

Landchat

Landcare in the Southern New England, No. 101, July - September 2014

Southern New England Landcare...

Our **VISION** is for a vibrant, socially and economically healthy community existing in a healthy, productive and biodiverse environment.

Our **MISSION** is to foster community participation in sustainable natural resource management.

Contact US by phone 02 6772 9123 or email mail@snelcc.org.au



Southern
New England
Landcare



Australian Government



Regional Landcare Facilitator

Diary Dates

Herbert Park Riparian Management

Field Day14 Sept

National Landcare Conf. & Awards....17-19 Sept

MasterTree Grower Course13-14 Oct

Frog Dreaming.....16-17 Oct

Uralla Thunderbolt's Festival25 Oct

Armidale Farmers' Markets1st & 3rd

Sunday of the month

Landcare IS **Pozible**

Landcare NSW has teamed up with Pozible, an Australian crowdsourcing platform, to not only provide our Landcarers with a new an opportunity to raise funds – but a worldwide platform on which we get to tell the story of ordinary landcarers doing amazing things.

So what is crowdfunding - and why would Landcare be involved? Crowdfunding is a digital platform where you can pitch your projects to the crowd – and get people from across the globe to donate funds to get your project underway. Crowdfunding has been a huge success - 56% of the projects pitched have been successful with over \$24 million in funding crossing the Pozible platform in the last 4 years.

Frog Dreaming, Southern New England Landcare's multi award winning program, headed by Sara Schmude, and focussed on improving the understanding and connection of Yr 5 & 6 students with each other and the sustainable use of our environment, has been chosen to be one of 25 Australian and international projects launched worldwide at the National Landcare Conference on the Pozible crowdfunding platform. Other projects include "Paddock Tree wants a Wife", "Finding Nanno", "The Great Envirorace" and "The Lemur Lodge" in Madagascar.

<http://www.pozible.com/landcare>

To learn more about **crowdfunding** and how **YOU** can help this year's Frog Dreaming event get up and running - go to page 6 for more details

Southern New England Landcare and Northern Tablelands Local Land Services Community Forum

Thank you to group representatives who attended the August SNEELCC Inc meeting and provided input for the planning of an upcoming community forum to be held later in the year.

This forum represents an opportunity for community networks, groups, individuals, government and non-government organisations to come together to hear from one another, to celebrate 25 years of Landcare and to build relationships and a foundation for improved service delivery in our region.

WATCH THIS SPACE for event details over the next few weeks!

New Projects

SNELCC has recently been able to secure funding for a number of landholder projects we currently hold. Southern New England Landcare's evolving partnership with the Northern Tablelands Local Land Service has provided funding for two of these projects which are now underway. We have also had success in securing funding from the NSW Environmental Trust for "Moths, Magpies and Marsupials". To add to this, we now have an exciting opportunity to work with the Australian Agroforestry Foundation to deliver training for the MasterTree Grower Course which is soon to get underway and finally, frog dreaming will again be held in October this year, this time to be partly funded by Landcare NSW Pozible Crowdfunding.

The details and funding amounts of these projects can be seen in the adjacent table.

SNELCC has successfully secured funding from having landholder EOI's and developing these into planned "shovel ready" projects for funding applications. These planned projects are particularly attractive to funding bodies and demonstrate the capacity of SNELCC and their members to successfully deliver projects. EOI's can be developed into "shovel ready" plans with landholders when events and field days are held across our region. They can then be matched to the appropriate funding grants when they become available and the landholder has been notified.

Remember, your EOI can relate to a wide variety of natural resource management projects, if in doubt just call us for a chat!

Project	Funding organisation	End Date	Funded Amount
<i>Moths, magpies and marsupials: promoting on farm biodiversity</i>	NSW Environmental Trust	30 June 2016	\$99,898
Project Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 properties • 102ha Remnant Vegetation protected • 19ha Vegetation planted • 13600 seedlings established 		
Project	Funding organisation	End Date	Funded Amount
<i>Improving upland water quality and creating protected links across the greater Malpas catchment of the Guyra Plateau</i>	Northern Tablelands Local Land Services	30 June 2015	\$68,095
Project Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and restore 1.5km of riparian areas • Protect 0.5ha of existing woody and/or herbaceous native vegetation • Establish 6ha of woody native vegetation in ecologically strategic locations • Establish at least 6 provisional/pilot stream monitoring sites upstream of Malpas Dam 		
Project	Funding organisation	End Date	Funded Amount
<i>Building connectivity, protecting and enhancing remnant vegetation and riparian areas on farms in the southern New England region</i>	Northern Tablelands Local Land Services	30 June 2015	\$108,030
Project Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 landholders • Protect and restore 24.9ha of Riparian areas • Protect/Plant 24ha of existing woody and/or herbaceous native vegetation 		
Project	Funding organisation	End Date	Funded Amount
<i>Delivery of a regional Master Tree Grower Course and a Peer Group Mentoring Pilot Project in the New England Tablelands</i>	Australian Agroforestry Foundation	31 January 2016	\$65,000
Project Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver a Australian Master TreeGrower course in partnership with the Australian Agroforestry Foundation • Deliver at least 1 training course in Peer Group Mentoring for a selected group in partnership with the Australian Agroforestry Foundation • Deliver a Peer Group Mentoring project for at least 12 months under the guidance of the Australian Agroforestry Foundation 		
Project	Funding organisation	End Date	Funded Amount
<i>2014 Frog Dreaming School's Conference</i>	Landcare NSW Pozible Crowd Funding	Mid October 2014	Up to you
Project Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An innovative approach to sourcing funding to make this long standing worth while project occur. 		

LOCALS ARE NATIONAL LANDCARE AWARD FINALISTS

HiCub

Australian Government Partnerships with Landcare Award

The High Country Biodiversity Project is a partnership between four local government areas – Armidale Dumaresq, Guyra, Uralla and Walcha, and Southern New England Landcare. The project was funded by NSW Environmental Trust through a grant to a consortium of Armidale-Dumaresq, Uralla Shire, Guyra Shire and Walcha Councils. The project staff have built strong partnerships with community groups such as the Armidale Urban Rivercare Group, and worked with these groups to build their capacity and help them attract new members. In turn, this has brought more people and energy to the project, enabling the group to achieve more on the ground.



Murries on Barwon

Indigenous Land Management Award

The 'Murries on Barwon' project consists of seven Aboriginal community members from the Mungindi area, who share a passion for learning through vocational training and mentoring, allowing them to implement best practice natural resource management on land owned by the Mungindi Local Aboriginal Land Council. The group of long-term unemployed worked on 'Glanville' - a 5,500ha property located 11km south-west of Mungindi town - purchased to train Aboriginal people in land management.



FigTrees Organic Farms

Innovation in Sustainable Farm Practices Award

Described by their Regional Landcare Facilitator, Jodie Gager, as "master land stewards, creating new parameters for best practice", Glenn Morris and Henry Sheehan from Fig Trees Organic Farms (located at Inverell and Grafton) have successfully used holistic land management to transform a degraded farm and resource base into a working model of eco-agriculture and played an important role in enhancing the health of regional ecosystem processes.



Frog Dreaming

Junior Landcare Team Award

The two-day Frog Dreaming conference is a youth learning program held near Uralla NSW – connecting young people with each other and their local environment, building skills as well as confidence to turn ideas into on-ground projects within their communities. The conference links students from Years 5 and 6 with high school students in a forum supported by their local Natural Resource Management (NRM) community. It provides an experiential learning opportunity for students to engage with their passion for the natural environment and Aboriginal culture. Lasting connections are built – with mentors being drawn from past participants, ranging from Years 7-10. The students have showcased their creativity by teaming up with the local community to plant a paddock in the shape of a giant tree frog.



ENGINEERED WOODLANDS UPDATE

TREE SPECIES SELECTION EXCELLENT FOR THE NORTHERN SLOPES, NOT SO GREAT FOR THE NORTHERN TABLELANDS.

Engineered Woodlands are whole-of paddock, wide-spaced tree plantings engineered to integrate traditional agriculture with income producing trees.

The Engineered Woodland (EW) sites have now been established for six to seven years. As of winter 2013, tree species survival rates had been excellent on most of the Northern Slopes sites (77% to 97%) and good to acceptable on all but two of the Tableland sites (58% to 83%). Unfortunately, the exceptionally dry growing season of 2013/2014 was too hot and dry for two of the principal tree species planted on the Tableland sites, with large numbers of well-established trees dying. The species most affected was Shining Gum (*Eucalyptus nitens*), with the loss of some individuals which had grown to over 10m tall. The principal species used on the Slopes sites coped well under the drought conditions, with landholders reporting minimal losses during the course of the season.

Figure 1 shows the average survival rates of all trees planted on monitoring transects at the EW demonstration sites that were monitored in 2013. Note: Most sites had acceptable tree survival rates at this stage, although some Tableland sites recorded some losses during lengthy dry spells in 2009/10 and spring 2012.

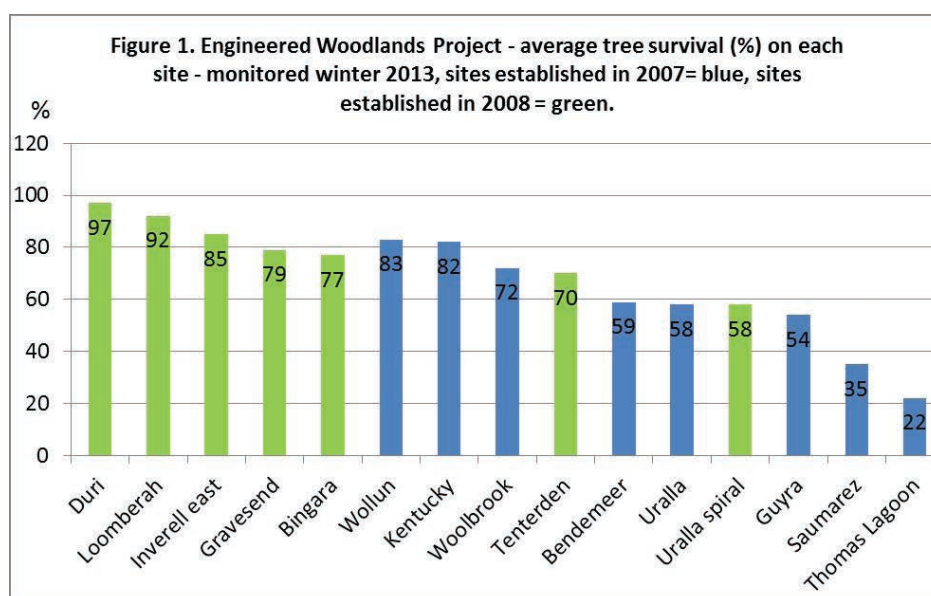


Figure 2 shows the average tree height of all trees planted on monitoring transects at the EW demonstration sites that were monitored in 2013. Excellent growth rates were recorded at most sites with tallest trees exceeding 8 to 10m on some sites.

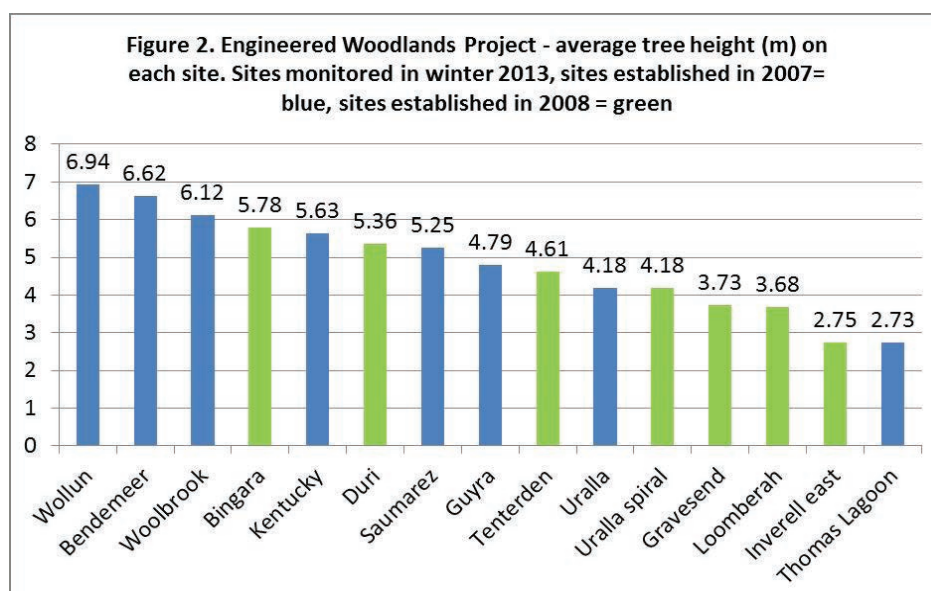


Table 1 shows the overall and individual tree species survival rates on monitoring transects at the Northern Slopes EW sites that were monitored in 2013. The three principal tree species used at most sites (River Red Gum *E. camaldulensis*, Chinchilla White Gum *E. argophloia* and Mugga Ironbark *E. sideroxylon*) all had good to excellent survival rates. Highest losses occurred in some shrub species (not reported in table) such as *Acacia mearnsii*, and it was the performance of these species that dragged down overall survival rates on some sites.

Table 1

Northern Slopes sites monitored 2013	All species average % survival (to 2013)	River Red Gum % survival	Chinchilla White Gum % survival	Mugga Ironbark % survival	Casuarina spp. % survival	Hickory Wattle % survival
Duri	97	100	92	100	95	
Loomberah	92	100	100	100		
Inverell east	85	89	100	92		83
Gravesend	79	91	90		67	
Bingara	77	91	90	68		56
Overall	86	94	94	90	81	70

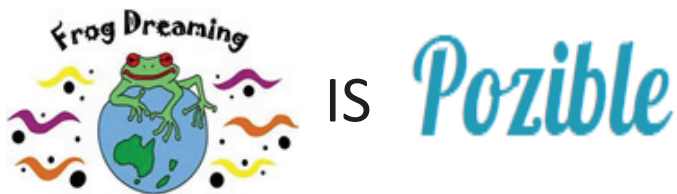
Table 2 shows the overall and individual species survival rates on monitoring transects at the Northern Tableland EW sites. Like Table 1, these sites were monitored in 2013. However, due to landholder reports of drought deaths by March 2014, these sites were re-monitored for tree survival in winter 2014.

Table 2

Northern Tablelands sites monitored 2013 and 2014	All species average % survival (2013)	All species average % survival (2014)	Shining Gum % survival rate to 2014	Manna Gum % survival rate to 2014	Snow Gum % survival rate to 2014	Radiata Pine % survival rate to 2014
Wollun	83	62	49	90	51	88
Kentucky	82	72	61	83	38	
Woolbrook	72	52	45	81	37	68
Tenterden	70	62	33	95	61	
Bendemeer	59	40	19	83	33	76
Uralla	58	57	73	87	27	68
Guyra	54	42	33	38	56	
Overall	68	55	45	80	43	75

The dry 2013/2014 season saw an additional overall loss of up to 21% of trees on Tableland EW sites. Losses were greatest on sites with free draining or shallow soils e.g. Wollun, Woolbrook and Bendemeer. Manna Gum *E. viminalis* was the only principal native EW tree species that coped well with the extreme drought season of 2013/2014 maintaining overall survival rates of 80%. Shining Gum *E. nitens* coped poorly (despite its good performance in Greening Australia species trials) with losses to date averaging over 50% and with over 80% losses on some sites. These results would suggest that the species is not suitable for most Tableland farms. Snow Gum *E. pauciflora* also recorded low survival rates on most sites. However, this species' losses up until 2014 occurred as a combination of early losses as seedlings; losses due to livestock browsing (many seedlings too small compared to the overall planting when livestock re-introduced to the paddocks); as well as some losses in the recent drought. Note: Snow Gum has performed relatively well at the highest site (>1300m) at Guyra and this species is obviously better suited to higher altitude sites (more so into the future given the likely impact of climate change).

Engineered Woodlands Project – initiative of the former Northern Inland Forestry Investment Group and co-funded by the former Namoi CMA and the former Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA.



At the National Landcare Conference on the 18th September a brand new collection on the Pozible Platform will be launched – It is the Landcare and Environment Collection, a partnership led by Landcare NSW but designed for landcarers everywhere, and to celebrate we are launching 25 projects to celebrate the 25 years anniversary of Landcare. These 25 projects are from across Australia and across the Globe - and our very own Frog Dreaming is one of the 25 projects selected to celebrate the launch of this exciting initiative.

Sara has been working with a team of students from Julian Priors AGEX 310/510 course at UNE, to bring the Frog Dreaming project to life on the Pozible platform. With the help of the students Southern New England Landcare & New England North West Landcare hosted a highly successful training workshop for anyone interested in crowdfunding. The students then set about developing a pitch for Frog Dreaming to appeal to the world and hopefully get the world to help fund this years event. This is even more important than ever, as we have recently been advised that the funding we usually receive from our Regional Body will not be available this year.

So from 4pm on the 18th September go to <http://www.pozible.com/landcare> and have a look for yourself, and YOU can play your part in making this year's Frog Dreaming a success: it's easy and a bit of fun too. You can give as little as \$10 or as much as you wish - that's the beauty of crowdfunding, it enables you to fund those projects you like, to a level you want and can afford. And you can either donate outright or choose to receive "rewards" for your sponsorship.

And, just as important as making a pledge yourselves, is to spread the word about the projects – in particular our very own Frog Dreaming – Tweet or use Facebook or whatever social media you use to get the message out and about. Let all your friends know that you have found something worth supporting and ask them to support it too.

And it's not just about these first 25 projects - the Landcare and Environment Collection remains open as an ongoing opportunity for you to gain resourcing for your projects.

Visit the website above or contact Jen Quealy at jquealy@landcarens.org.au for further information.

PLACES OF INTEREST IN THE NEW ENGLAND

The photo below shows a sample of the information brochures currently available and free of charge at the SNECC office (3/119 Beardy Street) and the Armidale Tourist Information Centre. The brochures highlight some of the historic and natural attractions of the New England, including our National Parks, Nature Reserves, Aboriginal cultural sites and architectural marvels from bygone times.

In this edition we profile the New England National Park. Spring is one of the best times to visit the park with plants, including rare and endangered orchids emerging and flowering, and unique Australian wildlife such as the lyre bird becoming active.

The New England National Park was first gazetted in 1935 and at present covers 72, 241 hectares. Ecosystems range from Snow Gums at altitudes up to around 1500m above sea level, to subtropical rainforests at less than 300m asl. There is a wide variety of plant communities that includes Antarctic Beech rainforest, a relic from the era when dinosaurs were part of the ecosystem.

Public access to the park is found in a right hand turn-off, 65km east of Armidale along the Waterfall Way. This access point takes visitors firstly to the highest point (Point Lookout, 1,563m asl) where on a clear day the Pacific Ocean is visible more than 60km to the east.

There is much more information available at the Armidale Tourist Information Centre or on site at the New England National Park. Our thanks go to John Davidson for his part in developing these brochures.



“When I Becomes We”

A Rural Women's Gathering, 12th August 2014

Rural women from the SNELCC region are keen to meet on a regular basis, to give and receive support for who they are and what they do.

On the 12th August we got things started with a gathering at Armidale's Aboriginal Keeping Place where we were treated to an interactive session with Phoebe Maroulis - to look at what happens 'When I Becomes WE'. What happens when involvement in a group, or an inability to connect with others, impacts negatively on your wellbeing?

As a social alchemist, believing that *“there is a unique magic, in communities, that comes to light when the right ingredients are added by the right people, in the right way, at the right time”*, Phoebe works to *“inspire the individual and collective spirit in rural communities”*.

During the August gathering Phoebe helped each of us look at who we are and why we do what we do, or why we wish to do some things we can't do.

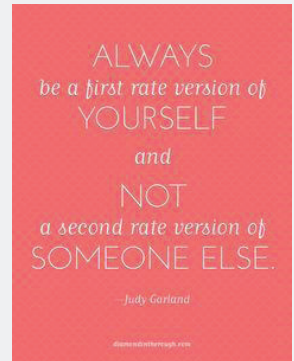
Then, for each of us the next step in developing our

journey was to consider: where am I now, where do I want to be and how will I get there? Getting there may not be a straight A-to-B line but there are ways and means.

Two reassuring messages from Phoebe were:



and



Before the end of the year rural women in the SNELC region will be given the opportunity to meet again. We will focus on working together to develop first rate versions of each of ourselves.

**For more information contact Ruth
on 6772 9123 or ruth@snelcc.org.au**



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Armidale Office
02 6774 8400
enquiries@rm.net.au
www.rm.net.au



**ROBERTS
& MORROW**
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF LANDCARE AT BLACK GULLY (NERAM)

Landcare has been working with the local community for the last 25 years, building a generation of Landcarers to protect, restore and sustainably manage our natural environment and its productivity. To celebrate this milestone and to help facilitate the next generation of Landcarers, we held a series of workshops with 100 local school children at Black Gully (NERAM). The day was filled with the busyness of constructing ant hotels, biodiversity walk/talk, revegetating the riparian zone, learning all about SLA's community gardens and experiencing water quality testing.

Sara Schmude said "The day represented everything we do well – bringing people together to share knowledge, acquire NRM skills and have a meaningful and engaging experience within our local community".

"Had a fantastic afternoon celebrating 25 years of Southern New England Landcare with local school students and volunteers" Adam Marshall, MP. commented.

Special thanks to our partners for their support on the day – Armidale Dumaesq Council, Sustainable Living Armidale, Northern Tablelands Local Land Services, Matt McKenzie from Thalgarrah, Armidale Tree Group, NERAM, David Doyle Photography, UNE & NW Science Hub and members of the SNEL team.

Check out SNEL facebook page for the full story in pictures!



Ant hotels with ant specialist Dr Kirsti Abbott from UNE

Are Indian Mynas causing a problem?



SNELCC has Indian Myna traps available for hire.

*For more information contact
6772 9123 or mail@snelcc.org.au*

SAVE THE DATE

FRIDAY 28TH NOVEMBER

Big Xmas bash celebrating 25 years of Landcare.

Could groups please start collecting photos of past works and events to be used in a slide show on the night?



Agriculture extension students stride it out as they check their field day site along Tilbuster Ponds Creek at the Armidale Pine Forest.

Out and About



Helen Schwarz and John Davidson – been there, done that!



UNE Agriculture Extension students with Jen Quealy & Sara Schmude at the crowdfunding workshop.



Many hands making light work at the AURG Biofund project working bees along Armidale's Dumaresq Creek.



Little Miss Landcare, Harriet Schmude helping coordinate 25 years of Landcare at Black Gully.



High school students researching gully & sheet erosion remediation at Kentucky.



Well Fair 2014 - a UNE landcare recruitment opportunity.

MasterTree Grower Course – It's not just about timber!

The MasterTree Grower course is about multipurpose tree growing. It includes native foods, timber, biofuels, tree seed, flowers, truffles, honey, essential oils, shade & shelter for livestock, as well as re-establishing habitat for native birds, animals and insects.

What: 8 day course

When: Commences in October - December 2014

Where: A variety of properties and localities across the New England

Course Cost: \$220 gst incl. Discounts available for additional family members

If you or your group are interested in more information we can come and talk to you!

For more information please contact:

Kristy Youman at the Southern New England Landcare on 6772 9123 or kristy@snelcc.org.au



New England AgriWoodlands Network

The **New England AgriWoodlands Network** will increase and diversify farm income whether it be through the sale of native foods, timber, biofuels, truffles, tree seed, flowers, honey and essential oils. It will also establish habitat for native birds, animals and insects.

Giving farmers access to **practical science-based knowledge**, credible information networks and guidance.

Training farmers, then paying them to work with other landholders in their own region as they design and implement agroforestry projects of their own.

In the Otways, they have demonstrated that **involving farmers** in the design and management of vegetation on their own land leads to a mix of trees and farming that supports, rather than displaces, rural communities.

Using innovative extension methods the New England AgriWoodlands Network project will kick off with a **MasterTree Grower course** followed by a peer mentoring program.

If you or your group would like more information or to register your interest please contact **Kristy Youman** at Southern New England Landcare on 6772 9123 or kristy@snelcc.org.au



URANDANGIE CREEK WALK

Eighteen land and water managers from the Malpas catchment and adjacent areas gathered in the “Urandangie” woolshed east of Guyra, on Wednesday 7th May, to hear environmental management specialist Mike Lloyd explain how he developed and oversaw the plan to restore Urandangie Creek.

Bill Perrottet of “Urandangie” outlined how fencing and restoring creeks on the property had helped control fluke in his livestock, improved stock water quality, made mustering and moving stock easier, removed the necessity for flood gates (and the repair and maintenance they require) and provided a buffer zone which ensures that nutrients spread in fertilizer stay on the farm.

A walk down the creek enabled the group to see first-hand how ponding of the creek had assisted the maintenance of a Carex Sedge Wetland and raised the water level upstream of the pond to reduce lowering of the creek bed. ‘Before-and-after’ photos, together with re-vegetated creek areas where rock ramps had been constructed allowed participants

to see how the eroded and ‘stepped’ creek bed had been restored.

Water quality parameters such as pH, electrical conductivity and macro-invertebrate populations were demonstrated and discussed under the guidance of Iestyn Taylor from the Northern Tablelands Local Land Services. It was interesting to hear that the pH of Malpas Dam has increased significantly over the last few years, and how changes to land management can affect water quality for stock or domestic use.

During the creek walk there were also opportunities to discuss reasons for success and failure of grassy revegetation and tree plantings in riparian areas, and the group heard how local bird diversity had increased as a result of increased diversity in ground and tree cover.

A number of landholders took the opportunity to develop ideas for creek restoration works on their own properties, and discuss potential options for on-ground works and funding support.



Top ramp site before works, June 2011 showing bed-lowering erosion



Top rock ramp site immediately after works, February 2012



Ponded site above top rock ramp, May 2014



Carex sedge wetland above ponded site and top rock ramp, May 2014

This field day was made possible through SNELCC’s Malpas Project, which is funded by Armidale Dumaresq Council. If you have ideas, or would like to access help, to restore or manage waterways, swampy land or stock water supplies you are encouraged to contact

**Ruth Trémont, Malpas Project Officer
at SNELCC on 6772 9123 or ruth@snelcc.org.au**

SOUTHERN QUEENSLANDERS CHECK OUT OUR BACKYARD

The power of sharing ideas was proven at a recent visit to the Northern Tablelands by a group of Landcare coordinators and committee members from Southern Queensland on the 20th and 21st May.

The visit to the Northern Tablelands provided an opportunity for Landcare groups from across Southern Queensland to share ideas and discuss common challenges with Landcare members from the Northern Tablelands.

The tour started at Tim Wright's property, 'Lana', Uralla where the Queenslanders looked at the results of the Wright's Holistic Management and planned grazing efforts. Tim presented on the history of Lana and the formation of the Balala-Brushgrove Landcare group. The evening finished with a presentation from Influential Women's, Catherine Marriot, who inspired and connected with the audience.

The following day the Queenslanders took a tour of the SNELCC Resource Centre in Armidale with presentations by staff and finished their visit with a stroll down to the Dumaresq Creeklands with SNELCC's Sara Schmude to view urban Landcare in action.

Jennie Coldham, Regional Landcare Facilitator for the Tablelands and Slopes, said "It was good to create some links with the Southern Queensland crew. These links could provide opportunities in the future for valuable sharing, networking and joint activities".

"They are working on a number of very similar issues as we are in the New England and we need to get past the barrier of the state border to make the most of the collective knowledge, experience and resources," she said.

Kàren Zirkler, member of Harnham Landcare group said "Our backyards may be different, but we face a lot of the same challenges in community-led natural resource management".

Julia Telford from Southern Queensland said, "We had a great few days with plenty of ideas and discussion for our groups to consider when planning future opportunities for their Landcare groups."

Some of the highlights for the Southern Queensland group included seeing projects and meeting other coordinators, an opportunity to network with other groups in NSW, putting faces to names, and understanding that similar problems exist in other areas, not just in their own backyard.

SNELCC would like to thank the Southern Queensland group for travelling down to our region and sharing some of the common challenges we face in both our "backyards".



WEEDS IN FOCUS

Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*)

Gorse is a shrubby leguminous weed of National Significance. It is considered to be of national significance because of its invasiveness, potential for spread, and environmental, social and economic impacts. Gorse is a Class 2 Noxious Weed on the NSW Northern Tablelands, while the Brooms are Class 3 weeds.

Gorse is a prickly, perennial, evergreen shrub which can grow to 2–3m tall. It is native to Europe and the UK and was introduced to Australia in the 1800s as a hedge plant. It quickly got out of control and now, together with Cape Broom (*Genista mospessulana*) and Scotch Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), costs the pastoral industries of Tasmania, Victoria and south-eastern NSW millions of dollars per year.

Gorse (and Broom) infestations often begin on river banks, roadsides, forest margins or disturbed areas. Within 3 years such infestations can become dense thickets, smothering desirable vegetation, harbouring feral animals and potentially encroaching into pastures or grassy woodlands. While these dense infestations threaten native and farming ecosystems they also provide valuable habitat for small native birds. Gorse control programs must include re-vegetation of adjacent and treated areas with native shrubby vegetation which can be utilised by native birds as the Gorse is removed.

The stems of Gorse are prickly and end in a sharp spine. Gorse leaves are narrow, stiff, dark green and stalkless, with seedlings having three leaflets per leaf. Mature Broom plants do not have

spines and have three leaflets per leaf. Gorse grows well in a variety of soils and survives in low rainfall

areas thanks to its small, dark green, waxy leaves and deep roots. It flowers very early in spring and its bright yellow flowers are an important source of pollen for bees. Gorse plants produce huge numbers of dark-coloured seeds, with 3–4 seeds in grey hairy pods. The seeds are hard-coated and can remain dormant in the soil for 30 years. Germination is stimulated by mechanical disturbance (e.g. trampling or machinery) or burning.

Gorse (and Broom) seeds generally only spread naturally for a distance of up to 5m from individual plants. However, it is spread to new areas via seeds carried in mud on animals or footwear, as well as via machinery, water or relocation of soil.

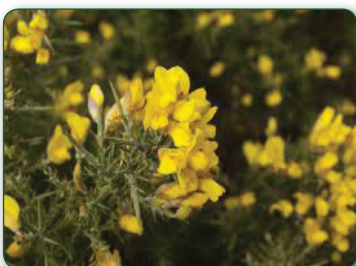
Prevention is the best method of control as once established Gorse (or Broom) is very difficult to eradicate. Rigorous cleaning of machinery, vehicles, footwear and tools will minimise the likelihood of Gorse spreading from infected areas.

Control programs require at least 5 years of committed action. Integrated control approaches include herbicide application, slashing, grazing and burning. Slashing reduces the height of shrubs and if timed appropriately will prevent flowering and seed set, and increase accessibility for spraying. Cut-stump treatment can be used for small infestations. Burning reduces the thickness of established shrubs and stimulates dormant seed banks to germinate. Follow-up grazing by goats and sheep controls Gorse regrowth if stocking rates are high enough, but herbicide treatment or hand pulling is required to kill or remove regenerating or newly germinated plants. In inaccessible areas, burning and biological control provide for some control. Perennial pasture establishment on treated areas is important but diligent removal of regenerating or germinating of Gorse plants is essential. Timely grazing by sheep may help remove new Gorse plants but needs to favour the growth of competitive pasture grasses.



Gorse infested pasture

(Photo – www.habitatadvocate.com.au)



Gorse close up

(Photo – www.commonswikimedia.org)

For more information on Gorse (and Brooms) have a look at:

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/pests-weeds/weeds/profiles/gorse>

<http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/invasive/weeds/publications/guidelines/wons/pubs/u-europaeus.pdf>

<http://www.weeds.org.au/cgi-bin/weedident.cgi?tpl=plant.tpl&state=&s=&ibra=all&card=S23>

or phone New England Weeds Authority at

Armidale (Head Office) – 6772 3602, 0428 211 314, 0419 418 036

Guyra – 6770 7117, 0439 711 701

Uralla – 0488 711 012

Walcha – 6774 2595, 0427 711 729.

ACUPPA WITH...KRISTY YOUMAN

NEW ENGLAND AGRIWOODLAND PROJECT



Kristy Youman started with Southern New England Landcare in April 2014 and has recently been offered the opportunity to coordinate the New England AgriWoodland project.

What brought you to Landcare?

I arrived back in the northern tablelands earlier in 2014 after working in central Queensland last year. In my search for a job I went door knocking businesses in Armidale and dropped into the Southern New England Landcare office to see what opportunities might be available.

After a good chat with the staff in the SNELCC office I received a call a few weeks later with an offer of some part time work assisting with projects and filling in gaps where required in other words an extra set of hands or legs where needed.

What did you do before Landcare?

Prior to Landcare I have worked in a variety of roles across a number of different industries across Australia. During my time in Victoria I worked for the Victorian Department of Primary Industries as a catchment management officer for over 6 years, and a project manager of cropping research trails for Southern Farming Systems. I have worked as a station hand and camp cook on stations in regional and remote areas of northern NSW, Queensland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory. I have even tried my hand at grape picking and milking cows. I also currently work at the Black Mountain Nursery.

Tell us a bit more about the New England AgriWoodland Project

I am excited about the New England AgriWoodland project. It is one of two pilot projects in Australia using a new approach to extension. The project is based on a highly successful model used in the Otways in Victoria and involves training farmers and then paying farmers to be peer mentors, assisting landholders to develop their agroforestry ideas.

The New England AgriWoodland project is not just about timber. It is about establishing a network and exploring the diversity of possibilities for multipurpose agroforestry products in the Southern New England area. Opportunities include bush foods, flowers, shitake mushrooms, truffles, honey, fire wood management, essential oils, shade and shelter for livestock, biodiversity benefits, timber products and other niches markets.

The project will kick off with a MasterTree Grower course in October followed by a peer mentoring training later in the year. If you are interested in more information or would like to register your interest please let me know.

Best way to spend a weekend off would be.....

Camping and fishing.



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Resourcing Landcare in our region



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If undeliverable return to Southern New England Landcare
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Tel 02 6772 9123, mail@snelcc.org.au, www.snelandcare.org.au

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Southern New England Landcare enjoys a good working relationship with a number of reputable local businesses. If you would like to include your business in our publications, please contact us on 6772 9123 or mail@snelcc.org.au

Southern New England Landcare appreciates generous support from Caring for Our Country, Armidale Dumaresq Council, NSW Environmental Trust, Local Land Services Northern Tablelands, and is sponsored by Landmark (Armidale) and Wesfarmers Federation Insurance.

Landchat presents a forum for the expression of a range of opinions.

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Local Land
Services
Northern Tablelands

2014 General Meetings

SNELCC Inc meetings are held quarterly and commence at 6.30pm

**Next meeting Wednesday 19 November 2014
(includes AGM)**

Meetings are held at the Uralla Community Centre (cnr Hill & Maitland St) All members are invited. Please contact your group's SNELCC Representative if you wish to accompany them to the meeting. A light supper will be provided for a small charge. Please RSVP by the Tuesday PRIOR to the meeting for catering purposes.

Tel 6772 9123 • mail@snelcc.org.au
www.snelandcare.org.au



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