



# AABR NEWS

Australian Association of Bush Regenerators

*working with natural processes*

**Nº 121**  
**June**  
**2014**

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**AABR field day**

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**(see story on page 8)**

## **AABR Events**

### **Van Klaphake's famous Eucalypt identification course.**

July 5th and 6th - Earlwood in Sydney

More information from Paul on [ibb56@yahoo.com.au](mailto:ibb56@yahoo.com.au).

August 7th and 8th

At Killcare Heights on the SW Central Coast

For all details, contact Deb at

[Deb.Holloman@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Deb.Holloman@environment.nsw.gov.au)

# President's Perspective

Hi all,

**This last quarter has been a very busy one for AABR voluntary committees, with further advocacy on training fees, planning for a proposed seminar in November, becoming a Partner in SERA's national standards project, and work relating to AABR's accreditation system.**

**Commercial Training fees for 2015.** Commercial fees of \$1270 will be charged across NSW for any Cert III CLM as of Semester 1, 2015 (presumably except for Centrelink recipients). For anyone who already has a Cert IV or higher qualification – which is common in our industry as many come into it from university – the student will have to pay \$9970 for a Cert III CLM, with no recourse to a loan. If you are as shocked as we are, I suggest you read the article on p 4 about the new fees. Please help AABR continue to advocate for reclassification of our industry - by telling us how this is going to affect you as an employee, employer or client.

**November AABR Seminar.** Please keep the dates of Friday 14<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> November clear in your diary! It is too early to announce the final agreed date or program but the committee has secured agreements from some exciting interstate restoration practitioners to come to Sydney to address a full day seminar which will be pitched towards those in our industry involved in replanting and direct seeding, as well as assisted regeneration. This seminar will include workshops on two subjects: (i) potential for AABR to establish accreditation for reconstructing ecosystems (supplementing our existing accreditation for practicing bush regenerators) and (ii) what principles (regen or reconstruction) should be included in SERA's national *Principles and Standards for Ecological Restoration and Rehabilitation* (see article on p. 4 of this newsletter).

## Newsletter News

Virginia Bear, our long standing newsletter editor, is taking a break from this position. Virginia has implemented major changes to the newsletter using her design skills to produce the high standard we see today. I am sure all AABR members would like to thank her for her major contribution to AABR. The newsletter is considered high priority by AABR, and I have taken on this role: (luckily I have Virginia on the phone to advise!)

Virginia initiated setting up a network of Regional Newsletter Facilitators. With membership covering a broad geographical spread, it can be difficult for one person to source articles which cover a broad range of stories both in topic and location.

We welcome our Regional Newsletter Facilitators to date:

**Coffs Harbour - NSW mid north coast :** Lynn Rees

**NSW South Coast :** Megan Birmingham

**South East Queensland:** Spencer Shaw and Phil Hosking with Saraya Robinson (Gold Coast) and Bryan Hacker (Brisbane) as contributors.

**NSW Far North Coast:** Stuart Hanna

### 2014-15 rise in AABR membership and accreditation fees.

Notice was given to members over a year ago that membership rates would need to rise somewhat in the 2014-15 financial year (because they have remained the same forever and AABR is now engaging in a higher level of services and activity for members that can't be met by the current fee). So membership is going up by \$5 to \$30 (\$15 unwaged) per year. In addition there will be a modest fee charged for accreditation per year. This is also to be \$30 (\$15 unwaged). This means that a member who is also accredited will pay \$60 per year (\$30 unwaged). This may seem steep to some but so far the feedback we have received is that it is about time AABR is charging more, to support the much higher level of activity we are now engaged in. To check out the full fee scale, including organisational membership, visit the AABR website at <http://www.aabr.org.au/about-aabr/joining-aabr/>

**Bush Regenerator Accreditation Sub-Committee.** The last quarter has also seen the establishment of this important sub-committee, headed up by Danny Hirschfeld, which processes all applications for AABR accreditation, whether standard or non-standard. There has been a recent flurry of around 50 applications for accreditation, triggered by one Qld council asking potential contractors to gain AABR accreditation with less than 2 weeks' notice until the tender due date! It is interesting how many of the recent applicants have said 'I've been meaning to apply for years but just kept putting it off'. So our advice (particularly if you meet the 'standard' pathway criteria) is: If you are intending to apply - 'apply early and avoid disappointment'.

Tein McDonald

**AABR President**

There are areas where we would appreciate further facilitators. (See box below).

We always appreciate contributions. These can be sent to [newsletter@aabr.org.au](mailto:newsletter@aabr.org.au) as a Word Document or the text in an email. Photos should be sent separately as jpegs.

Louise Brodie

### Seeking Regional Newsletter Facilitators

Are you from Northern, Southern or Western Sydney, the Blue Mountains, or Hunter and Central Coast regions? Interested in being a newsletter facilitator for your region?

We usually publish the AABR Newsletter four times a year and the role of the facilitator would be to provide two articles a year about things in your area. Articles can cover topics such as techniques for bush regeneration, people who work in bush regeneration, interesting events or broader aspects of bushland management.

If interested or want more info, please email Tein at [president@aabr.org.au](mailto:president@aabr.org.au)

## Welcome to new AABR Members

Tracy Adams	John Grady	Glenn Normand	Brenton Schwab
Ariane Allan	Patrick Gregson	Kojiro Oishi	Mritunjay Singh
Brad Austin	Dean Hall	Mark O'Keefe	Duncan Smith
Frazer Barnes	Matthew Hancock	Craig Over	Christopher Spraggon
Gemma Bauld	Michael Hanns	Nigel Parker	Jane Stephens
Tate Bedlington	Mark Herrington	David Percival	Jacqueline Stewart
Michael Bellotti	Ben Hilton	Fetalaiga Peseta	Steven Still
Nicole Beutel	Petra Holland	Lee Piper	Greg Stille
Joshua Birse	Daniel Idczak	Peter Poropat	Morgan Tatar
Shannon Blackmore	Fiona Iolini	Brodie Price	Rebecca van der Waal
Samuel Bottger	Chris Jarrett	Harley Rawlinson	Brendan Veitch
Dominic Bowd	Karyn Jerschke	Johnny Ripic	Mitchell Ward
Steve Britt	Kenneth Joblin	Amy Rosenbrock	Margaret Waugh
Michael Buchanan	Isolde Kamerman	Ben Sargeant	Ira Wurtz
Luke Candler-Cooper	Yusuke Koda	Russell Schubring	Trudy Yates
Teresa Carvalho	Paul Kucera		
Bradley Cook	Rachel Lamaro	<b>Businesses</b>	
Brett Corcoran	Petelo Latu	Generation Green Environmental Services	
Techwyn Coulter	Rachel Leembruggen	Naturecall	
Brendan Cranney	Russell Leplaw	Southern Habitat	
Tom Curtis	Kylie Lo Proto	Crescent Head Ecological Restoration	
Kirrah Daniel	Mark McGowan	Austspray Environmental Weed Control Pty Ltd	
Beau Davis	David McGuinness	<b>Organisations:</b> Killarney Heights High School	
Joshua Douglas	Daniel McLeish		
Paul Elliss	John Moody	<b>AABR Accreditation</b>	
Karen Forbes	Craig Motbey	Congratulations to the following members who have received AABR Accreditation.	
Ben Ford	Danial Murany	Geoff Foster	Lloyd Foster
Lloyd Foster	Bernard Murawski	Christine Myers	Frederick Myers
Geoff Foster	Christine Myers	Jane Stephens	Trudy Yates
Daniel Foster	Frederick Myers	Craig Over	Deborah Friedewald
Deborah Friedewald	Yogesh Nair		
Michael Goos	Jean Nizeymana		

## Seeking an AABR representative for the Greater Sydney Landcare Network Start Up Committee?

Greater Sydney Local Land Services (LLS) are in the process of setting up the Greater Sydney Landcare Network. AABR has been invited to be a foundation member of this network. The network will provide support, leverage funding and foster the cross pollination of ideas, as well as foster closer links between professional and volunteer bush regenerators.

The network will link landcare, bushcare, and other environmental groups across the Greater Sydney region; provide an opportunity to hear what others are doing in natural resource management in the Greater Sydney region and offer opportunities to collaborate across LGA boundaries.

Is there an AABR member who would be interested in being AABR's representative to the Greater Sydney Landcare Network Start Up Committee?

Committee correspondence would be generally over email so hopefully not too demanding a commitment. There is already interest from a number of key landcare/bushcare networks and Bushcare's Major Day Out.

Please contact Jane at [secretary@aabr.org.au](mailto:secretary@aabr.org.au) if you would like to help.

# Industry news

## Principles and Standards for Ecological Restoration and Rehabilitation

AABR has been invited by the Society for Ecological Restoration Australasia (SERA) to become a formal partner in the development of a set of national *Principles and Standards for Ecological Restoration and Rehabilitation*. This places AABR among an elite group of some dozen or so Australian Restoration NGOs involved in this high level project.

The project, currently in its fundraising and partner development phase, is expected to involve extensive review and consultation with agencies and industry groups. Assuming the fund-raising stage is successful, this will provide an invaluable opportunity for AABR to contribute strong advice on the integration of natural and assisted natural regeneration in restoration frameworks and specific principles and standards for the practice of assisted natural regeneration, if not also reconstruction. Hopefully this will strongly influence condition criteria by regulatory or development consent authorities across Australia.

We thought that the importance of the project has been succinctly communicated in a recent editorial by Brian Bainbridge - Victoria's Indigenous Flora and Fauna Association (IFFA) – an excerpt of which is reproduced below. Brian muses on the question: "Why develop a set of national principles and standards?" and comes up with the following..

*"Because as a group we are wasting scarce resources 're-inventing the wheel' as our organisations scratch around assembling their own standards from widely dispersed sources. A lack of common terminology creates further layers of misunderstanding and inefficiency. These gaps block the sharing of practical on-ground knowledge... Despite training opportunities, new practitioners continue to glean crucial skills and knowledge via a long and uncertain process of mentoring, trial and error.*

*..Ecological Restoration may not be taken up because funding bodies do not appreciate what ecological restoration can achieve. Lack of recognized standards and principles makes it easy to oversell Ecological Restoration, knowingly or unknowingly, as a solution to environmental degradation. On the other hand, the potential of restoration is sometimes discounted where cost or vested interests make this expedient.*

*The lack of shared, defined standards and principles makes best-practice Ecological Restoration vulnerable to changing priorities of organisations, governments, funding bodies and markets. It can also make it vulnerable to our own personal changing priorities and energies. I have fruitlessly argued on points of standard and principle with potential partners and made compromises on projects that I have later regretted. In these situations, a set of national principles and standards could have backed up my arguments for improved ecological outcomes...*

*At best, principles and standards may be a source of codes of practice, shared values and a wellspring for innovation. At worst, principles may become dogma, enforcing the attitudes of a unrepresentative group and a block on our emerging endeavours. It is up to us to make these Principles and Standards work for us and our vision for this land." [Brian Bainbridge, Indigenotes, June 2014, 25:2 p 2. Reproduced with permission.]*

## Fees for NSW CLM training commencing in semester 1 2015 – what will it mean for our industry?

From notifications in this newsletter and the grapevine, AABR members will be aware that commercial fees will be charged for all vocational courses in NSW, including CLM, starting next year.

The outcome is worse than we could have anticipated – particularly for the Cert III qualification that AABR considers the essential industry 'entry level' qualification for bush regenerators. Instead of the entitlement being to a free course for a school leaver (as we expected), the price of a Cert III CLM for a school leaver is now \$2170 (students currently pay between \$419 and \$838, depending on how long they study). If a person already has a Cert IV or higher (e.g. a uni graduate) the student pays the entire cost for the course, i.e. there is no subsidy to the college for your place. This means that the student pays the full \$10,700 that the course is estimated to cost (or whatever amount the college can deliver it for).

These fees are set by the State Government, and will be the same if students study at TAFE or at another registered training organisation (private providers).

**What will this mean for the industry?** We expect that this will have a very big impact on the industry for two reasons. First, industry incomes are currently too low to compensate for this sort of training cost and increases are unlikely to be forthcoming due to a substantial dependency by the industry upon government grants, so training is likely to decline. Second, employers who value a combination of degrees and CLM Cert III qualifications for their staff will find that uni graduates will simply not be able to afford add-on practical training (and there will be no HECS-style loans for Cert III – only Cert IV and above.) This is likely to result in a return to the bad old days when field staff are better informed about bushland restoration than the staff supervising them. The only way we can see uni graduates doing a full Cert III (which is a very important add-on qualification), or for a Cert IV graduate undertaking a Diploma at less than the full course fee, is for that graduate to get a traineeship with a business, at which point, the student only needs to pay a lower fee (similar to the cost of a first qualification).

**What can you do about it?** We are asking you to talk this over in your workplaces and training institutions. Contact AABR at [secretary@aabr.org.au](mailto:secretary@aabr.org.au) to convey what you think the changes will mean to you as a potential student, an employer or a client. Only with solid information from you can AABR advocate on your behalf.

Full information is on the website: [http://www.training.nsw.gov.au/smartandskilled/prices\\_fees.html](http://www.training.nsw.gov.au/smartandskilled/prices_fees.html)

Note:

- people are only eligible for the 'entitlement' to a lower fee IF they do not have a prior qualification of Cert IV or higher (even if it was 40 years ago)
- students who have already started will pay PRO RATA next year
- students at Cert IV level and above will be able to get loans. More info on web site.

## Activity in Coffs Harbour

The renewal of AABR is well underway with a number of further exciting developments in the Coffs Harbour Region on the NSW mid north coast.

### Appointment of Accreditation Assessors

AABR recently appointed three Coffs Harbour Accreditation Assessors, as advised in AABR News 120. Now this team of assessors, with assistance from Principal Assessors, has completed assessments for their first two newly accredited AABR members, Lloyd and Geoff Foster.

Lloyd Foster, a highly respected and long standing self-taught regenerator, and his son Geoff Foster generously allowed the new Coffs team to practise on them as part of their training to become accreditors. Congratulations Lloyd and Geoff.

### AABR Grows a new BRANCH

Another exciting chapter in AABR's renewal process saw a new regional sub-committee formed in Coffs Harbour, aptly named Coffs AABR Branch sub-committee. The chair of the group is Lindy Davis, a long time passionate regenerator. This group was originally formed two years ago to provide a voice and networking opportunities for local regenerators called **BRANCH**, (Bush Regenerators Action Network Coffs Harbour).

AABR President, Tein McDonald, was invited to make a presentation to BRANCH in June, about the benefits of joining AABR. BRANCH voted unanimously to form a new sub-committee of AABR. It did help that most members of BRANCH are also AABR members!

The main AABR committee thinks that this will be a great step as it is clear that the group is energetic and shows a commitment to the standards and principles that AABR espouses.

Many thanks and congratulations on the formation of the Coffs AABR BRANCH!

#### Interested in forming a sub-committee?

For other regional areas wishing to form a sub-committee and continue to push towards AABR's renewal, this is how it works. The sub-committee:

- comes under the main committee and reports to that committee (by sending minutes to the AABR secretary)
- votes in a chair, finance officer and secretary to manage their affairs
- runs their own meetings, events and programs but needs to get approval from the committee for any advocacy in AABR's name, which is usually forthcoming (except if party political)
- seeks to contribute regularly to the newsletter
- harnesses the strength of the larger group to assist in any important local issues (e.g. TAFE fees, grant conditions etc that plague us all)
- can access a small percentage of the fees of their members to provide a start-up kitty



**Above: Members of the new BRANCH at Coffs Harbour at the launch**

Back row: Lloyd Foster, Greg Booker, Tein McDonald (AABR president), Geoff Foster, Lindy Davis, Ewan McInnes, Ricky Crane, Kris Hely

Front row: Kim Cheney, Ben Henderson, Rowan McCabe, Simon Abbot.

The committee also welcomed 3 unidentified, uninvited leeches to the launch!

Their presence was considered auspicious and indicated how bush regenerators take their work so seriously that they continue to provide food and habitat for wild life even after they knock off!

## LLS Regional Bushcare Workshop

The Greater Sydney Local Land Services (GSLLS) held a workshop in Sydney in May to highlight the value of volunteer bush regeneration, Bushcare & Landcare to Greater Sydney.

A total of 69 people, mostly Bushcare volunteers attended representing 55 different groups from Greater Sydney. GSLLS staff from Parramatta, Penrith and Wyong coordinated the event.

Dr Paul Gibson-Roy, of Greening Australia, gave the keynote address giving the big picture view of ecological restoration and biodiversity conservation. This was followed by case studies presented by community volunteers. After lunch group discussions explored a number of topics.

There were 5 Case studies: A site at Thornleigh by Don Davidson (Hornby Bushcare); Avalon Dunes by Marita Macrae (Pittwater Natural Heritage Association); Mulgoa Valley Landcare by Lisa Harrold; Callan Park Bushcare by Bronwen Campbell; and Palm Grove, Ourimbah by Brian Patterson

The case studies had a strong focus on the longevity and long term commitment of many volunteer groups & their partnerships with councils and other land managers

The presentations can be found at [www.bushcare.org.au](http://www.bushcare.org.au).

# Erosion Control at Norah Head

**Scott Meier**  
(Bushland & Rainforest Restoration & Consulting)

In the last AABR Newsletter, the report on the AABR visit to Norah Head mentioned the erosion control methods used on the site, during a recent restoration programme. Others were interested to find out more.

I have marvelled at some of the inventiveness shown on various restoration sites that I have visited over the years. Simple, cost effective techniques are my favourite.

At Norah Head some of our regenerators developed a simple erosion control technique to help us with the restoration of a former gravel quarry on the coastal headland.

## Background

The former quarry is perched on a coastal headland at Norah Head on the NSW Central Coast. While quarrying activities ceased during the 1970s, natural regeneration of the Munmorah Conglomerates has been slow. The scenic cliffs are regularly used as a vantage point to check the surfing conditions on the beaches below. Additionally the open landscape attracts campers and dirtbike riders (Photo 1). Carparking, camping and dirtbiking has kept the area free of natural woody debris accumulation and leaf litter, and has trampled groundcover and shrub recruitment. Runoff carries the thin coverings of sandy subsoil along fast flowing channels to reveal clean conglomerate bedrock



**Photo 1: The open landscape of the unremediated open quarry**

At the commencement of a recent 3 year Restoration & Rehabilitation Community Grants Programme, bollards were installed by the Norah Head Lighthouse Trust Volunteers to limit the access of dirtbikes to the quarry. While this reduced the frequency of dirtbike visits, it was not designed to restrict pedestrian access. Pedestrians have continued to visit the quarry throughout the contract, often collecting our woody branches that were carefully placed to slow water, trap soil and protect the seedlings that germinate readily in the nutrient poor sandy deposits. The great majority of our cost effective, and immediately accessible erosion control measures were turned into campfires which we often found perched on the edges of the scenic cliffs overlooking the sea.

While some small chicken wire and star post enclosures/barriers have stood the test of time on this particular site, we've also had some success trapping sandy sediment in the drainage channels of the quarry with very inconspicuous rolled hessian logs.

## The Method

Biodegradable natural fibres in the form of hessian, post consumer potato sacks and strips cut from jute weed matting have been rolled tightly to form a small "log". These logs have been placed parallel to the contour of the slope and across the meandering drainage lines of the quarry. We have used roofing nails with large roofing washers to retain the material by hammering the nail through the material log and into the relatively soft berock.



**Photo 2: Hessian retained by roofing nails that have been driven into the soft bedrock**

Once installed, the biodegradable logs are lightly backfilled with some clean sand and silt from surrounding Munmorah Conglomerate erosion deposits and transplanted with stoloniferous grass such as *Zoysia macrantha*, *Juncus* spp and hardy shrubs. Seedlings and other transplant material have been taken from walking track edges and areas of abundance, especially where the soil is easily penetrated by a shovel. Any available seed is pressed into the sandy deposits. Once the small plants 'take' to the growing media, they begin to expand, bind to the material logs and bedrock and retain the erosion deposits in their fine roots.



**Photo 3 and 4: Post consumer potato sacks retaining silt on bare rock**

We've found that the logs mould to the bedrock, retain sand, silt, moisture and just enough depth for the transplants to develop. Importantly, the contour logs are discreet enough to avoid collection for the frequent campfires and sturdy enough to survive occasional foot and dirtbike traffic.

Photos: Scott Meier.

### Show off your site?

Please contact AABR Secretary Jane Gye if you have an idea for a field day. We are always looking for new sites, and help with organising is welcome too.

## Register now for BMDO



Land owners, councils and community groups across Australia are invited to register bushlands, dunes, wetlands or rainforests for Bushcare's Major Day Out (BMDO) event on Sunday 7 September 2014 during Landcare week.

Professional bush regenerators are encouraged to take part in BMDO – an event that enables new volunteers to increase their knowledge and have the opportunity to make a difference under the guidance of professionals and more experienced volunteers.

This year former Prime Minister Bob Hawke and Gardening Australia presenter Angus Stewart are supporting this national day of community participation in the care of our natural environment. The event will be a part of Landcare Australia's 25th anniversary celebrations and a major component of Landcare Week.

Sydney resident Don Wilson founded BMDO to create greater awareness of bushcare and the threats to Australian bushland in urban and peri-urban areas. They gained the backing of Willoughby City Council, Landcare Australia and a committee of volunteers.

BMDO has grown rapidly since launching four years ago:

- 2010 – volunteers participated at 12 sites.
- 2013 – volunteers participated at 134 sites in all six states and the ACT.
- 2014 – Bushcare aims to register more than 150 sites across Australia.

Our funding partner Landcare is providing 25 Landcare Week Grow Grants of \$1000 to increase volunteer participation to tackle local environmental issues at events during September.


BMDO is an enjoyable way to take an active role in your community and meet new people while making an important difference!

**WHAT:** Bushcare's Major Day Out

**WHEN:** Sunday 7 September 2014

**WHERE:** Your local bushland, dunes, wetlands or rainforest

**HOW:** Find your local site at [www.bushcaresmajordayout.org](http://www.bushcaresmajordayout.org) or phone (02) 9958 0007.



Bushland at Cooper  
Park Woollahra  
- close to Sydney CBD

## “Bush in the City” March 2014 AABR field day at Cooper Park

Rudi Adlmayer

Bushcare Officer Woollahra Municipal Council

Large cities can support areas of native vegetation with amazing diversity. Cooper Park in the Sydney suburb of Woollahra, is 6 kms from the Sydney CBD and is one such example. The visit to Cooper Park, Woollahra held in March 2014 allowed AABR members to see a wonderful example of urban bushland.

The worth of Cooper Park as a recreation area was recognised as far back as 1885 when the Government was asked to purchase land from the Cooper Family Estate for recreational purposes. It was not until 1913 that Sir William Cooper agreed to give the whole of the gully from Victoria Road, Bellevue Hill to Manning Road, Double Bay to the local Council as a park. Subsequent additions over the years have brought the Park up to its present area of 15ha.

The park has recreation facilities in addition to bushland areas. The creek running through the Park is largely natural and follows the line of a volcanic dyke of Jurassic age while the hillsides support a wide variety of native trees and shrubs. Development over the years included extensive walking tracks/paths, with shelter sheds built and picnic areas laid out.

The walk visited some of Woollahra Council's long-term bush regeneration sites that have been worked for the last 25 years,

as well as some of the newer ones. Being close to the city and surrounded by suburbia, most of the bushland has seen extensive disturbance prior to bush regeneration work.

The walk led by Rudi Adlmayer passed up through the old concrete grottos and stairways which are heritage listed. These were built in the park in the 1930s.

Once we had passed through an edge of privets, ochona, fishbone fern, ivy and asparagus we came into some of the finest looking open woodland of this park. This site is on the Cadigal Walk on the eastern side of the park. Indigenous species included mature *Angophora costata*, *Eucalyptus piperita*, *Lomatia silaifolia*, *Epacris longiflora* and *Acacia terminalis* subspecies *terminalis*. This part of the park was originally regenerated by National Trust bush regeneration contractors from the late eighties to early 2000. The site is now managed by Woollahra Council bush regeneration staff.

The rest of the walk passed by way of Cooper Park Amphitheatre, once hosting acts as diverse as the ABC Symphony Orchestra to Johnny O'Keefe, through to the western side of the park where we saw recent revegetation sites on slopes using fibre matting and planted with locally indigenous vegetation.

The walk finished at Woollahra Council's Bushcare volunteer site which has been restored from an urban dumpsite overgrown with lantana and privet into decent open woodland.

We finished with a cup of tea reminiscing about days gone by.

# Bush regen holidays



**Korinderie bush regen week's 10th anniversary welcome noticeboard.**  
The resident community delights in meeting the motivated regenerators and helping to make their holiday enjoyable.

## Korinderie Ridge

### Annual Bush regeneration Holiday

**4th to 8th August 2014**

**Bookings are open for 11th annual Korinderie Bush Regen Holiday–North Coast NSW (Aug 2014)**

This cost-free Korinderie Ridge bush regen camp will be held this year from 4-8th August – at the 200 ha private property bushland 'Korinderie Ridge', adjacent to Bundjalung National Park, just south of Woodburn, NSW.

Last year, being the 10th anniversary was a great occasion – both in terms of the bush regen work achieved and the fun we had. Around 17 volunteers (including quite a few residents, returnees and newcomers) managed to carry out primary bush regeneration work in extensive areas where the Lantana was fairly light, as well as removing lantana in 'new' areas along creeks, connecting with areas already worked in previous years. The weather was great and food delicious, with resident children presenting prizes at a special ceremony to thank those who have returned to the Korinderie bush regen week year after year.

This year we will spread into extensive areas along the ridges where Lantana is fairly light – but those more fit will start on a slightly more intensive patch of lantana, linking two areas that have been previously treated by spraying. As one of these was recently also burnt, it will be interesting to see the results from manual treatment, spraying and spraying plus burning.

For any newcomers interested in seeing photos of the animals and plants of Korinderie and photos of past regen weeks, visit the photo galleries on [www.korinderie.org.au](http://www.korinderie.org.au) or [www.flickr.com/photos/47615335@N06/sets/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/47615335@N06/sets/)

**Contacts:** Phone Tein or Graeme on 02 6682 2885 or email: [teinm@ozemail.com.au](mailto:teinm@ozemail.com.au) for further details and to make bookings. (Prior to end of June is advisable to reserve your place.)

Photos: Tein McDonald



**Two long-time returnees, Brian Stanley and Anne Terley** enjoying some lantana cut and paint at Korinderie Ridge. Around half those who attend each year have been multiple times before, returning to enjoy the bushland, the camaraderie, visiting local heath and beaches and the food!

## Support from SSP Program for subsidised CLM student places.

A sudden reality check was experienced by North Coast NSW industry members at the beginning of the year when North Coast Institute of TAFE introduced commercial fees for CLM (i.e. a year early). The immediate crisis was somewhat alleviated by the successful awarding of about 15 subsidised places for CLM 3 through the government's Strategic Skills Program (SSP) after submissions were made by TAFE and AABR to the Department. The north coast courses are therefore still running this year but there is no guarantee a similar level of subsidy can be achieved in 2014-15.

## Roadside Environment Committee Guidelines

The NSW Roadside Environment Committee (REC) has recently produced new best practice guides for Roadside Vegetation Management Plans (RVMPs). These cover four steps:

- 1 Assessment
- 2 Planning
- 3 Implementation
- 4 Monitoring and Evaluation

The documents have been uploaded onto the REC website: [http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/environment/downloads/managing\\_roadside.html](http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/environment/downloads/managing_roadside.html)

# Weeds - what's happening

## Sydney Weeds Forum

The Sydney Weeds Forum was held on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April, with around 100 people from government, contracting, consulting, education and volunteers represented. The Forum was hosted by the Sydney Weeds Committees Inc, and along with the NSW Weeds Action Program and Hawkesbury Nepean Local Land Services, AABR was a sponsor of the Forum. AABR was given the opportunity to talk about what AABR is and what it does.

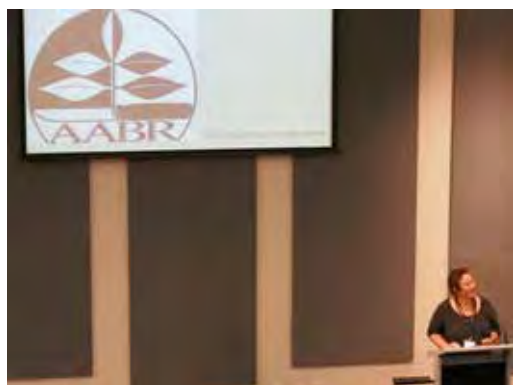
Paul Gibson-Roy (Greening Australia) gave the keynote address *Managing our natural environment. What goals and can we achieve them?* and, as ever, was both entertaining and controversial. Paul's argument is that humans are ecosystem engineers, and that we have entered a new age, the age of the Anthropocene. As such, the future of the planet will be decided by humans. Paul argues that, given enough resources, we can manage any landscape, and that ecosystems must be managed in perpetuity.

He is an advocate for reconstruction of ecosystems, and showed some exciting examples of grasslands reconstructed by seeding in country Victoria and in areas of the Cumberland Plain. Greening Australia is currently working with NPWS in areas of the Cumberland Plain experimenting with reconstruction techniques. Paul's talk brought on some lively questions and debate from the floor.

Other speakers included Jonathan Sanders, from NPWS and SWC President, who spoke passionately about the need for a strategic approach to weed management across the region. He gave specific examples of Serrated Tussock, which is on its way to Sydney, and discussed options to slow it down. He also talked about African Olive containment.

Bryce Wilde, Executive Director of the Natural Resources Commission, spoke about the Review of weed management in NSW (more on that in another article in this newsletter). He was followed by Stephen Johnson, who spoke about the changes to weed control orders. If you are interested, have a look at the Noxious Weeds Control Order 2014 [http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0019/410059/weed-control-order.pdf](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0019/410059/weed-control-order.pdf).

Andrew McGahey gave us some practical advice on dealing with Kudzu in sandy soils on the Nepean River Flood Plain, Matt Springall told us about new weed incursions, Robert Lester gave an Aboriginal perspective, using the Derrubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council as an example, and Jim Casimir and Tegan Burton talked about volunteer engagement. Mel Hall used the day to launch new educational materials on the Weeds of National Significance. Some of the talks from the day are available on the website <http://sydneyweeds.org.au/news/sydney-weeds-professional-forum-2014/>.



Kate Low representing AABR at the Sydney Weed Forum

## Review of Weed Management in NSW

In February the NSW Natural Resources Commission released their draft report *Weeds – Time to get serious. Review of weed management in NSW*. There were over 80 written responses to the draft report, including one from AABR. Additionally, AABR was involved in a joint submission coordinated by Andrew Cox, from the Invasive Species Council (ISC). This submission included Greening Australia, National Parks Association and the Nature Conservation Council.

Following this submission, all parties were invited to meet with the Natural Resources Commission, to discuss specific concerns with the draft report. The NRC team were responsive to suggestions, and showed a willingness to accommodate all stakeholders where possible. They responded to the concerns addressed by AABR and the ISC. Thanks to Andrew Cox, who had done an extraordinary amount of work, both in the submission, and in getting the parties together.

One of the key areas of concern remains the issue of environmental weeds. The draft NRC report identifies that weeds impact on biodiversity and the natural environment, but fails to give adequate priority to control of environmental weeds.

Overall the review has been well received, and is seen as a positive and strategic shift in approach by government to managing weeds and weed incursions. As ever the devil will be in the detail. The review will lead to new legislation, however funding for the changes is not discussed.

Go to the NRC website for more information <http://www.nrc.nsw.gov.au/Workwedo/ReviewOfWeedManagementInNSW.aspx>

Here you will be able to read the Draft Report and see more of the ISC/NCC/ NPA/AABR responses to the Issues Papers and the Draft Report. Many thanks to all AABR members who contributed to this process.

Kate Low

AABR Committee member

### Weed stories



Thumbs down to Coles who dismissed a complaint about a weedy plant being sold in stores in South Australia. A local Landcarer expressed his concern when a plant known as an emerging weed in the Adelaide Hills was on sale. He was told by Coles that the information he sent about the plant were not viable references and Coles were 'confident that the product supplied was within the legislative requirements of supply into SA.'



Congratulations to Mr Todarello who has a large fruit, vegetable and plant shop half way up the Great Western Highway in the Blue Mountains. When being told that the Agapanthus being sold there was a weed of the Blue Mountains he removed them from sale and returned them to the supplier later. The supplier said he sold many Agapanthus in Sydney, but Mr Todarello said that he did not wish to sell the plants if they were weeds in the Blue Mountains.

# Working for conservation

Saraya Robinson  
City of Gold Coast

Wal Mayr from the Gold Coast tells us what inspires him.

Wal Mayr resides in the Austinville Valley located in the hinterland of the Gold Coast. He is a passionate volunteer dedicating his time to restoring both public and private land in the upper reaches of Mudgeeraba Creek within the Valley.

Wal established the successful Austinville Landcare Group in November 2005 with assistance from the City of Gold Coast, Natural Areas Management Unit under the Beaches to Bushland Program. The group's activities consist of environmental weed control and planting native riparian species where required which provide the following outcomes;

- Restore the existing riparian vegetation.
- Improve habitat opportunities.
- Protect the creek bank from erosion and improve water quality.
- Provide learning opportunities for local landholders in ecological restoration.
- Improve the amenity of the park as a focal point in the community.
- Strengthen relationships in the community.
- Improve the overall health of the catchment.

The group now has over 40 registered members who regularly attend sessions with contributed volunteer hours totalling 3200 since commencing and over 10,000 native species planted. The group has restored and significantly improved the natural environment within Austinville Community Park and Austinville Conservation Area.

Wal has also assisted with applications for many grants to assist with the restoration of both private and public property and has been successful with approximately \$350,000 in grants from SEQ catchments and state and federal grants (with funding held under the Gold Coast Catchment Association). These funds have assisted with the restoration and rehabilitation of a 3km stretch of Mudgeeraba Creek which is classed as Regional Ecosystem type 12.3.2, which is listed



Wal Mayr, Land for Wildlife member

as 'of concern'. The group (lead by Wal) were also successful in obtaining an Envirofund grant from SEQ Catchments that allowed them to aerial map areas of weed infestation in the Austinville Valley which showed parts of Mudgeeraba Creek having high infestations of Madeira Vine and other environmental weeds.

Wal is also a Land for Wildlife member since 1999 who is actively restoring his property which is at the top of the valley adjoining highly valued conservation areas. These works undertaken on his property assist with improving the health of Mudgeeraba Creek and complement the works undertaken by various other property owners. In 2008 Wal entered into a Nature Refuge agreement which now protects the property's natural values in perpetuity. Through the Land for Wildlife Program he has also been successful in securing numerous grants to assist with expanding restoration works on his 11 hectare property.

- **How did you become involved with environmental volunteering?** I saw that our valley was progressively being taken over by invasive vines and that we needed to do something about it.
- **What do you most enjoy about volunteering?** Making a real change in the landscape, and the people – volunteers tend to be happy, positive, down to earth people.
- **What motivates you?** The long term aim of eliminating invasive weeds from our valley (Austinville)
- **What would you say to encourage others to become involved with Landcare?** It is a great feeling of accomplishment, good people, working outdoors, doing something for the bush – and great morning tea!



Austinville Landcare

# Bushcare Celebrations

## Bushcare Programs

In this newsletter we are celebrating two anniversaries of Bushcare Programs, supported by local government and a long standing Coastcare group which also receives support.

Bushcare groups supported by local government and National Parks are now a feature of the ways we maintain and improve bushland. The movement was inspired by a number of excellent and longstanding volunteer groups working in bushland such as the 'Gordon Bat Colony', Sugarloaf Reserve at Castlecrag, Wollie Creek at Earlwood in Sydney and others in regional areas. However, the Council response through organised support programs started in 1987 when Ku-ring-gai Council in northern Sydney appointed its first Bush Regeneration Officer.

Council was receiving phone calls from residents asking for works to be done but these were beyond the scope of Council's teams and so, inspired by the example of the 'Gordon Bat Colony' volunteer group that was already established by that time, Council worked out a system of supporting volunteer groups with coordination, initial training, tools and herbicide. When a phone call came in, the option of forming a group was put to the resident who, more often than not, took up the idea. It was only

## 25 Years of Caring at Ballina

Ballina on the Far North Coast of NSW is known for its beaches. Here the community has rehabilitated and looked after the coast for over 25 years.

In 1989, Shirley White lead a small team of concerned volunteers into the dunes at Angels Beach south, with the main priorities being weed control and fencing the dunes to protect them from erosion.

The work was hard and finding other volunteers to help their efforts was difficult, but these committed people continued with their task. They were helped by Ballina Council which provided materials, herbicide and mulch. They sought funding when available and kept the projects going despite some of Mother Nature's worst conspiring against them.

Dune fencing at Flat Rock at Angels Beach was washed away by storms, so assistance from Work for the Dole and Green Corps was enlisted. Finally, formal access tracks were established. Bitou Bush was removed and replaced with coastal wattle and other native plants to help heal the erosion damage caused by storms many years before.

Around the same time, Ruth Readford started similar work at Lighthouse Beach at Ballina, to control weeds and protect the native vegetation and to improve the site for all the community.

During 2000, hundreds of children from nearby schools assisted their cause by planting thousands of trees in the Kerry Saxby Olympic Walk project. Fourteen years later, these kids are able to come back and admire the forest they helped to create.

The groups' work finally attracted more volunteers and the groups grew in numbers as more people recognised the size

a matter of time before the similarity of bushland regeneration groups to 'Landcare' and 'Dunecare' which were operating in rural and coastal areas at the time became obvious and in the late 1980s-early 1990s, Ku-ring-gai started using the term 'Bushcare' to describe its work. Success breeds success, so the numbers of groups expanded over the years and spread quickly to other Council areas across Australia.

The value of involving the community in a hands-on approach to local bushland was something that contract bush regenerators and council bush management staff and regenerators were becoming increasingly aware of. An example of what regenerators were dealing with in those years was seen on one site where contract regenerators were working. Suddenly their lunch break was disturbed by the neighbour, who backed onto bushland, throwing a pile of weeds over the back wall into the bushland area next to the regenerators. Bringing neighbouring residents on board was seen as vital for the work of regeneration teams to be successful in the long term.

The value of these programs is immeasurable in terms of the increased care and knowledge of bushland by the community. Groups often work in tandem with trained regenerators on staff and contractors who also work in areas which are strategic with regard to overall bushland management.



Removing bitou bush from Banksias in the early 1990s

and importance of the task at hand. A number of projects now connect coastal works from Flat Rock and Angels Beach through to Black Head and Lighthouse Beach.

During this time, East Ballina Landcare had also commenced works in bushland areas away from the coastal strip. They were kept busy with a number of sites in littoral rainforest and wetland areas within the shire, which were in need of assistance.

The work had taken its toll though, and by 2003, new leadership helped ease the load when Lee Andresen became coordinator and the groups were combined to form Ballina Coastcare Inc in 2008. This enabled Care groups in the Ballina Shire to be a more effective advocate for environmental restoration, to seek funding in a range of projects and for more effective use of resources.

Today, Ballina Coastcare now work with Ballina Council in a range of projects which include North Creek Wetland, Allawah

Bushland, organising "Austspray" Abseiling Bush Regenerators contractors to continue difficult works at Black Head and continuing a number of long running duncare projects

In addition to on-ground works, Ballina Coastcare is active in promoting ecological restoration activities in many ways. These include organising training for volunteers such as WetlandCare Plant Identification Workshops, Landcare Essentials Training and hosting site visits from local schools and supporting Clean Up Australia Day.

Other initiatives include producing a Weed of the Month information sheet, developing the Ballina Coastcare Website and liaising with council and government agencies to encourage support for groups and volunteers in environmental projects.

The efforts of volunteers from Ballina Coastcare can be seen across the shire and are paying dividends for the local vegetation communities, with rare and threatened species regularly found at a range of sites. Recently, a single specimen of Coast Tylophora (*Tylophora benthamii*) was located near the Angels Beach underpass and the threatened Rusty Plum (*Niemeyera whitei*) was identified near the Gunundi Field Centre, now known as Shelly's on the Beach. Also, increasing numbers of Stinking Cryptocaria (*Cryptocaria foetida*) have been noticed in the area.

From humble beginnings to the well organised team of today, Ballina Coastcare has made a tremendous contribution to the Ballina community and will enjoy celebrating 25 years of caring for the local environment.

Those interested in joining in the activities of Ballina Coastcare would be warmly welcomed. Working Bees are held 8.00-11.00 four days a week.

- Mondays: Lighthouse Beach
- Tuesdays: Angels Beach (Black Head)
- Wednesdays: Angels Beach (Overpass)
- Saturdays: Angels Beach (Flat Rock)

For Lighthouse Beach contact Jane on 6686 6283 or John on 6686 0602

For Angels Beach contact Lee 6681 3557



Angels Beach in the 1970s after sandmining



New growth on a *Niemeyera whitei* or rusty plum tree. Photo: Wikipedia

## Angels Beach Dunecare

### Some achievements over the first twelve years

Group formed in 1989

1989 Department of Land and Water Conservation and Ballina Shire Council permission granted to work on 68 hectares of coastal Crown and Council land

1995 Jali Local Aboriginal Land Council permission granted to work on Black Head

1999 Group achieved Incorporation

Since its inception the Group has received funding from many grant sources and donations and "in kind" support from local Ballina businesses and the wider Ballina community

Since its inception the group has worked in close educational collaboration with many schools, primary and high schools, public and private, Dorrroughby Environmental Education Centre, Southern Cross University and Wollongbar TAFE

In the first 12 years since its inception the Group achieved 141,000 volunteer hours of work, 4,000 hours of work by Labour Market teams

Work includes:

- Installation of 4,600 metres of protective fencing
- Six board-and-chain pathways to provide ecologically non-damaging access to the beach
- One hundred steps on pathways in sloping areas to provide beach and forest access without erosion and soil degradation
- Clearing of countless infestations of environmental weeds covering many hectares, including weeds of national environmental significance
- Planting of 21,000 diverse, indigenous, site-specific native plant species, ranging from grasses and ferns to rainforest trees, most of the seed for these having been gathered and propagated by members and school students.

# Hornsby Council Bushcare celebrates 25 Years

In May, Hornsby Shire Council held a morning tea at the Wallarobba Arts Centre to celebrate 25 years of their Bushcare program. There was an impressive turnout with over 70 people, including council staff and volunteers, attending the morning tea hosted by Mayor Steve Russell. It was very rewarding and much appreciated that some of the Councillors and Council's executive staff were available to attend including Councillors Robert Brown and Nick Berman, General Manager Scott Phillip and Duty General Manager Bob Stevens. Those ex-staff and retired volunteers that could be reached, were also invited to attend.

Mayor Steve Russell delivered a speech to thank Bushcare volunteers. The morning tea was followed by a visit to the "Sparks. Cinder. Seed." photo exhibition at the Centre.

Bushcare volunteer Barry Lees also gave a speech about his experiences in the program. Barry signed up to Bushcare in 2002 after seeking advice about weeds on his property and quickly developed a passion for bush regeneration. Barry works with other volunteers to maintain Carrs Bush at Galston, which is an important area due to its rare and endangered plant community. Barry said that he gets great satisfaction from restoring bushland to its natural condition. He described Carrs Bush as being in pretty good condition, where the group take the weeds out and let natural regeneration fill the holes. The responsibility of working in bushland which is so rare and in good condition gives the regenerators a sense of responsibility and gives them an extra burst of energy.

Under the Bushcare program 77 ha of bushland are being looked after by the membership of over 850 volunteers. Many successful Bushcare stories have been achieved throughout the years and will continue, through persistence, dedication, and the desire for conservation of local bushland. The program has resulted in strong friendships and community spirit. Since it began in 1989 Council's Bushcare program has blossomed to become one of the largest in New South Wales, with more than 100 sites across the Shire.

For more information visit [www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au](http://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au)

**Danielle Sutton**  
Co-ordinator - Bushland Community Programs  
Hornsby Shire Council



Barry Lees Photo: HSC

Hornsby Shire is on the outskirts of northern Sydney and has both urban and rural areas. The bushland is subject to the impacts associated with urban and rural residential development, farming and horticulture. Looking after bushland in Hornsby is a big job. The Shire covers 51,000 hectares of which 67% is bushland. Of these 30,000 hectares, 52% is National Parks and 17% is managed by Council, and the remainder mostly privately owned.

The bushland includes ecological communities which are listed as endangered and critically endangered under NSW and Commonwealth legislation, and a number of threatened flora and fauna. Council runs a variety of programs to maintain and improve the quality of its bushland and the interaction with the community.

Council has used bushland restoration contractors since 1993, with contract bush regeneration now covering around 50 sites. Other programs have involved education of rural landholders to encourage the minimisation of adverse impacts on bushland and waterways.

Hornsby has a community nursery producing local indigenous native plants which is run by council staff with the assistance of volunteers. This year the nursery was awarded the Best Government Nursery Award from the Nursery and Garden Industry Association (NGIA) for NSW and ACT.



The Mayor with Council bushland staff at the celebration

Photo: HSC

# A 20 Year Celebration Friends of Lane Cove National Park



Cutting the cake with the original volunteers and the NPWS staff who have managed the project since it started. Lynn Rees (centre) was the first volunteer coordinator and Matt Springall, the NPWS ranger next to Lynn, started working in the park as a volunteer  
Photo : OEH

## David Meggitt

### President Friends of Lane Cove National Park

On 17 May 2014 a group of dedicated volunteers gathered to celebrate the Friends of Lane Cove National Park's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Lane Cove National Park comprises 372 hectares of bushland along the Lane Cove River corridor in northern suburban Sydney. With its linear shape surrounded by suburban housing, impacts are high and bush regeneration efforts through the local community are of major importance.

Although volunteers started in the park a few years earlier, the Friends were formed and the official program started in the aftermath of the 1994 bushfires when much of the park was burnt. Over the 20 years the Friends has contributed the equivalent of about \$1 000 000 in on-the-ground volunteer work and has been instrumental in raising and managing significant funds by way of grants. In 2013, the grants raised amounted to approximately \$80,000. These funds have been used to employ contractors on various projects throughout the park.

After the fires in 1994 over 200 people attended a meeting at the park to volunteer to do some post fire bush regeneration. From this, 18 groups were started. Today, many of the original volunteers, some of whom are well into their 80s, are still actively volunteering in the park. This is a testament to personal dedication to a common cause in protecting our precious



remnant bushland areas. Twenty years later we now have 31 groups and approximately 200 volunteers.

When Lynn Rees first started working in the park in 1994, it was unaffectionately known as Weed Valley and considered beyond hope of recovery. Today the park looks magnificent totally due to the dedication and hard work of the Friends and volunteers.

At the gathering Anne King, Head of Parks, thanked the volunteers for their efforts over the years, and presented them with printed coffee cups to mark the occasion. Ms King was thanked by the Friends President, David Meggitt, who took the opportunity to appeal for restoration of Bushcare funding to where it was a few years ago. A picnic lunch was then enjoyed by all, followed by a group of indigenous dancers with didgeridoo accompaniment.

# Work and health

## Glyphosate and gut bugs

Lynn Rees

Last AABR Newsletter, No 120, ran a scary story on page 13 about the link between glyphosate herbicide and gluten intolerance. I downloaded a full copy of the paper referenced in the story (see details below) and became increasingly alarmed with almost each sentence I read. I learnt many things about the growing body of evidence that glyphosate is not one of the "safest" herbicides as we have been lead to believe. One thing that stood out is that in some studies glyphosate was shown to kill the gut micro flora in cattle and poultry. Glyphosate was shown to reduce "...the number of beneficial bacteria and increasing the number of pathogenic bacteria in the gut." I strongly urge all users of glyphosate herbicides to read this paper. It is sure to make you take more care in your work.

As bush regenerators, we expose ourselves to many stressors, so I find an occasional visit to a naturopath can help ensure I take good measures to reduce the negative impacts of my work and help maintain optimal health to fight off the pathogens, and chemicals and the other occupational stresses that our bodies meet on a daily basis.

I asked Coffs Harbour naturopath Stephen Cooke to give us some guidance on how to keep our guts happy when using herbicides.

Stephen told me that "in the past 80 years over 200,000 chemicals have been introduced into our environment, many of which can compromise our health in some way. Many health conditions are on the rise such as autism spectrum disorders, allergies, asthma, auto immune diseases, fertility problems, cancer, heart disease, diabetes and obesity. There appears to be a direct correlation between a decrease in nutrition with the rise in exposure to environmental toxins. I believe that this is at the heart of our modern day epidemics."

Stephen says that "a healthy gut provides the foundation for good health. It digests and absorbs foods and expels waste. Healthy gut secretions kill pathogens, break down foodstuffs properly and provide shelter for trillions of organisms - most of which we cannot live without. We need to have 70 to 80% healthy gut bacterial balance to maintain optimal health."

With detrimental effects of glyphosate herbicide receiving bad press lately Stephen recommends that as well as the advice for safe use of herbicide, we should dose up on high quality probiotic supplements after each day when spraying. The most effective probiotics need to contain at least eight different strains of bugs.

We should also have a healthy diet rich in fermented foods such as sauerkraut, cultured Asian vegetables such as kim chee, fermented drinks such as kefir made with milk or coconut milk. A diet rich in vegetables is very important, particularly the leafy greens.

Another hint is to wash ourselves and our workclothes as soon as possible after spraying and not mix work clothes in with the family wash.

REF: Samsel A, Seneff S (2013) Glyphosates Suppression of Cytochrome P450 Enzymes and Amino Acid Biosynthesis by the Gut Microbiome: Pathway to modern Diseases. *Entropy* 2013, 15, 1416-1463; doi10.3390/e15041416

## Update of AABR Tick Review

AABR's Publication - *Ticks and Tick-Borne Diseases – protecting yourself* review has been updated.

Edition 2, May 2014, is now on the web and can be found at: <http://www.aabr.org.au/learn/publications-presentations/ticks-and-tick-borne-diseases-protecting-yourself-2/>

The following is the updated text from Version 2 regarding methods of killing ticks prior to removal

### Killing ticks prior to removal

#### Ether-containing sprays

These work by freeze-drying the tick, killing it instantly. The tick should then fall out or may be gently scraped off .

#### Aerostart®

Aerostart® contains 24% ether. It is recommended by the University of Sydney Department of Medical Entomology, and the Australian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy. (ASCIA)

Apply a small squirt directly onto the tick, taking care to minimise contact with the surrounding skin.

It is designed for car engines—not people, and is classed as a skin irritant. If you are using it regularly you probably should consider ways to reduce tick exposure.

Aerostart® is highly flammable and must be kept away from naked flames or lit cigarettes.

#### Wart-Off Freeze

ASCIA recommends Wart-Off Freeze® [www.wartoff.com.au/products.html](http://www.wartoff.com.au/products.html)

#### Cold sprays for injury treatment

ASCIA suggest ether-containing sprays marketed for sports injuries such as Elastoplast Cold Spray® would also be effective.

#### Aerosol insecticide containing pyrethrin

The University of Sydney also recommends spraying the tick with an aerosol insecticide containing pyrethrin or a pyrethroid.

#### Lyclear®

Also recommended by the University of Sydney is Lyclear®, a scabies cream containing 5% permethrin. The application should be repeated after one minute. The tick should be left in place until it drops off. If the tick is still in place after 24 hours, gently remove it with fine-tipped tweezers.



### Correction re Methyl Ether

In the last edition of the Tick Review we said *methyl ether is a known human carcinogen*. This was an error. Methyl ether is not a known human carcinogen. We apologise for this quality-control fail.

# The People Driving Biodiversity

Alasdair Stratton  
Shoalhaven City Council

The People Driving Biodiversity – An investigation of the effectiveness of a community-based Bushcare Program using the Community Capacity Framework.

Shoalhaven City Council recently sponsored Caitlyn Rankin, an honours student from the University of Wollongong's School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, to determine whether Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) is an effective means of building social capacity to improve biodiversity in the Shoalhaven LGA.

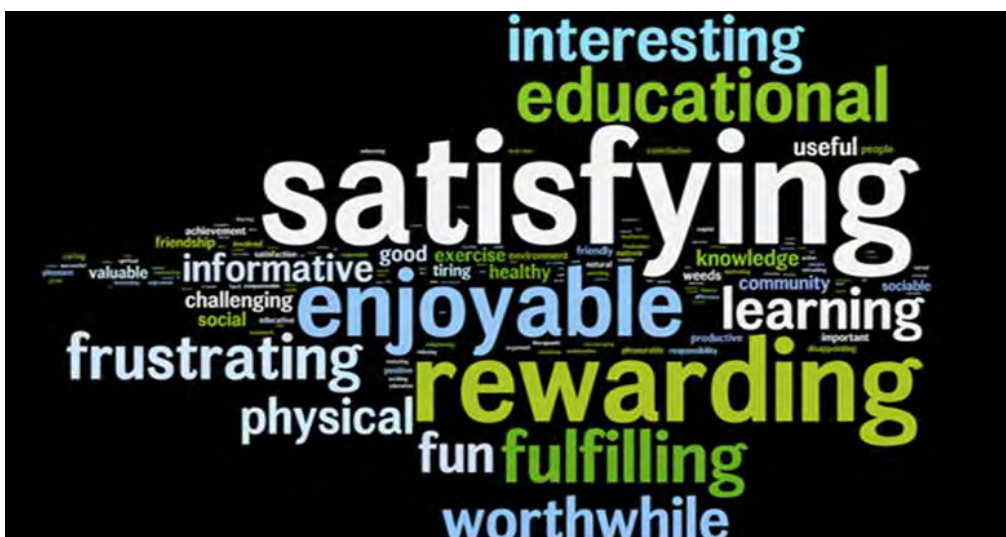
The project offered an opportunity for Shoalhaven Council to gain a measure of the social and biodiversity benefits of its Bushcare Program, particularly the volunteers actively engaged in the program. The study provided feedback on the volunteer experience of participating in the Bushcare program and their perception and understanding of biodiversity and how this understanding may have changed as a result of being involved in Bushcare.

In summary, Caitlyn says, "The community capacity framework enabled an insightful exploration of the social and environmental characteristics of the Shoalhaven Bushcare Program. The framework provided the structure for an investigation of the human, social, financial and natural capital resources which define the limits of CBNRM success. The application of community capacity indicators has assisted the realisation that the goals of the SCC Bushcare Program are being achieved to a significant extent".

Caitlyn has provided Council with a number of recommendations which are being used to refine the Bushcare Program and improve volunteer recruitment. Council is working on a range of ways to ensure its Bushcare volunteers continue to be supported, respected and valued for the knowledge and experience they bring to the Program.

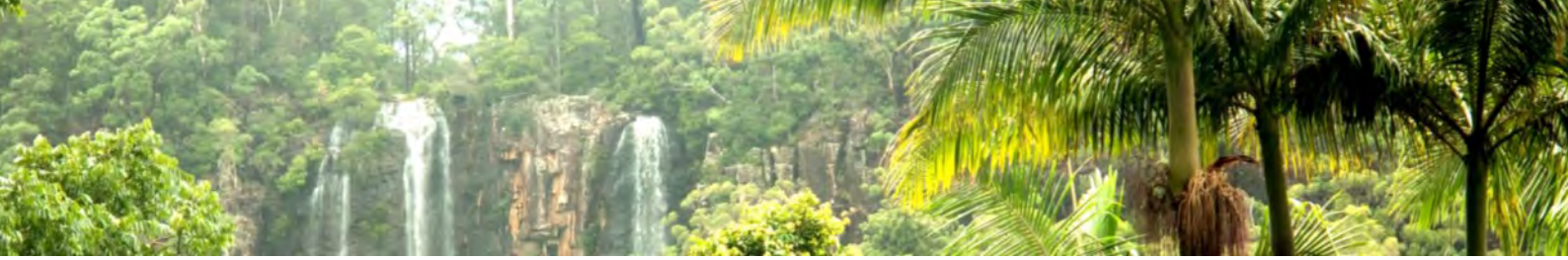
The thesis outlined 5 key recommendations. Some of the five key recommendations are in the process of being implemented with the other in planning. These recommendations and council responses are:

- *Recruitment campaigns need to target retirees.*  
As a direct result Council/Bushcare Volunteers will work with other retirement organisations such as the University of the Third Age (U3A) through direct contact and information sharing to attract retirees.
- *Promotional advertising and program development must include social, personal, learning, and environmental benefits of volunteering.*  
Council is re-designing its Bushcare promotional material to focus more on the social, personal and learning opportunities of being involved in Bushcare, and will include some personal stories from the volunteers themselves.
- *Bushcare works through satisfying volunteers expectations regarding teamwork, learning, doing something important, and meeting external obligations. The association with commitment indicates these motivations must become a priority.*  
This is a more complex recommendation to put into action. Each Bushcare Group operates in its own way with a style which allows the group to click. Some ideas that have been discussed are having regular get togethers with other Bushcare Groups, or Forums to share ideas and meet others.
- *Direct change needs to occur to develop Bushcare's bridging social capital. Bushcare networks can achieve this by making the Program more visible in local communities. This has the potential to attract greater resources and expertise whilst improving landscape scale delivery of biodiversity outcomes.*  
Council/Bushcare Volunteers are looking at hosting Bushcare walks over the summer period to facilitate broader community involvement in Bushcare and to show off the great work of Bushcare Groups. We hope to have more of a presence with State NRM organisations. With recent changes to the state's NRM agencies, this will have to be re-visited.
- *Resources invested into the SCC Bushcare Program represent a diverse and consistent funding stream which indicates a high capacity to undertake biodiversity management.*  
Council would like to take more of a strategic approach to sourcing grant funds for Bushcare Groups. There is a great opportunity to align Community Based NRM funding with other NRM grant programs, such as Estuary Management Plans. Grants to value add to Natural Resources Management programs being currently run by other sections of Council.



The diagram gives a really clear picture of what the volunteers value about being involved in Bushcare in the Shoalhaven. This question was asked of all the Bushcare Volunteers currently involved in the Shoalhaven Bushcare Program. The diagram shows which phrases were used more than others which are in direct proportion to their size.

The document can be found at  
<http://doc.shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au/Displaydoc.aspx?Record=D13/317533>



# Wompoo Gorge Restoration Field Day

**Friday July 25, 2014 - 9.00am - 12.00pm - No cost**

Wompoo Gorge will become NSW National Parks estate at the end of July 2014.  
This will link Nightcap and Goonengerry National Parks.

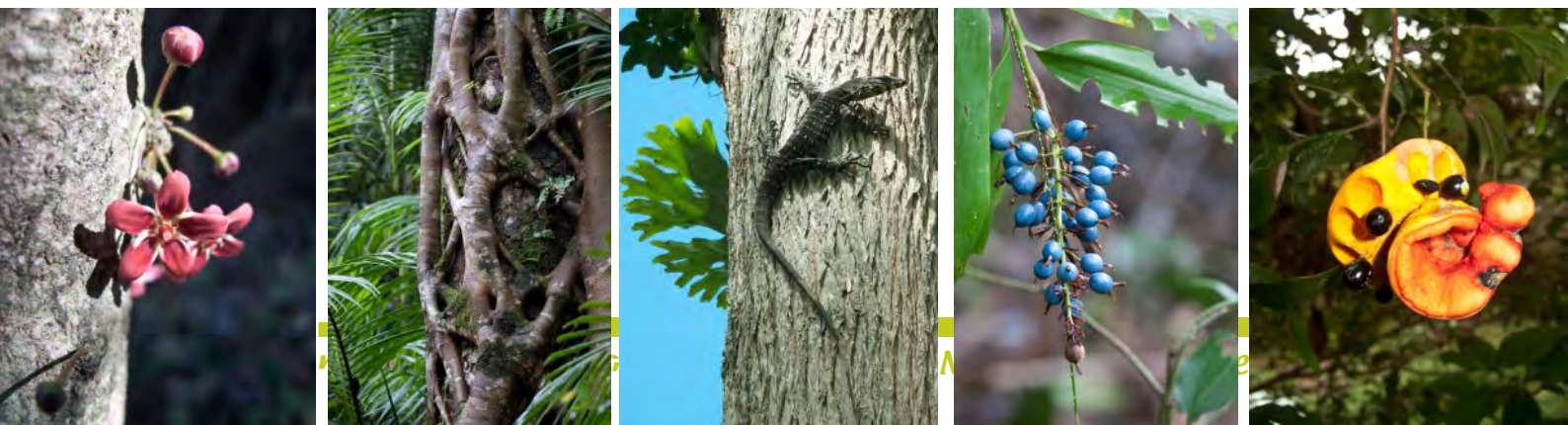
The owners of Wompoo Gorge have worked towards restoration and conservation of the area for many years. EnviTE Environment is now in the 6th year of rainforest restoration on the property. On the eve of becoming National Park, mark this significant occasion with a guided visit.

Large infestations of lantana had been restricting natural regeneration for over 40 years. Over 30ha is being restored using various techniques including mechanical control of lantana with a tractor, splatter gun, over spraying and hand work. Strong regeneration of rainforest has occurred in areas previously dominated by lantana.

- Dailan Pugh, property owner, will speak about the history and restoration of the property and future conservation as part of NSW National Parks.
- Walk through undisturbed palm forest, see regeneration in areas of lantana control.
- Learn about restoration of critically endangered lowland rainforest - habitat for over 27 threatened species.
- See demonstration of splatter gun control of lantana.
- Meet at the end of Upper Coopers Creek Road, parking before closed gate.
- Light morning tea will be provided, please bring water and extra food if required.
- Wear sturdy footwear, long pants and shirts, hat, sunscreen and insect repellent.

For further details and to register for the workshop contact:  
Georgina Jones at EnviTE on 02 66219588 or [georginaj@envite.org.au](mailto:georginaj@envite.org.au)

The project has been assisted by the New South Wales Government through the NSW Environmental Trust



# News from Ecological Management & Restoration (EMR) Journal

A free Special Issue (April 2014) of EMR Journal, on Australia's Murray-Darling Basin Native Fish Strategy is available online. Guest Editors John Koehn, Craig Copeland and Kasey Stamation have pulled together some excellent papers that showcase the achievements and some key lessons from the first ten years of an ambitious program to address key threats and recover populations of native freshwater fishes in Australia's largest river system, where populations are estimated to have dropped to only 10% of their pre-European levels. Unfortunately, coinciding with a recent change in Federal government, the Native Fish Strategy, which ambitiously aimed to bring back 60% of the estimated pre-European levels of native fish after 50 years of implementation, has been curtailed after its first 10 years.

Highlights of the May issue - which is also available now to subscribers (AABR members are entitled to a discount) - include the following:

- a feature by ARCUE urban ecologists Amy Hahs and Mark McDonnell on plant extinction debt in the city of Melbourne (will more extinctions be inevitable or can management help ameliorate the trend?)
- an engaging interview with grassland restoration ecologist Paul Gibson-Roy, overviewing the range of reconstruction technologies and philosophies from recent decades in Australia
- a research report by Lauren Hallett, Rachel Standish, Justin Jonson and Richard J. Hobbs on research monitoring establishment and survival of direct seeded species in Western Australia's Gondwana Link Project.

**Call for papers to EMR.** Contributions (short or long) on topics relevant to the conservation management of ecosystems are sought from researchers and practitioners. Online submission preferred. All instructions are available on the journal website: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/%28ISSN%291442-8903>

AABR readers are particularly encouraged to submit features and project summaries. Discount subscriptions are available to AABR members.

The link to the special issue is: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/emr.2014.15.issue-s1/issuetoc>

The link to the current issue is: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/emr.2014.15.issue-2/issuetoc>



## Youcamp.com

James and Prue Woodford

Planning your next holiday. Visit [www.youcamp.com](http://www.youcamp.com).

This is a community of private landholders across Australia who welcome responsible visitors.

A little over a year ago we launched youcamp.com. Our idea for Youcamp was conceived one evening during Christmas holidays while sitting around a campfire on our property at Bingie on the NSW South Coast.

Our idea was simple. There are many private properties that respectful members of the public would love to be able to visit – for camping, to assist with environmental works, farm help, birdwatching, kayaking, fishing or to sit and do nothing. Until now, private property owners have had beautiful spots for people to visit but no way of easily connecting with campers.

There are landholders who would like extra income from their land generated without harming the environment. Our land sharing concept enables landholders to establish sustainable small-scale tourism on their properties. They set the rules, the prices and the activities that visitors can enjoy.

Because youcamp.com is part of the new and ever-growing sharing economy, we see our idea as also being about sharing ideas, making new friendships, gaining help with a big Landcare project in return for a few nights camping, seeing stars away from city lights or even just something as simple as giving children an experience in an area totally different to where they normally live. Coastal residents can visit the outback, city residents can visit farm or bushland properties.



There are over 50 activities and attributes which people can search for on the website, such as wildlife watching or bush walking.

One of the most common questions we get asked is 'am I allowed to have visitors on my land?'

The answer is that every council area is different and the rules about public liability vary from state to state. Increasingly, however, authorities are having to confront the issue that people are demanding authentic experiences in regional Australia. The reality is, not all travellers are prepared to accept being packed into busy caravan parks. Already some states are looking at changing the rules to make it easier for a landholder to open up a small campsite on their land. Our website has detailed advice on legal issues that property owners need to address.

One thing is undeniable – land sharing is an idea whose time has come. It is not going to go away. In tough times, with low commodity prices any extra source of income is precious. People want to meet real people, running genuine private properties and get back to ideals of camping that they experienced when they were children.

# What's happening

## 1-4 September

19th Australasian Weeds Conference

**Where** Hobart

Science, Community and Food Security: the Weed Challenge

[australasianweeds2014.com.au/](http://australasianweeds2014.com.au/)

## September 29-October 3

Ecological Society of Australia 2014 Annual Conference

**Where** Alice Springs

Four day scientific program plus workshops, field trips and community events.

The conference will feature symposia on regionally relevant issues such as arid ecology, the ecology of northern development, and indigenous ecological knowledge. However, it will cover the full range of biomes, from deserts to oceans, and embrace all aspects of ecological theory and practice.

[www.esa2014.org.au/](http://www.esa2014.org.au/)

## October 30-November 1

Forum organised by the Friends of Grasslands (FOG) to celebrate grasslands and grassy woodlands

**Where** Canberra

**Organiser** Friends of Grasslands

*'Grass half full or grass half empty? Valuing native grassy landscapes'*

Talks and discussions and posters, and field visits to local grasslands and grassy woodlands..

Contact: To express interest in attending one, two or all three days, and/or to offer a poster or paper, contact: [president@fog.org.au](mailto:president@fog.org.au), or check [www.fog.org.au/forum2014.htm](http://www.fog.org.au/forum2014.htm) for more details.[www.fog.org.au/index.htm](http://www.fog.org.au/index.htm)

## 12-14th November

The 10th Australasian Plant Conservation Conference

**Where** Hobart

**Organiser** Australian Network for Plant Conservation

Will bring together a diverse range of the top botanists, ecologists, land managers, and on-ground plant conservation workers from around Australia and New Zealand, to discuss current scientific research and practical experience in the field of plant conservation, in particular for the many threatened plants and ecological communities now listed around Australia.

Will include a variety of guest speakers, exciting displays and informative field trips. A key focal point event at which plant conservation specialists can exchange ideas and make new contacts. Delegates will include researchers, government officers, the private sector, environmental organisations, community groups, farmers and many more.

[www.anbg.gov.au/anpc/conferences/2014/index.html](http://www.anbg.gov.au/anpc/conferences/2014/index.html)

## 17-21 November 2014

Society for Ecological Restoration Australasia (SERA) 2nd Conference

From Large to Small Islands

**Where** Nouméa, Complexe Nouvata Parc, New Caledonia

Further information about the 2nd conference of SERA

Email : [contact.sera2014@gmail.com](mailto:contact.sera2014@gmail.com)

<http://www.seraustralasia.com>

## 14th/16th November

### Save the Date

**AABR Seminar.**

**Where** Sydney

Save the dates of Friday 14<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> November. The final date still to be determined.

Hear from exciting restoration practitioners on topics covering replanting, direct seeding and assisted regeneration.

This Seminar will include workshops on principles (regen or reconstruction) to be included in SERA's and AABR's potential to establish accreditation for reconstructing ecosystems (supplementing our existing accreditation for practicing bush regenerators)

### What is happening on your site?

Any successes or failures, or interesting strategies that you are using? Drop us a line [newsletter@aabr.org.au](mailto:newsletter@aabr.org.au)



#### President

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#### Committee members

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#### Northeast NSW/ Southeast QLD subcommittee

Mike Delaney 02 6621 9588  
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## Australian Association of Bush Regenerators

**The Australian Association of Bush Regenerators Inc (AABR)** was incorporated in NSW in 1986, and has several hundred members from all over Australia. AABR is pronounced 'arbor'.

Our aim is to promote the study and practice of ecological restoration, and encourage effective management of natural areas.

**All interested people and organisations are welcome to join.** AABR members include bush regeneration professionals, volunteers, natural area managers, landowners, policy makers, contractors, consultants, nursery people, local, state and commonwealth government officers—and lots of people who just love the bush and want to see it conserved.

**AABR also offers accreditation** for experienced practitioners.

**AABR News** is usually published in March, June, September and December.

**AABR C/O Total Environment Centre  
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**0407 002 921**

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ABN: 33 053 528 029 ARBN: 059 120 802

#### Membership fees

Individuals	\$25
Organisations ( <i>does not confer membership to individuals in that organisation</i> )	
• Business (less than 5 staff)	\$100
• Business (more than 5-20 staff)	\$250
• Business (More than 20 staff)	\$400
Government	\$50
Not for profit	\$25 ( <i>or \$0 with newsletter exchange</i> )
Students	free offer to 30 June 2015

#### Benefits of Membership:

- discount admission to all AABR events
- four newsletters per year
- increased job opportunities
- discount subscription to the journal Ecological Management & Restoration
- opportunities to network with others involved in natural area restoration
- helping AABR to be a strong and effective force to promote natural area restoration, and support the industry.

#### Newsletter contributions and comments are welcome

Contact Virginia Bear [newsletter@aabr.org.au](mailto:newsletter@aabr.org.au) 0408 468 442

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