

Special points of interest:

- Region Forum Notice
- Watching Local Vegetation
- A Poem

East Lake Strip Goes Green-er



Friends of the Wetlands Park is a new group of volunteers working to improve the environment of Belmont Wetlands State Park on the eastern Lake Macquarie peninsula which includes the Belmont Lagoon, sand dunes and Nine Mile Beach (which runs between Blacksmiths and Redhead). They meet every Tuesday between 9.00am - 12.30pm and recently started work on 10 March.

For more details on this very new project please contact:
Belmont Wetlands State Park Trust Secretary
Greg Wright
gregwrig@hotmail.com
0423 380 952

Chat, See, Learn, Participate

HRLN Forum & Muster 2009

An opportunity for all interested in Landcare & natural resource management in the Hunter / Lower North Coast / Central Coast to participate in the bi-ennial LandcareForum & Awards Day. It's:

On Saturday 30 May

From 9 am to 4 pm

At Tocal College (Paterson)

There will be Guest Speakers from The Coast the Hunter & Beyond highlighting Landcare successes and innovations in their Region.

Various "Breakout Sessions" for you to choose from hands activities and talks.

Stalls and displays from around the catchment.

All this plus seeing the Champions of the Catchment Award finalists audio visual "mini movies" presentations.

Meet with friends old and new to share your experiences as Landcarers!

You must be there to hear and see it!

Stay tuned for further details

(Go to the top of page 3 to read about the Awards process)

Keeping an eye on our local native vegetation

By Phoebe Trongchittham

The CMA is approaching schools, community groups and landholders in the Upper Hunter to be the first to participate in a new environmental monitoring program called VegWatch.

VegWatch is a bit like Waterwatch, but instead of monitoring water quality, VegWatch provides a range of hands-on activities for all sectors of the community to undertake monitoring on the condition and benefits of their local native vegetation communities.

Activities include identifying and studying plants, surveying invertebrates (bugs) and vertebrates (birds, mammals, reptiles), recording seasonal observations and monitoring weather patterns.

Group and individual participants will be asked to conduct basic monitoring four times during the year. Groups interested in doing more can undertake additional activities.

Training and a VegWatch kit, containing all of the required equipment, including activity sheets, reference books, ID guides, binoculars, and survey equipment will be provided.

The program, coordinated by the CMA and funded by the Australian Government, is being trialled in the Scone and Merriwa areas, with the hope of extending it to other areas in 2010. If you'd like more information on the VegWatch program, please contact Jon Thorne at the CMA's Muswellbrook office on 6542 4426.

Phoebe is the Education Project Officer at Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority

Along the Kilaben Track

By Ken Macpherson

A grant was given to blaze a path along the Kilaben Creek.

This track was forged by willing hands,
With sweat and toil for many a week.
To build a bridge and tame the bog,
Was the purpose of our plan!
And so began the project,
Enthusiastic to a man!

We bored and pierced 600 deep and set the posts in 'crete!'

To the local kids it was a joke –
Their removal of a pier or two - set us back another week,
The chainsaw roared – we leveled the posts,
And cut the joints to suit.
Bearers were laid - so true and plumb,
Our 'foundations' had taken root!

Decks pre-cut were loaded up; to haul along the track.
Atop the load sat 'Dan the Man' his hat gripped in his hand.
Old 'Greenfield' fired – like a trusty 'hack,'
The load was on the move!
When at the site – 'Dan' yelled 'No Way!'
For on the edge of the path a 'Lomandra' grew!
That 'Lomandra!' 'B..... Lomandra!' Dan said 'IT had to stay!

So now all finished – the bridge it has a bend!
A rustic curve – as some might say.
It arches up and over – then veers east,
The walkers now have a dry way!
But from the top they can view the swamp.
Where the 'black snake' sun's itself!
And that 'Lomandra!' 'B..... Lomandra!' still "IT" grows today!

For near about one hundred years a majestic red gum stood proud



From the leafy top birds could see the ridge,
Possums could also be found!
But then there came a powerful storm,
The rain soaked ground was weak.
And now it lays a fallen shroud
Across our 'Kilaben' bridge!

+++++ B!**@! +++++

With Apologies to Banjo
Ken is a member of Kilaben Bay Landcare



Champions of the Catchment Awards 2009

The Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority (CMA) in partnership with the Hunter Region Landcare Network (HRLN) are holding Champions of the Catchment Awards. The awards recognise achievements across the full spectrum of the community, with categories for community groups, local government, primary producers, Aboriginal communities, and school groups.

The CMA and HRLN are again in search of dedicated groups and individuals who have a passion for sustainable natural resource management to share their stories and be recognised as Champions of the Catchments. There are of course some attractive prizes on offer. Nominations are open until 1 May 2009, so if you know someone who deserves some recognition for their amazing efforts in caring for our catchments, now is the chance to do them in—just make sure you have their permission first!

Information on award categories and criteria and the nomination form are available from the CMA website or by contacting the CMA on 4930-1030 or HRLN on 4934-8110.

Do Your Own Entertainment!



HRLN Puppet Theatre is available FREE for the school classroom, fete or community event. (In some cases free delivery & pick up can be arranged too.)

In its basic form suitable for ages 5 to 10 years and includes theatre, puppets, scripts, backing CD & a background DVD too.

(Please supply your own CD player or a loan CD player is available on payment of a security deposit.)

For further details please phone Craig at the HRLN Office on 4934-8110.



Membership is Now Open!

Due to recent organisational changes, membership is now open to much wider range of people, groups and organisations. If you want to be kept in the communications loop at Region level, then this is your opportunity to do so.

Contact Craig or any of the HRLN Executive for more details.

Workshop & Field Day

Sunday 19 April at Lake Liddell— An opportunity to see what has been happening at Lake Liddell and to participate in a workshop and then join with local Scouts in some tree planting.

10.00 to 12.00— Aquatic Plant Plans / Native Vegetation & Weed Control Workshop

12.00 to 1.00— Lunch provided by HRLN

1.00 to 2.00— Tree Planting with the Upper Hunter Scouts

Stay tuned for further details.

Thanks! We thank all contributors and reserve the right to reduce or edit all contributions. Due to space limitations some items may be held over to a future issue. Thank you for your understanding.

There's Always Something to See or Do

Hunter Region
Landcare Network

PO Box 447
Maitland NSW 2320

Phone: 4934-8110
Email: hrln@hunterlink.net.au

May 14 9am till noon

National Volunteers Week "Everyday people Extraordinary Contribution" To celebrate and support landcaring volunteers a site assessment workshop is being offered to community groups who would like to know a little bit more about the land they are working on. Register your group's interest to host the workshop by 16 April. Phone Trees in Newcastle (TIN) on 4969 1500 or via enquiries@treesinnewcastle.org.au

May 22 9am to noon

International Day for Biological Diversity- "Invasive Alien Species"- Who and What is invading your site? If your group would like to learn a bit about what's invading their beautiful bit of bush then register its interest to host the workshop by 23 April. Phone TIN on 4969 1500 or via enquiries@treesinnewcastle.org.au

A team of Conservation Volunteers will be at Muswellbrook in the coming weeks to assist with a river restoration project at Muscle Creek and will be joining the local Muscle Creek Landcare Group in their mission to control erosion along their local creekline. You can assist with planting hundreds of trees and other native plants to hold the river banks and create habitat for local fauna. All training and tools are provided - everyone with a love of the outdoors and a commitment to helping our environment is welcome. This project is a great opportunity to enjoy the outdoors, meet new people and learn new skills!

Here are the upcoming project dates:

Sunday to Thursday April 5 to 9

Monday to Friday April 27 to May 1

Monday to Friday May 18 to 22

If you live nearby, you can join us for a day here and there - whenever suits you.

After a day of bush regeneration, the team will be staying overnight at the Lake Glenbawn State Park - a great spot for fishing, bushwalking and wildlife spotting! If you live a while away, or would just like an overnight adventure, you can join the team and stay one or two nights - or even the whole week. A small fee is required to stay overnight with us to cover your food and accommodation costs.

Rachelle McConville
Volunteer Engagement Officer—CVA

T: 4926 2103

M: 0419 552 862

rmcconville@conservationvolunteers.com.au

Lake Macquarie Landcare Network meetings are held bi-monthly on a Sunday commencing with lunch and Guest speaker at various host locations. Upcoming dates are:

Sat 16 May, Sun 5 July, Sun 6 September, Sun 1 November (AGM)

Hamilton TAFE have a Volunteer Day Workshop on **Saturday 16 May** jointly with Lake Macquarie Landcare Resource Office (LRO).

For more details contact LRO on 4921-0392 or lmIn@lakemac.nsw.gov.au

What's Coming Up?

March 31 Frog Info Night (Maitland)

April 7 Frog Info Night (Abermain)

April 16 & 23 Frog Info Nights Hunter Wetlands Centre (Newcastle)
(contact HRLN Office for more details)

April 18 Network Meeting (Singleton)

April 18—19 Workshop & Upper Hunter Tree Jamboree (Lake Liddell)

May 1 to 3 Total Field Days

May 30 Hunter Landcare Forum & Muster & Region Landcare Awards Presentation

June 20 Network Meeting (Cessnock Area)

Who's Who in HRLN

Chair:

Ruth Hardy

6545-1996 h

Deputy Chair:

Rodney Parker-Wright

0402 469-666

Secretary:

Andrew Martin

6579-4505 h

Hon Treasurer:

Graham Whitelaw

4959-1081 h

Public Officer:

John Hughson

4998-0029 h

Office Coordinator:

Craig Whitford

4934-8110 w

(Tuesday, Wed, Thursday)

0458 348-110 w