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Burrawang Revival

In 2003 Tilligerry Habitat Nursery received hundreds of Macrozamia and Gymeas which were rescued from the Bagnalls Beach subdivision (Port Stephens) before bulldozer works commenced. Port Stephens Council provided funds to extend the Nursery, add a watering system and purchase soil and large bags.

Bare rooted plants were put onto trucks and taken to the Nursery where they were bagged, some eventually being sold, including to Landcom.

Gymeas are commonly found along the coast, from Bega to Taree. Many of the rescued Gymeas have been planted at Koala Bay Estate. They have thrived in their new home and provide a colourful display.

Macrozamia Communis or Burrawangs are indigenous to Tilligerry Peninsula and can be found across the region, often in communities. Burrawangs are some of nature's senior citizens and have relatives over 1,000 years old. Fossils found from 50-60-million years ago (before Dinosaurs) show Burrawangs existed. Palm like cycads, they are amongst the most primitive seed plants surviving today.

They grow about 1.2 metres high by 2 metres wide, can have over 100 fronds and have a large underground trunk. They reproduce by male and female cones which look similar to a pineapple.

Aborigines have used their seeds for food, pounding and soaking them for days to remove the toxins. Some early Australian explorers died after eating improperly prepared seeds. John Hunter is recorded as having sampled them, after the seeds were cooked by local Aborigines (1793), he survived!

On National Tree Day this year Tilligerry Tidy Towns volunteers, local youth and Council staff, planted the remaining Burrawangs around local parks e.g. Gula Park. A successful rescue by Landcarers, Council and local community.

Fran Corner

Wildlife Corridor Links

As our Group name suggests our members are committed to conserving and improving the environment by planting trees on private land in the Mt. Vincent area.

Over 600 trees such as Eucalypts and Acacias were planted this Spring to add to the wildlife corridor which links remnant Woodland and Rainforest areas from Bow Wow Gorge to the Wattagans. It is a pleasure to work on such a long term project that helps ensure the survival of local flora and fauna including birds on the Threatened Species list such as the Powerful Owl, Sooty Owl and the Glossy Black Cockatoo.

Our Group continues to work with local landholders on weeds control, particularly Lantana eradication. An arduous but essential part of rural life! We also provide training to landholders on Splatter Gun use techniques.

Pamela Fitzsimons
Trees on Farms Mt. Vincent Landcare Group

Landcare Assistance Fund Grants

Landcare Groups in the Hunter Water Corporation catchment can apply to HRLN for up to \$1,500 for on ground works.

The current round for applications closes on 10th of December. The next grant period will be from 14th of December until mid March 2010.

Please telephone Ruth Hardy on 0458 348 110 (BH) for information on criteria, an Application Form and Guidelines, or to discuss your proposed application.

Waterwatch in the Upper Hunter

Ingrid Berthold from the Hunter-Central Rivers CMA visited Muswellbrook in October to train Muscle Creek Landcare volunteers on Waterwatch techniques. Landcarers learnt how to test for key indicators including temperature, ph, turbidity, electrical conductivity (EC), available phosphate and dissolved oxygen

CMA staff, a team of CVA international volunteers from Korea, Denmark, Switzerland, Germany and the United Kingdom and the CVA indigenous UngarooTeam also participated in the training.

A Waterwatch Kit was given to the Landcare Group so they can continue to monitor key environmental indicators in the Muscle Creek tributary.

By providing ownership of water quality testing to the local Landcare Group via the Waterwatch program, the community can obtain results on vital water quality parameters in Muscle Creek and feed the information back to the CMA for evaluation+ said Stephen Thatcher, the Muscle Creek Landcare spokesman, who organised the training.



Stephen Thatcher

Local Landcare Groups

Lower Hunter

The Quigley Sustainability Landcare Group at Woodrising

Holds a variety of activities including native vegetation planting & education.

Contact: David Jardaen

Email: dj222@optusnet.com.au

Upper Hunter

Scone Landcare

Working with Local Council on Public Parks native vegetation projects and tree planting on farms.

We are also seeking new members.

Contact: Ruth Hardy 0458 348 110 (BH)

Email: rkhardy1@bigpond.com

Welcome to new members

One new individual member

One Registered Landcare Group - Trees on Farms Mt. Vincent Landcare

Wintering Waterfowl in Bangladesh — to the Hunter

Sajahan Sordor is the National Coordinator of the Bangladesh Wintering Waterfowl Census 2010 and also President of the Nijhumdweep Wetland Centre. He attended the recent Emerging Wetland Issues in the Oceania Region Conference held at the Hunter Wetlands Centre where we were able to share knowledge and experiences.

Sajahan writes that the 2010 Census will be conducted throughout January and covers 30 important wetland sites in coastal and inland areas.

Bangladesh has 116 migratory and 46 resident species and is an important waterfowl winter passage area on the Indian subcontinent. It has over 600kms. of coastline with large flood plains with wetland areas providing safe havens and staging grounds for migratory birds, including threatened species. Between December and January over 500,000 waterfowl are estimated to use the wetlands for wintering.

Initial studies were via the Asian Waterfowl count (since 1987). In 2002 a National Bangladesh Waterfowl Census was established in response to reports of declining Waterfowl populations and the loss and degradation of wetland areas. The data collected is invaluable in planning for current and future protection of these birds.

Whether living in the Indian subcontinent flood plains like Sajahan or coastal or inland areas of the Hunter, we are all challenged by impacts on our environment.

Jenny Castles

Weaving Magic at a Faraway Tree Party

Fairies, elves, pixies, wizards and gnomes gathered at Earthcare Park and Education Centre at Tenambit last month to celebrate the magic of the bush.

Ian, a very large garden gnome and Oakey Dokey the elf welcomed children and adults alike to the Faraway Tree Party. The HRLN Lorax Puppet Theatre entertained the children with stories about animals in wetland areas. How can children help keep our waterways clean? By putting litter in bins, not on the ground and not hosing garden rubbish down the drains, the puppets said.

In the afternoon the Lorax Puppets (based on Dr. Seuss) showed children how to be kind to animals and birds by looking after trees. Georgia the fairy (see photo) was so entranced she wanted to help the puppeteers!

The children had great fun identifying magical plants (and looking for gnomes and fairies) on a bush walk afterwards. The Face Painting Fairy and the Enchanting Dog added to the magic of the day.

After a supper of what else? Fairy Bread and Fairy Cakes, families gathered on the lawn to watch an animated movie.

The World Wetlands Celebrations at Earthcare Park, in February 2010 will include the HRLN Lorax Puppet Theatre once more.

Helen McClelland
HRLN Publicity Officer



Dates for diary:

HRLN General Meeting at
Lake Macquarie LRO 10.00am
Saturday 12th of December.
Cnr. Toronto & Five Islands
Roads, Teralba
B-B-Q Lunch provided.

HRLN February General
Meeting, location & date TBA

World Wetlands Celebration
at Earthcare Park, Tenambit
Saturday 6th of February 2010

Building for the Future

HRLN has a Demonstration Site at Lake Liddell, between Muswellbrook and Singleton. Under our long term Strategic Plan earthworks, community workshops, field days and planting of thousands of native trees have been carried out.

Landcarers, Upper Hunter Scouts, CVA, Lake Liddell Trust members, business and government have contributed to the site's rehabilitation and development. HCRCMA has funded a greenhouse, container for workshop storage, equipment and supplies for HRLN to establish a Hunter Indigenous Aquatic Plants Nursery.

HRLN members Stephen Thatcher and Ruth Hardy recently met with the CVA indigenous Ungaroo Team to construct the greenhouse. The Team also collected seeds from other Upper Hunter locations and potted them at the Nursery e.g. River Club Rush (*Schoenoplectus Validus*), Woolly Frogmouth (*Phyllidrum*) and Tall Sedge (*Carex Apressa*) are now showing growth.

This is a long term project to protect riparian sites, primarily in the Upper Hunter.

WANTED- Landcarers to collect native seeds for Aquatic Nursery propagation. If you can assist please call Ruth on 0458 348 110.

Ruth Hardy



Who's Who in HRLN

Chair: Ruth Hardy 0458 348 110 (HRLN Mobile)
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We thank all contributors and reserve the right to reduce or edit contributions. Due to space limitations some items may be held over to a future issue.

Links

Landcare NSW Inc: <http://www.landcarensw.org.au/>

Communities in Landscapes: integrating production & conservation across Box-Gum Grassy Woodlands: <http://cil.landcarensw.org.au>

Landlink - News for the Landcare Network

<http://promomail.adrenalinmedia.com.au/em/mail/view.php?id=1536903006&k=ee1766b>