



**Hunter Region Landcare Network
Chair's Report
and
Project Activities for the Lower, Mid and Upper
Hunter
2016 -2017**



Hunter Region Landcare Network Activities 2016-2017



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Preface

Through the efforts of the Hunter Landcare Coordinators, Stacy Mail, Adam Dwyer and Nicholas Alexander, a range of workshops and other initiatives have been undertaken during the period to June 2017. These have enabled attention to be focussed on the specific interests of the various sub-regions and have also reflected the interests of the supporting organisations, the Hunter Wetland Centre, Singleton Council and Muswellbrook Shire Council.

In cooperation with Hunter Local Land Services, funding has been made available to HRLN to support and encourage community Landcare and other environmental interest groups through the provision of workshops and field days.

The following reports illustrate the wide diversity of interests in environmental activities and emphasise the search by the public to understand and live with the natural environment, as well as developing various skills to effectively manage those activities.

HRLN through its coordinators, sought out groups with specific needs or projects they wanted to showcase and made funding available for each event. For the Lower Hunter, the advertisement for each event is presented together with a report of the day and appropriate photographs to provide a gauge of participation and interest. Reports for the Mid and Upper Hunter are in a different format but reflect the same community interest and involvement.

This document provides a means of summarising and celebrating the work of the Landcare groups and the efforts of the coordinators in the Hunter Region during 2016 – 2017.

The document also includes the Annual Report by the Chair delivered at the Annual General Meeting held at Singleton on the 23rd September 2017, Treasurer's Report and a Report of the River Red Gum Project for 2017.

L. J. Pearson

Deputy Chair.

23rd September 2017

Coordinators



Stacy Mail
Lower Hunter
&
Mid Hunter from July 1st 2017



Adam Dwyer
Mid Hunter till June 30th 2017



Nicholas Alexander
Upper Hunter



**Members of the Hunter Region Landcare Network Committee with
Coordinators Stacy Mail (Lower and Mid Hunter) and Nicholas Alexander (Upper Hunter)**



Hunter Region Landcare Network Inc.

Annual General Meeting - 2017

(Outgoing) Chair's Report

As is our practice, I acknowledge the Aboriginal People of our region, the original carers of this land, and I pay my respects to their Elders, past, present and future, in the world's oldest living culture.

I also acknowledge the modern-day carers of our land, present and represented here today, for your efforts in caring for our country, and all who support us in those endeavours.

The year in review

As in previous years, this year has seen lots of challenges and achievements for the Hunter Region Landcare Network's (HRLN) Management Committee.

The **Local Landcare Coordinator Initiative (LLCI)** has provided us with the opportunity to provide strategically located Coordinators, across our region. The resulting projects have provided significant improvements in the support available to **Community Landcare** in the Hunter, and across the State.

Thanks to the exceptional efforts of **Landcare NSW** for making this support possible, the **NSW Government** for their support and funding of the program, and our project partners for their support of our Coordinators and their projects.

We very much appreciate the considerable efforts, commitment and abilities of our current Coordinators, **Nicholas Alexander (Upper Hunter)** and **Stacy Mail (Lower and Mid Hunter)** and acknowledge the efforts of **Adam Dwyer (Mid Hunter)** who left us this year, and **Anna Glasby (Lower Hunter)** who left us at the end of last year.

The Hunter's LLCI program continues to be successful because we have great staff and great partners. However, it is reflective of the needs of Landcarers, because Landcarers participate in the program through the **Community Steering Groups** formed to support each project. Many thanks to all who have contributed their time and insights to keep the program on-track. It is my hope that some of the members of the Steering Groups might also get involved in the HRLN's Management Committee, ensuring that the needs and successes of their local areas are promoted to the regional level, and beyond.

As you will read in the excellent report once again provided by **Les Pearson** (Deputy Chair), the HRLN Management Committee partnered with the **Hunter's Local Land Services (HLLS)** again this year to continue the very successful Workshops and Field-days program, in the Lower Hunter. This program was developed in previous years to deliver a series of field-days and workshops to celebrate Community Landcare, and to educate and connect Landcarers across our region. This year, the task was made much easier thanks to the efforts of the Coordinators whose project areas overlap with the HLLS's Lower Hunter region. Many of the HLLS targets were once again assisted by this program and Community Landcare continues to benefit from the resources the program provides, which is to facilitate networking, one of



Landcare's primary functions. Many thanks to the Hunter's Local Land Services staff for all their support of Landcare in our region.

None of the above could have been achieved without the efforts of a small group of Landcare Volunteers who give their time, efforts and considerable commitment to support Landcare in our region. HRLN, through its Management Committee, do what we do to make it easier and more effective for Landcarers on the ground to do what they do. I would like to thank all who contributed to this project over the past year, for all your efforts and support.

As in all groups, some individuals take on extra roles to support their group, and to assist the group to achieve its goals. **Wendy Heys** has consistently been one of these people. For the past 4 years as the Network's Secretary, Wendy has been our rock. She has been the one who makes sure things get done properly, keeping us all (particularly me) on track and on task. Wendy has decided not to stand again as Secretary and will be greatly missed. On behalf of the outgoing HRLN Management Committee, myself as its Chair and the Hunter's Landcare community, I would like to say a very big thank you to Wendy, for all her outstanding and considerable contributions to Landcare in the Hunter.

I whole-heartedly support Wendy's award of Life Membership of the Hunter Region Landcare Network.

This year has also been my last as Chair of the Hunter Region Landcare Network. I formally resigned at the end of last month, handing over the position to Les Pearson as Acting Chair.

As of the 1st September I have taken on a new and exciting role as Network Advisor to the HRLN Management Committee, to help the new Committee to undertake the business elements of supporting Landcare at the Regional level.

What is required to undertake some of the tasks associated with managing the LLCI program have taken some of the roles required beyond what should reasonably be expected of volunteers. As a result, the HRLN Management Committee have contracted me as a "Network Advisor" to provide them with the professional support now required.

The past 4 years have been a great experience for me, being part of a great team who have achieved so much. It has been a great pleasure to work with so many like-minded individuals, at all levels of Community Landcare.

Thank you to all who supported me in the role of Chair of the Hunter Region Landcare Network. I look forward to even greater things for Landcare in the Hunter region long into the future.

Cheers

John Hughson

Hunter Region Landcare Network



Hunter Regional Landcare Network

Report of the Treasurer for the year ended 30 June 2017.

General

With effect from 1 July 2016, HRLN commenced using a software package named XERO to monitor its financial affairs. As is common with software packages of this type there are certain limitations such as the naming of reports being proscribed as far as my familiarity with the software is known.

Profit and Loss Account

The Profit and Loss account contains the Income, Cost of Sales (expenditure directly related to the income) and Operating Expenses (other expenditure) of HRLN.

Income, including moneys received in previous periods which were not spent in those periods, amounted to \$280,057 and a breakdown of this amount by grant is shown on the Profit and Loss.

Direct expenditure, including money not spent and carried forward to future periods, amounted to \$218,154. Again, this amount is analysed by grant in the Profit and Loss. Included in Direct expenditure is an amount equal to 15% of certain grants equal to \$27,000: this accounting treatment has been adopted to reflect the allocation of Operating Expenses to the respective grants.

Operating Expenses amounted to \$29,330 less the \$27,000 charged to Direct Expenditure as referred to above, leaving a net of \$2,330. Unfortunately, during the year HRLN suffered a scam resulting in a loss of \$11,000.

The net result is an excess of income over expenditure of \$59,715.

Financial position

The financial position of HRLN remains strong with funds in hand at 30 June 2017 of \$132,142. Accrual and Grant monies received but not spent amounted to \$24,586.

Treasurer

Chris Wokes



A Call for Applications

Hunter Region Landcare Network Inc.
PO Box 447
Maitland NSW 2320

Mob: 0429 444 305
Email: hunterregionlandcare@gmail.com
Web: www.hunterlandcare.org.au
ABN: 99 087 274 913

Dear Landcarers,

Thank you for your expressions of interest in hosting a field day or workshop on a Natural Resource Management topic of local or regional interest.

The field days or workshops will be funded as a result of a partnership between Hunter Region Landcare Network (HRLN) and Hunter Local Land Service and are to be held before 30th June 2016.

We have received interest from a number of groups across the Lower Hunter and now require further information in order to determine how to best use the available funds.

This opportunity is for members of HRLN so, if your group is not a member already, please visit our website at www.hunterlandcare.org.au to apply for membership.

Funding

Funding of \$500.00 will be provided for a field day with the host group providing a venue, catering and site visit.

Funding of up to \$2000.00 will be provided for a workshop on an issue of particular relevance to an area. This funding allows for guest presenters and hands-on activities, as well as the costs of hosting the workshop.

Role of host group

The host group will be responsible for the planning, costing, promoting, running and reporting on a field day or workshop.

A one-page report of the event with photos is to be sent to HRLN.

The Report is received for the event.

Role of HRLN

Payment by HRLN will be made on receipt of a flyer promoting the event.

HRLN will promote and report on the event through our website.

A representative(s) of HRLN will attend the event.

Using the attached application form please provide a breakdown of the day's events and an estimation of the costing.

Please submit this form ASAP

For further information, contact Stacy Mail on 0429 444 305

Yours in Landcare

Stacy Mail

Local Landcare Coordinator Lower Hunter



**Application to Hunter Region Landcare Network
for funding for a field day or workshop to June 2017**

Name of applicant organisation:
Contact person:
Contact details Email: Phone: Postal address:
Topic and brief outline of proposed event:
Date of proposed event:

Costing

Venue hire	\$
Catering	\$
Advertising	\$
Materials (eg plants, books, tools)	\$
Guest presenter	\$
Administration	\$
Other (specify)	\$
Total funding sought	\$

Date of funding application : Submitted by:
Please email application to hunterregionlandcare@gmail.com

In planning your event please consider:

- site induction
- toilet facilities

If the event includes a site inspection or on-ground activities, consider:



- *provision of sunscreen, insect repellent, drinking water*
- *shelter in event of bad weather*
- *need for closed-in footwear and hats*

Facebook Boosts

A decision was made earlier in the year to use Facebook boosts in order to test if the impact of this form of advertising/promotion had value in promoting activities in the Lower Hunter.

Results are as follows;

Event	People Reached
The Mambo Wanda wetlands	754 people
The Belmont Wetlands State Park	4140 people
Morpeth Common	894 people
Williams Valley	799 people
Mount Vincent	454 people
Wollombi Valley	900 people

The number of people contacted through this means and the positive attendance figures at the events that have been held, suggest that this is a useful advertising strategy.

Advertising

Karuah Landcare Group in the Port Stephens Examiner 26th March 2017

Thursday March 23, 2017 PORT STEPHENS EXAMINER

The Karuah Landcare Group are hosting a bush regeneration workshop and free BBQ.

Members of the community are invited to come along and learn about native plants and weed control from professional bush regenerators.

Community members are invited to join the Landcare group from 9am on Saturday 1st of April at the Wetlands Boardwalk area next to the community centre, Tarean Rd Karuah.

Regular Landcare meetings and work bees will continue from this date on the first Saturday of the month, and the third Wednesday.

Members of the community that wish to participate are encouraged to wear long pants and sleeves, enclosed footwear and a hat.



Working Bee and Bush Regeneration Workshop. Working Bee – Saturday 1st April, 2017.

Karuah Landcare Group held a working bee on Saturday 1st April, 2017. It started at 9am, we had a good turnout considering the weather of 2 people. All volunteers seemed highly



Figure 1 Shelley Macorig (Secretary/Treasurer).

motivated and appeared to enjoy the day.

We had to cancel the full bush regeneration workshop which was to be held in conjunction with the working bee due to the bad weather. The regeneration workshop was to be held by Aaron and Cheryl Crotty from Litoria Ecological Restoration Services at the Karuah Wetlands Project. A shortened version was held for our volunteers as we lost an hour to the atrocious conditions.

The Wetlands project was in an absolute horrible state and we are now pleased to say looks a lot better. Litter and weeds were removed and a general tidy up of pathways, cleaning of the signs, etc. was done.



Figure 2 Cheryl Crotty (Litoria Ecological Restoration Services) hard at work.

Unfortunately, as with the Karuah Boardwalk there is no place to dispose of litter. The group is currently seeking funding for two serviced bins, one at the Boardwalk and one at the Wetlands Project. Also, the local Karuah

Working Together Committee, which I am Due to the weather conditions we agreed to cancel the BBQ. I have frozen sausages and bread and plan to use them at the midweek working bee we are planning for the 19/4/17. Condiments such as sauces and serviettes etc. will be use then as well. Salads were distributed amongst volunteers and committee members so not to go to waste.



Figure 3 Our youngest volunteer, Imogen.

Many thanks,
Shelley Macorig.

The day definitely would have been more of a success if we had better weather. But, we could not have predicted two cyclones hitting Queensland at once when we planned this event.

Prior to the actual day, we created a Facebook page for the group, which now has over 100 friends. Active on the page are not only local people, but people from Universities, interstate and international. We also placed advertisements in the Port Stephens Examiner for the 2 weeks prior. Flyers and posters were printed and distributed around Karuah homes, businesses and surrounding areas. An advertisement was also placed on the electronic noticeboard at Karuah RSL.

Photos of the day have been posted on our Facebook site, which I know that you are a friend of.

I have attached an invoice with our bank details for you to forward the grant.

FOOTNOTE 19/4/17 MIDWEEK WORKING BEE – SCHOOL HOLIDAYS.

Our working bee in the School Holidays – Midweek was a success. We had 4 adult volunteers, and a Grandma brought her 10 year old granddaughter, who really enjoyed herself.

Fortunately, there wasn't much litter because of our "rained out" working bee on Saturday 1/4/17. So we were able to concentrate on clearing the paths of weeds and overgrown plants were trimmed back and vine removed from the native species.

The Karuah Wetland Project definitely looks better for the two working bees. Although, the carpark needs to be maintained on a regular basis, which I am looking into. I have also applied for a \$3000 grant from Huon Aquaculture Foundation to clean the weed from the dam which has overtaken it. Could you possibly help us there as well?

If we can get rid of the weed from the top of the dam, we will have a beautiful natural area. I know the Karuah Centre is looking at a community garden with a gate that will join the Boardwalk which in turn with minimal signage and possibly a bit of a path would all join beautifully with The Wetland Project and would be quite a nice tourist attraction and also a lovely place for the locals to "commune" with nature.



Figure 4 Brett on the "Hope Bridge" at Karuah Wetlands Project.

We had another free sausage sizzle and refreshments, which we used the leftovers from the "rained out" bee for. All sausages and bread were used or distributed as were drinks, although we still have a couple of cans of soft drink and a dozen bottles of water or so, which I am sure we can make use of at a later date.



Presents

Sand Dune Stabilisation Workshop & Working Bee

Saturday 6th May 2017 9am – 1pm

Come and explore the sand dunes of Belmont Wetlands State Park (BWSP), plant a few plants, and learn how to plan for future sites based on the experiences of others.

Presenters:

Phil Heaton who has extensive experience in rehabilitating the dunes of Budgewoi on the Central Coast, as well as leading many other successful bush regeneration projects.

Sam DesForges from Conservation Volunteers Australia has been actively working on coastal erosion projects in the Worimi Conservation Lands.

Background

Belmont Wetlands State Park stretches 4.5 kms along the coast from Redhead to Belmont South. The 549 hectare site contains diverse ecology and large areas of unspoilt or only partly-damaged ecosystems recognised as regionally significant.

BWSP is run by a Trust who have already invested many hours of volunteer time into reclaiming and stabilising the degraded dune areas.

Join us for a great day out learning about and supporting this amazing natural area on your doorstep.
Please bring hat, sunscreen, wear closed shoes.



PLAN OF THE DAY

9am: Meet at site office Kalaroo Rd, BelmontNorth. Walk beside the Jewells Wetland into the dunes.

10am-11.30am Planting

11.30am-12.30pm Dune fencing demonstration.

Morning tea and BBQ lunch provided.

Enjoy a 4WD trip down the beach after lunch if you are interested.

To book your experience,

Call 0429 267 234

Email

bwsp.projects@outlook.com

or [Click here for Eventbrite](#)

by 1st May



Local Land
Services
Hunter



National
Landcare
Programme



Report from the
Sand Dune Stabilisation Workshop and Working Bee
held on Saturday, 6th May, 2017 9am to 1pm

A dozen keen land carers collected on a perfect autumn day at the Site Office, BWSP. After acknowledging the elders of the traditional caretakers of this land of the Awabakal people, we explained the chequered history of the site from sand dredging in 1956 to 1967 before sand extraction in 1967 to 1987.

Site Supervisor, Alissa Rogers, advised participants of some of the hazards of working on site at BWSP.

We left the compound and followed Carol's Beach Track passing along the edge of the wetlands which had been dredged for their rutile deposits in the 1950s. There is still some evidence of dredge cables and machinery on site.

Steve Enks who played in the sand dunes as a kid, described some of his fun and activities in the 80m sand dunes that were there in the 1960s. The dredge had been brought into the lagoon from the sea and when it was removed, sand was formed into an artificial dune. All the soil in this area had been turned over and very little seed stock remained in the soil. Bitou was the main plant used to stabilise the sand after so much disruption. The western Australian acacia saligna was unfortunately used as a fast growing middle storage.

As the years and the storms rolled on the dunes were gradually creeping into the wetland. In late 2015 a Green Army team was dispatched to try to prevent some of this movement. They cut down some of the tea tree that had become a monoculture and lay it along the line of prevailing wind before planting almost 3000 trees in the gullies between the secondary dunes. What an amazing success that was. There was a 95% success rate with the plantings and a much reduced creep of the sand into the wetland. In the swales of dried vegetation amazing little self sown seeds are germinating.

We followed the track through the open sand blow-out areas to a lookout, still on the hind dune but where the expanse of beach and dunes could be observed.

Phil Heaton from Budgewoi Dune Care led the discussion on planting in the dunes and offered advice of removing weeds such as bitou at an appropriate time and scale. He blended discussions about weather and seed production into his talk. The biggest enemy in the fight to save the dunes is man and his machine! When they are controlled we may have some hope of saving and revegetating our dunes.

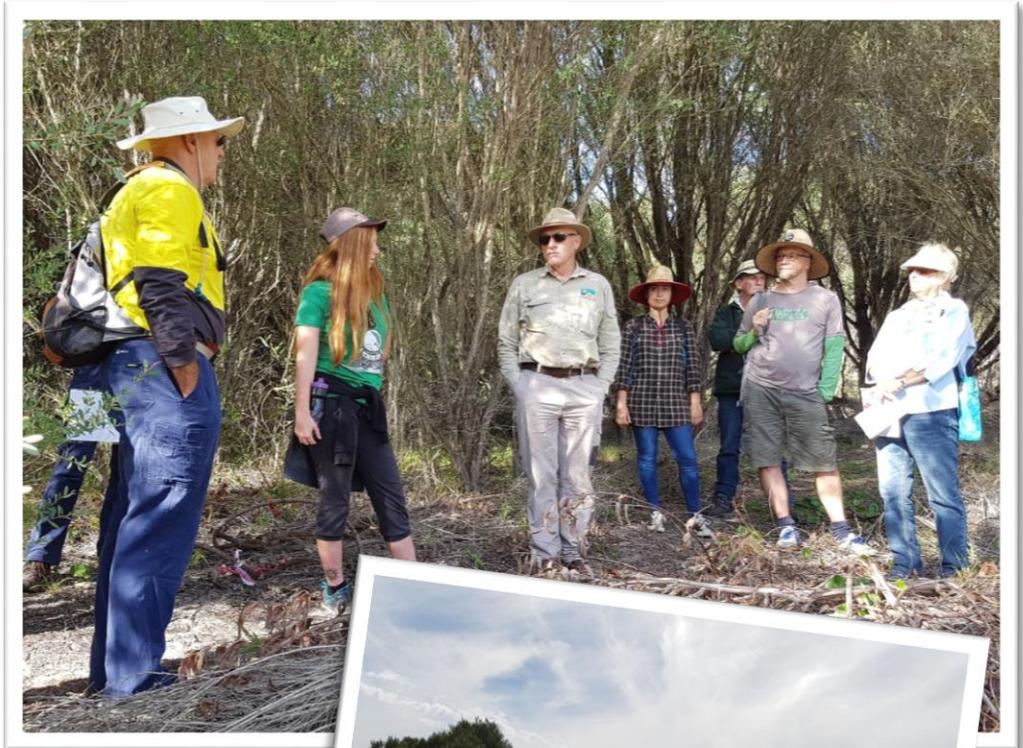
We moved back to an area adjacent to another Green Army site where planting had taken place last year on a westward facing slope. We observed the natural vegetation in this area then proceeded to plants about 150 new plants here. Phil had brought some of his propagations of acacia sopheri, correa alba and westringa. In his nursery he plants out into bigger pots to allow tube stock to acclimatise more before planting. He indicated that plants

need to be watered in a day, then a week, then in a fortnight if rain had not fallen naturally. We had harvested some pigface and set to work laying along contours in a steep slope. Altogether we put about 200 plants in place over an extended area.

Sam DesForges and his mate Tim who are currently working as Green Army supervisors had produced a demonstration wire and hessian fence set across the prevailing wind to catch sand drift and produce a new mound come dune. The team then got to work and built our own fence-digging the ditches and inserting the poles before treading the wire and straining it. Thank goodness it was a pleasantly warm day.

BWSP Trust would like to thank all the participants who worked together to regenerate some more dunal areas but are very grateful to our leaders, Phil and Sam for sharing their skills and expertise with us. Thank you also to the LLS, Hunter, National Landcare and Hunter Region Landcare Network for providing the funding for this workshop. A big thank you to Stacy Mail for her help in organising the event.

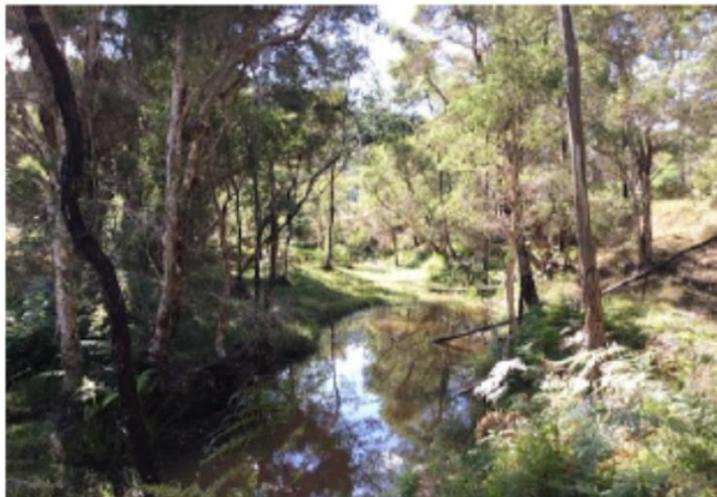
Helen Rogers
BWSP Trust





**ATTENTION WOLLOMBI-LAGUNA LANDHOLDERS:
BRING BACK WATAGAN CREEK
WOODY WEED WORKSHOP
WATAGAN CREEK SATURDAY 13TH MAY FROM 10AM**

RSVP by Sunday 7 May.
Numbers are limited.
First in best dressed.
Bridge works are planned for Watagan Creek.
Bus service provided by Council. Details on receipt of RSVP.



On Saturday 13th May from 10am, Wollombi Landcare will hold a Woody Weeds Workshop in Watagan Creek Road. This will be far more than learning to identify weeds; you will learn about native species including the beautiful water gums and Lillypillies plus introduced plants that have become a problem, particularly along the banks of the creek and importantly how to eradicate privet, blackberry, Cape Ivy, wild tobacco, green Cestrum, Japanese honeysuckle and others. Bring along your own weeds of concern for discussion. Here is a great opportunity that will lead to the effective eradication of difficult weeds.

All property owners are welcome. While specifically for Watagan creekers all property owners in the Wollombi - Laguna area are invited.

The location will be provided on receipt of an RSVP (please advise contact details and property address if possible) by email to wollombi.landcare@gmail.com or RSVP on Facebook at [@wollombivalleylandcare](https://www.facebook.com/wollombivalleylandcare) where updates will be available shortly.

The workshop will be followed by lunch so please RSVP ASAP. See you at the workshop!



Local Land Services
Hunter



National Landcare Programme





Bring Back Watagan Creek Woody Weed Workshop

On Saturday 13th May, Wollombi Landcare held a workshop on a beautiful private property that has the Watagan Creek running through it. The aim of the workshop was twofold. One aspect was to identify woody weeds and learn appropriate treatment technique. The other aim was to garner the interest of local landholders along Watagan Creek towards a community project where the long-term goal is the restoration and rehabilitation of the length of Watagan Creek.

Leading up to the event we did a lot of advertising through letter box drops, articles in the local newspaper (Our Own News), phone calls, Facebook posts and displays at the local shops and markets. This was a lot of work but it did result in approximately 40 people attending on the day which is more than double that we would normally attract, and many of them were new faces to Landcare.

Speakers included Bill Hicks, a long-term Watagan Creek resident and inventor of "Longstem tubestock" whom talked about the development of this type of native seedlings as well as issues involving Willows in our creeks. Mick Budden of LLS and John Hughson of HRLN also talked about what their respective organisations do and how they can assist us in our plans to rehabilitate the area.

Then we moved onto identifying woody weeds that occur in the area. These included Green Cestrum, Small leaf Privet, Japanese Honeysuckle, Blackberry, Wild Tobacco etc. We then talked about treatment techniques including foliar spraying, cut and paint, and drill and frill. Types of chemical to use were also discussed concentrating mainly on Glyphosate and Metsulfuron-methyl and related safety issues.

We then had a walk and talk along a part of the creek where the property owner talked about treatments that he had tried on Privet and Japanese Honeysuckle. At the same time we got to see and identify local native plants, some of which are look-alikes to the woody weeds we are targeting. We also looked at sections that were in good condition so that people could see how good it can look if only given the chance.

We then had lunch where we pressed home the need to find out the condition of the creek along its length and to achieve this it was proposed that Landcare representatives would come out to interested property owners and do individual walks and talks whereby they can have a plan to start the rehabilitation of their patch as well as enabling Landcare to get some weed mapping done.

The whole day was meant to be the start of a long-term project where we engage as many of the local community as possible in Bringing Back Watagan Creek. And in that we think we have made a successful and enjoyable beginning.

Cheers Chris Jackson (President Wollombi Landcare)

THE MAGIC OF MAMBO FREE COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

13 MAY 10AM-3PM (LUNCH PROVIDED)

MEET AT THE CORNER OF PORT STEPHENS DRIVE & FORESHORE DRIVE.

Hosted by
Mambo-Wanda
Wetlands
Landcare

What makes Mambo Wetlands so special?

The diversity of habitats, species, and cultural significance of the wetlands.

MORNING SESSION

Take a walk through Mambo:

A member of a local bird watching group will share their knowledge of fauna, avian, their movements, and the significance of this habitat.



A Custodian from Maaiangal Nurra will talk about and show people significant food and medicinal plants.



Plant koala food trees along the way



AFTERNOON SESSION

Learn from a Koala carer all about Koalas in Mambo and Port Stephens.

An environmental ecologist will demonstrate the importance of the salt marsh, seagrass and mangrove areas.



RSVP by 6th May (LIMITED SPACES)
0428 846 585 or wddandmy@hotmail.com
[Click here to book on Eventbrite](#)

Wearing closed shoes is essential.
Also bring hat, sunscreen, insect repellent,
binoculars if possible.

ACTIVITIES

10 AM - 12 PM

**JUST FOR KIDS-
BUSHLAND SCAVENGER
HUNT**

BIRDS IN MAMBO

TRADITIONAL FOOD AND
MEDICINAL PLANTS

COMMUNITY TREE
PLANTING

12 PM LUNCH

1 - 2 PM
KOALAS IN MAMBO

2 - 3 PM
SEAGRASSES, SALMARSH,
MANGROVE HABITATS



Report on Mambo Magic Field Day 13 May 2017

Location of Field Day:

Mambo Wetlands Salamander Bay including "Boronia Park" (unofficial name) opposite Mambo Wetlands and link in the Koala corridor to Wanda Wetlands. Also Joe Redman Reserve - the interface of Mambo with Salamander Bay.

Participants:

37 Registered: 20 Adults and 17 children (aged between 4-13)

29 Attended: 3 apologies, 5 no shows

Presenters:

Neil Fraser, Michael and Diane Hatfield from Tomaree & Hunter Bird Watchers

Carol Ridgway-Bissett Custodian & Knowledge Holder of the Worimi Nation

Simone Aurino Port Stephens Koalas

John Simpson Environmental Ecologist

Stacy Mail Lower Hunter Landcare Co-ordinator – children's activities.

Owen Bellingham assisted in numerous ways with logistics

Mambo-Wanda Landcare Team: 7 Members

Colin and Clyne Bridgeman, Anna Cordwell, Karen Jones, Walter and Margaret Lamond, Carol Ridgway-Bissett

Activities:

Because of the size of the Group moving along narrow tracks the group split into two for the morning session.

The children and a number of parents went with Carol, Stacy and Owen on a scavenger hunt and Carol introduced the children to bush tucker, traditional medicinal plants and significant Worimi culture.



The second group led by Neil, Michael and Diane were introduced to numerous bird species in the forest. Neil played birdsong from a bird application on his iPad to call some of the shy birds. Neil had collated ten pages of bird photos which were assembled in clear books to help participants with recognition of various species. Three experienced bird watchers made it easier for tracking birds and sharing knowledge in the group.

Lunch was provided for participants in Bob Cairns Reserve and the playground facilities were more important than food for the younger members.

Afternoon Session:

Simone collected fresh koala scats and talked about the health status of koalas that carers could glean from examination of the scats. She demonstrated scratch marks on trees where koalas had been climbing, care of koalas when injured or sick, types of food trees they enjoy, breeding, and recognition of koala ailments.

The group then planted 40 Eucalyptus Robusta & Eucalyptus Tereticornis at the eastern end of the forested area. The children were disappointed when there were no more trees to plant.

John presented the final session in Joe Redman Reserve. He used aerial photos to show the links between the Reserve and Mambo geographically, the effects of a major rain event and the loss in sea grasses. John covered terrestrial & marine vegetation and talked about its importance in sustaining biodiversity. John pointed out many creatures and plants during a fascinating walk along the beach. The 4 year olds were really engaged in finding creatures in the sand.



At the end of the day several people asked when would we run this Field Day again. Also 5 people have emailed, phoned and personally thanked us for an excellent Field Day. Each one has commented on how much they learned.

Comments:

1. From an organizational perspective it would be easier to run a shorter Field Day and not include lunch.
2. Mambo-Wanda members are grateful to Landcare for funding this event. Thank you Stacy for your support.
3. We thank our presenters for the high quality of presentations and their professional approach. We are also indebted to them for giving so much time and effort to make it a rewarding day for the participants and the team.

MAMBO WANDA WETLANDS, RESERVES & LANDCARE

355(C) COMMITTEE

A Committee of Port Stephens Council

Dear Stacy,

On behalf of the Mambo-Wanda Wetlands Landcare Committee thank you so much for giving up your whole Saturday to assist with the Field Day. A number of people have expressed their thanks for such an informative day. Thank you too for all the preparatory work, in setting up Eventbrite, advertising and talking through the event with us. Thank you for arranging the Scavenger Hunt for the children and doing this in conjunction with Carol's segment. That practical session was certainly appreciated by children and parents.

Thank you too for emailing photos of the day. We didn't take any photos except at the lunch break. May we use one or two of your photos on our Mambo-Wanda website?

We are so grateful for the expertise and skill of communicating of all our presenters and have written to thank each of them.

We have prepared a detailed invoice and a report for Landcare and hope these are satisfactory.

Once again our sincere thanks,

Anna Cordwell, Walter & Margaret Lamond





HRLN LANDCARE LUNCHEON/NETWORKING

MONDAY, 15 MAY 2017, 12-2PM

HUNTER REGION BOTANIC GARDENS

Calling all Landcarers in Port Stephens

The management committee of HRLN would like to invite you to join us for a luncheon at the Hunter Region Botanic Gardens to share knowledge and network.

We will share information on the following topics:

Native plants of Port Stephens

You will be introduced to a very concise and local online plant guide which has been created by Phillip Diemar, a fellow Landcarer in the area. It is a valuable resource for all amateur botanists.

Intro to HRLN

John Hughson, Chair of the Network will talk about 'Whats new in Landcare' for the Hunter Region. It's a chance to ask questions and network with the committee and LLC.

Gloves

We have FREE gloves that have been donated to us for your Landcare groups. An assortment of all sizes- are available- first come, first served.

Have a project idea to discuss? Share your ideas with us on the day and we can explore the possibilities.

RSVP to Stacy for catering purposes by the 10 May 2017

We hope you can Join us

Stacy Mail

Local Landcare Coordinator - Lower Hunter

Days: Wed, Thurs, Friday

Phone: 0429 444 305

Email: lowerhunterlandcare@gmail.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/lowerhunterlandcare/



Plants of Port Stephens and building Networks



PO Box 447

Maitland NSW 2320

hunterregionlandcare@gmail.com

www.hunterlandcare.org.au

15-May-2017

HRLN committee meeting was held at the Hunter Region Botanic Gardens followed by a luncheon and networking with Port Stephens Landcarers.

15 people in total attended the day with Raymond Terrace Landcare, Corlette headland Landcare, and Mambo Wanda Wetlands Landcare members being represented.

Members of the committee and groups shared stories, and were introduced to the local landcare coordinators. Online native flora identification for the Port Stephens was demonstrated on the projector for improved capacity building and education. Chair of HRLN (John Hughson) gave an overview of Landcare in the Hunter, and discussed the history and future for our region. Landcarers also took home some new gardening gloves that were donated to the network for their use on-ground. Hunter Region Botanic Gardens were paid to provide morning tea and lunch, which supports their volunteer efforts.

From: Stacy Mail <lowerhunterlandcare@gmail.com>

Date: 17 May 2017 at 10:18

Subject: Fwd: Native flora and weed websites

To: HunterRegion LandcareNetwork <hunterregionlandcare@gmail.com>

Thank you for coming to our luncheon at the Botanic Gardens on Monday. As promised, the links to the plant identification websites are below. These are the ones I find most useful.

<http://nelsonbaynativeplants.net/>

<http://plantnet.rbg Syd.nsw.gov.au/floraonline.htm>

<http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/invasive/weeds/index.html>

Don't forget to send me pictures if you have any plants you would like help with.

Kind Regards,

Stacy Mail

Dungog Common Aboriginal History Afternoon

by [Dungog Common Recreation Reserve Trust](#)



Sat. 20 May 2017 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm

Dungog Common, Common Road, Dungog, NSW 2420

Email Ros Runciman from the [Dungog Common Recreation Reserve Trust](#) at ros.runciman@gmail.com

Have you ever wondered about the Aboriginal history of the Dungog area? Are you interested in learning more about the culture and history of the Gringai people and country? Join us for an engaging afternoon at the Dungog common led by Len Roberts from the Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council. Len is a highly regarded Aboriginal archaeologist who will share his knowledge of Aboriginal history, guide us on a walk around the common and show us some interesting artefacts. After the walk there will be a Q&A accompanied by afternoon tea.

The Aboriginal History Afternoon is a collaborative event organised by the [Dungog Common Recreation Reserve Trust](#), [Dungog Common Landcare group](#), and the [Paterson Allyn Williams Science Hub](#). It is funded by a grant from the [Hunter Region Landcare Network](#). It's a great opportunity to explore a significant area on Dungog's doorstep that was used by the Gringai people, under the guidance of an expert. It will be preceded by another free event you may also be interested in attending, the [Dungog Dozen BioBlitz](#).



Local Land
Services
Hunter



National
Landcare
Programme



Account of Aboriginal History Day held on May 20 2017 hosted by the Dungog Common Recreation Reserve Trust.

Due to the forecast of a 90% chance of rain a decision was made to transfer this event to an indoors venue. Hence the Doug Walters Pavilion was hired rather than risking holding it in the open at the Dungog common as had been planned.

The guest speaker was Len Roberts, CEO of Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council and with 82 people in attendance we were extremely pleased with the obvious popularity of the event. As an aboriginal archaeologist Len had many interesting things to tell those present. Numerous questions were asked and answers readily given. A small display of artefacts added to the afternoon which concluded with a very well received afternoon tea.

It has been suggested that we dedicate a walk at the Dungog common to the aboriginals who would have walked the exact paths alongside Common creek. Signage could relate the history that is known and a flyer showing a map of the walk and some back ground history would be an asset to the common and to all who visit there. Any plans for this to happen would be made by forming a working group of interested locals and in conjunction with Karuah LALC.



Figure 5 Mr Len Roberts addressing the large gathering assembled for this presentation

“Thank you so much for organising this event. It was informative, relevant, and pertinent to this area. Len was such a natural speaker & shared his knowledge & views with authenticity. The afternoon gave me much to think about and inspires me to become more involved and



approach Aboriginal issues with more confidence and humanness. I would love to attend any future events, especially if it involves time in the Common.

With much gratitude

Monique Gooch”

and

“Ros thank you for organising the visit by Len Roberts of the Karuah Aboriginal Land Council. In the Dungog Shire we have long lacked a feeling of connection to Aboriginal organisations in our region and Len's talk built a valuable and productive engagement.

Out of the meeting and several people's chat with Len afterwards we are hopeful that some form of recognition of our area's Aboriginal heritage can be established - perhaps a walking trail at the Dungog Common with interpretive signage developed in conjunction with Len and other Aboriginal advisors.

It's all been very much a step in the right direction. It would be great to have another session out on the Common, drawing more local people to appreciate what the Common has to offer and how the Gringai people would have been a part of that environment.

Cheers,

Ken Rubeli

	Local Land Services Hunter	 purple pear farm PERMACULTURE IN ACTION
	National Landcare Programme	
	9.30 Farm Tour – 10.30 Morning Tea – 11.00 Land Access – 11.30 Market Gardening and CSA – 12.30 Lunch – 13.30 Permaculture – 14.30 Biodynamics – 15.30 Soils – 16.00 Conclude.	
Bookings essential http://purplepearfarm.eventbrite.com		
SUNDAY 21ST MAY 2017 SUSTAINABLE SMALL FARMS WORKSHOPS		
The day intends to highlight the things small landholders can do to make their land productive and to provide for their needs and the needs of their families and community.		
		
Land Access. — Market Gardening & Community Supported Agriculture. — Permaculture. — Biodynamics. — Building Healthy Soils. —		
PURPLE PEAR FARM 131 Anambah Road Anambah NSW 2320 02 49320443 RSVP (required) purplepearfarm@gmail.com https://www.facebook.com/PurplePearFarm/		



purple pear farm

PERMACULTURE IN ACTION

We were pleased to be able to provide the Sustainable Small farms workshops on behalf of Landcare Hunter and the LLS on the 21st of May 2017.

There were 40 participants enrolled and around ten placed on the waiting list for any drop outs. The positions filled very quickly. We were booked out in less than a day. There were some dropouts and four participants called in on the morning of the workshop with sick children. 35 people attended on the day.



We started with a tour of Purple Pear Farm at 9.30 am. The tour looked at aspects of permaculture design and animal care as well as food production methods.



This was followed with a session on access to land. David Syiver of Feedback Resource recovery explained about his method for accessing urban land for food production and Mark covered aspects outlined by Cultivate Farms Sam (who was unable to make it on the day.) Importantly the expectation on land ownership was discussed along with the reality that the land is owned often by financial institutions and options for vendor financing and leasing serving as options to Land Access.



We looked at Community Supported Agriculture and Market Gardening as practiced at the farm as well as around the world. We looked at the benefits and pitfalls of this type of marketing for produce. We looked at the types and range of products possible and desirable.



We also looked at Permaculture and Biodynamics as methods of making the most of the land and this led to a session on Soils and compost making.

We were pleased to get the assistance from Stacy Mail from Landcare who spoke at the start of the day about the continuing role of Landcare and the assistance being offered. Thanks to David and Sam for their input and to Kate who did a great job catering. Mark baked the bread rolls and produced the hand out material and both Mark and Kate delivered the learning sessions.



We thank Stacy for taking plenty of great photos of the day.

FREE HANDS ON WORKSHOP

PLANNING AND PLANTING
A COASTAL GARDEN

SATURDAY 10TH JUNE 10 AM-12 NOON
BELMONT WETLANDS STATE PARK ENTRANCE



Join Trees In Newcastle and Belmont Wetlands State Park Trust for a hands-on workshop exploring gardening with local native plants.

Participants will learn about the importance of knowing their soil, choosing the right plant for the right place, creating habitat for local flora and fauna and correct planting techniques.

Trees In Newcastle boasts a 28-year history enhancing natural areas and backyards in the region. This workshop is an opportunity to share some local knowledge with our community, and begin the next step of our exciting journey!

Please wear a hat and enclosed shoes and bring your own water bottle. Light lunch provided.

Please RSVP to manager@treesinnewcastle.org.au by Friday 2nd June so that we can organise catering



TOPICS

SOILS

CHOOSING THE RIGHT
PLANT

PLANNING AND
PLACEMENT

FOLLOWED BY LUNCH



Local Land
Services
Hunter



National
Landcare
Programme





Planning and Planting A Coastal Garden Workshop

Saturday 24th June 2017 | Belmont Wetlands State Park, Kalaroo Road Belmont

<p>NUMBER OF ATTENDEES - 16</p>	<p>Presenters – Ann Loughran Carolyn Gillard Belmont Wetlands State Park Trust Greg Wright Trees In Newcastle Gary Freeman Lauren Bullard General public – 11. Found out through HRLN, Trees In Newcastle mailing list and social media posts and shares.</p>	
<p>ATTENDEES POSTCODES/SUBURB</p>	<p>2 x Belmont 2280 1 x Floraville 2280 1 x Eleebana 2282 2 x Warners Bay 2282 2 x Adamstown 2289 1 x Merewether 2291 1 x Maryville 2293</p>	<p>2 x Whitebridge 2290 1 x Medowie 2318 1 x Bar Beach 2300 1 x Newcastle 2300 1 x Hamilton 2303 1 x Mayfield 2304</p>
<p>TOPICS and OUTCOMES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choosing the right plant for the right place – weed potential of exotic species and suitable alternatives to common exotics, landscape planning for aesthetics, features of plants suitable for coastal gardens. • Habitat creation – easy ideas for providing habitat for small birds (plant prickly and dense foliated shrubs) and frogs/beneficial insects. • Soil health, type and structure. Participants learned about soil profiles, PH testing and the importance of organic matter in a healthy soil. • Plant selection – 120 local, native plants covering over 30 species planted. Discussions around biodiversity and protecting local ecosystems – including not planting “Australian Natives” with weed potential. • History of Belmont Wetlands State Park, new partnership with Trees In Newcastle and how participants can help continue the work of volunteers in the area to restore the ecosystems within the Park. So far, two participants have expressed interest in volunteering and one has started working onsite! 	
<p>SUPPORT RECEIVED FOR THE EVENT</p>	<p>Trees In Newcastle volunteers completed approximately 40 hours site preparation – adding organic matter, removing large rocks and debris from topsoil, digging frog ponds, mulching the garden areas and planning the planting/laying out plants ready for planting.</p> <p>Belmont Wetlands State Park Trust had a Committee member attend the event and spoke to the group about the history of the Park, volunteer activities within the Park and the new partnership between the BWSP Trust and Trees In Newcastle.</p> <p>Australian Plants Society provided discounted tubestock for the planting to fill gaps in species selection.</p> <p>OzMulch at Toronto provided discounted mulch load.</p> <p>Thank you to Hunter Region Landcare Network and Hunter Local Land Services for supporting this workshop.</p>	

Trees In Newcastle | Community Landcare, Bush Regeneration Services and Volunteer Centre

PO BOX 11
CHARLESTOWN 2290

0456 579 289

www.treesinnewcastle.org.au
www.facebook.com/TreesInNewcastle



Site – before preparation and planning.



A huge amount of debris was removed (pictured) and recycled recycling bins were used to create frog ponds.



Carolyn Gillard, Landscape designer, spoke about planning gardens, and the importance of planting the right plant in the right spot (hint – not *Banksia integrifolia* under power lines, unless you're happy to prune them), the features of local native coastal plants and their habitat value and the importance of local biodiversity.



Trees In Newcastle : Community Nursery, Bush Regeneration Services and Volunteer Centre

252 Parry Street
Newcastle West, NSW 2302

P: 02 4969 1500
F: 02 49276821

www.treesinnewcastle.org.au
www.facebook.com/TreesInNewcastle



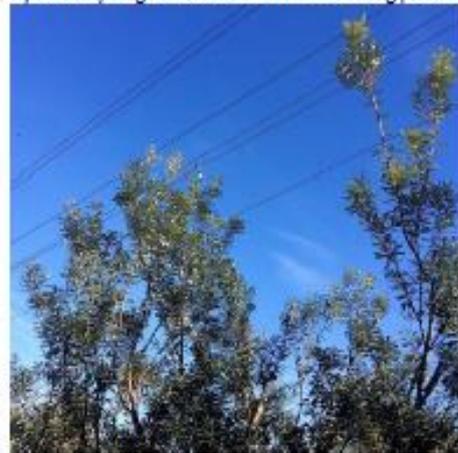
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www.facebook.com/TreesInNewcastle

Mount Vincent Landcare Inc.

WORKSHOP LANTANA ERADICATION, PLANTING TECHNIQUES, & SIGNAGE LAUNCH

17 JUNE 2017 9AM - 1PM RODNEY ROAD, MOUNT VINCENT

Lantana eradication

New residents will learn best techniques of lantana eradication, and existing members may fine tune their skills and methods.

Since 2006 Mount Vincent Landcare Inc. has been helping to eradicate Lantana camara on local properties by holding educational days on the preferred methods for control and eradication of Lantana. At the end of the Lantana segment, it is proposed to present the new signage for previous roadside plantings.

Presentation and launch of new signage for previous plantings to increase public awareness of activity and plantings completed over the past 34 years by MVLC. Seven new roadside signs to be installed in high visibility locations.

RSVP basaba@hotmail.net.au (02) 4938 0082



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

9 - 9.30 AM
SPLATTER GUN
DEMONSTRATION AND
WEEDING TECHNIQUES

9.30 - 12 PM
TECHNIQUES APPLIED ON
3 PROPERTIES IN RODNEY
ROAD
& SUCCESSFUL
PROCEDURE FOR
PLANTING TUBE STOCK

12 PM
PRESENTATION OF
SIGNAGE FOR 34+ YEARS
OF NATIVE PLANTING
SUCCESS

12.30 PM
BBQ LUCH AND
DISCUSSION



Local Land
Services
Hunter



National
Landcare
Programme





Field Day and Workshop

Purpose

To demonstrate and assist with practice in control of Lantana and also the autumn planting of tubestock native plants

We shall also launch our new roadside signs for existing plantings and creek stabilisation projects.

Date and time

Saturday, June 17, 2017 09:30 for 10.00 am start. Lunch about noon

Venue

73 Rodney Road, Mount Vincent 2323

PLEASE bring / wear

- Hat, appropriate outdoor clothing and sunscreen – grass underfoot may be wet
- If the weather is poor, participants will be re-directed to an undercover location

RSVP

To this email or to: mvlandcare@gmail.com by Thursday 15th June, 2017. We shall provide refreshments.

Program

1. Weed control – Lantana - Options for control
 - i. Cut and paste – 100% glyphosate 360
 - ii. Splatter gun – 10% glyphosate 360
 - iii. Long term elimination demonstration and practice, discussion
2. Autumn planting - Tube stock
 - i. Recommended procedure for plant survival
 - ii. Demonstration and practice, discussion
3. Launch of new signs for previous roadside and creek stabilization plantings

ALL WELCOME



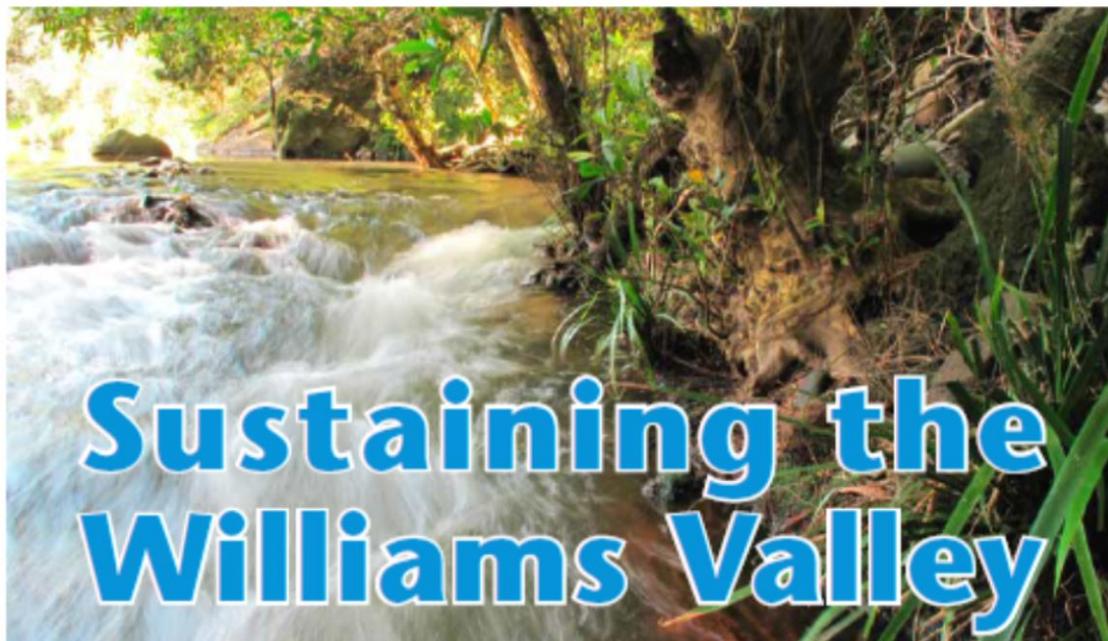
Figure 6 Tubestock Planting Demonstration



Figure 7 Splatter Gun Demonstration



Figure 8 Splatter Gun Demonstration 2



Sustaining the Williams Valley

Our River and Rainforest Free Workshop

Saturday 24 June, 10am–3.30pm

Come along to a free workshop to hear:

- Glenn Albrecht: Renowned environmental speaker and local bird enthusiast who will be inspiring us about our local flora & fauna
- Skye Moore, environmentalist, will talk about the Williams River past and present and river corridor projects in the upper catchment.
- Then come with us to visit a local resident's unique rainforest planting along the Williams River to look at 15 years of riverbank restoration work and listen to:
- Alex King, rainforest specialist, will talk about rainforest restoration and its importance as habitat.

Where: Dungog Festival Lounge, 224 Dowling St, Dungog, followed by site visit near Frank Robinson Park, Stroud Hill Rd, Dungog.

Cost: Free (and lunch provided) Bookings essential for catering.
Register at EventBrite: www.eventbrite.com.au/e/our-river-and-rainforests-workshop-tickets-34949439715
or contact Judy: 0411 258257

A project of

**Sustaining the
Williams Valley Inc**

Supported by



Paterson Alyn Williams
SCIENCE HUB

This initiative is supported by Inspiring Australia
and the NSW Government









Report

Dear Stacy

I think you'll agree our workshop was a great success and that it has been Landcare money well spent. We had over 70 attend and the feedback we've had has been very positive.

Learning Outcomes - Sustaining the Williams Valley Workshop and Field Day

Saturday June 24th 10 - 3.30 pm.

1. Understanding of the historical context of the Williams River including river corridor projects in the upper catchment.
2. Becoming aware of the psychological impact of the environment on people and communities and the benefits that may accrue from reversing damaging effects.
3. Restoring rainforest habitat for native species of flora and fauna. This outcome was enhanced by a visit to a local resident's rainforest planting project that had occurred over fifteen years.

Our costs for the event included catering, speakers, promotion and venue which came to \$2500 some of which was donated and much of the promotion and technical support was done by the Science Hub.

Thank you and kind regards, Judy

Judy Boyden



KOALAS AND WHALES! PLANTING DAY



JULY 15 2017 10AM 4 TROTTER RD, BOBS FARM

Plant a Koala Forest (1000 trees) to support the koala population of Port Stephens. Delicious lunch provided followed by whale watching as the ultimate way to finish the day. Hosted by Port Stephens Koalas and Hunter region Landcare Network.

Book by July 10: eventbrite.com.au lowerhunterlandcare@gmail.com

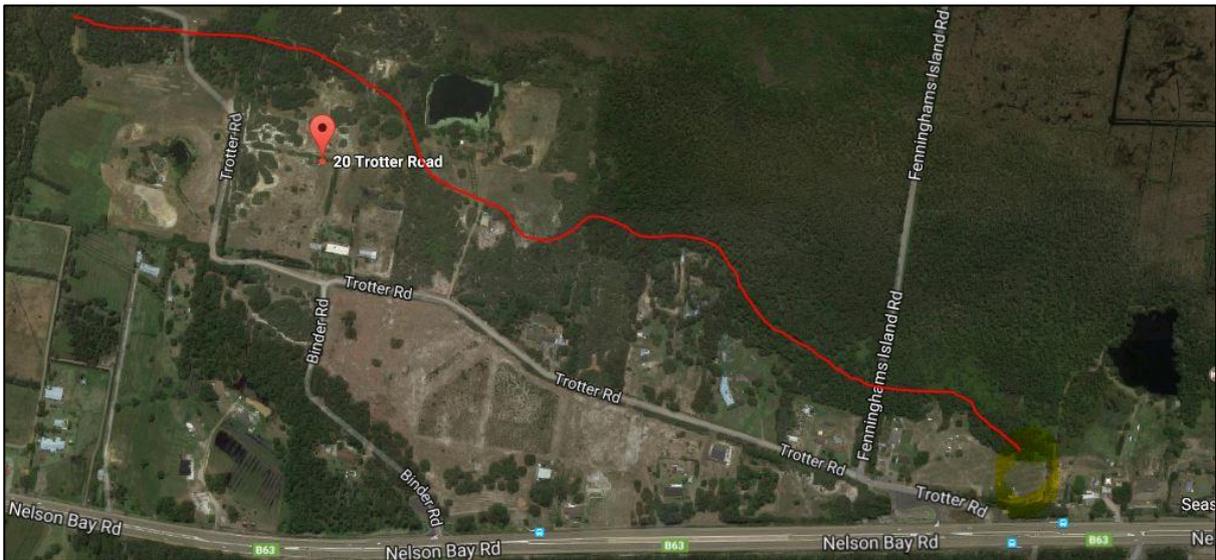


Figure 9 The Corridor of the Koalas



Figure 10 Tree-planting team for the Koalas and whales day



Port Stephens Koalas

Port Stephens NSW - Australia

KOALAS AND WHALES EVENT SUMMARY

15-July 2017

The koala food forest planting day was a great success with 46 Adults and Children from the community pitching in to plant 550 trees. Participants included Intrepid Landcarers, students from the University of Newcastle, local residents, conservation minded individuals from Newcastle, Lake Macquarie and even as far as Canada.

Attendees were greeted with a discussion on all things koala from Carmel Northwood, President of Port Stephens Koalas. She highlighted the threats facing our koala population- loss of habitat, dog attack, motor vehicle strikes, and disease, and how important the work that we were doing is to help the population recover.

Local Landcare Coordinator Stacy Mail demonstrated the correct planting technique and went through WHS risks.

Seven species of primary koala food trees were planted and given a good start with native fertiliser tabs, good soil, plenty of water, mulch to maintain moisture and tree guards to protect from predation and cold. Children as young as 18 months got 'stuck in' and helped their parents with some of the easier tasks required. After 3.5 hours of hard work, attendees were rewarded with a delicious lunch platter of wraps and fruit.

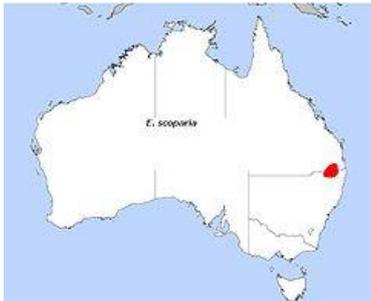
The next part of the adventure was to head over to Boat Harbour with expert guide David Lawson to witness the humpback whales great annual migration. The whales did not disappoint as we saw several whales performing tail slaps, pectoral fin slaps, and lots of puffs. David shed light on their behaviorus and antics and even had a sample of baleen to help us understand how they feed. He highlighted the land/water interface- an important connection in which we all have an influence.

This project was possible due to the cooperation of many stakeholders including Harbourside Haven who generously donated the land under an MOU, Port Stephens Council who donated the trees, equipment, and mulch, Hunter Region Landcare who provided the coordination and funding for the workshop, Hunter Intrepid Landcare for help in promotions and Port Stephens Koala volunteers for preparation of the site at the many working bees.

We envisage another planting day like this to take place next year as we cannot replace our lost habitat fast enough.

Sincerely,
Tracy Kelly, Media Officer, Port Stephens Koalas

Trees for a Koala Plantation

Species	Original Number	Revised number
Euc tereticornis	250	140
Euc scoparia Vulnerable (EPBC Act) 	100	50
Euc nicholii Vulnerable (EPBC Act) 	100	50
Euc grandis	25	20
Euc microcorys	25	20
Euc Robusta	200	120
Melaleuca quinquinervia	100	40
Euc parramattensis subs decadens	200	120
TOTAL	1000	560



**Building our Future
Training - Financial Management and Governance
Mid Hunter Landcare**

**LLCI014-035
Jan 16, 2017**

Financial management and governance were repeatedly identified as organisational needs in local Landcare groups, so a training day was developed.

The issue

Financial management and governance had been identified as common needs among local Landcare groups when doing the Landcare NSW organisational health check, so a training day was developed to provide training in these areas. Many groups had lost track of the accounts, hadn't been audited and were handling money or liabilities, sometimes of unknown origins. Group members identified the need to receive updates in current practice, information on available tools to assist with governance and common issues.

The solution

Through a collaboration with local training provider 'The Business Centre' appropriate training was developed to address the issues identified by local Landcare groups. This was advertised widely to Landcare and NRM groups in the Hunter, with people traveling up to 2 hours to attend the training. As with other Local Landcare Coordinator events, this was also an opportunity for Landcarers to come together and network with others whilst addressing common issues. Groups are able to exchange experience and possible solutions through knowledge sharing at community of practice events.

The impact

The evaluation of the training showed an entirely positive overview. The training was described as well presented and easy to understand, with participants more thoroughly aware of the importance reporting and governance requirements. Group members have left the training and proceeded to implemented learning into practice through arranging funds to incorporate book keeping and are investigating cloud based accounting software. Some groups that have inherited messy and unclear historical account keeping found the training very helpful in learning how to tidy up and implement systems that make group finances more manageable, transparent and less time consuming into the future.

Key facts

- Finance Management
- Governance
- Training
- Organisational Health



Building our Future**LLCI014-037****Training - Social Media and Online Presence****Mid Hunter Landcare****Mar 16, 2017**

Social Media and Online Presence was repeatedly identified as a major organisational need by local Landcare groups, so a training day was developed.

The issue

Most Landcare groups in the Mid Hunter had either minimal or zero online presence, making it difficult to connect with the wider public and also difficult for the public to find local groups! Many Landcare members had not used social media, but many young folk who might participate did - the active members and the potential members were not connecting through the same medium and so meeting between the generations was rare. The local landcare coordinator started by creating pages for groups on the NSW Landcare Gateway, which enabled members of the public to find groups if they were looking for them. The next step was to provide training to empower existing members in how to use social media and the NSW Landcare Gateway to promote their aims and connect in to the wider community.

The solution

Training was organised through partnering with Local Land Services, The Business Centre and NSW Landcare to develop appropriate training in social media and the NSW Landcare Gateway at a location central to the Mid Hunter. 55 individual representatives of 33 groups were invited to participate. Tickets were sold at a very reasonable \$15 to secure commitment and to promote the future fund idea of financial sustainability. A total of 25 people attended the training from 14 different groups. All evaluations following the event showed keen interest in the uptake and effective use of the NSW Landcare Gateway and social media such as Facebook and Instagram.

The impact

New members have already started contact some groups - through the update contacts on the Gateway - If people are looking they can find groups where before this was very difficult. Through Facebook and social media, groups can engage with other friends and groups in the area, promoting their identity and activities. Engaging through Facebook and Instagram enables people to react to the moment and share their view, promoting the concept of citizen science among the community. Events such as these not only provide training in important areas, but they are also an excellent opportunity for members of disparate groups to connect and network, where before they might not have seen each other, exchanged information or shared experiences.

Key facts

- Engaging Landcare with the wider community
- Groups can be easily found by interested people
- Promoting Landcare's achievements
- Learning new skills to spread the word
- Getting with the times





Taking Action
Action Planning for the Mid Hunter LLC
Mid Hunter Landcare

LLCI014-036

May 16, 2017

Stakeholder input into the Landcare Coordinator Initiative in the Mid Hunter

The issue

The purpose of this event is to seek grass roots input on how to make the best use of the Local Landcare Coordinator in Mid Hunter Region. Given the broad geographical range of this newly defined region, the 3 different LGAs and the separate stakeholder service delivery zones, capturing input and delivering appropriate, equitable services has proven challenging. It was decided to hold an event engaging stakeholder input into the LLC Action Plan at a central place, incorporate a guest speaker to present on a matter of common interest, and invite the politicians.

The solution

Guest Speaker Noel Jupp of Riverdene Nursery was invited to present on "Lesser known native plant species in the Central Hunter Valley". Following this, the Federal Member for Hunter and shadow minister for Agriculture and Rural and Regional Australia, the Hon. Joel Fitzgibbon MP held the floor in conversation with local Landcarers. After lunch, the group was able to provide specific input into the development of the LLC Action Plan, so that the Local Landcare Coordinator in the Mid Hunter is guided in doing what is most useful to the community.

The impact

18 stakeholders attended the planning day, from 10 different organisations. Of these 15 people were volunteers from local Landcare groups. Through engaging local volunteers, the NSW Landcare LLC Action Planning process is linked with the end users of the Initiative and the stakeholder organisations. The event also enables add-ons such as invitations for local members and guest speakers, as well as networking opportunities. It is expected that this will become an annual event aligned with LLC action plan reporting.

Learnings

Seeking input from volunteer landcare members may be encouraged through pairing with other topics of interest. Also moving the meeting locations to enable ease of access to events can encourage attendance, especially when the geographical range is great. Given the role of the LLC is to serve the landcare community, these approaches were used to seek active input into the program by the end users of the LLC.

Key facts

- Community Engagement
- Action Planning
- Service Delivery
- Networking
- Advocacy





Taking Action **LLCI014 - 064**
Club to Club Project
Muscle Creek Landcare Group **Apr 11, 2017**

Restoring native habitat along Muscle Creek in the heart of Muswellbrook.

The issue

It's the universal problem, a creek through an urban area becoming choked with weeds. Muscle Creek in Muswellbrook has been losing the fight against many problem weeds including Balloon Vine, Madeira Vine, Morning Glory and Large-leaved Privet. The fact that such weed infestations degrade native communities is made worse by the fact that it is coming at the expense of the remnant endangered Hunter Floodplain Red Gum Woodland that is found along the creek.

The solution

Through the NSW Government's Environmental Trust, Muswellbrook Shire Council was able to receive funding for the three year Club to Club Project which focuses on rehabilitating the stretch of Muscle Creek between Muswellbrook Golf Club and Muswellbrook District Workers Club. With an aim of getting the local community involved in Muscle Creek Landcare and looking after their natural areas, the project involved three volunteer working bees over the Club to Club Weekend which occurred from Saturday 1 to Monday 3 of April.

The impact

As a result of the Club to Club Weekend 240 native riparian trees were planted and approximately 3000m of weeds were removed. We managed to attract a total of 55 volunteers over the weekend that included Landcarers, local residents, members of the local snooker club, and visitors that travelled up from Newcastle including members of Hunter Intrepid Landcare. Through the partnership with Muswellbrook District Workers Club we were able to reach a wider demographic of people, and connect them with the local Landcare community. With both the organisers and participants calling the event a success, the future of the Club to Club Project, and Muscle Creek itself is looking bright.

Key facts

- 55 Volunteers over 3 days
- 240 native riparian trees planted
- Approximately 3000 square meters of weeds removed
- Part of a 3 year project funded by the NSW Government's Environmental Trust



Rehabilitating Muscle Creek

Calling all nature lovers to participate in the Club to Club working bees this weekend!

9:00am Sat 01 April: We'll meet you on the corner of Haydon & Wilkinson Ave

9:00am Sun 02 April: We'll meet you at the unpaved car park near Olympic Park on Wilkinson Avenue

9:00am Mon 03 April: We'll meet you at the creek-side car park along Bell Street at Muswellbrook Golf Club

Club to Club is an initiative to rehabilitate Muscle Creek between Muswellbrook District Workers' Club and Muswellbrook Golf Club.

This is a great opportunity to discover interesting facts about Muscle Creek, improve habitat and connectivity for threatened and endangered species, and to meet like-minded people.



Call John Kensey from Conservation Volunteers Australia on for details:

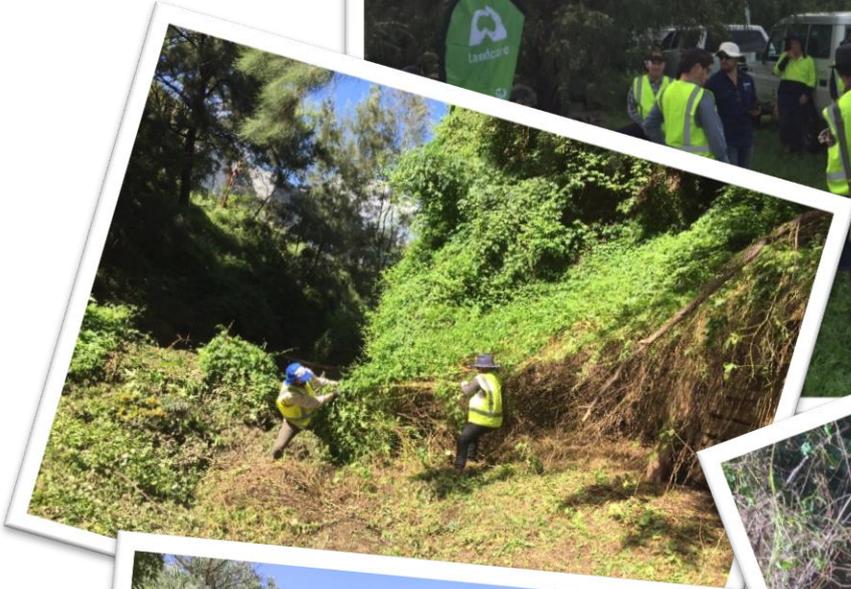
0408 455 237

Wear a hat, sunglasses and covered shoes. Equipment, gloves and lunch supplied.



Office of Environment & Heritage







**Building our Future
Native Plant Workshops
Merriwa Landcare Inc**

LLCI014-065

May 02, 2017

Merriwa locals undergo training in native seed collection, identification & propagation.

The issue

Unfortunately, the presence agriculture often comes at the expense of natural ecosystems, and as a result, large swathes of land in the Upper Hunter are without native vegetation. The benefits of having native vegetation in agricultural land are well understood, and include providing shelter and shade for stock, wind breaks to reduce moisture loss for crops, prevention of erosion and salinization, and providing habitat for natural insectivores that help control crop pests.

The solution

Merriwa Landcare is aiming to promote the role of native vegetation and biodiversity in successful sustainable agriculture, and their goal is to encourage local landholders to preserve remnant vegetation, regenerate endemic grassy woodland and restore native ecosystems on the Merriwa plateau. As a result there has been a lot of interest in sourcing the seed of species endemic to the local district; learning how to identify these native plants; and finding out how to go about establishing a local provenance seed bank. A series of training workshops targeting this was developed by Merriwa Landcare, Hunter Local Land Services & NSW TAFE – Scone and was funded by Training Services NSW.

The impact

The Merriwa Landcare group and community now have a core group of landholders with training in native vegetation identification, seed collection and propagation. Participants learnt about plant names and plant anatomy; how to use a plant key for identification; collected plant samples to press, mount and identify; collected native seed in bushland, processing and storing correctly; discovered and trialed the many varied propagation methods for different native seed and plant species.

This will help to promote the local importance of biodiversity and potentially work towards restoring the endemic grassy woodland, including the endangered White Box Yellow Box Blakely's Red Gum Woodland . Funding is currently being sourced from Local Land Services through the National Landcare Programme for further seed collection for projects helping to rehabilitate the large areas of land stripped by the recent Sir Ivan Bushfire at the western-end of the Merriwa Plateau near Cassilis.

Key facts

- 20 people enrolled in the course
- Studied plant anatomy; identification; collecting/preserving samples; and seed collection, storage and propagation
- Received NSW TAFE Statement of Attainment: Introduction to Native Plant Identification, Seed Collection and Propagation





**Making a Difference
River Red Gum Planting
Pages River Warriors**

LLCI014 - 066

Jun 02, 2017

Murrurundi Landcare gets together to help in the recovery of an endangered population.

The issue

The endangered Hunter Valley population of River Red Gum is unique as it is the only one in NSW to occur in a coastal catchment and is of conservation significance as it is genetically distinct. The historic distribution of this species has been greatly reduced due to land clearing for timber and agriculture, and changes to the hydrology of the Hunter Catchment.

The solution

Through the Local Landcare Coordinator for the Upper Hunter funding was successfully secured from the Hunter Region Landcare Network. The Hunter Region Landcare Network offers funding to residents and groups for planting the threatened Hunter Valley River Red Gum in locations of suitable habitat. With the added problem of grazing by feral deer, the Landcare group had to work with Murrurundi Men's Shed to create deer-proof guards to protect the young trees while they grow.

The impact

As a result of this project 40 River Red Gums were planted in ideal habitat along the Pages River near Wilson Memorial Oval in Murrurundi. These plants will form part of the *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* population in the Hunter catchment, which is an endangered population. Thanks to the local Men's Shed these trees will be protected by guards as they grow.

Learnings

Due to a high demand for River Red Gums, and relatively short notice time for the nursery, the size of plants was unfortunately quite small. With more notice given to the nursery next time, plant stock could be larger and more robust.

Key facts

- Threatened Species Recovery
- 40 River Red Gum's Planted
- 40 Deer-proof guards made
- 8 Landcarers involved



Hunter Region Landcare Network

River Red Gum Project

Report for the AGM 23rd September 2017

The River Red Gum project continues to be an aspect of the activities of HRLN.

Tube stock was distributed at the Tocal Field Days in May 2017 to over 100 willing planters in the region. This makes another small step in keeping this iconic tree present in the Hunter Valley. Tube stock should be available at the next Tocal Field Days in May 2018.

As part of a Landcare presentation on the 5th September 2017, PROBUS committees of the region were reminded of the project and its small part in addressing the vegetative loss in the Hunter Valley over the past 200 years.



Trees from earlier plantings are beginning to make a visual impact on the landscape although the total project is not yet 10 years old. Commencing in 2008, in the Singleton area and extending along the Hunter River, young trees are now scattered throughout the region.

L J Pearson

Figure 11 A group of junior students of St Philip's Christian College surround a recently planted *E. camaldulensis* at Nulkaba, May 2014



Figure 12 The same trees in May 2017. Growth between 2 and 3 metres.