

THE WOLLONDILLY WARBLER

NEWSLETTER FOR LANDCARE IN THE WOLLONDILLY CATCHMENT AUTUMN 2007

INSIDE

From the Landcare Coordinator	Page 1
From the Landcare Coordinator	Page 2
From the Regional Facilitator	Page 3
Wingecarribee Environment Fair	Page 3
Around the Groups	Pages 4 - 8
Regional Landcare Awards	Page 8
Funding Opportunities	Pages 9 - 10
Up Coming Events	Pages 11 - 14
Did You Know	Page 14
Effective Dams	Page 15
Swift Parrot	Page 15 - 16
Regional Landcare Awards Flier	Page 16

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 to 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.

Daniel Anderson
Southern Highlands Community Support
Officer - Landcare
Ph. 02 4861 9014

From the Landcare Coordinator

SOUTHERN TABLELANDS.

The Landcare community in the Southern Tablelands has been as active as ever since our last newsletter. Many groups are preparing for Spring plantings, removing willows and other woody weeds along waterways and controlling erosion as well as planning their next projects.

Good luck to all the groups who took advantage of the extra activities offered for funding in Round 9 of Envirofund for special circumstance drought declared areas. The Parkesbourne/Yarra Landcare Group put in an application to eradicate feral animals and weeds. Billyrambija and Spring Valley Landcare groups applied for funding to help control weeds such as Serrated Tussock and Saffron Thistle.

Members from Parkesbourne/Yarra, Tarago and Wollondilly/Pomeroy attended First Aid Training which was organised and subsidised by the HNCMA. It was a great opportunity to undertake this most valuable training and I believe a fun day was had by all.

As most of you would know Jenny Schabel, the Bushland Conservation Officer, has taken off to Thailand for 12 months. As a result two new Officers have joined the HNCMA team in Goulburn. Trish Densmore has recently moved across from the Murrumbidgee CMA where she worked as the local Community Support Officer in Cootamundra for the last 18 months. Angie Mooney, a local from Spring Valley, has returned

to the area and is looking forward to working with the local landholder in the Goulburn area.

So far there has been quite a lot of interest in the Bushland Conservation Project which helps conserve and enhance native vegetation by providing funding to fence off remnants, plant local native trees and shrubs and to control weeds. If you would like more information or would like to arrange a site visit please phone (02) 4828 6747 or drop into the HNCMA office in Goulburn.

As Geoff has already mentioned the HNCMA are calling for nominations for the Regional Landcare Awards for 2007. I hope to receive quite a few nominations from the Goulburn area as it would be great to get some recognition for all the fantastic work that that has been done.



Russell Glover - NRM Facilitator, myself and Glen

The secretaries of all the groups in the area would have received an invitation for Landcare members to attend the NSW Launch of the Elders Landcare Farming Partnership. The partnership aims to promote sustainable farming practices amongst Australian farmers. It was a good opportunity to meet all those involved with the Landcare movement and of course Landcare ambassador, Glenn McGrath.

Please also remember to keep sending your stories, articles and other relevant information to help make this newsletter a valuable resource for Landcare groups throughout the Wollondilly catchment

Helen Ward
Southern Tablelands Community Support
Officer - Landcare
Ph. 02 4828 6752

From the Regional Facilitator

Hello again from my desk in Moss Vale. In the months since our summer edition of the Warbler many areas of the Wollondilly catchment have received some useful rainfall. Many Landcare groups and landholders have made the most of the improved conditions and have carried out a range of landcaring activities; unfortunately others have not had the same opportunities.

Despite some changes to state government agencies since the recent NSW election I'm very happy to report that we are still working for the Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority and Helen, Daniel and I continue to offer assistance and support to landholders, Landcare groups and networks and schools.

You'll find information inside about our call for your help in recognising those people in our community who are making a real difference to our environment. For the first time we are holding the Hawkesbury Nepean Regional Landcare Awards. There are a range of categories you can enter or nominate others for and our winners will go on to be judged in the NSW Landcare Awards.

As well as a wide range of activities and meetings happening at the group level a number of workshops and events have been on recently including another very successful Wingecarribee Environment Fair.

Please contact us with your information and ideas from around the Wollondilly end of our catchment.

Geoff O'Connor
Regional Landcare Facilitator
Ph 4861 9012

Wingecarribee Environment Fair 2007.

The Wingecarribee Environment Fair was held again recently on Wednesday 16th May in the Corbett Gardens Bowral. The event was organised and supported by the Wingecarribee Landcare / Bushcare Network, Wingecarribee Shire Council and The Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority.

This year's event was designed to address and educate the school groups on the importance of living sustainably. This life skill being '*easier said than done*' in a modern world becoming increasingly resource hungry.

'*Green living - how big is your footprint*' the theme for this years environment fair looked at addressing this burdening issue using simple techniques and strategies that can be implemented at home and in school.

The fair was well attended by the region's local primary schools that all provided positive feedback to the organisers. The school groups hope to implement in many ways what they retained from the day's workshops. Some of the workshops run on the day were:

- Backyard Biodiversity – How to create sustainable habitat for wildlife in your backyard?
- Southern Highlands Permaculture – How to produce your own quality organic foods at home?
- Climate Action Now Wingecarribee – Addressed the groups on food production, what energy and resources go into the production of many of our current food types and commodities?

The school groups this year were involved in an environmental design competition where students were required to design an environmental project or concept that could be introduced into the school to help address or promote environmental practices and learning within the school.

The quality of the entries across the board was outstanding and we would like to acknowledge the following category winners.

1st Place winners received a book voucher and certificate:

Nicholas Pinczi - Year 2 - Bowral Public School
Izzy Lawrence - Year 4 - Burrawang Public School
Susannah Newton - Year 5 - Robertson Public School
Erica Longhurst - Year 5 - Burrawang Public School

The following entrants received certificates and were highly commended for their entries:

Ben Seiboth - Year 2 - Bowral Public School
Isabella Fisk - Year 4 - Burrawang Public School
Jessica Stuart - Year 6 - Burrawang Public School
Chloe Ryman - Year 6 - Burrawang Public School

A book was awarded to Penrose Public School team:
Riley Courtney – Pratt - Year 6
Stephanie Armida - Year 6
Will Sperzel - Year 3



The Wingecarribee Landcare / Bushcare network would like to thank all the groups and organisations that facilitated a work shop during the day we hope to see you all at next years event.

AROUND THE GROUPS

Yamanda Aboriginal Landcare Group

The Yamanda Aboriginal Association has recently established a Landcare group. The group aims to raise awareness within the local community about aboriginal heritage and the cultural history connected to the land throughout the region. The group will be undertaking project work on several significant areas within the Wingecarribee Shire particularly embracing involvement with the young members of their community providing a 'Connection to country'.

Yamanda is pleased to announce the following aboriginal film festival soon to be held in Bowral.

The "Woonjeegaribay" Aboriginal Film Festival is being held during National Indigenous Sorry Week 2007 and will commemorate the local initiation of the nation-wide Sorry Books Campaign in 1997 and decade of Reconciliation in the Wingecarribee.

This second local three-day Aboriginal Film Festival, named "Woonjeegaribay" (the

Aboriginal word for Wingecarribee) will celebrate the multiple layers of culture and inspiring creative talents of Australian Aboriginal film makers.

The Festival is offering a one-day school program and four sessions that will screen a wide range of films including an inspiring new release "Kanyini", a wonderful 'season of shorts', a 'golden oldie', "The Chant of Jimmy Blacksmith" and several moving documentaries. "Kanyini" (which means Interconnectedness in Pitjantjatjara) to be screened at the launch on Friday May 25th is a hard hitting yet beautiful film that exposes the ins and outs of the world's oldest living culture in a way that's never been seen before. What makes the film special is Bob: wise, thoughtful, with a sadness that lacks rancour. Perhaps the greatest gift a person can give another is a piece of themselves. This film is Uncle Bob's gift to a world that right now needs to stop and just listen.

The Film Festival, is directed by Yamanda Aboriginal Association members. Aunty Val and Trish Levitt, working with local film maker Susan Davis, are being sponsored by the Wingecarribee Community Foundation Ted Kennedy Aboriginal Fund, The Yamanda Aboriginal Association and the Empire Cinema and is supported by the Wingecarribee Reconciliation Group.

Proceeds from the Festival will go to the WCF Ted Kennedy Aboriginal Fund to assist local Aboriginal people, including support in the area of education.

WANDJINA MAN to visit MITTAGONG

THE OLYMPICS 2000 WANDJINA
by Donny Woolagoodjat

Opening Ceremony - Sydney Olympics
KIMBERLEY 'CULTURAL AMBASSADOR'

Speaking in the Southern Highlands. Greeting local aboriginal representatives. Coincides with launch of new book on Aboriginal Art.



Leah Umbagi GYORN GYORN

The giant WANDJINA_ screened live around the world during the opening of Sydney's 2000 Olympic Games. His work is internationally recognised by national galleries and museums. He is coming to Mittagong – accompanied by films of his life and work.

Donny Woolagoodja is a renowned Aboriginal artist and will visit the NSW Southern Highlands early in June 2007

The Senior Mowanjum Artist and Wandjina Custodian will give a talk on his work and open the exhibition. **'Spirit of the WANDJINA' opens 1pm Saturday 2nd June.** An artist floor talk will be held the following day Sunday 3 June at the Gallery from 1pm – 2pm
The exhibition consists of paintings and etchings by Donny Woolagoodja and works on canvas by five MOWANJUM Artists including Leah Umbagai and Barunga.

**EXHIBITION of new KIMBERLEY
Mindirr Gallery II Fine Arts
Suite 2 / 2 Queen St Mittagong NSW
Enquiries: (02) 4871 3955**

It's the first time Kimberley art has been shown in the Southern Highlands – or in regional NSW. But there is a strong resonance with local Mittagong and Southern Highlands Aboriginal descendants. With 500 rock art sites in Wingecarribee shire Gundungarra Aboriginal descendants and rock art researchers are equally keen to attend the exhibition.

Wingecarribee Youth Landcare Group.

Has recently established a new management committee. The committee has been put together with the inclusion of three local members from the Youth Community Radio station. The new committee has been established to help with the direction of projects and plans for the Landcare Group. It is imperative that the Youth Landcare group is providing members with the opportunity to be involved in projects that reflect their needs and interests.

There are some important up and coming events planned for the Youth Landcare group including a concert and plant out on the Wingecarribee River.

Thank you to the Youth Landcare representatives that ran the promotional stall at the recent 'Distraction' concert event held by the Mad Youth network at Loseby Park in Bowral, I believe this was an extremely successful event.

We would also like to welcome on board the involvement of the Moss Vale High School group who will be undertaking Landcare work projects on the Wingecarribee River on a fortnightly basis.

Daniel Anderson
Youth Landcare Committee member

Willow Warriors Report

Willow Warriors is a Landcare group that works on Willow Control projects around NSW. We focus on sections of river that are difficult for contractors to access and where our rafts and whitewater experience can get in to map and treat invasive willow species.

We currently have projects on the Colo, Gross, Hawkesbury, Goobarragandra, Upper Murrumbidgee Wingecarribee and lower Wollondilly River. Initially we were asked by Wingecarribee Shire Council if we could help to treat willows on one and a half kilometers of the river between the Berrima Weir and the Old Hume Highway.

We are also helping treat the Salix Cinerea infestations at Cecil Hoskins reserve by treating the willows on the small islands in the middle of the lake and will probably work on other islands upstream of the reserve.

Part of our approach to willow control is to map where invasive willows are in a catchment, assess the risks of re-infestation from adjoining catchments and then prepare a plan to treat the willows. Not all landowners will give permission to remove their willows and so we then put in place an ongoing monitoring project to manage the willows spreading from these plants as well as monitoring for the re-infestation from adjoining catchments or willows missed in the initial mapping and treatment.

So far we have mapped the following sections:
Wingecarribee - Sproules Lane and Cecil Hoskins Reserve where there were about 30 crack willows and large galleries of Salix Cinerea from small seedling to mature trees

Wingecarribee - Camp ground in Berrima down to McArthurs Crossing where there were about 270 crack willows down to the freeway bridge and another 120 downstream of the bridge.

Wollondilly – Nature Resort to 3 kilometers below Goodman's Ford where there were 140 crack willows

At this stage it looks like the only two invasive species causing a problem in the catchment are Crack Willow (Salix Fragilis) and Pussy willow (Salix cinerea). With the Wingecarribee Shire Council, Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority, Sydney Catchment Authority and National Parks and Wildlife Service we will prepare a plan to continue the mapping, priorities the treatment, track the treatment activities and initiate a willow monitoring process for the catchment.

If you would like to be involved in our paddles along the river to map, treat or monitor the willows please contact Jeff Cottrell at willowwarriors@optusnet.com.au



Willow warriors in action recently.

Taralga Landcare Group

The ongoing drought promoted a change of thinking for Taralga Landcare members when deciding on projects for the coming year. Instead of rehabilitation the group decided that improving water quantity and quality in the village water supply Woolshed creek was a worthy project.

A rough budget for injection, cutting removal of all willows in a 600 metre section of the creek plus some rehabilitation and maintenance was produced. Next, find the funding. Well at the time the first round of Community Water grants [CWG] were available. 'We will try for that' said President John Dymock. The relevant Authorities were contacted, all 8 of them to gauge their support. The local landholder also needed to be on side. Max and Glennis Wright gave us full cooperation and the application went in.

The community was engaged through the Progress association who also gave great support. CWG granted us the funds and we were on our way. Local contractor Stuart McLean "treated" the Willows in March which was before the funds arrived. Upper Lachlan council gave great support by paying all the bills before we had the funds to do so. We did pay them back!!!

In August the big cut and clear commenced. Some of the trees were over 1 metre in diameter and 30 metres high. We now have the biggest pile of dead willow wood in the south ... too green to burn so that will wait till next winter. Rehabilitation is planned but that will wait till seasonal conditions improve.

What is gained? Roughly, a willow in summer will transpire a similar amount of water as will evaporate from a free water surface. In all, we estimate around 2 hectares of willow canopy was removed. The removal of decaying willow leaves from the water in autumn will vastly improve water quality, lower treatment costs and better the taste to the scotch and water, most important in Taralga. It's all to do with Bod and loss of oxygen in decaying organic matter.

Well, the results are a clear creek bank, much better sight on the road, and, at present the creek is running particularly well. No willows to suck up the water. Opening up the bank to light will generate all sorts of growth, native grasses weeds and possibly a few willow sticks.

Stage 2 will be the next 400 metres for which the application has been sent to CWG.

Taralga Landcare committed to a sustainable environment



Tarlo / Middle Arm Landcare group

Our first project is now well underway along Rhyanna Road where it crosses the Tarlo River. Willows have been poisoned and removed from the eastern bank of the river with assistance from the Goulburn Correctional Centre.

The Upper Lachlan Council have assisted in chipping a number of the willow heaps for us. We are now entering stage two of the project which entails landscaping and planting of local flora.

The Group has two other projects in the pipeline, the first being a gravel dump site on Crookwell Road and the second being willow removal on a

reserve at Tarlo River Bridge on the Taralga Road. We are in negotiations with a Council and Government Department for funding and approvals.

Clean Up Australia Day saw eight of our members and two HNCMA personnel attend Alison Hone Reserve on Crookwell Road. They removed about thirty bags of rubbish from a new section of this reserve and built a pile of rusting steel around a dumped chassis of a car. It was a very good effort by all concerned under the management of Bill Wilkes.

John Kowalenko Secretary

Photo: Left to right. Gillian Young, Lyn Miller, Barbara O'Neill, Helen Ward, Bill Wilkes (partially obscured) Mark O'Neill and Margaret Wilkes.



Parkesbourne / Yarra Landcare Group

Our first meeting for 2007 was held at the Yarra Fire shed on the 17th of February. We had a new member join us who is happy to propagate seeds collected from our area to use in any future revegetation projects.

One of the group's ongoing projects is to resurrect the Yarra Tennis Courts. We are removing grass from the courts and clearing away the old exotic trees around the courts and barbecue area. Native trees will be planted in their place. This will provide a lovely area for the community to enjoy in the future.

Funding has been received through the HNCMA's Bushland Protection Scheme to fence

and revegetate part of an unused Crown Road on the Bensley's property at Yarra. Two other members are also involved in projects through CMA funding.

Marie Bensley & Nancy Brook

Hilton Park Preservation Group

Hilton Park Landcare Group has been successful in receiving our first grant from the Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority

The grant will allow us to commence weed eradication and revegetation of the private land bordering Myrtle Creek. The Wollondilly Community Nursery will provide all of the tube stock for the project.

There will be two additional properties to be considered in the next round of grants. After the Hilton Park Landcare Group assists with the delivery of these projects, the HNCMA will then assist in acquiring a Landcare grant for the group to commence works on the "Public" Council land. We will work closely with Wollondilly Shire Council on this project.

We have also applied to the Sydney Catchment Authority to join the Streamwatch program. This will allow us to monitor the health of Myrtle Creek and the Order 1 stream in our area. These waterways are tributaries of the Nepean River.

Mount Gibraltar Landcare and Bushcare

We are really proud of our new book
The Gib, Mount Gibraltar Southern Highlands
(full colour, 264 pages, well illustrated hard cover book RRP \$49.95)

It is now available from the Council Civic Centre, Moss Vale and local bookshops. It has taken three years to complete this amazing community project. It tells the story of the tree-clad bluff between Bowral and Mittagong where we have been working for 14 years restoring the reserve on the summit of Mount Gibraltar.

The book tells the story of the aboriginal occupation and European settlement. It explores the industrial history of the famous Bowral Trachyte quarries and describes the restoration

and the natural history of the endangered forest in the Reserve.

It is an informative, attractive and scholarly book that will provide an enduring reference work about this significant landmark. It has been researched, written and illustrated voluntarily, as a community project by knowledgeable people under the auspices of Wingecarribee Shire Council and generously financed by donations from local friends, the Norman Wettenhall Foundation and Australia Post- Landcare.

Gaye Belbin, of Boxcar Graphics, has done a masterly job of assembling all the varied components to produce this beautiful book.

Money raised after expenses are met, will be held for the on-going care of Mount Gibraltar Reserve.

Our volunteer bush regenerators have finally completed work on a badly weed infested site and are now working down the slope towards the boundaries while contributing the hours to the Envirofund Round 8 grant which supports Proust Bushland Services in bringing work right down to the quarry area. This will complete a major stage of the restoration project.

The rain has brought a sparkle to the recovering forest and many and varied fungi to the surface.

REGIONAL LANDCARE AWARDS

Regional Landcare Awards

We'd like to recognise some of the great work that has been done in the Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment. Individuals, community groups, schools, aboriginal groups, primary producers and local governments have all contributed to improving our natural resources.

So we're holding the first Hawkesbury Nepean Regional Landcare Awards. There are 9 different categories of awards and the winners of our regional awards will go on to be judged for the 2007 NSW Landcare Awards which will be presented in Tamworth at the NSW Landcare Forum in October.

We have had a number of finalists from our catchment at the NSW Landcare Awards in previous years and Robertson Environment Protection Society won the *Nature Conservation*

category in 2005 and went on to the National Landcare Awards in Melbourne last year.

Prizes for each category include a plaque and \$500 towards the cost of attending the NSW Awards in Tamworth or the money can be spent on your on ground project.

The nomination process is fairly simple, just complete an entry form, address the criteria for the category in 250 words and attach a couple of photos. So please have a think about who you reckon deserves to be nominated for an award and get an entry form from Daniel Anderson or Helen Ward.

FUNDING FOR LANDHOLDERS

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



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:

3rd August 2007

18 October 2007

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

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

Closing date: **26 October 2007**

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.

Landholder Conservation Incentives Program

The program is a new initiative of the Hawkesbury Nepean CMA and Sydney Metro CMA and the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) that aims to encourage and facilitate management of significant remnants of endangered ecological communities and threatened species. Activities that are likely to be funded under this program include:

- Habitat restoration and creation works
- Weed and feral animal control.
- Community workshops
- Fire management activities
- Preparation of property management plans
- Production of education material
- Fencing of remnants
- Monitoring programs

No Closing Date.

Contact Kathryn Collins (02) 9585 6575



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) 4861 9010

UPCOMING EVENTS

MANAGING FIRE ON YOUR PROPERTY: Hotspots workshop series for landholders



**HOTSPOTS HELPS PEOPLE
TO MANAGE FIRE FOR
HEALTHY LANDSCAPES**

1. What's it all about?

For many land managers and communities, the responsible use and management of fire represents an ongoing challenge. Eliminating fire is neither a practical nor an ecologically appropriate solution. We live in fire prone landscapes. Meeting the challenges associated with fire requires effective planning and collaboration within communities, between agencies and across tenures.

Through a coordinated program of literature review, training and education initiatives, the **Hotspots Fire Project** is translating science into a practical management framework for land managers and regional communities. The Hotspots team puts together the latest developments in ecological fire management, works with current fire legislation and provides access to materials for landholders through workshops.

The project works with landholders, members of the community, scientists, Volunteer Brigades, the Rural Fire Service, Catchment Management Authorities, Public land managers and others. Workshops include a one day workshop for landholders on fire ecology & fire legislation & other important information relevant to managing fire on your property. For those who are interested, Hotspots then organises a second day of map-based fire

planning with landholders for their own property.

This results in an overall plan for fire management, including fire protection measures & planned fire activities such as hazard reduction. The goal is to protect economic, social *and* environmental assets.

The Hotspots team is keen to hear from landholders who are interested or actively involved in fire management planning on their property.

If you would like more information about the Hotspots Fire Project or would like to become involved, please contact the Hawkesbury-Nepean Project Facilitation team by calling Heather Pearce on (02) 9818 2684 or email:

heather@sydney.net

Further information is available on the Hotspots website at

www.hotspotsfireproject.org.au



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™**, **PROGRAZE For Horses**, **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.

For further information contact Helena Warren
Department of Primary Industries Goulburn
Office on **4828-6646** or email
Helena.warren@dpi.nsw.gov.au

2007 Partnerships Conference
Healthy Landscapes –
Local People Leading
7th - 9th August 2007
Narooma Golf Club, Narooma NSW

Welcome to the beautiful Narooma in the Eurobodalla Shire encompassed within the Southern Rivers CMA region. As each week passes the importance of our natural resources and their management becomes more prominent. It is only by banding together to concentrate our

efforts on preserving what is left, restoring what has been damaged and learning new sustainable practices that we can gain better outcomes for the future.

Join us to celebrate the many great achievements of our landholders and community members who are working with Local Government, Landcare, Indigenous communities and industry to make a real difference.

Pamela A. Green
Chair - Southern Rivers CMA

Registration

Registrations are available online at
www.southern.cma.nsw.gov.au.

If you are unable to register online, please complete the registration form and send to:
Conference Logistics
PO Box 201 Deakin West ACT 2600
Fax: 02 6285 1336.

All registration enquiries please contact:
Conference Logistics on 02 6281 6624
conference@conlog.com.au.

For general enquiries please contact:
Rebecca Hamilton – SRCMA - 02 4224 9711
rebecca.hamilton@cma.nsw.gov.au

Registrations close 27th July 2007.

Biodynamic Farming and Gardening Workshop

Dear Network

There is an upcoming course in Biodynamic Farming and Gardening occurring in Moss Vale at the end of May. One of our members is hosting the workshop and requested me to advertise it through the Network.

"The Biodynamic approach to soil fertility is to enhance, strengthen and balance the life forces within the soil and impart this vitality to the plants we grow"

Dates:

Level 1: Friday 25th May (evening only)
Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th May
Cost: \$750

Level 2: Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th June.

For more information visit
www.biodynamiceducation.com
Or, call Lynette West on 02 6297 2729



**WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY
ADDRESS
Tuesday 5th June at 5.30pm**

**Wingecarribee Shire Council Theatrette,
MOSS VALE
All Welcome**

**Dr. Mark Diesendorf
A leading sustainable energy analyst
and campaigner**

Dr Mark Diesendorf teaches and researches on sustainable energy and greenhouse gas reduction strategies at the Institute of Environmental Studies, University of New South Wales. He is an expert on renewable energy sources and ecologically sustainable development. He has presented the case for sustainable energy on ABC national radio and television programs, such as "Difference of Opinion", "Four Corners" and "The Science Show". He is author of the new book Greenhouse Solutions with Sustainable Energy (UNSW Press, 2007). Dr Diesendorf will speak for 45 minutes and take questions from the audience for the next 45 minutes. Come prepared. Invite all your friends.

Global warming from the human-induced greenhouse effect is accelerating. To avoid some of the worst consequences, Australia and other

developed countries must reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases by 30% by 2020 and by at least 80% by 2050. This will involve a complete transformation of our energy system. Neither coal with the capture and burial of carbon dioxide emissions nor nuclear power can make a significant contribution before 2020. Fortunately, sustainable energy - that is, efficient energy use, renewable energy and natural gas as a transitional fuel - can do the job, provided all levels of government cooperate. The barriers to sustainable energy are neither technological nor economic, but rather are the political power of the big greenhouse gas emitting industries.

For further information, contact David Tranter on 4885 1394

**A CANWIN EVENT
(CLIMATE ACTION NOW,
WINGECARRIBEE)**

**This address is followed, next door in the
CWA Rooms, by John Kerin, Guest Speaker
at the National Parks Association AGM
(7.30pm - 9pm)**

**SUSTAINABLE VILLAGE
SLIDE SHOW**

**Set in the north Indian Himalayas; Ladakh is
one of the highest and driest places on earth,
yet despite such a harsh environment the
Ladakhi people have been living sustainably
for centuries.**

**A visually stunning slideshow about a rich and
self sustaining culture placed on top of the
world!**

**THURSDAY 31ST MAY
6 - 8pm**

**The Macarthur Centre for Sustainable Living
1 Mount Annan Drive, Mount Annan
\$15 incl. tea/coffee**

**Bookings: Lizzie 4647 6594,
lizzie.rose@mcsll.org.au www.mcsll.org.au**

Want to join the next Korinderie Ridge regeneration week?

Bookings are now open for the Korinderie Ridge community's 4th annual bush regeneration volunteers' camp (6 - 10 August 2007).

The idea is that, in exchange for some not-too-strenuous pulling of Lantana for about 3 hours each morning (over 5 days), the host Korinderie Ridge community provides delicious meals and great campsites, as well as guiding short bushwalks each afternoon in interesting local areas including the (adjacent) Bundjalung National Park. (Volunteers will need to bring their own tent, sleeping mat and sleeping bag etc.)

Enquiries: Tein or Graeme 02 6682 2885.)

DID YOU KNOW?

Mount Kembla is the site of Australia's worst mining disaster when at 2pm on July 31, 1902; a gas explosion killed 96 men and boys. The explosion could be heard seven miles away, and in the end 33 women were left widows and 120 children fatherless.

Quiz:

1. What is the length of the Murray-Darling River, the longest river in Australia?

- A) 3,420 kilometres
- B) 1,896 kilometres
- C) 2,739 kilometres
- D) 3,822 kilometres

2. Which NSW Central Western Town is known as 'the hub of the west'?

- A) Bathurst
- B) Dubbo
- C) Broken Hill
- D) Parkes

3. The largest city in the Illawarra – Wollongong means what in Aboriginal?

- A) The sound of the sea
- B) Site of the great corroboree
- C) Meeting place
- D) Fearful place

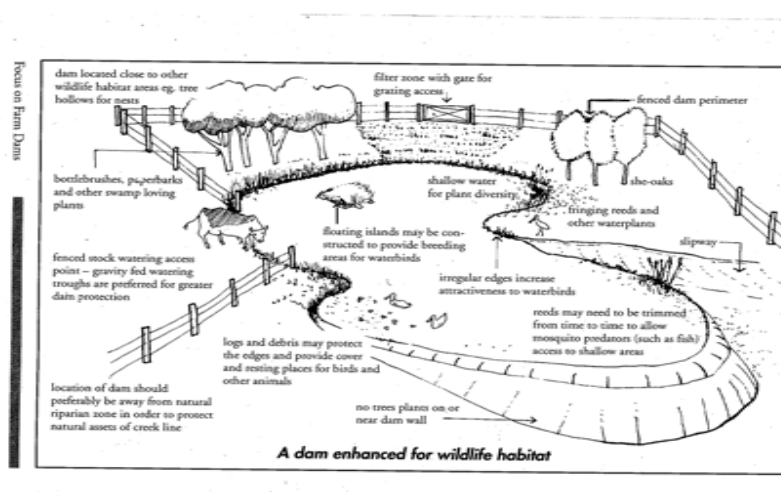
4. There is a small country town in New South Wales that became famous (or should I say infamous) for conducting a town-wide DNA collection of the male residents in 1999 after a violent crime in that town. Where was this done?

- A) Wagga Wagga
- B) Wellington
- C) Wee Waa
- D) Werris Creek

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

Questions sourced from
<http://www.funtrivia.com/quizzes/geography/index.html>

EFFECTIVE DAM DESIGN



SWIFT PARROT

Characteristics of Swift Parrot (*Lathamus discolor*) nesting habitat



Swift Parrots in Tasmanian Blue Gum
Photo: Aleks Terauds

After over-wintering on mainland Australia, Swift Parrots migrate to Tasmania for breeding. Nesting distribution is determined by hollow bearing trees and the availability of foraging resources. Breeding locations vary

annually in response to flowering patterns of Blue Gums. Breeding habitat has been reduced considerably due to land clearance through agriculture, forestry activities and urban development. Habitat loss and fragmentation are seen as the main threat to the Swift Parrot.

Loss of hollows and high value food resources affect Swift Parrots directly, while recruitment of hollow bearing trees is an important consideration for conservation in the future.

Most of the population nests in a series of loose aggregations. The size of these nesting aggregations is most likely determined by the availability of potential nest trees and foraging resources. My study investigated nesting preferences of Swift Parrots within known nesting aggregations by examining trees, tree hollows, Blue Gum flowering, topographic and other environmental variables.

The study revealed that Swift Parrots select eucalypts with multiple hollows, large trunk Diameters and in noticeably advanced stages of senescence. These trees are most likely to provide suitable nest hollows.

Aggregated nesting was associated with heavy Blue Gum flowering nearby.

The study suggests that where foraging resources are abundant, hollow availability is the main factor Influencing the Swift Parrot's selection of a nesting site or tree. Trees with numerous hollows are more likely to provide a suitable hollow for the Swift Parrot than trees

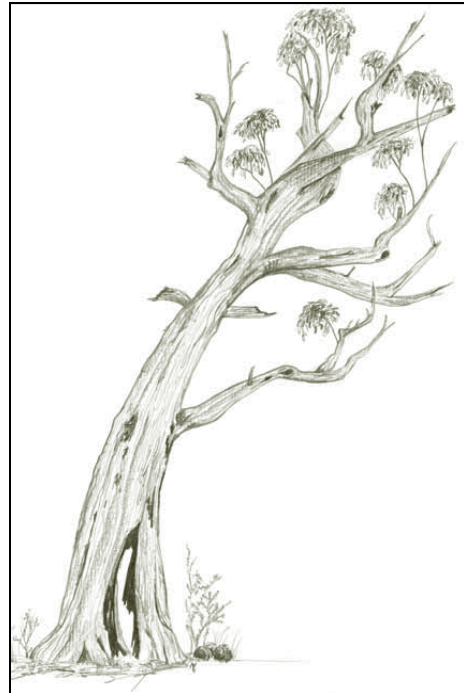
with fewer hollows. It is suggested that hollow supply attracts Swift Parrots and thus influences nest occurrence and distribution.

The average number of potential nest hollows suitable for Swift Parrots was 10 per nest tree. Swift Parrots nest in dead or alive trees and do not prefer a particular tree species for nesting. The frequency of nests in a given tree species at each site was more associated with the availability of this species in the nesting habitat.

Many land uses do not offer time and space for the natural regeneration of hollows. A lack of hollows may increase competition between hollow dependent species with unforeseeable impacts. Insufficient foraging habitat can limit densities of breeding birds, while a shortage of nest sites can have the same effect where food is abundant. Poor flowering on a local scale is likely to result in low use of suitable tree hollows by Swift Parrots.

I hope the findings of my study will aid identification of Swift Parrot breeding habitat

and increase awareness of the need to manage tree hollows.



'Nest Tree' by Janneke Voogdt
Profile thanks to by Janneke Voogdt - School of zoology University of Tasmania.



2007 Hawkesbury Nepean Regional Landcare Awards



Hawkesbury Nepean CMA is hosting the inaugural Regional Landcare Awards and is looking for nominations from the community.

Call for nominations

Do you know people and projects in your part of the Hawkesbury Nepean region that are making a real difference to our environment? Would you like to nominate them or nominate your own group?

There are nine award categories:

1. Individual Landcarer
2. Rivercare
3. Nature Conservation
4. Landcare Community Group
5. Local Government Landcare Community Partnership
6. Primary Producer
7. Landcare Education
8. Indigenous Community
9. Coastcare/Estuary Community Group

To make it easy for you, a nomination involves

- Filling in a one page entry form
- Writing a 250 word description of your project / group / individual
- Attaching two photos.

Closing date for nominations is 22 June 2007

Award winners will go on to judging for the NSW Landcare Awards to be held in Tamworth, 25-27 October 2007.

For further information and an application form contact:
Daniel Anderson Ph 4861 9014 or Helen Ward Ph 4828 6752

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

Submissions will be due by the 10th July 2007

**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

POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA