



# SYDNEY BATS

## Friends of Bats Newsletter

March 2024

Dear Members, we apologise to you for our lack of communication. We, your Management Committee, are keen to reassure you that Ku-ring-gai Bat Conservation Society has been getting its house in order after the retirement of several people. We are sincerely grateful for your continuing support. Read on to find out what is happening.

### Events with live flying-foxes resume

Sunday, 17 March 2024 Berowra Fauna Fair 10.00 – 15.00  
Berowra Community and Cultural Facility, The Gully Rd, Berowra, NSW.  
<https://www.friendsberowravalleys.org.au/berowra-fauna-fair-2024/>

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May, Blue Mountains Bat Night, 17:00 – 21:00  
Katoomba Cultural Centre, Main St, Katoomba

No bat nights were organised in Gordon because the flying-fox camp has been unpredictable. In 2023 the flying-foxes did not return to Gordon from their winter travels until November. A count on November 8 recorded 7,540, on December 13 there were only 2,550 and on February 29 the count was 6,090 bats.

KFFR Flying-fox Extent 23 Jan 2024  
Count 4,485



Prior to 2021 the average number for February was 32,259.

Ku-ring-gai Council staff and volunteers continue to estimate the number of flying-foxes and map their extent in the reserve each month.

Powerful owls bred in this reserve again last year. An adult and juvenile were seen in October 2023.

## Bushcare continues in Ku-ring-gai Flying-fox Reserve

Volunteers Karen, Jill and Nancy continue to meet on some Tuesdays. Haley Henning has formed a group which meets on the first Saturday of each month.

The **Saturday Bushcare Group** aims to continue collecting temperature and humidity data, monitor the fauna cameras and potentially expanding monitoring activities to include flora species lists of exclosures and creek erosion monitoring. Other wildlife spotted in the reserve by wildlife cameras, and sharp eyes include echidnas, wallabies, lyrebirds, bandicoots and a lace monitor.



Both groups will continue to maintain the wallaby exclosures and remove priority weeds.

Volunteers are welcome, so if you or someone you know is interested in joining us please register here:

<https://www.krg.nsw.gov.au/Community/Volunteer/Volunteer-with-Council/Bushcare>

## **Ku-ring-gai Council continues to put resources into managing Ku-ring-gai Flying-fox Reserve.**

Ku-ring-gai Flying-fox Reserve 10 Year Site Management and Roosting Habitat Plan requires that the biodiversity is monitored annually and the results presented to the KFFR Technical Advisory Group which includes Council Staff and relevant experts and stakeholders. Tim Pearson, Karen and Haley attend these meetings via Zoom.

### **KBCS committee**

Elected in November were Tim Pearson (Chair), Storm Stanford (Deputy Chair), Karen Sherwood (Hon. Secretary), Nancy Pallin (Hon. Treasurer), Harry Leung (sydneybats website manager), Haley Henning (Bushcare co-ordinator), Alison Langley. Rosie Dowsett responded to our invitation to assist sent through the Nature Conservation Council of NSW and has been co-opted onto the committee.



### **Sydneybats website**

There are now new posts on the website.

View Ali's blogs on red bloodwoods and the 'Saving Our Species: Bats in Backyards' project.

### **Bat Conservation Gift Fund News**

Donations received during this financial year so far total \$2,395.



We sincerely thank Sophia Linden, Brett Weed, Adam Jaquier-Parr, Janet Pollock, John Burke, Lynette and John Desmond, Christine Austin, Nancy and Robert Pallin, Mary Warner, Noela Jones, Charlie Schuetrim, Michael Clarence, Keren Cox-Witton, Leonie Bayley, Jeanette Sinclair, Mina Bassarova, Harry Leung, Shayne and Ron Tanner, Jocelyn Chenu, Helen Wortham, Yael Cohen, Helen Gardner, Jane Gye, Anthony Frank, Janet Fairlie Cuninghame, Brigid Dowsett, Bruce Taylor, Harry Burkitt, Jo Fairall and Nita Kent.

Funds are being spent on maintaining the education flying-foxes which are housed at Australian Wildlife Walkabout Park at Calga and upgrading the weather station in Ku-ring-gai Flying-fox Reserve. KBCS donated to the Nature Conservation Council of NSW to support efforts to prevent logging of habitat of koalas, greater gliders which is also vital for flying-foxes and microbats.

## **Changes to the Gift Fund Management Committee**

Tim Moore and Jocelyn have retired. Karen and Nancy are automatically members. Penny who has flagged her desire to retire is remaining to mentor Nancy in the mysteries of being the Treasurer. New members are Robert Baker and Peter Ryan. The role of the Gift Fund management committee is to ensure that payments from the Gift Fund are in accordance with the KBCS constitution and Gift Fund rules.

### **Jocelyn Chenu, thank you!**

For 20 years Jocelyn played a central role in Ku-ring-gai Bat Conservation Society (KBCS) as honorary Treasurer, meeting host, organiser of 'bat nights' at Gordon and sundry administrative jobs. Following her retirement, she has moved from Gordon to Warrawee and now lives next to a remnant of Blue Gum High Forest.

John Burke and Jane Gye, both members of KBCS and STEP Inc, were closely involved in saving this tiny but precious forest from destruction.

Dear Jocelyn, we sincerely appreciate all you have done for the bats and we miss your messages about what they are doing outside your kitchen window. Thank you!



**Connect with us on social media!**

