

# Wallagoot catchment BioBlitz 2015

December 4th and 5th

Basecamp - Bournda Environmental Education Centre



Supporting organisations to date:  
Atlas of Life in the Coastal Wilderness  
SE Local Land Services  
NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service  
Bournda Environmental Education Centre  
Panboola Wetlands  
EnviroKey  
Science in Nature Services

Libby Hepburn  
September 4th



## Background

After three successful BioBlitzes in the region, the Atlas of Life in the Coastal Wilderness (ALCW) has brought together a group of partner organisations to run a BioBlitz in the Wallagoot catchment in 2015. We are seeking support to enable us to run this event successfully and to achieve maximum benefit for all those involved.

It is planned that this will be the first of a series of BioBlitzes which will be undertaken in subsequent years along the important wildlife corridor that runs from Bournda up to the hills of Wadbilliga National Park.

We have demonstrated the value of BioBlitzes as mechanisms to engage a broad range of the community and scientists and naturalists in intensive scientific surveys. The outcomes are: significant species lists for the chosen location, significant enjoyment and learning for the participants, continued willingness of the scientists and naturalists to contribute to this activity and a strong network of engaged organisations and individuals.

Our intentions are now to build on this sound foundation to increase the value of the scientific output and further develop the understanding and capacity of the participants to a higher level of awareness of the science and complex ecology of our region.

## Location

The Wallagoot catchment is predominately forest or woodland with cleared land for agriculture. Wallagoot Lake itself is an ICOLL - with high vulnerability as it has the lowest opening frequency on the South coast. It has seagrass beds and small areas of saltmarsh). There are large areas protected in the Bournda National Park and Bournda Nature Reserve as well as Bega Local Aboriginal Land Council land and property in private ownership.

There are several endangered ecological communities: River-flat Eucalypt Forest on Coastal Floodplains, Freshwater Wetlands on Coastal Floodplains, Bangalay Sand Forest, Swamp Oak Floodplain forest and Coastal Saltmarsh.

There are a number of threatened flora and fauna species as well as a number of invasive species in the area. The Kalaru/Wallagoot area is rich in fauna values, especially for the Yellow-bellied Glider, Glossy Black Cockatoo, and threatened shore and water birds. The area is a wildlife corridor allowing species to move between more and less disturbed areas.

## Focus

Having established a sound event management process for BioBlitzes and become a leader in Australia, this year our focus is on developing the scientific value of the BioBlitz. At the Mimosa Rocks BioBlitz last year, we recorded a splendid 1,008 species over the two days. This is indeed a valuable data set of the location, and we now feel we can develop the project to increase the value and legacy of the activity for all concerned.

## Partners

This year our collaborating partner organisations to date are: ALCW, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, Bournda Environmental Education Centre, Bega Local Aboriginal Land Council (Bega LALC), Local Land Services, Panboola Wetlands, Bega Valley Shire Council and Landcare NSW.

We have been invited by Bega LALC to work with them to contribute data sets which will inform the land management plans which are being developed for all their lands in the Shire. This seems to us to add significant value to what we can achieve in a BioBlitz as it creates baseline data that they would otherwise find it very difficult to gather (see Appendix).

## BioBlitz organisation

The BioBlitz management will be led by the Atlas of Life in the Coastal Wilderness with the support of an organising committee made up of collaborating partners. The scoping, planning and organising will be undertaken largely on a voluntary basis and we have obtained funding for some project co-ordination which Patrick Tegart of SciNS will be undertaking.

We have again contracted Steve Sass of EnviroKey as our key ecologist who has all necessary experience, a huge wealth of local knowledge and the scientific licences to undertake the majority of the specialist fauna surveys. In our efforts to reward and build capacity within the community, we are intending to offer training to a number of community volunteers in the specialist survey techniques. In addition to this, we will again call for a wide range of scientists and naturalists to act as Survey Leaders to offer the widest range of surveys possible. We will also invite a large number of community volunteers to assist with all aspects of the BioBlitz event operations.

We hope you will be able to join us. For information and to register your interest, please contact Libby Hepburn at [libbyhepburn@btinternet.com](mailto:libbyhepburn@btinternet.com) 02 6495 0917 or Patrick Tegart [pdtegart@gmail.com](mailto:pdtegart@gmail.com) 0449 162 594

See the website: [atlasoflife.org.au](http://atlasoflife.org.au) for current information