

# Landchat

*Landcare in the Southern New England, No. 104, April - June 2015*

## 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 lead, connect and enable our communities to achieve their sustainability goals.

Contact **US** by phone 02 6772 9123 or email [mail@snelcc.org.au](mailto:mail@snelcc.org.au)



Southern  
New England  
**Landcare**



**Regional Landcare Facilitator**

## Diary Dates

Landcare Adventure, Lake Keepit.....27-28 May  
Rural Women's Event, Kentucky.....12 June  
SNECC Meeting, Armidale (NERAM).....17 June  
More Beef From Pastures Field Day, Guyra..18 June  
SNECC Meeting, Walcha .....19 Aug

## **Landcare Adventure 2015 – save the date!!!**

**Theme: Healthy soils, healthy farms, healthy people**

**When: 27th & 28th May**

**Where: Lake Keepit Sport & Rec.**

**Landcare Adventure time is nearly upon us! Being based at Lake Keepit the event includes many informative and enjoyable activities including farm tours, recreational activities and lots of socialising. It's not too late to book if you're interested, follow the links at**

**<https://eventbrite.com.au/event/16114194991/>**

**Hope to see you there!**

## **GROUP ACTION PLANNING GET ON BOARD!**

Group Action Planning is funding available specifically for community initiated projects. Group Action Planning (GAP) is all about seizing on a common interest and/or issue within a relatively small and local area.

GAP funding will provide \$ for planning and also potential \$ for actioning those plans. Funding may be targeted for activities such as on ground works or an event. Examples of GAP funding can include anything related to a Landcare activity or event, from rehabilitating a creek or catchment to renovating the community hall, restoring or enhancing a roadside environment or simply organising a "get together" to discuss a local issue. The key is in the finding common issues amongst landholders and providing support and planning for actions.

When considering GAP, be creative, there are few limits as to what idea and activity can be planned as long as it relates to natural resource management including support for people and communities. GAP planning is often initiated over the neighbour's fence, next to a mailbox or over a cup of tea.



*continued on Page 2*

GAP needs communities to initiate and drive ideas for community landcare projects. SNELCC has been resourced via funding from the National Landcare Program to facilitate and assist the development of ideas and bring them up to “shovel ready” status. The objective is to create a project that represents value for money for grants distributed through government programs including specified small grants funding from the Local Land Services.

Come up with an idea; get people on board, look to arrange meetings. SNELCC staff can and are happy to assist at any point, whether its advice, helping with communication and publicity, facilitating meetings or providing planning tools. Later when an issue or idea

develops and is “shovel ready”, SNELCC can help a group generate a funding application. Going forward we are inviting groups to discuss and present ideas at SNELCC Inc meetings. This is intended to provide a platform to share and develop ideas amongst the SNELCC community with a further opportunity to develop GAP ideas.

We strongly encourage all members and landholders to think beyond the usual EOI process and look to broader issues that might impact on a sub catchment, community or locality. We are keen to hear from people whatever your interest or understanding might be and will be happy to assist with your action planning.



## **FERAL PIG CONTROL - A FEW TIPS TO MAXIMISE YOUR FREE FEEDING SUCCESS**

### **Free feed station set up**

- Identify areas of high feral pig activity.
- Identify travel ways (tracks, pads etc) the pigs are using to access the paddock.
- Destock area (feeding/poisoning needs to occur in a stock free area (1080 poisoned grain can be fatal to livestock)).
- Take the feed (corn)/lure and delivery tool to the feral pigs – set up on/close as possible to the travel way.

### **Undertaking free feeding**

- Monitor feed up take, don't let it run out and keep feed out till uptake plateau's.
- Utilise a lure/attractant with the free feed, such as 'Hogstopper'. The use of a lure draws feral pigs

in from a broader area, as they will smell it on the wind.

- The longer you can free feed the more feral pigs will be attracted to the site. The lure and also the grain will be excreted by feeding pigs. This will then attract other pigs to the site. Pigs will also smell the grain and lure off each other.
- Don't be shy to feed for 10 to 12 days (maximise number of pigs to site).
- Ensure feed used during free feeding is the same as that used when poisoning with 1080 (including use of lure if relevant).
- **Ensure that you follow the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) and Pesticide Control Order (PCO) for poisoning feral pigs with 1080.**



# FERAL PIGS ARE OUT AND ABOUT

Throughout the New England Tablelands we often see pasture destruction, crop damage and waterway disturbance in the winter months as feral pigs look for as much protein as possible through grazing grasses and legumes and digging for nut grass, worms and bugs to meet their food requirements. In some areas of the Tablelands predation of new born lambs and grazing competition are other major impacts. Impacts also include weed and disease spread to livestock and people; such as *Leptospirosis*, *Q fever* and *Swine Brucellosis*. A number of reports have occurred throughout the North West Slopes region for *Swine Brucellosis* over recent months.

In a good season feral pigs can produce two weaned litters (averaging 4-6 piglets) every twelve to fifteen months and can start breeding at 7-10 months. Feral pigs have a large home range and frequently move between properties. For this reason the following four key principles are vital to maximise the effectiveness of control programs:

**BROADSCALE:** cover as large an area as possible, look at regional rather than individual;

**COORDINATED:** undertake organised control in the same time frame;

**COOPERATIVE:** involve as many land managers as possible, both private and public land. Ask your neighbours to take part;

**INTEGRATED:** utilise best practice control techniques and methods (e.g. baiting, trapping, aerial shooting, different bait types and attractants).

Due to the potential of feral pig populations to grow we should aim to remove 80% of the population each year.

The most effective knock-down of numbers is achieved through undertaking a '1080' poisoning program. This can then be followed with mop up control methods such as trapping, aerial shooting and ground shooting.

Winter in the New England is a great time to undertake a coordinated feral pig baiting program as pigs are more inclined to start eating grain provided as free feed.



HC500 HYPERFIRE

RECONYX

## HOGMAT

### Target specific feed station

- Minimise risk to non target species
- Light, easy to handle, durable and compact
- Reduces leaching of 1080 from grain
- Added risk management against accidental stock access to feed



## HOGSTOPPER

### Omnivore/herbivore lure

- Assist in getting pigs onto feed and encourage shy feeders
- Hogstopper will be passed through the feral pig faeces and will help attract other pigs to the free feed site
- Small amount needed. Approximately 2 tablespoons per 20kg of grain/pellets



Email: [pestlures@gmail.com](mailto:pestlures@gmail.com)

Mobile: 0427346797

Facebook: Pest Lures

Southern New England Landcare has limited corn available for free feeding feral pigs as a part of control activities.

SNEL encourages land managers involved in last years Coordinated Feral Pig Control program to contact the office on 02 6772 9123 and utilise this free corn.

# WELCOME TO OUR NEW BOARD MEMBER

## DAVID HENDERSON



Supporting people, starting and growing their own business, has been my focus, for about twenty years. A fascinating and enjoyable journey.

For twelve years, until about a year ago, I had the privilege of being CEO, at a Business Enterprise Centre, servicing the New England North West region, of New South Wales, based in Armidale.

A couple of things are front of mind, when it comes to assisting business people, to do something.

Small business is way too hung up on planning and making money. My aim was always to encourage people to lighten up, practice a bit less 'strategicness' and a lot more happiness.

The other thing, that is so important to me, is to change the business model, for my own business and those of my clients, that has been around, my industry, forever.

Tired and inappropriate, it was all about fear, mistrust, competition and greed. A lot like big business is, today.

My preferred model is about open hearted love and respect, for one another and a spirit of sharing and collaboration.

People, caught up in the old business model, often struggle with this, increasingly popular and successful, concept.

There is a frightening amount of mental illness and suicide, amongst all of us, including small business owners. Wellness and happiness are paramount. I would encourage any person who is unhappy at work, or in their business, to leave it, as quickly as possible. It comes down to the way we treat each other.

If I help a person succeed in business, it is they, who succeeded. It is they who have the passion and the commitment to resolve issues and make things work. Those who assist, the facilitators, if you like, should remain quietly in the background, be great listeners and treat their clients, with respect.

Nowadays, my passion is using social media and photo art, to raise awareness about mindfulness and mental wellness.

My wife, Anna, is an Artist, a good one! We have two adult daughters, a son in law and a grandson, who all live happily, in London. I am Secretary to Armidale Farmers Market and a member of TAFE New England Regional Council.

I hope I can contribute something useful to Landcare and appreciate the opportunity to be part of an organisation that I have admired, for a long time.

Today, we are party to a lot of changes and challenges. We best not take all that, ourselves or each other, too seriously. The way forward has to be one of joy and enthusiasm, for what it is we aim to achieve, is what matters.

Thank you.



david henderson\_apri2015



## FAREWELL AND BEST WISHES FOR SALLY WRIGHT

Southern New England Landcare has recently farewelled one of our longest serving and most active members, Sally Wright.

Sally has been involved with Southern New England Landcare as a member of the Board since 1997 and a member of the Incorporated Coordinating Committee since 2003. Over this time Sally has worked tirelessly through good times and bad to keep Southern New England Landcare at the forefront of the Landcare organisation throughout Australia. As a result of her hard work, Southern New England Landcare has become a brand easily recognised through the Landcare network for its dedication and professionalism toward natural resource management.

It is with sadness that we say farewell to Sally after her many years of service. We will miss her ever - positive and cheerful manner in Board and network meetings and as a regular face in the SNELCC office.

We all look forward to catching up with Sally regularly for a cup of tea and some good advice.

Thanks Sally from everyone at SNELCC.



## GUYRA GUN CLUB FOR OUR FIRST 'LOCALITY-BASED' SNELCC INC. MEETING

The absence of Chandlers Peak in the photo below (locals will know where to look) was proof that Guyra turned on bracing weather for our first locality-based SNELCC Inc meeting of 22nd April 2015. Nevertheless, from the top of the trig point above the Guyra Gun Club, meeting attendees got a good appreciation of the exposed nature of the Guyra Plateau yet could still see Malpas Dam, the Tomato Farm and some of the revegetation efforts on "Urandangie".

Local SNELC people including Bill Perrottet ("Urandangie"), Derek Smith ("Kenilworth"), Simon Murray ("Bambi") and David Henderson (SNEL Board) gave brief presentations at the top of the hill. Then back down in the Gun Club rooms the meeting welcomed other local landholders from the Guyra plateau and recently joined SNEL Board Member, David Henderson.

Brett Cameron of the Northern Tablelands LLS outlined this year's Fox Baiting Program. Many of the previous Fox Group Co-ordinators are continuing to help sort local bait pick-up days, and the LLS will help landholders who are not part of a fox group.

Other projects or issues are keeping various groups interested and active. The Agroforestry Peer Mentoring venture is an exciting model

which is continuing to support landholders developing agroforestry ventures. Joint SNELC-CWC funding for woodland birds is in its closing stages, while koalas and quolls are next just beginning. Tree planting, weed removal and management continue to occupy many landholders and groups, while building soil carbon could be developed further.

The meeting wrapped up with lots of chat over cups of tasty, locally-made and warming soup. The next SNELC Inc meeting will be in Armidale and showcase groups based around that locality.



*Attendees at the SNELC Inc meeting at Guyra on 22 April 2015 had a stunning view of the Guyra Plateau (minus Chandlers Peak).*

# MEMBERSHIP IS DEAD?

*By Karen Zirkler, Executive Officer, Southern New England Landcare*

According to the records, only 42% of those individuals recorded on Southern New England Landcare's database are financial members of the organisation. Is 'membership' dead?

According to a report prepared by Belinda Moore of Strategic Membership Solutions, a number of powerful generational, cultural and economic forces are colliding to create a perfect storm that will make the next 5-20 years some of the toughest ever faced by associations ([www.smsonline.net.au/pages/membership-is-dead.html](http://www.smsonline.net.au/pages/membership-is-dead.html), sourced 20/5/2015).

Belinda Moore's report makes for VERY interesting reading. She states that key reasons for this perfect storm include the fact that Baby Boomers are retiring, we are currently experiencing skilled staff and volunteer leader shortages, and associations are heavily geared towards Baby Boomers.

To stay relevant to our membership into the future, it would seem that Southern New England Landcare needs to provide clear, tangible, compelling value for Generations X and Y, and it needs to become a 'content curator' of smaller streams of timely, critical and considered information that flows to the different members who require it.

Moore says that involved members are more likely to renew, so we need to create and promote ad-hoc volunteering opportunities, communicate more effectively, and facilitate and enable communities. Sounds like our mission statement!

We need to adapt to new technologies more quickly – social media is too popular and powerful to ignore. Younger members like innovative, interesting and fun events, and because Generation X and Y attitudes to associations are influenced by ongoing negative media, we need to understand and proactively manage public perceptions of our association.

According to Moore, one of the biggest factors restricting associations from making the changes required to successfully attract and retain younger members is that Baby Boomers are resistant to the changes associations need.

If our association is to survive and thrive, our leadership needs to consider new ideas and allow themselves to be guided by good research about what appeals to younger markets. We need to act now, because as Moore says, there is a very real risk that associations "will disappear,

not with a bang, but with the tiniest of whimpers". There is a very real possibility this could be Landcare in NSW.

What do you say?

"What to do about Membership?" was the big question on the agenda of a meeting held by the Executive Committee Members of Southern New England Landcare Coordinating Committee Inc (SNELCC) and the Board Members of Southern New England Landcare Ltd in Uralla on 20th May.

The report 'Membership is Dead' by Belinda Moore ([www.smsonline.net.au/pages/membership-is-dead.html](http://www.smsonline.net.au/pages/membership-is-dead.html)) was required pre-reading. Not surprisingly, the discussion raised more questions than it answered. Staff will soon be preparing a membership 'discussion paper' containing topics for consideration by groups and members at the August SNELCC meeting in Walcha. We'd like your thoughts. So, perhaps you'd like to ponder the following topics over the coming two months...

1. **Member benefits.** What should/could members receive in the way of services and benefits, that non-members don't receive? Before thinking too long and hard, read on!
2. **Landchat newsletter.** Landchat is a great communication tool to show who we are, what we do and what our members achieve. Members receive a printed copy quarterly. Many non-financial members and 'others' also still receive a printed copy. Electronic copies are available on the website. The cost of producing printed copies of Landchat is significant. Who (if anyone) should receive printed copies of Landchat? Who should receive access to the electronic version? Should there be 'user pays' for printed copies? Should it be available to the general public online or only made available to financial members?
3. **Expressions of Interest (EOI).** Should we accept, and potentially resource EOIs for on ground works from those who are not members of our organisation? Should those submitting EOIs be required to join our association before their EOI is accepted and developed as a funded project? Should they be required to become a member only IF it gets funded/resourced?
4. **Member-only events.** Apart from SNELCC Inc and Board meetings, we currently don't have member-only events. Should we? Is there an opportunity to offer our members something special through this mechanism?

cont.



Membership is dead? cont.

5. **Privacy for members.** We never sell or disclose your contact details to third parties. But to what extent should we or could we make member contact details available to other members? Would this be beneficial for networking and sharing – some of the basic tenets of Landcare?

6. **Group funds.** Most member groups have a bank balance and this varies from group to group. But many groups have forgotten the funds are there or don't know how to access them. Signatories on group funds/accounts are in some cases out of date. Who should be able to access those funds? What checks and balances do groups want in place to ensure the group's funds are used in ways for which they approve?

7. **Dead funds.** Some groups have been inactive for a number of years, leaving their funds dormant in the account. How much time should pass before those funds are reallocated to another purpose within the umbrella organisation? To what purpose could/should they be re-allocated, if at all?

8. **Membership subs.** Membership is currently broken into the categories of Rural, Urban, and Concession (students/pensioners) for the purpose of subs. Being a member of more than one landcare group is allowable – some families have property in more than one district. What changes, if any, need to be made to subs at the AGM this year, if we are able to offer new and exciting benefits to members?

#### Join us at Walcha in August.

To ensure your voice is heard on these topics, contact the office on [mail@snelcc.org.au](mailto:mail@snelcc.org.au) and let them know your thoughts, or just come along to the meeting in Walcha on Wednesday 19th August.

Please RSVP on 6772 9123 for catering purposes.



# BLEAK BUT BENEFICIAL - A NATIVE VEGETATION FOR WOODLAND BIRDS FIELD EVENT

It was a small group that showed up at “Waterview” (near Guyra) for the native veg and woodland birds field event on Friday 1st May. But those that attended looked, shared and found new perspectives on their land and its life.

In conjunction with the Malpas Catchment Project and supported by the Northern Tablelands LLS, this was the concluding field day for the NSW Environmental Trust ‘Native Vegetation Management for Declining Woodland Birds – Stage2’ project of Citizens Wildlife Corridors Armidale Inc. Among other things, a highlight was the release of the findings of the bird surveys done on the properties of project participants (see separate article).

A short walk took us to look at previous, current and proposed native plantings, exotic plantings and remnant trees. What we saw prompted much sharing of ideas and discussion. We benefitted from the windbreaking effects of established native and exotic plantings, and appreciated the typical challenges to landholders around establishing trees and shrubs in pastoral landscapes.

The birds did not disappoint either. Despite the bleak weather we saw most of the locals – Willie Wagtails, Yellow-rumped Thornbills, Pied Currawongs, Australian Magpies, Eastern Rosellas, Crimson

Rosellas, Torresian Crows, Yellow-faced Honeyeaters and Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes. But we learnt that these are abundant, increasing, generalist, tough guys . . . not representing the group of declining woodland birds!

Back in the shed small groups created potential approaches for revegetating “Waterview” and gave the landholder some constructive ideas to ‘sleep on’! Lots of team work, too, to do the bird identification guessing game while enjoying a nice hot cup of locally-made soup.

And the benefits of such an event continue . . . with Expressions of Interest being developed as a result of the sharing of experience and knowledge; and requests being made for help to develop sustainable land management ideas.

Well done to all who attended the afternoon, and provided and prepared the venue. Many thanks to professional ornithologists Dr Stephen Debus and Dr Andrew Huggett for their contributions to bird surveys and reporting work. And special acknowledgement of the financial or technical support of the NSW Environmental Trust, Northern Tablelands Local Land Services, Armidale Dumaresq Council, Citizens Wildlife Corridors Armidale, Inc. and representatives of these organisations.

*Small groups creating potential approaches for revegetating “Waterview”.*



*Some ideas get swapped as field day attendees benefit from the shelter of an established eucalypt planting.*



*Field day attendees check out birds utilising the pasture paddock in the shelter of a row of pines.*



# BIRD SURVEYS ADD TO WHAT WE KNOW AND WHAT WE NEED TO DO

Bird Surveys were completed at 25 sites, on 12 properties between Wards Mistake and south of Walcha, in each of spring and autumn of 2014 (as some birds are here only over the warmer or cooler months). The surveys were conducted in open sites to be planted, remnant woodland areas and previous native plantings, as well as one large homestead garden and adjoining remnant.

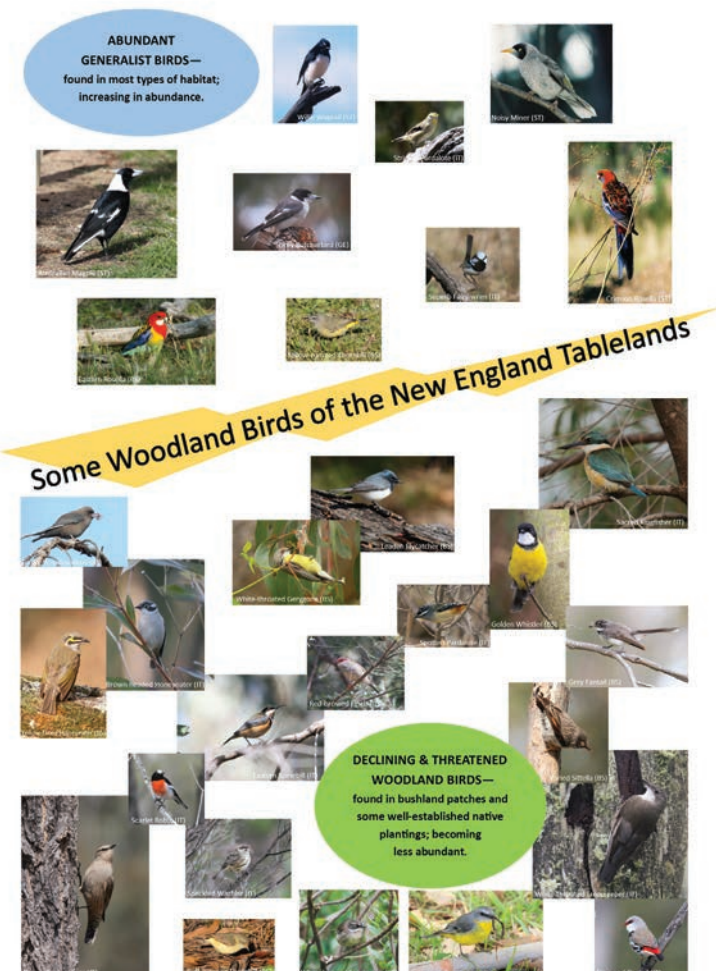
The aim of the bird surveys was to collect baseline data about the birds using open paddock sites before they were planted, and remnant areas before they were fenced for grazing management. In addition, several established native plantings were surveyed opportunistically, to gather data on which bird species use strip plantings. Overall, findings of these bird surveys were as follows.

1. More birds and more species of birds were observed in spring.
2. A small group of abundant generalist species were found across the 3 general habitat types surveyed (including Eastern Rosella, Australian Magpie, Yellow-rumped thornbill, Crimson Rosella, Noisy Miner, Superb Fairy-wren, Striated Thornbill).
3. Greatest numbers of birds and species of birds were found in the woodland remnants (including Honeyeaters, Whistlers, Robins, Treecreepers, Buff-rumped thornbill, finches, pardalotes, Brown Thornbills, Olive-backed Oriole, White-winged Triller, Dollarbirds, Woodswallows); although few individuals of these species were observed.
4. Four, of a potential 22, declining or listed endangered species (Little Eagle, Varied Sittella, Scarlet Robin, diamond Firetails) were observed, but only in association with remnants.
5. Open paddock sites supported relatively few species but they included open-country specialists such as Australasian Pipit and Welcome Swallow.
6. The garden-woodland remnant had a stunning array of species, due to its variety of habitats.
7. Introduced species (Common Starling, Common/ Indian Myna, European Goldfinch, Common Blackbird and Eurasian Skylark) and pest species (Noisy Miner and Pied Currawong) were also found in various sites and in numbers that are expanding.
8. Only the abundant generalist species were observed breeding, not the species from the diverse but declining group of birds.

These results support those of other surveys during the last 20 years and indicate the need for:

- a. conservation management of large woodland remnants;
- b. re-vegetation of large patches of land with native trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants;
- c. establishment of wide native habitat corridors;
- d. regeneration and/or planting with local native understorey species;
- e. removal of exotic, berry-bearing woody plants; and
- f. continuous long-term monitoring of remnants and re-vegetated areas for woodland birds, to monitor bird populations and the outcomes of native vegetation management efforts.

These bird surveys have been part of the NSW Environmental Trust 'Native Vegetation Management for Declining Woodland Birds – Stage2' project of Citizens Wildlife Corridors Armidale Inc. Findings from these surveys have been published in a brochure/poster format and in a full report. Both publications are available from the SNELCC office.



# NEW ENGLAND'S MOTHS, MAGPIES AND MARSUPIALS RECEIVE A HELPING HAND

The conservation and restoration of key habitat is critical to animals, plants and people. Natural environments are reservoirs for biodiversity, enabling life forms to co-exist and flourish. Conservation lands are critical and farm land plays an important role in this. Conversely, urban areas with limited “green space” are limited in supporting biodiversity.

As humans we play a dual role in managing biodiversity by both modifying existing natural environments while in contrast attempting to increase biodiversity in urban and agricultural environments. As custodians of large land areas, farmers have a crucial role in land management as they are effectively stewards of both our food sources and our biodiversity. Farmers therefore have always had a strong interest in balancing food production while maintaining a supportive natural resource base. In this sense, Landcare projects have traditionally worked with farmers to achieve this goal.

The Moths, Magpies and Marsupials project provides an example of restoring land back toward its natural state, where native vegetation corridors and remnant bushland areas are being created on farmland in order to provide habitat for native plants and animals. Increasingly and due to humans having a negative net effect on natural environments through land modification, these areas are becoming smaller and more isolated, meaning that movement corridors for native fauna are reduced, habitat area becomes smaller and opportunities for breeding and gene pool diversification are limited.

Conservation areas on farms and in reserves are critical in maintaining habitat for all life including moths, magpies and marsupials. On ground works will help connect and rebuild these key corridors by protecting 105ha of remnant vegetation and restoring over 17 ha of habitat corridors through

the planting of 13,860 seedlings across 16 sites on the southern New England Tablelands. These revegetation and remnant protection works will increase available habitat for a range of species including insects, birds, reptiles and mammals. Project works will be managed by landholders to enhance remnant areas of native vegetation.

The Moths, Magpies and Marsupials project will run until June, 2016. It is part of the longer term strategy for Southern New England Landcare to procure funding for ongoing restorative environmental works across the tablelands. Funding for these programs is chiefly delivered by the state and federal government programs. Our appreciation goes to both the Landholders taking part in the project and the funding body, the NSW Environmental Trust.



*Bushland and farmland can be traditional areas*



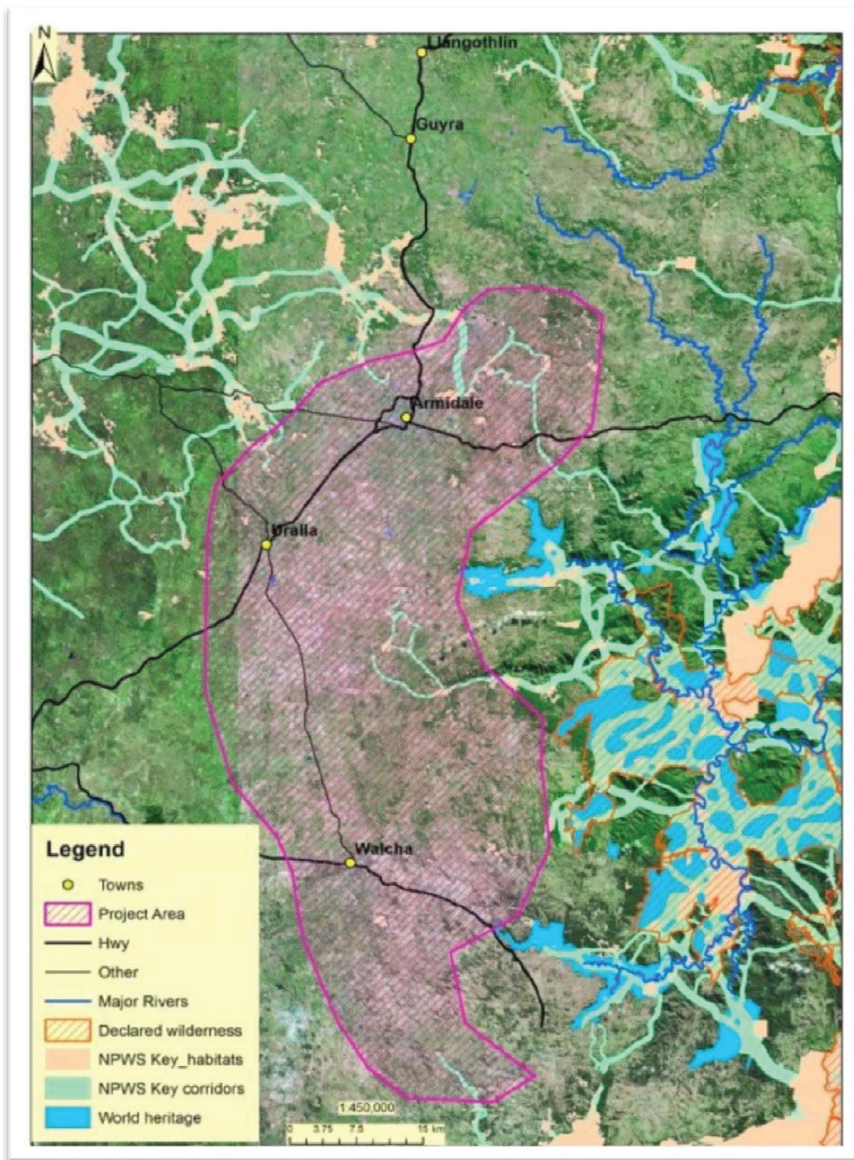
*Farm habitat will be enhanced and preserved*



## 20 MILLION TREES PROGRAM UNSUCCESSFUL

In March, SNELCC was part of a consortium bid consisting of 4 interstate Landcare Groups including Katanning Land Conservation District Committee (WA), Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association (SA) and the Woody Yaloak Catchment Group (Victoria) to the 20 Million Trees large scale grant.

Unfortunately our bid to plant 1 million trees on properties throughout the New England and North West was unsuccessful. From many applicants, only 3 bids were successful in being awarded a grant under this funding round.



*Photo 1 shows the present extent of key movement corridors on the New England Tablelands.*



## GREAT NEWS FOR LOCAL QUOLLS AND KOALAS

Southern New England Landcare has again been successful in gaining a grant from the NSW Environmental Trust. The funding application titled "Quollity (pun) Koala Corridors and Questions" was lodged as a joint project with Citizens Wildlife Corridors Armidale. The grant for over \$96,000 is the third such grant that SNELCC has been awarded from the NSW Environmental Trust over the past three years.

The program has a strong emphasis on community participation and will commence in the second half of this year.

***More news to come in the July-September edition of Landchat.***



# HERBERT PARK LANDCARE SIGNPOSTED TO THE FUTURE: LESS WEEDS - MORE HABITAT!

There's a new sign on Tilbuster Ponds Creek in the Armidale Pine Forest. Its installation marks the completion of the Herbert Park Landcare Group's Tilbuster Ponds "Ten Years On: Building on Past Efforts along Tilbuster Ponds Creek" project.

This riparian restoration project began in 2012, having gained three years of support from the Australian Government's Clean Energy Future Biodiversity Fund. It has been reported on regularly in Landchat over the last three years, so check back for all the details!

This project has seen the felling and removal of many large silver poplars and a big tall elm, spraying of masses of blackberries and privet and whole swathes of African lovegrass. The management of resprouting root masses and stimulated weed seed banks has been ongoing and will continue for the next two growing seasons!

Over 2000 native seedlings have been planted along the creek, with plantings being undertaken by school children, community groups and NSW Forestry Corporation. Many milk or juice containers of water have been filled and emptied to keep the early plantings alive during the dry times of the last two seasons.

A children's photography competition has engaged young observers of our natural heritage and produced some creative work. Interpretive material, in the form of the new sign and a revised booklet with pictures and information about native plant and bird species of the Armidale Pine Forest, have also been produced. An educational opportunity for tertiary students saw extension trainees participate in running an information and planting day at the site.

But perhaps most important of all has been the co-operation and support provided by the stakeholders involved in this project. The team players have included the Herbert Park Landcare

Group (led by Helen and Werner Schwarz), NSW Forestry Corporation, Armidale Tree Group, the local Medieval Society and Mountain Bike Club, the Armidale Waldorf School, Armidale High School, the Pine Forest Committee and numerous dog walkers and interested community members. The goodwill has been wonderful and you are assured that all they help has gone into a worthwhile restoration project.

Feel free to take a walk down Tilbuster Ponds Creek below the Rockvale Road bridge at the Armidale Pine Forest. There is lots to see, check out the sign and pull out a weed or two.



*In the beginning there were blackberries.*



*Silver Poplars required the 'big guns'.*





*Thousands of seedlings have been planted.*



*It is done.*

## Farmers urged to get involved in the 2015 Fox Baiting Program Bait distribution starts: Wed 10 June

Local landholders are being encouraged to take part in the annual Southern New England region fox baiting program, coordinated by Northern Tablelands Local Land Services.

"The landscape and the climate on the Northern Tableland provide ideal conditions for the European fox, with plenty of woodland and natural habitat where they can hide, and plentiful food supplies in the form of small livestock and native animals such as lizards, frogs and small marsupials," said Local Land Services Biosecurity Officer, Brett Cameron.

"We're urging as many landholders as possible to get involved to maximise the effectiveness of the campaign."

The first baits will be distributed to the Warrane fox bait group on Wednesday 10 June, with 27 local landholder groups taking part. The program is scheduled to end on July 16.

"The fox control program in the Southern New England region has been running for many years as a collaborative project. In 2015 the program continues with Local Land Services running the program and SNEELCC supporting the promotion of the program," said Mark Tarrant, Team Leader with the Northern Tablelands Local Land Services Invasive Species & Plant Health Unit.

Both Northern Tablelands Local Land Services and SNEELC recognise that the coordinated bait program makes a significant dent in numbers.

"We very quickly notice the foxes breeding up again if control programs start to taper off," said Mr Cameron.

"Local Land Services has the resources to provide coordination and administrative support to ensure the baiting program runs smoothly, while cooperation and collaboration between neighbouring properties underpins the overall success of this fox control effort."

Landholders are urged to contact their local area coordinator (listed in the bait schedule) and register to take part.

To arrange baiting outside of a registered local fox control group, landholders should contact the Armidale Local Land Services office on 02 6770 2000 to place a bait order. (Property size, distance restrictions and other regulations may impact on bait provision.)

All 1080 bait users must have chemical use accreditation compliant with the 1080 Pesticide Control Order.

Northern Tablelands Local Land Services offers short accreditation courses for the collection and laying of Pindone/1080 baits, available free of charge to landholder groups until 30 June, 2015.

Landholders without accreditation will require an authorised agent to collect and lay baits on their behalf. Relevant paperwork must be completed and returned to the Northern Tablelands LLS Armidale office one week prior to scheduled bait delivery.

For further information about the Fox Control Program or to organise a chemical accreditation course, contact Wendy Lankester at the LLS Armidale Office on 02 6770 2000.



## 2015 Fox Groups Baiting Schedule

Collection Date			Time	Group	Coordinator	Phone	Order by	Collection location
10	June	Wed	11:00	Warrane	Charles Belfield	6775 1168	4 June	Kialami
10	June	Wed	12:30	Boorolong	Local Land Services	6770 2000	4 June	Olmo
11	June	Thurs	11:00	Guyra	Rita Williams	6779 1182	5 June	Guyra Saleyards
11	June	Thurs	12:00	Llangothlin	Local Land Services	6770 2000	5 June	Guyra Saleyards
12	June	Fri	11:00	Tenterden	Local Land Services	6770 2000	6 June	Tenterden Hall
16	June	Tues	11:00	Malpas/Black Mountain	Pam Youman	6775 0117	10 June	Black Mountain Nursery
17	June	Wed	1:30	Enmore	Garry Swanson	6778 2120	10 June	Enmore Fire Shed
17	June	Wed	10:00	Woolbrook, Walcha Rd	Belinda Laurie	6777 5813	10 June	Woolbrook Hall
18	June	Thurs	9:30	Balala Bushgrove	Celia Strong	6778 7060	12 June	Brushgrove Hall
18	June	Thurs	11:00	Kingstown	Jim Swales	6778 9135	12 June	Kingstown Fire Shed
18	June	Thurs	12:30	Bundarra	Bill Doak	6723 7330	12 June	Woorak
23	June	Tues	11:00	Rumbling Mountain	Local Land Services	6770 2000	17 June	Caloola
23	June	Tues	12:30	Yarrowyck	Jim Swales	6778 9135	17 June	Yarrowyck Fire Shed
24	June	Wed	11:00	Chandlers Peak	Laurie Smith	6779 2037	18 June	Warringa
					Wayne Mills	6779 1552	18 June	
24	June	Wed	10:00	Harnham	Ted Williams	6778 4324	17 June	Uralla Showground
					Alec Taylor	6778 7341	17 June	
					Callum Schaefer		17 June	
30	June	Tues	11:00	Wandsworth	Hamish Hunter	6779 4242	24 June	Wandsworth Hall
1	July	Wed	10:00	Bozo	Cameron Lisle	6778 7325	24 June	Walcha Showground
01	July	Wed	11:00	Lower Apsley	Eric Noakes	6777 2834	24 June	Walcha Showground
01	July	Wed	1:00	Yarrowitch/Tia	Shelley Marchant	6777 3901	25 June	Wyandra
02	July	Thurs	10:00	Cooney Creek	Stuart Waters	6775 3989	25 June	Bus Stop
7	July	Tues	12:30	Rockvale	Charles Tully	6775 1606	01 July	Tarrangower
8	July	Wed	11:00	Wongwibinda	Local Land Services	6770 2000	02 July	Wongwibinda Hall
8	July	Wed	10:00	Winterbourne	Polly Locke	6778 0278	01 July	Winterbourne & Moona Plains Intersection
8	July	Wed	12:30	Glen Gro	Polly Locke	6778 0278	01 July	Yerrawun
15	July	Wed	10:00	Brackendale	Graham Benson	6777 3838	8 July	Top Waterloo
15	July	Wed	11:00	Baldersleigh	Pat Marshall	6779 4222	16 July	Bronte 2175 Old Armidale Rd
16	July	Thurs	11:00	Warrane Road	Charles Belfield	6775 1168	17 July	Kialami



**Local Land Services**  
Northern Tablelands

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Southern New England Landcare Ltd  
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# Landchat

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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](mailto:mail@snelcc.org.au)**

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Local Land  
Services  
Northern Tablelands

## 2015 SNELCC Inc Meetings

**Armidale (NERAM)**

**17th June**

**Walcha (Walcha Vet Supplies)**

**19th August**

**Please RSVP by the Tuesday  
PRIOR to the meeting for  
catering purposes.**

**Tel 6772 9123,  
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