



6 August 2008

National Trust works to preserve urban bushland

The National Trust wishes to thank its volunteers for collectively contributing over 530 hours of work toward bush regeneration in 2007. According to a recent Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority survey, the volunteer workforce contributes \$5.3 million p.a to the region's economy. In particular, the National Trust values the work done by its dedicated volunteers who work to regenerate pockets of bushland at Trust properties around the state.

The National Trust's Bushland Management Team is hoping to recruit more volunteers to help care for the National Trust properties **Ahimsa** in Cheltenham and **Ludovic Blackwood Memorial Sanctuary** in Beecroft.

Ahimsa is a 1.3ha property adjoining Lane Cove National Park comprising typical Sydney sandstone bushland dominated by eucalypts and angophoras. Post-fire germination over the last six years has resulted in dense growth of acacias, grevilleas and other shrub species with prolific winter-spring flowering.

Blackwood Sanctuary contains approximately 1.4 hectares of Blue Gum High Forest which is listed as a Critically Endangered Ecological Community under the NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act. Blackwood Sanctuary is also the habitat of a diverse range of native animals including the Powerful Owl (listed as vulnerable in the NSW Threatened Species), echidna, native bees, a large stick insect, possums, a Crested Hawk, Eastern and Crimson Rosellas, Blue Fairy Wrens, a Dollar Bird, Whipbirds and various skinks.

Like to volunteer? No special skills are required just a love of the environment and a willingness to learn about bush regeneration. Time commitment ranges from a couple of hours per month to a couple of days depending on the project.

The main activity is weeding of aggressive plants such as Asparagus Fern, Lantana and Privets. A National Trust Supervisor will guide volunteers through local plant identification, native fauna identification and some basic site strategies for controlling weeds and other impacts that degrade urban bushland. Come with a friend, it is a social team activity and morning tea is provided at the end of each session.

To find out more about becoming a National Trust Bushcare volunteer phone 9258 0176.