

Landchat

Landcare in the Southern New England, No. 113, April - June 2018



Southern
New England
Landcare

Our mission is to **lead, connect and enable** communities in the Armidale, Guyra, Uralla and Walcha areas to meet their sustainability goals.

Welcome

Welcome to Lanchat 113. Well it's been a busy first half of the year with loads of events to report on. Thanks to our members and friends have provided some great feedback on those events, which helps us to make them more relevant for our community's needs.

Remember, if you want regular updates or more information on coming events, please sign up to our regular eNews or check our events at www.snelandcare.org.au.

We welcome feedback and articles from members who wish to tell their story. We also welcome advertising from local businesses. Please contact us at mail@snelandcare.org.au or on 02 6772 9123.

Diary Dates

Prickly Problems Project Party	23 Jun
National Science Week.....	13 Aug
Member Muster - Road to Renewables	15 Aug
Bush for Birds Workshop 2.....	29 Sep
National Landcare Conference & Awards....	10-12 Oct

Koalas, where are you hiding?

Researchers will soon begin a hide-and-seek hunt for koalas between Armidale and Inverell and they are calling on the public to help.

Recent surveys on the Northern Tablelands located koala populations in the Delungra, Armidale, Uralla, Walcha and Nowendoc areas and now the focus is on the western side of the Tablelands between Armidale, Guyra and Inverell.

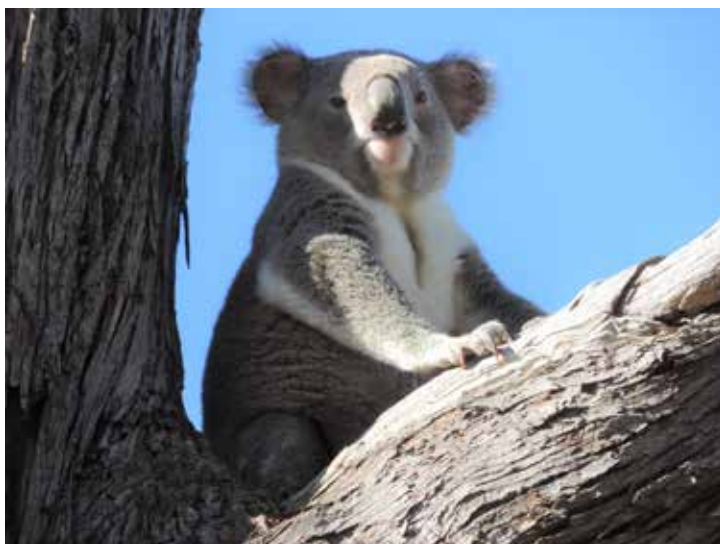
"We need people to report koalas to us as soon as they see them, so we can quickly get out and have a look at them", says project leader David Carr from Stringybark Ecological.

"We can send a person out to follow-up on a report and they can see the type of trees the koalas are using, collect DNA from fresh scats and hopefully observe and photograph the animals".

The information gained from the survey will tell us about koala distribution and the health of animals in this region.

Continued on page 10

Below - a healthy adult spotted on Boorolong Road. Image courtesy of Ross and Elizabeth McRae.



Hot Topic: Regen Ag

Local Properties Host Tour

The recent Regenerative Agriculture Tour to the Emmery and McPhie properties in the Dangarsleigh Landcare Group area was very successful, with feedback indicating the event was very worthwhile.

More than half of the 39 participants were currently using regenerative agricultural practices and 80% of them gave the event 5 stars with the remainder giving a 4-star rating.

Participants most valued the local in-paddock experience, discussions with Jason Simmons and Dr Maarten Stapper, connecting with like-minded people, inspiration, and topics including soil biology, planned grazing, and rotations. Suggested topics for future events included water management, temporary fencing techniques, low-stress stock handling, cattle selection, plant health, cover crops, soil food web, multispecies identification, flora and fauna surveys, integrating wildlife habitat on-farm and trialling innovative techniques.

Special thanks to McPhie and Emmery families, Dr Stapper and Jason Simmons for sharing their experience and knowledge of regenerative practices!

This project was supported by NENW Landcare Network Chairs Inc and Northern Tablelands Local Land Services through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.



New Group Grows Rapidly

Southern New England Landcare has recently facilitated the formation of a Regenerative Agriculture Group, which has 44 new members!

The group formed following the recent Regenerative Agriculture Farm Tour to the Emmery and McPhie properties east of Armidale.

Membership is made up of a great cross-section of the community: teachers, electrical engineers, students, post-doctoral fellows, stockbrokers, scientists, bio-agricultural industrialists and small to large-scale farming enterprises.

Sara Schmude, Coordinator with Southern New England Landcare said, "It's really great to have such a collective of like-minded people from diverse backgrounds interested in sharing and building knowledge that promotes healthy soil, plants, animals and humans."

Below - participants enjoyed a gorgeous autumn day inspecting the results of soil balancing at the Emmery & McPhie properties east of Armidale during the tour.



Hot Topic: Regen Ag

Involving the Next Generation

With 100 agriculture and science students from five high schools across the region talking about regenerative agricultural practices it's hard not to be excited about the future of farming.

Armidale High School (AHS) and New England Girls School (NEGS) formed the ideal backdrop to learning more about the importance of understanding what makes a soil healthy and how this contributes to human health.

"Participants heard all about managing soil ecology with Dr Maarten Stapper, with a focus on microbial activity and its vital role in soil nutrient cycles and availability to plants," said Sara Schmude, Local Landcare Coordinator who facilitated the event.

AHS agriculture teacher, long-term Landcare advocate and John Winter-Irving bequest recipient, Mrs Bec Smith, engaged participants in her student's study of controlling the highly invasive Chilean Needle Grass. The best results were from the plots that had a soil correction coupled with aeration. Bec is happy to share future results – so watch this space.

NEGS agriculture teacher, Mr Mark Fisher and his students gave us an insight into the diverse operations on the school's Ag Farm. A highlight was hearing of their success setting up a 'Paddock to Plate to Paddock' system that supplies seasonal produce to the boarding school kitchen and in turn feeds the pigs, sheep, ducks and chickens.

Dr James Turnell from Armidale Regional Council was invited to talk about the NEGS composting system that utilises waste from the school's kitchen, equestrian centre and garden. The main message from James was that making your own compost at school or at home can be a simple

process with many benefits.

And who doesn't like a machinery demonstration? Dorrigo farmer Ranald Braund showed participants the benefits his SoilKee Renovator has on aerating the soil while drilling seeds, integrating organic matter and top-dressing pasture.

This project was supported by NENW Landcare Network Chairs Inc and Northern Tablelands Local Land Services through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.



Below - the SoilKee Renovator demonstrated by Ranald Braund.

Bottom - The trial set up by students.



Chilean Needlegrass | TRIAL PLOTS

- 1: Mulching (oaten hay) & organic matter (chicken manure)
- 2: Biological treatment Bm
- 3: Control
- 4: Compost 2T/Ha
- 5: Aeration - Chisel plough (1pass)
- 6: Soil correction + aeration

4	1	2	1	2	6
1	1	4	6	4	2
3	3	3	5	1	3
2	6	2	4	3	6
6	4	5	5	5	5

Podcast by Dr Stapper

While in Armidale, Dr Maarten Stapper shared his thoughts on a podcast hosted by UNE Postdoctoral Researcher and 'Science in the Club' host, Dr James O'Hanlon.

If you would like to hear the podcast, follow this link: <https://insituscience.com/2018/04/30/ep-48-soil-microbes-and-healthy-farming-with-maarten-stapper/>.

FB Group Supports Conversations

If you are keen on Facebook conversations, check out the group that is sharing ideas, experiences and articles around regenerative agriculture practices.

There have been lots of interesting discussions to date so if you're interested in joining, head to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1835033873456918/>.

Hot Topic: AgroEcology

Farming with AgroEcology inspires new thinking among participants

SNELandcare's recent four-day course for graziers 'Farming with AgroEcology' integrated whole farm planning and landscape ecology with a range of innovations including planned grazing, BEHAVE (animal behaviour and diet diversity concepts), diversity cropping (multispecies cover cropping, pasture cropping, no-kill cropping), biofertilisers, and innovative erosion techniques.

"This was a great program for enhancing participant's abilities to embrace new ideas, and innovate on their own farm," said Karen Zirkler, Coordinator with SNElandcare.

When asked how useful the information was for their situation, 78% of participants said 'extremely useful', and when asked how likely they were to implement some of these ideas in the near future, 89% of respondents said 'very likely'.

"The course provided participants with insights into proven new techniques in a group setting where discussion was key," said Karen.

"Despite the group being a mixture of those who knew each other and completely new participants, the group 'stormed, normed and formed' very quickly as a result of the presence of very capable facilitators," said Karen.

Facilitated by David Hardwick and Bruce Maynard, with some input on Day one from local ecologist, David Carr, project activities included an outdoor session at the property of Dangarsleigh Landcare Group member Steve Harvey, and workshop sessions conducted in Armidale.

This project was supported by NENW Landcare Network Chairs Inc. and Northern Tablelands Local Land Services, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.



Our August Member Muster topic is

Road to Renewables

How do I formulate a long-term renewable energy plan for my property?

Will I be able to upgrade easily as new technology becomes available?

How can I optimise returns from my current renewable energy system?

**There will be several guest speakers
followed by Q&A panel**

5.30 for 6 - 8 pm, 15th August 2018

**Upstairs Meeting Room Hanna's Arcade
128 Beardy St Armidale**

Members FREE. Non Members \$35

Become a member for as little as \$33 pp at www.snelandcare.org.au

Tickets by Sunday 11th August at

<https://www.stickytickets.com.au/70383>



Left - participants take in the finer details of landscape ecology with Dave Carr at Steve Harvey's property 'Greenway'.

Below - Steve Harvey is interviewed by ABC Rural Reporter Hilary Cassell.

Below right - talking landscape 'patches'. Images by Karen Zirkler.



2018 National Landcare Conference & Awards

10-12 October | Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre

<http://www.nationallandcareconference.org.au/>

**Good luck to Armidale High School's BC² Group
who are finalists in the Junior Landcare Team Award!**

Members who would like to attend should contact us
on 6772 9123 as there may be assistance to attend.



Hot Topic: Soil Nutrition

Workshop Series Explains the Why and How of Balancing Soil Nutrition

On 28th February 2018, 14 participants began a soil workshop series with Derek Smith at the Kentucky Hall, which concluded on 31st May.

The program aimed to help participants formulate a long-term plan for soil management so in 5, 10 and 20 years, the farm is in better shape and more resilient to challenges.

The first two days focussed on how and why soils respond in certain ways to inputs, stock management and farming practises. Participants explored options to improve outcomes in the short, medium and long term.

Day three of the program enabled participants to attend one of two Peter Norwood guest speaker events in the region.

On 31st May 2018, program participants came together in a practical group session to study their own soil test results analysed using the world-renowned Kinsey-Albrecht analysis system.

This session showed participants exactly how recommendations were calculated, which management strategies would produce the desired result, how to mix and spread the recommended amendments, and time frames for re-testing their soils.

Keeping in touch

Participants in the program have decided to form a 'keep in touch' group to support each other with the changes they intend to make on their own properties. The group will meet in late August for a Q&A and planning session

with Derek in Uralla. Anyone who has previously done Derek's program would also be welcome to attend. Contact Karen Zirkler at the SNE Landcare office for more details.

This project was secured by the Harnham Landcare Group, and supported by NENW Landcare Network Chairs Inc. and Northern Tablelands Local Land Services, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.



Below – Participants take in the theory on Day 1 of the workshop series with Derek Smith.



Hot Topic: Soil Nutrition

Peter Norwood: from Soil Nutrition to Human Nutrition

On 16th and 17th May as part of the Balance & Boom Soil Workshop series, landholders and community members in the Southern New England had the opportunity to hear from a renowned speaker who links the health of the soil to the health of plants, animals and ultimately humans.

Peter Norwood, agronomist, animal nutritionist and human nutrition consultant specialising in nutritional balancing, is based in Victoria.

Peter attracted a large crowd last time he was in the region, and SNE Landcare wanted to enable more members and friends to take advantage of his broad knowledge.

“As his business name, Full Circle Nutrition, suggests, Peter starts with getting on-farm soil nutrition right, so that pasture or crop nutrition is right,” said Karen Zirkler.

“This facilitates good nutrition in grazing animals, and potentially leads to better human nutrition,” she said.

Guyra landholder, Mr Derek Smith hosted Peter last time he was in the region and has been integral in getting Peter up to speak for a second time.

“I came across Peter when he was the only Australian speaker at an ACRES USA conference I attended in Omaha, Nebraska,” said Derek.

“Producers who attend Peter’s talks leave with a far greater understanding of how and why they need to keep their soil in good health. Peter has a wealth of knowledge on animal issues, such as worms, external parasites, pink eye, warts and many other diseases. These issues can become more apparent in very dry times, such as we are experiencing at present. This time Peter focussed on Barber’s Pole Worm, water quality for stock, and of course touched on human health as well,” said Derek.

Peter spoke at Kentucky on 16th May and Guyra on 17th May. Some 67 participants attended in total, with feedback indicating that the event was very much appreciated.

This project was secured by the Harnham Landcare Group, and supported by NENW Landcare Network Chairs Inc. and Northern Tablelands Local Land Services, through funding from the Australian Government’s National Landcare Program.



Left - Peter Norwood in action at the Kentucky event on 16th May 2018.

Hot Topic: Agroforestry

NLP Project Finishes but Legacy Lives On

Despite decades of Landcare activity, there remain large areas in the New England where tree cover could be increased.

Collectively there is considerable knowledge and experience with integrating trees on farms, but there remain many landholders who don't know where to access information or lack confidence to start by themselves.

The Master TreeGrower (MTG) program has a great reputation for improving landholder knowledge and skills, and the Peer Group Mentor (PGM) program is considered an excellent farmer to farmer extension model that cements uptake of new knowledge and generates confidence to establish and manage projects.

SNELandcare had run both before, so we decided to further extend this program with funding support from the National Landcare Program.

In late 2016, 16 landholders and extension officers attended a

Master TreeGrower program.

Then, during 2017, the project funded 11 existing Peer Group Mentors (PGMs) to support 19 new mentees.

During site visits, mentors helped explore the landholder's goals and objectives, and facilitate plans for tree establishment projects in the context of their own space and site conditions. A site report was then prepared for the mentee.

One PGM coordinated all site visits and organised two training events to further develop PGM skills. The first was a visit to an inspirational farm near Quirindi where best practice agroforestry is the principle activity. The second was a seminar on advances in tree water-use monitoring.

During 2017, a unique opportunity presented to collaborate with the 'Trees on Small Farms' (TOSF) project (see related article). PGMs assisted at a workshop where participants

applied farm planning skills to design projects and submit applications. PGMs were then paired with successful applicants to provide support. A further 9 landholders were mentored.

The most significant outcome of the project has been improved confidence and knowledge among the 19 landholder mentees and the 14 MTG program participants. These improvements were substantial for several of the TOSF applicants who were essentially 'new' landholders inexperienced with these types of projects.

The unexpected synergy with the TOSF project was excellent and proved a very effective means of trees on farms extension in a project (TOSF) that had no budget for this activity. There is no doubt that onground outcomes for the TOSF project will be greatly enhanced due to this synergy.

The PGM program has been so successful, SNELandcare intends to implement it whenever there are funds to do so.



Hot Topic: Agroforestry

Key facts

- Site visit reports for mentees summarised discussions and provided further information.
- Most Significant Change stories were documented with six of the 19 mentees.
- Most mentees reported major improvements in knowledge, inspiration and confidence.

This project is supported with funding from the Australian Government, and in-kind contributions from the Australian Agroforestry Foundation.



Opposite page - mentors assist participants on their own farms for a 12 month period for a small charge to the landholder. Mentors are paid by SNElandcare for their time.

Trees on Farms Mentors

Would you like help designing or establishing trees and shrubs for your property?

Don't know where to start? What to plant? How to do it?

Our Agroforestry Peer Group Mentors are very experienced landholders and technical experts and can assist you with your ideas and goals.

This service is available for a small fee of \$77 for which you are entitled to several visits in a 12 month period!

Call us on 02 6772 9123 or email mail@snelandcare.org.au and we'll hook you up with a mentor!

Georgie's Story

About a year ago, I purchased 100 acres on the eastern side Armidale, and was looking at doing a diversity of activities: market gardening, cell grazing. But there was also an area that just wasn't suitable for grazing, so rather than stock it I thought letting it regenerate was a better option.

From there, I did the Trees on Small Farms project workshop at Arding. As a single mum, the idea of getting funding to do some of this work was a big drawcard.

From that I decided to have the Agroforestry Peer Group Mentors come out for a closer look. When they came they noticed an area of biodiversity that I could protect as part of the funding application, so that was a cost I didn't incur – it was a huge saving.

The Peer Group Mentors provided me with support in plant identification and site assessment – which ones to utilise in the funding application.

There were three main sites: a river site which was my first preference for funding assistance, with a wetland at the front of the property that has erosion and regeneration. There was an area between two dams with erosion. I decided to fence that to prevent animals creating further erosion. And finally, an area with a rich proliferation of regeneration occurring that is quite diverse. It wouldn't need planting. It's close to house site and could be fenced quite easily.

In terms of problems, there is a huge colony of kangaroos, so it might pay to do smaller areas of fencing to keep them out. There is an area of a protected orchid, but it's so highly trafficked by the roos. Then there are some areas of serrated tussock. The mentors suggested digging it out as there is not that much. Just

bringing that to my awareness has been good.

At the front I'm doing a market garden. I'm adding to the current regeneration area some flowering natives to encourage the insect flow between the market garden and other areas for pest control and pollination.

The Trees on Small Farms planning workshop touched on the horse management side of things too and my kids have ponies so there are areas that we just wouldn't have them. I'll complete the Trees on Small Farms project areas by March 2019.

I have just done the soil balancing course and will use the results of the soil tests to determine the future use of the rest of the farm, which will be grazing but there is potential to do truffles if the soil is appropriate.

A friend who used to work at the Armidale Tree Group has asked if he can plant, at his own cost, specific varieties of natives so that he can come and harvest the seed later. This is beneficial to me as I will be fencing it off anyway.

The mentor program has been able to offer me a way to form up a much clearer plan of the potential use of my land and how I can gain an income from it. The vision is clear. Once my road is finished to the house site, the fence can be put in for the market garden and the regeneration. There are quite a few species that I would like to introduce to the wetland area.

I would like to get back in the line-up for the next lot of funding to do stage two and three of those regenerative areas which are on the plan for the future.

*Georgie Rogers, 9th March 2018.
Interview by Karen Zirkler.*

Agricultural Delegation from Myanmar Visits SNELandcare

On Tuesday, 3rd April 2018, Southern New England Landcare hosted a delegation of government and university officials from Myanmar.

With limited time in Armidale, our international visitors, mostly working in the field of agriculture in Myanmar, visited the office where they enjoyed a presentation on Landcare in our region, and some morning tea with board and staff members.

Dr Julian Prior from Ecosystem Management at UNE organised the visit, which also included travel by the group throughout many other parts of NSW.

By all reports, the delegation thoroughly enjoyed learning about what Landcare can do in the community-led sustainable agriculture and natural resource management space, and intend to implement some of the ideas they took home with them.



Above - Members of the delegation left a gift of gratitude which is now on display in the office. The image is made up of tiny natural crystals from Myanmar.

Continued from page 1

Anyone seeing a koala in the Southern New England area should contact Southern New England Landcare on 02 6772 9123 or mail@snelandcare.org.au. Landcare will then dispatch one of the research team to the site as soon as possible. Researchers will carry out a quick vegetation survey, collect scat samples and take photos of any animals still in the area.

Koalas are listed as 'vulnerable to extinction' under both NSW and Commonwealth environmental law. They have declined in numbers due to habitat loss, predation by dogs, vehicle strike, fire and climate extremes. The Northern Tablelands may be an important refuge for this

iconic animal, but we don't know a lot about them in this region.

This project will be supplemented by a koala GPS-tracking project in the Armidale area centred around Mt Duval, also conducted by the same team. The tracking project will give researchers a better idea of the home ranges and activity of koalas in this area.

The project is funded by the NSW Government Office of Environment and Heritage through the Saving Our Species program.

It is coordinated by Stringybark Ecological and includes researchers from EcoGeoSpatial, JML Environmental, The Envirofactor, the University of New England and Department of Primary Industry.



Above and below - sadly, both this mum and baby have Chlamydia. Image courtesy of Dianne Beattie.



Project funds 26 Landholders for Trees on Small Farms

During late 2017, SNElandcare secured funding to run a project for farms under 200 hectares.

A 'Trees on Small Farms' project steering committee formed and met on 17th August 2017 to plan an introductory workshop, guidelines and application form for applicants.

On 9th September 2017, 34 participants attended the introductory workshop at Arding Hall, where SNElandcare and NT LLS staff presented on the benefits of revegetation on small farms.

"Quite a few participants came along as a result of our Horses for Courses seminar in May 2017," said Karen Zirkler, Local Landcare Coordinator.

With help from team members at the workshop, participants worked on the property maps to plan their revegetation projects, and then complete application forms.

"We were surprised at how many people were very keen to participate in the project and how beneficial they found the workshop regardless of whether or not they were planning to apply for the funding," said Karen.

"Soon after the workshop, we received 40 applications for funds, which well exceeded what we had available," she said.

NT LLS provided funding of \$60,000 and the project funded a total of 26 applicants before funds ran out.

Together with other in-kind project resources provided by SNElandcare and the applicants of \$97880, the project is worth a total of \$157,880.

"During the initial phases of the project, we have made good use of our Agroforestry Peer Group Mentors to help those applicants who are new to revegetation," said Karen.

"This has been a very effective approach," she said.

While I was in Armidale just recently I attended a landcare meeting with my mother & grandmother I found it very interesting because their aim is to bring things in nature back into balance to help maintain biodiversity and have as many naturally growing species in one location as possible. This helps both flora & fauna to flourish. My grandmother made a map of the property and put in illustrations of where she would re-establish native trees and shrubs to prevent erosion and dig back areas also this helps keep the waterways clean & provides home for our creepy crawly friends and furry animals. I think all the people in our school should try to improve our environment. Everyone can help by planting native trees. If you love koalas & hookaburras they need trees to live in.

News: implementing environmentally friendly measures.

As at June 2018, 24 of the 26 applicants have begun their on-ground works which includes a total of 13,700 seedlings and a total of 8.4 km fencing.

The Kimmorleys are to be congratulated on completed their project already!

Participants have until 31 March 2018 to complete their on-ground works.

Above - Denise Mason's grand daughter wrote this school news item after attending the planning workshop with her mother and grandmother.

This project is part of the \$26.5M of Catchment Action NSW investment that LLS is delivering to enable better management of our water, soil, vegetation, biodiversity and cultural heritage.



Local Land Services
Northern Tablelands



Australian Government

National Landcare Programme



Armidale Urban Rivercare Group hosts international students

They came from as far as South Korea, Bangladesh and Indonesia as well as across Australia: 110 enthusiastic boys and girls and 27 staff from 15 schools who made TAS their home for the Australasia and East Asia Regional Round Square Conference for 10 to 12 year-olds.

The focus for the gathering was 'Humanity in Action – Remembering our past, appreciating our present, building our future.' To promote this theme, organisers invited Armidale Urban Rivercare Group, headed up by Bruce Whan, to give the students an experience in a community-based

riparian restoration project.

Alongside 16 Rivercare Group volunteers, the children planted 550 trees, shrubs and sedges along a stretch of Dumaresq Creek that is currently undergoing rehabilitation with funding support from the NSW Environmental Trust.

Members from the group said the experience with the students was one of the best in which they had been involved.

Mark Harrison, Head of TAS middle school said, "Bruce, I want to thank you and your many generous

helpers for today – by far it has been the best activity for our students because they could actually see that they had achieved something so worthwhile."

"We are grateful for your time, environmental enthusiasm and the kindness of your group - you made the kids' day," he said.



Below - Children from many countries joined with members and friends of Armidale Urban Rivercare Group for a community planting on Dumaresq Creek. Image courtesy of Bruce Whan.



Landcare collaboration with Council to enhance waterways

Reconstruction during 2017 by Armidale Regional Council of a large stormwater drain into Dumaresq Creek was seen by Landcare as an opportunity to work with council engineers to enhance and connect existing plantings along Dumaresq Creek.

Council has provided funding for weed control and plants for the area surrounding the drain. Piles of broken basalt and chip mulch (also provided by Council) were recently manually spread by Landcare volunteers on the site, which is a visually prominent gateway to the walking and cycling track west of Markham Street.

"Our volunteers did a great job shifting the mulch," said Landcare volunteer Helen Webb.

"We are experimenting with spreading newspaper under the basalt rock mulch, hoping that it will suppress the less aggressive weeds and reduce the need to use herbicide on the site," said Helen.

"Morning glory vine on the site is one of our major weed challenges, and vigilance will be needed to prevent it from overgrowing the plantings.

"Now we just need some rain so that we can get the plants in the ground," she said.

Creeklands Plantings Attract Threatened Species

Recently, Southern New England Landcare volunteers Helen Webb and Ray South were delighted to find a Scarlet Robin perching on one of the mature eucalypts planted near Douglas Street by Aveliss Ellery.

A day later, a Golden Whistler was seen perching in the same tree.

Superb Fairywrens, Silvereyes, Yellow-faced Honeyeaters, Grey Shrike Thrushes and a variety of thornbills regularly use this site.

"This visit by a bird that is threatened with extinction is really encouraging as it means that we are getting it right in terms of planting a diverse mix of locally appropriate native species, including the range of groundcovers, shrubs and trees," said Ray South.

Setting aside unmown areas to enable grasses to seed and provide a food source throughout the year for ground foraging birds is also important, as is access to water.

Restoration of natural conditions and native species along Dumaresq Creek provides a special opportunity for park users to connect with and enjoy the natural environment in a way that is not available to many urban dwellers.

Many local residents and visitors regularly walk along the Dumaresq Creeklands and speak positively of their enjoyment of the area.

One resident, Maryann, who walks her dog adjacent to the Douglas Street plantings was recently delighted to share her photos of Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos feeding on hakea fruits in the plantings there.

Below - A male Scarlet Robin. Image courtesy of www.graemechapman.com.au



Around Our Groups

BOZO's Bergen Bridge Project

BOZO Landcare Group have begun planning a community project which will see revegetation and installation of picnic tables at the Bergen Bridge on Thunderbolt's Way, making an attractive roadside stop for tourists and locals alike. Group members

met with a representative from Council on 31st May 2018 to begin the planning process.

Northern Tablelands LLS and Walcha Council are very supportive of the project and will work with the group over the coming months.

Malpas Catchment Project Action

The Malpas Catchment Project is in action once more with new Project Officer Rachel Lawrence at the helm.

Rachel, who has been engaged in a part time role based at the SNElandcare office in Armidale, will work with landholders and community groups in the catchment as well as Armidale Regional Council and NT LLS towards improved outcomes for Malpas Dam and Armidale and Guyra's water supply.

Rachel intends to build on the excellent work that has been done previously in the catchment.

The steering committee will soon be reformed to assist in identifying priorities and to determine suitable ways to engage and support key landholders and community groups.

Opportunities for Malpas Catchment landholders interested in revegetation are currently available through NT LLS for support for fencing, off-stream watering infrastructure and riparian area bi-diverse plantings.

For further information or to express an interest in on-ground works please contact Rachel Lawrence on 02 6772 9123 or Rachel.Lawrence@snelandcare.org.au.

The Malpas Catchment Project is generously supported by Armidale Regional Council.

Below - an attractive part of the catchment near Llangothlin.



GlenGRO's Group Reveg Project

GlenGRO Landcare Group met for the first time in a long while on 7th May 2018. In attendance at the meeting were Phoebe Haslett from Northern Tablelands Local Land Services and Karen Zirkler from SNElandcare, who both provided updates and insights into the support available. Karen assisted the group through an action planning process where a number of issues were identified. First cab off the rank was a group application to the NT LLS for revegetation works on farms. An-other idea being investigated is carbon credits for group members. A guest speaker is being investigated.

Harnham's Healthy Soils Success

Keen members of the Harnham Landcare Group were busy in the last few months helping to facilitate their 'Harnham Landcare Healthy Soils' Project which incorporated the Balance & Boom Soil Workshop Series and the Peter Norwood events held at Kentucky. A big thank you to Garry & Beatrice Bashford and Craig Zirkler for their assistance!

Winterbourne to Re-form?

A couple of Winterbourne Landcare Group members attended the recent Balance & Boom and Peter Norwood events in Kentucky and indicated an interest in pulling the group together to see what might be of interest to members. If you are in the Winterbourne area and are keen for a get-together, please contact Jordie Muller.

Is your membership current?

You may have noticed that some of our events are discounted for members – this is just one of the benefits of your membership with Southern New England Landcare!

There are currently 210 'members' however only 106 are financial.

Only current financial members receive a hard copy of Landchat in their letterbox, so if you only have an electronic copy, chances are your membership is not current!

Please note all eNews recipients can access an electronic copy of Landchat via our website.

Anyone who has used our website membership portal to sign up should receive an email reminder to renew their membership in the lead up to their membership anniversary. The email provides a link to click for easy renewal.

If you have missed your renewal email, or are unsure of your membership status, please visit www.snelandcare.org.au and login using your email address and password (top right of the home screen). This will direct you to your Member Profile page.

If in doubt, please contact mail@snelandcare.org.au or on 02 6772 9123 and ask Struan Ferguson to check for you.

Thankyou!

Thank you to the following generous folk for their recent donations to Southern New England Landcare!

Pip White

Heather Knight

Meet Your Landcare Team

Karen Zirkler

Executive Officer
- BScEnv (Hon 1)

Karen grew up on grain properties in north west NSW, then trained and worked in Queensland, the UK, California and Western Australia. She has been with SNELandcare since 1998 and is currently the Executive Officer, while job-sharing the Local Landcare Coordinator role (Rural).

Karen is a member of Harnham Landcare group, and her experience includes: Grazier, Kentucky (2006-present), Regional Landcare Facilitator (2015-2016), Skincare Consultant (2012-2014), Publication Editor & Designer (2008-2014), Landcare Coordinator (1998-2008), Farm Forestry Extension Researcher (1997-1998), Marketing Assistant & Desktop Publisher (1996-1997), and QDPI Extension Officer (1992-1995).

Sara Schmude

Landcare
Coordinator -
BNatRes (Hon)

Sara was raised on a grazing property east of Guyra, NSW, and has worked with SNELandcare since 2003. She is currently job sharing the Local Landcare Coordinator role (Urban & Youth).

Sara is an opportunistic generalist with an eye for networking and community capacity building. Sara represents landcare on Armidale Regional Council Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee, Dumaresq Creek Advisory Committee, and NENW Regional Science Hub. She is a member of Friends of Black Gully Group.

Sara's experience includes: Project Officer & Landcare Coordinator (2003-), DLWC Project Officer (2002), Hotel Manager (1994-1997).

Struan Ferguson

Administration -
BArts

Struan grew up on a sheep and cattle station in central western Queensland and moved to Armidale for schooling in 1982. She has worked with SNELandcare since 2017 and is passionate about effective processes that support landholders to achieve their natural resource conservation and management goals.

With an Advanced Certificate in Outdoor Guiding TAFE (1998), Permaculture Consultant's Design Course, Permaculture Institute (1993), Struan's experience includes: Joint Medical Program Coordinator (2016), Assistant Customer Service Officer (2010-2011), Coordinator (1995-1997).

Rachel Lawrence

Malpas
Catchment
Coordinator -
BForEco (Hon)

Rachel grew up on farms in Tasmania and has lived and worked in NSW, Queensland, and the Northern Territory for the past 7 years. She has a passion for integrating ecology with agriculture and supporting people to implement good resilience and sustainability practices.

Rachel's experience includes supporting uptake of Integrated Pest Management (2010-2012), forest health research (2003 & 2007-2009), locust control (Australian Plague Locust Commission 1999-2002), and she is currently completing post-graduate research into the ecology of New England grazing systems. Rachel is a ceramic artist with an interest in communicating agroecology through Art.

Meet Your SNE Landcare Board Members

David Henderson

Director, President

David lives in the Ward's Mistake area north east of Guyra, NSW. He is interested in pathways to mental wellness awareness-raising through photography and social media.



Before retiring in June 2014, David was CEO of Armidale & District Business Enterprise Centre Limited (2002-2014), held management positions with News Limited (12 years) and Australia Meat Holdings (5 years).

David's skills include one-on-one business start-up, personal development and training support, accounting and financial management. He has qualifications in Workplace Training and Assessment.

Key committee positions include: Director, Southern New England Landcare Ltd (2016-), Secretary & Treasurer, New England North West Landcare Network Chairs Inc (2018), Chair Northern Tablelands Sub-Committee of NENW Landcare Network Chairs Inc (2018).

Steve Harvey

Director, Vice President

Steve owns and manages a sheep & wool property east of Armidale and his interests include sustainable agriculture, community engagement, and environmental sustainability.



As a self-employed grazier in a rural business partnership, he has experience as a wool classer and shearing shed overseer, and skills in agribusiness and property management specialising in sheep and wool.

Steve's qualifications include: Wool Classer, Diploma Farm Management (Tocal Agricultural College); Electric, Oxy and Mig Welding; Small Motor Mechanics; Advanced Sheep and Wool; and Financial Administration.

Key committee positions include: Member Dangarsleigh Landcare group, founding Director of Southern New England Landcare Ltd, Northern Tablelands Representative on Landcare NSW Inc Council for NENW Landcare Network Chairs Inc, Merino Sheep Steward, Armidale Agricultural Show Society, Regional Secretary, Australian Superfine Woolgrowers, Regional Representative, National Council Australian Superfine Woolgrowers.

Bev Stubberfield

Director, Treasurer

A Uralla resident, Bev's interests include soil health, healthy waterways, sustainable ecosystems and community projects and events. Her qualifications include Diplomas in Project Management and Small Business Management.



Bev's experience includes being a self-employed small business owner, and Tourism Manager at Uralla Visitor Centre, with skills including event management, community fund-raising and social development.

Key committee positions include: Secretary, Uralla Rivercare Group, Director, Southern New England Landcare Ltd, Secretary Uralla Red Cross; Coordinator, Uralla Rotary Youth Art Exhibition (Schools); Club Administration, Rotary Club of Uralla; Member, The United Hospital Auxiliary; Treasurer, Thunderbolts Festival Committee; Past Board Member for NENW Regional Tourism; Secretary & Coordinator, Creative Village Committee Uralla; Chairperson, Tourism Armidale; and Member, Highway 15 Committee.

Bill Perrottet

Director

Located in the Malpas Catchment at Guyra, Bill has interests in regenerative

agriculture, farm bi-odiversity, grazing management, town planning and architecture.

Bill is a self-employed grazier, with experience on farms in Western Australia, Queensland and the Northern Territory.

He has skills in agribusiness and property management, and his qualifications include an Associate Diploma Farm Management.

Key committee positions include: Member Malpas Catchment Group, Malpas Catchment Project Steering Committee, Director Southern New England Landcare Limited.



Jill Moore-Kashima

Director

Jill is a self-employed property owner and manager west of Uralla focusing on biodiversity and conservation.

Her interests include regenerating biological health of soils, innovative thinking, connecting urban and rural dwellers with issues such as declining nutrient densities in food, enhancing understanding that leads to solutions, not blame, incorporating visual arts and the importance of fresh ways of thinking about 'old problems'.

A graduate of the University of NSW, with post-graduate qualifications from the University



of New England, Jill has skills as an educator and marketer of home-grown food products.

Key committee positions include: Member Balala Brushgrove Landcare Group, Member Soil Health Forum, Director Southern New England Landcare Ltd.

Peter Metcalfe

Director

Based at Dumaresq near Armidale, Peter is interested in native plant and bird identification, writing, environmental education, and botany.

With a BSc, Agric., and Dip Ed (Sydney, 1963), Peter's skills include botany and ornithology with an emphasis as an environmental educator, writer, researcher and advisor.

His experience includes project management with Armidale Tree Group; environmental education botany and bird expert; koala and flora surveys; seed collector since 1990; consultant to landholders on corridor design, plant identification and species selection for property planting.

Key committee positions include: Member Dumaresq Landcare Group, Director Southern New England Landcare Ltd; Northern Tablelands Representative on the Community Advisory Committee to the World Heritage Gondwana Rainforests of Australia; Member of Trust and Advisory Committees to NSW NPWS (1973 - 2009); Senior Lecturer in Environmental Education at Armidale Teachers College, Armidale CAE and University of New England (1967-2001); Teacher of Science and Biology in NSW high schools (1964-1967).



Bryan Johnston

Director

Bryan is located in Armidale, and his interests include Armidale Urban Rivercare Group, National Parks and Wildlife Northern Tablelands Regional Advisory Committee, Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Areas.

With Chemical Risk Management Accreditation, a Cert. IV Workplace Training & Assessment, a Dip. Agric. (Hon), and Cert. Agriculture, his experience includes Cattle and Beef Management Services, Agriculture Teacher with TAFE NSW, Training material developer for Certificate III Feedlot Operations; Tour Manager with Quadrant Australia, Trainer/Environmental Auditor with Australian Landcare Management Group and Program Leader with NSW Agriculture.

Bryan also has skills in property management of family cattle and timber enterprises. Key committee positions include: Member Armidale Urban Rivercare Group, Director Southern New England Landcare Ltd. Chairman, Quadrant Australia Pty Ltd. State Council Representative National Parks Assoc NSW Armidale Branch Committee.

Other memberships include Armidale Urban Rivercare Group, Dumaresq Lions Club, Biodynamic Agriculture Australia, Birdlife Australia; and past secretary, Paterson A & H association, Secretary/Treasurer, Narrabri Public School P & C. Director, Maitland A & H Association, and he has held various positions with Armidale Dumaresq Lions Club.



PEER GROUP MENTORING SERVICE FOR AGROFORESTRY



FARMER TO FARMER EXTENSION

FOR FARMERS
MANAGING TREES
FOR REASONS THAT
MATTER TO THEM!



WHO ARE THE MENTORS?

- LOCAL EXPERIENCED TREE GROWERS
- MASTER TREEGROWER PROGRAM GRADUATES
- TRAINED MENTORS



WHAT SERVICES ARE PROVIDED?

- FARM VISITS SUPPORT YOUR IDEAS & GOALS
- TECHNICAL EXPERTISE AND INFORMATION
- SITE REPORTS



WHAT TOPICS CAN BE COVERED?

- Shade and shelter
- Farm aesthetics
- Natives or exotics
- Tree establishment
- Habitat
- Farm tree planning
- Native forest management
- Species identification
- Trees for timber

HOW DO WE KNOW IT WORKS?

Most significant change technique tells the story...

The suggestions and guidance of what species to try, planting locations, when and in what season to plant, as well as planting designs have all been of tremendous value.

Helen Nix & David Menzies, Castletbrook, Urella

The mentors passed on valuable insights about the diversity in my forest and helped me see it as a whole ecosystem. They also provided useful practical tips which filled out much of my own opinions on where to go with its management.

Rob Laurie, Brigadona, Nowendoc.



WWW.SNELANDCARE.ORG.AU

A project of the New England Agri-Woodland Network (NEAWN), a sub-group of Southern New England Landcare Ltd. This project is supported with funding from the Australian Government, and in-kind contributions from the Australian Agroforestry Foundation.



FLIGHT CENTRE®

We thank



for collaborating with us

The SNELandcare
Community Resource
Centre is proudly
supported by



Choose SNELandcare in the
Community Partnership Program,
and provide your support without
costing you a cent!

Mention you are a member and



will support us to the value of 3%
of your insurance premium!
Call 02 6722 1755



Local Land
Services
Northern Tablelands

Proudly supporting the
**NSW Local Landcare
Coordinator Initiative**

If undeliverable return to Southern New England Landcare,
Suite 10, 128 Beardy Street, PO Box 85, Armidale 2350.
Tel 02 6772 9123, mail@snelandcare.org.au.

Landchat
Print Post Approved
PP 255003/09214



Southern
New England
Landcare

PRINT
POST

POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA

Landchat

Landcare in the Southern New England, No. 113, April - June 2018



Southern
New England
Landcare



Australian Government

National
Landcare
Programme



Acknowledgements

Southern New England Landcare is supported by: the NSW Government's Local Landcare Coordinator Initiative, supported through the partnership of Local Land Services and Landcare NSW; the Northern Tablelands Local Land Services through funding from the NSW Government's Catchment Action NSW and the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme; Armidale Regional Council; Flight Centre Armidale; Regional Australia Bank; and Wesfarmers Federation Insurance.

Landchat presents a forum for the expression of a range of opinions. While every effort is made to publish accurate information, Southern New England Landcare and its employees do not accept responsibility for statements made and opinions expressed in this newsletter.



Need Insurance

for your farm, equipment, car or household?

We recommend Wesfarmers Federation Insurance, proud supporters of Landcare.

Mention you are a member of Southern New England Landcare, and 3% of the value of your premium is returned to SNElandcare to support projects! Contact David de Ferranti on 1300 934934 or 0412 328 911.



Local Land
Services
Northern Tablelands



ARMIDALE
Regional Council

regionalaustraliabank