

## Rainforest Regeneration Workshop at Black Head

A most successful Rainforest Regeneration workshop was held at Black Head on Tuesday 22 May. The workshop was part of a series of training and information sessions set up by Manning Coastcare Coordinator Pieta Laing, with significant input from Manning Coastcare President Daintry Gerrand and trainer Andrew Paget.

The Black Head workshop was coordinated locally by Landcare stalwart Peter Bell, with help from Landcare members Clare and Dick Bartlett and Helen Pursch. Of the 23 participants on the day, 10 were Hallidays Point volunteers (5 from Black Head/Red Head, and 5 from Seascope/Diamond Beach), with the remainder from Tuncurry, Wallabi Beach, Old Bar, Harrington, Upper Lansdowne and John's River.

An introduction and welcome from Peter Bell and Pieta Laing was followed by a walk through the interesting regenerating rainforest on Black Head Headland to our magnificent whale watching tower. Andrew Paget gave us some fascinating insights into the diverse rainforest species we encountered on the way, with lots of tips on weed control techniques. Daintry Gerrand contributed lots of historical background to the changing land use of the area, with a summary of the work done by dedicated volunteers over more than 25 years, leading to the restoration of the littoral (coastal) rainforest so enjoyed by residents and visitors and so valued by scientists.



Workshop participants at the whale watching tower on Black Head Headland.

A yummy morning tea at the BBQ area behind Black Head Beach was followed by a walk up the Beach, over the foredune and into Black Head Flora Reserve. Peter Bell gave us some insights into the geology and morphology of the area, and the succession of vegetation from dunal vegetation through to tall eucalypts, corkwoods and paperbarks deep in the reserve. Andrew, Pieta and Daintry contributed plenty of

information about rainforest species and regeneration techniques, and Daintry congratulated all the volunteers who have worked tirelessly over the last 20 plus years to remove the tangled mass of lantana, senna pendula, ochna, climbing and ground asparagus and many other weeds to give us the magnificent reserve we can enjoy today.

Volunteers and residents may be interested to hear some feedback from two researchers from the Royal Botanic Gardens in Sydney who were doing some DNA testing of sandpaper fig trees in the Hallidays Point rainforest reserves in early May. This work was part of a project involving littoral rainforest reserves up the whole NSW coast, and the researchers were heard to say that our reserves are in the best condition of any they had visited. Take a bow all vollies!



On site training and information in Black Head Flora Reserve.

The workshop finished up with a BBQ lunch back at the picnic shelters.

For more info about Hallidays Point Landcare - or if you would like to help look after our amazing rainforest reserves - contact Alan Pursch on 0413 482 505.

For info about Manning Coastcare, contact Pieta Laing at [pieta.manningcoastcare@gmail.com](mailto:pieta.manningcoastcare@gmail.com) or Daintry Gerrand at [daintry.gerrand@lfs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:daintry.gerrand@lfs.nsw.gov.au)