



AABR NEWS

Australian Association of Bush Regenerators NSW

Nº 108
April
2011

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Plectonycha correntina

*a beetle from Argentina with a
voracious appetite for madeira vine*



Photo: *Plectonycha correntina* on Madeira vine leaf (Courtesy: Bill Palmer, Biosecurity Queensland, DEEDI).

Urban wildlife field workshop

Friday June 3 10 - 2pm

Peter Clarke is the Community Volunteer Coordinator at Ku-ring-gai Council. He has worked as a bush regenerator, a bushcare trainer and has run the Bushcare program in Ku-ring-gai since 2001. Parkcare, Streetcare and WildThings are some of the programs that he has developed, and today Peter will examine WildThings, Ku-ring-gai's urban wildlife program, especially in the context of Bushcare and bush regeneration in general. The day will begin with an electronic presentation at Council Chambers before going to visit a pool conversion, a native bee splitting hub, and a bushcare site.

Where Gordon, Sydney. Meet at Ku-ring-gai Council Chambers (3 min walk from Gordon Station - North Shore Line). 818 Pacific Highway. Level 4 (main highway entrance).

RSVP To help with organising please RSVP by Wednesday June 1 to Jane at secretary@aabr.org.au

Morning tea will be provided. Bring your own lunch.



President's Perspective

Hi all,

Since the last AABR News there has been a fair bit of activity by the Committee. As well as continuing with our normal functions (including continuous updating of the website thanks largely to Paul Ibbetson and Mitra) there has been a range of other initiatives taken. Firstly we have started to hold our committee meetings electronically, achieving (among other things) a lower carbon footprint. Secondly, a small working group has completed a review of the duties of committee members. Administration of membership has been a bit of a thorn in our side for a while, but the group has put in place a set of new procedures to streamline this. In the process, we considered the pros and cons of having online membership renewals, a step that is not needed just yet but may be beneficial if membership increases substantially in the future.

Another working group—AABR's 'Change' working group set up by the last AGM to look at (a) potential for separating membership from accreditation and (b) broadening AABR's scope without changing its 'brand' too much—has also had their first meeting (via Skype). The group is on track to produce a discussion document for circulation among the membership well in advance of the AGM later in the year.

The working group sees the main advantage of the proposed separation as being the potential increase membership; thus providing a larger pool of active members who can organize walks and talks, as well as allowing AABR to speak for a larger group of people (lending us more credibility). The group is mindful, however, that great care is needed to find a mechanism that protects the standards of practice that we espouse as an organisation. So work is ongoing on that front.

Perhaps the more tricky side of the working group's brief is the idea of re-evaluating what AABR stands for. Some punters tell us that Bush Regen is too urban Sydney-centred, for example, so

we need to find new ways to convey to all that there is a lot of great work being done in rural and peri-rural areas throughout NSW, promoting regen in these areas as a key tool for council's to adopt. Others tell us that the term 'bush regeneration' itself seems to be excluding much of the more expansive restoration approaches that many of us apply, alongside regen approaches, to meet the challenges of highly damaged ecosystems. So our 'Change' group is looking at potential for updating our aspirations to spell out more clearly that harnessing the resilience of damaged sites to the extent possible is at the core of what we espouse; along with using other methods where that resilience is depleted; always with the goal of rebuilding resilience. As there is no organization in the world espousing this, is it too ambitious to think that AABR might become the resilience-centred, broadly visioned restoration-oriented group we have been waiting for? (These questions and more are grist to the mill of the working group.)

Finally, it is clear that the vitality of AABR is drawn from the activity of our members. Often we are so busy being environmental warriors in our day jobs we forget to give a little to the organization who can help us fight the good fight. The best way you can help AABR at the moment is to check out the AABR events calendar at the back of this newsletter and come along to events. Better still, consider hosting an AABR field trip to your own site, whether it is attended mainly by AABR members or newly interested locals (contact AABR's Secretary Jane Gye secretary@aabr.org.au with ideas...and to find out how we can help with advertising and insurance). And of course we are always looking for contributions to the newsletter.

Cheers,

Tein

Tein McDonald, President

Northern region 'bush regen stories' event to be run again this year

Last year's 'Bush Regen Stories' event at Pottsville in Northern NSW went off so well that the northern region AABR group will be organizing a similar event in 2011. It is likely to be held at a wetland site on the mid- Gold Coast, Qld, a central location for our widely-dispersed members.

The event is likely to be held in October or November (watch this space and the website for a date, which is to be decided on a little later). However, we do know that the event will include a session where regenerators can exchange their latest information on useful new products and techniques.

As last year, please send your enquiries, ideas or a short proposal for a 10 minute powerpoint presentation to teinm@ozemail.com.au

welcome new members

Rose-Marie McKenzie	Taiana Kingston
Stuart McKenzie	Samantha Coyle
Mark Gardiner	Angus Underwood
Peter Zielger	Sonja Bosch
Jacqui Paine	Doug Mohr
Ricky Crane	Hamish Cobbett
Kathryn Wem	Karen Love
David Purvis-Smith	Michelle Richards

Celebrating a bush regeneration pioneer



An image from the exhibition: Field of sand daisies, 1930s hand coloured photograph by Albert and Margaret Morris. Image courtesy Barrier Naturalists' Club and Broken Hill Council.



The Powerhouse Museum's travelling exhibition *Greening the Silver City* has finished its trip round the state, but will be on show at Castle Hill until September 23.

The Powerhouse Discovery Centre Corner of Windsor and Showground Roads Castle Hill, Sydney

Opening hours Monthly open days 10am-4pm second Saturday of the month (February to November).

School Holidays 10am-4pm Tuesday to Friday (except public holidays).

Weekday visits with prior booking are available Tuesdays to Fridays 10am-4pm. Bookings: 02 9762 1300.

From the Museums media release:

"This exhibition tells the remarkable story of how the denuded landscape of Broken Hill was repaired by a bush regeneration scheme in the 1930s.

Albert Morris, a Quaker and self taught amateur botanist developed a passionate interest in plants from a young age and founded the Barrier Field Naturalists' Club, named after the nearby Barrier Ranges. Albert Morris believed that the growing problem of sand drift and dust storms in Broken Hill could be overcome by establishing regeneration reserves around Broken Hill to the north, west and south. In 1936 the mines and community led by the Barrier Field Naturalists Club and Albert Morris fenced an initial area and planted trees and local native vegetation. Now known as the Albert Morris Park it was seen as highly successful. In 1938 more sections of land were fenced from grazing rabbits and livestock and left to recover, these are known as the revegetation reserves. The Broken Hill revegetation site was the first example of successful bush regeneration in its broadest sense within Australia. It improved the standard of living of residents as well as conserving plant and animal biodiversity. The regeneration reserves are now National Trust listed.

The revegetation also planted a seed for further similar work around Australia. In the 1960s there was the birth of a larger conservation and land care movements in rural and suburban Australia.

Albert also photographed the flowers and landscape of the surrounding area. These black and white slides were hand coloured by his wife Margaret Morris and are represented in the exhibition".

A biological control for madeira vine

Testing has recently completed on a leaf feeding beetle *Plectoncha correntina* as a biological control agent for madeira vine. The beetle performed well, and will soon be released.

Madeira vine *Anredera cordifolia* was considered to be a propriety for biological control research, because of its potential to damage native ecosystems and the difficulty of controlling it.

Madeira vine

In their report on the project, Biosecurity Australia describe madeira vine as “a vigorous perennial climber or scrambling shrub, forming dense mats that cover trees and shrubs. Stems are up to 30 m in length with succulent, heart shaped leaves (Vivian-Smith et al. 2007). A profusion of long, slender creamy-white perfumed inflorescences are produced, though seed production rarely occurs outside the native range. Reproduction is predominantly vegetative by aerial and subterranean tubers, the density of which can be up to 1500 m². Tubers are dispersed by water, animals, soil and garden waste movement”.

“Madeira vine was originally introduced to Australia as an ornamental plant. It is a major environmental weed of coastal and sub-coastal areas from southern Queensland to New South Wales, where it threatens lowland subtropical rainforest remnants on rich alluvial floodplains (Floyd 1989). Records of Madeira vine extend from coastal and sub-coastal areas as far north as Cairns and as far south as Hobart along the eastern seaboard, as well as near Perth and Adelaide (Vivian-Smith et al. 2007). It is a problem weed in rainforests, riparian lands, bush land remnants and conservation areas”.

It is also a major weed in New Zealand, Sri Lanka and South Africa.

The potential distribution of Madeira vine was estimated using the climate matching software, predicting that “most of the eastern seaboard is climatically suitable. South-western Western Australia is also climatically favourable while the southern coasts of Victoria and South Australia and the northern coast of Tasmania might also support populations”.

Bush regenerators who have encountered madeira vine usually have it high on their “most feared weed” shortlist. As the report describes: “chemical control methods are available. However application of herbicide to vines high up in host trees



Photo: *Plectoncha correntina* on Madeira vine leaf (Courtesy: Bill Palmer, Biosecurity Queensland, DEEDI).



Flowering Madeira vine covers a eucalypt trunk Photo: V. Bear

is impractical and there is a high risk of damage to non-target plants growing beneath the vines. Severed lianas left in the host tree die, but the aerial tubers remain viable, fall off and start to grow. Irrespective of whether the control methods are mechanical, physical or chemical, there is a need to treat infested areas repeatedly over a number of years because of the resilient nature of the aerial and subterranean tubers, which can remain viable after chemical treatment. This severely limits the size of areas that can be treated and makes management extremely difficult (Vivian-Smith et al. 2007).

Testing for biocontrol agents

Researchers looked to Madeira vine’s native range—northern and central South America—for potential control agents. *Plectoncha correntina* was collected from *A. cordifolia* growing on house fences in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Preliminary testing in Argentina, showed it had potential. Further testing was carried out in Pretoria, South Africa. In September 2007, beetles reared in South Africa were brought to Alan Fletcher Research Station in Queensland where testing continued.

Thirty seven potential host species were tested, but the beetle was really only interested in Madeira vine.

The family Basellaceae, to which Madeira vine belongs, has no Australian members, they are all from tropical and subtropical America, south-eastern Africa, and Madagascar.

One member of the family *Basella alba*, is "a minor, non-commercial garden vegetable" in Australia. The researchers found that it "might be subjected to some feeding should it be growing near Madeira vine infested with *Plectonycha correntina* but this damage would be of little consequence".

The good news ...

is that the beetle is very keen on madeira vine, and breeds rapidly. "Both larvae and adults feed on leaves. Mature larvae are particularly voracious feeders".

"Large reductions in photosynthetic area promote the utilisation of stored resources, potentially depleting these.

The short lifecycle and high fecundity of *Plectonycha correntina*, combined with voracious larval feeding is conducive to producing large populations capable of inflicting such damage".

It is hoped that the community can to distribute the beetles. Release sites will be monitored for some years after releases to ascertain whether the insect has established. Should the insect be found to have established, assessments will be made on its effects.

Key reference:

Biosecurity Australia (2010). *Final risk analysis report for the release of Plectonycha correntina for the biological control of Anredera cordifolia (Madeira vine)*. Biosecurity Australia, Canberra.

Cited in the above:

Vivian-Smith, G., Lawson, B.E., Turnbull, I. and Downey, P.O. 2007. *The biology of Australian weeds*. 46. *Anredera cordifolia (Ten.) Steenis*. Plant Protection Quarterly 22(1): 2-10.

Other biological control news

Quoted from Queensland Department of Primary Industries http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/4790_13770.htm

Cat's claw creeper

"The invasive liana cat's claw creeper is a serious environmental weed in coastal Queensland and New South Wales. Biological control is considered the most suitable option for managing this weed. Two insects, a leaf-sucking tingid and a leaf-tying moth, have been explored, host-tested and approved for release. The project currently focuses on field releasing both agents and monitoring their establishment status and impact. We [QLD DPI] are also training Landcare and community groups in agent rearing and release methods.

Research into the characteristics of underground tuber banks in cat's claw creeper infestations revealed that tubers were abundant in terms of density, yet small in size and with few connections between them. This work suggests that new recruitment is primarily from seeds, not from vegetative propagation as previously thought. Future biological control efforts need to focus on introducing seed and pod-feeding insects to reduce seed output.

Carvalhothingis visenda (Hemiptera: Tingidae) is the first biological control agent approved for release against cat's claw creeper *Macfadyena unguis-cati* (Bignoniaceae) in Australia. The mass-rearing and field releases of *C. visenda* commenced in May 2007 and since then more than half a million individuals have been released at 72 sites in Queensland and New South Wales. In addition, community groups have released over 11,000 tingid-infested potted cat's claw creeper plants at 63 sites in Queensland. Establishment of *C. visenda* was evident at 80% of the release sites after three years. The tingid established on the two morphologically distinct 'long-pod' and 'short-pod' cat's claw creeper varieties present in Australia. Establishment was more at sites that received three or more field releases (83%) than at sites that received two or less releases (73%); and also at sites that received more than 5000 individuals (82%) than at sites that received less than 5000 individuals (68%). In the field, the tingid spread slowly (5.4 m per year), and the maximum distance of *C. visenda* incidence away from the initial release points ranged from 6 m to approximately 1 km".

Lantana

"Lantana is a major weed of agricultural and natural ecosystems. It has a wide climatic range and high genetic variability. It is a Weed of National Significance ... and has been the target of biological control programs since 1914. A total of 31 agents have been introduced and 18 of those have established in the field. Five agents are damaging, but only on a seasonal basis, and lantana is still not adequately controlled. Current research is looking at new and more effective biological control agents as well as studying plant taxonomy and ecology in order to gain a better understanding of the weed".

A leaf rust from Brazil (*Prospodium tuberculatum*) affects the pink, and pink-edged red flower colour forms. It has been released at various sites around NSW

"Release of the herringbone leaf-mining fly *Ophiomyia camarae* is currently in progress. The fly appears to be more suited to the tropical regions than south-eastern Queensland. To date, we [QLD DPI] have released over 100,000 individuals at over 140 sites in north Queensland. Leaf mines have been found at over 130 sites and up to 125 km away from some release sites. Defoliation of plants has been observed around Cooktown".

"Despite the efforts by numerous organisations, biological control has not been achieved so far. Retrospective analysis suggests that plant taxonomy, biology and climate are the main constraints to successful biological control of lantana. Researchers are working with scientists at CSIRO and in the United States to clarify the progenitors and relationships of lantana which may assist in locating new and effective agents. Results from DNA studies suggest that lantana in Australia is just one large highly variable group or hybrid swarm and that it is most closely related to lantana in Venezuela and the Caribbean".

Bits and pieces

Myrtle Rust update

From NSW Department of Primary Industries <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/plant/myrtle-rust/update>

Myrtle Rust is a plant fungal disease that was first diagnosed in NSW in Myrtaceae family plants in April 2010. Myrtle Rust can be spread by people moving infected plant material, contaminated equipment, clothing and vehicles. It can also spread by wind, insects and other animals.

Myrtle rust is considered widespread on the eastern seaboard of NSW from the Shoalhaven to the Queensland border. Recent detections on the North Coast from Ballina to Queensland have been reported from bushland, nurseries, gardens and bush food production sites. Myrtle rust is present in Queensland and eradication measures are ongoing.

Based on the current knowledge and distribution of the disease, the National Management Group agreed that it is not technically feasible to eradicate the disease.

There are 36 known susceptible host species and this number is expected to rise. Severe infestation has been observed on *Agonis flexuosa*, *Austromyrtus inophloia*, *Backhousia citriodora*, *Melaleuca quinquenervia*, *Myrtus communis*, *Rhodamnia rubescens*, *Rhodomyrtus psidioides*, *Syzygium anisatum*, *Syzygium jambos*, *Tristania neriifolia*.

NSW is divided into two management zones (These zones are dynamic and will change with the known distribution of the rust)

Red zone - all coastal LGAs from Shoalhaven City Council to the Queensland border. Myrtle rust is considered widely distributed.

Green zone - the remainder of NSW: considered relatively free of Myrtle Rust.

Industry and the public are asked to learn how to recognise the fungus and report any suspected cases early in the green zone and new hosts in the red zone, as well as practise good hygiene methods to restrict the spread of the fungus. The public should also report infestations on public land in the red zone to the land holder.

Myrtle Rust Identification and Bio-sanitation Course

[From REC] The Australian Network for Plant Conservation (ANPC) is working to develop an accredited one-day training course for the field recognition and reporting of Myrtle Rust, and for field bio-sanitation. Register your interest in having this course run in your area by contacting ANPC at anpc@anpc.asn.au with subject line 'Myrtle Rust course EOI', or phone 02 6250 9509.

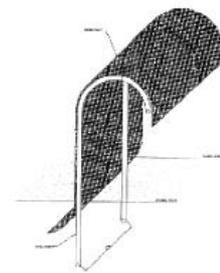
The Birds in Backyards program evaluation

The Birds in Backyards program is doing an evaluation of its program, finding out how its website, workshops and resources have been used.

The link <http://www.zoomearang.com/Survey/WEB22BULEFT2NY> goes to a very short survey - only 11 questions! If you have 5 minutes to spare, your participation in the survey would be most appreciated, even if you have never heard of Birds in Backyards

Fauna Sensitive Road Design Manual

[From REC] The Fauna Sensitive Road Design Manual. Volume 2: Preferred Practices, published by the Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads is now available. This book is the second in a two-volume series that provides information to assist practitioners to design, construct and maintain roads that better accommodate the needs of fauna. This document is based on state, national and international research, with Australian case studies presented at the end. www.tmr.qld.gov.au/Business-and-industry/Technical-standards-and-publications/Fauna-sensitive-road-design-volume-2.aspx



Examples from the manual of temporary and permanent frog fences

NSW Roadside Environment Committee

Some of the items in this section are from the newsletter of the NSW Roadside Environment Committee (REC). This is a useful new resource that aims to "share information about the management of NSW linear reserve environments".

<http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/environment/roadsideenvironcommittee/index.html>

"Linear reserves in New South Wales (NSW) include roadsides, Travelling Stock Reserves (TSRs), rail corridors and infrastructure easements (e.g. for electricity lines, gas pipelines).

Apart from covering a large area, the State's linear reserves contain significant biodiversity, including ecological communities that are not protected in national parks, public reserves or private land. In rural areas, linear reserves are often the only remaining intact natural environments in the local region due to past extensive clearing. Linear reserves provide critical wildlife habitat especially when connected to native vegetation remnants and may assist in addressing threats associated with climate change.

In recognition of the value of linear reserves, the NSW Government established the NSW Roadside Environment Committee (REC) in 1994 to promote and coordinate leading practice in linear reserve environmental management across the State. It currently comprises 11 organisations with interests in the management of roadside and other linear reserves in NSW".

Managing Native Vegetation in Travelling Stock Reserves

[From REC] This project will involve conducting six, two-day workshops over three years to engage on-ground managers of travelling stock reserves to increase their ecological knowledge and plant conservation skills. The first workshop will be held in the Wagga region, NSW on May 11. Course materials will also be developed as a resource for further workshops and other training opportunities outside the project funding and which could also be applied to other linear reserve management. For further information, contact Sue Mathams on phone 02 6250 9523 or email sue.mathams@environment.gov.au.

<http://www.gbwcmm.net.au/node/3521>

Linear Reserve Forum Presentations

Youtube presentations from the recent linear reserve forum *On the Road Again: Linear Reserves Connecting Biodiversity Across Fragmented Landscapes* are now available on the Grassy Ecosystems Conservation Management Networks website. <http://www.gbwcmm.net.au/node/3521>

Guides for regenerating the Cumberland Plain

Cumberland Plain Shale Woodlands and Shale-Gravel Transition Forest was listed as a critically endangered ecological community under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) in December 2009.

The Commonwealth Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities has prepared an information booklet *Cumberland Plain Shale Woodlands and Shale-Gravel Transition Forest: A guide to identifying and protecting the nationally threatened ecological community, EPBC Policy Statement 3.31*.

The department describes the booklet as "designed to assist land managers, owners and occupiers as well as environmental assessment officers and consultants to identify, assess and

manage the Cumberland Plain Shale Woodlands and Shale-Gravel Transition Forest".

According to the booklet "The Cumberland Plain Shale Woodlands and Shale-Gravel Transition Forest was the most common type of native vegetation in the area now occupied by western Sydney, including towns such as Blacktown, Campbelltown, Camden, Fairfield, Liverpool, Penrith, Richmond and Windsor. As a consequence of threats such as clearing and weed invasion, the ecological community is now restricted to relatively small and fragmented bushland patches nestled among a largely urban to peri-urban environment".

The booklet can be downloaded at: <http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/publications/cumberland-plain-shale-woodlands.html>

It is a useful overview, but for a practical management guide it is hard to beat the excellent 2005 production *Recovering Bushland on the Cumberland Plain: Best practice guidelines for the management and restoration of bushland*. Department of Environment and Conservation (NSW), Sydney.

It lives up to its subtitle: *Best practice guidelines for the management and restoration of bushland*, serving as a good general resource for woodland ecosystems management. There is good mix of theory and practical detail.

Find it at <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedspecies/CumberlandPlainManagementGuidelines.htm>

State of the Catchment Reporting

[From REC] The 2010 State of the Catchment (SOC) Reports for all 13 NSW catchments have now been released. The SOC reports document the condition of, and pressures on, 11 natural resource assets and two community targets at the regional scale. This is the first time that comprehensive data and information is available for all natural resource assets in catchments across NSW. This data has been collected and analysed using a common analytical framework, and implements international best practice in regional natural resource condition reporting.

www.environment.nsw.gov.au/soc/stateofthecatchmentsreport.htm

Recognition for a regenerator

From North Shore Times, Sydney, January 28 2011



OUR AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS

Dedicated to local wildlife

TORIN CHEN

MARGARET Reidy was inspired to dedicate her life to environmental conservation after witnessing the 1994 bushfires which devastated parts of the North Shore.

Ms Reidy, 78, has been awarded an OAM for services to the environment.

The Artarmon resident has been president of the Friends of Lane Cove National Park group since 1995 and was a foundation member in 1994.

She said a love of nature and animals and the 1994 bushfires, which burnt large areas of the Lane Cove National Park, encouraged her to become more proactive in preserving bushland.

"I love the bushland, I'm a bird watcher and I love to go bush walking," she said.

"But I wanted to do something different so I did a bush regeneration course at TAFE and it all took off from there."

She said bush regeneration and weed-ing preserves the habitat of wildlife.

"We have some fantastic wildlife in Lane Cove National Park," she said.

"There is a range of birds and reptiles such as water dragons."

Ms Reidy, also a member of the Browns Forest Dalrymple-Hay Nature Reserve group, first volunteered for bush regeneration in 1992.

"I do work as a volunteer and I don't expect rewards.

"This award is just not for me, it's for the 200 plus volunteers who work in Lane Cove National Park."



Bush regen holidays

Lord Howe weeding ecotours

Dates have been set for 2011 Friends of Lord Howe Island weeding ecotours. These tours involve spending a week on Lord Howe Island in a group of 20 people assisting with control of noxious weeds.

The focus of work is assisting the LHI Board with removal of Ground asparagus *Asparagus aethiopicus* (pictured above) and Climbing asparagus *Asparagus plumosus* on Transit Hill. Since 1995, there have been 63 weeding weeks and over 20,000 hours has been put into the LHI environment by volunteers

The popularity of the trips seems to be the rather unique combination of factors. The weeding is satisfying for most people, as it is a lovely natural setting with many interesting native plants. The afternoons are spent exploring this World Heritage Island which has many fascinating aspects- tall rainforest, prolific birdlife, volcanic geology, pristine marine life and stimulating scenery along the walking tracks. The groups stay at Pinetrees—a wonderful old guesthouse with 100 years of experience in hospitality and fine dining.

This combination, in a small group of like minded dedicated people adds up to an experience that many eagerly look forward to each year- yes there are many people who have been 10 years in a row. All derive pleasure from being involved and when they depart the Island, they leave with a sense of ownership of the part of Lord Howe where they have worked. Being with like-minded folk for a week and being part of a team achieving success is indeed a memorable experience.

Dates for the trips are July 2 to 9; July 9 to 16 and August 28 to Sept 4.

Cost is \$2168.90 twin share. This includes airfare ex Sydney or Brisbane, accommodation and all meals at Pinetrees, all walks and talks, and lots of fun.

For details or booking trips, Contact Ian Hutton on 02 6563 2447 or email lordhowetours@clearmail.com.au or post to PO Box 157 Lord Howe Island NSW 2898.



Korinderie Ridge

The 8th annual Korinderie Ridge, bush regen camp will be held this year on the first week of August (1-5 Aug). Newcomers and past participants are always welcome. The camp is a free event...with the only cost being your transport to the site.

Each year we get lots of returnees—experienced regenerators and beginners—keen to meet up again with good friends and have a stress free week pulling Lantana. The site is a 200 ha bushland area adjacent to Bundjalung National Park, south of Woodburn, NSW, managed by a community of residents keen to live close to nature, while caring for its biodiversity values.

The Lantana is too much for our community to manager on our own and so we offer pleasant campsites and delicious meals to visitors willing to help work on Lantana in the mornings, with time out or tours in the afternoons. New tours this year include a new local art gallery and a local rainforest restoration site. At Korinderie this year, our Lantana work will start as usual with follow up, with our primary work made easier this year by some herbicide spraying already undertaken by the residents (fire was not possible due to the wet weather). We are mapping our progress in MapInfo now, so we can have much more accurate reporting and record keeping - and see that we have now progressed to the point where we are moving in on the oldest source lantana, having worked most of the major outliers. While fire is unreliable in such shady spots, trials of spraying and even brushcutting will



continue in an effort to find the most energy efficient methods to control Lantana on the property.

For any newcomers interested in seeing other photos, one of the community members Chris Graves (who first visited as a bush regen week volunteer) has listed lots more animals and plants for the area – and photos of past regen weeks and some of Korinderie’s plants and animals can be seed on his 'Flicr' site: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/47615335@N06/sets/>

Interested people can phone Tein or Graeme on 02 6682 2885 or email: teinm@ozemail.com.au for details.

FLORILEGIUM

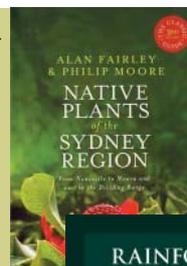
Australia's foremost plant bookstore. We stock a large range of books on plants for the professional.

NATIVE PLANTS OF THE SYDNEY REGION 3RD ED *Fairley & Moore*

The major ID book for all who work in the bush in the area bounded by Newcastle, Lithgow, Southern Highlands and Nowra.

- Practical backback edition, now in smaller softcover format
- Many of the colour photos from previous editions have been replaced with better ones
- All nomenclature has been brought up-to-date and all descriptions have been rewritten

RRP \$59.95 from FLORILEGIUM \$45

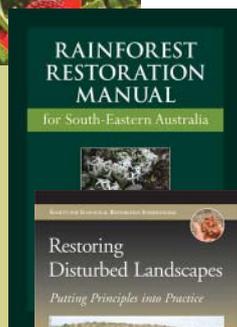


RAINFOREST RESTORATION MANUAL FOR SOUTH-EASTERN AUSTRALIA *Peel*

Definitive guide to the recovery and restoration of all rainforests types from S/E Qld to Tasmania.

- Presents detailed restoration methods in 10 easy-to-follow steps
- Supported by a CD that provides important background information including a propagation manual for the region's 735 rainforest plants

\$120

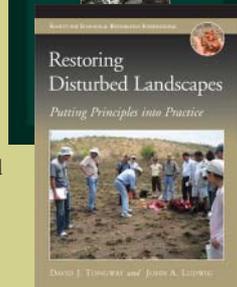


RESTORING DISTURBED LANDSCAPES *Tongway & Ludwig*

Hands-on guide for individuals and groups seeking to improve the functional capacity of landscapes.

- Presents a five-step, adaptive procedure for restoring landscapes that is supported by proven principles and concepts of ecological science
- Written by Australian restoration experts with many years experience at CSIRO
- Includes case studies of restoring mined landscapes and restoring damaged rangelands

\$49.95



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Advertisement

Glyphosate resistant weeds

The Australian Glyphosate Sustainability Working Group has issued a warning about glyphosate resistant annual ryegrass, after an infestation was reported on roadsides in the Riverina.

Although not yet confirmed by laboratory tests, field testing with high rates of glyphosate has shown the ryegrass continues to grow unaffected.

Australia's first infestation of glyphosate resistant annual ryegrass was confirmed in 2010, along several kilometres of roadside in semi-rural South Australia. This roadside, like much of Australia's 810,000 kilometres of roads, has a 20 year history of using glyphosate alone for weed control. The infestation was first observed in 2008 and seed was collected and tested for resistance at the University of Adelaide.

It is a timely warning from the Australian Glyphosate Sustainability Working Group that over-reliance on glyphosate across Australia has to stop and a range of weed control and management strategies need to be implemented anywhere glyphosate is used.

According to the Chairman of the Australian Glyphosate Sustainability Working Group, Dr Chris Preston, roadside infestations pose real threats to weed management adjacent to roadsides as seed can be readily moved to clean areas by water, wind and machinery.

The Riverina outbreak was first raised with Neil Durning, an agronomist with AGnVET Services in Wagga Wagga by council contractors late in 2009. He initiated some alternative control methods including a double knock with paraquat and diquat and more recently a spray-topping application with paraquat to minimise seed set whilst awaiting test results to confirm his suspicion of glyphosate resistance.

"When you are driving along and see large clumps of live ryegrass on the side of the road after very high rates of glyphosate have been applied under good conditions, it certainly grabs your attention," Mr Durning said. "Glyphosate resistance is a huge concern to my clients and the entry of glyphosate resistant ryegrass into our cropping paddocks from non-crop areas such as fencelines and roadsides will be a major issue. We need to stop its development by alternating control methods and taking the pressure off glyphosate. Most of the roadsides that we suspect have resistant ryegrass have seen intensive use of glyphosate over the past 15 years with at least one application each year."

Mr Durning would like to commend the Junee Shire Council and its contractors for being extremely co-operative and addressing the issue in a responsible and pro-active manner.

The working group provides a guide to avoiding glyphosate resistance in cropping. This suggests that herbicide use in a bush regeneration context is unlikely to cause a problem, but resistance is worth keeping in mind with ongoing uses such as keeping fencelines tidy and maintaining buffers around mown areas.

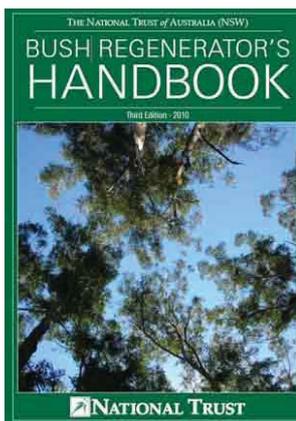
Factors that increase risk:

- continual reliance on glyphosate as the main form of weed control
- lack of non-herbicide weed control methods eg mowing, mulching, tillage, burning or grazing
- lack of use of alternative herbicide modes of action including residual herbicides
- allowing weed control escapes to set seed
- high weed numbers
- poor equipment hygiene which leads to movement of seed from resistant weeds

Factors that decrease risk:

- strategic use of alternative knockdown herbicide Mode-of-action (MOA) groups
- non-herbicide practices aimed at weed seed set prevention, such as mowing, mulching, tillage, burning or grazing
- use of a double knock* – full glyphosate rate followed by tillage or a full label rate of paraquat (Group L) based products
- use of alternate herbicide modes of action including residual herbicides
- Preventing weed control escapes from setting seed
- Maintaining low weed numbers
- Property and equipment hygiene to prevent introduction or movement of resistant weed seed
- Planting or managing other species to compete with weeds

Australian Glyphosate Sustainability Working Group
<http://glyphosateresistance.org.au/>



The third edition of the Handbook, released in 2010, was revised to include updated details of occupational health and safety and environmental legislative requirements. A section on workplace safety has been introduced. The handbook includes information on weeds of national significance and is now more relevant to broader Australia.

The Bush Regenerator's Handbook is still available for \$30+GST

Please contact Diana on 02 9258 0176 or bms@nationaltrust.com.au for enquiries.

Copies can be purchased via Purchase Order emailed to bms@nationaltrust.com.au or mailed to National Trust of Australia (NSW) GPO Box 518, Sydney 2001 or through the National Trust's website www.nationaltrust.com.au

Wompoo Gorge Restoration

Wompoo Gorge at Huonbrook is spectacular. It is located in the Byron Shire hinterland between Nightcap and Goonengerry National Parks with Coopers Creek running along the eastern boundary. The area was covered by lowland subtropical rainforest with a stand of eucalypt forest extending down from the 100m high escarpment. Early last century around half the rainforest was felled, partially converting the properties to pasture and banana plantations. The area now contains various stages of rainforest regeneration and dense infestations of Lantana. Twenty-seven threatened species (10 threatened flora species and 17 vulnerable animal species) have been recorded at Wompoo Gorge. The site has exceptional restoration potential and overall conservation significance.

The restoration project is implementing recommendations of the *Wompoo Gorge (South) Restoration Action Plan*. Dense areas of lantana, in the area originally cleared, were controlled by mechanical means. A 4-wheel drive tractor was used to drive over and flatten lantana over 2 hectares. The tractor returned a few weeks later to slash the lantana. This resulted in the majority of lantana being killed. Care was taken to avoid any existing regrowth of rainforest species near edges and regrowth patches. Extensive regeneration of native plants is occurring in the work areas with trees now reaching over three metres. Follow-up weed control is essential to ensure that native species come to dominate the site in the long term.

Original remnant vegetation is generally in very good condition, with scattered patches of lantana. Hand weeding with brush hooks and loppers and cut/scrape and paint of lantana is being undertaken here. Areas with steep slopes and boulder outcrops were inaccessible to the tractor. A range of weed control techniques have been used including overspray and use of a splatter gun in the denser areas of lantana (not accessible by the tractor). Bush regeneration works have now been extended over an additional 14 hectares

A monitoring program was established on site prior to commencement of works. This included eight monitoring transects. Structural and floristic information was collated and photos taken prior to the commencement of works and then at the end of the first year. Data was entered into MERV (Monitoring and Evaluation of the Restoration of Vegetation) database and used to produce reports.

The project is funded by a 3 year NSW Environmental Trust project with additional support through:

- 2010 DECCW Great Eastern Ranges Initiative – Connectivity Conservation Incentives
- Northern Rivers CMA Invasive Species Weeds of National Significance
- EnviTE Jobs Fund and Green Jobs Corps teams are undertaking additional work on site.

For further information contact Maree Thompson: mareet@envite.org.au Phone: 02 66219588



Tractor control of lantana



Natives replace lantana



Field day Year 1

What's happening

Saturday May 21

Sydney Metro CMA Community Forum 2011

Environmental volunteers from around Sydney are invited to come along for an exciting and informative day, including the presentation of the 2011 Regional Awards. Facilitated by the ABC's Bernie Hobbs

Where The Epping Club, 45-47 Rawson Street, Epping

Contact Helen Kemp 02 9895 6207 helen.kemp@cmn.nsw.gov.au Bookings essential

Friday June 3

Urban Wildlife Field Workshop

With Peter Clarke, Community Volunteer Coordinator at Ku-ring-gai Council

Organiser AABR

Where Ku-ring-gai Council Chambers, Gordon, Sydney.

Contact Jane at secretary@aabr.org.au

June 18-19

Grasses of the Sydney Region

A weekend workshops by Van Klaphake on his excellent grass identification manual.

Organiser AABR

Where Earlwood, Sydney.

Contact Paul at ibb56@yahoo.com.au

June 23-24

NCC Eighth Biennial Bushfire Conference: Bushfire in the Landscape: Different Values, a Shared Vision.

Where NSW Teacher's Federation Centre Sydney

Contact <http://www.nccnsw.org.au/content/bushfire-landscape-different-values-shared-vision>

July 2-3

Eucalypts of the Sydney Region

A weekend workshops by Van Klaphake on his excellent eucalypt identification manual.

Organiser AABR

Where Earlwood, Sydney.

Contact Paul at ibb56@yahoo.com.au

July 8-21

16th NSW Weeds Conference - Making a Difference - From Country to Coast

why attend the conference

- see new technology in action
- see first hand the weed management challenges on the north coast
- meet with and learn from other weed managers
- learn the latest development in weed management, policy, research, new incursions
- chance to network with others working in weed management at social functions
- to gain an understanding of the latest technology and research findings
- understand new weed threats
- appreciate the broad depth of experience and knowledge of people working in weed management disciplines

Where Pacific Bay Conference Centre, Coffs Harbour NSW

Contact <http://2011weeds.coffsharbour.nsw.gov.au>

September 25-30

3rd Asian-Pacific Weed Science Society Conference; Weed Management in a Changing World.

Where Cairns, Nth Queensland.

There will be presentations on the role of genetically modified organisms in weed management, climate change, water availability, biosecurity, population growth and the utilisation of weeds.

Contact Further information and to register at discounted rates: www.apwss2011.com

November 21-25

Ecological Society of Australia Annual Conference. Ecology in Changing Landscapes

Call for Abstracts closes Monday, 6 June 2011

Where Hobart, Tasmania

The Annual Conference of the Ecological Society of Australia is the pre-eminent conference event in ecology in the southern hemisphere, bringing together the best and brightest ecologists from academic, government and non-government backgrounds in Australia, New Zealand and internationally. We welcome practitioners and students from a range of disciplines to facilitate broad conversation within the areas of natural resource management, conservation biology and ecological science.

The aim of this conference is to inspire challenging dialogue across all fields of ecology and to link ecological research with practical conservation biology. We will emphasise the challenges facing ecologists at all levels from the local to the international. We hope to stimulate debate and challenge current thinking, particularly with reference to the need to mainstream climate change ecology. While many of the problems facing natural systems have not changed, ecologists today are increasingly called upon to consider multiple issues. Are the ecological questions and methods of the past still relevant and are they up to the questions of the future?

Contact: <http://esa2011.org.au/index.asp?IntCatId=14>

EMR Journal discount subscriptions

The 2011 affiliate discount rate for Ecological Management & Restoration in 2011 is \$64 (GST inclusive price is \$70.40).

Members of Australian Association of Bush Regenerators can subscribe to EMR by contacting Wiley-Blackwell directly. Information on subscription options is available via the journal home page: [http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/\(ISSN\)1442-8903](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)1442-8903)

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AABR News is the newsletter of the Australian Association of Bush Regenerators (NSW) AABR Inc.

AABR NSW was established in 1986 out of concern for the continuing survival and integrity of bushland and its dependent fauna in or near bushland areas, and seeks new members and friends for promoting good work practices in natural areas. The Association's aim is to foster and encourage sound ecological practices of bushland management by qualified people.

AABR NSW has regional committees in northeast NSW/Southeast Queensland and the Hunter, and a sister organisation in Western Australia: AABR WA.

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To keep in touch and be notified about events, subscribe to Bush Regeneration or Bushcare list servers and check out Solutions, the Bush Regeneration Bulletin Board—see website for detail.

\$20:00	p.a	AABR Newsletter Subscription	(all interested people)
\$10:00	p.a	AABR Newsletter Subscription	(email for 1 year for students of Certificate III CLM-Natural Area Restoration)
\$25:00	p.a	AABR Membership	(appropriately qualified & experienced bush regenerators)
\$50-400	p.a	AABR Contractors & Consultants List	(appropriately qualified & experienced bush regenerators)

Newsletter contributions and comments are welcome

Contact Virginia Bear newsletter@aabr.org.au 0408 468 442

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of AABR NSW