

Inside this issue:

A Monumental Change p1

Abermain Landcare p1

National Tree Day p2

Baths, Beach,
Bitou Bush & Brains p2International Year of
Biodiversity p2Welcome to New
Members p3Shopping for Farmers p3
& Environment

River Redgums p3

Creepy, Crawly
& Cuddly p4

Dates for Diary p4

Links p4

A Monumental Change

On the southern edge of Scone lies the small but historically significant Rotary Heritage Park. Established over 60 years ago, it houses several local monuments, a few old Gum and Pine trees and lots of Oleanders.

In 2009 Upper Hunter Shire Council approached Scone Landcare to develop new plans for the Park and create a Native Vegetation garden. Council surveyed and drew up plans of the Park, complete with photos of the monuments and existing flora locations.

Scone Landcare members recently met on site. A sensory garden and bush tucker plants are options to be considered in the overall design.

One of the monuments is dedicated to Allan Cunningham, a noted botanist who used Scone as a base to explore north into the Liverpool Plains. Cunningham recorded flora of the area and we are keen to include some in the plans. Local indigenous knowledge has also been sought.

Children walk through the Park to school and the existing pathway will be retained, with Native Vegetation beds close by. Car parking spaces and refurbishing of the toilet block are longer term goals for Upper Hunter Shire Council to consider.

What do we want to achieve?

A relaxing and educational environment for both the local community and tourists visiting Scone.

Ruth Hardy
Scone Landcare

**Abermain Landcare**

In the 2007 Hunter floods all but one of Abermain Landcare's riparian site plantings were washed away, as were most of the group's tools. Since then the group has been actively involved in working with Cessnock Council, on mitigation plans for the future, with representation on their Flood Plain Management Plan Committee.

Black Creek, Swamp Creek, Wallis Creek and Wollembi Brook clearing and dredging of creeks, bank reinforcement, assessment of surviving vegetation and revegetation needs are all being addressed by the Flood Plain Management Committee. The first individual plan, for Black Creek, is due for completion in early May.

The few tools that survived are being used by the local Tidy Towns group until our group can plant along the creeks again.

Anecessarily long process but and we can't wait until we can use our 'green fingers' again for the benefit our local community.

Helen McClelland

National Tree Day

This year's Planet Ark National Tree Day is on Sunday August 1st, with Schools Tree Day on Friday 30th of July, although registered sites are now covered by insurance for activities on any day.

Why not get your local Landcare Group, school and community involved? Talk to your Local Council. If they are not already supporters of National Tree Day, get them involved this year.

Call 1300 88 5000 for more information.

Baths, Beach, Bitou Bush & Brains

What do they all have in common? The Merewether Revegetation Project of course!

For the past seven years Merewether Landcare has been the brains behind the restoration of coastal native vegetation at Merewether Beach and Baths. Over 10,000 hours of volunteer work has resulted in 27,000 native tube stock being planted by the group. Volunteer ranks have also grown with 27 members.

The dreaded Bitou Bush has been largely cleared from the dunes and degraded land surrounding the Baths. Over the coming year more clearing of Bitou Bush, terracing and replanting will continue, in north to south sections.

Restoring an endangered ecological community, the meda grassland, on land degraded by decades of coal mining and weed infestation is a long term commitment but that also brings intense satisfaction to volunteers.

Merewether Landcare have sourced funding for this project through a variety of competitive grants. Additional support is provided from Newcastle Council and their environmental staff.

Winning the 2010 NSW Environmental Protection Award in the Keep Australia Beautiful Clean Beach Challenge recognises the significance of this project and the work of Landcarers.

If you live near Merewether, come and talk with us about the project, or come work with us if you wish, we always welcome volunteers.

Phone Lori Hungerford or Griff Foley 4963 7963.

2010 International Year of Biodiversity

Living in Newcastle and want to make a long term difference to your environment?

You can get involved in a Landcare, Bushcare, Adopt-a-Park, Dunecare or Coastcare group and help grow native plants at our Community Nursery, plant trees and bushes or join a community garden and grow your own food and nurture nature while the year is still young.

Maybe helping with our Plant Giveaway on Saturday between 9.00- 12.00pm is your cup of tea?

It's always nice giving away someone else's trees and you can increase your knowledge of native plants and socialize at the same time (tea included).

Call us at the Greening Centre for more information - 4904 3300.

Col Bartley

Welcome to new members

Two new individual members

Two Registered Landcare Groups - Scone Landcare & Shortland Wallsend Landcare

Shopping to help our Farmers and Environment

Hunter Region Landcare Network are now part of the Ritchies IGA Community Benefit Scheme.

When you next shop at a Ritchies IGA store in the Hunter be sure to grab a Community Benefit Card for Landcare! It only takes a minute. Ask for a Card, quote the number 81650 and get your card issued on the spot. Every time you use the card Ritchies IGA will donate a percentage of money to Landcare through the HRLN.

Your support will help us to improve Natural Resource Management in the Hunter and assist in the development of grass roots Landcare, community education and other activities, through Ritchies IGA benefits.

The Hunter Region has over 400 Landcare Groups registered with Landcare NSW, accounting for 22% of groups in this State.

Ritchies- Where the Community Benefits+stores are located at New Lambton, Cessnock, Kurri Kurri, Rutherford and Singleton.

Helen McClelland
Publicity Officer



River Red Gums

Hundreds of River Redgums (*E. camaldulensis*) were planted at Col Fisher Park in Singleton late last year, as Stage 1 of the HRLN/ Singleton Shire Landcare Network partnership with Dairy Farmers/Coles and Bundy Rum.

Col Fisher Park is a public space along the Hunter River, with new housing communities close by.

The project aims to revegetate and stabilise areas along the Hunter River. The River Redgum population is listed as a threatened species and until recent times, few of these trees traditionally remained in the Singleton area. This stage of the Singleton to Greta+project will also increase wildlife corridor habitat in and around Singleton.

Planning for and planting of the River Redgums involved the assistance of CMA staff and CVA. Local and overseas volunteers were invited to participate in planting the trees in this riparian site.

The days were warm and sunny and the volunteers, some from as far afield as Hong Kong, Switzerland, Germany and Korea, worked well together to get the trees in the ground.

After years of prolonged drought in the Upper Hunter this turned out to be a good time to plant, given recent rains. Follow up site inspections have ensured a good survival rate during the summer months.

The Singleton to Greta+project Stage 2 involves participation from local farmers along the Hunter River, who are willing for volunteers to access their land to plant more River Redgums along the banks. This is the intensive consultation part of the project and HRLN appreciates the assistance of farmers and CMA staff to achieve project goals. Stage 2 is due to be completed in mid 2011.

Ruth Hardy
HRLN

Dates for diary:

HRLN General Meeting at
10.00a.m. Saturday 10th April.
Nobby Surf Club. Cnr.
Nobby Road. & Shortland
Esplanade, Newcastle.
Lunch provided.

African Olive in the Hunter:
Impacts & control Field Day.
Friday 16th April at Elderslie
Tel: Lorna Adlem 4930 1030

Total Field Days
30th April-2nd May 9-5p.m.
C B Alexander Ag. College
Total Road, Total
Tel: 4939 8888



Creepy,

Crawly

& Cuddly

The Society of Frogs and Reptiles (SOFAR) held their Expo in Newcastle on the 14th of March. Over 100 exhibitors were kept busy with a constant stream of visitors, many of whom were still admiring and buying after the 4pm closing time.

The Hunter Region Landcare Network stand ran out of information handouts by mid afternoon. The most popular literature sought was about Green and Golden Bell Frogs, what else! Everyone we talked to had heard of them but few knew what they actually look like.

People were particularly interested in the HRLN's Green and Golden Bell Frog Project which was completed in December. A fascinating project which combined research and community education in the Lower Hunter.

Requests included how to make a frog friendly pond for the garden and the life cycle of tadpoles. The HRLN is busy mailing out more literature to Expo visitors this week.

Inexpensive and kid friendly, this event is definitely a must for the calendar next year if you missed this one. Well done SOFAR on a terrific day.

Helen McClelland
HRLN Publicity Officer

Photo: Michael Malony

Who's who in HRLN

Chair: Ruth Hardy 0458 348 110 (HRLN Mobile)
Secretary: John Hughson 4921 0392
Treasurer: Graham Whitelaw 4959 1081
Publicity: Helen McClelland 4930 1030

Shirtsleeves Newsletter
Layout & editing · Ruth Hardy

Co-ordination · Jenny Castles
jencastles@hotmail.net.au

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>