

## 14 Gay Street on the ridge of the Stringybark Valley



### 10 key points about 14 Gay St

Lane Cove Council's acquisition of 14 Gay St in March of 2023 has been widely celebrated. It is the first major bushland acquisition in community memory. The remaining issue is whether the entire property or only a portion of the property will remain bushland.

Small pockets of remnant bushland can be easily taken for granted, overlooked, ignored etc. This remnant urban bushland is unique and precious. The reasons:

1. 14 Gay St must be seen in its own right and also in its wider context within the Stringybark Valley.
2. This valley is Lane Cove's longest, most diverse, uninterrupted stretch of native vegetation, spanning from ridge (Gay St) to river.
3. Four of Lane Cove's six Endangered Ecological Communities (EECs) are located in the Stringybark Valley – one at the river where Stringybark Creek meets the Lane Cove River, and three on the ridge which includes 14 Gay St.
4. 14 Gay St is at the ridge of this valley and holds three EECs, two of which (BGHF\* and STIF\*) are protected by Commonwealth as well as State legislation and the third (CELF\*) by State legislation.
5. The geological transitions and intersect of shale and sandstone on 14 Gay St and surrounding bushland indicate the vegetation transitions, especially through its trees, but also with its interconnected vegetation layers.
6. In Lane Cove this is the only accessible site indicating these transitions, and the area is miniscule, less than 0.5% of remaining BGHF and STIF transition in Sydney and Gay St is Lane Cove's main site.
7. The top portion of 14 Gay St is the most valuable portion, since this is the transitioning of BGHF and STIF along the Mowbray Rd / Pacific Hwy ridge. The mid to lower portion contains STIF and littoral rainforest. The best trees are located on the top portion, adjacent and surrounding the existing house.
8. 14 Gay St bushland is extremely high quality, having remained relatively undisturbed since the time of its acquisition in 1917 and its subsequent sale in 2017.
9. The top portion of 14 Gay St is problematic as a building site:- the access is poor, the topography difficult and there are bushland and canopy constraints.
10. The quality of this area of bushland was recognised by Harry Howard in his landmark 1981 *Stringybark Creek Valley Landscape Study* which recommended (1) appropriate weed removal to retain the high quality vegetation, (2) a northern access point to the reserve, and, (3) opportunity for an ecological walk / community educational opportunity of the existing bushland.

\*Sydney Bluegum High Forest=BGHF; Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest=STIF; Coastal Escarpment Littoral Forest=CELF

## Regeneration at 14 Gay St (RN)

Seedlings noted in May / June 2023, updated January 2024. Most recent **update 28 April 2024**

**Regeneration and monitoring:** bush regeneration **commenced February 2022** at the top east side from the end of the driveway.

**Monitoring:** top area around the house, former garage site, to just below the dry rock retaining walls.

**Count:** Trees and shrubs count approx. 150+ seedlings, groundcover etc not counted – June 2023

**Species:** 41, 28 April 2024

**Checked:** Norma Stuart, Susan Bottrill, Bronwyn English, Louise Reincastle

### Large Canopy Trees (over 20 metres)

Angophora costata

Eucalyptus saligna

Syncarpia glomulifera

### Mid Storey Trees (up to 15-20 metres)

Alectryon subcinereus

Backhousia myrtifolia

Euphomatia (laurina)

Homalanthus populifolius (bleeding heart)

Myrsine variabilis

Notolaea longifolia

Pittosporum (undulatum)

Syzygium (Lilly pilly)

### Shrubs

Breynia oblongifolia

Clerodendrum tomentosum

Pittosporum revolutum

Zieria smithii

### Groundcover

Commelina cyanea

Hydrocotyle peduncularis

Plectranthus

Pseuderanthemum variable

### Ferns

Adiantum aethiopicum

Adiantum hispidulum

Asplenium australasicum– birdsnest fern in rock crevices

Calochlaena dubia

Doodia aspera – rasp fern

Doodia caudata

Hypolepis muelleri

Blechnum cartilagineum

Pteridium esculentum

### Grasses / Herbs

Oplismenus aemulus

Oplismenus imbecilis

Centella (asiatica)

Dianella caerulea

Entolasia stricta

Entolasia marginata

Lomandra (longifolia)

Microlaena stipoides

Sigesbeckia orientalis

### Climbers / Twiners / Scramblers

Eustrephus latifolius (gets orange berries)

Glycine clandestina (purple pea flower)

Smilax australis (near house)

Tylophora barbata

