Residents in a leafy street on the banks of Lovers Jump Creek at Turramurra have banded together to restore a natural green corridor.

Creek and Bush Regeneration

Residents of Cudgee Street, Turramurra have united to restore the bush land surrounding Lovers Jump Creek, aiming to protect and reinstate the native habitat.

The site, once a dumping ground was overgrown with noxious weeds and debris; car parts, concrete and metal waste littered the area. Invasive weeds such as *Arundel* grew up to 10 metres high and *Privet* had moved in, challenging the growth of native plants and prohibiting the creek from flowing efficiently.

It was clear that immediate community action was needed! So local residents formed a *Creek and Bush Regeneration Group* to protect the area; by preventing the spread of noxious weeds, improving the quality of the creek and creating a more natural habitat for native wildlife. The project spanning a number of years has been a great experience for the residents who now have a greater knowledge of bush regeneration methods and have a strong sense of community and achievement in their leafy street.

Through riparian planting, reducing erosion and improving biodiversity and sharing knowledge the *Bush and Creek Regeneration Group* have achieved amazing and enduring results.

Before: The site is overgrown with invasive noxious weeds.
HOW DID THE GROUP ACHIEVE SUCH SUCCESS?

For over five years the committed group of nine volunteers have met once a month to remove and control weeds, replant native plants and remove debris. The group of volunteers report they have had a lot of fun along the way. Whilst weeding, digging and replanting the group admits to sharing many laughs over tea and scones. Their commitment and achievement is recognised and applauded by Ku-ring-gai Council.

The group formed independently but received the Councils support by obtaining a small grant through the Environmental Levy Scheme.

This allowed the group to hire professional bush regenerators to target prolific and resilient weeds and to educate the group on efficient bush regeneration methods. The funding allowed expert opinion and advice to be received, to ensure the long term sustainability and success of the bush regeneration.

The project has resulted in the community benefiting greatly as through increased riparian planting the spread of weeds has been limited as the creek no longer carries the same quantity of noxious seeds down the stream, ensuring fewer weed infestations.

In addition the creek has become an extension of the native habitat beyond the national park’s boundaries, attracting more native wildlife such as large eels, frogs, ducks, brush turkeys, owls, water dragons and native birds.

Furthermore, the riverbank has been stabilised ensuring that the creek is no longer as prone to excessive and severe flooding, which often had devastating and costly consequences to homes in the area.

The riparian area is now covered in thick mulch. This control measure limits flowing water erosion and is further supported by silt barriers installed along the top of the creek bank to further secure the site.

The achievements...

The benefits and techniques learnt have not only been shared within the local community, but with neighbours downstream and visitors to Ku-ring-gai Chase. This has been achieved by sharing knowledge at Open Days and through offering advice and support at Community workshops.
Ku-ring-gai Council would like to commend the commitment and dedication of the Bush and Creek Group in Cudgee Street. We hope that this example of a street coming together to achieve enduring and real life environmental success can inspire and motivate other community groups to protect and maintain their native habitats.

After: Look at the integrity of the site now!