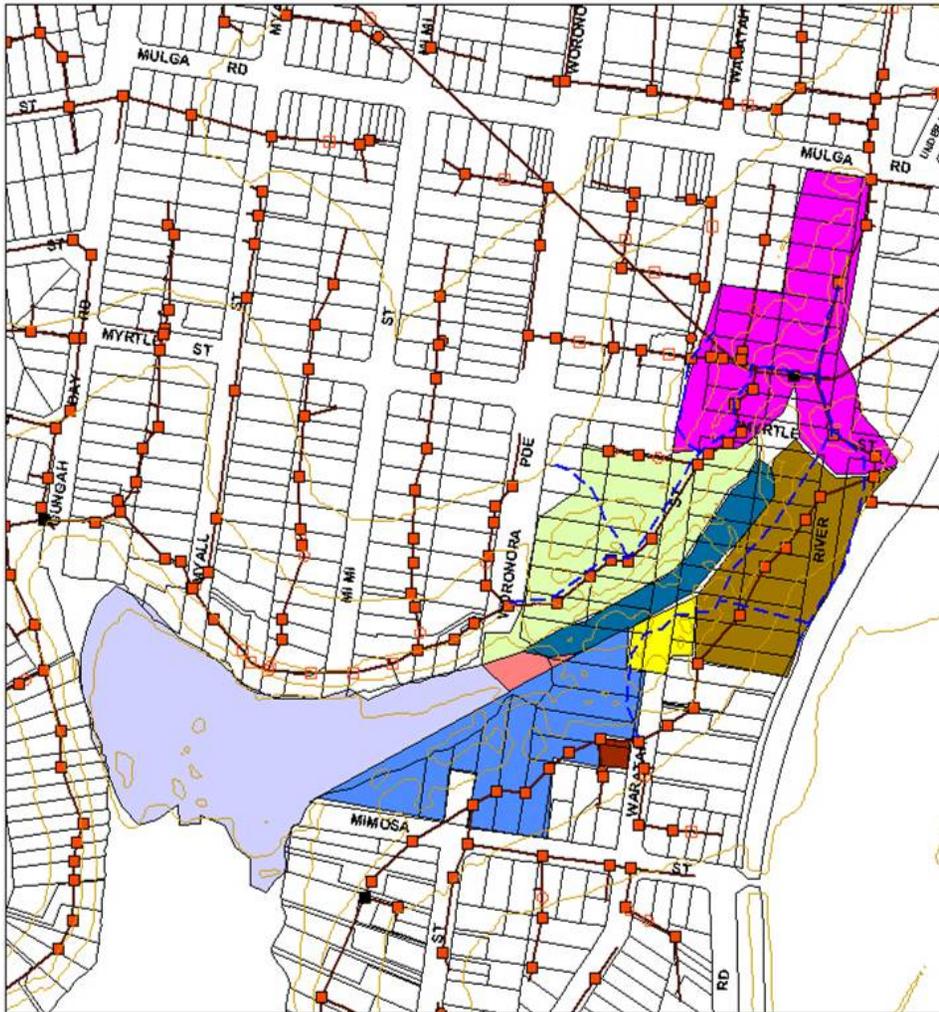
No regeneration of Paper Barks, will do pile burns to stimulate regeneration.



Drain work (stormwater from Oatley shopping centre, KMC)



Litter from KMC



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**Hurstville City Council**

*Date of Issue: March 07*

Wetland





Proposed wetland and Paper Barks (Melaleucas), Spoon Lillies, Bamboo, Madeira Vine.



Buffer zone. Fallen tree posed problems for weed control. Piled for burning.



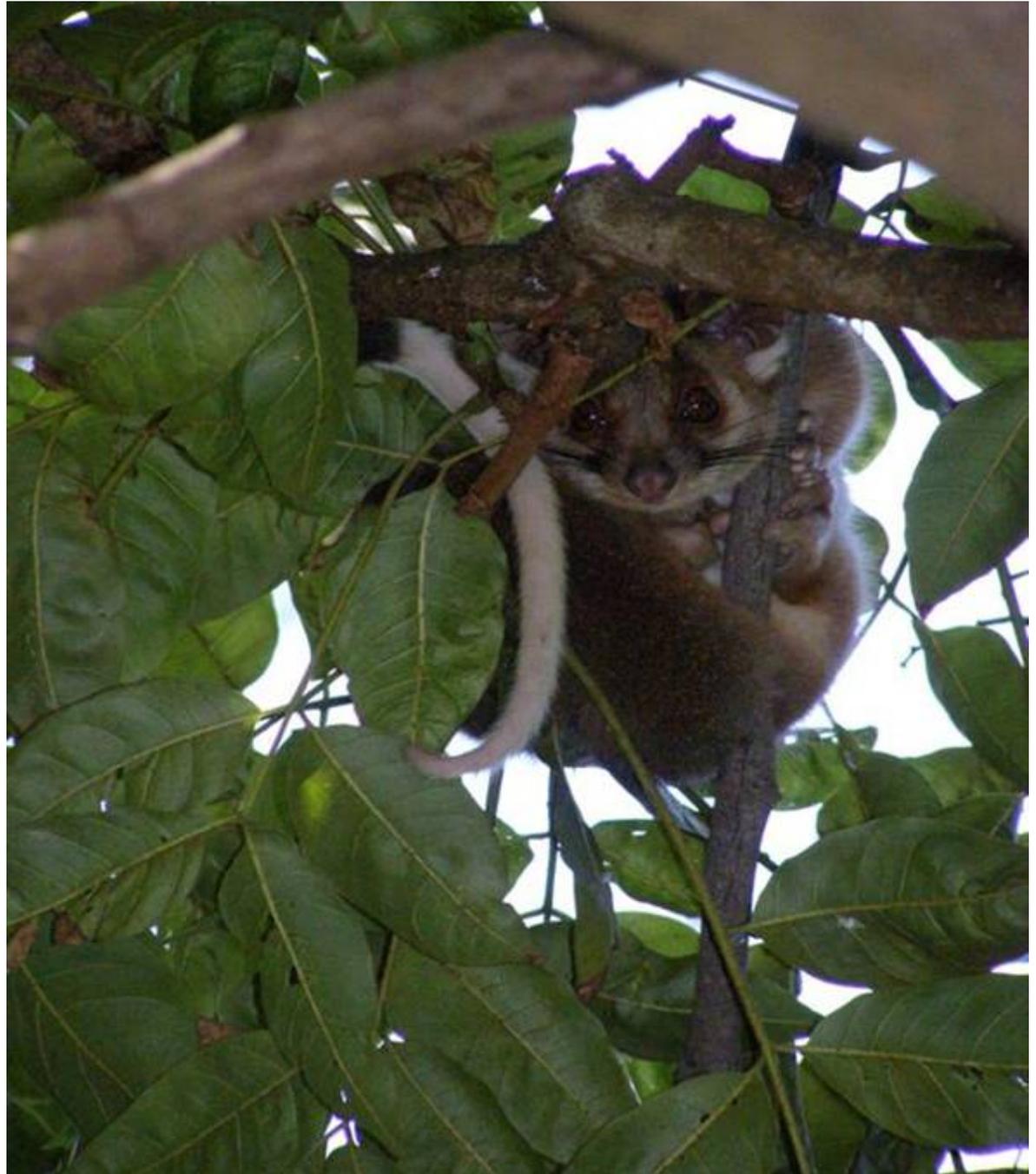
Stopped fire brigade from doing a broad burn. Loss of habitat



Hand weeding edges of burnt piles.  
Note the surrounding lush weed grass, *Ehrharta erecta*.

**Ringtails** live in the thick mid-story or any thick cover of vegetation.

Lantana is the gourmet habitat, providing fruit, flowers, insects and protection.

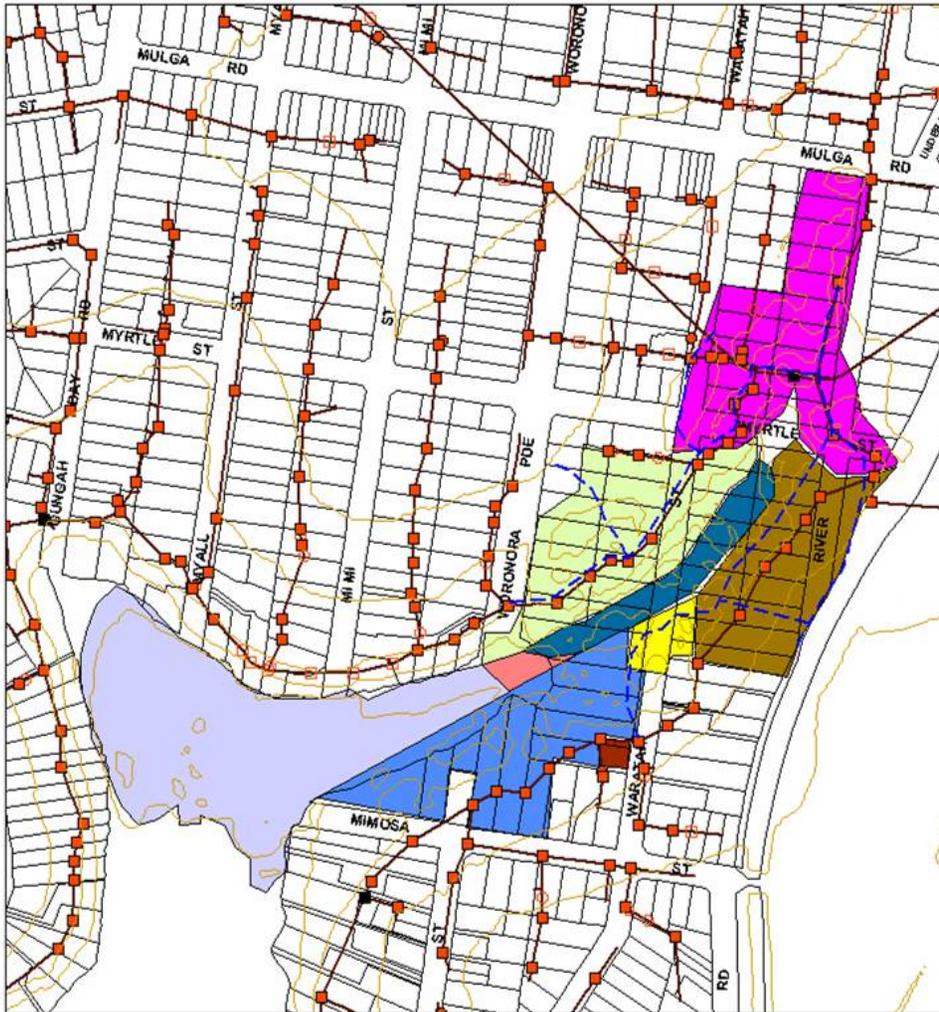


A juvenile Powerful Owl  
loves to eat Ringtail  
Possums.

When you find the guts of  
a possum you know that the  
kill was not by a fox. A fox  
would eat the entire  
animal.

The Powerful Owl is the  
mascot for HCC bushcare.





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Dry open woodland





N/W facing slope along railway. Dry open woodland





Aging Old Man Banksias surrounded by aggressive weeds and no regeneration

Hyacinth orchid







Before 1998. Inappropriate planting. Madeira Vine problem.



**2002 - No maintenance since 1998.** Madeira Vine, Potato Vine, *Asparagus plumosa*, Cassia, Privets, Lantana, African Love Grass (*Eragrostis curvula*), Ochna.



**Work is targeting worst weeds first.** Eg: Madeira Vine, Potato Vine, *Asparagus plumosa*, Woody weeds. Since the work of contractors we are weeding around/isolating the few native plants.

Prior to the contractor's work,  
volunteers found the job  
challenging

Weeds: Madeira Vine, Lantana,  
Asparagus fern etc.





Except for the plant Melaleuca every other plant is a weed.



Extra funding from hazard reduction allowed for the contractors, Creatures of Habitat, to have one day at targeting the Madeira Vine and any other weed that was in their way.



Intensive follow-up weeding after primary work and rain. Besides the regrowing Madeira Vine etc. there are the faster seeding perennials ie. Cobblers pegs etc.



Recognised threatening species, ***Eragrostis curvula*** being used as an ornamental grass. Grass seeds are washed down the drain into the reserve.



Earlier inappropriate planting by council on a dry north facing slope. *Lomandra hystrix*, Lilly Pillies, hybrid Blueberry Ash and exotic Eucs.



Before: A late 1990's burn



Same area where follow-up work had stopped, leaving weeds to re-invade. Morning Glory, Privets, Mulberry, Ehrharta etc.



Preparing for pile burns. Raking the surrounding ground to stimulate regeneration.



The result of a planned pile burn.



Before: Lower wetland south burn piles. Background weeds are Privets, Honeysuckle, Mickey Mouse Plant (*Ochna*), Morning Glory, *Cyperus eragrostis*.



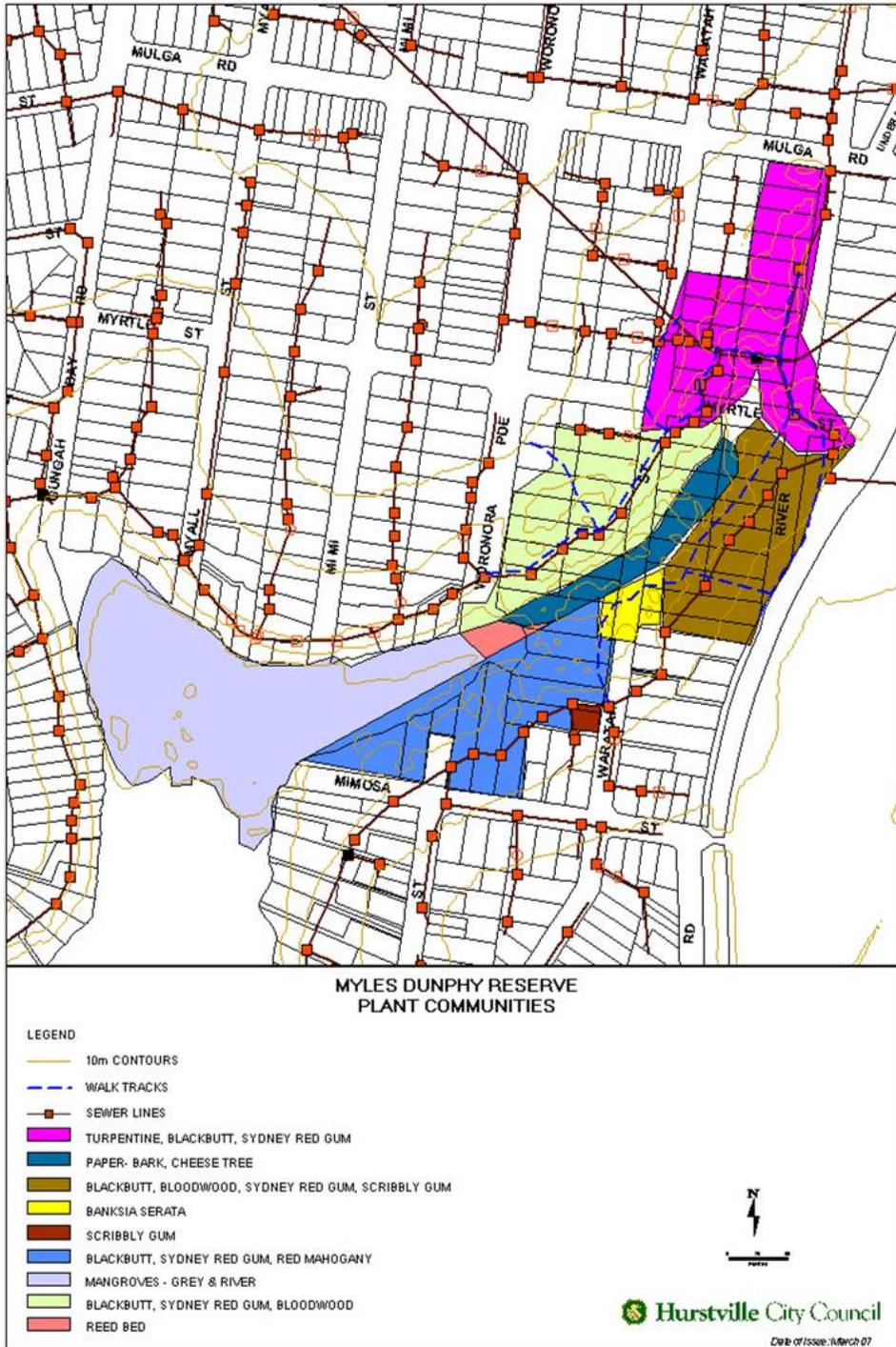
Same area after the burns. Volunteers doing the follow-up weeding



Before early 2002 Mangrove edge: Asparagus fern, Privets



After: same site 2007. *Casuarina glauca*, Cheese Trees, *Phragmites* (reed)



Waratah Street South



Rare Scribbly Gum hybrid





Pile burns were let run to a broad burn which destroyed a number of plantings in the degraded road edge.

*Helichrysum diosmifolium*

Extinct from Myles Dunphy  
Reserve.





Drumsticks (*Isopogon anemonifolius*) 2 bushes left in Myles Dunphy Reserve



Damage caused by mountain bikes



Correction: Fire break



Rural Fire Brigade. A day for about 30 or 40 trainees



Same area 8 months later.

Regeneration after broad burn



11/22/2006



04/19/2007



04/11/2007



08/23/2007



07/11/2006

**Thank you Bushcare Volunteers.  
and Fire Fighters**