

Bitou better beware



□ It's off to work we go! Visiting volunteers assemble at the start of another weed-busting day

HARD-working volunteers notched up almost 100 hours of weed-busting bush regeneration at Smoky Cape on Sunday.

Over 30 volunteers joined in the hunt for bitou bush, passion vine, lantana, and senna in the Hat Head National Park.

Joining a crew of over 20 local Dune Care members from South West Rocks, Kempsey, Crescent Head, and Fishermans Reach, were 10 special volunteers hailing from as far away as Sydney and Mollmook, near Ulladulla.

Enticed by an offer of free accommodation at Arakoon House (South West Rocks) in return for their volunteer efforts, the group made the most of their six-day stay with generous proprietors Alan Hill and Al Yuille.

The visiting team worked an average four hours per day beautifying the environment at

Little Bay, Trial Bay, and Smoky Cape, and between them notched up a massive 240 hours of volunteer work.

One of the visiting volunteers said: "Coming up to volunteer in South West Rocks was a great opportunity to share knowledge and exchange ideas."

"The wonderful hospitality and amazing generosity of our Arakoon House hosts has been unbelievable, and the efficiency of the local National Parks team was most impressive."

Asked why Arakoon House provided free accommodation, proprietor Alan Hill – who also puts in hundreds of hours of volunteer work himself – said: "We really do love this bushland and wanted to do something more to help, while also introducing others to the beauty of the area."