

# Munibung Musings

No.1 - Autumn 2019

## A pictorial history of Munibung Hill

There has to be a heap of pictures stashed away in photo albums or stored in digital formats on discs and USB drives that chart or chronicle the life and times of Munibung Hill.

We would love to preserve these living memories and collate them into an online picture book before they are assigned to the rubbish bin or deleted from computer files.

People who have walked over and around her many nooks and crannies; people who have worked at different enterprises on and around Munibung Hill over the last 100 years or more. The cattle grazing, the fruit orchards, the coal mining, the gravel quarries, the many and varied plants and animals, the communication towers, the indigenous storylines, the family picnics ... they all tell us something about what Munibung Hill has meant to people across the generations.

We would like to add to the story that is already held within the Community History section of the Lake Macquarie City Council library archives.

If you have photos - or you know of someone who has - please let us know or send them as hard copy prints to:

The Secretary, MHCS,  
52 Lawson Road,  
Macquarie Hills 2285

or to

The History Department,  
Speers Point Library, 139 Main Road,  
Speers Point, 2284

or as digital file attachments to:  
munibunghcs@gmail.com



### Action plan for Owls

Munibung Hill is home to a number of threatened species. One of them is the Powerful owl.



Large forest owls are protected in a plan to prevent their extinction in Lake Macquarie.

Powerful, masked, sooty and barking owls are to be safeguarded with the plan.

It was estimated up to 5910 hectares of owl

habitat in Lake Macquarie was “likely to be subject to development pressure to 2030”, according to a council report.

The owls live in forests, particularly old-growth areas, which provide “hollows required for nesting, roosting and prey”.

“Development projects may adversely affect these species,” the 2014 report states. The plan aims to protect owl habitat and provide a “framework for future conservation and urban planning, as well as identifying future scientific research priorities”.

“This is expected to lead to long-term conservation benefits and help protect the species from local extinction,” the council’s plan says.

<https://birdlife.org.au/projects/powerful-owl-project>



An example of work taking place in the Citizen Science field is the **Wildlife Discovery** project being conducted by Hunter Region Landcare.

The aim is to detect, identify and record native and feral species that use the natural bushland in the Hunter Region.

Healthy vegetation is critical for the long term survival of threatened species

The data obtained from these studies will be hugely important when making the case for protecting habitat for food, shelter and breeding sites.

A workshop was held on February 9th at Earth Care Park, East Maitland.

For more information go to:  
<https://hunterlandcare.org.au/wildlife-discovery/>

### Munibung Hill briefing to Councillors

Late last year Councillors received a briefing from staff about the future of Munibung Hill.

The Society produced a Fivefold Vision for Munibung Hill in anticipation of this briefing, emailing it to all Councillors and making it available to staff. We understand it has been widely circulated within the senior executive service.

Councillors we have been in touch with have been very positive about the Vision statement and equally positive about the future for Munibung Hill as expressed by Mayor Kay Fraser (see over). We'll keep you posted.

- A pictorial history of Munibung Hill
- Action plan for Owls
- Wildlife Discovery with Landcare
- Fruiting on Munibung Hill now

- Mayor visits Munibung Hill
- Blog Posts on the website
- Care for creeks—Eco Advocate
- Munibung Hill label honey

## Website Blog Posts

[Who speaks for the koala?](#)

February 11, 2019

[Critical factors in species survival](#)

February 6, 2019

[Bringing the natural world home](#)

January 28, 2019

[From Me to We](#)

January 18, 2019

[A gut friendly story about the economic value of trees](#)

January 16, 2019

[A love song to attract a mate](#)

January 8, 2019



[Some serious truth telling is seriously needed](#)  
January 3, 2019

[Rewilding in the face of massive dewilding](#)

December 21, 2018

[Erosion control is urgently needed](#)

December 19, 2018

[Stringybark is a possum favourite](#)

December 5, 2018

[Mistletoe flowering on Munibung Hill](#)

November 22, 2018

[A sign of activity on Munibung Hill](#)

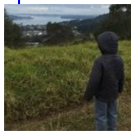
November 13, 2018

[Gum: a common name hides a world of differences](#)

October 22, 2018

[Change-maker talks about living building design](#)

October 22, 2018



[I recommend a family walk up Munibung Hill, says father of four](#)  
October 18, 2018

[Living by the laws of the land](#)

October 17, 2018

[The beauty of natural therapy](#)

October 16, 2018

[The actress with a passion for trees](#)

October 15, 2018

[A walk up the Hill](#)

October 15, 2018

[How green growing things restore us](#)

October 15, 2018

**"You can't just sit around waiting for hope to come,"**

Swedish school student, Greta Thunberg  
2019-02-21 in Brussels.  
<https://www.fridaysforfuture.org/>

## Tourist potential

Following a story in the Newcastle Herald (**Dreamtime Plan for Munibung Hill**, 4.09.11) the Herald asked for reader feedback about the idea in an online poll ...



TODAY'S QUESTION *Should Munibung Hill be opened to the public and developed as a tourist attraction?* September 5, 2011

YESTERDAY'S RESULT

**Yes: 80.5% No: 19.5%**

Total votes: 303 - September 6, 2011

This demonstrates the enthusiasm for protecting and conserving this special place.

## Mayor visits Munibung Hill



Cr Kay Fraser  
4 October 2018  
Facebook post

Earlier this week I had the pleasure of walking to the top of Munibung Hill - and what a great view it is. I know I'm not the only one who can see immense potential in enhancing the area, as interest from land owners and community groups in its future vision continues to grow.

## Munibung Hill label honey

Nigel Blundell and his family have been bee keeping for over eight years. They have 40 hives on the eastern slopes of Munibung Hill and produce a fantastic local product. Available at Second-Love Treasures, 16 Main Road, Boolaroo. More information at... <https://www.facebook.com/munibunghillhoney/>



## Notices

### Amateur Geological Society of the Hunter Valley

*Monthly activities and site visits*

For information contact:

Chris Morton (President): 4396 3403

Richard Vale (Secretary): 4953 1604

Barry Collier: 9043 2009

### International Dark Sky Week

March 31—April 7

An event drawing attention to the wonders of the night sky and the work to protect it.

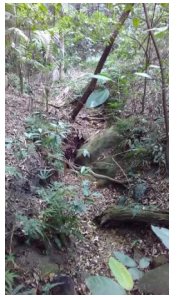
More information:

**Newcastle Astronomical Society**

Alan Meehan (President): 0408 782 908

## Care for creeks

We all appreciate our public reserves and waterways. Munibung Hill has numerous creeks and gullies.



Hawkins Creek which runs into Lake Macquarie

The autumn edition of **Eco Advocate** has some reminders to help keep our creeks and natural areas healthy, beautiful and well maintained for everybody:

> Keep garden plants in your garden. Ensure non-native garden plants do not become weeds or spread into nearby bushland.

> Grass clippings, tree prunings and other garden waste belong in your home compost or your household green waste bin.

> Ensure any bare soil, landscaping supplies or mulch are prevented from blowing away or being washed into a stormwater drain.

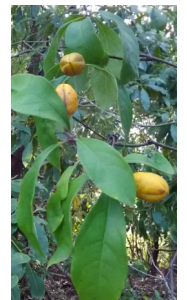
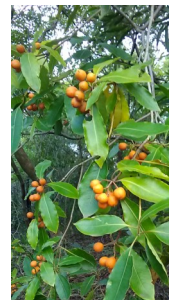
> Building fences, barbecues, sheds, bike jumps or other structures in public reserves is prohibited. These activities can cause erosion, reduce visual appeal and pose a risk to public safety.

Fines for damage start from \$110 and depending on the severity of the impact may include the total rehabilitation cost.

To report illegal activities ph. 4921 0333.

## Fruiting on Munibung now

Sweet Pittosporum, *Pittosporum undulatum* (left) and Rough-fruited Pittosporum, *Pittosporum revolutum* (right)



The bright orange fruits of these species may be seen on the hill at this time of year.

*P. undulatum* is a very common small tree, often regarded as a weed because of its ready seed germination and ability to rapidly colonise disturbed areas.

*P. revolutum* is a less common shrub with larger fruits which is sometimes cultivated as an ornamental.

The fruits of both species open to expose numerous red-brown fruits when ripe.