



AABR SEMINAR – WORKING WITH NATURAL PROCESSES.

'The Armory' Sydney Olympic Park, 3rd Oct 2013

PROGRAM

- 9.00 Registration and cuppa**
- 9.40 Tein McDonald-** AABR President. Welcome and Introduction
- 9.45 Jon Dee,** Managing Director, DoSomething!
- Jon will speak from the viewpoint of his experience as a change agent, particularly as co-founder of Planet Ark, National Tree Day and World Environment News. Jon is now the Managing Director and founding Chair of *DoSomething!* - an organisation working to inspire positive social and environmental change.
- 10.00 Mike Delaney,** Manager, EnviTE Environment
- Big Scrub Rainforest, northern NSW: Integrating remnant regeneration, regrowth and plantings across an agricultural landscape**
- North coast NSW's once 75 000 ha Big Scrub subtropical rainforest is now reduced to small remnants in an agricultural matrix. Efforts to regenerate and expand the remnants with plantings have been ongoing since the 1970s, coordinated in the last two decades by Big Scrub Landcare. Most of the significant remnants are undergoing regeneration treatments, with half on maintenance. Nearly 1M trees are estimated to have been established. The main promise, however, lies with conversion of Camphor regrowth to rainforest over time.
- 10.20 Peter Jensen,** Environment Officer, Sydney Harbour Federation Trust
- Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub Restoration and management at North Head Sanctuary, Manly, NSW**
- Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub (ESBS) is confined to Sydney and is now reduced to less than 3% of its original area. Nearly half of the remnants occur in Manly, with approx 70% of these within North Head Sanctuary managed by Sydney Harbour Federation Trust, and remaining 30% within the adjoining Sydney Harbour National Park. This talk will focus on cases within North Head Sanctuary where the resilience of ESBS has been demonstrated after management actions involving reinstating more appropriate ecological disturbance regimes. Potential and constraints to management will be discussed.

10.40

Paul Gibson-Roy, Chief Restoration Ecologist, Greening Australia NSW

Cumberland Plain Woodland, Western Sydney NSW: working towards getting the understory functional

The Cumberland Plain grassy woodlands of Western Sydney have been reduced to 12% of their original extent and are listed as Endangered at State and Federal levels. For 3 decades Greening Australia have been assisting land managers in their efforts to restore a range of Cumberland Plain sites, particularly focusing on reconstruction of cleared areas using planting and direct seeding. This talk will briefly introduce that work and current issues and developments relating to site preparation and seed supply. Some examples of reconstructed grassy-type communities will be shown, with techniques including scalping, carbon addition and cover crops illustrated.

11.00-11.30

Morning tea break

11.30

Peggy Svoboda, Project Manager, Hunter-Central Rivers CMA.

Phoenix Flats rising from Ash Island, Kooragang Wetland Rehabilitation Project, Hunter Valley, NSW

There has been a loss of over 1700ha of saltmarsh in the Hunter estuary since 1954. In the light of this and the need to plan for climate change retreat corridors for saltmarsh, Kooragang Wetland Rehabilitation Project has created 10ha of coastal saltmarsh from a degraded, disused floodplain forest, long cleared and drained for agriculture. Intertidal habitats (rather than forest) were identified as the appropriate community due to the low elevation of the site, its proximity to saltmarsh, recently increased tidal flows and anticipated sea level rise. Earthworks were undertaken to contour the former paddock and connect it to tidal flows. Monitoring shows that Phoenix Flats is now a highly functional mosaic of open, water, saltmarsh and mudflat with peripheral rainwater fed swales now supporting a range of wildlife.

11-50

SPEED TALKS (5 mins each)

11.50

Nola Hancock, Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, Macquarie University

Local provenance and more distant seed sources; fragmented landscapes and climate change

Geneticists are suggesting more distant seed collection may help overcome the risks of inbreeding in isolated remnants and improve adaptability to climate change. But how great are the risks of collecting more widely? We tested the 'local provenance is best' paradigm, by comparing the performance of plants grown from local with non-local seed sources. Seed was sourced from multiple provenances of six Cumberland Plain Woodland species and grown at two field sites on the Cumberland Plain. For the vegetation community as a whole, we found little evidence that local provenance plants were superior to distant provenances in terms of survival and establishment.

- 11.55 **Ross Rapmund**, Community Nursery & Bushwalk Coordinator, Hornsby Council
Collecting seed and plant production for restoration
Successful revegetation is based on three key practices – firstly collecting genetically diverse seed that is representative of the vegetation community that you are setting out to restore. Secondly, growing this seed into a quality product with timely delivery to match optimum site conditions. Thirdly, site management needs to be carefully factored in for both preparation of the plantings and suitable aftercare during the establishment phase. This talk will focus on the first two of these practices.
- 12.00 **Gerard Proust**, Principal, Proust Bushland Services
Gooseberry and Hooka Islands: part of the Berkeley Nature Reserve, Illawarra, NSW
Gooseberry and Hooka Islands contain two rare species and two EECs: Illawarra Subtropical Rainforest and Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest. The major problem was weed domination, particularly lantana, bitou bush and vines. PBS commenced bush regeneration works on the islands in 2007 and now more than 3.5 ha of subtropical rainforest are actively regenerating. At least 115 native species are recruiting compared to only 65 at the start of the project. The number of weed species present has reduced by half.
- 12.05 **Spencer Shaw**, Principal, Brush Turkey Enterprises
Woorim Dune Recovery Project, Moreton Bay Qld, Sunshine Coast Qld
In 2010-2011 Brush Turkey Enterprises carried out a dunal restoration project along 1.8 kms of the coast north of Woorim. The area had suffered degradation from unmanaged pedestrian access. Works involved community education, signage and fencing; alongside weed management and revegetation with over 16,000 groundcovers and trees. Outcomes have included improved public awareness and improved stabilisation of the dunes, particularly resulting from the recruitment of beach spinifex.
- 12.10 **Brendon Levot**, Southern Sydney Bush Regeneration Site Supervisor, Toolijooa Environmental Restoration
Management of Bare-nosed wombats within an environmental restoration project, Cobbitty, NSW.
Toolijooa are conducting restoration of EECs at Mater Dei Biobank in Cobbitty, NSW. The site provides habitat for threatened animal species including the Bare-nosed Wombat - an inquisitive and unique animal under increased threat of extinction. A plan is being implemented in conjunction with bush regeneration works to control Sarcoptic Mange in the small population of Bare-nosed Wombats inhabiting the conservation area.
- 12.15 **Scott Meier**. BARRC - Bushland & Rainforest Restoration & Consulting
Nora Head Restoration and Rehabilitation Project, Wyong NSW
In April 2011, BARRC commenced restoration works on a 14 ha site surrounding Nora Head Lighthouse. Prior to works the site's mosaic of coastal communities was, heavily infested with bitou bush, lantana and other weeds. Selective spray of dense bitou bush was followed by manual removal of all species. Planting, direct seeded, transplanting and erosion treatments were needed in some areas. Bitou control was substantial within 2 years, although longer term treatment is still required.

