

Creating Native Gardens from Bushland to Beach

A Guide to Native Plants of Warringah



Warringah
Council



Protecting *Bushland*
to Beach

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Why Plant Local Native Plants?



When planting a garden, why not consider choosing local Australian native plants. Local plants are best suited to the local conditions. They establish quickly, have a high survival rate and require minimal maintenance during and after establishment. Native plants are ideal for planting in low nutrient soils and dry conditions. They also have the added bonus of providing food, shelter and nesting sites for local native wildlife, especially birds that will add further colour and interest to any garden setting.

There are a wide variety of local native plants to choose from. The best native gardens are ones that have a variety of layers including tall, medium and small trees. You can also add shape and colour by adding lots of flowering shrubs, grasses, ground covers and climbers.

For more detailed information on establishing a native garden from scratch please consult the Warringah Design Guidelines for Local Environment Plan 2000. These Guidelines have lots of information on design principals and site planning and are available from Warringah Libraries.



Choosing your Native Plant

This 'Guide to Native Plants of Warringah' is designed to assist you in choosing your native plants. However, there are many other local plants to choose from and your local native nursery should be able to assist you further.

It is also important to think about where the seed of your plant has come from or its provenance. It is always best to use locally sourced plants, rather than plants from outside the Sydney region. Ask your nursery where your seed stock has come from.



For more information regarding local native plants please contact Warringah Council's Conservation and Land Management Team on **9942 2472** or visit our website at www.warringah.nsw.gov.au.

When choosing your species, make sure the plant is appropriate to your site. You should consider:

Space available: Have you chosen a large species that requires lots of room or a small species that will fill a small gap in the garden?

Aspect: Is the area sunny or shady? Will the plant be exposed to salt spray or high winds?

Drainage: Is the area moist or wet or is the site very dry and free draining?

Overhead Wires: Where are the electricity wires? Never plant species over 3.5 metres under electricity wires.

Water pipes and buildings: Planting trees near water pipes and buildings can cause problems. Never plant a species that grows over 8 metres within 5 metres of a building or sewer line.

Bush Fire Prone Areas: If your home is located in a Bush Fire Prone Area you should carefully consider what sort of species you are planting. For more information on planting in bush fire prone areas visit the Rural Fire Service website www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

A stylized illustration of a tree trunk on the left side of the page, with a lizard hanging upside down from a branch. The lizard is light brown with darker spots and a pointed snout. The tree trunk is brown with some lighter patches and small dark specks. The background is white with some green leaves and branches visible at the top.

How can I m

The greatest threat to our native wildlife is loss of habitat. But you can help by creating a wildlife friendly garden. This type of garden uses natural vegetation to provide our fauna with their essential needs including food, nesting sites, shelter, protection and water.

Providing a natural food source in your wildlife garden is important. Our native animals need lots of variety including pollen, nectar, blossoms, fruit and seeds. The seeds of Eucalypts and Wattles provide a tasty meal for many native birds including Rosellas and Cockatoos. Other birds, feed off plants that produce nectar such as Bottlebrush and Grevilleas. Fruit eaters love Lillypillys, Dianellas and Blueberry Ash.

To provide the best protection and shelter for fauna try to recreate different layers of vegetation. It is important to include tall trees, low shrubs, scramblers and vines, as well as ground plants to shelter ground feeders.

A collection of various ground plants and flowers at the bottom of the page. There are several red flowers with green leaves, a yellow flower, and some spiky plants. The plants are drawn in a simple, illustrative style with black outlines and flat colors.



Make my garden Wildlife Friendly?

Nesting materials include mosses, sticks and dead plant material. You can create nesting sites for small native birds by planting clumps of dense prickly shrubs to make thickets. Trees with hollows are used as nesting sites by many animals including cockatoos, parrots, kookaburras, possums and gliders. These hollows occur only in large mature trees (and dead trees), but nesting boxes can be a great substitute.

It is also a great idea to provide water for our native animals. The creation of a pond will satisfy the needs of frogs, lizards and most of our birds. Place it away from your bedrooms and neighbours' houses as frogs can be noisy. Dense vegetation around the pond, along with rocks and logs will offer protection to small ground animals. Partial shade is also important. You could also install a birdbath close to shrubs or trees to provide cover for the birds as they come and go. Make sure it is regularly filled so that there is a reliable and clean source of water.

Other important points to remember

- Be extra careful with your cat and dog as they will naturally prey on native fauna. Make sure your cat has several bells on its collar and train your dog not to harass wildlife.
- If possible keep pets indoors at night.
- Favour natural pest control methods, as insecticides can harm beneficial insects. Understand that spiders, native bees and wasps have essential roles to play.
- Keep your garden free of noxious and environmental weeds. For a full list of noxious and environmental weeds contact Council's Noxious Weeds Officer on **9942 2913**
- Don't feed the wildlife. Feeding can provide an inadequate diet. It is much better to provide our wildlife with natural sources of food by planting native species.
- Teach children to observe, respect and enjoy our wildlife.

Text from *'Weeds of Blue Mountains Bushland: A Guide to Identification and Control'* by Barbara Harely and Blue Mountains City Council www.weedsbluemountain.org.au

Illustration from *'Creating an Australian Native Garden, A Guide to Local Flora of the Bankstown Region'* by Bankstown City Council.



Guidelines for Planting Successfully in your Garden



Choosing your Plant

When purchasing plants buy them in small sizes such as tubestock. Smaller plants suffer less from shock when transplanted and quickly outgrow their larger counterparts. They also cost less.

Look at the health and vigor of your plant. Don't buy anything that doesn't appear healthy. It should have good form and not look too big for its pot.

Always check that the plant is not root bound. Do this by gently tipping the plant upside down and removing it from its pot. It should come away easily and the roots should be growing evenly and finely along the sides of the soil. If the roots are densely matted and coiling around the base then it is root bound and you should select another plant.



Planting

Before planting, make sure the pot is moist. You can do this by soaking it thoroughly in a bucket of water before removing it from its pot. This will help to relieve your plant from stress.

Dig a hole twice the width and approximately 10cm deeper than the size of the pot. You can add compost or organic matter into the soil. Then fill the hole with water and wait until it drains away.

To remove the plant from the pot, first tap it gently against a hard surface to loosen the soil. Then span 2 or 3 fingers across the top of the plant. Tip the plant upside down and carefully remove.

Tickle the roots out slightly with your fingers. If the roots are coiled around inside the pot, this means the plant was pot bound. Unless these roots are loosened they will continue to grow round rather than downwards into the soil.

Position your plant in the hole so that the base of the plant is slightly below that of the existing ground level. It is important to make sure the roots are directed downwards in the hole.

Gently backfill the hole with loose soil so that the plant is firmly in place.

Make a slight well around the plant to enable water to be captured and directed toward the plant, this will support plant growth. Water thoroughly.

Mulching

Mulching reduces the need for watering by minimising evaporation and by increasing the soil's capacity to absorb and retain water. Sandy soils, which drink up water, in fact become water repellent if no mulch is added. Mulching also helps suppress weed growth, provides organic matter to the soil and keeps the root zone cool. There are several types of mulch you can use including leaf mulch, straw and recycled newspaper.

Staking

Staking plants in your garden is not required. Plants will develop a stronger root and branch system if they are left unstaked and allowed to blow freely in the wind.



Follow up Watering

After the initial water, if there is no rainfall, water the plants thoroughly once a week until they are established. Then you only need water during long periods with no rainfall.

Warringah Council's Tree Preservation Order

Trees are valuable and important assets and in order to look after them Warringah Council has a Tree Preservation Order that protects all tree on both public and private land. Under this Order, you cannot prune or remove a tree without Council approval.

In Warringah, you require approval for:

- The pruning or removal of any cycad or mangrove irrespective of height.
- The pruning or removal of any tree or shrub either native or introduced which is over 5 metres in height, and/or has a trunk with of 0.5 metre or more and/or has a branch canopy width exceeding 10 metres.

Pruning means any act or acts of severing any part of a tree so as to cause a reduction by more than 10% of the air space occupied by the branches and foliage.





You do not require approval for:

- Removing less than 10 per cent of the tree's branches and foliage. (The removal of branches and foliage must not exceed 10 per cent of the total air space occupied by the tree)
- Removal of a dead tree. (It is recommended that you photograph the dead tree prior to removal for your own records, just in case someone disputes your claim)
- Removal of a species that has been declared a noxious weed under the Noxious Weed Act 1993 by Warringah Council
- Removal of a species listed as exempt under Warringah Council's Exempt Tree List.

For information on Council's Tree Preservation Order visit our website at www.warringah.nsw.gov.au or contact Council's Tree Preservation Officer on **9942 2741**.

Tree Application Forms are available from Council and Application fees start at \$30 for 1-2 trees.

Warringah Council's Replacement Tree Program

When Council approves the removal of a tree or shrub it is often a condition of approval that residents plant a replacement tree or shrub in a suitable location. These replacement tree plantings are very important in order to preserve the tree canopy throughout Warringah.

Many of the tree species and some of the larger shrub species listed in this publication are suitable for replacement tree planting. Trees suitable for planting as replacement trees are indicated throughout this publication with this symbol. You should check with Council if you have any concerns about whether or not your chosen tree species meets the requirements for the replacement tree planting.



Species not detailed in this publication that are also suitable for planting as part of Council's replacement tree planting program are listed on the following page.



Additional Native Plant Species Suitable for Planting in Warringah

Large Trees	
Latin Name	Common Name
<i>Angophora floribunda</i>	Rough Barked Apple
<i>Eucalyptus botryoides</i>	Bangalay
<i>Eucalyptus capitellata</i>	Brown Stringybark
<i>Eucalyptus paniculata</i>	Grey Ironbark
<i>Eucalyptus pilularis</i>	Blackbutt
<i>Eucalyptus piperita</i>	Sydney Peppermint
<i>Eucalyptus resinifera</i>	Red Mahogany
<i>Eucalyptus robusta</i>	Swamp Mahogany
<i>Eucalyptus sieberi</i>	Silvertop Ash
<i>Eucalyptus umbra</i>	Broad-leafed White Mahogany
<i>Ficus rubiginosa</i>	Port Jackson Fig
<i>Syzygium oleosum</i>	Blue Lilly Pilly

Medium Trees	
Latin Name	Common Name
<i>Angophora crassifolia</i>	Narrow-leaved Apple
<i>Casuarina glauca</i>	Swamp Oak
<i>Eucalyptus racemosa</i>	Narrow-leaved Scribbly Gum
<i>Corymbia gummifera</i>	Red Bloodwood
<i>Eucalyptus oblonga</i>	Narrow-leaved Stringybark
<i>Eucalyptus punctata</i>	Sydney Grey Gum

Small Trees	
Latin Name	Common Name
<i>Acacia decurrens</i>	Green Wattle
<i>Allocasuarina littoralis</i>	Black She-Oak
<i>Allocasuarina torulosa</i>	Forest Oak
<i>Synoumglandulosum</i>	Scentsless Rosewood

Trees – Large

Acmena smithii (Lilly Pilly)



This is a great specimen tree that can grow up to 20 metres in height. It can be pruned and makes an ideal screen or hedge in the garden. It has beautiful creamy white flowers from November to February. It is well known for its bird attracting qualities and prefers loam to clay loam soils in a protected shady position. This is a good species for planting as part of Council's replacement tree planting program.

Angophora costata (Sydney Red Gum)



This is a very attractive tall tree, which can grow to 25 metres in height. It is commonly found throughout the Sydney area and is easily recognised by its smooth pinkish bark. The limbs have wrinkles and folds that seem almost human in form. This species has cream coloured flowers from October to January and makes a wonderful feature tree in any garden. It prefers sandy to clay loam stony soils in an open sunny position. This is a good species for planting as part of Council's replacement tree planting program.

Banksia integrifolia (Coastal Banksia)



This is a tall evergreen tree that grows 6-16 metres in height and has smooth dark green leaves that appear silver underneath. This species has fantastic yellow flower spikes that grow up to 10cm in length and flowers from January to June. It is a good food source for native butterflies, birds and the grey-headed flying fox and makes great habitat for the common ring-tail possums. This is a good species for planting as part of Council's replacement tree planting program.



Ceratopetalum apetalum (Coachwood)



This elegant tree has a straight trunk and dark green foliage. It normally grows in deep shaded gullies and its bark is smooth and whitish grey. It grows 10-25 metres in height and has finely toothed leaves with a prominent swelling or joint at the base of the leaf-blade.

The flowers are white and form in dense clusters, making them very showy. It flowers from November to December. This plant is ideal for large gardens and makes a wonderful inclusion in any rainforest theme. This is a good species for planting as part of Council's replacement tree planting program.



Trees – Medium

Eucalyptus haemastoma (Scribbly Gum)



This is a medium size gum tree that grows to 15 metres in height. It makes a great specimen tree in formal gardens and has white and grey mottled bark showing distinctive 'scribbles'. It flowers from November to March and is common on exposed soiled ridges on coastal

plateaus. It prefers poor, shallow soils in an open, sunny position. It is well known for attracting a wide variety of nectar eating birds and animals. This is a good species for planting as part of Council's replacement tree planting program.

Glochidion ferdinandii (Cheese Tree)



The common name Cheese Tree is in reference to the fruits that remain on the tree for most of the year. These fruit are round and divided in segments and look similar to small wrapped cheeses. This bushy species grows 4-8 metres in height and prefers sandy soils in moist shady places. It makes a great specimen tree or useful addition to a rainforest garden and is a wonderful food source

for birds. This is a good species for planting as part of Council's replacement tree planting program.

Livistona australis (Cabbage Tree Palm)

This is a beautiful native palm and can grow to 20 metres in height. It prefers moist well-drained soil in a protected sunny position. It is an ideal specimen tree in both formal and informal gardens and flowers from August to October.



Melaleuca styphelioides (Prickly-leaved Paper-bark)

This is a handsome small to medium tree that grows to 10 metres in height. With a neat appearance, this tree is an ideal specimen plant in a formal garden. It prefers sandy soil in an open sunny position. Flowers are cream in colour and closely resemble the bottlebrush. It flowers from November to December.



Tristaniopsis laurina (Watergum)

This handsome tree has very distinctive, shiny bark and grows 4-10 metres in height. It is normally found in shaded gullies and along watercourses. The yellow flowers form in clusters and are a beautiful sight over Christmas. It flowers from December to February. This is a good species for planting as part of Council's replacement tree planting program.



Trees – Small

Angophora hispida (Dwarf Apple)



This species has been called Dwarf Apple since colonial times because of the supposed resemblance to the apple tree. It is the smallest of the angophoras and usually grows below 4 metres in height. The flowers have 5 small white petals with creamy stamens. It prefers sandy well drained sites and flowers from October to December. It is an ideal specimen for informal coastal planting and is suitable for planting as part of Council's replacement tree planting program.

Banksia serrata (Old Man Banksia)



The common name for this species comes from the tough gnarly appearance, rough barked trunk, leathery leaves and bristly old flower spikes. This species leaves are bluntly toothed and it flowers from December to June. It grows to 4-10 metres in height and is an excellent plant for coastal planting. It provides ideal habitat and nectar source for insects, birds, grey headed flying foxes and common ring tailed possums. This is a good species for as part of Council's replacement tree planting program.

Callitris rhomboidea (Port Jackson Cypress)



This is an attractive native cypress with slender appearance. It has a neat formal appearance and grows up to 3-6 metres in height. Woody fruiting cones occur in clusters on small branchlets, and remain attached after opening. This is a good species for planting as part of Council's replacement tree planting program.



Ceratopetalum gummiferum (NSW Christmas Bush)



This widely cultivated species has clusters of small white flowers from October to November. After flowering, the petals remain and change from white to a rich red colour. By Christmas time, the plant is a mass of red, making it a very attractive plant for the garden. It grows to 2-4 metres in height and prefers sandy soils in moist, shady places. It is great habitat for insects, birds and common ring-tailed possums and is suitable for planting as part of Council's replacement tree planting program.



Eucalyptus stricta (Blue Mountains Mallee Ash)



This species is commonly found throughout the Blue Mountains, but is also found in isolated locations along the coast. It grows to about 6 metres in height and prefers poor, shallow soils in an open sunny position. It is an excellent species for smaller gardens because of its size, attractive form and smooth bark. It flowers from December to April. This is a good species for planting as part of Council's replacement tree planting program.

Elaeocarpus reticulatus (Blueberry Ash)



This small tree has spectacular dark green leaves that turn red before falling. It grows 4-10 metres in height and from October to December it is covered with masses of white or pale pink, dainty, bell shaped flowers that are followed by blue berries. It prefers sandy soils in moist, shady places.

It is well known for attracting native butterflies, birds and grey-headed flying foxes and provides great habitat for the common ring-tailed possum. It is a good species for planting as part of Council's replacement tree planting program. Only examples of this species that have been propagated from populations found in Warringah should be planted.

Eucalyptus luehmanniana (Yellow-top Mallee)



This is an impressive and beautiful species that grows 3-6 metres in height. The lower stems are smooth and white but the young branches are yellow. The leaves are large, stiff, distinctly curved, drooping and grey-green in colour. It prefers sandstone soil in marshy areas where the drainage is poor. It flowers from July- November. This is a good species for planting as part of Council's replacement tree planting program.



Ficus coronata (Sandpaper Fig)

This is a bushy tree that grows 3-4 metres tall, has rough leaves that are like sandpaper to touch. The fruit is oval in shape, covered with rough hairs and often grows from the trunk. The figs ripen from January to June. It is commonly found on creek banks in subtropical rainforest.



Melaleuca lineariifolia (Snow in Summer)

This is a spectacular small tree that grows to 8 metres in height and has papery bark. It gets its common name 'Snow in Summer' from the extraordinary show of white flowers that occur between October and December. It will grow in a variety of soil types and prefers an open sunny position.



Shrubs

Acacia myrtifolia (Myrtle Wattle)



This is a small erect shrub that usually grows 50-100cm high and is common throughout the Sydney area. It has very attractive red-tinged foliage making it a very impressive garden plant. It has large cream coloured flower heads and flowers from May to August.

Acacia terminalis (Sunshine Wattle)



This beautiful shrub is one of the most spectacular flowering wattles around. It grows to 1.5 metres in height and flowers from March to July. It has large pale yellow to deep gold flower heads. The branchlets are often reddish in colour and the leaves dark green.

Banksia marginata (Silver Banksia)



This round shrub grows to 6 metres in height. It is common throughout Sydney and grows well in coastal areas. It has small, oblong leaves with variable numbers of teeth and small yellow flower spikes up to 8cm in length. It flowers from February to June.

Banksia ericifolia (Heath-leaved Banksia)

This attractive plant is very decorative in the garden and has beautiful golden yellow flower spikes. It is a round shrub that grows 2 to 5 metres high and is an important nectar food source for birds such as honeyeaters. It flowers from April to August.



Callistemon linearis (Narrow-leaved Bottlebrush)

This is a spreading shrub about 2 metres in height and grows best in wet sandy soils. Its beautiful red flower spikes are about 10cm long and it flowers from October to December.



Callicoma serratifolia (Black Wattle)

This large spreading shrub has wattle-like flowers and grows 4-5 metres in height. Its leaves are a distinctive dark green on top and a pale grey below with regular and prominent teeth. In October to December the shrub is covered in dense, bell shaped, creamy yellow flowers. It is an excellent species for planting in coastal areas on sandstone soils and is well known for attracting native birds. This is a good species for as part of Council's replacement tree planting program.



Dillwynia floribunda



This is a common shrub that grows to 1 metre in height. The top of its erect stems are covered with small brightly coloured yellow flowers with red centres and are commonly called ‘eggs and bacon’ flowers. These flowers, which are abundant from July to October, make a colourful feature in any garden.

Goodenia ovata (Hop Goodenia)



The most distinctive feature of this erect shrub is the glossy appearance of the leaves that have a wonderful aroma when crushed. It grows to about 1 metre in height and has yellow flowers from October to December. It grows best in good quality sand soil in sheltered locations.

Grevillea buxifolia (Grey Spider Flower)



This small erect shrub grows to 1.5 metres in height and has easily recognisable grey hairy flowers. It grows extensively in sandstone areas throughout Sydney and flowers from August to November.

Grevillea linearifolia (White Spider Flower)

This is a graceful slender spreading shrub that grows to 3 metres in height. It derives its name from the long linear shaped leaves. The flowers are usually white and it flowers from July to October.



Grevillea speciosa (Red Spider-flower)

This fantastic plant has red spider-like flowers, which hang on stalks from the ends of the branches. It flowers from June to September and makes a very attractive garden shrub. This bushy shrub grows to 2 metres in height and grows best on sand well-drained soils.



Grevillea sericea (Pink Spider Flower)

This attractive shrub is a common and colourful component of the sandstone flora. It grows 1-2 metres in height and has beautiful pink flowers. It flowers from July to November and grows in a wide variety of habitats on sandy soils.



Hakea sericea (Needle-bush)



This is a common tall shrub that grows 2-3 metres in height. It is a well-known component of the Sydney sandstone flora. It has abundant white flowers from June to September followed by dense woody fruits. The leaves are slender and needle-like and it normally grows in heath, scrubs and dry open forest. It makes great habitat for small

birds as they like the shelter it provides.

Isopogon anethifolius (Narrow-leaf Drumstick)



This tall erect shrub grows 1-2 metres in height. The flowers are yellow and grow in dense, stalkless, globular cones. It flowers from September to December and is suitable for planting in sandy well-drained soils. It attracts nectar eating birds and insects and is a favourite food source for honeyeaters.

Pultenaea daphnoides (Large-leaf Bush-pea)

This attractive shrub grows up to 3 metres in height. It is easily recognised by the shape of its leaves, which are narrow at the base, broad and rounded at the apex and have a short soft point. From August to November it is covered in dense yellow flowers with small red markings.



Telopea speciosissima (Waratah)

The Waratah is a well-known plant and is the floral emblem of NSW. Its botanical name is most appropriate as it means 'most beautiful plant from afar'. Flower heads are bright red and up to 15 cm wide. It flowers from September to October and is a spectacular plant in any garden.



Grasses, Ground Covers and Climbers

Actinotus helianthi (Flannel Flower)



This conspicuous plant is a well-known part of the Sydney flora. Flannel Flowers are short-lived perennials and rarely live more than four years. They are slender herbs that grow 30 to 40 cm tall and are covered with soft woolly-white hairs. The leaves are an attractive soft green-grey colour and the flowers white with flannel-like petals. They

usually flower from September to December, but some flowers are found all year round.

Dianella caerulea (Blue Flax Lily)



This is a very attractive reed like plant with rich blue flowers with yellow anthers. It flowers from September to November and provides a great food source for fruit eating birds. It is also well known for attracting native bees and butterflies.

Dichondra repens (Kidney Weed)

This attractive creeping herb has small kidney-shaped leaves. The flowers are small and yellowish white in colour and they flower from September to December. This plant makes a wonderful alternative to lawn, as it requires minimal maintenance. It is a good food source for seed eating birds and makes wonderful habitat for skinks.



Hardenbergia violacea (Purple Twining-pea)

This is a beautiful twiner plant that is common throughout the Sydney area. It makes a wonderful garden specimen as it twists its way through undergrowth, over rocks and scrambles over shrubs. It also makes an ideal climber on a fence or trellis. It has beautiful violet



coloured flowers, with small yellow centres and is ideal habitat for nectar, seed and insect eating birds, native butterflies, moths and bees.

Hibbertia scandens (Golden Guinea Flower)

This is a vigorous scrambling plant with dense foliage and the most spectacular golden yellow flowers. It flowers from September to February and the fruit are brilliant red and succulent. It prefers sunny places and is salt resistant so it is a great plant for near the sea. It provides food for seed eating birds and great habitat for skinks.



Lomandra longifolia (Spiny headed matrush)



This is a tufted plant that grows to 1 metre in height. It has large yellow strongly perfumed flowers that are abundant from August to December. It is believed that Aboriginal people used to eat the succulent leaf base and young flowers, and used the leaves to weave bags. This plant provides food and habitat for insects and seed eating birds and is well known for attracting native butterflies.

Restio tetraphyllus (Tassel-rush)



This very attractive grass grows to over 1 metre in height and is easily recognised by the large tassel-like clusters of slender, bright green divided branchlets. This plant flowers from September to November and the male and female flowers occur on separate plants in loosely arranged clusters. It prefers damp sandy ground on the coast and makes an excellent landscaping plant.

Themeda australis (Kangaroo Grass)



This grass is one of the most widespread species in Australia. It grows mainly in spring and summer and as the name suggests, is a major food source for kangaroos. This tufted grass grows to 1 metre in height and is used extensively in landscaping. This species has slender light green leaves and is easily recognized by its distinctive brown and purplish spikelet clusters.



**Warringah
Council**



For more information on native plants or bushland issues contact
Warringah Council's Conservation and Land Management Team on
9942 2472 or visit us at **www.warringah.nsw.gov.au**

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