

You Can Help Keep Your Local Bushland Healthy and Weed Free!

You can do some very simple things in your own backyard to help protect your local bushland and all the creatures that call it home.

✓ Come to Bushcare to learn how to identify the native plants in your local area

✗ Don't dump lawn clippings or garden waste in the bush

✗ Don't let agapanthus go to seed. Remove the seed heads after flowering and put them in the bin

✓ Learn to identify known environmental weeds in your area - once you can recognise them, you can remove them so they don't spread beyond your backyard

✗ Don't remove anything from the bush - logs, twigs, rocks etc provide habitat for many creatures



✓ Keep to tracks (don't create new areas of disturbance in the bush)

✓ Take your rubbish with you - this includes pet waste! Please pick up after your pets, so that our creeks don't become over-polluted and smelly

✓ Come to Bushcare and meet other people who care about our precious mountains environment.



How to Contact Us

If you would like to be involved in Lone Pine Bushcare Group or to find out more about our activities and the reserve where we work, you can contact:

Bushcare Officer, BMCC

Phone: 4780 5623

www.weedsbluemountains.org.au

We meet in the Leura Oval car park (off Malvern Road) on the first Saturday of every month. We are there from 9am - 12noon and would welcome any time you are able to contribute. No experience is necessary. Bring a hat, something to drink and some morning tea. Blue Mountains City Council's Bushcare program provides training, tools and equipment.



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Lone Pine Bushcare

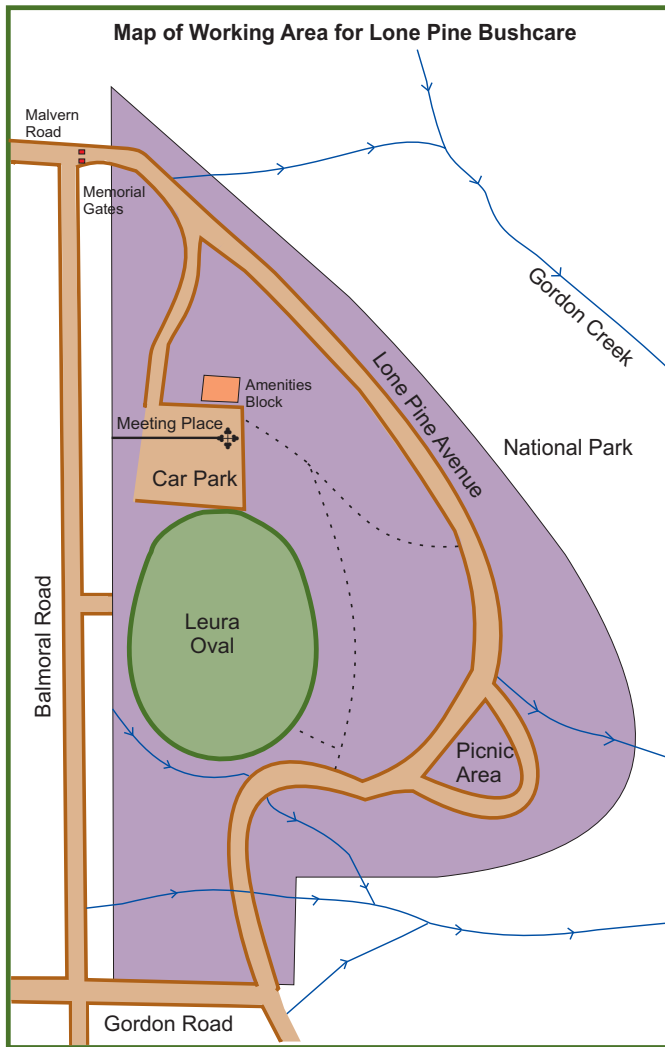


Lone Pine Bushcare Group is just one of 50 volunteer Bushcare groups supported by Blue Mountains City Council, working in local bushland throughout the Blue Mountains. Bushcare groups spend a few hours every month helping to address the damage done to the environment by invasive weeds and stormwater runoff.

Using the principles of bush regeneration to guide their work, their aim is to encourage healthy bushland to expand. The Blue Mountains Bushcare movement continues to foster a sense of community responsibility for the natural environment.

Today the Lone Pine Bushcare Group works across a large area of the Gordon Falls Reserve, (see map inside) which forms a border with the Blue Mountains National Park and World Heritage Area. Each month we work towards improving the health of our local bushland reserve.

Map of working area for Lone Pine Bushcare



Key

- Lone Pine Bushcare Area
- Walking tracks
- Drainage lines
- Where we meet

Lone Pine Bushcare

Gordon Falls Reserve is situated south of Leura village. The Reserve forms a large part of the upper catchment for Gordon Creek, which flows south into the Blue Mountains National Park and continues over the escarpment, into the Jamison Valley. Gordon Falls Reserve is significant because of the dedication of a section of Lone Pine Avenue as a memorial to members of the Leura community who contributed to the war effort of 1914-1918.

The Gordon Falls locality contains sensitive vegetation. Blue Mountains hanging swamps, now listed as endangered ecological communities, are found within and adjacent to Gordon Falls Reserve. These swamps provide habitat for several rare and endangered species, such as the Blue Mountains Water Skink, the Giant Dragonfly and the Smooth Bush Pea (*Pultenea glabra*). The activities of Lone Pine Bushcare Group focus on the restoration and protection of these sensitive areas.

The reserve is a high profile area, and an important component of tourist activity in the region. Many visitors come to view Gordon Falls or to bushwalk and picnic in the reserve, and local residents use it extensively for recreation. Bushcare is a way of involving people in caring for and managing their local bushland.



The Gundungurra people used this area as an open camp site in summer. The rock shelter in Lyre Bird Dell would have been an integral part of Aboriginal life.



How Weeds Impact Upon Healthy Bushland

To some degree, all healthy natural systems can act as a buffer against disturbance - they have their own in-built level of resilience. However, disturbances such as vegetation clearing, high stormwater flows into watercourses, or fire can cause a shift in the natural balance. When systems are made vulnerable by disturbance, weed invasion often results. Weeds, defined simply as plants out of place, move in to take advantage of the imbalance created within the system. Once established, weeds compete vigorously with native plants, using up space, light, water and nutrients to displace them. Weeds can thus severely erode the health and vitality of native plant communities.



Weeds are carried into the reserve by birds, wind, stormwater and by deliberate dumping of garden waste. The proximity of Gordon Falls Reserve to residential areas means that many invasive garden plants and environmental weeds move rapidly into healthy bushland. Bushcare activities target the most aggressive of these weed species, removing weeds from good bushland areas first, so that the system's natural capacity for healing can do the rest of the work. Weeds such as Blackberry, Japanese Honeysuckle, Montbretia, Bird Cherry and Broom persistently return to threaten the long-term viability of local bushland.

By using bush regeneration principles to encourage the natural capacity of the bush to heal itself, Bushcare volunteers work to maintain the condition of local bushland by managing weed populations. Keeping bushland healthy is not just about weed removal; it is also about minimising disturbance in good bushland.



You can help!