

Yellomundee Firesticks & Conservation Kayaking



PROGRAM WEEKEND DATES

16 & 17 May 2015, 20 & 21 June 2015,
18 & 19 July 2015 & 15 & 16 August 2015

YELLOMUNDEE ABORIGINAL BUSHCARE & FIRESTICKS

[Yellomundee Aboriginal Bushcare Group \(YABG\)](#) has been working at the Shaws Farm site since 2009 removing various weeds including Lantana and African Love Grass that are the dominating introduced plant species in the area. The Lantana was contributing to Bell Minor Associated Die Back in the Eucalypts in the area. This is where the Lantana provides excellent cover for the nesting bell minors who then grow in numbers and also chase away other small birds. As the bell minors grow in numbers they protect a lerp that feeds off the eucalypt leaves as the lerp's covering is the bell minor's food. This causes the leaves to die and then the tree cover dies back so that you end up with a Lantana monoculture. For more information about YABG [click here](#)

In 2014 the site was declared an Aboriginal Place which formalized what the Darug Aboriginal people already knew about the location. In June 2014, YABG hosted the first of the firestick workshops at which an Elder from Cape York was invited to pass on the knowledge behind the principles of burning Country to treat the weeds and regenerate native vegetation. This process has a deep cultural significance to Aboriginal people as it is part of their custodial responsibility in looking after the land. National Parks are now allowing Aboriginal people to carry on this cultural practice as part of the weed management program and to also have the opportunity to share this knowledge with others in the community. Firesticks is NOT a hazard reduction program. It is part of bushland restoration processes. These cultural "cool" burns are carried out only when the conditions are appropriate during the months between May and August. For more information about Yellomundee Firesticks, contact Den Barber NPWS (Aboriginal Co-Management Officer and Project Coordinator)

yellomundeeffiresticks@hotmail.com or for more information phone 0439 493 116 or [Yellomundee Firesticks facebook](#) or the [Living knowledge places web site](#)

GREATER SYDNEY LANDCARE & CONSERVATION KAYAKING

Greater Sydney Landcare is the network of Landcare, Coastcare, bushcare and other conservation or sustainability groups in the Greater Sydney Region. The Conservation Kayaking program takes volunteers on a kayaking adventure to visit one of the member group's sites to volunteer on the site. For more information about the network and activities go to www.greatersydneylandcare.org or join us on facebook

The kayaks, paddling gear, treatment and mapping tools and gloves have been purchased through grants from Landcare Australia, Greater Sydney Local Land Services, formerly the Hawkesbury Nepean CMA, Australian Government Caring for Country program, Coca Cola Foundation, Be Natural, Neutrogena Naturals & NSW Environmental Trust

ACTIVITIES ON THE WEEKEND

The group will kayak the 9 kilometers from Russell Street Emu plains to the Shaw's Farm site in Yellomundee Regional Park on the Saturday morning arriving for lunch at Shaw's farm. Then in the afternoon spend about 2 hours doing weeding around the camp site. We will then camp at the site overnight. There is a shelter shed and toilets at the camp site and BBQ facilities can be arranged if required. Participants can either leave their overnight gear in the cars left at the camp site or carry them in their kayak for the day

On the Sunday morning the group join in with the regular Yellomundee Aboriginal Bush care volunteers and continue with the weeding on the site and then attend part of the Fire sticks workshop which, if conditions are appropriate, will include observing the cool burn of a small area of bush land

The weeding will involve hand pulling Lantana, African love grass and other weeds and also treating mature lantana by cut and paint with glyphosate.



Local Land Services
Greater Sydney

GETTING THERE

.We will meet up at Shaws farm Yellomundee regional park. You enter the park via a track with a locked gate which is 50 meters on the past the Shaws Creek bridge if you are heading along Hawkesbury Road from Agnes Banks or at the bottom of the S-bends 50 meters before the Shaws Creek bridge if you are heading along Hawkesbury road from Springwood. Note there are two entrances to the park this is the one closest to the bridge.

After leaving some vehicles at Shaws farm we will drive to Emu Green Reserve Emu plains with the kayaks on the trailer again there is a locked gate where Russell Street meets Palomino Road. We will drive down to the river and start the paddle to Shaws Farm

DIFFICULTY

The kayak paddle is a 9km on grade 1 water with three grave races and a long pond. The work site is on relatively flat ground in bushland and long grass.

WHAT WE WILL PROVIDE

Greater Sydney Landcare Network will be providing the sea kayaks, paddles, PFD's for the kayak paddle, but you can bring your own.

All required tools, herbicides and gloves will be supplied for the work session.

Yellomundee Aboriginal Bushcare Group and NPWS will provide the clothing to wear when a burn is carried out and morning tea and lunch on the day

WHAT YOU WILL NEED TO PROVIDE

Your own camping gear(tent, sleeping bag and lilo and cooking utensils), snacks, water bottle, lunch and dinner for the Saturday, quick drying clothes (including thermals tops) and not slip shoes that can get wet for the paddle on Saturday, warm work clothes and boots for Saturday afternoon and night and Sunday.

WHEN YOU REGISTER

To register for the conservation kayaking weekend contact Jeff Cottrell via email: jkayaking@greatersydneylandcare.org or for more information phone 0418 210 347

Please include:

- If you want to paddle your own kayak
- Your contact details (email and mobile).
- Where you heard of the event.

If you would like to register to participate in the full Firesticks workshop (we will only be observing the actual cultural burn if it takes place) contact Den Barber (Aboriginal Co-Management Officer and Project Coordinator) NPWS yellomundeefiresticks@hotmail.com or for more information phone 0439 493 116

