

Funding

2009 ENERGY SAVINGS THAT HIT HOME

What's in your roof? Camping gear packed away until next Christmas? A family of possums whose nightly house parties would put Cory Worthington to shame? Batts? Not the furry kind but the kind that can reduce your heating and cooling bills by up to 40 percent? That's right, insulation batts or other kinds of insulation are one of the simplest and easiest ways we can reduce our environmental footprint, lower electricity bills by up to \$200 and make our houses more comfortable.

It's not rocket science, and best of all, it's not expensive. And, thanks to the insulation plan announced by the Rudd Government earlier this week, those Australian homes that don't have insulation –around four in every ten –can get it installed, most without paying a cent..

<http://www.environment.gov.au/minister/garrett/2009/pubs/op20090208.pdf>

Did you know ? Quiz Facts

In 1972, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) established the World Heritage List to help protect important sites embodying the world's cultural and natural heritage. What is the largest World Heritage Area?

- A) The Great Barrier Reef (Australia)
- B) Jaú National Park (Brazil)
- C) Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan Protected Areas (China)
- D) The Virgin Komi Forest (Russia)

The Great Barrier Reef is by far the largest World Heritage Area, covering over 34 million hectares (131,000 sq. mi.). The most extensive coral reef system in the world.

It was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1981, and divided into "Protection Zones" that restrict extraction activities. The Great Barrier Reef is threatened by climate change, since the coral is sensitive to rising ocean temperatures.



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SUMMER 2009

Update from Regional Landcare Facilitator

Even though we are already well into 2009, can I wish you another successful year of landcaring.

During 2008 we conducted one of our regular Landcare surveys throughout the Hawkesbury-Nepean catchment. We found the contribution being made to our catchment by individuals and Landcare / Community groups continues to be very significant. 125 Landcare groups and many more Bushcare groups contributed over 70,000 hours which is valued at \$2.1 Million and these groups attracted funding of \$1.1 Million. A huge contribution indeed!

I was fortunate enough to participate in the Landcare bus tour of the Goulburn area in December. It was a (return) visit for Southern Highland landcarers and they were joined by many representatives of the Goulburn Landcare groups – almost 50 in total.

Everyone enjoyed seeing and hearing what the various groups have been working on and the Southern Highland landcarers gained a real appreciation of the different focus of landcare further up the catchment. Thanks to Helen Ward for organising a great day. 2009 sees us gearing up to recognise another group of outstanding landcarers, firstly in our regional Hawkesbury-Nepean Landcare Awards and then in September at the NSW Landcare Awards. Our region has had considerable success at these awards over the years and hopefully this will continue this year. Please consider nominating an individual, landholder or group for these awards. More information about this inside and Helen Ward or Daniel Anderson can assist you with nominations.

We will present the regional awards at our second Hawkesbury-Nepean Landcare Forum which will again be held at Mt Annan Botanic Gardens, on Fri 19 June 2009. Our first catchment-wide forum in 2007 was well attended and enjoyed by those who came, so please consider coming along in June.

Geoff O'Connor

Regional Facilitators Update

Relevant News

Around The Groups

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Funding

Goulburn & Southern Highlands Landcarers catching up on the regional bus trip.



Relevant news

Bushfire

The recent bushfires in Victoria have shocked all Australians. We would like to acknowledge the devastation and loss that the bushfires have caused to both people and property.

Bushfire is an ever present threat in the Wingecaribee Shire and as a result we all need to do our best to reduce the threat that bushfires pose to the community, infrastructure and the environment. Agencies such as Council, NPWS, SCA, State Forests establish Asset Protection Zones, carry out Hazard Reduction burns and maintain ready access along fire trail networks.

Private landholders are also responsible for carrying out hazard reduction activities on their land and are urged to prepare their properties. For further information on how to prepare your property the RFS have a comprehensive range of checklists and fact sheets available. These can be accessed either through the RFS website at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au or can be picked up from the Fire Control Centre Cnr Priestly & Etheridge Sts Mittagong.

Weather conditions this summer have been very hot and dry. We have had one declared Total Fire Ban in the Wingecaribee District. Wingecaribee Shire Council asks residents and bushwalking groups to avoid recreational activities such as bushwalking and picnicking in Council Bushland Reserves during Total Fire Ban days due to the increased risk of bushfire.



Please report all bushfires by phoning 000 as quickly as possible. A quick response is so important

because it allows the Rural Fire Service to mobilise and deal with the problem before it develops into something really dangerous.

Land For Wildlife

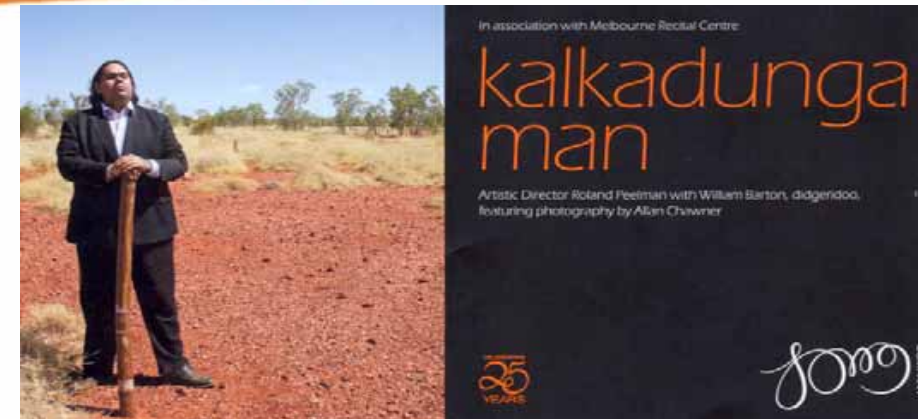
Wingecaribee Shire Council have forged a partnership with the Community Environment Network to deliver Land For Wildlife in the Wingecaribee Shire.

“**Land For Wildlife**” is a voluntary program which aims to encourage and assist private landholders to provide habitats for wildlife on their property, even though the property may be managed primarily for other purposes. It aims to promote continuity of habitat across landscapes, community participation in nature conservation, and to contribute to the ecologically sustainable long-term viability of agricultural systems.

The program is free to join and not legally binding. Registration in the scheme will not change the legal status of a property. Any landholder with half a hectare of intact native bushland that they wish to manage as habitat for wildlife is welcome to apply.

Any interested landholders should contact either Belinda Rowe or Stuart Chadwick on 4860 3010 or email : belinda.rowe@wsc.nsw.gov.au.

Whats on



An absorbing sonic and visual experience of the Australian night and day as seen through the eyes of William Barton. A celebrated musician who has elevated the didgeridoo to the world's concert stages, William delves into his own roots in the country around Mt Isa where he grew up.

A soul-searching visit to the Kalkadunga people in July 2008 was accompanied by acclaimed photographer Allan Chawner and became the starting point for this project. Featured is some of the most evocative vocal music written in Australia combined with the visceral sounds of the 'didg'. Chawner's powerful photographic images of the Kalkadunga land will be projected throughout the performance on a large screen above the singers.

Featuring works by Edwards, Hopkins, Walker, Page, Barton and others.

Performances

Casula Powerhouse
18 February 8.00pm
To book, call 02 9824 1121 or visit www.casulapowerhouse.com

Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre
21 February 7.30pm
To book, call 02 6333 6161

City Recital Hall Angel Place, Sydney
25 February 7.30pm
To book, call 02 8256 2222 or visit www.cityrecitalhall.com

Orange Civic Theatre
28 February 7.30pm
To book, call 02 6393 8112 or visit www.mytickets.com.au

Newcastle Conservatorium
19 February 7.30pm

National Museum, Canberra
23 February 7.30pm

Campbelltown Arts Centre
27 February 7.30pm

Frensham Clubbe Hall, Mittagong
7 March 7.30pm

To book, call 02 8272 9500 or visit our website www.songcompany.com.au



Save The Day

2009 Hawkesbury-Nepean Landcare Forum

Friday 19 June 2009 Mt Annan Botanic Gardens

Presentation of 2009 Hawkesbury-Nepean Landcare Awards

Guest Speakers Tours of the Gardens

FREE Entry, Lunch and Refreshments

For Further information, please contact your Landcare CSO



Whats on

'SUSTAINABLE GRAZING PROGRAM'

The Sustainable Grazing Program is an initiative by NSW Department of Primary Industries and the Sydney Catchment Authority to offer training in best management practices for grazing in the Southern Highlands and Tablelands.

The Program offers a choice of subsidised courses that aims to improve the profitability and sustainability for grazing. Courses on offer are Paddock Plants, PROGRAZE™ and LANDSCAN™.

Paddock Plants is a free half day field day. It teaches you to identify and name the important plants in your paddock including those that are useful and which are weeds. It enables you to tell the difference between native and introduced grasses and understand the strengths and weaknesses of each.

LANDSCAN™ is a course that provides skills and tools in natural resource management. Topics include reading landscapes, understanding soils, soil testing and interpretation, identifying the problems, understanding the fixes and prioritising inputs. There are six sessions run at four to six weekly intervals on host farms. The subsidised cost of the course is \$100 per participating farm (normally \$420).

PROGRAZE™ is a course designed to help farmers utilise pasture in a sustainable and profitable way. Participants develop skills to assess pasture and animals so a feeding strategy can be developed to match the requirements of the animal and pasture is fully utilised. PROGRAZE™ is run over eight sessions over a 12 month period and costs \$200 (normally \$570).

A two session course of PROGRAZE™ is available to horse owners. Participants will gain an understanding of the nutritional requirements of breeding and working horses.

Paddock Plants Course Dates
25th February 2009 - Southern Highlands

6th May 2009 - Taralga

Contact Helena Warren 4828-6646 for all upcoming DPI courses.

Landholder workshop managing creeks and bushland on your property

Come and visit the Warnock's property near Alison Hone Reserve and the Bligh's Mt Wayo property to see how the Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority has helped them protect their waterways and bushland through:

- Fencing
- Weed Control
- Erosion Control
- Revegetation

You can also learn more about the local Aboriginal cultural heritage from the CMA's Aboriginal Community officer, and current farm management and training opportunities from the Department of Primary Industries' staff.

Saturday 21 March 2009

11.00am to 3.00pm

1262 Crookwell Road Goulburn

FREE

BBQ lunch will be provided.

Bring appropriate shoes and sunsmart clothing.

RSVP: By MONDAY 16 March 2009
HN CMA, Goulburn on 4828 6747

Around The Groups

Parkebourne Yarra Landcare Group

Our group has been very busy last year. The main project was to restore the Yarra Tennis Courts and surrounding area. This involved removing woody weeds and replanting with native trees and shrubs. The woody weeds were mulched on site and this was used around the new seedlings. Helen Davy grew the plants from seed that was collected nearby. The group will continue maintain the area. The project was able to commence because of grants received through the Viola Mulwree Trust and the Yarra Reserve Trust. Landcare members have also given many hours of in kind labour. The end result is a credit to the group. The official opening is on **4th April 2009**.

The group have also been busy with feral animal control through a grant they received from the last round of envirofund. Harold & Marie Bensley obtained funding through the HNCMA's Catchment Protection Scheme to control erosion on a creek at the head of the catchment. A cement flume was constructed and approximately 400 trees were planted.

Nancy Brook & Marie Bensley



Concrete Flume installed at Harold & Marie Bensley's

Tarago Landcare

Seed collection workshop well attended

The 13 December workshop on collecting seed from native grasses and trees was held at the Tarago Common, near the Cemetery, and despite the very windy conditions it drew enthusiastic attendees - several came from other districts. The accompanying images feature the workshop leader Russell Moule, a professional seed collector from Moss Vale, demonstrating the required skills, knowledge and tools.

A follow-up workshop on plant propagation will be held at Picton Nursery on Thursday **March 26th 2009**. A bus will leave from Goulburn Call Helen Ward **4828 6752** to register

Chris Elford - Tarago Landcare Group



Tarago group busy seed collecting

Wingecarribee

Youth Off The Streets Landcare

It is great to see a return to Landcare activities for the Mathew Hogan College Youth Off The Streets program. This group has been contributing to Southern Highlands Landcare for over two years now so it's great to see a continued involvement for 2009. College students are currently working on the Mt Gibraltar reserve helping with woody weed control, whilst last week the group implemented some direct seeding of provenance seed material to help re-vegetate a previously weeded drainage swale.

I must recognise teacher Paul Roodenrey's and Wingecarribee Shire Council Bush Regenerator Elizabeth Bennett for their work in continuing this association.

Thank you

Daniel Anderson

Around the Groups

Moss Vale Landcare Group

Moss Vale Landcare Group to undertake new project stage on Whites Creek Moss Vale.

Moss Vale Landcare Group will be hosting a community information day at 11.00 am Saturday the 21st March at Cosgrove Park Berrima Road Moss Vale.

The Community Information Day aims to engage local residents interested or effected by the structure & condition of the vegetation aligning the Whites creek corridor North of Cosgrove park through to Gibbons Road.

All perspectives, comments and recommendations will be taken on board to help direct work outcomes for our new project.

Our aims for the project are to selectively remove the existing environmental weeds such as; Crack willows, privet, blackberry, Japanese honeysuckle & English ivy. The weeds will then be replaced with native grasses, shrubs and small trees to improve water quality and habitat at whites creek.



Residents located adjacent to other rehabilitated Landcare sites along the creek have noticed the water is cleaner, birds and frogs have returned and the creek is visually more attractive.

For further information on the Moss Vale Landcare Group please contact:
Chairperson Lyndall Breen 4869 1394

Rod Dewey & Lyndall Breen

Penrose Wetlands Conservation Group

Penrose wetlands conservation group are a new group to the Southern Highlands Landcare Network.

The Penrose Wetlands Conservation Group is an action group that has been initiated by a number of Bundanoon residents who have an interest in the conservation and improved management of the critically important Up Land Swamps and Wetlands that occur on the Paddy's River sub-catchment area near Penrose. The Wetlands Conservation Group hope to make the local community more aware of the existence and importance of these landscapes with the view to helping promote conservation measures and land management practice changes within the NSW Forestry Department that are complimentary to the wetlands survival.

The Penrose swamp group are targeting sites around and including the Stingray Swamp located in the Penrose State Forestry Area.

The group will be working next shortly in late February to continue with the removal of invasive plants (Radiata pine wildings & blackberry) from the swamp ecosystem.

For further interest in this group please contact John Shepherd:
email: jsh95062@bigpond.net.au

John Shepherd

Whats on

Wingecarribee Community Nursery

SCA Catchment Protection Grant

The Wingecarribee Community Nursery were successful in receiving an \$8,000 grant from the Sydney Catchment Authorities Catchment Protection Scheme. This grant will provide training to our volunteers in seed collection, processing, propagation and record keeping. This will enable the volunteers to collect local provenance seed and propagate these plants for use in revegetation projects throughout the Wingecarribee Shire. Up coming dates for Workshops and Seed Collection and Processing days are :

7th March	Seed Collection day
4th April	Workshop Seed processing & Storage
2nd May	Seed processing

The community nursery will be installing a new glass house to suit propagation activities throughout our cold highlands winters. I will inform all our volunteer members shortly about the logistics of this project.

Please contact Stuart Chadwick 4860 3010 or Daniel Anderson 4861 9014 for further information.



2009 Hawkesbury-Nepean Landcare Awards

It's time again to recognise some of our outstanding Landcarers.

We will be calling for nominations for these awards during March & April. Please consider nominating an Individual, Landholder or Landcare/Community Group in the following categories:

Individual Landcarer Award

Landcare Community Group Award

***Landcare Primary Producer Award
Landcare Education Award***

Landcare Indigenous Award

& 2 new categories

Young Landcare Leader

Urban Landcare

Winners in each category will become the Hawkesbury-Nepean nominations for the NSW Landcare Awards which will be presented at the NSW Landcare Forum to be held in September at Port Macquarie.

More information on the categories and entry forms will be sent to all Landcare Groups shortly. Please contact your Landcare Community Support Officer for further information.