



# AABR NEWS

Australian Association of Bush Regenerators

*working with natural processes*

**Nº 122**  
**October**  
**2014**



## **AABR Walk and Talk, Forster, Lower North Coast NSW** **Friday 5th December commencing 9.30 am**

The littoral rainforest walk will commence at One Mile Beach, Forster, and make the easy meander along the various coastal littoral and dry rainforest communities of Burgess Beach to conclude in the vicinity of Cape Hawke - Booti Booti National Park, which is home to one of the largest littoral rainforest remnants in NSW.

Large portions of these coastal reserves have been subject to concerted restoration works in recent years. Issues include heavy & diverse weed invasion, historic burning & grazing, difficult access, erosion, clearing for views and associated canopy dieback, storm-water and Aboriginal cultural heritage. The rainforests of the Great Lakes Shire are significant for the diversity of species at the limit of their distribution.

The 'Walk & Talk' will commence at **9.30 am on Friday 5th December**. Meet at the One Mile Beach Surf Club at the southern end of the beach. Those coming from out of town are welcome to free camp and Dahl dinner Thursday night in a 'rustic Forest yurt' at Scott Meier's property in the hills of Wootton approximately 40 minutes from Forster. For further information **contact Isabelle Strachan, Environmental Officer, Great Lakes Council ph 6591 7301 or Scott Meier mob 0414 395 419.**

## **AABR Symposium**

### ***Rebuilding ecosystems – what are the principles?***

**Thursday 13 November, 9am-4pm**

**Teachers Federation Conference Centre, Surry Hills**

Join us to be inspired by 5 outstanding restoration practitioners from around Australia as they share their experiences of reconstructing rainforests, sclerophyll forests, grasslands and wetlands.

- Nigel Tucker will talk about his experiences achieving rainforest restoration on the Atherton Tablelands
- Justin Jonson, previously Greening Australia's Restoration Manager in WA, is actively involved in designing and implementing broadscale direct seeded and planted linkages in WA – totalling 765 ha to date
- Tim Berryman has been developing ecological approaches and technologies for rebuilding grassy understories for restoration of Hunter Valley mine sites
- Geoff Sainty of Sainty & Associates, Peggy O'Donnell of Cardno and Mia Dalby-Ball of Dragonfly Environmental will describe successes and lessons from one of the largest saltmarsh reconstruction projects in the world
- Peggy Svoboda uses a Kooragang case study to illustrate some general principles and lessons learned from replanting saltmarsh species in a dynamic environment.

For more information, fees and how to book, visit the AABR website page  
<http://www.aabr.org.au/aabr-symposium-in-november-book-now/>

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# President's Perspective

**AABR's symposium.** The big news this issue is, of course, AABR's upcoming symposium – to be held in Sydney on Thurs Nov 13<sup>th</sup>. This follows up on the success of last year's seminar that launched the 'new AABR' - and demonstrates AABR's seriousness about expanding our scope to show the relationships between all forms of restoration

*Why is AABR talking about reconstruction and not just regeneration?*

Too often it is assumed that 'reconstruction' (rebuilding ecosystems from scratch) is simply a matter of planting or direct seeding trees and shrubs and somehow a self-sustaining community will result. Yet regenerators know that rebuilding a functional locally native ecosystem is more complicated than that and requires an ecologically informed approach that meets high standards of practice. We also recognise that there are challenges common to both regeneration and reconstruction - e.g. problems to do with fragmentation and genetics in an era of climate change – which can only be solved by collaboration, sharing our experiences and learning from each other. So members are urged to spread the word about this event as it is rare to have practitioners of such outstanding calibre speaking at the same event. [To book go to:

<http://www.trybooking.com/Booking/BookingEventSummary.aspx?eid=103085>]

**AABR's AGM.** Members are encouraged to come along to the Teacher's Federation Conference Centre not just for the Symposium but also for the AABR AGM which will be held about 3.30 pm after the last workshop. (The agenda and formal notice will be sent out to members very soon.)

**AABR's role in the SERA Standards.** From previous newsletters you will be aware that AABR is one of 12 NGO Partners nationally to be invited to collaborate on the development of *Principles and*

*Standards for Restoration in Australia* – a project being led by the Society for Ecological Restoration Australasia (SERA). The project has already gained substantial interest from key stakeholders around Australia and a preliminary framework is currently being considered by the Partners. The progress of that framework will be reported on by its authors during a special workshop on the topic held on the afternoon of AABR's symposium.

**Accreditation.** AABR's committees have been working hard to meet the growing need for Bush Regenerator accreditation, particularly in Queensland. In the process it has been confirmed that non-standard applicants require the same minimum 500 hours bush regeneration field work (gained over 2 years) as standard applicants. This is a long overdue clarification, now clarified on the website and application form, and makes perfect sense as field work is an irreplaceable way of learning one's trade.

**Celebration of 50 years of bushland management.** On a lighter note, readers may also be interested to hear that Mosman Parks and Bushland Association is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – on 25<sup>th</sup> October (from 4pm). This is a rather historic occasion with links to bush regeneration as the Association (then called the Ashton Park Association) formed in 1964 when bushland at Bradley's Head was threatened with destruction. One of its greatest achievements was supporting the pioneering work of Joan and Eileen Bradley and publishing Joan's seminal pamphlet 'Bush Regeneration'. But it has also provided an example to many other such local associations that have spearheaded the improved conservation and management of public open space urban bushland by governments throughout Australia. For further information email: [mosman.parks@gmail.com](mailto:mosman.parks@gmail.com)

Tein McDonald

President

## Gas mining and the bush – regenerators planning to join the protest in Lismore on November 1st

While we work to save the bush, the trend to degrade, damage or destroy it continues across Australia. Coal seam gas mining (and other related forms of unconventional gas mining) is one of many new developments that are moving rapidly forward along the east coast of Australia; and poses a number of environmental threats.

At Narrabri, for example, substantial areas of Pillaga Forest bushland are under threat from clearing for CSG fields, and at Gloucester in the Hunter Valley licenses have already been approved for fracking. Waste water, contaminated with chemicals and gas, can be subsequently released into waterways; and in some areas water tables drop, potentially causing impacts on vegetation.

The Lock the Gate Alliance ([www.lockthegate.org.au](http://www.lockthegate.org.au)) welcomes a 12 month extension on the NSW Government's freeze on new Exploration Licences and examination of current licences, and wants upfront protections for water resources, farmland and bushland to be introduced as part of the process. While this will have no effect on the above projects it is not too late for other regions.

Bush regenerators in the northern rivers area of NSW who want to support this campaign can come to the **Riverside Park, Lismore the On Sat 1st November** for a march through the streets of Lismore, joining reps from all other local industries. (You will find us under the 'Bush Regenerators for a gasfield free Northern Rivers' banner!) For further information go to <http://csgfreenorthernrivers.org> or email [teinm@ozemail.com.au](mailto:teinm@ozemail.com.au).

## Welcome to new AABR Members

Damian Arnold	David Horan
Gary Clark	Jean-Philippe Kecman
Michael Cooper	Phil Murray
Rachel Dawson	Noel Plumb
Peter Day	Megan Roberts
Anneleis du Pille	Noel Rosten
Jeremy Dunlop	Robert Shestanovich
Clare Gray	Joanne Sing
Daniel Hastings	Michael Thorley
Benjamin Henderson	Paul Trute
Scott Herring	Peter Yorke
Mark Herrington	

### Organisations

Community Environment Network

Lane Cove Bush Regeneration Co-operative Ltd

### AABR Accreditation

Congratulations to the following members who have received AABR Accreditation

Dean Holmes    Kenneth Joblin    Duncan Smith

# Bush Regeneration: Finding Help

**Kerry Thompson**  
Natural Areas Operations Officer  
Shoalhaven City Council, NSW

Bush regenerators can readily find information about the legal requirements and recommended practices for weed control. Bitou bush is an example.

This article is a response to a recent post on a Facebook page about bitou bush control. The information provided in the comments gave no reference to the legal and scientific information available about control of this noxious weed. I aim to clarify some parameters that regulate weed control practices, with particular emphasis on the legal responsibilities of bush regenerators practicing on public land, and highlight bitou bush control as an example of the process for developing best practice management guidelines.

I respect those who prefer not to use chemicals as a control method, many practitioners acknowledge that when your weed control area is thousands of hectares, chemicals become an integral tool to achieve management outcomes. In my experience the bush regeneration industry is very sensitive and yet practical in their choice of regeneration techniques. Myself and other practitioners I am associated with incorporate both hand and chemical control.

## Available Resources

There is an archive of information available to bush regeneration practitioners on the control of weeds. I urge people to undertake research on a specific control issue prior to undertaking ground works to ensure you work within the current legal framework and fulfil your obligations as a practitioner.

For those who feel rather alone in their quest to battle weed infestations, please be aware that the issue is being addressed from a national level that flows right down to the practitioner on the ground. The Australian Weeds Strategy provides a national framework for addressing the impact of weeds in Australia. <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/invasive/weeds/publications/strategies/pubs/weed-strategy.pdf>

"The Strategy provides a national framework to guide and complement state, territory, regional and local government strategies and industry initiatives that are ultimately translated into strategic on-the-ground actions to manage weed problems and protect assets."

These national perspectives map national containment lines for particular weed species which attracts funding to these and outlier infestation sites.

For in-depth information of the 32 Weeds of National Significance and Noxious Weeds refer to <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/invasive/weeds/weeds/lists/wons.html> and for comprehensive weed information refer to <http://www.weeds.org.au/> Best practice manuals have been produced for a comprehensive list of species.

## Chemical Use for Weed Control

First and foremost, people working on public land must be aware of the boundaries governing chemical use. The NSW Department of Primary Industries regularly updates the *Noxious and Environmental Weed Control Handbook - a guide to weed*

*control in non-crop, aquatic and bushland situations*. This pays particular attention to a variety of weed control methods in bushland and can be found at [www.dpi.gov.au/weeds](http://www.dpi.gov.au/weeds).

This document focuses on legal use-rates and application methods for specific weed species, pesticide properties, relevant off-label permit references and other useful weed control information.

Herbicides have a registered use. In addition there are off-label uses for specific purposes which may also be restricted to specific users. Off-label use of a registered herbicide is determined by the Australian Pest and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) and presented in specific Pesticide Permits. Recommendations are based on available scientific data and balanced with the need for the permit. Refer to [www.apvma.gov.au](http://www.apvma.gov.au) for more information and current off-label chemical use permits.

State governments also have a role in the use of pesticides (which include herbicides). In NSW, the EPA has this role - see <http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/pesticides/pesticides.htm>.

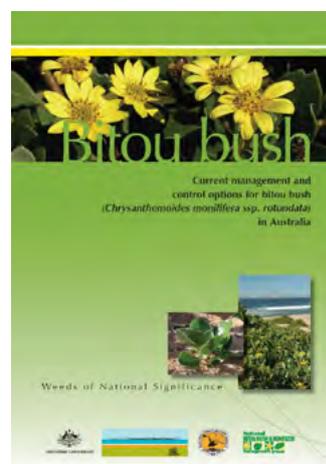
## Finding Out About Bitou Bush Control

Research into chemical control of bitou bush was undertaken from mid 1980's to mid 1990's by the late John Toth and his team. The result of this research contributed to the current recommended chemical use rates found on product labels and off-label permits.

The (then) Dept Environment and Conservation NSW developed a *Bitou Bush Control Manual* and a *Best Practice Guidelines for Aerial Spraying of Bitou Bush in NSW*. Refer respectively to:

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/bitouTAP/implementationresources.htm>

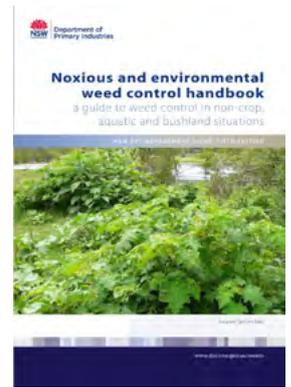
<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/pestsweeds/bestPracticeAerialSprayGuidelines.pdf>



John also collated a list of native species sensitive to aerial chemical application which can be found in this document.

So before you next head out to your weed control site or post information on the net, take some time to research the latest best practices that are based on the most current research. There are legal boundaries to adhere to and this information is readily available. I am sure most practitioners do this, so it is all our responsibility to ensure this information is disseminated to

the broader bush-loving community who all mean well in their endeavours to improve the health of our native bushland.



# South East Queensland Ecological Restoration Framework: A Bush Regenerator's Perspective

Spencer Shaw  
Brush Turkey Enterprises

For background to this subject I'll allow the Framework to introduce itself (as per 1.1 Purpose of SEQ Restoration Framework - Code of Practice).

"The South East Queensland (SEQ) Ecological Restoration Framework Project was originally proposed by the Environmental Managers Technical Reference Group (EMTRG), a group of environmental managers representing SEQ Councils. The EMTRG recognised that the high growth experienced in SEQ, combined with the diversity of stakeholders undertaking ecological restoration, required the development of a standard to ensure consistent ecological restoration delivery. In April 2011, the Council of Mayors (SEQ) subsequently endorsed the Framework as a regional standard for undertaking restoration projects. Ultimately, ecological restoration projects delivered under the Framework will:

- Conserve and enhance biodiversity through increasing the extent and improving the condition of native vegetation;
- Ensure long-term environmental and economic sustainability; and
- Ensure ongoing improvement and maintenance of ecosystem services.

The Framework is comprised of three key documents to guide the delivery of vegetation/ecological restoration works in the SEQ region including:

- **Code of Practice** – a policy document providing a head of power for the subsequent Guidelines and Manual. The code of practice reflects the SEQ policy environments where it is to be housed.
- **Guideline** – a decision making tool to guide users to the most appropriate course of action in their project. This document guides application of the policy and links to current best practice and examples demonstrated in the Manual element.
- **Manual** – a technical but easy to use guide to all aspects of ecological restoration. This document is reflective of current best practice, and provides the minimum acceptable solutions to ecological restoration."

## SEQ ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION FRAMEWORK



So from a Bush Regenerators perspective, why did we need an Ecological Restoration Framework? To give you a brief bit of context, ecological restoration practices and as a result, the bush regeneration industry, have evolved dramatically in South East Queensland over the last decade and a half, primarily driven by local governments who have a) invested in the management of their own natural areas, b) developed and supported community engagement in publicly owned natural areas, c) through a range of initiatives assisted private landholders to undertake ecological restoration on their own properties and d) required developers to restore natural areas as a condition of development.

Less than 15 years ago "Ecological Restoration" in SE QLD was primarily limited to basic tree plantings. However the demand for a broader practice of ecological restoration driven primarily by local government policy and initiative has seen the exponential growth of a bush regeneration practitioner sector in SE QLD.

In 2011 the idea to set the standards and best practice outlines finally caught up with the rapid cultural and commercial development of bush regeneration in SE QLD. The South East Queensland Ecological Framework (again driven by Local governments in SE QLD) certainly achieves this and does appear to be a pioneering document of this scope throughout Australia.

I must admit as a contractor and consultant for ecological restoration works in SE QLD, that when I first heard about the proposal to produce this framework, I thought here we go, yet another imposition on us poor, humble bush regenerators telling us how to do our job and what language to use - we bush regenerators can be a passionate, but precious, bunch at times! But then I saw it, read it and got it!

The three documents totalling 160 pages are a comprehensive guide to the planning and practice of ecological restoration in SE Queensland. For those of us working in this area, they are locally based and are setting the standards for government, industry and community alike. We as an industry need this framework to calibrate our terminology, our practices, and the fundamental concepts by which we undertake ecological restoration practice.

The rapid implementation of the use of the Framework throughout SE QLD, now sees just about all ecological restoration works that are going out to tender through Local Governments, and to a lesser extent the development industry, using the SE QLD Ecological Restoration Framework as their frame of reference for the planning and implementation of works. From a contractor perspective this is great because it potentially means we're all running on the same page and all working towards the same given guidelines and practices.

You may not have guessed it (sometimes my subtle nuances can be all but invisible!) but I'm a big fan of the Framework and what it means for bush regenerators in SE QLD. As an advocate for the development and recognition of bush regeneration as an industry, I see this as a great step forward in recognising and developing further the bush regeneration skill base. What we need next perhaps would be to see a similar framework developed throughout Australia, stay tuned!

In closing I'll again hand back over to the framework and quote from the Code of Practice:

### "3.1 Ecological Restoration Policy Statement

Ecological restoration in SEQ is to be undertaken to achieve the following best practice principles:

1. Restored ecosystems incorporate assemblages of species reflecting those in reference ecosystems and have the potential to recruit further species by natural means;
2. Restored ecosystems support the same structure and function as reference ecosystems;
3. Restored ecosystems consist of indigenous species of local provenance to the greatest extent practicable. That is, exotic and invasive species that would otherwise degrade ecosystem health are absent;
4. Restored ecosystems are self sustaining to the same degree as a reference ecosystem, such that they are resilient to normal periodic stress; and
5. Restored ecosystems interact with the surrounding landscape and contribute to ecosystem services.

### 3.2 Implementation Policy Statement

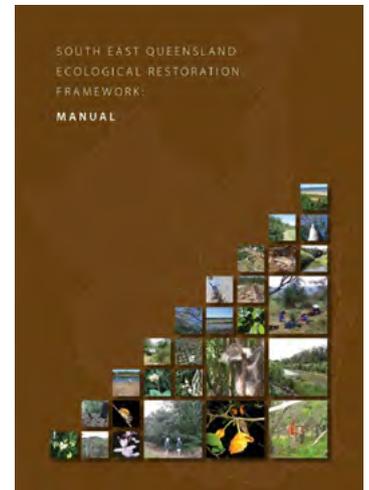
In order to achieve the best practice principles of ecological restoration it will be necessary to:

1. Educate all stakeholders involved with ecological restoration regarding the use of the SEQ Ecological Restoration Framework;

2. Update planning schemes to reflect the requirements of the SEQ Ecological Restoration Framework;
3. Undertake monitoring and evaluation to determine ecological success of ecological restoration projects;
4. Undertake auditing and compliance to ensure ecological restoration plans are met; and
5. Review the SEQ Code of Practice of the SEQ Ecological Restoration Framework every 5 years by the Councils subject to the SEQ Regional Plan or as triggered by critical changes in the legislative framework."

The framework is available at:

<http://www.seqcatchments.com.au/seq-ecological-restoration-framework>



## Map for Greater Sydney Landcare and Bushcare

The Greater Sydney Local Land Services has developed a new map to display all the Bushcare and Landcare groups working across the Greater Sydney region. This aims to help new volunteers find all the wonderful groups who work in the region.

The map will be embedded in [www.bushcare.org.au](http://www.bushcare.org.au) and the Greater Sydney facebook page and you will be able to embed the map into your website as appropriate.

You can follow the link and review the locations and details of the groups we currently have listed:  
<https://trade.maps.arcgis.com/apps/OnePane/basicviewer/index.html?appid=40a976c257f1490ca5ca7483438b3861>

For more information contact Nicola Dixon | Land Services Officer (Community Engagement), Greater Sydney Local Land Services  
T: 02 9895 6207 | F: 02 9895 7330 | E: [nicola.dixon@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:nicola.dixon@lls.nsw.gov.au)

## AABR's Representatives on the Environmental Trust Committees

Mary-Lou Lewis has taken on the role of AABR's representative on the Environmental Trust Restoration and Rehabilitation Technical Committee. Mary-Lou is taking over from Janet Rannard who has been on the committee for a number of years.

Mary-Lou will continue to be the representative on the Environmental Trust's Community Grants Technical Committee.

Thanks to Mary-Lou and Janet for volunteering their time to provide their bush regeneration expertise to help these important state environmental grant programs

## ACT and Southern Tablelands Weed Spotter

Have a look at the website (available through the Atlas of Living Australia ) below to find out about identifying and controlling weeds in the ACT and Southern Highlands.

Go to <http://root.ala.org.au/bdrs-core/act-esdd/home.htm>

The site allows participation by the public to help identify and spot weeds by 'Spot, Snap and Send'.

The site gives a sample of the priority weeds to watch out for in the ACT and Southern Tablelands region. If you see these weeds, or others identified on the website, then follow these easy steps:

1. Learn about the priority weeds to watch for in your local area.
2. Use the Weed Identification Tool to help identify unknown plants.
3. Create an account so you can report weed sightings online.
4. Report a weed sighting using your mobile device or desktop computer.
5. Map and track your weed control efforts.
6. Contact a local expert for further help with weed management.

## World Parks Congress Bioblitz 2014

The World Parks Congress Bioblitz will be a celebration of science working with the community to create a species audit of the Sydney Olympic Park site.

This citizen science event will involve schools, congress participants, scientists, naturalists and community members to create a snapshot of urban biodiversity in the area by finding and identifying as many species of plants, animals and other organisms as possible.

The event will be held on 16 November during the World Parks Congress Public Festival 'Planetfest' [http://worldparkscongress.org/involved/social\\_planetfest.html](http://worldparkscongress.org/involved/social_planetfest.html) at Cathy Freeman Park.

For more details, [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research/bioblitz.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research/bioblitz.htm)

# Habbie Stacks

## Looking after habitat on your site

**Frank Kennedy**  
Coffs Harbour

For the past 20 years I have been working as a volunteer in the Coffs Harbour region with Coffs Harbour Regional Landcare and NSW National Parks, first along Coffs Creek and for the past year on McCauley's Headland, both in the centre of Coffs Harbour.

I was first introduced to the concept of habitat stacks by Jeff Holmes from Coffs Harbour City Council. These stacks are now affectionately called 'habbie stacks'.

The benefits of habbie stacks are many such as:

- Reduces 'trip hazards' (especially for the over 60's and littlies).
- Provides an additional or new habitat refuge for local native fauna.
- Makes for an 'orderly site' so that one gets a better appreciation of the amount of weed removal achieved during the working-bee.
- Stacked up woody weeds are limited to a much smaller surface area and as such the chance of reshooting is reduced.
- Habbie stacks can also be used to prevent foot traffic through regeneration areas.
- They can also be burnt easily.
- Follow up weed control is easier.
- Native vegetation can regenerate unhindered and regular follow up allows for easy weed spotting and removal.



Above: Russell Flanders and Frank Kennedy, McCauley's Headland Landcare group.

Below: Habbie stacks.

These photos give an appreciation of the density of senna and lantana through this headland site in Coffs Harbour.



### Show off your site!

You can show off your site by hosting a field day or providing for the Newsletter, photos and a brief description of your site and the work carried out.

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.

Or send an email with photos and a description to [newsletter@aabr.org.au](mailto:newsletter@aabr.org.au)

# Recreating Western Sydney's Woodlands

Chris Brogan

Earth Repair Ecology Pty Ltd

In May 2012 Earth Repair was commissioned by Endeavour Energy to carry out the ecological restoration of a small Cumberland plain woodland remnant at the West Liverpool Zone Substation, located in south western Sydney at Hoxton Park near the M7. Cumberland Plain Woodland is listed as a Critically Endangered Ecological Community under the New South Wales *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*, and as critically endangered by the Commonwealth. Around 9% of the this vegetation type present at the time of European settlement remains.

Extensive weed control was carried out for African box thorn and the invasive perennial African lovegrass prior to the installation of mulch and native tubestock. Small areas of native grasses and herbs such as *Chloris ventricosa* (tall windmill grass), *Dichondra repens* (kidney weed) and *Plectranthus parviflorus* (cockspur flower) identified at the commencement of the project were protected during the works and these areas were not mulched.

The site was revegetated in October 2012 with 9,000 tubestock with an emphasis on native grasses particularly *Themeda triandra* (kangaroo grass) and *Microlaena stipoides* (weeping meadow grass). By December 2013 many of these had produced substantial quantities of seed which was collected and broadcast throughout the site.

The mulch selected for the project was manufactured from re-cycled green waste and post-consumer wood waste sourced from a local supplier and therefore had a relatively low environmental impact. All tubestock was propagated from seed collected from western Sydney bushland remnants. Despite a family of ravens pulling up several hundred plants presumably foraging for food, the survival rate of planted tubestock was in excess of 90%.



Above: Site Preparation 2012

Below: Collection of Themeda seed, December 2013

Photos: Earth Repair Ecology Pty Ltd.



## AABR joins Facebook

When you are next on Facebook just do a search for "Australian Association of Bush Regenerators – AABR" and "Like" the page (sounds so needy doesn't it, please like me!). Then we'll be part of your news feed and keep you up to date with the latest events and news and you can use the FB technology for the purposes of good and not evil (e.g. ice bucket challenge fails – I mean come on!!!).

Thanks to Saraya Robinson of the Gold Coast for setting up our FB page. In just over the month we have over 230 likes and growing fast. See you on FB.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Australian-Association-of-Bush-Regenerators-AABR/670220429714439>



# Wompoo Gorge Celebration

## Wompoo Gorge – Hand over to National Parks

Sixty five visitors attended a field day hosted by EnviTE Environment and Dailan Pugh at Wompoo Gorge on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> July. Wompoo Gorge is the name of Dailan's 79 ha property located at the southern end of Wanganui Gorge a few kilometres west of Murwillumbah in north eastern NSW. The property links the Nightcap and Goonengerry National Parks. The field day was timed to mark the imminent handover of Dailan's property to National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) as well as showcase restoration over the last six years of the critically endangered Lowland Rainforest of Subtropical Australia on the site.

The property is significant at a state and national scale due to its threatened lowland rainforest and high numbers of threatened flora (16) and fauna (29) species. The NSW Environmental Trust has funded ecological restoration works at Wompoo Gorge over six years. Additional support has come through Big Scrub Landcare with on-ground days allocated to the site through some of the group's grants.

The property came up for sale in 1996 and Dailan actively encouraged the NPWS to purchase it because of its exceptional conservation values. However this did not occur and Dailan purchased the property to ensure its' protection from inappropriate use and development. Subsequently Dailan commenced restoration works and wanted to gift parts of the



Subtropical rainforest at Wompoo Gorge.

Photo: Julie Reid, EnviTE

property to the NPWS on the condition that the Government create a freshwater aquatic reserve. Despite the support of the Premier and the former Environment minister this was not followed through with by the then Minister for Primary Industries.

In August 2014, the purchase was finalised by NPWS and Wompoo now forms an important link between Goonengerry NP and The Nightcap NP. This change of ownership is significant in that the public will now have access to the wonderful rainforest there.

The land within the gorge was cleared in the 1920's and while much of it has regenerated into rainforest, large parts were colonised by lantana.

EnviTE Environment commenced restoration work in 2008 which ramped up during 2009 with a grant from the NSW Environmental Trust. Stage 1 of the restoration of Wompoo Gorge involved control of weeds in around 14 ha of rainforest. This has been extended during the last two years to over 33 ha. Stage 2 of the restoration work will continue until June 2015.

After initial treatment of lantana and follow-up, the regeneration response is impressive with a steadily increasing range of species regenerating.

Other funding sources have included the Raymond Borland Trust, Great Eastern Ranges Initiative, North Coast Local Land Services and the Big Scrub Rainforest remnant rainforest program.

At the Field Day, NPWS Ranger Andrew Fay explained that the National Parks and Wildlife Service was interested in hearing from the community regarding their views on the future protection and ongoing management of the site.

More information on the restoration work at Wompoo Gorge can be found on the Project Summaries of the Ecological Management and Restoration Journal, <http://site.emprojectsummaries.org/2012/05/28/rainforest-restoration-on-private-land-wompoo-gorge-huonbrook-nsw/>

and a description of work under a recent grant at <http://www.borderrangesalliance.org.au/wompoo-gorge>

Left: NSW National Parks Ranger Andy Fay and property owner Dailan Pugh speak to attendees at the Wompoo Gorge Field day on July 25.

Photo: EnviTE



# Collecting ticks for research

AABR members will have read our articles about ticks and tick borne diseases and also the Tick Management Review. The University of Sydney which carries out research into such diseases including Lyme disease is seeking assistance in collecting ticks.

The ticks will be used for research into tick borne diseases, such as Lyme disease (*Lyme borreliosis*), being conducted at the University of Sydney. The Tick Borne Diseases lab at the university using DNA technology are trying to isolate potential tick borne pathogens that cause disease in humans. They are looking for bacteria and other pathogens such as *Borrelia*, *Bartonella*, *Anaplasma*, *Rickettsia*, Ross River virus, Murray valley encephalitis virus and other novel bacteria and viruses that Australian ticks may harbour.

Lyme disease in Australia needs to be investigated as this area has not been researched since the early 1990's. Currently the investigations are for the presence in Australian ticks of the *Borrelia* bacterium that causes Lyme disease, as well as the presence of other pathogens that can cause tick borne diseases. To date there are several veterinary clinics, Bushcare volunteers as well as WIRES carers, collecting ticks for the research project and this important research would be further aided with more assistance.

The unit would be very grateful if collecting ticks was carried out but only within the normal scope of activities as collectors should not put themselves at risk of tick bite.

Lyme disease is caused by a bacterial infection of *Borrelia* spirochetes which are transmitted through a tick bite. Lyme

disease is the fastest growing infectious disease in USA and Europe. If not treated early, Lyme disease can cause significant illness and debilitation. Clinical symptoms of Lyme disease can range from flu-like symptoms, muscle aches, muscle twitches, skin conditions, arthritis, long term fatigue, memory loss and depression, to paralysis and other neurological symptoms. Lyme disease symptoms overlap with symptoms of many other illnesses and this bacterial infection can be mistaken for several other diseases.

Ticks should be collected in a specimen jar and frozen. Once you have about 10 – 15 in a jar please post overnight express to:

Dr Ann Mitrovic  
Tick Borne Diseases Unit DO6  
School of Medical Sciences ( Pharmacology)  
University of Sydney 2006

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I would be very happy to answer any questions you may have regarding the project, please contact me as listed below

Dr Mualla McManus 0449 838 887

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



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# Friends of Grasslands Forum

*Grass half full or grass half empty?*

*Valuing native grassy landscapes*

Grasslands at Hall Cemetery ACT

Photo : S. Sharp

## **Friends of Grasslands is holding a 3-day forum in Canberra**

**30 October - 1 November 2014**

**at the CSIRO Discovery Centre, Clunies Ross St, Acton**

The forum is intended both to review changes in grasslands and more broadly grassy ecosystem conservation and productivity over the last 20 years and to be an opportunity to look ahead. The timing reflects the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of FOG's founding in November 1994.

The forum will address government involvement, community perceptions and advocacy, grassland management, and measuring outcomes. Grassland management may embrace many aspects, such as use of native grasses in production, maximising biodiversity, use of fire, Indigenous management practices, restoration, grasslands at urban outskirts, and many more.

The forum is attracting excellent speakers, who will be supported by informative displays and workshops, an all-day field trip on the Saturday (1 November), networking opportunities and a dinner.

Participants can choose to attend all or part of the forum.

The program and more details can be checked at <http://www.fog.org.au/forum2014.htm>

Registration is now open, until 22 October; see <http://www.trybooking.com/FIWY>. Costs range from \$255 for full price, to \$120 for concession card holders for the three days.

For information or help with registration or advice about accommodation and parking contact Lesley Peden: [Forum2014@fog.org.au](mailto:Forum2014@fog.org.au), or tel. 0400 806 089.

### **Friends of Grasslands (FOG)**

FOG is a community group dedicated to conservation of natural temperate grassy ecosystems in south-eastern Australia. FOG advocates, educates and advises on matters to do with conservation of grassy ecosystems, and carries out surveys and other on-ground work. FOG is based in Canberra and its 200 members include professional scientists, landowners, land managers and interested members of the public.

For postal correspondence, write to: Friends of Grasslands, PO Box 440, Jamison Centre ACT 2614.

The support provided by Greening Australia Capital Region, Kosciusko to Coast, the Conservation Council ACT Region and the Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment is gratefully acknowledged.

# Book Review

## COSMOPOLITAN CONSERVATIONISTS; Greening Modern Sydney

By Peggy James,

Dr Peggy James is an environmental planner and University Associate in the School of Humanities at the University of Tasmania. She has written this book on conservationists who had great influence in the Sydney area.

Many Sydneysiders and other conservationists will be familiar with the names of the people whose stories are told in this book. These people fought hard and were influential in conservation of bushland and natural areas in Sydney and other areas.

The book covers the individuals and the network of the Sydney conservation movement over the years from around 1900 to the 1960s.

The lives of a number of key conservationists in Sydney are told, being David Stead, Walter Burley Griffin, Charles Bean, Thistle Harris, Norman Weekes, Marie Byles, Myles Dunphy and Annie Wyatt. The book also covers the development of groups like the NSW Nature Conservation Council, the creation and conservation of various bushland parks in the Sydney region. There are references to the work of the Bradley sisters, as well as to early bush regeneration and maintenance work in places like Castecrag.

The book is in paperback format and easy to read. The numerous illustrations add to the wealth of information in this book. A must for those interested in how previous generations of conservationists helped to shape Sydney.

Australian Scholarly Publishing, 2013  
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PO Box 299 Kew, Vic 3101

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## VALE

### Neroli Lock – active bush regenerator and activist

With the passing of Neroli Lock we have lost a highly skilled bush regenerator, an inspiring teacher and a true, uncompromising conservationist. After retiring from teaching at Abbotsleigh School at Wahroonga, Neroli trained as a bush regenerator and worked for the Hills Bushcare Company and was a volunteer bushcarer on several sites in the Lane Cove valley. She was a community representative on Ku-ring-gai Council's Natural Areas Committee for many years where she provided advice and encouragement to staff to properly management bushland.

She was instrumental in getting The Blue Gum High Forest ecological community in Sydney listed by the Commonwealth as critically endangered and fighting for one hectare of privately owned land of this community being added to the largest remnant of this special type of forest at St Ives (Dalrymple Hay Nature Reserve and Browns Forest)

Neroli leaves big shoes to be filled in northern Sydney. She will be greatly missed.



### Jenni Le-Cussan - weed warrior

Jenni (a former Lord Howe Island Board employee) was instrumental in leading the war on weeds on Lord Howe Island. Kick starting the LHI Weed Eradication program in 2004; with an injection of funds from the NSW Environmental Trust, she was instrumental in setting up a program that has halted the threat of invasive weeds which will continue into the future.

It was fortunate for LHI to have Jenni visit the island in December 2013 to helping with re-mapping the weed density and distribution on LHI, but also to revel in the changes in the island landscape from her efforts.

Thanks to Jen's effort and support from her family, Lord Howe Island's unique environment is in far better shape. Through her efforts many people have been brought together to experience and learn about a very special place. She will be remembered as "Game Changer" in the war on weeds.



# What's happening

## 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, discussions, 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)

## 16th November

PlanetFest and the World Parks Congress Bioblitz

**Where** Sydney Olympic Park

## 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.seraaustralasia.com>

## 13th November

9am-4pm

## AABR Symposium

**Rebuilding ecosystems – what are the principles?**

**Where** Teachers Federation Conference Centre, Surry Hills

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

<http://www.aabr.org.au/aabr-symposium-in-november-book-now>

## 13th November

## The AABR AGM

will be held at 4 pm after the Symposium

### What is happening on your area?

Send us information of events in your area. Drop us a line [newsletter@aabr.org.au](mailto:newsletter@aabr.org.au)



#### President

Tein McDonald  
[president@aabr.org.au](mailto:president@aabr.org.au)

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#### Committee members

Heather Stolle, Elisabeth Dark, Spencer Shaw, Kate Low, Scott Meier, Neridah Davies

#### Northeast NSW/ Southeast QLD subcommittee

Mike Delaney 02 6621 9588  
[miked@envite.org.au](mailto:miked@envite.org.au)

## 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  
Suite 2, 89 Jones Street Ultimo NSW 2007  
0407 002 921**

**[www.aabr.org.au](http://www.aabr.org.au)  
[enquiries@aabr.org.au](mailto:enquiries@aabr.org.au)**

ABN: 33 053 528 029 ARBN: 059 120 802

#### Membership fees

Individuals	\$30 (unwaged \$15)
Organisations ( <i>does not confer membership to individuals in that organisation</i> )	
• Business (less than 5 staff)	\$120
• Business (more than 5-20 staff)	\$300
• Business (More than 20 staff)	\$480
Government	\$60
Not for profit	\$30 ( <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 Louise Brodie [newsletter@aabr.org.au](mailto:newsletter@aabr.org.au) 0407 068 688

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