



AABR NEWS

Australian Association of Bush Regenerators NSW

Nº 100
September
2008

AABR walks and talks

Bushland topsoil translocation

One step from the tip: another option for bushland topsoil from construction sites

Who Led by Mark Walters

When Friday 26 September 10:00am to 1:00pm

Where JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve, Terrey Hills, Sydney (car park at end of Thompson Drive)

Cost free

Bring closed shoes, hat, water, raincoat, jumper

RSVP by Monday 21 September to Danny Hirschfeld 0412 320 295 membership@aabr.org.au

Topsoil from 2 developments sites, in the endangered Duffys Forest ecological community, was relocated to 2 degraded recipient sites as a condition of development consent.

The natural regeneration of native plants on both sites was diverse, spectacularly so on the 2nd site, including many difficult to propagate species.

Mark Walters is a TAFE teacher in Conservation & Land Management and a former council officer. Mark was involved in these 2 topsoil translocation projects in the Terrey Hills area from inception to the completion of the 5 year monitoring project.

Weeds and biodiversity conservation

aiming for holistic management

Plus AABR AGM

Who Dr Paul Downey DECC

When Tuesday 14 October 7:00pm

Where: Maiden Theatre, Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney. Access and parking on Mrs Macquaries Road (Art Gallery Rd). The entrance is 100m north of the Art Gallery

Cost: Entry by donation. AABR members and subscribers \$3, others \$5

RSVP: Bookings preferred 0407 002 921

Supper provided

Paul's work focuses on the biodiversity under threat from weeds, rather than the weeds themselves.

Paul's talk will include: weeds as a Key Threatening Process; Threat Abatement Plans—particularly for Bitou Bush and Lantana; the effects of climate change on weed invasion; and monitoring the effectiveness of weed management.

Dr Paul Downey has a PhD in plant invasion into natural ecosystems and for the past 6 years has been working with NPWS/DECC co-ordinating on and off-park statewide weed management projects.

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President's Perspective

Hi Folks

Welcome to the 100th issue of AABR News! Technology has come along a bit since AABR first started over 20 years ago and we thought you might like to see a colour version for this landmark edition! You can continue to receive future AABR News in full colour if you elect to receive it by email, and of course it saves trees too, so let us know if you would like to get it electronically. It's been a while since our last edition but there's been a lot going on in the meantime. La Nina has kept this part of the world wetter in the last 12 months than in many recent years and the bush around here has responded in kind with some spectacular flower shows this winter and spring. I know many out there have had to cope with work down time and increases in weed growth during this time which throws us a few more challenges, but it is nice to see some real growth on sites which have been somewhat slow to regenerate in recent years.

Recently I have been involved with a working group for a forum for bush regenerators and other professionals in the industry to take place in August/September next year – Restoring Biodiversity 09. Many agencies and organisations are involved with the organising group for what we hope will be a great opportunity for those involved with on ground works to catch up on some of the new science relating to managing bushland and the ways in which we recover it. We also want to look at the industry itself and how it will continue through the era of climate change, carbon trading and other new developments in the political landscape etc. We have a website up with a survey designed to get your input as to what you would like to hear about at this forum, which you will find at www.restoringbiodiversity09.org.au/ so please have a look and take just a few minutes to give us some feedback- there's been a big response so far and thankyou to everyone that has taken the time, it's been very helpful for us.

From this survey, improving workers' conditions is appearing as a hot topic. This is obviously not a new issue for us all. The first step we'll be taking is to contact the bush regen contractors. If anyone has any views or wants to assist, whether they're from the office or the field, don't hesitate to contact us – see contact details on the back page. At the same time, AABR has been looking into what's involved in setting up a Professional Business Association. We've looked at some models in related industries. Again we'll be contacting the contractors to gauge their interest.

Some months back I managed to get down to Canberra for a day to hear about the work they've been doing on

provenance, seed collection and seed production areas. There are truly some fantastic projects going on down there at the moment and the research into plant genetics has started to answer some of the many questions about provenance and seed collection for revegetation projects. In a nutshell it seems that there are greater issues relating to the size of populations being collected from than there are in terms geographic distance, being that populations under 100-200 have a high risk of going into an inbreeding cycle leading to decline. The people at Florabank have been quick to update their guidelines as new information comes to light, so check out the Florabank website for more information.

Happy regening!

Matt

Welcome new members

Brendan Stephen	Peter Juniper
Donna Fitton	Monica Nugent
Julie Gooding	Vivien Howard
Rodney Spaz	Chris Scott
Adam Cavallaro	Jennifer Thornton
Melissa Coyle	Paul Buckingham
Loretta Fennell	

From Issue 23, 1991. Catriona McKay's illustrations featured in many early newsletters. The annual dinner was a fundraiser to cover the insurance bill.



AABR News celebrates 100 issues

Virginia Bear, AABR Newsletter editor

Since AABR formed in 1986 the bush regen industry has evolved and expanded—as we would have hoped and expected. More surprising has been the revolution in desktop publishing, as this story tells.

In the words of Toni McKay, founding member and AABR secretary for many years, “Its good to see that from such humble beginnings such a quality production has come about...Things were so different in the early days when the newsletter was typed on a borrowed Olivetti portable typewriter, cut and pasted on our kitchen table and run off on Willoughby Council’s photocopier”. (Willoughby library offered a community discount).

Warren Jack became editor in 1990. He bought his first computer in 92 and set up the news in Microsoft Word version 2.

The news also graduated to a professional printer (Snap at Epping), relieving the news team from copying, collating and stapling. One copy was printed on an office printer and taken to Snap for them to photocopy.

The format changed from A4 stapled in the corner, to A3, folded and stapled in the middle (called saddle stitching). The news was ‘locked in’ to multiples of 4 pages, and the current 12 page format became a standard. Previously the number of pages had varied.

Our faithful contributors used to mail articles on floppy disc (what were they again?—my computer doesn’t read them!), or on paper. In 1995, Warren bought a scanner and software that converted the scanned image to editable text. It seemed very high tech. We haven’t had to do this for years now because everything comes in electronically.

I have been putting the news together since 2000, when I created the previous layout in MS Word 97. Word never really liked our newsletter, and used to crash frequently, losing the lot (too much formatting!?). MS Publisher was better. In 2002 I bought the first Adobe Creative Suite with InDesign and Acrobat, and it became whole lot easier.

Email was a huge breakthrough and we rapidly became reliant on it. It was easy to send drafts to people to check, and reminders about deadlines. It was no longer essential for the newsletter committee to gather in one place for meetings.

What a time saver to email the file to the printer!—no more mad rush to print the pages and drive to the printer—just one trip to pick it the finished newsletters.

We used to be very strict about timing the newsletters to give notice for AABR’S events as it was pretty much our only means of publicity. Now we can send email notices. It’s taken some of the pressure off.

Back issues are being put up on the web, so are immediately accessible to anyone anywhere in the world with an internet connection.

It’s possible to search the News electronically for particular words and phrases. Sections show up in Google searches. Who could have imagined that in 1986? Snap at Castle Hill have done an excellent job for the last 8 years, often completing the print run the same day they received the original—we were usually in a hurry.

Now for the first time we are distributing the news electronically as well as in print.

As membership grew so did the scale of folding night. Usually a fun social occasion with wine and pizza, it was a long session when one or 2 of us end up doing the whole thing. Now that over half of our subscribers have asked to receive the News by email, its going to be much more manageable.

Many have helped with folding, some regularly. Louise Brodie deserves a special mention for having helped to fold nearly every newsletter for the last 13 years.

Attentive proof readers, particularly Danie Ondinea and Danny Hirschfeld, have taken much of the fear out of the editor’s role, and helped our publication look its professional best.

For a while I have felt the News needed a makeover, and now it needs to look good on screen in PDF format as well as photocopied in black and white.

AABR sponsored me to create the new design (the editor’s job is voluntary). I generated the graphics in Adobe Illustrator and the layout in InDesign.

My involvement with the newsletter has been rewarding in many ways—keeping in touch with people and keeping up with what is happening in the industry.

Thanks to everyone who have made it possible—sent articles, set up layouts, photocopied, printed labels, folded and posted over the last 22 years. It has always been a group effort and many others not mentioned here have helped get us through 100 issues.

Having most of the editing and I.T. sorted, the main challenge is ensuring a regular supply of relevant and interesting content.

Your stories and suggestions are always needed!got something interesting to say?—then have a go.

We are happy to talk about an idea or help you develop a draft, and would still welcome something hand written on actual paper if that’s your style.

AABR Walk and Talk: Jamison Creek restoration project, Penrith

Janet Rannard, Bushland Management Officer,
Penrith City Council

17 people attended the field day on Wednesday 12 March 2008, to see how Penrith Council and bushcare volunteers have been repairing some very degraded areas along Jamison Creek.

Jamison Creek flows from the Blue Mountains escarpment through the suburbs of Leonay and Emu Plains in Penrith local government area in Sydney's west, to enter the Nepean River north of the M4 bridge.

The creek area can be divided into three parts.

Leonay Reserve

Leonay Reserve is the upper, western end of the creek.

In 2005-06 a Department of Lands grant for \$6,000 was obtained for targeting Blackberry and Lantana in the upper catchment.

In 2006-07 a Community Water Grant to the value of \$28,000 was granted to improve water quality and creek bank surrounds, and Penrith City Council matched it dollar for dollar. This grant also involved forming a Bushcare community group and having an Open Day in May 2007.

In 2007-08 the Blue Mountains City Council applied for a grant (in partnership with Penrith City Council) to manage Shale-based EECs at a subcatchment scale. Penrith's contribution focuses on Leonay Reserve and is to a value of \$27,000. Contract work for this site was undertaken by Bushland Management Services.

Work that has been achieved along Jamison Creek within Leonay Oval includes weed removal, regeneration and revegetation. Some areas adjacent to the creek were badly infested with Honeysuckle and Blackberry. It was decided to undertake large bite-sized pieces (approximately 100 square metres) in a mosaic pattern to make the work more manageable, to minimise erosion and siltation, and to maintain sufficient surrounding vegetation for fauna protection.

Starting at the lower end near a footbridge into golf course property, the follow method was carried out:

- PCC staff would spray the weeds as far as their spray hoses would reach.

- After 4-6 weeks, once the weeds had died, they were then cut down using a hedge cutter to form a mulch on the ground
- Planting wetland sedges followed
- The next area was then sprayed and the method repeated; a total of four sections were treated in this way.

A creek length of approximately 400m has been treated in this way over a period of twelve months. Inspection of the site recently has shown that there has been almost no regrowth of Honeysuckle or Blackberry although there are a few annual weeds present. *Persicaria decipiens* has 'regenerated' and the sedge planting consisted of *Alisma plantago-aquatica*, *Cyperus exaltatus*, *Eleocharis sphacelata*, *Schoenoplectus validus*, *Baumea articulata*, *Bolboschoenus caldwellii*, *Juncus usitatus* and *Carex appressa*. Some of the planting was undertaken by volunteers in drought conditions and we were searching for damp areas to plant. Since then there has been rain and other areas were planted and weeded in gum boots!

Work has also been undertaken in the adjoining bushland. Weeds including Lantana, Privet, Balloon Vine, Turkey Rhubarb, Trad and Honeysuckle were treated. Bushland edges were 'strengthened' and extended by additional planting including *Eucalyptus eugenioides*, *Eucalyptus punctata*, *Melaleuca linariifolia*, *Melaleuca decora*, *Hakea sericea*, *Acacia falcata*, *Dodonaea viscosa*, *Bursaria spinosa*, *Callicoma serratifolia*, *Backhousia myrtifolia*, *Glochidion ferdinandi* and *Ficus coronata*. A total of 2800 (tubestock and hikos) were installed.

Jamison Creek then passes under the Russell Street intersection with the M4 into Hollier Reserve.

Hollier Reserve

Hollier Reserve is the middle section. This area is much more open with grassy mown areas. The creekline edge has had some planting in 1998-99 as a school planting day. PCC provided additional funding in 2007 and weed control plus some planting was undertaken. More recently the areas have had supplementary planting.

Contract work for this site was undertaken by Rehabitat.

Huntington Reserve

Huntington Reserve is the lower section. After crossing under Nepean Avenue the creek meanders sharply several times and is deeply incised. This area is degraded and was impenetrable. Weeds included a canopy of



Green Corps team clearing Lantana to gain access to Huntington Reserve



Green Corps working amongst Madeira Vine



Huntington Reserve on the day of the walk—dead Privet frilled and Anredera sprayed

Small-leaved Privet covered with Balloon vine and Madeira Vine. There were also areas of Lantana, Cat's Claw Creeper and *Maclura pomifera* present.

In 2006-07 PCC provided additional funding and weed control was started. Many areas required blanket spraying of vines and the Privets were drilled. Quite soon the dark interior of the Reserve changed to being more open and light.

At the same time a Green Corps application was successful and a team of 10 trainees with a team leader had Huntington Reserve as their primary work site. The team undertook primary weeding, informal step construction and planting.

A three year project has been assisted by the New South Wales Government through its Environmental Trust. The first year of the grant has just been completed. Revegetation has occurred in some areas, 4750 tubestock and hikos have so far been planted including some longstem tubestock. Plants included *Acacia binervia*, *A. floribunda*, *A. parramattensis*, *Angophora subvelutina*, *Breynia oblongifolia*, *Bursaria spinosa*, *Casuarina cunninghamiana*, *Eucalyptus amplifolia*, *E. saligna*, *E. tereticornis*, *Ficus coronata*, *Hibiscus heterophyllus*, *Leptospermum polygalifolium*, as well as native grasses and sedges.

Contract work for this site is being undertaken by The Good Bush People.

Future work

At Leonay Reserve I will be seeking additional funding to maintain areas that have been worked and to extend into new areas. I will also seek to involve the Leonay Golf Course on the adjacent side of the creek. There have been several unsuccessful attempts to liaise with the golf course in order for 'their' side of the creek to be rehabilitated. At Hollier Reserve the areas will be maintained and extended as time permits. At Huntington Reserve, work will continue over the next two years including more weed control and revegetation. The site is continuously monitored, and after the grant is completed maintenance work will continue.

Bitou Bush & Boneseed

The latest edition of Plant Protection Quarterly (Volume 23, number 1, 2008) is given over entirely to the proceedings of the national Bitou Bush and Boneseed Forum held in Geelong last year. It is a cornucopia of useful information for anyone with any interest in these two weeds of national significance. If your library can't get hold of it for you, contact the publishers via www.weedsinfo.com.au

Stop Phytophthora spreading

Unfortunately something we need to be increasingly aware of, this disease of native plants spreads by microscopic spores, particularly in moist conditions.

This policy was recently released by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney

Phytophthora disinfection procedures

Phytophthora cinnamomi ("Pc") is one of many soil-borne diseases that affect native plant species. While it is also known as "Die-back Disease", die-back may also have other causes (not all of them related to *Phytophthora*) in different areas, and for different plant species.

Pc damages native vegetation in many parts of southern Australia. Mud, carried on footwear, clothing, vehicles, tyres, equipment and tools, provides the ideal medium to spread *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. The following precautions should be applied before and after working in bushland to minimise the spread of Pc and other soil pathogens into new areas.

Remove soil or mud from footwear, trowels, spades, secateurs and other manual equipment with a brush or stick. (This includes ground-sheets, gaiters, or any camping gear in contact with the ground) Always carry a spray bottle containing 80% METHYLATED SPIRITS or ABSOLUTE ALCOHOL and 20% WATER to spray soles and sides of footwear.

Vehicles and bikes: Avoid driving or riding on unsealed roads or off-track in suspected areas of infection, particularly in wet conditions.

Use properly designed wash-down facilities if available i.e. not draining to soil or to natural watercourses. Hose vehicle thoroughly including under-chassis, to remove all mud.

If no special facilities are available, wash-down in area draining only to mains drainage.

When in the bush

- Stay on designated roads and tracks—do not take shortcuts.
- Consider rescheduling activities if the soil is wet.
- Report any unusual patches of dead or yellowing plants to local National Parks & Wildlife Service offices.

Proprietary disinfectants that will assist in killing pathogen spores include FarmCleanse, Biogram, Phytoclean Coolacide or other non-corrosive products. These can be used to wash down vehicles, machinery and larger, durable outdoor equipment. Most are readily available from farm suppliers and produce stores. Alternatively 1% ai sodium hyperchlorite or pool chlorine can be used but this can damage clothing and equipment

Further advice:

Plant Pathology Unit, Royal Botanic Gardens & Domain Trust

(02) 9231 8186 pddu@rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au

www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/plant_info/pests_diseases

Postal: Mrs Macquaries Rd, Sydney NSW 2000 (service charges may apply; phone before sending specimens).

Too keen to kill camphors?

A large program is being proposed to harvest camphor laurel to generate 'green electricity' at sugar mills—but is it really green? AABR has been helping to make sure.

Dr Tein McDonald, Chair of AABR Far North Coast NSW/South-east Queensland, says 'in many cases, stands of camphor laurel have high value as 'bridging

habitat' and immense potential as a 'starter' for rainforest restoration'.

Tweed Shire Council is developing to help landowners and Sunshine Electricity harvest camphor for the project, and AABR put together this set of guidelines to ensure camphor laurel harvest has a net benefit for the environment, rather than causing a net loss.

Australian Association of Bush Regenerators – Principles for use in guidelines for clearing of camphor laurel for co-generation in northern rivers, NSW

The case for 'camphor *harness*' rather than 'camphor *harvest*'

The previously most extensive rainforest type in northern NSW, Lowland Rainforest¹ has been reduced to less than 1% of its former range and is now listed as an Endangered Ecological Community (EEC) under the *NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (TSC Act 1995). Camphor laurel (*Cinnamomum camphora*), however, is important to the survival of this endangered ecosystem for two reasons. Firstly it is providing 'bridging habitat' for many of this community's threatened plant and animal species (including a number of rainforest birds that have now become dependent on camphor laurel as a food source) (Date *et al.* 1996). Secondly, the presence of camphor laurel is also providing a mechanism for rainforest plants to be gradually re-dispersed across the landscape, potentially offering a real opportunity for broad scale lowland rainforest recovery if camphor laurel is managed in a responsible and informed way (Neilan *et al.* 2005).

This mechanism is offered because – even though camphor laurel is an exotic invader of rainforest country in northern NSW and south-east Queensland – it has many traits similar to those of our region's rainforest species and so can function in a similar way to local rainforest colonisers. Because of this 'rainforest colonising' function, camphor laurel can be 'harnessed' to assist the dispersal of rainforest seed and provide habitats for germination and sapling development. This facilitation is considered a key to the recovery of the over-cleared native rainforests of northern NSW.

We therefore support the idea of camphor 'harness' rather than 'harvest'. Many stands dominated by this species contain surprisingly high numbers of rainforest species which would be damaged by harvest. Conversely, if these stands continue to be subject to poisoning over time (leaving the dead 'stags' standing so they still provide perches to 'harness' fruit-dispersing birds), rainforest recovery is likely to occur at an ecologically viable scale for the first time since the rainforest was originally cleared, at about one third of the cost of planting (Kanowski *et al.* 2008).

Apart from our concerns about loss of habitat and restoration opportunity cost, our organisation also has concerns about the management of sites after camphor laurel has been harvested. There is a high risk of exacerbating weed problems at the site if camphor laurel stands are clear felled as not only camphor laurel

but many other species of weed are characteristic of these sites and will regenerate rapidly. For such high levels of disturbance to result in low weed status sites, very high levels of skill and resources would have to be invested post-harvest, levels that are not likely to be available in the models proposed.

The following set of principles has been developed by the Australian Association of Bush Regenerators (AABR - NNSW/SEQ) to inform the development of guidelines for clearing camphor in the context of harvesting for co-generation. It provides information for distribution to stakeholders in the co-generation project, focusing on a spectrum of conditions under which, at one end of the spectrum, camphor laurel stands could be clear-fell harvested with low impact on native vegetation communities while, at the other end, such harvesting of camphor should not occur as it would have a damaging effect on regional vegetation rainforest and its restoration.

1. Recommendations of areas where camphor would be ecologically appropriate/inappropriate

For camphor harvesting for electricity cogeneration to result in a net benefit for the environment, the following spectrum of suitable/unsuitable scenarios of camphor clearing may be considered useful in guiding which sites are appropriate.

GREEN LIGHT AREAS (*i.e. area where camphor may have potential for harvesting after sound site assessment*):

- Areas where camphor is growing as a 'pure stand' in an area suitable for sclerophyll restoration rather than rainforest IF:
 - the stand is not near or within high conservation value vegetation;
 - access to the site does not damage any native vegetation; and,
 - is subject to ecologically sound sclerophyll restoration planning and implementation soon after harvest.
- Areas of flat or undulating land that the landholder wishes to clear for pasture, horticulture or silviculture IF this area:
 - does not contain threatened species;

¹ The formal name under the TSC Act is 'Lowland rainforest in the North Coast and Sydney Bioregions'

- does not contain lowland subtropical rainforest trees over 12 years old; or
- is not in a local government-designated wildlife corridor or location where rainforest could be significantly extended
- is subject to planting or seeding and weed control soon after harvest.

ORANGE LIGHT AREAS (*i.e. areas where alternative camphor harvesting methods or compensation need to be put in place.*)

- Any area that contains rainforest species or is sufficiently near rainforest vegetation to allow a rainforest to be significantly extended.
- Areas of steeper slope.

RED LIGHT AREAS (*i.e. areas where no camphor harvest should occur*)

- Steep land
- Riparian areas
- Any area that contains threatened species
- Any area containing rainforest trees over 12 years in age
- Any area within a designated or potential local government rainforest corridor
- Any area adjacent to or near a rainforest that could feasibly allow the rainforest to be extended
- Any area of (or near) high conservation value remnant vegetation
- Any area that the landholder wishes to convert from camphor to rainforest in the most cost-efficient manner.

2. Potential for compatibility between harvesting and ecological restoration

Method of harvest

- Clear fell harvesting of camphor laurel could occur in areas where restoration is not possible or desired. It is not compatible, however, with rainforest restoration principles and practices because camphor laurel stands very often contain native species which would be destroyed during the clearing process.
- Selective clearing, while less damaging, is also not desirable as this is also likely to damage regenerating native species.
- Both approaches also remove the dead tree, which is suboptimal for restoration as the dead tree plays an important role in attracting seed-dispersing birds and providing some level of shade, shelter and

rotting timber for the regenerating forest.

- Instead, as camphor laurel is considered a useful first stage in rainforest recovery, landholders wishing to achieve rainforest restoration should prefer the method of poisoning the camphor laurel and retaining the dead stem or 'stag' so that rainforest species can then emerge under the dripline and continue to be dispersed to the stag by birds. Such treatment is optimally timed to when the native species have been dispersed to the site and are ready to emerge after the killing of the camphor. As this process of dispersal can take some years, it is desirable to allow a mature camphor stand to remain in situ for some years prior to this 'camphor conversion' treatment.

Potential for revegetation after camphor harvest

- Planting of rainforest species and ongoing weed management can be undertaken after clear-fell camphor harvesting. However, this approach is likely to cost the landholder more (particularly when the camphor stumps will remain) than poisoning the stand in situ and relying largely upon natural regeneration (supplemented by some enrichment planting as affordable.)
- If a landholder can afford to invest in plantings, the money would be best spent either on plantings in areas where regeneration of the desirable species is not possible (or this requires supplementation) or on strategically managing a larger area of camphor forest to facilitate the regeneration of rainforest over time.

Weed management after harvest

Where harvest is appropriate (*i.e. where the site is not to be restored to rainforest*) it is recommended that a management plan be developed which clearly outlines the commitment to ongoing weed management and the vegetation goals post-harvest, including buffering off site impacts. This should include indication of sufficient skill and resources to carry out the works.

3. Implications to agencies

Information for landholders

As landholders receive no remuneration for their camphor laurel, the only benefit to landholders for having their camphor laurel cleared would be if their site was in a 'green light' area and they did not want to convert the site to rainforest.

However, some landholders (even those highly motivated to reinstate rainforest on their land) may not be aware that camphor laurel is a significant aid to rainforest restoration and may mistakenly assume that

harvesting will be a useful first stage in the restoration process. Therefore, all landholders need to be provided with information on the role of camphor in restoration (to allow them to make appropriate environmental decisions) prior to any agreement to clear camphor on their land.

Planning issues

- As Lowland Subtropical Rainforest is listed as an EEC under the TSC Act, local governments in areas where rainforest was a previously dominant vegetation type should assess their shires to identify priority areas to facilitate the recovery of this vegetation community.
- The listing also implies some responsibility by local government to inform landholders of the listing and to encourage them to participate in the recovery of rainforest
- In green light areas, a plan should be provided to address environmental issues including weed management and native habitat protection. In red light areas, harvesting should not be permitted. In orange light areas, compensation must be made for the loss of this habitat.

- Where compensation is required, the following works should be considered:
 - staged harvest and revegetation that facilitates habitat improvement.
 - compensatory regeneration works in remnant vegetation or regrowth areas
 - compensatory regeneration or reintroduction treatments in other camphor stands of similar or higher value, or
 - compensatory planting (including locally indigenous native laurels) to expand or connect strategically important native vegetation stands or enrich other camphor stands.

References

Date E. M., Recher H. F., Ford H. A. and Stewart D. A. (1996) The conservation and ecology of rainforest pigeons in northeastern New South Wales. *Pacific Conservation Biology* **2**, 299-308.

Kanowski, J, Catterall Carla P. and Neilan W (2008) The potential value of weedy regrowth for rainforest restoration: the case of Camphor Laurel in northern New South Wales. *Ecological Management & Restoration* 9:2 (in press)

Neilan W., Catterall C. P. and Kanowski J. (2005) A New Role for Weeds in Rainforest Restoration? Rainforest CRC, Cairns. Available from www.griffith.edu.au/centre/cics/

Outstanding nominations for the 'top 20' restoration projects

After the closing date in July, a specially commissioned committee from the Journal of Ecological Management and Restoration has been reading through about 50 nominations for the 'Top 20 restoration projects in Australasia' (i.e. Australia and New Zealand).

"The selected projects will be announced in September. But cutting the high number of projects down to 20 is going to be difficult as the standard is very high and many of the projects are very inspiring" says chair of the committee Tein McDonald. "We have entries from all states of Australia and a wide range of biomes and ecosystem types including rainforest, grassland, sclerophyll, wetland and coral reefs. I suspected there was a lot of restoration work going on out there but this call for nominations has brought a lot of exciting projects out of the woodwork".

Once the selection committee has made the difficult decision of trimming down the list to a manageable number, the project managers will be invited to profile their projects on their own websites, with links made to the website of the Global Restoration Network.

The vision is to have all the projects linked to the GRN website—hosted by the Society for Ecological Restoration International (SERI) by February 2009. This will be the time that the Society will be pulling out all stops to promote its international restoration conference to be held in Perth in August.

All nominees will be sent information about how to submit papers to the conference. But any readers interested in presenting papers to the conference should keep an eye on the website: www.seri2009.com.au/ To access the GRN website, visit www.globalrestorationnetwork.org/

AABR Talk: Restoration project monitoring – why we need it, and how to do it

This talk, presented by Ian Perkins (consulting restoration ecologist and teacher in Applied Environmental Management at Ryde TAFE (Northern Sydney Institute)) at the AABR Annual General Meeting in October 2007 is now available online.

The entire talk (audio, slides and referenced reports) has been converted into an electronic format that can be viewed at any time from the following website: webconf.det.nsw.edu.au/nsirydeclmmonitoring07/

You will need an internet connection (broadband is best) and have installed the free Adobe Flash Player plug-in (www.adobe.com.au/) to view the presentation.

For further information: Ian Perkins (Ryde TAFE) (02) 9448-6385
ian.perkins@tafensw.edu.au

The image shows a screenshot of a presentation slide titled "Restoration Project Monitoring" with the subtitle "Why we need it and how to do it." The slide content includes a leaf graphic and text identifying it as a presentation to the Australian Association of Bush Regenerators (AABR) Annual General Meeting in October 2007, presented by Ian Perkins. To the right of the main slide is a control panel with several tabs: "Outline", "Search", and "Slide Show". Below the main slide is a navigation bar with a play/pause button, a progress slider, and a volume control icon. A table of contents is visible on the right side of the control panel, listing slides such as "Introduction", "Culture of Progress", "Ecological Methods", "Key Terminology", "Best Practice Tools", "Adaptive Management", and "Adaptive Management".

To control the presentation, use the controls illustrated above

- 1 Play / pause the presentation.
- 2 Jump to start or end of current slide.
- 3 Slider for current slide—drag to move forward or backwards on the current slide.
- 4 Sound level control.
- 5 Attachments—click to see attached documents available for download.
- 6 Outline Tab—showing you the list and title of all of the slides in the presentation (their key theme and length). You can click on any of the
- 7 Thumbnail tab—showing you the list of all of the slides in the presentation as visual 'thumbnails'. You can click on any of the slides in this list to jump to that section of the presentation.
- 8 Search tab—use this to search for a word used on one of the slides in the presentation. You will be able to jump directly to that slide.
- 9 Sidebar slider—drag this to show the contents of the list of slides / thumbnails.

Merging of TAFE CLM training package with Ag and Hort?

AABR members will recall AABR made extensive submissions to the TAFE consultation process when the merging of the three training packages (Horticulture, Agriculture, and CLM (Conservation and Land Management—including what used to be called Bushland Regeneration)) was open for stakeholder input. Well, rumours that the merger of the training packages will be going ahead in 2009 have been confirmed by David Greentree from Agrifoods Industry Council.

David stated that Agrifoods Industry Council has given their commitment that they would 'maintain the integrity' of the separate industry sectors—through processes to customize guides for each subject so they can be interpreted specifically for the sector. This is unlikely to solve the existing concerns about the CLM training package being already too generic but it may minimize this situation becoming worse.

This also means that a separate review of the CLM training package will not go ahead. Instead, review will be done gradually by a 'continuous improvement' model but, as there are 5 other Training Packages ready for this, CLM is not the first cab off the rank.

AABR's CLM Training Package Working Group will continue to pursue any opportunities for industry consultation and advocacy.

Any suggestions, contact Tein McDonald on 6682 2885 or teinm@ozemail.com.au

Pinebusting in Kosciuszko National Park (a different kind of holiday)

Jane Gye and Nancy Pallin

For a number of years a group of us has been spending a few January days walking in the Snowy. To escape the heat of the extensive shadeless areas following the massive bushfires of 2003, an unburnt area to the north of Kiandra was our destination in 2007. It is in the Goobarragandra Wilderness Area, but despite its relatively unspoilt state it is infested with feral horses and pines. Someone mentioned that we might return the following year and, if National Parks approved, kill some pines (the horses are another issue that is more political!)

The pines originally spread from a plantation established in the Yarrangobilly area in 1923. Now however there are huge areas of pine plantation around Tumut and the northern Snowy so the problem is a long-term one. The pines spread by wind-borne seed and birds. *Pinus contorta* was the predominant species we found, but there were at least 2 other species including *P. radiata*.

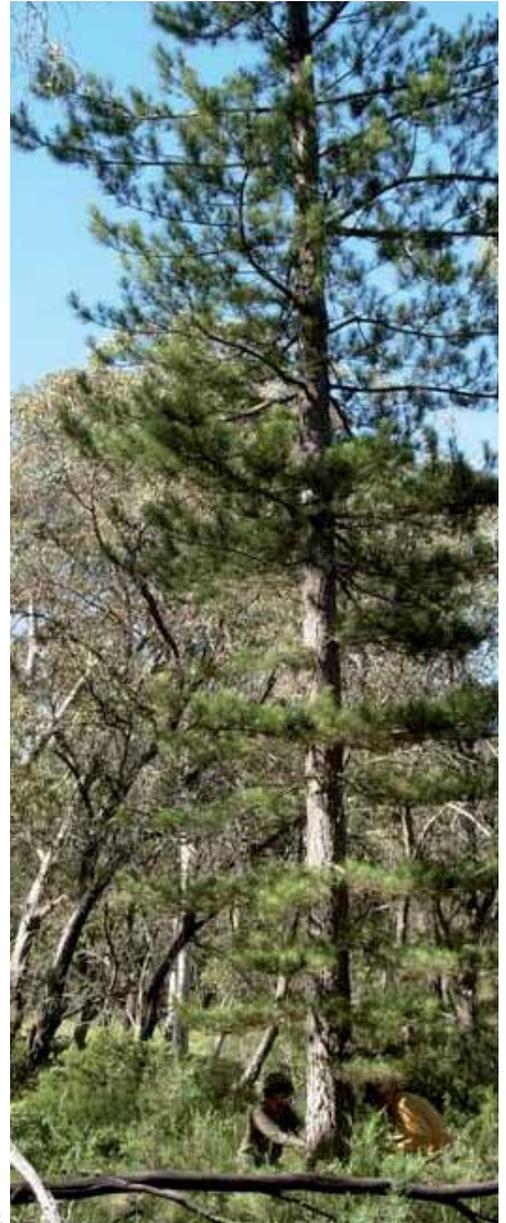
The National Parks ranger probably thought we were mad, but nevertheless agreed to support us. He met us at the appointed place and explained that pines do not require herbicide, but lopping or ringbarking. He provided us with a few tools to supplement ours which had to be relatively lightweight as we were walking and camping for 5 days. Not having to carry herbicide was good news.

Over the 5 days we covered a linear distance of approximately 20 kilometres, up Starvation Creek and down the Yarrangobilly River, but made many forays either side of our route chasing pine trees. We felled what we could with our bush saws, but many were large and the only solution was ringbarking.

Our tally for the trip was 549 pines cut down or ringbarked (give or take a few!) over 260.5 total volunteer hours, valued at \$9,117.50 (calculated at \$35 per hour).

Many pines still remain in the area we covered but this exercise gives an indication of the resources needed to deal with the problem.

Photos: R & N Pallin, S & J Gye



Ringbarking a very tall *Pinus radiata* with a bow saw.



Grove of young pines of various stages at the edge of a swamp.



Ringbarking a pine with a folding saw - a larger bow saw would have been quicker and easier.

What's happening

10-25 September

Weedbuster Weeks - NSW mid north coast

...fabulous scenery, great company, morning tea provided! free camping in return for weedbusting!

Where close to Hat Head and South West Rocks

Contact Ranger, Cath Ireland.

02 6566 7589 F 02 6566 7593

PO Box 25 South West Rocks NSW 2431

Sunday 21 to Wednesday 24 September

Queensland Landcare Conference

Where Monto, QLD

Infinity: sustainability by design. Four streams: landscapes, lifestyles, livelihoods and landscape.

Contact www.qldlandcareconference.com.au or

www.landcare.org.au/Conference.htm

Samantha Morris (07) 3012 7617

sam@wombatcreative.com.au

Friday 26 September

RSVP by Monday 21 September

Bushland topsoil translocation

One step from the tip: another option for bushland topsoil from construction sites

Where JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve, Terrey Hills, Sydney

Organiser AABR

Contact Danny Hirschfeld 0412 320 295

membership@aabr.org.au

Tuesday 14 October

Weeds and biodiversity conservation

AABR AGM

Where Maiden Theatre, RBG Sydney

Organiser AABR

RSVP: Bookings preferred 0407 002 921

Monday 20 to Thursday 23 October

Veg Futures - Australia's national vegetation conference

Where Toowoomba, Queensland

Organiser Greening Australia and Land & Water Australia

A comprehensive, practical conference about the nation's most pressing challenges for vegetation management in regional and peri-urban landscapes.

With keynote addresses, workshops, and paddock sessions, looking from the continental scale to the paddock, and with a diverse array of researchers, practitioners and farmers.

Tackles the big questions with a focus on biodiversity, water quality and landscape resilience in the face of climate change.

1. What is the role and value of vegetation in the regional landscape?
2. Who pays for vegetation management?
3. How do we balance competing demands for conservation and production?
4. What are we doing about the threats to native vegetation?
5. How do we know if we are making a difference?

Wednesday 12 and Thursday 13 November

Conference. Saving a sunburnt country: the challenges of species adaptation in a heating land

Australia's plants and animals and ecosystems are already feeling the effects of climate change. As one of the few wealthy mega bio-diverse countries, Australia is in a position to make a major contribution to protecting the world's biodiversity.

Organiser Nature Conservation Council of NSW

Contact Phoebe Ashton. Level 2/301 Kent Street, Sydney NSW 2000

02 9279 2466 Fax: (02) 9279 2499

pashton@nccnsw.org.au

Saturday 29 November

9:00am to 5:00pm

Royal Zoological Society NSW Annual Forum: Science under siege—the future of zoology.

Where ANZ Conservation Lecture Theatre (top car park) Taronga Zoo, Mosman

Organiser Royal Zoological Society NSW

www.rzsns.org.au 02 9969 7336

Monday 1 to Friday 5 December

33rd annual ESA conference. Interactions in science, interactions in nature

Where University of Sydney NSW

Organiser Ecological Society of Australia

www.ecolsoc.org.au/2008SydneyConference.htm

10 symposia, including Plant-pollinator interactions, Ecological responses to fire, Native seeds – germinating science for regeneration success, and Biological responses to climate change – beyond the niche.

16 – 21 August 2009

10th international congress of ecology: ecology in a changing climate

Where Brisbane

Organiser INTECOL (International Congress for Ecology)

23 - 27 August 2009

World conference on ecological restoration: making change in a changing world

Where Perth

Organiser Society for Ecological Restoration International (SERI)

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

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

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

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

AABR Newsletter Subscription	(all interested people)	\$20:00 p.a
AABR Membership	(appropriately qualified & experienced bush regenerators)	\$25:00 p.a
AABR Contractors & Consultants List	(appropriately qualified & experienced bush regenerators)	\$25:00 p.a

Newsletter contributions and comments are welcome

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

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