

Landchat

Landcare in the Southern New England, No. 91, September - October 2012

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.



Southern
New England
Landcare



Australian Government



Regional Landcare Facilitator

Diary Dates

CMA CAP Community Consultation

Guyra & Uralla 22 & 24 Oct

Dung Beetle Field Day, Guyra 30 Oct

CMA CAP Community Consultation

Walcha & Armidale 31 Oct & 1 Nov

SNELCC AGM, Uralla.....14 Nov

Namoi CMA & SNELCC

"What's on your farm" day15 Nov

Woolshed Project Planning Workshops

Gostwyck.....27 Nov

Tenterden28 Nov

Brushgrove4 Dec

Wongwibinda Hall7 Dec

NEED HELP WITH PUTTING TOGETHER A LANDCARE PROJECT?

This spring Southern New England Landcare will be running a series of **Project Planning Workshops** across the region. These workshops will provide technical, budgetary and mapping support to assist landholders in developing their project ideas into shelf projects ready for the next funding round.

In order to be successful in increasingly competitive funding rounds, projects need to be developed prior to opportunities becoming available. This is not only to entice the funding body to choose your project, but also to ensure that the project fits into your whole farm plan, and is not developed hastily in the pursuit of funds.

It is beneficial for SNELCC to have your project developed for two main reasons:

1 - Of late more funding bodies are requesting developed projects to be submitted with the initial application, this is moving away from our more familiar devolved grant style projects where traditionally SNELCC would secure funding and then look for projects.

2 - SNELCC can group similarly themed projects together and approach funding sources directly.

These workshops are also relevant for individuals who already have a project awaiting funding with us. Sometimes it takes a number of submissions before we can secure funding for your project and as this time lapses your project may change. These workshops are a great opportunity to update your current project so details are relevant for inclusion in our upcoming funding submissions.

Workshops will be held at Gostwyck, Tenterden, Brushgrove and Wongwibinda. We encourage you to attend with a few members of your Landcare group / neighbours, however individuals are always welcome as well. See Page 2 for Workshop details.

Project Planning Workshops

Workshops will include Paddock Walks and Talks

The Project Planning workshops will include guest speakers on the topics of Connectivity, Woodland Birds, Environment and Production working together, Grazing Management, Project Design and Weed and Pest Management.

Andrew Huggett InSight Ecology will be the guest speaker at the Gostwyck and Tenterden workshops on the 27th and 28th of November 2012. Andrew has conducted a number of bird surveys across the Southern New England region over the last few years. He will talk about the different species he has identified and the habitat requirements of these birds. Andrew will also share with us what birds he has found when comparing remnant vegetation to revegetated plantings.

Shane Andrews will be the guest speaker at the Brushgrove workshop on the 4th of December 2012. Shane has assisted in the planning and implementation of a number of programs throughout the region including the development of the Engineered Woodlands model. Shane will talk about how to manage the vegetation communities we currently have in the landscape as well as how natural resource management practices can benefit the environment and our agricultural systems.

Lewis Kahn will be the guest speaker at the Wongwibinda workshop on the 7th of December 2012. Lewis is a well renowned grazing and pasture management specialist. Lewis frequently runs training programs and provides advice on managing pastures, improving soil health, grazing plans and optimising your land health and profitability.

Each workshop will also have guest speakers from the New England Weeds Authority, as well as talks on Pest Management and Project placement within the Landscape. Tom Barrett will also talk about connectivity and how wildlife move through a landscape. Tom will show participants recently conducted landscape mapping and modelling that will assist in planning natural resource management projects to optimise their effectiveness for wildlife movements.

If you would like to take part in these workshops please complete the Project Planning Workshop insert located in Landchat and return it to the office a minimum of 10 days before the workshop you wish to attend. This is so a map of your property can be prepared before the workshop for planning on the day. **Places are limited.**

New Funding for Southern New England Landcare groups

Two groups have been successful in securing funding from the Australian Government's Clean Energy Future Biodiversity Fund. Congratulations to Armidale Urban Rivercare Group and Herbert Park Landcare Group for successfully securing the following projects.

The Dumaresq Creek Restoration and Rehabilitation Program

The Armidale Urban Rivercare Group has been undertaking restoration and rehabilitation work on Dumaresq Creek within Armidale since 2001. This project involves the clearing and removal of exotic weeds such as willows and poplars within the creek and progressively restoring these environments by planting local native species. The AURG recently received a Biodiversity Fund grant for \$44,200 which will be used over the next five years. This project will undertake further restoration to increase biodiversity and improve habitat connectivity between areas of native vegetation on Dumaresq Creek. The first planting will link the Rologas plantings with Douglas St plantings, along the north side of the Wicklow Fields.

Ten Years On: Building on Past Efforts Along Tilbuster Ponds Creek

Tilbuster Ponds Creek is at the headwaters of the Macleay Catchment and is a valuable wildlife corridor. Past plantings link this site laterally with surrounding remnant vegetation and revegetated sites nearby. This project will restore and rehabilitate a portion of Tilbuster Ponds Creek in the Armidale Pine Forest recreation area. Recent increases in populations of woody weeds such as basket willows, silver poplars and privet have prompted urgent need for works to remove them from the creek. Herbert Park Landcare Group has secured \$22,400 over the next three years for the removal of the invasive woody weeds and re-establishment of native species in this small area. This will provide a focus for further projects down and upstream of the site and increase habitat for native fish, birds and the iconic platypus and other native species. This will increase the capacity of volunteers to care for an area they use and educate them on best practices for a healthy riparian system.

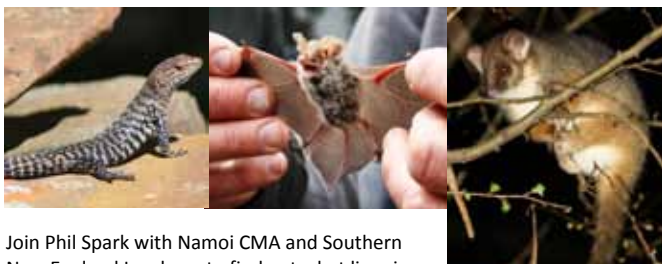
What Lives on YOUR Farm? Exploration Evening

Thursday 15th November 2012

5:30pm - 9:00pm

"Kyabra", 6935 New England Highway, Kentucky

Dinner provided



Join Phil Spark with Namoi CMA and Southern New England Landcare to find out what lives in our woodlands and wetlands. Come spotlighting in the bush! There's a good chance we will see possums, gliders, bats, reptiles and other nocturnal wildlife that live on your property.

Learn about the importance of connectivity and how to look after our woodland and wetland communities for the environment and farm production.

RSVP for catering purposes by Monday 12th November 2012 to Southern New England Landcare on 02 6772 9123.



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY



Catchment Management
Authority
Namoi

Dung Beetles Field Day



Catch the latest on dung beetles, pest animals, common infections of cattle, and
MORE.....

Who: Dr Bernard Doube, LHPA veterinarian

When: 2-5pm, Tuesday 30th October 2012

Where: Guyra

RSVP Southern New England Landcare
by 26th October 2012.

Wetlands & Woodlands



High Country Wetlands and Woodlands is an exciting new project being undertaken by Southern New England Landcare. It extends on the recent HiCUB project well beyond the towns of Guyra, Armidale, Uralla and Walcha into grazing country and woodland areas. The project focuses on conserving and increasing the resilience of three nationally listed endangered ecological communities that occur across the northern tablelands. These are Box, Gum Grassy Woodlands, New England Peppermint Woodlands and Upland Wetlands (Lagoons).

Upland Wetlands are shallow depressions in the landscape mostly on basalt. They may hold some water permanently or dry out seasonally or for extended periods. This importantly provides a number of environments and varied habitats (wet to drier) providing opportunities for a variety of plants and animals.

Well known Upland Wetlands include Mother of Ducks at Guyra and Dangar's at Uralla however there are many smaller wetlands hidden away. Hydrological changes such as draining, impoundment or having dams sunk into basin floors have been the main destructive disturbance to these systems whilst feral animals especially foxes continue to pose a serious threat to fauna.

Box, Gum Grassy Woodlands have a diverse understorey of native tussock grasses, herbs and scattered shrubs, and are dominated by White Box, Yellow Box or Blakely's Red Gum trees. Overall this community has been heavily cleared (90%) across its range.

New England Peppermint Woodlands are characterised by the dominance, or prior dominance of New England Peppermint trees.

The native grassland left behind after clearing trees from these two communities is still recognised as the original community and is called derived grassland.

Project Officer Nic Cobcroft said "The project will involve the use of the latest mapping technology used by the Office of Environment and Heritage which builds on current connectivity research. Habitat and connectivity modelling of this kind will greatly assist landholders in planning at the paddock level." The project area extends south from Guyra to Walcha and runs until May 2013.

Landholders interested in knowing more about this project should contact Nic Cobcroft at the Southern New England Landcare office on 6772 9123 or email nic@snelcc.org.au

The High Country Wetlands and Woodlands project is funded through the Australian Governments Caring for Our Country program.

Woodlands Week

Southern New England Landcare once again this year ran Woodlands Week - series of activities occurring in Walcha, Uralla, Armidale and Guyra to celebrate our woodland communities and the environment we live in. Woodlands Week is held in the school holidays and activities are designed to be family orientated and suitable for natural resource management enthusiasts of all ages.

We were blown away with the number of people attending the activities this year. With over 250 people attending the events it was fantastic to see so many parents, grandparents and children all engaged in a range of activities from spotlighting to tree planting and field visits.

Children of Treefest celebrations at "The Hill", Kentucky kicked off Woodlands Week. This event, commemorated the 20 year anniversary of the original Treefest, which saw over 6000 people head to "The Hill" to learn about the fledgling tree planting industry, and help plant over 3000 seedlings on site. Twenty years on those trees are now mature and the landscape, not only on "The Hill" but across the surrounding Landcare group areas has been transformed. As part of the celebration volunteers and participants at the Frog Dreaming conference planted over 3000 trees and shrubs in the shape of a giant Tree Frog. At 250m long this will be visible from the Qantas Armidale Sydney flight path.

Armidale Tree Group held their open day on Saturday the 22nd of September. Participants heard from Warren and Gloria Sheather about native plant propagation and tips and tricks to successfully grow native plants. An educational tour of the Mike O'Keefe Woodland followed by a tree planting activity made for a great morning out. Congratulations to the Armidale Tree Group for putting on such a great event.

Bugs in the Bush was held on the Saturday afternoon at Snow Gums Reserve, Armidale. Amateur Insectologists explored the bug

world finding wood roaches, beetles, caterpillars, worms and meat ants. Steve Tremont, Kate Boyd and Lisa Lobry de Bruyn were inspiring gurus answering a range of curly questions from the kids and encouraging adults and children to look at their bugs under the microscope.

With a strong tailwind cyclists followed the bike path from UNE to Taylor Street, enjoying the **Treecycle** activity on Sunday the 23rd of September. They stopped along the way and talked about the various showcase plantings that have been established over the last two years. They also learned about how the Armidale Urban Rivercare group and UNE Landcare Group have been so successful in rehabilitating sections of Dumaresq creek. The peleton then stopped at Rologas fields where they took part in a tree planting with AURG members and enjoyed an afternoon tea.

Sugar Gliders in the Spotlight was held at Thalgarrah Education Centre on Monday the 24th of September. Tom Barrett kicked off the evening with an educational talk about how wildlife moves through the landscape. Seventy participants then enjoyed a BBQ dinner and show and tell session with fauna expert Phil Spark. Phil had children and adults captivated with reptiles, micro bats, frogs and even an Owlet-Nightjar. An eager crowd then took to the spotlights looking for wildlife through the woodland surrounding Thalgarrah. We were lucky enough to see three Brush-tail Possums and even a Sugar Glider.



a Great Success!!

An activity for the early rises was held at the South Guyra TSR on Wednesday the 26th of September. **Breakfast with the Birds** run in partnership with the Border Rivers - Gwydir CMA treated explorers to a guided walk through the woodland wildlife spotting. Phil Spark had set up a bat harp trap the night before and successfully caught 5 species of micro bat. These little guys were released back into the TSR. They are a fantastic indication of the biodiversity within our local woodlands. Attendees also saw reptiles and frogs and learnt about a broad range of native plants found in the TSR.

The **Plants on the Plateau** bus trip followed on from Breakfast with the Birds. Also run in partnership with the Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA this bus trip looked at the unique high country vegetation communities of the Guyra region on public and private land. Dave Carr and CMA staff provided advice to attendees on identifying native trees, shrubs and wildflowers. Everyone had a fantastic time and were keen to try out their new identification skills.

The Walcha TSR was the venue for **If You Go Down to the Woods Today**. Held on Thursday the 27th of September participants met at the western end of Croudace Street for an evening of spotlighting with Phil Spark. The Walcha Rotary club provided a delicious BBQ whilst we waited for the sun to set. Phil then gave a show and tell about the critters we find in our woodlands. Getting up close to snakes, lizards and frogs was a highlight for adults and children. We then explored the TSR with our spotlights finding one Brush-tail Possum and five Ring-tail Possums. The harp bat trap was also very interesting, catching over a dozen micro bats of four different species.

Planting Trees for Koalas was the final Woodlands Week event, held on Friday the 28th of September at Rocky Creek in Uralla.

A number of community members took part in planting over 60 eucalypt species specifically selected as Koala food trees and

a number of shrubs and grasses. Steve Field and Stephanie McCaffrey led the group to plant out an area alongside Rocky Creek that recently had erosion remediation works completed. After a few years of establishment these trees will be used as a food source for local sick and injured koalas in care. A fantastic outcome of this activity was Field's Native Nursery donating a further 500 trees and a participant donating 1 ha of land to undertake further plantings of Koala food trees.

Woodlands Week provided a program of fantastic school holiday activities that had participants wanting more and asking when the next events would be. Southern New England Landcare is already thinking about activities for the next school holidays.



We would like to acknowledge and thank all of the partners and sponsors who helped in the delivery of Woodlands Week. Armidale Tree Group, Armidale Urban Rivercare Group, Thalgarrah Education Centre, Phil Spark, Border Rivers - Gwydir CMA, Uralla Shire Council, Walcha Council, Guyra Council, Armidale Dumaresq Council and Northern Rivers CMA. Woodlands Week was supported through funding secured from the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country program and the New South Wales Government's Environmental Trust program.



Frog Dreaming – People, Place, Storytelling

Children of Treefest celebrations at 'The Hill' Kentucky provided the ideal backdrop for this the 5th year of Frog Dreaming – from the woolshed and bonfire to the frog forest paddock we received great hospitality from the very generous Taylor Family. And from all reports the event was a great success with over 100 inspiring students attending from nine primary & secondary schools from across the New England region.

Day 1 at Frog Dreaming was all about connecting the kids with each other using the 'kids teaching kids' methodology with a particular focus on appreciating each other's differences. Each of the schools in lead up to frog dreaming developed a story based on a local natural resource asset or issue – the stories presented this year ranged from the history of land management, sustainable



Performances in the woolshed with the Minimbah Ukelete Group singing "frog dream song"

school yard habitats & food production and action on water quality. The performances were creative and invoked many questions that generated interest into exploring ideas further. At the close of the storytelling, Sonia Williams (our Executive Officer) inspired the students & their teachers to turn their ideas into action with an approach focussing

on teamwork. Sonia talked about the process of developing a project from the initial ideas generated by the students & their school communities to on-ground implementation with the help of our local natural resource community namely Landcare, Border Rivers Gwydir CMA, Thalgarrah Environmental Ed Centre & our local councils.

The day continued with the children broken up into tribal groups each with their own totem representing a local natural resource found at 'The Hill' – totems included Blue-tongued lizard, Lemon Beauty Heads, Peron's tree frog, Koala, Red-bellied black snake, Black Cockatoo & Yabbies. The tribal groups were lead by our specialist environmental educators – "we call them the gurus" - the gurus were assisted by year 7-10 student mentors (past frog dreamers) from Armidale High School. Before we began our journey we were joined by our aboriginal storytellers Harry White and Ivan Lackey (BRG CMA), who together imparted the message of how important the totems are to understanding our environment & how we interact with it – many local examples were used to illustrate the power of storytelling through dance, song & music. This session served as a valuable inspiration to the tribal groups who then spent the afternoon developing their tribal symbol and story to be played out to our local community that evening by the light of a huge bonfire (thanks to Mr Taylor). And now imagine 100 inspired children dancing around a fire telling their tribal story to the sound



Aboriginal storyteller Harry White inspires the tribes

of the clapping sticks & the didgeridoo – 'making friends with people they never thought they would'. This was the power of the frog dreaming connection – children working alongside each other in an environment that embraces challenges & appreciates difference.



Beryl the Feral Fox sussing out Bec Ballard's pest plans

Guru Adam Blakester with the Red-bellied Black snake tribe



After an eventful night of camping under the Kentucky stars, Day 2 represented an opportunity for the kids to connect to country through a variety of NRM based workshops.

The workshops included;

1. Frog Forest Revegetation with Michael & Kath Taylor and Janet & Steve Field
2. Worm farming with Sue-Ellen Hogan from Northern Inland Regional Waste
3. WaterWatch with Bec Smith
4. Boomerang painting & throwing with Harry White & Ivan Lackey from Border Rivers Gwydir CMA
5. Sustainable farming with Dung Beetles with Mahri Koch from SNEL
6. Pest Animal Management with Bec Ballard from SNEL
7. 'Biodiversity Walkabout' devised by Nic Cobcroft with Bec Smith, Ruth Tremont, Matt Mackenzie, Emily Ingram, Dave Carr, Adam Blakester and Chris Riley.

FROG FOREST & TREEFEST: In celebration of Children of Treefest 2012 the children of Frog Dreaming had the opportunity to plant out a paddock in the shape of a tree frog – alongside Michael & Kath Taylor and Janet & Steve Field each tribal group planted a variety of native plants around the frog's toes, head & body – the results were amazing with a clear visual on ground & an awe-inspiring one from the air. To further appreciate a



Frog Forest planting with Mark Field

revegetation project on this scale the children went on a biodiversity walkabout to the original Treefest site planted 20 years ago – it was here they could visualise the future effects of their frog planting. The whole experience proved to be a valuable one in raising everyone's awareness of the importance of biodiversity and healthy ecosystem function in an agricultural setting.



Here's to next year's Frog Dreaming October 2013..... apparently Michael is planning to plant out a paddock in the shape of a Gecko!

We greatly appreciate the support of our sponsors, participants and volunteers. These include: The Taylor family – Michael, Milly, Remy, Nina, Liddy, Kath, John & Vicki – Swedish Joel - students, teachers & parents from Kentucky, Bendemeer, Niangala, Kingstown, Waldorf, Drummond, Martin's Gully and Minimbah – the Armidale High School student mentors – Sally Taylor - Sonia Williams, Katrina Roads, Kate Hedges, Tina Watson, Toni Boyd, Tania Goodwin, Amy Hine, Susie Mabbott & the wonderful Kentucky P&C for catering, Simon Mellor, Jess Worthing, Harry White, Ivan Lackey, Leanne Savage, Matt McKenzie, Steph McCaffrey, Sue-Ellen Hogan, Jen Shephard (lantern making guru), Janet & Steve Field, Ruth Tremont, Helen Schwartz, Adam Blakester, Chris Riley, Mahri Koch, Bec Ballard, Nic Cobcroft, Dave Carr, Emily Ingram, Ian Harvie, Ian & Steph McLean, The Minimbah Ukulele tribe with Kathy Welsford and the Minimbah, Kingstown & Kentucky bus drivers.

Thank you to our sponsors - Uralla Shire Council, Southern New England Landcare, Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA, Northern Inland Regional Waste, New England Mutual & Caring for Our Country.

And lastly Bec Smith for her inspiring drumming circle & great commitment to keeping the frog dream alive!

Need to know more about Frog Dreaming or the regional schools landcare program?
Enquires can be directed to Sara Schmude, School Landcare Coordinator
sara@snelcc.org.au or 0419 697 651,
www.hicub.org.au/schools AND
www.facebook.com/pages/Frog-Dreaming/345505065515650



MAXIMISE YOUR PROFITS AND LONG TERM SUSTAINABILITY

SIGN UP NOW TO THE CMA'S FREE FARM PLANNING WORKSHOP

Do you need to better plan your working hours around the farm? Or do you need to think about ways to alter your business operation to make it more profitable, or compatible with your family life?

The Border Rivers-Gwydir Catchment Management Authority is now offering Farm Planning advice and workshops at no cost to land managers throughout the New England Tablelands.

The aim of the workshop is to make farming more profitable and take some of the stress out of running the business. Farm Planning is about better management strategies, such as using natural resources for best results, maximising the allocation of limited financial reserves and getting the best from your human capital inputs. All important components of your farm business.

"In the middle of a drought or a flood, it's difficult to plan. Now is the time to develop and implement strategies to minimise the impact of the next crisis, and Farm Planning can help you to work out a long term strategy for your business to survive and thrive", said CMA Farm Planning Officer Scott Graham.

Farm Planning takes a holistic approach to running your business and making it work for you, your circumstance and aspirations. The workshops are provided at no cost to you, the CMA will provide you with:

- a satellite image of your property,
- study manuals,
- catering and
- course administration support.
- costed at over \$3000.

All you have to do is contact us and we will organise groups based on interest. Farm Planning takes a minimum of six days, with times and dates negotiated to suit participants. Courses are expected to start in November and locations closer to your property can be organised if there are at least four local landholders keen to complete the Farm Planning course.

To sign up now all you have to do is call in at the SNELCC Office in Armidale and pick up an Information Brochure and Application Form or contact Scott Graham for more information on 02 6728 8049, or email: scott.graham@cma.nsw.gov.au



Landscape Logic Book Review

Currently available at present in most Council libraries is the 2012 CSIRO release of "***Landscape Logic – Integrating Science for Landscape Management***". This book is an edited collection of research results from a four year project run under the Australian Government's Commonwealth Environmental Research Facilities program (CERF) in Victoria and Tasmania. The program brought together scientific experts in many fields to work with environmental managers to improve the evidence base for natural resource management. It is a comprehensive and comfortable read of research findings from all partners of the project.

Draft Catchment Action Plan Public Consultation

The Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA is eager to hear Community feedback on its draft Catchment Action Plan (CAP) for the Border Rivers and Gwydir catchments, which is now available for public comment.

The CAP will guide investment in managing the natural assets. It sets achievable goals and strategies for balancing production and conservation within resilient landscapes to maintain economic and social viability of the region.

The Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA is eager to hear your feedback, to ensure this plan reflects community views. These sessions will be run with Northern Rivers CMA.

The draft CAP documents and submission forms can be viewed and downloaded from the
Border Rivers-Gwydir and
Northern Rivers CMA Websites.

Have your say on the CAP at

Guyra Council Chambers 22nd Oct (10-11am)
(Council Meeting)

Uralla Community Hall, 24th October (8am-11am)

Walcha Council Chambers, 31st October (1-2pm)

Armidale, Wicklow Hotel, 1st November (10am-1pm).

Tea, coffee and a light snack will be available.

To assist with catering please register your attendance with

Jodi Cribb,

**Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA,
on 6728 8020 or email to
jodi.cribb@cma.nsw.gov.au**

or

**with SNELCC Inc on 6772 9123,
mail@snelcc.org.au**



STOP PRESS - Local Land Services

Minister for Primary Industries Katrina Hodgkinson has announced the establishment of **Local Land Services** – a new approach to delivering services to farmers and landowners across rural and regional NSW.

Local Land Services will link productive primary industries to sustainable catchment management by bringing together Livestock Health & Pest Authorities (LHPAs), Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs) and agricultural advisory services within Agriculture NSW to deliver services including:

- Agricultural advice;
- Plant and animal pest control and biosecurity;
- Natural resource management; and
- Emergency and disaster assessment and response.

Local Land Services will be regionally-based, semi-autonomous, statutory organisations that are governed by locally elected and skills-based Board members. The decision to create Local Land Services is informed by the recommendations of the 2011-2012 Ryan Review of Livestock Health & Pest Authorities and its extensive public consultation process.

A Reference Panel chaired by Dr John Keniry AM (Natural Resources Commissioner) will be appointed to build the new Local Land Services to deliver valued services to the people of NSW. Mick Keogh, Executive Director of the Australian Farm Institute, will work alongside Dr Keniry and specifically with community groups, stakeholders and staff to develop Local Land Services.

Local Land Services will be fully operational in January 2014.

Pest Animal Control High on the Agenda

The “Pest Animal Management and Landholder Engagement in New England NSW Project” is creating a hive of activity across the region. An increase in pig and fox numbers has been reported following a series of good seasons, prompting landholders and agencies to up the ante on feral pest control.

A broad partnership is now working together to tackle the problem, including Granite Borders Landcare, GLENRAC, Southern New England Landcare, Upper Gwydir Landcare, GWYMAC, the New England and North West Livestock Health & Pest Authorities (LHPAs), NSW National Parks, the NSW DPI and the Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA.

The Project is being delivered by New England North West Landcare and funded through the Australian Government’s Caring for Our Country program.

Field Days have been held in the Upper Horton, Graman, Bonshaw, Glen Morrison, Bendemeer and Tenterfield regions to highlight the damage feral pests are causing to both agriculture and the environment, and the need for co-operative control programs.

In just a few months of project activity, coordinated fox control has occurred on over 30,000 hectares and coordinated feral pig control has occurred on over 10,000 hectares throughout the New England North West region.

Support and resources are being provided through Landcare Networks and Livestock Health & Pest Authorities (LHPA) to assist in organising landholder groups to take part in broad scale coordinated control strategies.

Training days will be held early in 2013 to help landholders identify signs of pest animal activity, as well as advice on how to dry and use baits, and how to use trail sensor cameras and other tools in pest management.

Additional control programs will be run in Autumn 2013. If you’d like to join a feral pig control group in the Bingara, Inverell, Walcha or Tenterfield region, or a fox control group at Glen Innes, Armidale or Inverell, contact your local Landcare or LHPA office. Both the New England and the North West LHPAs regularly run half day “Safe Handling of 1080” courses to assist with pest management. Contact the LHPA for more information or to register your attendance.

**If you would like to know more about the project contact Project Officer, Bec Ballard
on 02 67729123 or email: bec@snelcc.org.au**

Pest Animal Issues? Have Your Say!

A survey to assess landholder concerns regarding pest animals has been developed as a part of the “Pest Animal Management and Landholder Engagement in New England NSW” project. The responses received from the survey will assist Landcare and other organisations such as the Livestock Health and Pest Authority, Department of Primary Industries and Catchment Management Authorities to gain a snap shot of pest animal concerns and current management across the region. Responses will help direct field day topics and funding applications into the future. This short survey includes questions such as “What pest animal impacts are you concerned about?” and “Would you like to be involved in a coordinated pest control group?” Survey responses will be treated confidentially and will contribute to an improvement in pest animal management across our region. To complete the survey go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/KJGP6G5> or complete the hard copy provided in this newsletter and return to your local Landcare office. Thank you for your participation. This project is funded through the Australian Government’s Caring for Our Country program.

Feral Pig Control Workshops Well Received

On the 7th and 8th of August two Feral Pig Control field days were held at Glen Morrison and Bendemeer. Over 50 landholders attended the two days, travelling from as far north as Armidale and Bundarra and as far south as Durri and even Orange. Participants learnt about control options for foxes, rabbits, wild dogs and feral pigs and about the impacts pest animals have on agriculture and the environment through spreading weeds and disease.



A team of 6 final year UNE Rural Science, Agriculture and Environmental Science students assisted in the planning and delivery of the field days as a part of their Agriculture and Natural Resource Extension course. The students did a fantastic job organising media, catering, logistics and speakers for the events.



The field days were run in partnership with the New England Livestock Health and Pest Authority and consisted of training in trapping and poisoning control methods including, soft

jaw traps and cage traps for fox control, various pen traps for feral pigs and new poison delivering devices such as the HogHopper and PVC pipe model for feral pig control. The New England LHPA provided information on current legislation and regulations when using '1080' as a poison to control pest animals. They also informed landholders of the 'Safe Handling of 1080 and Pindone' course that is frequently run by the LHPA. If you would like to know more about this course or to register your interest in participating contact the NELHPA on 02 6772 2366.



NSW National Parks spoke of the control that is conducted in National Parks, including aerial poisoning and shooting programs. National Parks also highlighted the multiple benefits of conducting a broadscale, integrated and coordinated control program. National Parks frequently work with their adjoining neighbours to implement successful feral pig and wild dog coordinated control programs in the area.

New England Weeds Authority provided an insight into how feral pests aid in the distribution of weeds such as St. Johns Wort and Hawthorn. They also introduced field day participants to new weeds found in the region including Tropical Soda Apple and Alligator Weed.

Namoi CMA also attended both field days providing information

on current funding opportunities and resources available to land managers in all areas of Natural Resource Management.

Land managers attending the events indicated they had received a lot of valuable information. It also gave landholders in the region a chance to talk about incidences with pest animals they had recently endured, including wild dog attacks on sheep and pasture destruction by feral pigs.

The field days aimed to encourage land managers to undertake coordinated control programs with their neighbours as a coordinated approach maximises peoples control efforts and costs less time and money to implement compared to undertaking control on your own. We are currently working with 3-4 communities to establish coordinated control groups to target feral pigs in autumn 2013.

Thank you to New England LHPA, Central North LHPA, NSW NPWS, Namoi CMA and NEWA for presenting at these events.

These workshops have been delivered as a part of the "Pest Animal Management and Landholder Engagement in New England NSW" project funded through the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country program.



National Landcare Conference 3-5 Sept 2012

A large contingent from New England North West Landcare joined representatives from Balala Brushgrove Landcare Group, winners of the NSW Community Group Award and finalists in the National Awards, at the National Landcare Conference and Awards ceremony held in Sydney.

It was an action packed couple of days, with many inspiring and informative speakers, from the key note speaker David Suzuki on the need for local communities to take the lead in sustainability --- "The biggest challenge is not managing our land, forests and oceans - it is managing ourselves", --- to media commentators Mia Freedman and Peter FitzSimons who gave a fascinating insight into the

chaotic and evolving world of social media and the need for Landcare to get its message out. The panel speakers were of exceptional quality and provided thought provoking and engaging discussion - reinvigorating many in the audience who may well have been feeling quite jaded by the day to day realities of meshing government and community expectations in delivering Landcare.



The presentations from the key note speakers in the plenary sessions were filmed and these should be up on conference website www.daff.gov.au/landcareconference by early October and are highly recommended.

Our own Sara Schmude scored a speakers slot to present on SNELCCs highly successful Frog Dreaming conference - now in its 5th year.



The Frog Dreaming concept proved popular and has many supporters - including William Hawkins, Team Leader, CMA Support, Governance & Landcare, Catchments pictured in his Frog Dreaming tee-shirt in Canberra recently.

The Conference Landcare Awards dinner was a highlight, and though Balala Brushgrove were not the National winners they should be proud that their efforts have been recognized as on par with the best in Australia.



Bec Ballard (SNELCC) and Sarah Legge (Gwymac) catch up with Costa at the National Landcare Forum.

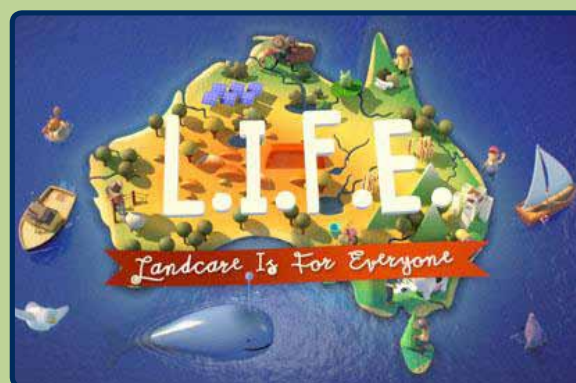
Jody McNally, Geoff McNally and Bec Ballard at the Awards Dinner.



New Landcare (L.I.F.E) Campaign - Landcare Is For Everyone

During the recent National Landcare conference the new Landcare campaign - L.I.F.E. (Landcare is For Everyone), was launched. The L.I.F.E campaign with catchy music and 3D animation celebrates the strength and breadth of the grass-roots movement and is about people across Australia getting involved in Landcare in their everyday lives. The campaign illustrates the diversity of Landcare, demonstrating how working to preserve the land sustains the very species that live on it, and the variety of different ways that people can get involved.

Check it out at <http://landcarelife.com/>



Introducing Tim Beshara, Executive Officer of Landcare NSW

I would like to use this edition of LANDCHAT to introduce myself to the Landcare movement in the Southern New England Region.

My name is Tim Beshara and I am very excited to have been made the new Executive Officer of Landcare NSW. I am looking forward to working with the members and Executive of Landcare NSW to give a voice to all the Landcarers that are busy improving the health of both our environment and productive landscapes across the state.



By way of background, I have been working in Natural Resource Management in NSW for more than a decade including about 3 years as a bush regenerator, 7 years as a project manager, scientist and facilitator at Greening Australia, and more recently an adviser to the NSW government on natural environmental policies.

My job is to work with the members of Landcare NSW to develop it into a strong and sustainable organisation that provides a voice for Landcarers right into the heart of government and government policy about NRM and sustainable agricultural policy.

There are 50,000 Landcarers in the state, many of which are represented through the structures of Landcare NSW. The number of people Landcare NSW represents is on par or even greater than the major producer and environmental groups. Together we can ensure that Landcarers voices are not drowned out and we can have an influential say in what the government tries to achieve AND also how it tries to achieve it. I am delighted to be in this role and would love to hear from all of you about the role Landcare plays in your community and how Landcare NSW can help. I will be based in a workspace kindly provided by NSW Farmers in their Goulburn St, Sydney office.

**My best contact is via email:
tbeshara@landcarensw.org.au**

Getting your voice heard!

How do your concerns and issues help shape the way in which Landcare is delivered and supported?

Who provides a voice in the policy arena to make sure that the needs and views of Landcarers are considered?

Southern New England Landcare is an active participant in the Regional and State Landcare support processes.

Regionally our Chairman and Landcare Support Staff join with GLENRAC (Glen Innes) GWYMAC (Inverell), Granite Borders Landcare (Tenterfield), Upper Gwydir Landcare (Bingara), Tamworth Regional Landcare, and Liverpool Plains Land Management (Gunnedah) to form the New England North West Landcare Network Chairs Inc. NENW Landcare is a forum for these networks to support each other, share information ideas and resources, and present a united voice on issues of concern to Landcarers at the regional level, working with CMAs and other regional organizations to advance and resource Landcare.

New England North West Landcare have endorsed David Walker and Sonia Williams as the NENW regional representatives on Landcare NSW Inc, a body which helps Landcarers across NSW share information, provides support and is the central contact point and advocacy body for Landcare in NSW. Landcare NSW Inc have recently appointed an Executive Officer Tim Beshara, to help in its representation, advocacy and support roles.

Landcare NSW has a clear role in helping shape the way services are delivered under the recently announced Local Land Services, which reforms service delivery from the CMAs, DPI and the LHPAs.

SNELCC Inc and SNEL Ltd AGMs

These AGMs will be held on the 14th November – and the current Board and Executive would love to hear from you if you feel that you have skills and ideas that would contribute to the ongoing success of Southern New England Landcare.

Contact Steve Harvey, Chair on 67751301 or Sonia Williams, Exec Officer on 67784324 if you would like to learn more about what is involved in becoming an executive member.

Five easy steps to better phosphorus use.

Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) has a new electronic tool available FREE to landholders on its website. It is a user friendly information package to assist producers to make well informed decisions about phosphorus fertiliser application.

There is a step-by-step booklet which can be used as a stand-alone tool to balance phosphorous inputs against soil levels, stocking rates, and pasture needs. MLA states it is relevant to "producers in south-eastern Australia's temperate zones". The tool also teaches users how to conduct reliable soil tests to determine phosphorous levels so that decisions can be made about the best application strategy.

Go to
[www.mla.com.au/
phosphoroustool](http://www.mla.com.au/phosphoroustool)
to find this new package.

New Publications

now available at the
Landcare Resource Centre

"Native Plants of Southern New England NSW"
– a FREE colour pictorial brochure for those who wish to grow local
HICUB project: supported by Environmental Trust).

"Sticks and Stones"
(Sonter & White) – a FREE guide to Aboriginal artefacts of the
Border Rivers & Gwydir catchments (BR-G CMA). CD's of the booklet are
also available.

"Meet the Locals"
posters hot off the press from Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA. Great for
laminating and hanging on the classroom or office walls, these FREE
posters outline common invertebrates of the catchment, lizards, frogs,
fishes, and weeds.

Get your **"Lunch Muncher's Kit"** now.
This FREE book contains practical and theoretical projects for **NSW
primary schools** to help them develop school-based worm composting
and recycling programs. Created by Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA and
promoted by Northern Rivers CMA, there are CD's available also.

Summerfest in Kentucky

28th November to 3rd December at "Kyabra"

A fun filled week of activities including; large scale paddock contouring,
capturing water in the soil, self supporting eco-systems for soil based
creatures and insects that rebuild the soil, seeding, tree planting,
creating self supporting home vegetable and fruit gardens, creation and
installation of habitats (for native birds, reptiles and animals), mediumship,
karaoke, song writing, singing, dancing and camp fire.

Peter and Eloisa Lytton-Hitchins
Ph 02 67787458
email: peter@kyabra.com

Camping available. Can come for a day or for the week.
RSVP will be required for this event.



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Learn about **Rodale Institute's** organic research farm
with Jeff Moyer in Pennsylvania

Visit leading research institutes including the University of
Vermont, **Sustainable Agriculture Centre** who are
working with the **Vermont Grass Farmers**.

Visit Hardwick Vermont & tour the privately owned
Centre for Agriculture Economy rebuilding the local
food system.

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See **Amish land management & production** techniques
in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania and experience their
hospitality staying overnight with a local family.

Visit beef, lamb and dairy producers in California, New
York and Pennsylvania, including **Don Watson's Woolly
Weeders** who started his sheep career in Australia

See how **Community Supported Agriculture** is working
and expanding in the US and see some **different
Supermarket models** providing real choice to consumers.

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Membership of Southern New England Landcare Coordinating Committee (SNELCC) for 2012/13

Another year has rolled around, and in times of funding uncertainty, the focus has been on maintaining our operations to provide support to Landcare groups and individuals.

Your staff and Board members have struggled with the balancing act of delivering projects that have prescribed outcomes set at the Federal and regional level, whilst trying to ensure that, with limited funding for group projects, we can deliver these projects in such a way that meets the requirements of our members.

Over the past year we have assisted members to plan and submit project applications to many funding sources – several of these have been successful and we await the outcome of a large application to the NSW Environmental Trust.

In the period of March 2011 to September 2012 Southern New England Landcare has submitted 52 funding applications, of which 23 have been successful to the value of \$793,977.00. These projects have been for a broad range of activities including workshops and training as well as on-ground works implemented on private and public lands such as revegetation, sustainable agriculture practices, upland wetland protection and riparian rehabilitation. These projects have been for individuals, community groups and in some cases broader locality or topic based projects that have occurred in rural, urban and peri-urban areas.

In addition we have worked in partnership with other organizations to deliver a range of projects that benefit our members and the region. These projects range from the Coordinated Fox Control Program, the Malpas catchment project, HiCUB project, a number of group projects and field days, as well as promoting opportunities from many agencies and organizations involved in NRM.

As part of New England North West Landcare we have also been very active in agitating for support for the Landcare Program to be returned to a grass roots focus.

We strive to keep our Landcare Coordinators available to our members and the broader community with funding from the Northern Rivers CMA, the Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA and the Namoi CMA. These organizations have been able to source funding from within their own very limited project budgets to allow this support to occur. However it means that even more than before, our support needs to be targeted at defined outcomes, rather than focused at supporting groups and communities with their wishes.

Your continued membership of Landcare will ensure that we remain a strong community driven organization. We look forward to your support and to assisting you with your NRM plans. If you are not an existing member you will have been receiving our newsletter and may also have been involved with or participated in a project run by Southern New England Landcare. ***We would like to invite you to join our organization.***

Your invitation for Landcare membership for the 2012/13 financial year is enclosed with this edition - if you haven't received one and would like to become a member please contact our office.

Project funding update...

Southern New England Landcare can provide you with a range of resources and information, including funding opportunities, to assist in the management of our natural resources. If you would like to implement a natural resource management project on your property complete an expression of interest form with a brief description of your project. Expression of Interest forms can be downloaded from www.snelandcare.org.au

If you have submitted an expression of interest for assistance with a project and are patiently awaiting funding please be assured that Southern New England Landcare will continue to submit your project ideas developed through the expression of interest process as funding opportunities arise. However, your project may need to be included in funding applications numerous times before funds are successfully secured. We will endeavour to keep you up to date with this process and will be running a series of workshop days later this year for you to update your project if required.



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ACN 099 357 454
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Tel 02 6772 9123, mail@snelcc.org.au, www.snelandcare.org.au

Landchat
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Landchat

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

The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent those of Southern New England Landcare or its employees.

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.



General Meeting & AGM

SNELCC Inc & SNEL Ltd

6.30pm Wednesday 14 November 2012

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.

Dinner will be provided for a small charge.

Please RSVP by

Monday 12 November 2012

for catering purposes.

Tel 6772 9123 • mail@snelcc.org.au

www.snelandcare.org.au



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FOR
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