

Floating Landcare: Bringing a bit of WOW to weedy hotspots on the Hawkesbury Estuary and NSW Central Coast waterways

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Summary Floating Landcare, a program formally known as Workers on Water (WOW) was a concept realised in 2012 with funding from the NSW Environmental Trust. Now in its seventh year, it is a successful volunteer program working steadily to restore weedy hotspots at 20 locations within national parks and on other public lands along the Hawkesbury estuary, Pittwater and waterways on the Central Coast. Floating Landcare is a multi-partner program coordinated by Greater Sydney Local Land Services with the support of National Parks and Northern Beaches, Hornsby Shire and Central Coast Councils. In focussing the volunteers' effort on weedy hotspots at locations largely surrounded by good condition vegetation, and carrying out litter clean ups along estuarine beaches, the program has a strong positive impact. Vegetation condition has improved and there is a reduction of weed volume and spread. Endangered Ecological

Communities, including Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest, Coastal Saltmarsh, and Pittwater Spotted Gum Forest, have responded well to the programs' strategic approach.

Floating Landcare is attractive to highly skilled and experienced bushcare volunteers through to 'first timers'. It provides an opportunity for those passionate about managing weeds to do so with their own two hands, and is also an adventure, as volunteers travel by boat through amazing river scenery to discover special spots, largely restricted in access to the general public. It gives existing volunteers a chance to work on new sites, learn new weeding techniques, be introduced to new native plants, and enjoy the company of other like-minded volunteers from across Greater Sydney.

Keywords Floating Landcare, weeds, boats, partnerships, adventure volunteers, Hawkesbury estuary.