



March 2007



Special points of interest:

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The Stonequarry Landcare Group, over the last 5 years, has been relentlessly removing weeds and revegetating the area underneath the viaduct behind Victoria Oval, in Picton. The area doesn't just have an environmental focus; it is also historically significant, as it was once used as a public bathing area for the residents of Picton.

A new bench seat donated by the Stonequarry Landcare Group, will be placed at their worksite soon. Wollondilly Shire Council is currently sourcing further funding for the group and the Redbank group to enhance their current work sites, and continue the fantastic efforts of these groups.

Redbank Landcare Group

The Redbank Landcare group regularly works on two sites in Picton, Maidstone Street and behind the Leisure Centre along Redbank Creek. The vegetation remnants in the area belong to the Endangered Ecological Communities, Shale Sandstone Transition Forest and Riparian Sydney Coastal River Flat Forest.

Thanks to funding from the Hawkesbury Nepean CMA's Local Government Partnership Program and the federal government's Community Water Grants, the Wollondilly Shire Council has recently started rehabilitation works along Picton's urban Creeks. The \$75 000 is being used by the Council to remove weeds and plant trees on Redbank Creek adjoining the Landcare groups work site, also Matthews Creek and Myrtles Creek.

These creeks flow into Stonequarry Gorge Creek and later to the Nepean River. The health of Picton's urban catchment is important as it receives the flow from the most populated areas of the Shire.



Welcome to a New Group - Theresa Green Landcare

Recently the residence association of the Theresa Green Estate, near Cobbitty, have formed a Landcare group. The group will work together to manage the weeds, particularly Lantana and African Olive, and the bushland on the Estate's common land.

If you would like to join the group contact:
John Gill
Ph: 4651 1761



Redbank Group's site behind the Leisure Centre (above) and swimming pool site (below left)



Funding Available



The Australian Government Envirofund is now open and closes Friday, 27th April 2007

Envirofund offers funding for local on ground projects across Australia.

For more information visit the Natural Heritage Trust at www.nht.gov.au/envirofund



Community Development Grant Program

Community Groups, including local Landcare groups can apply for this yearly grant of upto \$3 300 (incl. GST) to help improve the local community and environment. The funds can help a community group with money for tools and equipment, or help raise awareness and encourage more community members to get involved.

Flexibility in the allocation of funds aims to help groups in the ability to grow with the community

For more info visit www.landcareonline.com

Closing date 30 April 2007

Schools or organizations that would like to involve their students in Landcare projects in conjunction with local Landcare groups can apply for grants (upto \$500) to assist with their projects.

In addition to on-ground works, projects may also include conservation of natural resources, environmental monitoring programs, waste minimization, using school grounds as learning centres or undertaking an environmental field trip. Closing dates coming up for this grant are 1 March and 17 May 2007 .

For more info visit .mitre10.com.au/about/communitySupport

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

Contact
Kathryn Collins (02) 9585 6575



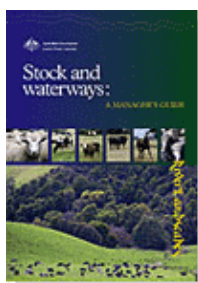
This is one project of the Hawkesbury Nepean CMA. It aims to help landholders protect and restore creek and river banks. Landholders can apply for grants up to \$20 000 to:

- Control invasive weeds along waterways.
- Plant local native species to improve vegetation links and biodiversity.
- Fence creek and river banks to protect native vegetation.
- Provide off-river stock watering systems.

Landholders are expected to provide an inkind contribution to the project as part of the funding agreement.

For more info contact Brynley Walters (02) 4587 0063. Or visit www.hn.cma.nsw.gov.au/funding

Info Resources



Stock and Waterways: A Manager's Guide

This guide is designed to help landholders recognise riparian land

and understand the role it plays in maintaining a healthy waterway.

The guide offers practical advice on how to manage riparian land both productively and sustainably, and includes a number of case studies from farmers throughout Australia who have seen the benefits of changing their management practices.

This publication is free from CanPrint Communications on 1800 776 616

Calendar of growth cycle & control times for weeds of the Wollondilly

NSW DPI has developed some great calendars showing growth cycles and control times for weeds in various regions extending across the Hawkesbury Nepean catchment, including the Wollondilly

You can download a copy <http://www.agric.nsw.gov.au/reader/weed-calendars>

Training

Landscan

A course will commence in the Southern Highlands on the 16th May. The course consists of six sessions held around one month apart
Cost: \$100 (per farm enterprise)

Prograze

A popular NSW DPI course for beef and sheep graziers consisting of eight sessions held around one month apart.

Cost : \$200 per farm enterprise
When: Starts 27th March

Bushcare Training for SW Sydney Bushcare and Landcare Volunteers

Introductory training

1 day course
When: Sat, 10th March 07
Where: Strathfield

Rebecca Mooy, Community Support Officer—Cumberland
Phone: 02 4587 0066
Email: Rebecca.Mooy@cma.nsw.gov.au

Geoff O'Connor, Regional NRM Facilitator
Phone: 02 4861 9012
Email: Geoff.Oconnor@cma.nsw.gov.au

Thinking of starting up a landcare group and not sure how?
Do you have an article or information to contribute to this network or newsletter?
Would you like to join our mailing list?
Please contact Rebecca Mooy (see details above) with articles, address details or for advice on Landcare.

Where: Mittagong

Prograze for Horses

Intermediate training
2 day course
Recognise weeds and native plants and learn about

Workshops, Conferences, Walks

Volunteer Management Workshops

Conservation Volunteers Australia in partnership with Toyota Australia are offering a series of free volunteer management workshops.

Series 1- Change Management for Community Groups

Sydney Thursday 3rd May

Series 2- Volunteer Management – Meeting the Challenges

Sydney Tuesday 3 April

For further information and to book a place freecall 1800 032 501 or email info@conservationvolunteers.com.au

Walk Against Warming 2007

When: Sunday 2 weeks before the Federal Election

Walk Against Warming 2007 will provide the stage upon which the parties' commitment to tackle climate change will be judged

www.walkagainstawarming.org

To find out more or to organise a walk in your local area contact Marnie at mkikken@nccnsw.org.au or on 9279 2466.

South West Cumberlandcarers Network and Wollondilly Council Workshops

Native Plant Propagation half day workshop

Where: Community Nursery, Picton
When: Saturday 17th March 2007
(more details on the back page)

Weeds workshop

When: Sunday 6th May 2007

Native Plant Identification workshop

When: Sun 9th September 2007

Bird watching walk and talk

When: Sunday 21st October 2007
Where: EMAL, Menangle

Paddock Plants

When: Saturday 3rd November 2007

When: 13th March 2007

Time: 6:30 to 8:30pm

Where: Grand Lodge, Sydney Masonic Centre, 66 Goulburn St, Sydney.

Contact Sam McGuinness on 92792466 or smcguinness@nccnsw.org.au

Macarthur Centre for Sustainable Living— Workshops and Events

The Centre has a great calendar of workshops being run in 2007 including Sustainable Homes, Community Cooking, Bee Keeping, Making Rustic furniture, Cheesemaking and many others.

For more info and costs visit www.mcsl.org.au or call Lizzie on 4647 6594

Websites

Native and Weed Look a Likes

www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/environment/index.cfm?NavigationID=1430

HOTSPOTS Fire Project

www.hotspotsfireproject.org.au

How to propagate Australian Native Plants

www.anbg.gov.au/PROPGATE

Diary Date

Rivers of Shame –

Screening of the 28 minute documentary about damage to waterways by poorly regulated mining practices at the Shire Hall, Picton on Sunday 11th March 2007, 2pm for bookings call 4636 6301.

NSW State Landcare Forum –

When: Tamworth, NSW
Where: 25-27 October 2007
More details to follow in the next newsletter.

Join In

HNCMA Community Meeting— Catchment Planning and Implementation

Community members are invited for an update on the Catchment Action Plan and to help identify new issues and potential projects for the catchment.

When: Thurs 15th March 2007

Time: 7pm to 9pm

Where: Camden Council Community Room
37 John Street Camden

RSVP to Prince Wright 4587 0074

In the Hot Seat

A state election forum on Urban Water and Climate Change

Speakers: Hon. Bob Debus MP (Enviro. Minister), Michael Richardson MP (Shadow Enviro. Minister), Lee Rhiannon (Greens)

First Aid Training

The Hawkesbury Nepean CMA is interested in running a **free** senior First Aid training day for Landcare volunteers in the network.

If a group of 12 to 15 individuals are interested in doing the Senior First Aid Certificate a day for a trainer to run the course can be arranged. Likely venue will be in Picton or Camden.

Please contact Rebecca Mooy if you are interested on (02) 4587 0066

Bushcare at the Eastershow

Bushcare and Landcare members are needed to volunteer at the Easter Show to help promote being bush friendly.

Contact Emma Beckley or Jeanne Thuez if you are interested in participating on 98956223

Paddock Plants and Weeds workshops wrap up 2006

Late in 2006 two workshops were held for the network and residence of Wollondilly. The workshops were run in partnership with HN CMA and Wollondilly Council with presentations by District Agronomists from the NSW Department of Primary Industry.

The October workshop was hosted by the Davies family on their property in Lakesland. Thirty people turned out for a frosty morning in the paddock to learn about weeds that compete with pastures and other paddock plants. The various characteristics of the weeds and paddock plants were discussed, how to remove and treat the weeds, and learning how to tell these plants apart from others that look similar.



Lori McWhirter, District Agronomist presents to the network at the October workshop.

The November workshop had a slightly different focus with over 40 people attending the day at Sydney University's "Mayfarm". Fifteen plants were discussed and identified including Perennial ryegrass, prairie grass, cocks foot, and weeds including Fireweed, Scotch thistle and African boxthorn. Participants were treated to a great morning tea and a sausage sandwich, thanks to Martin Cooper and Alex Stengl from Wollondilly Council for assisting with organising the day and Catering.



Ashley Senn, Lori McWhirter and Helena Warren from DPI present the workshop to over 40 participants

Native Plant Propagation workshop - Your invited!

Join the members of the Southwest Cumberlandcarers network and other landholders from around the Camden and Wollondilly area for the first network workshop of 2007. Come and learn how to propagate local native plants, identify and store seed.



Wollondilly Community Nursery

When: Saturday 17th March 2007

Time: 8:30 am - 12:00pm

Where: Wollondilly Community Nursery, Wonga Rd Picton

Cost: Free

What to bring: Suncream, a bottle of water, Morning Tea provided.

Don't forget to wear appropriate shoes and a hat.

RSVPs are essential so please contact Rebecca Mooy, Community Support Officer, HNCMA on (02) 4587 0066 by **Monday 13th March 2007**.

Support Contacts

