

THE WOLLONDILLY WARBLER

NEWSLETTER FOR LANDCARE IN THE WOLLONDILLY CATCHMENT SPRING 2006

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From the Landcare Coordinator SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS.

Another summer season has past us by with most of the Wingecarribee and Wollondilly area receiving a welcome change in recent drought conditions through out the early autumn months. Consistent rainfall and mild weather have created favourable conditions for the progression of many Landcare sites.

With the eminent onset of winter more attention can be paid to the treatment of woody weeds and the preparation of soil structure for planned re-vegetation projects in the spring.

There have been many local Landcare developments over recent months. I have been working on the development of the Wingecarribee Youth Landcare Group. The

Youth Landcare Group has enlisted the involvement of the Youth Off The Streets program, 92.5 Youth Community Radio, Moss Vale High School and the MAD Youth Network to help promote and progress the Youth Landcare initiative.

The Youth Off The Streets program is operating through the Mathew Hayden College located in High Range in the Southern Highlands. Every fortnight a group has been attending work days on a site along the Wingecarribee River.

I would like to thank the group leader Paul Roodenreys and the group members that have been reliably giving their time and efforts to the site.

The Youth Landcare concept aims to provide an opportunity for all local youth groups, school groups and indigenous groups to access Landcare; gain valuable experience, skills and achieve collective goals for the local community and environment.

I am currently working on a grant application to help provide the required funds to help groups access the Youth Landcare Group and contribute to on ground success.

I would like to welcome two new Landcare groups to the regional network. The Yamanda Aboriginal Association Landcare Group in Mittagong and the Hilton Park Preservation Landcare Group based in Tahmoor. Both groups have established recently and are already planning major projects for their respective target areas.

It is always encouraging to add new groups and members to the local Landcare family and with the continual growing pressures on the natural environment it is extremely important to include as many people as possible in land management improvement programs.

The development of the Wingecarribee Community Nursery has been progressing

slowly with a steering committee having been established to help with the implementation and progression of the nursery. The location of the nursery is still to be determined with the unfortunate recent news that the original location is no longer available for use. The most likely sites for the establishment of the nursery are both in the Moss Vale area.

I will endeavour to keep you all posted with any new developments relating the Wingecarribee Community Nursery.

With the recent acknowledgement of National Volunteers Week I would like to express my gratitude to all of the tireless volunteers that continue to help all aspects of our community including Bushcare and Landcare.

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

Daniel Anderson

Community Support Officer Landcare

Ph. 02 4861 9014

From the Landcare Coordinator

SOUTHERN TABLELANDS.

Helen Ward

**Southern Tablelands Community Support
Officer – Landcare**

Ph. 02 4828 6752

From the Regional Facilitator

We welcome Daniel Anderson to the Landcare Community Support Officer position in Moss Vale. With Kristy Bewert having moved on to Orange after 18 months in the position, Daniel has taken up the job of supporting Landcare & other community groups in the Wingecarribee & Wollondilly Shires. Daniel has made a very enthusiastic start & has already met and assisted many of the hardworking landcarers across the Southern Highlands. Daniel has a background in hands on environmental management with local government, bush regeneration expertise and has worked with young people in the Green Corp program for several years. Please make contact

with Daniel when you get a chance and let him know of any assistance you or your group requires.

Two new projects of interest to Landcare underway at the moment are the development of a Local Provenance Seed Strategy for our catchment and the preparation of a Hawkesbury Nepean Landcare Report. Both these projects are being undertaken by Mary Mulvaney who is working from our Moss Vale office. Mary has prepared and sent out a survey to 125 Landcare groups across the catchment seeking information on a range of areas including activities/projects groups are carrying out, the extent of local provenance seed/plants use and ways in which groups may require further assistance. We'll keep you updated on these two projects and the findings from them over the next 6 months.

Congratulations to Robertson Environment Protection Society (REPS) for representing NSW at the National Landcare Awards in Melbourne in October. The awards are part of the 2006 International Landcare Conference and Leon Hall & Sandy Morse from REPS are giving a presentation on the group's activities and achievements and attending the awards ceremony, all the best to them.

By now all groups covered by HNCMA's Landcare insurance policy should have received notification of their continued coverage for 2006/07, if you have any questions about the insurance please contact me.

Best wishes & good landcaring

Geoff O'Connor

Regional Landcare Facilitator

We have new phone numbers. at HNCMA's Moss Vale office: Reception: Ph 4861 9010
Geoff O'Connor, Regional Landcare Facilitator
Ph 4861 9012

Daniel Anderson, Landcare Community Support Officer Ph 4861 9014.

**Wingecarribee Environment Fair
2007.**



Unfortunately after several attempts one in July and one in September the national tree day plantings for the Southern Highlands succumbed to the unwillingness of the current weather patterns. Both occasions were washed out by torrential rainfall. Wingecarribee Shire Council co-ordinators Greg Bray and Belinda Rowe would like to thank all groups and volunteers for their intentions and support with the organising of this event. All plants obtained for this event will be planted by Bushcare / Landcare groups on their respective sites.

**WINGECARRIBEE
ENVIRONMENT AWARDS
2006**

This year's awards will be presented at the Wingecarribee Environment Day activities. The Wingecarribee Environment Day is planned for Wednesday the 18th of October and will be held at Corbett Gardens in Bowral. The environment day will show case all the fabulous environmental projects, programs and initiatives that are being undertaken in and around the Shire. This year the focus of the event is on Biodiversity. What this means? And how biodiversity affects flora and fauna communities within the natural environment. Exhibits and workshops are programmed to involve the various school groups that are attending on the day all years 5 and 6.

The very hardworking groups and individuals to be recognised this year are:

AWARD

WINNERS

Rural Living

Grant & Jane Sherborne

Individual Landcarer.....Lyndal Breen
(Moss Vale Landcare)

Individual Bushcarer.....Marion Shanahan
(Burrawang Bushcare)

Landcare Group..... Friends of indigo Creek

Bushcare Group.....Berrima Bushcare

Industrial Award.....Blue Circle Southern
Cement Ltd

Special Award..... Mt Gibraltar Landcare
Bushcare Group.

AROUND THE GROUPS

Parkesbourne / Yarra Landcare Update

Things have been quietly ticking along during winter and our group is now busily participating in and preparing for spring and summer activities.

Recently we held the second workshop in our Rivercare Planning process. We spent lovely Saturday with Joanna Willmott and Brad Davies, Catchment Officers from the Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Authority. Joanna and Brad gave us much food for thought. We spent the morning walking along the Wollondilly River and getting a first hand idea of river processes in action. A number of the group were fortunate enough to see a couple of platypus playing. After a scrumptious BBQ lunch we settled in and learnt a little more about the theory of river processes and what techniques are available to effectively protect and enhance our waterways.

Our September event will see us cleaning up our local tennis court area. This is our community project for the next 12 months to reinvigorate our local tennis court recreational area. We are hoping to encourage our local community to utilise this area more fully through getting the courts operational, removing weeds and replanting with our local native species. We are very glad to have the support of the Yarra Trust, our local Youth group and of course our enthusiastic Landcare members.

In October we will be demonstrating the fabulous work undertaken by two of our members with a Enhancing our Environment field day being held at their successfully completed Envirofund project sites. The

morning will be spent looking at and discussing the reasons for the environmental works undertaken and then a BBQ lunch will give everyone an opportunity to catch up and swap stories.

Cathy Crawford
Chairperson



Photo: The group listening to Brad Davies next to the Wollondilly River

Mount Gibraltar Landcare and Bushcare

September 2006

Although there were some very cold days the winter has been kind to our project. The wild winds do not appear to have done major damage but have certainly helped to dry out the useful rain received earlier. People are becoming more aware of this wonderful place and hundreds of visitors are enjoying the views and the quiet forest in the midst of the urban spread.

Unfortunately we have not been able to progress the landscaping plan for Bowral Lookout Picnic Area this year.

The rain made the Ivy easier to remove and has promoted some regeneration.

We are pleased to report sightings of Greater Gliders, Swamp Wallabies, numerous birds preparing to nest the many tree hollows, some snakes and wonderful insects, all good signs of recovery.

Volunteers have continued to work every Thursday turning the carpet of Ivy into piles for burning by the council WOFE team. We have

welcomed two new volunteers and enjoyed the experienced help of Daniel Anderson on site, and also hosted the Goulburn TAFE students for two days of Ivy experience.

Proust Bushland Services team has been primary weeding the thick infestation of shrubs and Ivy on the steep lower slopes through the NSW Environment Trust grant and the Sydney Catchment Authority Grant. This year the eleven year project has reached \$One Million dollars through the grants plus in-kind labour - and it is looking A MILLION DOLLARS!

Hopefully, in the New Year you will be able to read all about it in our book, *The Gib: Mount Gibraltar Southern Highlands* which is now entering phase two as it goes to the designer and then the printer.

The bushland reserves of the Southern Highlands are becoming more and more precious as the wave of development and the demands of the Sydney footprint threaten to swamp the region. Many of the few remaining stands of native vegetation are cleared away in the name of progress or safety. Our volunteers are very conscious of the importance of their contribution to the world, locally, and we thank them all for their interest and their labour over the year.

Jane Lemann
BOWRAL NSW 2576.

Moss Vale Landcare Group.

Cosgrove Park newsletter – October 2006

Terrific News:

All is organised for planting of the Campbell Crescent area of the Park, including alongside the creek from Campbell Cres, and around the existing willow stumps in the open area.

We have had great help from Blue Circle Southern Cement and the Boral Living Green project. As a result of their support, we will have the help of 10 volunteers from Conservation Volunteers of Australia, who will help for the final 5 days of this project.

We have to do final preparation of the site, lay 13 rolls of jute matting, and spread mulch. Here we are also helped by Blue Circle Southern Cement by the hire and operation of a bobcat for a day, and the provision of a Portaloo for the week.

Moss Vale Public School yr6 pupils will be again helping with planting on three days. There are 3000 plants to be lovingly planted, guarded, and watered, so we will need all the help we can get to finish the major project of rehabilitating Cosgrove Park, improving water quality, and the creek environment.

Can you fit a few hours of your time to be a volunteer? Your help is needed, and it would be great for each one of us to be able to say that we have played a part in this big job of rehabilitating Cosgrove Park. The work schedule runs from Mon 16th October through until Friday 20th October 9am – 3pm on each day.

Just bring yourself, with hat gloves and some sunscreen. A garden trowel & hammer (for knocking in bamboo stakes) may be helpful, but more specialised tools will be provided. There will be morning tea provided.

If you can help, please ring Ken Pogson 48681463. We can assure all helpers that they will have a great time, and leave feeling a great sense of satisfaction.

Ken Pogson
Moss Vale Landcare.

Robertson Environment Protection Society.

Congratulations to all the members of the Robertson Environmental Protection Society on representing NSW Landcare groups at the recent Landcare National Conference held in Melbourne on October 8. REPS had previously received a Nature Conservation Award at the NSW Landcare awards in August last year for their outstanding contribution to the local natural environment around Robertson. Group founders David and Helen Tranter represented the group at the awards in Melbourne.

Robertson Environment Protection Society up coming events.

REPS will be holding a planting day at the Caalang creek site at 9.00am Saturday the 21st of October. All are welcome.

Friday 10th November – REPS Annual General Meeting.

Sunday 29th October – National Parks Association Bushwalk in Macquarie National Pass contact Jim Foran 4885-1081.

Friday 8th December - REPS Christmas Party at the Community Hall Caalang Street Robertson.

Wingecarribee Youth Landcare Group.

On Friday October 13 the Wingecarribee Youth Landcare site was formally launched by the attendance of many local youth groups to a planting day. The site was previously prepared for planting with some soil preparation works being undertaken by Wingecarribee Shire Council, the planting on this site was previously planned as part of the National Tree Day events for the Shire but was washed out. The launch and planting day saw over 400 endemic shrubs and trees planted in this riparian site. The HNCMA provided a BBQ for all attendees who were entertained by some local bands to keep the event rocking.

The Youth Landcare site is located on the corner of Suttor Road and Moss Vale Road on the Wingecarribee River. Special thanks go to **Scott Gibson** from the Wingecarribee Youth Network and **Greg Bray** from Wingecarribee Shire Council for all their work with trying to establish, promote and facilitate the commencement of a Youth Landcare Group in the Wingecarribee Shire.

All young people interested in gaining valuable experience, knowledge and skills to possibly progress career opportunities in the environmental field a rapidly expanding industry sector should contact Daniel Anderson at the Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Office in Moss Vale. 4861-9014

HEDGEWISE

The past few weeks have seen an increase in press and TV coverage in Sydney, of high hedges particularly created by Cypress leylandii.

The Leighton Green variety is known to grow in **excess of 40m** in the UK, its size potential is still unknown in Australian climates and conditions. Whilst other trees may be used to form a vegetative barrier, **none have the potential height and mass of the Leighton Green**.

The overuse of leylandii in urban and rural areas of Wingecarribee Shire is becoming a major concern. As our population and development increases, so does the desire for privacy and effective windbreaks. The continual trend in the use of this species has the potential to create future environmental, social and economic costs and management issues. Fast growing Cypress leylandii has become the popular choice for many residents in the Southern Highlands.

In 2005, the UK "Anti-social Behaviour Act" was extended to allow victims of excessively high hedges to address their loss of amenity such as sunlight and views. Cypress leylandii hedges in particular, having become so massive that they are causing social, economic and environmental stresses within communities dominate matters.

Before planting any new hedge on your suburban, village or rural block, please ask yourself these questions:

- How high and wide will my hedge be in 5 years, 10 years, at maturity?
- Can I afford the time and money to maintain it to a reasonable height?
- Will it take light from my neighbouror ME?
- Will its roots take water and nutrients from OUR gardens?
- Will it take views and landscapes from other residents, the community... or ME?
- Will it adversely effect nearby native vegetation, depriving it of light, nutrients and moisture?
- Will it slow the wind as desired, or just create a wall and turbulence, funnelling the wind elsewhere?
- Will it become a fire hazard; impinge on power lines or sewer pipes? Create heavy shadows and ice patches on roads. Obstruct vision on roads.

- Will it enhance biodiversity, the landscape? Affect fauna habitats and ecosystems?

All good nurseries and landscapers will advise on suitable screening plants for gardens and larger properties, keeping in mind the above points.

Further information on efficient windbreaks which will also enhance the local ecology and landscape can be obtained from CMA / Landcare / Wingecarribee Shire Council.

Jan Hainke - Hedgewise



Photo: Mature Cypress leylandii corridor hedge in the U.K.

TRIBUTE TO PAT JORDAN

Patricia Mary Jordan.
Australia lost one of its most enthusiastic amateur naturalists when Pat Jordan died in Bundanoon on 22 July 2006 aged 62.

Pat trained as a primary school teacher and married Richard Jordan in England in 1965. They went to live in Africa and both taught at a high school in a remote settlement on the shores of Lake Victoria in western Kenya. It was a time of great optimism in the newly independent country and the school offered hope of a higher education to a small portion of the community. Pat taught secondary English and took charge of the student's health, nursing them through malaria and bilharzia. There were no deaths in the 5 years that they were there. Elizabeth their daughter was born during this time.

In 1973 they moved to establish a secondary school in swampland in coastal Papua New Guinea. Pat took charge of teaching English, Mathematics, Art and Home Economics which included practical sewing and cooking. Her students achieved the highest grades of any PNG secondary school at the time. They subsequently moved to a senior high school in the Rabaul area and Pat used her fine artistic talent in teaching gifted students up to the level of University entrance.

Pat and Richard arrived in Jamberoo NSW in 1982 to establish the Barren Grounds Bird Observatory as the founding wardens for Birds Australia. Here Pat exercised all her talents. Much of her time was spent cooking for the adult groups at weekends and school groups at other times. Her abilities in the kitchen with a low budget became legendary. Her love of botany flourished and she built a comprehensive reference herbarium for Barren Ground (now kept at Fitzroy Falls Centre NPWS) Her photographic collection recorded the passing seasons, especially the effect of fire upon the heath land vegetation. Both she and Richard were able to transfer their enthusiasm to, and inspire many people with a love of the natural world and birds in particular.

After 6 years at Barren Grounds they went their separate ways and Pat worked at the Fitzroy Falls Visitors Centre for NPWS as a Discovery Ranger, and at the Mount Kembla Field Studies Centre (Dept Education).

She was dedicated to learning about our natural world and never stopped studying so that she could share it all with the rest of us, especially

children. She was constantly in touch with scientists and their work and kept up with their publications.

In June 2000 Pat's keen botanical eye discovered a previously unknown plant now called *Thismia clavarioides*. It is a member of a small family of tiny plants that flower mainly underground. She gave it the common name of Fairy Lantern as it was found at Fairy Bower, Bundanoon.

Pat generously supported the local Bushcare groups, assisting with flora and fauna surveys, giving her advice and information freely and bringing a variety of fascinating displays to biodiversity exhibitions. These included food plants, fungi, pond life, butterflies, found objects and wonderful photographs of everything. To go for a walk with Pat was the greatest fun and a privilege. It changed one's life as she unveiled the natural world from the birds in the sky to the tiniest plant in the undergrowth. Her enthusiasm was infectious and she has opened many people's eyes to the wonders of the world around them.

She never sought wealth and possessions and lived 'lightly on the earth'. She was distressed by the material excesses of modern Australian society and especially of our abuse of the natural environment. Pat is survived by her partner John, her daughter

Elizabeth and four grandchildren and Richard Jordan who provided this information. She will be greatly missed.

Jane Lemann August 2006



Photo of: Patricia Jordan

Mitre 10 Junior Landcare Grants Program

MITRE 10

Schools or organisations that would like to involve their students in landcare projects in conjunction with local landcare groups can apply for grants (up to \$500) to assist them with their projects. The program targets major issues relevant to our natural environment including:

In addition to on-ground works, projects may also include conservation of natural resources, environmental monitoring programs, waste minimisation, using school grounds as learning centres or undertaking an environmental field trip.

Closing dates: **19 October 2006**

Westpac Banking Corporation



Westpac Operation Backyard is a program that provides funding involving Westpac employees as volunteers for local environment projects.

No closing dates apply

Waratah Fencing Grants



Grants of up to \$2,200 (inc. GST) are available to any community group undertaking strategic land conservation projects that involve fencing. This funding could support fencing that controls livestock to prevent erosion and overgrazing; protects vegetation corridors and watercourses; or segments soil types, native grasses and threatened species to enhance biodiversity.

Closing dates: **10th November 2006**

Dilmah Water Quality Funding



Dilmah is taking a positive lead on improving the quality of water, that essential ingredient not only for Dilmah Tea lovers, but for all Australians and for the Australian environment. Funds will be used to provide

FUNDING FOR LANDHOLDERS

Bundaberg Rum Bush Fund



The Bundaberg Rum Bush Fund assists communities undertaking Landcare projects to improve the health of Australia's land and waterways. In 2006-07, the Bush Fund will not be offering small grants but instead will be developing large scale, targeted initiatives to combat Landcare issues in specific regions. Stay tuned for more information.

Kennards Hire

Kennards Hire is helping to make the landcare job easier with the donation of hire equipment and/or vehicles for their projects. The hire is available in approximate amounts of \$250, \$500 and \$1000.

No closing dates apply



access to water quality monitoring kits and training, as part of community landcare plans to improve water quality.

Closing date: **31 October 2006**

Sony Giveaway

SONY

Landcare groups that register for the National Landcare Directory during October and November will be in the running to receive one of six state-of-the-art Sony digital cameras, worth over \$500. Landcare Networks that register themselves, and also encourage their member groups to register, will be in the running to receive one of nine Sony data projectors, valued at over \$1500.

Climate Action Grants Program Technology Action Grants

Grants are available for up to \$250,000 for projects of up to 2.5 years duration.

Objectives of the program are:

- Support new technologies
- Support the development of products, processes practices and programs which minimise greenhouse gas emissions or assist adaptation to climate change in the waste, transport, agriculture, industry or land use sectors.

Open to private and public sector, industry associations, businesses, community groups, non-profit organisations, local government and individuals.

Visit:

www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/

Phone: (02) 8281 7417

Closes: **27 October 2006**

Energy Saving Fund – Public Facilities Program

For projects that support energy savings in public and educational facilities.

Examples: lighting upgrades, alternative heating outdoor lighting.

Open to councils, schools, educational facilities NSW government agencies.

Energy Saving Grants for Regions and Industry also available.

Visit: www.deus.nsw.gov.au

Phone: (02) 8281 7417

No Closing date.

Secure Funds to Restore Fish Habitats

Community Groups, individuals, fishing clubs, and local councils interested in restoring fish habitats are invited to apply for grants of up to \$30,000.

Projects can include removal of barriers to aid the movement of native fish; the re-establishment of native riparian vegetation, and re-snagging rivers.

Closing Date: **Friday 27th October 2006**

Visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au, or

Phone: (02) 6765-4591

UPCOMING EVENTS

Rick Farley Lectures
2006

"Respect and care for the land and waters we share"

Join the most important discussion of our time!

Rick Farley was a proud Australian possessed of a passionate belief in the Australian people and a deep love for the land and waters we share. Rick died tragically in May 2006, aged 53.

The Rick Farley Lectures will honour this eminent Australian and his life long commitment to finding solutions to the issues that are truly important to our country and its people.

The six **free** public lectures will be held across NSW and explore the issues surrounding the theme *"Respect and care for the land and waters we share"* with a different prominent Australian providing their unique and interesting perspective at each location.

The lectures will look at the challenges for current generations to think and act in ways that reduce social and environmental stress and enable sustainability.

Admission is free but tickets are required. Light refreshments will be provided.

All Lectures will be held at 6pm for 6.30pm start.

Rick Farley Lectures 2006 – Schedule & Tickets
Tickets for the Sydney Lecture on 13th October are available from the Natural Resources Advisory Council Secretariat by phone: 9228 6533 or by email: farleylectures@dnr.nsw.gov.au. Please provide the names, number of tickets, postal address and a contact phone number.

Tickets for the other lectures are available from local providers:

Armidale: Armidale Visitors
Information Centre: 82 Marsh St,
Armidale; phone:
67724655
www.armidaletourism.com.au

Coffs Harbour: Jetty Memorial Theatre
Box Office, corner Harbour Drive
and Edinburgh Street or
phone: 66528088
www.coffsharbour.nsw.gov.au/563

Bathurst: Memorial Entertainment
Centre Box Office; phone 63336161
www.bathurst.nsw.gov.au

Wagga Wagga: Civic Theatre, Tarcutta St;
Box Office phone: 69269688
www.civictheatre.com.au

Newcastle: City Hall Box Office, 290
King St Newcastle; Box Office phone: 49291977
www.civictheatrenewcastle.com.au

Australian Network for Plant Conservation Inc

‘From the ground up’: a workshop on the conservation and rehabilitation of grassy ecosystems of the ACT and region.

Are you interested in native grasslands?
Are you involved in managing and rehabilitating grassy ecosystems?
Do you participate in local rehabilitation projects?
Are you interested in reversing the decline of these fascinating plant communities?

This work shop is for you!

Workshop Fee; includes catering, field trip and information CD. ANPC members **\$175.00**
Non-member **\$195.00**
Concession **\$105.00**

Registration forms available from the ANPC website or office: GPO Box 1777 Canberra ACT 2601, anpc@anpc.asn.au

Registration closes Friday 17th November.

Australian Network for Plant Conservation Inc

‘Rehabilitation and management of disturbed native vegetation’ - **Ulladulla**

Themes include:

- The ecological principals essential to planning a rehabilitation project.
- Understanding the task (the goal for the site, planning, assessing site and vegetation condition, monitoring and ongoing site management).
- Applying ecological principals to rehabilitation projects (local case studies, site visits, demonstration and trialling of techniques).

This workshop will be a mix of presentations by experienced practitioners and visits to selected field sites.

Venue: Ulladulla Civic Centre Princes Hwy Ulladulla NSW.

Workshop Fee; includes catering, field trip and information CD. ANPC members **\$175.00**
Non-member **\$195.00**
Concession **\$105.00**

Registration forms available from the ANPC website or office: GPO Box 1777 Canberra ACT 2601, anpc@anpc.asn.au

Registrations Close: **Friday 13 October 2006.**

Implementing Best Practice for Sustainable Grazing

A joint project between the NSW Department of Primary Industries and the Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Authority is underway to address the problems associated with land degradation. The project: **Implementing Best Practice for Sustainable Grazing**, aims to encourage graziers to apply practices that will

promote sustainable land use. This will be done by providing subsidised training packages to farmers to develop their understanding of natural resource management issues.

Courses offered include **PROGRAZE™**, **LANDSCAN™** and **PADDOCK PLANTS**. These courses will allow landholders to make effective grazing management decisions, to operate within the constraints of their farm's natural resources and to identify important plants in their environment.

Once farmers have completed some training, they will be eligible to apply for financial incentives to assist them implement beneficial land-use changes. Funding is available for the establishment of perennial pastures, to implement sustainable grazing systems and increase biodiversity.



WOLLONDILLY
SHIRE COUNCIL

Wollondilly Council, HNCMA and Department of Primary Industries are running a **FREE Pasture Management and Weeds workshop - Half day**.

When: Saturday 21st October

Where: A private property at Mowbray Park

Time: 9am to 12pm

Cost: Free (morning tea provided)

(Picton) for more details contact 02 46771177

For further information on either PROGRAZE, PADDOCK PLANTS, or LANDSCAN contact Helena Warren Project Officer (Sustainable Grazing) on 4828 6646 or email helena.warren@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Paddock Plants workshop - Half day

At this half day workshop participants will learn how to identify and manage important plants in their paddocks. It is being run by Department of Primary Industries, Hawkesbury Nepean CMA and Wollondilly Shire Council

When: Friday 24th November

Where: University of Sydney, Camden

Time: 9am to 12pm

Cost: Free (Morning Tea and light lunch will be provided)

To register and confirm numbers for catering call Rebecca Mooy (02) 4587 0066 at HNCMA by 10 November 2006.

Wingecarribee Shire Council - Weed Identification Workshop.

Wingecarribee Shire Council are offering home gardeners, landholders, property maintenance contractors and Landcare / Bushcare groups an opportunity to attend a free half day course on weed identification and control methods. The course aims to teach: weed identification of common weed species throughout the Wingecarribee, demonstrate control techniques, safe work practices equipment function and use age, and a longer term strategic approach for the region targeting weed infestation issues. The course will be held at the Wingecarribee Shire Theatre on

November 11 .from 9.30 – 12.30 with a practical session held at Mt Gibraltar in the afternoon

For details contact: Belinda Rowe 4868 1466

Wingecarribee Shire Council Eucalypt Identification Course.

Wingecarribee Shire Council is running a free Eucalypt identification course for gardeners, landholders, property maintenance contractors and Landcare / Bushcare groups. The workshop is designed to make the identification of local Eucalypts as enjoyable and user friendly to interested people as possible. The course will be run on December 9 : From 9.30 -12.30 with a practical afternoon session at the Mt Alexandra reserve.

For details contact: Belinda Rowe 4868 1466

Best Practice Management Guide for Chilean Needle Grass.

Chilean Needle Grass is becoming an emerging weed problem across the Hawkesbury / Nepean Catchment area. A National Best Practice Guide is being produced for Chilean Needle Grass, which will include up to date information on its biology and management. A series of case studies in the guide will demonstrate the range of management approaches to CNG in different situations. The DPI office in Victoria is asking for input from individuals that have experience with Chilean Needle Grass management exercises. If you would like to contribute please contact James Davies, DPI Victoria (03) 9785 0186 or Jamie.Davies@dpi.vic.gov.au

Landholders invited to Weed Removers, Pasture Improvers Workshops

Landholders in the Hawkesbury Nepean (HN) catchment area are invited to attend two practical weed workshops which are being held by the HN Catchment Management Authority (CMA) in October and November at Yarra, south of Goulburn.

Robert Meyer, Landcare Community Support Officer with the CMA, said weeds were once thought to cause pasture decline, "now it is widely accepted weeds are the result of it."

"Effective weed management requires a whole-of-pasture approach. It is about controlling weeds and increasing the capacity of pastures to compete against them."

Key Activities

The workshop will go through the following steps, applying these principles firstly to the host farm, and then to your own example.

- **Where am I?** The starting point, specific pasture composition problems, pasture analysis and some weed identification.
- **Where do I want to be?** A pasture composition target providing the basis for selecting the best tools from the range of options.
- **What tools do I need?** The range of tools that provide a cost effective schedule to weaken

weeds and strengthen desirable species in the pasture (eg spraying, fertiliser & grazing management)

- **How do I get there?** Practical application of the options selected above to achieve the pasture composition target.
- **How do I stay there?** Once the desired pasture composition target is achieved, most importantly, how do I maintain it?

The workshop is sponsored by the Hawkesbury Nepean CMA with funding from the National Landcare Program.

The two-day long workshops cost \$50 per farm family and will be held at Yarra RFS Hall. Landholders can choose to attend either:

Course 1 Saturday 28 October and Saturday 11 November, or

Course 2 Saturday 4 November and Saturday 18 November

Agricultural consultant and former Cooma district agronomist, Stuart Burge will deliver the training with support from Robert Meyer from the CMA.

While not essential for attendance, anyone who has attended PROGRAZE, BeefCheque, or LambCheque will find the pasture assessment skills useful in this workshop.

Bookings are essential. Call Robert Meyer on (02) 4587 0067 to register

WATER, WATER, WATER

Goulburn first with recycled water?

Residents of the NSW town of Goulburn may be the first in Australia to drink recycled water. The Goulburn Mulwaree Council was recently given a \$50,000 federal grant from the Australian Water Fund to assist with its water options. After six consecutive years of poor rainfall, Goulburn (pop 22,000) is considering the construction of a system to recycle water for human consumption. Total dam capacity is now 29%, but the amount available is just 17%. The council is considering a system whereby treated waste water would be

transferred by a pipe into a wetland above the main dam's catchment. The initial \$50,000 will go towards a community consultation process. If the public backs the concept, then the Commonwealth could contribute up to \$11m, with the NSW Government and the council providing matching funds. 'It will be extremely interesting to note the public reaction and response to such initiatives given the continual struggle the Goulburn area has faced with drastic water shortages. The acceptance of recycled water products in Australian communities has varied greatly in different regions'.

Groundwater Management Handbook – A guide for Local Government

The Sydney Coastal Councils Group has finalised and published the Groundwater Management Handbook – A Guide for Local Government. The Handbook provides a single resource that promotes sustainable groundwater management. It has been developed so that the technical and management information it contains can be applied throughout NSW with a particular focus on the Sydney coastal region. It is the only one of its kind in NSW and provides technical, educational and environmental information on groundwater management. To purchase a Hardcopy copy or CD Rom of the Handbook please contact the Sydney Coastal Councils Secretariat on (02) 9246 7702. To download a free copy, go to www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au

New federal Office of Water Resources

The Australian Government has established an Office of Water Resources within the Prime Minister's department to be run by Parliamentary Secretary Malcolm Turnbull. The office will provide and co-ordinate policy advice on water, and will report to the Prime Minister and Mr. Turnbull. While the responsibility for water lies with the states, water is the biggest environmental challenge Australia faces and the Federal Government is taking a growing role in directing and managing a response to the water challenge around Australia. The Australian Government plans to work corroboratively with

states and local governments to ensure that our water future is a secure and sustainable one.

'Big problems, need big solutions I certainly hope we can get effective solutions that are sustainable, functional and effective for future generations to rely on with this imminent onset of climate change'.

DID YOU KNOW?

* The African baobab tree can have a circumference as large as 100 feet. One such tree in Zimbabwe is so wide that the hollowed-out trunk serves as a shelter at a bus stop, with a capacity to hold as many as 40 people.

* Three hundred and fourteen acres of trees are used to make the newsprint for the average Sunday edition of the New York Times. There are nearly 63,000 trees in the 314 acres.

* In Australia's metropolitan Melbourne, about 26 percent of the land is reserved for parks.

Quiz:

1. The limits, for all important environmental features, within which individuals of a species can survive, grow and reproduced is called?
A) **Habitat**
B) **Niche**
C) **Environment**
D) **Territory**
2. Pteridophytes are commonly known as?
A) **Flowering Plants**
B) **Spiders**
C) **Earthworms**
D) **Ferns**
3. A rainforest tree from northern NSW and Qld with poisonous fruits to humans?
A) **Blackbean**
B) **White Cedar**
C) **Gidgee- Gidgee**
D) **Giant Stinging Tree**
4. Captain Cook's men became very ill after eating the seeds from this Australian plant species, unlike the local aborigines who used them as a common source of nutrients. What is the common name of this species?

- A) Cycad – Burrawang
- B) Crabs Eye
- C) Blackbean
- D) Geebung

Answers: Question 1) B, Question 2) D, Question 3) B, Question 4) A.

MITTAGONG GEEBUNG PROFILE

Scientific name: *Persoonia glaucescens*

Conservation status in NSW: Endangered

National conservation status: Vulnerable

Description

The Mittagong Geebung is an erect shrub that reaches up to 3 m tall. It has a mottled stem and brownish-red branches. Its leaves are erect and greyish-green and the young leaves are distinctively waxy. The yellow flowers are produced in the leaf axils and normally appear from late summer to autumn. The fruit resembles a small plum.

Location and habitat

Distribution

The Mittagong Geebung's historical distribution places the northern and eastern limit at Couridjah (Thirlmere Lakes), the southern limit at Fitzroy Falls and the western limit at High Range. However, recent surveys have indicated that the species no longer extends to Fitzroy Falls or Kangaloon and that the present southern limit is near Berrima. The northern limit appears to have contracted a few kilometres south to Buxton.

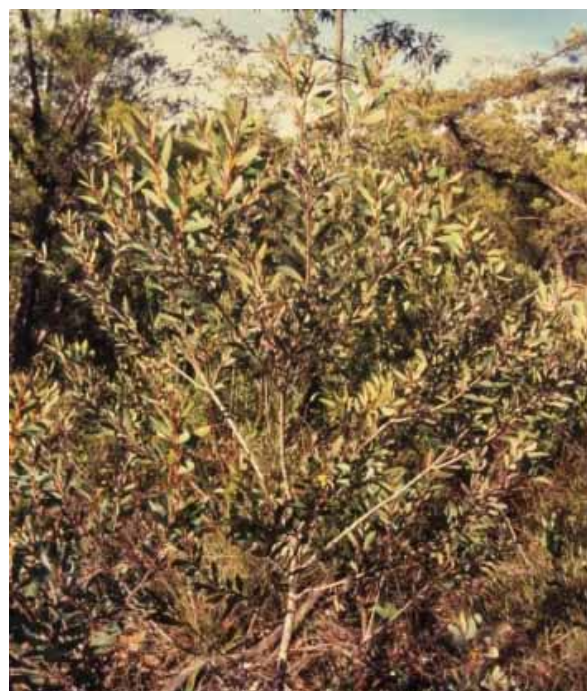
Habitat and ecology

- The Mittagong Geebung grows in woodland to dry sclerophyll forest on clayey and gravely laterite. The preferred topography is ridge-tops, plateaux and upper slopes. Aspect does not appear to be a significant factor.
- Within its habitat, *P. glaucescens* is generally rare and the populations are linear and fragmented. Under ideal circumstances, the species can be locally common, though such conditions are very rare.

- Plants are killed by fire and recruitment is solely from seed.
- Like most *Persoonia*'s this species seems to benefit from the reduced competition and increased light available on disturbance margins including roadsides.

Threats

- Loss of habitat through clearing for urban and small-rural-lot development.
- Burning for hazard reduction and other unnatural ignitions have increased fire frequency and may threaten the species survival.
- Habitat disturbance during road use and maintenance.
- The Mittagong Geebung is endangered due to its very low seed viability.
- The European honey bee *Apis mellifera* may be a factor in the rarity of Mittagong Geebung and several other Geebungs. This is because although *A. mellifera* is able to collect pollen its method of pollen transport makes effective pollination of Geebungs unlikely.
- Many *Persoonia* species are killed following infection by Cinnamon Fungus *Phytophthora cinnamomi*.



Profile thanks to Department of Environment and Conservation website profile; endangered species.



Funding for Hawkesbury Nepean landholders

The Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority (CMA) is calling on expressions of interest from landholders for funding to improve environmental assets on private property in the Hawkesbury Nepean catchment.

Funding is now available to assist landholders to protect and restore:

- River and creek bank vegetation
- Wetlands
- Native bushland and grasslands
- Degraded and eroded land

These Hawkesbury Nepean CMA projects provide technical advice and support to landholders along with the funding. To be eligible, properties must be located within the Hawkesbury Nepean catchment (see map). Works that can be funded include revegetation, fencing, off-stream watering systems, weed and erosion control, depending on your property needs.

More information is available on www.hn.cma.nsw.gov.au/landfunds.htm or by phoning your nearest Hawkesbury Nepean CMA office:

Goulburn (02) 4828 6747; Moss Vale (02) 4868 3829;

**If you would like to contribute to the next edition of
the Wollondilly Warbler!**

Submissions will be due by the 10th of December

**Contact Helen Ward at Goulburn CMA Office to get your item in – received
by over 500 readers**

Contact us:

*Landholders interested in finding out more about funding opportunities, should contact their local Catchment
Management Authority office:*

- **Goulburn: (02) 4828 6747**
- **Moss Vale: (02) 4868 3829**



Locked Bag 2048
Goulburn NSW 2580

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