

# Landchat

*Landcare in the Southern New England, No. 96 July - August 2013*

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



Southern  
New England  
**Landcare**



Australian Government



## Regional Landcare Facilitator

## Diary Dates

Talking with Trees .....9 Aug  
SNELCC Meeting .....21 Aug  
2013 Landcare & Catchment Management  
Forum, Newcastle.....3-5 Sept  
More information go to [www.landcarecmaforum.com.au](http://www.landcarecmaforum.com.au)  
24th Annual QLD Landcare Conference,  
Warwick .....27-29 Sept  
More information go to [www.tinyurl.com/landcare2013](http://www.tinyurl.com/landcare2013)  
Armidale Tree Group's 30th Birthday..... 12 Oct

## BORDER RIVERS- GWYDIR CMA COMMIT TO SUPPORTING LANDCARE

Earlier this year Southern New England Landcare faced the prospect of closing its doors due to funding uncertainty. Border Rivers - Gwydir CMA, recognizing the vital link Landcare plays in connecting local communities to regional activity has committed to providing 12 months worth of Community Support (Landcare Coordinator) funding to each of the five Landcare networks across the Tablelands and Slopes of the current Border Rivers - Gwydir and Northern Rivers CMA areas. This is great news for the Landcare community and provides certainty during the transition to Local Land Services. For SNELCC this means that we will be able to retain the current level of core staff, to assist our groups and community.

In addition the BR-G CMA has supported New England North West Landcare to retain the Regional Landcare Facilitator position - which links the Landcare networks and provides much valued support for the Landcare Coordinators who work with the networks.

Southern New England Landcare Chair, Mr Steve Harvey, congratulates the Board of BR-G CMA and their General Manager Paul Hutchings for their commitment to pursuing a collaborative partnership model, and for providing the funding so necessary for the community to be part of the planning and delivery of natural resource management and sustainable agriculture projects.



**Catchment Management  
Authority**  
Border Rivers-Gwydir

# ENGAGING LANDHOLDERS FOR THREATENED BIRD CONSERVATION IN SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND

This project, which was funded via a Community Action Grant, through the Australian governments Caring for our Country Program, was completed in June 2013 and involved assessing the abundance of threatened bird species in woodland areas across the southern New England tablelands. A reduction in the extent and quality of New England woodlands as a biological resource has had a significant impact on native bird species that rely on woodlands for their habitat. Figures indicate the removal of 58% of the region's native vegetation has occurred since European settlement (NSW State of the Environment Report 2009).

## Who was involved in the project?

Landholders from the Uralla, Kelly's Plains, Dangarsleigh, Baldersleigh and Wongwibinda districts took part in the project. The project includes two surveys conducted in spring (November 2012) and autumn (March 2013) at 25 sites (13 remnants and 12 revegetation) on 15 properties across the study area.

## Why was the project undertaken?

The project provides key baseline information on the abundance, species richness, habitat use and conservation significance of native bird assemblages present in these areas. This data will also help inform and guide management of farming landscapes for biodiversity conservation and sustainable wool and beef production outcomes.

## What are the benefits of having a diversity of bird species?



*Speckled Warbler*

## What did the survey find?

A total of 2,800 individual birds from 98 species were recorded during the survey in the study area. Eleven (11) per cent more birds occurred in the spring than in the autumn surveys. Most core woodland or forest-associated bird species recorded during the study occurred in remnant vegetation. Remnants accounted for 77 bird species while revegetation sites supported 59 species. Older (15-28 year-old) revegetation was favoured by more bird species (51 species) than younger (2-12 year-old) plantings (12 species).



*Diamond Firetail*

The most abundant species in remnants and revegetation were a mix of hardy and adaptable/versatile species such as Superb Fairy-wren, Noisy Miner, Striated Thornbill, Buff-rumped Thornbill, Brown Thornbill, Silveryeye, Yellow-faced Honeyeater and Grey Fantail. The least abundant species in remnants and older revegetation were members of the declining woodland bird cohort, e.g. Speckled Warbler, Varied Sittella, Crested Shrike-tit and Brown Treecreeper, Spotted Quail-thrush, and the migratory Leaden Flycatcher, Satin Flycatcher and Cicadabird. One species of international conservation significance – the intercontinental migrant White-throated Needletail – was recorded during the study. Forty-five (45) other species of state, regional or local conservation significance were also detected, almost all in remnants. Four of these species are listed as Vulnerable under the NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 – Speckled Warbler, Crested Shrike-tit, Brown and Diamond Firetail. A further species – Varied Sittella – is listed as Vulnerable nationally under the EPBC Act 1999.



*White-throated Needletail*

### Is there room for follow up in the future?

The work will complement the results of previous investigations such as the Vegetation Management for Threatened Woodland Birds, Improving Degraded Riparian Areas and Remediating Eroded Lands, and Land Water and Wool Northern Tablelands projects undertaken by SNELC, UNE and partners. Future assessment of the ecological performance of new and older plantings of native vegetation for birds and other fauna will be made possible through the results of this project.

When funding is available, future work will focus on engaging landholders in projects to improve habitat quality and connectivity and in providing local community education, awareness and knowledge about the requirements of woodland birds.

## Frog Dreaming a finalist in the 2012 United Nations Association of Australia Sustainability Education Award

A bonfire, stories, drama and wise elders are ancient ingredients for introducing children to cultural ideas. It's no accident that they are also chief ingredients of the Frog Dreaming conference.

Held in New England each year in September, when spring is taking some of the chill from the highland nights, Frog Dreaming tackles the modern disconnection of many people from their source of food and fibre using elements that are as old as human consciousness.

Sara Schmude, the Schools coordinator with Southern New England Landcare, said this disconnect is apparent even in small rural schools - and that Landcare is an ideal vehicle through which to address it.

The two-day Frog Dreaming conference asks students to camp out, plant trees, and observe their environment in enough detail that they can tell stories about their observations. They also get to hear stories about the environment and its complex interactions from "gurus" who have the ability to make an apparently static landscape come alive.

Ms Schmude tours participating schools before each year's Frog Dreaming, prompting Year 5 and 6 classes to identify a local natural asset to build a story around.

Once they have isolated their subject, the students begin building a story around it that they enact on the first day of the two-day Frog Dreaming conference.

The exercise is a step in opening students' eyes to natural features of

their landscape that familiarity has made invisible, Ms Schmude said.

Building a story also asks the children to consider things like the community's interaction with the object of their story, and sustainability.

For those receptive to the experience, Frog Dreaming goes deep, Ms Schmude said. The conference becomes a useful way of identifying future Landcare and environmental leaders.



*Michael Taylor & Sara Schmude at the Frog Forest 2012 revegetation site*

*Story - Matt Cawood, Fairfax Regional Media*



# PEST ANIMAL CONTROL FIELD DAYS HELD AT TENTERDEN AND KINGSTOWN

All things feral were the focus of two workshops held at Tenterden and Kingstown in early July. These localities were chosen due to landholders reporting an increase in pest animal impacts and numbers in these areas. The workshops covered feral pig, fox, rabbit and wild dog control.

Bec Ballard, Southern New England Landcare gave a presentation on the economic and physical impacts of feral animals for land managers. Several diseases are spread by foxes and wild dogs, such as hydatids. Feral pigs also spread a number of diseases including leptospirosis. Many of these diseases and parasites can be harmful to humans. Foxes and Wild Dogs can also spread the parasite *Neospora Caninum*, which causes abortion in cattle. *Neospora* causes no clinical signs in adult cattle that are infected but the parasite can be passed from an infected cow across the placenta to an unborn calf, resulting in abortion. Once a cow is infected with *Neospora Caninum* she will remain a carrier of the parasite which can infect all her subsequent calves.



*Neospora* is known to occur throughout our region to varying degrees. One large eastern fall property estimates they are losing 6-10% of calves in utero annually. This equates to a financial loss of \$125,000 per year for this enterprise alone.

Disease impacts alone highlight the need for neighbours to coordinate pest animal control activities and suppress pest animal numbers as much as possible but there are also impacts related to predation, weed spread and environmental damage. The benefits of working with your neighbours and undertaking control at the same time were promoted throughout the day. Many organisations including Landcare, Border Rivers Gwydir CMA and the New England LHPA can provide assistance to landholder groups to develop effective coordinated pest animal control plans and access assistance to implement control.

There were plenty of practical demonstrations on setting feral pig traps and identifying animal footprints and scats. Professional Trapper, Mark Lamb, gave landholders

tips on how to identify animal thoroughfares, where to place baits and what baits to use. Mark Lamb also gave a rundown on utilising sensor cameras as another tool to help identify animal movements and placing control measures in appropriate areas. This included a practical demonstration of how to set up camera traps, including height, angle and aspect details to maximise accuracy.

New England LHPA Rangers, Brett Cameron and Peter Frizell spoke about the importance of holding a current 1080 and pindone accreditation card to collect and lay baits. It is a legal requirement that LHPA rangers sight a current accreditation card when baits are picked up. New England LHPA run quarterly half day safe handling of 1080 and pindone courses for a cost of \$44, the accreditation lasts for 5 years. To register your interest in completing the course please contact the New England LHPA on 02 6772 2366.

Ken Pines, National Parks and Wildlife Service joined with the LHPA Rangers Brett and Peter to demonstrate various methods of attracting feral pigs to a bait station or trap. Valuable discussion took place on utilising lures and varying bait placement techniques to maximise the effectiveness of pest animal control programs. It



is important to mix up your control strategy and maintain some variety for the pest animals, for example some foxes may be attracted to liver where as others may

prefer chicken. As described at the workshops "you would get bored if you only had McDonald's to eat every day". Utilising different bait types allows you to maximise the effectiveness of your baiting program.

Both days were well attended and the local communities provided great food and venues for the workshops.

The workshops are part of the Southern New England Coordinated Feral Pig Control Program supported by Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA through funding from the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country Program. The days were also supported by the Southern New England Coordinated Fox Control Program funded by the New England LHPA and NSW National Parks.

# SUPPORT FOR COORDINATED FERAL PIG CONTROL

Southern New England Landcare have successfully secured funding through the Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA to deliver a coordinated feral pig control program throughout the region over the next 12 months.

This project will increase community engagement in broadscale, cooperative and coordinated feral pig control within the southern New England region. Feral pig populations within our area have increased in the last three years after several good seasons. The agricultural and the environmental impacts of feral pigs are now being reported by landholders to both Southern New England Landcare and the New England Livestock Health and Pest Authority.

Feral pigs are known to cause significant destruction to pastures, crops and occasionally livestock (in our region). Feral pigs consume large numbers of our native amphibians and reptiles and landholders have also reported damage to riparian and wetland areas. There is also a biosecurity/health risk associated with high feral pig populations including the spread of disease, such as leptospirosis and melioidosis.

The Coordinated Feral Pig Control Program will be collaboratively run between the New England LHPA, NSW National Parks, Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA and Southern New England Landcare and will support landholders to work with their neighbours in undertaking coordinated feral pig control.



*Image: Jamie Maddocks courtesy of the Invasive Animals CRC*

Assistance is available to help land managers undertake 1080 poisoned grain baiting programs with their neighbours for feral pigs. Participants will need a current chemical card or safe use of 1080 and pindone accreditation. The New England LHPA run 'Safe Handling of 1080 and Pindone' courses quarterly and can be contacted on 02 6772 2366.

Feral pigs like all pest animals are a community problem. If you are experiencing damage from feral pigs then it is likely that your neighbours are too. Give them a call and see if they are also interested in participating in a coordinated control program.

If you would like to be involved in this program please complete an expression of interest form (EOI) available from the Southern New England Landcare website [www.snelandcare.org.au](http://www.snelandcare.org.au) or if you would like an EOI form mailed to you or more information call the office on 02 6772 9123.

As the optimum time to control feral pigs is during winter when it is cold and food quality has decreased we will be undertaking control during early August. Therefore please submit your expression of interest form to **SNELC ASAP**.

This program is supported by the Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA through funding from the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country program.

**Gae and Graham Baker** looking very pleased with themselves after their ½ hour joy flight with Fleet Helicopters. The Bakers won the flight after ordering fox baits with the Balala fox baiting group in 2011. Fleet Helicopters have again provided this prize and anyone who ordered fox baits with the Southern New England Coordinated Fox Control Program this winter will go into the draw to win this fabulous prize.

Thank you to Fleet Helicopters for their continuing support of the Southern New England Coordinated Fox Control Program. Hunting Haven in Uralla have

donated a rifle scope and anyone who brings the front right paw of a fox into the New England LHPA Armidale office, will have a chance to win this prize. Those who record details of foxes shot over the winter period (forms available from the LHPA) will have the opportunity to win a \$150 open order from GrazAg Armidale.

***All competitions close on August 31st.***





# VALUE OF TREES ON FARMS – A FARMER'S PERSPECTIVE

Scientific research has historically provided landholders and our community with essential knowledge on land resource management. When we look back at the role science has had in providing systems for consistent improvements in agriculture such as plant and animal genetics, ecosystem services and even predicting weather patterns, it becomes apparent that science has and will continue to support our pursuit of more efficient and sustainable production.

It is also true that the observations of people who live and work on the land offers knowledge and understanding where specific research may not have taken place. Such knowledge is often provided in the form of anecdotal evidence that is simply observed over time, occasionally to be compared and discussed between neighbours. An unfortunate consequence of anecdotal evidence is that as this knowledge is passed informally between individuals, it may go unrecorded, to be forgotten over time.

An example lies in the observations of a local grazier. In the course of conversation concerning the benefits tree corridors and regeneration areas have brought to his farm over a thirty year period, he remarked on the substantial decrease in the incidence of frost occurrence as well as the apparent moderation in temperature extremes, both hot and cold, in the area where trees have been planted. The landscape of this area forms a basin and would provide a significant cold air sink in calm conditions on winter nights.

This conclusion can of course be debated in terms of

uncertainties such as longer term changes to weather patterns or indeed the accuracy of the observations with minimal support from instruments and recorded data. However the observation does compare favourably to simple atmospheric physics.

Trees and their leaves play a critical role in the storage and recycling of water vapour and thus the storage of

latent heat energy which is concentrated in water. As trees transpire, water is released into the atmosphere, humidifying the surrounding air. Latent heat is released as water vapour cools and condenses when temperatures decrease overnight, producing a warming effect on the surrounding atmosphere. Similarly, heat from a humid atmosphere is absorbed as water evaporates when temperature increase.

Thus the humidity created

by vegetation as it “breathes” will moderate the temperature of the surrounding environment.

The result of this apparent moderation in temperature range and the creation of a “microclimate” offers numerous benefits to a farm by prolonging the growing season, reducing the daily temperature range and subsequently the evaporation potential and assisting in maintaining the condition of livestock.

Above all, this is just one example of the value and benefit of such observations made by the people who live and work on the land - and despite the lack of scientific measurement - such observations are in fact and are worth more than a passing mention and should be shared and discussed.



*A balance of trees on grazing land can help moderate daily temperature*



David Mackay, Eucalyptus haemastoma, Scibbly Gum II (detail)

The North Western Regional Science Hub presents a “Science Meets Art” event at NERAM to celebrate Science Week (10-18 August)

## TALKING WITH TREES: Exploring SMART trees from the Inside Out

6pm Friday 9 August 2013

EXHIBITION DATES: 9 AUGUST to 20 OCTOBER 2013



Education & Communities



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# Carbon Farming Initiative Update

## CFI METHODOLOGIES

Four new CFI methodologies have been approved in recent months, bringing the total number of methodology determinations available for use to 13. These cover activities for agriculture, vegetation and landfill and alternative waste treatment.

Further information on these and other methodologies under consideration is available on the website of the Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education, formerly known as the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency [www.climatechange.gov.au/en/government/initiatives/carbon-farming-initiative/methodology-development.aspx](http://www.climatechange.gov.au/en/government/initiatives/carbon-farming-initiative/methodology-development.aspx).

## VEGETATION METHODOLOGY DETERMINATIONS

There are five methodology determinations available under the CFI related to the planting or regeneration of native vegetation. The differences in these methodologies are that:

- the environmental plantings methodology involves planting and/or seeding of local native species of plants on cleared or partially cleared land
- the human induced regeneration of a permanent even-aged native forest methodology involves establishment of forest through the cessation of activities that cause suppression or destruction of vegetation growth (for example, feral animals, stock and weeds)
- the reforestation and afforestation methodology involves reforestation using any species (except declared weeds) of cleared land
- the methodology for quantifying carbon sequestration by permanent plantings of native mallee eucalypt species using the CFI reforestation modelling tool involves the establishment of permanent mallee eucalypt plantings in low rainfall areas
- the Savanna burning methodology involves the use of controlled fire management across savannas in the fire prone tropical north of Australia to reduce the area that is burnt each year; and/or shift the seasonality of burning from the late dry season to the early dry season

To find out more information about methodologies please visit <http://www.climatechange.gov.au/reducing-carbon/carbon-farming-initiative/methodologies/methodology-determinations>

## CFI PROJECTS

As at 27th May 2013, the Clean Energy Regulator has approved 60 CFI projects since the introduction of the scheme in late 2011.

Approved projects include:

- 10 savanna burning projects (all in the Northern Territory)
- 3 flaring of methane in piggeries projects (all in NSW)
- 3 environmental planting projects (2 in VIC & one in QLD)
- 2 reforestation and afforestation projects (in NSW & WA)
- 43 emissions reduction from landfill projects.

For more information on the register of offsets projects and credits issued visit the Clean Energy Regulator's website [www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au/Carbon-Farming-Initiative](http://www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au/Carbon-Farming-Initiative) or contact them by email at [CFI@cleanenergyregulator.gov.au](mailto:CFI@cleanenergyregulator.gov.au).

## POSITIVE LIST BROCHURE

The Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education, formerly known as the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency has information about the Carbon Farming Initiative, including a brochure providing information about the positive list.

To access the publication please go to: [www.climatechange.gov.au/government/initiatives/carbon-farming-initiative/activities-eligible-excluded/~media/cfi/CFI\\_PositiveListBrochure\\_linksfinal.pdf](http://www.climatechange.gov.au/government/initiatives/carbon-farming-initiative/activities-eligible-excluded/~media/cfi/CFI_PositiveListBrochure_linksfinal.pdf).



**Australian Government**

*Acknowledgement: This event and all associated material was adapted by New England North West Landcare, it has been supported by funding from the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry as part of the Carbon Farming Initiative Communications Program.*



# Livestock performance matched to pasture budgets

## Lewis Kahn and Judi Earl

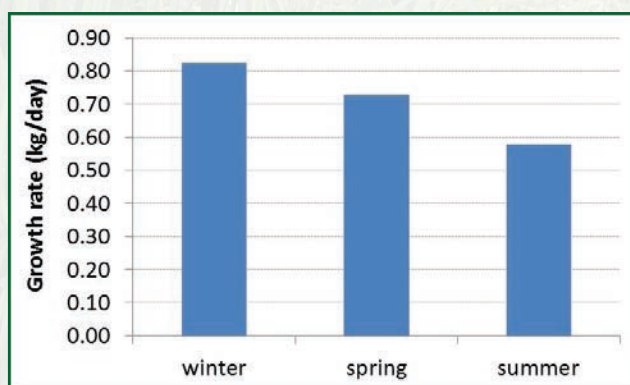
Livestock performance depends on monitoring pastures. But how do you use the information to make a difference? The information can be used to decide the number of stock to run over winter or how many trade cattle might be purchased. There are two key times in the year to conduct a pasture (feed) budget from which you make decisions about how many stock to run on your farm. These are autumn and spring, which represent the start of the low growth period and the start of the high growth period. Here is an example of a pasture budget over the low growth period.

Meg estimated that the amount of feed on her farm on 1st April was on average 3,000 kg dry matter/ha. She did this by measuring pasture height at 10 cm and multiplying this by pasture density of 300 kg/cm ( $10 \times 300 = 3,000$  kg/ha). More information on this in the AIMS pasture checklist at [www.aimsag.com.au/software.html](http://www.aimsag.com.au/software.html)

She nominated that by the end of the period on 1st October there would be 1,500 kg/ha on average left in the paddocks, because this pasture residual is key to good healthy spring pasture growth.

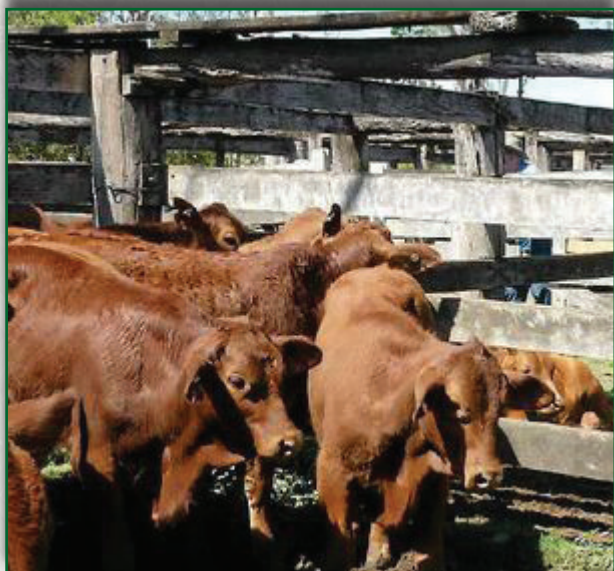
This means Meg had 1,500 kg/ha feed that could be used by livestock over the 180 day period from April to October. This equals about 8 kg/ha each day and addition of daily pasture growth, estimated from experience at 1 kg/ha over this period, increased this to 9 kg/ha per day available for livestock.

On 210 ha, Meg carried 150 cows, calving in August and using the DSE tables in the AIMS pasture checklist she calculated these would eat 8 kg/ha of pasture each day. This left 1 kg/ha for purchases or as a buffer. Meg decided to use the small amount of left-over pasture and calculated from DSE tables that she could buy 30 small trade steers.

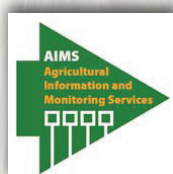


Not only did the pasture budget make Meg feel more comfortable over winter knowing she had enough feed but it also meant she could purchase the small mob of trade steers over winter at a good price. Having the steers on hand to benefit from early spring growth helps to make sure they reach target sale weights (see graph). Pasture quality is highest during spring and it's important that growing animals get access to this feed if they are to achieve good growth rates.

Growth rate over spring, summer and early autumn of steers run in the same mob that were either bought during winter, spring or summer. Steers bought near the end of winter grew over 200 g/day faster than steers bought in early summer.



Why not look around your farm to estimate how much feed you have and use a feed budget to start a grazing plan for winter and then over the high growth period.



Catchment Management  
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Northern Rivers



# SUSTAINABLE FARMING IN THE MALPAS AREA

The last twelve months have seen eight landholders in the wider Malpas area sign up for on-farm works to make significant changes to their property management. These people, as well as another eight property owners, also developed their skills in property planning, soil testing, sustainability, productivity and decision-making during a Landscan course run in winter 2012. The "Developing and Delivering Sustainable Farms" project, funded by the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country program, has supported these landholders to develop their skills and make on-ground changes.

The on-farm projects vary from property to property with people undertaking works to manage their land for better soil health, to provide off-stream water for livestock, manage creeks to improve water and riparian health, develop stock and pasture shelter, and manage woodland and grassland areas for biodiversity values. Overall, more than 115 ha are under improved management practices, with more than 80 ha having been fenced to assist with sustainable grazing and better soil health, and more than 45 ha being managed to improve biodiversity management, protect waterways or provide off-stream watering for stock. These figures are just the tip of an iceberg though, as a number of other landholders on the Guyra plateau are undertaking their own unsubsidised projects, or developing ideas for future funding, to make significant changes to how they manage their grazing systems, watercourses and native woodlands.

Southern New England Landcare continues to apply for funding to support landholders to implement property works similar to those listed above. If you have an expression of interest with us please be assured that we are actively seeking funding opportunities for your works, sometimes it may take multiple submissions before a project successfully secures funding. We also have a number of applications submitted that we are awaiting news for. Keep an eye on *Landchat* for potential announcements and further opportunities.



*New fencing assists paddock subdivision and wetland protection (left).*



*New fencing subdivides a paddock to facilitate grazing for better soil health.*

*Paddock subdivision separates a woodland paddock (left) for conservation management from a rotational grazing system (right).*



# CWC WINS THREATENED WOODLAND BIRDS STAGE 2

Citizens Wildlife Corridors Armidale Inc. (CWC) is pleased to announce that the application to the NSW Environmental Trust for "Vegetation Management for Threatened Woodland Birds, Stage 2" has been successfully funded.

This project aims to manage vegetation and habitat for threatened woodland birds, including birds such as Diamond Firetails and Turquoise Parrots. Threatened woodland birds were found in quality native vegetation during CWC's recently completed "Vegetation Management for Threatened Woodland Birds" project, also funded by the NSW Environmental Trust and supported by Southern New England Landcare.

In keeping with the Stage 1 project, Stage 2 will rehabilitate or revegetate 14 woodland sites on 11 CWC members' properties in the Southern New England region. Private landholders will be supported to protect or rehabilitate at least 37 ha of wildlife habitat, and 16,000 native seedlings will be planted to help create linkages, corridors and refuges between patches of remnant vegetation. Bird surveys will also be conducted across the project sites, to continue monitoring how birds utilise native vegetation and wildlife corridors. The presence of threatened bird species indicates ecological health. CWC aims to increase numbers of sightings of less common fauna species and is working to enhance the opportunities for threatened bird species to successfully reproduce and disperse across the landscape.

CWC's core business is to help land managers protect and enhance remnant vegetation and the vital habitat functions of threatened woodland ecosystems on the Northern Tablelands. CWC works closely with private landholders and encourages and supports landholders in their efforts to manage habitat areas. CWC also has strong links with researchers, private consultants, government and semi-government organisations such as catchment management authorities and local councils, as well as landcare organisations.

Like CWC's Stage 1 project, "Vegetation Management for Threatened Woodland Birds, Stage 2" will be administered by Southern New England Landcare. Using this tried and true co-operative approach there will be numerous opportunities to build on outcomes of CWC's Stage 1 project. In addition to protecting and rehabilitating woodland areas on CWC members' properties, the Stage 2 project will help increase the awareness, knowledge, skills and engagement of landholders across the region. Workshops, field days and publications will include aspects of project planning, revegetation methods, wildlife corridor design, fauna identification and habitat management.

CWC is looking forward to supporting its members and the wider community through this exciting next venture. If you can access the internet and are interested in managing native vegetation for threatened woodland birds you might like to visit <http://sunne.com.au/flipbook/CWC20%Book/index.html> for a look at the booklet produced as part of CWC's previous "Vegetation Management for Threatened Woodland Birds" project.

*Member for Northern Tablelands, Adam Marshall, presents the recently announced NSW Environmental Trust grant to Citizens Wildlife Corridors committee members (left to right) Ingrid Kalf, Ruth Tremont and Kath Wray.*





# FUNDING SUCCESS FOR WONGWIBINDA LANDCARE GROUP

The Wongwibinda Landcare group have been successful in securing a Community Landcare Grant to undertake grazing management and remnant fencing works on the properties of three of their members.

The project will build on a long-term plan to protect and enhance a further 130 ha of significant remnant vegetation linking the Doughboy and Kangaroo Creek catchments, and improve soil and pasture condition. Stock will be removed from 2.3 km of creek lines and new grazing practices implemented over at least 600 ha to improve pasture resilience, increase ground cover and reduce weed infestations. A workshop will be conducted on sustainable management practices to improve soil biology and maximise carbon storage.

## ***Congratulations Wongwibinda Landcare Group!***

This Project is administered through the Commonwealth Government's Sustainable Agriculture stream of Caring For Our Country and runs until March 2015. The Community Landcare Grant aims to build a skilled and capable Landcare Community by encouraging community participation and engagement in Landcare and through sharing information regarding sustainable agriculture techniques.

*Keep an eye out for further funding announcements in our next Landchat!*



CARING  
FOR  
OUR  
COUNTRY



The 2013 forum will be held at Newcastle with a number of field trips conducted around the region to showcase the environmental values and the amazing work being done by community groups, individuals and agencies to protect and enhance it.

The bi-annual forum is the premier event to showcase sustainability, Landcare and volunteering across NSW and includes the annual Landcare Muster and the NSW State Landcare Awards Dinner.

Don't miss the chance to gather with up to 400 people from Landcare and community groups, farmers, Aboriginal heritage groups, regional catchment bodies, industry and government representatives from across NSW and Australia.

**For more info go to  
<http://landcarecmaforum.com.au/>**

## **Southern New England Landcare to present at the NSW State Forum**

The work and projects undertaken by Southern New England Landcare have been recognized with Sara Schmude gaining a speaker spot on the program with Frog Dreaming and Bec Ballard doing a poster presentation of the Regional Pest Project.

In addition we have several State Landcare award finalists nominated (see next pages) - they will be presenting on the program, and be featured at the Awards Dinner held as part of the Forum.

If you would like to attend the Landcare Forum, please contact the SNELCC office now so we can book you a spot - we are arranging group travel and accommodation and in addition there are a limited number of subsidized places. Come along and cheer our presenters and finalists!



## Vote for New England North West in People's Choice Award

The People's Choice Award for the 2013 NSW State Landcare Awards is now open for voting. There are nominations from the New England North West in all categories, except Young Landcare Leader and Coastcare. You can only vote for one nominee across all of the categories (i.e. not one nominee in each category, just one all up) and you can only vote once. So choose carefully!

Help support the good work coming from the New England North West.

The categories are:

### Junior Landcare Team Award

Our Nominee – Frog Dreaming Project, SNELCC

The Frog Dreaming conference program is simple. Day 1 involves building a connection to each other using Aboriginal storytelling themes and creative activities and day 2 is all about building knowledge and an understanding of our local natural resource assets, the main focus and identifying issues while developing skills and opportunities to use them. To build lasting connections we successfully use the 'kids teaching kids' methodology - our mentors are from year 7-10 and are past Frog Dreaming participants which makes the whole experience that much more meaningful and enduring. Our more mature educators come from a variety of backgrounds and act as inspiring facilitators in disseminating knowledge and skills. We call these educators 'The Gurus', mainly because they continue to volunteer their time year after year. This structure is what has provided a relevant learning platform that has received continued support from the school community, volunteers and our sponsors.

### Partnerships with Landcare Award

Our Nominee – High Country Urban Biodiversity Project, SNELCC

The High Country Biodiversity Project (HiCUB) is a partnership between four local government areas - Armidale Dumaresq, Guyra, Uralla & Walcha and Southern New England Landcare. The HiCUB project was funded by NSW Environmental Trust. A Steering Committee and a community-based Advisory Group were established. and Southern New England Landcare was engaged by the four councils as project manager.

The project staff built strong partnerships with a number of existing community groups, such as Armidale Urban Rivercare Group. We worked with these groups to build their capacity and to help them attract new members. In turn this brought more people and energy to the project, enabling us to achieve more on the ground.

The partnership built around the HiCUB project was so strong and effective that it is really hard to say whose project it was – Council, Southern New England Landcare or the community. Everyone owns HiCUB!

### Individual Landcarer Award

Our Nominee – Kath Wray of Citizen's Wildlife Corridors, SNELCC

Kath Wray founded Citizens Wildlife Corridors (CWC) and is the organisation's main driver. Kath continues to write and submit funding applications to provide financial support to land managers implementing wildlife corridors throughout the Northern Tablelands. Kath also provides support to land managers through on-site visits, assistance with planning projects and regular contact throughout the implementation process of on-ground works.

Kath was well before her time with the founding of CWC in 1991, an organisation that works at the grass roots level to help private landholders manage nature and establish on-farm and regional wildlife corridors. The identification of the need to link existing patches of vegetation is a concept that is now written into government guiding documents and numerous funding guidelines both state and federally.

Kath's challenges in establishing an organisation that had the capacity to deliver the results we see today would have been insurmountable for many. The achievements of CWC over 22 years have provided a lasting legacy to the wider community.





## Innovation in Sustainable Farm Practices Award

Our Nominee – The Taylor Family, of Harnham Landcare, SNEGCC

Michael Taylor has participated in a number of projects during recent years that have clearly demonstrated the improvements to the ecosystem and commercial production at "The Hill". [Northern Inland Forestry Investment Engineered Woodlands project 2008; Community Action Grants fauna surveys across New England re-vegetation sites 2012, 2013].

The well-placed belts have significantly improved the capture of rainfall events across the sloping landscapes of The Hill so that soil water availability for adjacent crops and pastures has been increased, and peak storm flow in adjacent creeks and across hillsides, which have high erosion potential, have been moderated. Ground cover has also been increased and erosion of soils from hillsides has been substantially reduced. The woodlands enhance and buffer existing habitat features in each paddock. Biodiversity is healthy and diverse while sheep have valuable shelter during the Tablelands winter storm chills.

## Landcare Facilitator or Coordinator Award

Our Nominee – Kylie Falconer from GLENRAC

Kylie has been the GLENRAC Community Support Officer since November 2007. During this time, Kylie has built the organisation from only one executive position to having up to an additional five casual staff, and has raised its Landcare project operating funds from \$123,360 (21 projects) to a peak of \$445,265 in April 2013 (29 projects that were or are active in 2012/13).

Because of the delegated nature of management, many of the achievements presented below are attributed to 'GLENRAC' – they are, however, due to Kylie's management. Kylie is enthusiastic, energetic, skilled, and an excellent leader.

Whilst the major projects are for commercial large scale landholders, the peri-urban landholders, and urban landholders have been catered for with workshops such as Birds in the Backyard, Indian Myna control and Feral Cat education. There has been continuing support for people who have come to these workshops with further educational material and provision of traps, etc.

**Voting closes on Sunday 25th August 2013.**

**Follow this link to the People's Choice voting**  
**[http://www.landcareonline.com.au/?page\\_id=11525](http://www.landcareonline.com.au/?page_id=11525)**

Kylie Falconer  
GLENRAC



Kath  
Wray  
CWC



Michael & Milly Taylor  
Harnham Landcare



Dave  
Carr  
Project  
Director  
HiCUB



Sara  
Schmude  
Frog  
Dreaming  
Project



# 2013 IS OUR 30TH BIRTHDAY!!!

AND WE ARE CELEBRATING OUR PAST WHILST LOOKING TO  
OUR FUTURE!

12TH OF OCTOBER 2013 - ARMIDALE TOWN HALL  
SAVE THE DATE!!!

Dear Member or Friend of the The Armidale Tree Group.

We are going to celebrate our 30th year in style and we would love to see you there!

We will be having a number of events to celebrate the occasion including a Dinner and Celebration night in the Armidale Town Hall on Saturday, October 12th 2013 so please put this date in your diary **NOW** so you do not miss out on this occasion.

We are also planning a few other celebratory events at the Mike O'Keeffe Woodland Centre in Mann St and with NERAM at Black Gully.

***We look forward to your company at one of our Birthday events & we will be in touch soon with more information. Please feel free to contact us if you have any queries.***



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## HAVE YOU SEEN THIS BIRD?

### EOI for Indian Myna control program



Southern New England Landcare recently hosted an information day for people interested in undertaking control programs for the Indian Myna. The impact of the Indian Myna on native species is increasing as the range of the bird extends from the coast into the tablelands and slopes of northern NSW. Indian Mynas pose a direct threat to our native wildlife by competing aggressively for habitat and nesting sites in tree hollows. Indian Mynas are regularly observed to take over the nests and hollows of native birds and small arboreal mammals and kill the occupants.

The information day was presented by Laura & Kevin Noble from Clarence Valley Conservation in Action. Laura and Kevin have successfully implemented similar control programs across eastern NSW. Southern New England Landcare is currently calling for Expressions of Interest from people in urban and rural areas who wish to assist with control programs for the Indian Myna. Your assistance is valuable and may include a range of activities from reporting sightings of the bird to trapping and euthanising captured birds. A sufficient number of volunteers from around our region is essential for the program to be effective. Everyone can help!

SNEL is currently awaiting funding to implement this program with the hope of having a program underway in Spring this year. Further information and training in procedures in line with ethical standards will be offered to volunteers when funding becomes available.

*If you would like to be a part of the program or are interested in obtaining more information please email [mail@snelcc.org.au](mailto:mail@snelcc.org.au) or call (02) 6772 9123.*



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*Resourcing Landcare in our region*



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Landchat  
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# Landchat

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Southern New England Landcare appreciates generous support from Caring for Our Country, Armidale Dumaresq Council, NSW Environmental Trust, the Border Rivers Gwydir CMA, and the Northern Rivers CMA, and is sponsored by Landmark (Armidale) and Wesfarmers Federation Insurance.

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

**6.30pm Wednesday 21st August 2013.**

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**

**Tuesday 20th August 2013**

**for catering purposes.**

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



CARING  
FOR  
OUR  
COUNTRY