



AABR NEWS

Australian Association of Bush Regenerators NSW

Nº 117
July
2013

President's Perspective 2

Changes ahead for TAFE 3

Gap Road Wetland—
some regeneration
surprises after fire 4

News on ticks and Lyme
disease 5

Bush regen holidays 8

Carp stories 9

Whatever happened to
myrtle rust? 10

Regional biodiversity
working group for NSW
Northern Rivers 11

Island feral control
updates 10

Indian myna control
successes 11

Other notes and news 14

What's happening 16

join us for

AABR'S

regeneration

Sydney Olympic Park
Thursday 3 October

*We will be celebrating the launch
of the revitalised AABR*

The day will include:

- **8:30** meet for a cuppa
- **9.00** ceremonial switch to new membership system
- **9:15** a mini-seminar showcasing some brilliant bush regeneration and reconstruction projects (reflecting AABR's new scope)
- **12:30** lunch
- **1:30** a visit to some of the outstanding restoration work being carried out in the parklands.

Sydney Olympic Park includes over 144 bird species, and three endangered ecological communities (Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest, Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest, and Coastal Saltmarsh), as well as protected marine vegetation (Mangrove Forest). It is the home of sea-eagle cam (photo above by Jon Irvine)—live view of nesting white bellied sea eagles. www.sea-eaglecam.org/index.html

*Travelling from outside Sydney?
We hope you can!*

We chose Sydney because there is a large population of interested people within easy travelling distance. However we are keen to assist and encourage regenerators and friends wherever they live to be part of this event.

If you would like a billet for your stay, or if you are in Sydney and can offer a billet please let us know.

If there is enough interest we will arrange a social event on the day before the launch, perhaps also a visit to some regen sites on the day after.

- be inspired
- be informed
- catch up with friends and colleagues meet new like-minded people
- help AABR to support our industry and protect our natural heritage.

RSVP and further details

Jane Gye
secretary@aabr.org
0415 647409

Heather Stolle
heatherstolle@hotmail.com
0407 002 921

Photos needed for our new website

Can you help? We need good photos of:

- bush regenerators at work
- bush regeneration sites
- flora and fauna.

Photographers get a credit and a years free membership. Please contact newsletter@aabr.org ASAP!

President's Perspective

Hi all,

Launch of the 'renewed AABR'. We are making good progress with preparing for the launch of the changes to AABR—which will be held on Thursday 3 October at Sydney Olympic Park. The event will include a half-day mini-seminar showcasing some brilliant bush regeneration and reconstruction projects, followed by a lunch and a guided walk around some of the outstanding restoration work being carried out at Sydney Olympic Park.

The talks have been selected to illustrate AABR's new philosophic statement and broadened scope. They will highlight the pivotal role played by regeneration processes (not to mention skilled regenerators, project designers, nursery workers and seed collectors) in the recovery of any damaged natural area—whether the main initial approaches are assisted natural regeneration, reconstruction or type conversion (and often at least two of the three are operating).

So far we have commitment from an exciting range of speakers but if anyone has an outstanding story to tell, now is the time to contact AABR about it.

Website redesign. Part of the process of renewal of AABR is a complete redesign of our website (being undertaken by Mitra Gusheh guided by a group of willing committee members).

We are particularly keen to receive news of any sites that can be profiled on the new website and used during the promotion phase. So here is your chance to make your site famous!

Get your ideas in to Jane Gye as soon as possible so that the site can be up and running by the end of July!

Email your ideas to: president@aabr.org.au or secretary@aabr.org.au without delay.

Reforms to VET in NSW. Thanks to the scores of people who responded to AABR's email campaign in recent weeks to provide feedback to the Department of Education on proposed changes to the way TAFE and similar courses are funded in NSW. The main concern is the intention to introduce substantially increased fees as of next July—for courses which in the past have been heavily subsidised (see more details in the 'VET reforms' article on page 3).

AABR has formed a small 'VET working group' made up of committee members, contractors and others to follow this issue through and make sure that we convey through the consultation process the important 'public good' nature of our industry and its fairly low financial rewards. Please keep your eye out for any further calls for help in the months to come.

Tein McDonald
President

Representing AABR

In the last year your committee has taken up invitations to be represented at:

- **Ministerial Quarterly Roundtable State** (Minister of Environment Robyn Parker)—where peak environment groups recommend funding priorities for the portfolio.
- **National Restoration Standards Working Group** (Society for Ecological Restoration Australasia)—where AABR is helping to draft a brief for a standard to be developed on behalf of peak NGOs involved in restoration.

These and other roles being played by AABR help the committee keep AABR abreast of changes and provide opportunities for us to influence policy at state and national level.

AABR's logo

Following the recent consultation about changes to AABR, we decided now was not the time for a new name or logo. However we have taken the opportunity to give the logo a bit of a tweak.

People sometimes saw a sailboat in the old version. Not that anyone was too worried about it though—it took 27 years for this concern to be formally addressed.



New AABR Brochure

AABR has a new brochure, finished just in time for the NCC bushfire conference last month. It was produced by Virginia Bear (newsletter editor, and owner of graphic design business Little Gecko) together with Tein McDonald. Take a look at aabr.org.au/images/stories/about_files/AABRbrochure050916.pdf

(Note the AABR website is quite slow to access at present. Please bear with it as a new website will be launched at the end of August).

Welcome to new members

Paul Gadsby
Mel Tan
Ian Stromberg
Diana Smit
Richard Blacklock
Erryn Blacklock

“Smart and Skilled” – big changes ahead for VET courses

Tein McDonald

Vocational Education and Training (VET) in Australia is going through massive changes, state-by-state. Currently the NSW Department of Education and Communities is consulting with industry about a package of reforms referred to as ‘Smart and Skilled’ to be introduced throughout NSW on 1 July 2014.

While there are many positive aspects of the ‘Smart and Skilled’ reforms, one concern is that substantially increased fees will be charged for the Conservation and Land Management (CLM) Certificate IV and Diploma in a year’s time.

The size of the increase has yet to be decided. There will be an exemption for Certs II and III but only for those without another Cert III or higher qualification. A ‘HECS-type’ loan process will be offered to students but only if the CLM courses are on the list of critical courses.

The conservation and land management industry in general has been brought to the table very late in the consultation process. But AABR has made strong representations to the agencies involved in the industry consultation to argue for all our courses to be on the ‘critical skills list’.

We have also made submissions to the tribunal investigating fee setting and to the NSW Environment Minister and attended three meetings with AgriFood Skills Australia, the government organisation charged with the industry consultation. We will continue to do all we can to seek appropriate fee setting (and exemptions for registered volunteers) to reflect the public good nature of the industry and relatively low level of private profit received.

Thanks to all AABR members and networks who responded to our alert and made a submission to the NSW Department of Education and Communities’ ‘have your say’ process—all repeating the same message.

What next? AABR has formed a small working group to undertake the following further actions.

1. Make further submissions to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) regarding setting appropriate fees and avoiding ones that will slow our industry.
2. Lobby members of Parliament, the Department of Education, and Communities for exemptions for registered volunteers working on public lands. (This may have a reasonable chance of success as the state government is aware of the value of volunteers in the management of natural areas at local and state government levels, and there are procedures for exemptions to be made in special cases).
3. Formally participate in the ‘industry validation’ component of ‘Smart and Skilled’. The reform package includes a stronger requirement for industry to validate courses offered by Registered Training Organisation’s (RTOs). This is potentially an improvement on the current situation and AABR is determined to ensure we are in on the ground floor of the process to ensure each RTO’s course is validated to the standard required by our industry.
4. Pursue categorisation of the CLM Diploma for funding through a traineeship. AABR, with AgriFood assistance, will make a case for government funding to be available to subsidise our courses to be undertaken through traineeships.
5. Improve our existing training package courses (particularly Natural Area Regeneration Cert III) through AgriFood’s ‘continuous improvement’ process to ensure they have as good an industry fit as possible.

Should any AABR member wish to participate in this working group, please contact me at president@aabr.org.au

Ecological restoration a strong theme at Bushfire conference

The Nature Conservation Council (NCC) of NSW’s 9th Biennial Bushfire Conference was held on 4-5 June 2013. The theme was “Fire and healthy landscapes: resilient environment, resilient people”.

The NCC’s bushfire conferences are always very stimulating, with a range of topics relating to the latest science, management and social aspects of bushfire and biodiversity, presented by scientists (from a range of research fields), Office of Environment and Heritage and other government officers, Rural Fire Service and local government personnel.

This year’s conference had particular relevance to bush regeneration and ecological restoration, with one of the half day sessions devoted to using fire for restoration. Dr Tein McDonald, AABR’s president, was the keynote speaker (see article on page 6) for this session. Scott Meier, AABR committee member and owner of BARRC Consulting gave a “speed talk” on the importance of on-ground experience using fire as a tool in natural area restoration. A number of AABR members also attended.

Talk abstracts are available on: nccnsw.org.au/programs/bushfire-conference-2013. Full presentations should be available soon.

Jane Gye,
NCC Bushfire Advisory Committee

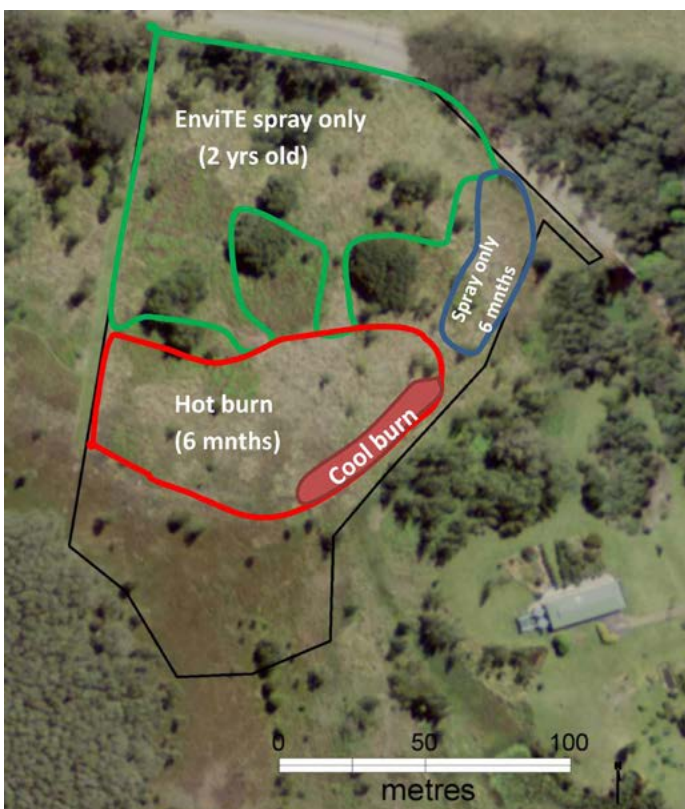
This short report is summarised from a talk given by Tein McDonald at the Nature Conservation Council's 9th Biennial Bushfire Conference "Fire and healthy landscapes: resilient environment, resilient people" 4-5 June 2013. A full version of the paper and other papers presented at the conference will be available on the NCC website in the near future.

Gap Road Wetland—some regeneration surprises after fire

Works on a north coast property owned by Julie-Anne and Murray Coward, and covenanted through the NSW Nature Conservation Trust, have shown surprisingly positive results after the use of fire.

The property contained about 8 ha of paperbark and freshwater wetland, surrounded by floodplain forest—but had substantial grazed clearings dominated by approximately 1.5 m high setaria *Setaria sphacelata*, with a range of other herbaceous weeds and a few common native groundcover species present beneath the setaria cover.

Some works had already been carried out on the site by EnviTE Environment, who had undertaken substantial spraying of setaria in the clearings, and weed control amongst the regrowth and bracken areas.



It was obvious, however, that the setaria (with thatch lying on the ground for many months prior to breaking down) was actually hampering native and weed regeneration. This meant that there was a delay not only for the regeneration of natives but also of weed, suggesting that the followup weeding requirement would be prolonged over a number of years, exceeding the time funding was available to assist the landholders.

The Minyumai Green Team, who won the 3-year contract to work alongside EnviTE, decided to conduct a surface burn in setaria recently sprayed by EnviTE. They aimed to reduce weed thatch, and flush weed early enough to complete the followup within the contract period—and potentially also to trigger natives (although there was not much sign of native regeneration capacity).

Burn

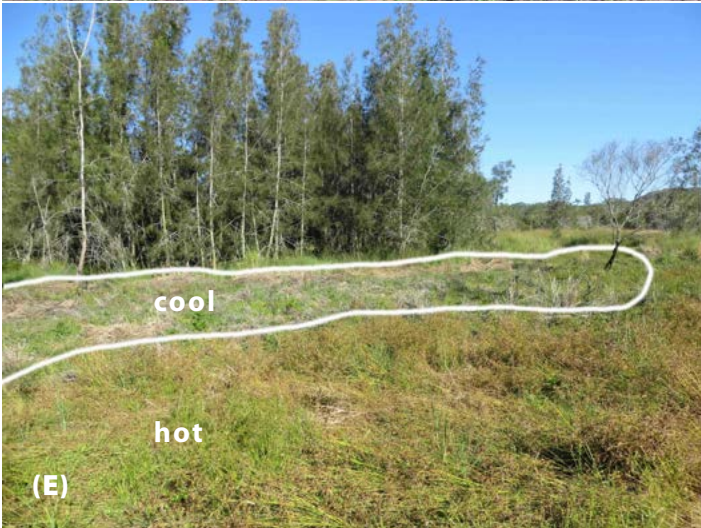
The landholders gained a permit to conduct the burn and did so on 19 October 2012, after the Green Team helped to prepare the firebreaks. The fire burnt through approximately 0.5 ha of the setaria-dominated area, including the sprayed setaria and some that had been left unsprayed to see what would happen. [We laid out 18 (9 m²) plots to record what happened—6 in each of the hot burn, cool burn and an unburnt but sprayed area.]

The dead setaria burned very rapidly and hot, but an unsprayed smaller area burned at a slower rate and at a cooler temperature (Fig. 3). After the fire, moisture conditions were ideal for plant growth and the Minyumai and EnviTE teams alternated in the spray follow up of weed using 1:100 glyphosate plus Protec Oil.

Regeneration response

The response to the treatments showed remarkably high recovery of native herbaceous ground cover in the hot burnt area after 5 months (particularly a range of native sedges, notably *Cyperus polystachus*), with the cooler burnt areas also containing valuable levels of natives, although of more common species. There was an average of over 50% native cover in the burnt quadrats by 5 months after the burn, with only about 25% cover of a more common suite of natives in the cool burn area. Weed was noticeably reducing in the hot burnt area, but not the cool burnt area.

Perhaps the most surprising result, however, has been recruitment of the site (particularly the hot burnt site) with scores of individuals of five tree species, *Melaleuca quinquenervia*, *Melaleuca alternifolia*, *Casuarina glauca*, *Callistemon salignus* and *Persoonia cornifolia*. This was not expected at such an early stage in the recovery process because tree seed is not stored for long periods in the soil and mature specimens of these species (except for *Casuarina glauca*) were not in the immediate vicinity. Contributing factors to the success are likely to be the creation of an ash bed followed by high wind storms, two of which occurred in the first three months after the burn and would have been capable of carrying the fine seed of these species.



Before and after sequence of part of the hot burn site, looking towards the paperbark swamp:

- (A) prior to burn but after spraying the setaria
- (B) immediately after the burn, with all vegetation burnt
- (C) weed flush 3 weeks after the burn; and
- (D) the same view 5 months after the fire, showing high levels of native cover
- (E) comparison of hot and cool burns
- (R) burn looking north.

(Photos J-A Coward and T McDonald)

Calling all contractors!
We are looking for case studies
Showcase your work on our fabulous new website
 Email your ideas to:
president@aabr.org.au
 or secretary@aabr.org.au
ASAP—we launch late July

News on ticks and Lyme disease

Lynn Rees

National review into the Australian Lyme disease question

Thankfully, due to consistent public pressure, the Australian government has taken on this review which hopefully will lead to Lyme disease being accepted just as any other disease is in Australia.

I hope that, due to the work AABR has put into educating members about the risks of ticks and tick borne diseases, you are all taking every precaution to protect yourselves from ticks.

My own experience of Lyme disease has been a very long and scary ride and continues to be. I really hope you have taken these messages very seriously.

The following article has been copied from www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/ohp-lyme-disease.htm

"Lyme Disease

The Australian Government is monitoring Lyme disease, in consultation with the states and territories, through the Communicable Diseases Network Australia.

The Australian Government Chief Medical Officer, Professor Chris Baggoley, has established a Clinical Advisory Committee on Lyme disease to provide him with advice on the evidence for Lyme disease in Australia, diagnostic testing, treatment and research requirements. The Committee will also provide advice on the most appropriate ways to disseminate information to health professionals and the general public.

These Terms of Reference were ratified by the members of the committee who met on 19 March 2013.

The purpose of the CACLD is to provide advice to the Chief Medical Officer on:

- 1. whether there is evidence of Borrelia spp causing illness in humans in Australia*
- 2. the most appropriate laboratory diagnostic testing algorithms (best world practice) for persons who have suspected borreliosis in Australia*
- 3. the most appropriate treatments for borreliosis in Australia*
- 4. the most appropriate ways to disseminate information to health professionals and the general public on borreliosis*
- 5. the requirements for further research into borreliosis in Australia and*
- 6. the generation of appropriate new questions relevant to the terms of reference.*

(note: an additional member from the Lyme Disease Association of Australia has joined the committee and may wish to make comment).

The Committee met on 19 March 2013 with the following outcomes:

- 1. Suggested terms of reference for the Clinical Advisory Committee*

on Lyme disease to be re-drafted to incorporate members' comments (endorsed terms of reference above).

- 2. A Lyme disease patient advocate to be invited to participate on the CACLD.*
- 3. More information regarding borreliosis in Australia is required in order to understand the requirements to resolve issues detailed in the committee's terms of reference. Each member of the committee will be contacted out of session to discuss issues arising about borreliosis in Australia, which will assist the development of a discussion paper on Lyme borreliosis.*
- 4. Research requirements for borreliosis in Australia to be addressed at the next CACLD meeting.*

The committee has representation from the following organisations:

- Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing*
- Karl McManus Foundation*
- Lyme Disease Association of Australia*
- Public Health Laboratory Network*
- Communicable Diseases Network Australia*
- NSW Health*
- Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia*
- Royal Australian College of General Practitioners*
- National Health and Medical Research Council*
- Australian Society for Infectious Diseases*
- An Australian and International Expert*

The Australian Government will continue to monitor Lyme disease, in consultation with the states and territories, through the Communicable Diseases Network Australia."

Thanks to Nikki Coleman (a patient representative on the committee) for this update taken from the Lyme Disease Association of Australia website www.lymedisease.org.au/

"National Lyme Disease Review Update

At this stage the CACLD is proposing a scoping study to work out what research is required to prove that Lyme disease is in Australia (and how to fund that research). It is envisioned that after this scoping study is completed in the next few months, the research to find the causative agent for Lyme disease in Australia will be done (possibly starting in early 2014) & we will get a definitive statement from the Chief Medical Officer about the existence of Lyme disease in Australia at the conclusion of that research study.

All this research will take time to complete (so we may not get a statement from the CMO until 2014-2015). In the mean time, the Chief Medical Officer of Australia is proposing that temporary diagnostic pathways and treatment protocols be created for Lyme disease by the end of this year (2013) – this will hopefully help patients in their dealing with the medical system, and begin to reduce discrimination against Lyme disease patients.

I'm truly sorry this is such a slow process (I truly wish it was faster), but given the problems associated with the previous big study into Lyme disease & how it has impacted so negatively on Lyme patients for the past 2 decades, it is important that we get it right this time.

*Cheers,
Nikki"*

Permethrin treated clothing update

Many thanks to Australian company Safari Life who make permethrin treated clothing. Due to industry feedback they are making stronger work pants with reinforced knees and have put a zipper in the coveralls, thus reducing tick entry points.

They are also working on a kids' range. These new products will be launched very soon, so keep an eye on their website: www.safarilifeworld.com. I have been wearing the new design coveralls and socks every time I go in the bush. They are light weight, comfortable and I have not had a single tick! the coveralls are currently being manufactured so check the website regularly for updates.

Thank you Safari Life for donating the old design coveralls which are being sold for fundraising for the Karl McManus Foundation. I am part of a support group called Lymelinks on the NSW North Coast working on raising awareness about tick borne diseases and protecting yourself from ticks.

The Karl McManus Foundation funds the tick disease research at Sydney University as well as educating doctors and the community and advocating for Lyme patients' rights. This fundraising is desperately needed as the research work is very expensive.



Safari Life insect repellent work wear

1—19 JULY 2013

the **BIG**

End of Year Sale!!

Selected products **RIDICULOUSLY** low **AND** including GST*
*Excludes delivery. Only while stocks last.



Some of the insect repellent clothing available from Safari Life: Lynn wearing the coveralls, the long sleeve oxford blue ladies shirt, and sock protectors.

AABR sponsored TAFE student awards

The winner of the Beverley Blacklock prize this year is Cole Taylor. Kate Low (Acting Environment Officer at The Northern Sydney Institute of TAFE) explains: "Cole started study with us doing CII CLM while in Green Corps with Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA). He then got a position with Frank Gasparre at Hills Bushcare and continued in his studies in CIII CLM. Always a quiet achiever, Cole made a real impression on his teachers for being consistently focussed, hard working, and really understanding concepts of resilience and restoration.

It was a special year too for the Beverley Blacklock prize. This year Richard Blacklock gave out the award in his mother's honour. Richard's son, Erryn, was amongst our graduates (Erryn completed CIII CLM). So we have a third generation of Blacklock Bush regenerators".

The 2013 Mark Foster Memorial award has gone to Alexander Yallouris. The award was presented at Ourimbah TAFE on 5 June. It rewards a graduating Central Coast NSW CLM Certificate II or III student who has demonstrated an outstanding enthusiasm and genuine passion for the bush and bush regeneration, and who is able to inspire and motivate those around them.

Bush regen holidays in August



Goannas at Korinderie Ridge
(dancing exhibitions during camp week are subject to cancellation)

Korinderie Ridge Regen Week 10th anniversary camp

Bookings are now open for the Korinderie community's annual bush regen volunteers' camp (Aug 5-10, 2013)

This year will be the 10th anniversary of this event! Over the past 9 years, community members and visitors have treated 93 ha of the 130 ha of lantana-affected country on the property! (Less than 1/3 is left to treat—although much is still on follow up).

So if you are interested in an eco-holiday in convivial company, with no responsibility and plenty of exercise and time out, the Korinderie's Regen Week could be the thing for you. We really enjoy the time together, sharing bush exploits and delicious meals. The campsites overlook Bundjalung National Park and the sea - and the short, guided bushwalks each afternoon—add to the experience. Evenings are for relaxation (and sometimes a bit of music) around the campfire. (About half the campers are



returnees, with some returning each year - so we must be doing something right!)

Volunteers only need to bring a tent, sleeping gear and other personal items. Enquiries: Tein or Graeme 02 6682 2885.

South West Rocks Dune Care

South West Rocks Dune Care has now been running a visiting volunteer program for 5 years. It has grown year on year and makes a significant contribution to restoring this beautiful part of the coast. Many of you have been before so will be familiar with the area and its natural wonders. For those of you who haven't managed to get there yet, we offer free accommodation at Arakoon House for a week, for up to 16 people. You can find out more information on our website www.swrdc.com.au which gives an overview of the area and some of what we do. There are also links on our website to quite a few well made YouTube videos of our work, plus some of the beautiful locations in which we work.

There are still vacancies from 24th to 31st August.

So if you would like to book in or find out more information please contact Alan Hill via: email hillyuille@bigpond.com Phone 0419012640.

Look forward to catching up again, or meeting for the first time.

Regards, Alan Hill

And lots more

Find more information about bush regen holidays and adventures on the ABR website www.aabr.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=131&Itemid=125

Carp stories

Carp locked out of Lower Murrumbidgee wetlands

NSW Office of Environment and Heritage NSW Media release, 18 April 2013

Carp screens installed in Lower Murrumbidgee wetlands north of Balranald have successfully kept large carp out of the wetlands during the delivery of environmental flows; improving water quality and benefiting aquatic vegetation.

Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH), Wetlands and Rivers Conservation Officer, James Maguire recently inspected the wetland system and found that aquatic plant species were thriving.

"To help improve the health of Lower Murrumbidgee wetlands located on private property, infrastructure works were installed to enable environmental flows to be efficiently delivered to the wetlands. As part of these works, carp screens designed and built by local landholders and funded by OEH and the Australian Government Biodiversity Fund were fitted at key locations to prevent the movement of adult carp into the wetland areas.

"With the works completed, the OEH delivered environmental flows to Cherax Swamp, Hobbler Lake and Penarie Creek in spring 2012.

"Recent inspections have shown that the carp screens were highly effective in keeping the adult carp from entering the wetlands," Mr Maguire said

"The screens worked brilliantly, were easy to clean and importantly didn't restrict the water flow rate to the wetlands. I can see this design being used successfully elsewhere.

"Carp feed on aquatic vegetation and negatively impact on the smaller native fish species, so keeping carp out has given the wetlands their best chance to improve."

Mr Maguire said recent site inspections have revealed abundant aquatic plant growth throughout the wetland system including common reed, spike rush and water milfoil.

"Encouragingly water milfoil has spread from the up-stream wetlands to Hobbler Lake. This native wetland plant provides food for swans, ducks and other waterbirds and is used by grebes to build nests. River red gums and black box have also responded with abundant fresh growth.

"Ongoing monitoring will be undertaken to determine the extent of benefits from the carp screens and inform how similar screens may be used in other wetland systems.

"Along with the positive vegetation response, thousands of waterbirds, including three threatened species of waterbird - blue billed duck, freckled duck and painted snipe - were observed after the environmental flows."

The OEH worked with the Commonwealth Environmental Water Office, the Murrumbidgee EWAG and local landholders to plan the environmental water delivery to the wetlands.

A video on the project including interviews with local landholders can be viewed on the OEH website. See "Cherax Swamp and Hobbler Lake bounce back"

www.environment.nsw.gov.au/environmentalwater/envwatermurrumbidgeeupdate.htm

www.environment.nsw.gov.au/media/OEHMedia13041803.htm

New PestSmart factsheet: Daughterless Carp

From *Feral Flier Invasive Animals CRC Newsletter Issue 231, March 2013*

Carp are prolific breeders. A single female carp can produce upward of 1.5 million eggs per year. This means that typical control programs that concentrate on physical removal of the fish or that target individual spawning events are unlikely to have an impact, except on a local scale. Sophisticated modelling exercises support this.

With funding from the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) through the Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre (IA CRC), CSIRO has been developing alternative and potentially more powerful means of controlling carp, by breeding into a carp population a mechanism that reduces the number of females and so radically reduces carp numbers within a few generations. This is the basis for 'daughterless technology'.

A PestSmart factsheet on the Daughterless carp project is now online at <http://www.feral.org.au/daughterless-carp/>

us5.campaign-archive2.com/?u=6cfe22da6ed670c7a15d28b44&id=bcd67ae4ec&e=ddb6fe1063

Carp haul from south-west Qld waterways 'incredible'

From ABC News, 6 March 2013. Author: Chrissy Arthur

Several hundreds of kilograms of carp, some as big as a metre long, are being pulled from waterholes in Queensland's south-west.

The natural resource management group, South-West NRM, has been working in the Paroo catchment extracting carp from some of the local creeks and waterholes.

Carp are considered to be Australia's worst freshwater fish pest.

Spokesman Craig Alison says it is still compiling data but the results so far suggest there may be breeding "hotspots" for the fish.

"The results that we're seeing from the upper Paroo, especially around the Yowah Creek, have been phenomenal," he said.

Seizing the carp

"The weight, the size and the volume of carp that are being extracted from the waterholes has been incredible.

"One event within 48 hours captured just on a tonne of carp. One of the largest ones was seven kilos and over a metre long."

He says the ecosystem is important to preserve.

"It dissipates into the Ramsar wetlands and also the Paroo is classified on the national estate as a high ecological value aquatic ecosystem," he said.

"Once all the data is captured and collated, we are going to see hotspots of carp concentrations and then we will be able to look at environmental conditions within those waterholes."

www.abc.net.au/news/2013-03-05/carp-haul-from-south-west-qld-waterways-incredible/4553694

Whatever happened to myrtle rust?

Mike McRae

It was the disease plant biologists in Australia had been expecting with trepidation. In April 2010, a type of rust that had been threatening eucalypt plantations overseas was found dusting a plant leaf in a New South Wales nursery.

Environmentalists predicted the rust's spread would become a 'mycological firestorm'. But three years on ECOS asks, has it been more of a fungal fizzle?

The plant pathogen, often referred to as guava rust, has long had something of an identity crisis. In its native Brazil, the fungus was named after its original host plant.

Yet this fungus, *Puccinia psidii*, doesn't just attack guava – a tree that belongs to the Myrtaceae family. Melaleucas, eucalypts and other trees from the same family have proved equally suitable host plants overseas, with the pathogen infecting developing foliage, flowers and fruits and stunting growth.

As a result, *P. psidii* has also become known as eucalyptus rust, and recognised as a threat to eucalypt plantations across the globe, not to mention native Australian flora.

Apart from its variable common name (guava/eucalypt rust), the rust has had mycologists debating whether a second rust species might be involved. In the early 1980s, a reference specimen representing *P. psidii* was discovered to contain two different kinds of spores, one 'prickly' all over, while the other presented a bald patch among its protuberances. This prompted mycologists to describe the rust taxonomically as a 'complex' of biological forms.

Three decades later, the form that produced the bald-patch spores was given the name *Uredo rangelii*. This was the form that was found in Australia in 2010 and referred to as myrtle rust.

Today, it still remains unclear whether the complex of forms should be considered as a group of distinct species or merely varieties, in spite of no genetic differences being found between the forms. Until such questions are resolved, the pathogen continues to be technically defined as *Puccinia psidii* sensu lato (s.l.).

How big a threat?

Whatever its identity, the rust of many names has been threatening to become a pathogen of many hosts. Recent studies indicate that, given the right conditions, *P. psidii* (s.l.) has the potential to infect all members of the subfamily Myrtoideae within Australia's native myrtle family.

Given myrtles make up ten per cent of Australia's flora, it's no wonder the appearance of the fungus in NSW in 2010 was seen as a potential disaster for many of our wooded ecosystems.

In fact, within two years of the pathogen's arrival, scientists had identified 175 plants as potential hosts. Of these, only a third were yet to present infected specimens in the wild. But while the pathogen's reach across the myrtle family is broad, its impact remains unclear.

Dr Louise Morin from CSIRO Ecosystem Sciences has studied the rust's host-specificity and life cycle. 'Unfortunately, as far as I know there hasn't been comprehensive research to assess the impact of the rust on plant populations,' she says.

'There has been some work that showed a reduction in various growth and reproduction parameters on some species, but nothing yet to assess if such reduction will affect populations of these species in the long term.'

A 2012 report by the CRC for Plant Biosecurity on the impact of myrtle rust provides a preliminary glimpse of the rust's spread, but also concludes with a recommendation for more research to gain a clearer picture.

'Given the observed impacts of myrtle rust in Australia within the first two years since the disease was initially detected,' the report states, '[such] research is critical to minimise the impacts of this disease incursion on plant industries, the environment and communities in Australia.'

Myrtle rust has been discovered on a variety of plants along the east coast, from Queensland through New South Wales and Victoria. While conditions in Tasmania and Western Australia are suitable for its proliferation, the two states have so far remained unblemished by *P. psidii* (s.l.) spores.

That's not to say there's no heat in this brushfire. Now established on Australian soil, it's merely a matter of time before the pathogen finds its way into suitable ecosystems across the continent.

To identify potential hotspots for *P. psidii* (s.l.) epidemics in Australia, CSIRO researchers worked with colleagues from the University of Hawaii to combine modelling with known distributions of myrtle species.

The results predict a greater degree of cold tolerance in the rust than previously believed, expanding its range to higher altitudes and lower latitudes. So while Australian species may be indicating tolerance for the pathogen, any restrictions imposed by cooler climates could be less severe than initially anticipated.

On mainland Australia, this may not be significant. 'According to our unpublished modelling results, the potential range of *P. psidii* (s.l.) is likely to contract toward the coasts as the climate in central Australia warms and dries,' says CSIRO Ecosystems Science principal research scientist, Dr Darren Kriticos.

If – or even when – it reaches Tasmania, it might be a different story. 'In Tasmania and New Zealand it appears as if it could expand its potential range significantly compared with the present situation,' Dr Kriticos suggests.

Looking for the right clues?

Since 2010, the Australian Government has invested about \$1.5 million into a 'Myrtle Rust Transition to Management Program'. While this funding has led to some insight into the pathogen's

potential range, some have questioned whether enough action has been taken to address the threat.

Last year, Invasive Species Council CEO John DeJose stated, 'The failure of our national biosecurity system to quickly detect and appropriately respond to the extreme risks posed by myrtle rust now has scientists concerned about the level of government commitment to keeping Australia free of harmful environmental pests.'

But, three years after its first appearance, hard evidence of the devastation myrtle rust can cause to Australia's ecosystems remains scant.

'Maybe one of the reasons we haven't [identified any] serious impact of the rust yet is the fact that hardly anyone is looking at its impact in ecosystems,' suggests Dr Geoff Pegg, Senior Forest Pathologist at the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry in Queensland.

'I think most people expected to see vast areas of dead trees. But we [the researchers] have always believed most of the impact will be in relation to regeneration of species.'

If that's the case, it could be years before the true impact of

myrtle rust is observed in the field. Already scientists have noticed flower growth can be impeded in trees with repeated stem infections.

Further, species that have been recorded as relatively tolerant are now showing evidence of being highly susceptible. Why? 'Hard to answer this one at this point in time,' says Dr Pegg.

Renewed funding will be required for future research into the pathogen's spread through Australia. The government's Myrtle Rust Transition to Management Program is scheduled to conclude at the end of June 2013, with little prospect of further funding beyond that.

1 Morin L, Aveyard R, Lidbetter JR, Wilson PG (2012) Investigating the host-range of the rust fungus *Puccinia psidii* sensu lato across tribes of the family Myrtaceae present in Australia. PLoS ONE 7(4): e35434.

2 Cooperative Research Centre for National Plant Biosecurity, Final Report CRC 70186, Understanding myrtle rust epidemiology and host specificity to determine disease impact in Australia, Geoff Pegg, Suzy Perry, Angus Carnegie, Kylie Ireland and Fiona Giblin.

3 Kriticos DJ, Morin L, Leriche A, Anderson RC & Caley P (2013) Combining a climatic niche model of an invasive fungus with its host species distribution to identify risks: *Puccinia psidii* sensu lato in Australia. PLoS ONE 8, e64479.

Regional biodiversity working group for NSW Northern Rivers

Cat Smykowski

A workshop was held on 17 June in Wollongbar, Northern NSW, organised by Sustain Northern Rivers (SNR) in partnership with Sustainability Partnerships and Community Engagement at Southern Cross University (SCU). As one of the meeting's aims was the formation of a SNR Biodiversity Working Group, this workshop provided AABR and other groups an opportunity to participate in a "bigger picture", industry-based network to help support and influence regional biodiversity conservation.

The background to the workshop was that, to date, SNR (set up as a platform for action on climate change) has facilitated successful collaborations targeting action on sustainable energy, transport and food among its 26 peak regional government, educational, commercial and community partners (see www.sustainnorthernrivers.org/). Recently, partner interest has extended to action on biodiversity (which intersects all other focus areas) and has been reaching out to a broader group of stakeholders. So the workshop's aim was to bring together key people engaged in biodiversity and conservation planning, management and on-ground works in the region to share knowledge, introduce and extend existing networks, and to consider the formation of a SNR Biodiversity Working Group.

I attended the workshop on behalf of AABR—with other participants including NRCMA, Landcare, local councils, WIRES, Wetland Care, Farm Forestry, Office Of Environment And Heritage, Far North Coast Weeds, TAFE, EnvITE and SCU. Discussion was focused on biodiversity conservation, with a warm up exercise involving the reps writing down a funded project we are working on and one we had done in the past five years with all partnerships listed. The group then discussed what makes a successful project and what doesn't. Some interesting points came up such as: questioning to what extent are our projects massaged to suit funding (rather than vice versa); the need for longer time frames for projects along with the recent shift to larger landscape scale projects increasing the potential for overlapping project applications; and even a question about the cost to undertake biodiversity conservation effectively across the Northern Rivers on all land tenures with limitless funds! (A useful exercise).

Potential to form a SNR Biodiversity Working Group was discussed, and benefits were seen to include coordinated strategies for project planning, dissemination of information about funding and prioritising of projects being undertaken in the Northern Rivers to aid effective outcomes for overall biodiversity conservation. There were many questions about whether such a group would be duplicating the work of others such as the Fire and Biodiversity group, or whether in fact the SNR biodiversity group could contribute contextual information for those other groups. Caution was raised about the need to avoid just another talk fest which doesn't reach the people on the ground doing the work.

All organisations represented expressed interest in participating in the working group and it was decided to convene a number of meetings over the next 12 months to see how it takes shape and who becomes involved at what level. AABR will be kept informed through online networking with SNR.

Island feral control updates

Looking for some hope and inspiration? Island conservation projects are an excellent source, with opportunities for pest eradication that are out of reach of most mainland sites.

Islandnet, the offshore Islands network www.feral.org.au/islandnet/ is a group set up to facilitate conservation management of Australia's offshore islands. According to Islandnet "Australia's 8,300 islands provide homes for many of our unique animals and plants, including nine mammals no longer found on the mainland. Invasive animals, such as exotic rodents, account for over half of the nation's bird extinctions and infest over 100 islands". Exciting work is underway on many sites, including the two below.

Broughton Island now pest-free

From ABC News, 12 March 2013

Rare plants and sea-birds are starting to re-establish on a remote island off the coast of Port Stephens, after a successful long-term pest eradication program.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service has officially declared Broughton Island off Port Stephens pest-free, after months of monitoring found no signs of rats or rabbits.

In 2009 efforts began to finally clear the island of the feral pests, in order to protect the sea-bird population which was losing habitat and being forced off the island.

The benefits are now evident right across the small island, with seabird monitoring showing there are now more than 55,000 breeding pairs of Wedge-tailed Shearwaters using the island.

The threatened Gould's Petrel is also nesting there.

Seabird ecologist, Nicholas Carlisle says Broughton Island has been transformed.

"That island's really taking off," he said.

"I think over the next couple of decades we're going to see it blossom into what it once was - a real ark for native species - and that's what it will return to."

Mr Carlisle says there will be ongoing monitoring to ensure the rats in particular do not return and threaten what is becoming an important breeding area.

"What it's allowed us to do, getting these rats off the island, is we're giving space to the smallest sea bird in New South Wales, the White-faced Storm Petrel," he said.

"We're giving space for it to come back onto the main Broughton Island, because there's some tantalising evidence from about 100 years ago that they were breeding in their thousands in the sand dunes.

"We certainly haven't seen them there since the 1930s which is when we suspect rats got into the island."

He says two orchid species have also been found for the first time in the island's recorded history.

www.abc.net.au/news/2013-03-12/broughton-island-declared-pest-free/4566576

Reef Island rabbit baiting

From NRM Notes Invasive Animals CRC magazine Issue 13, March 2013

Reef Island is a small nature conservation reserve in Victoria's Western Port that is a significant roosting site for native shorebirds like Red-Capped Plovers. A recent rabbit baiting program run by Parks Victoria, with funding from the Ramsar Protection Program has helped to secure the site as habitat for the shorebirds.

Reef Island had what was a small, uncontrolled rabbit population that was allowed to increase over the years. While the rabbits themselves actually posed little direct threat to the shorebirds living out on the shoreline, the foxes they attracted on the other hand, did pose a threat to the birds. These birds, with their vulnerable roosting sites in the sand and shingle were easy game for this voracious predator crossing the causeway at low tide, looking for prey.

The 1080 rabbit baiting program has been successful in wiping out the rabbit population on the island. Remote cameras deployed on the Island now show no evidence of any rabbits and as further proof of their absence, native vegetation is beginning to regenerate. The foxes now have little to attract them to the Island and are being baited on the mainland before entry to the causeway to provide further protection.

The Ramsar Protection Program is coordinated by the Port Phillip and Westernport CMA, with funding from the Australian Government's Caring for our Country.

Contact: Ilona Fenner, Project Communications Officer (PPWCMA)
P: 03 8781 7916 | E: ilona.fenner@ppwcma.vic.gov.au
gallery.mailchimp.com/69c4cb05e3e3d77af33a023c5/files/IA_CRC_

Indian myna control successes

Community myna trapping pays dividends in Canberra

From *NRM Notes Invasive Animals CRC magazine Issue 13, March 2013*

The introduced pest bird, the Indian (or Common) Myna was brought to Canberra in the late 1960s, and by 2006 was the 3rd most common bird, according to the weekly Garden Bird Surveys (GBS) of the Canberra Ornithologists Group. Mynas dominated the urban landscape. Of particular concern was that various endangered insects and reptiles – including the Golden Sun Moth, Perunga Flightless Grasshopper, Coorooboroma Raspy Cricket, Grassland Earless Dragon - were being preyed upon by mynas.

In response to this threat to Canberra's wildlife, the Canberra Indian Myna Action Group Inc (CIMAG), was formed in 2006. Now with some 1580 members, this community-action group has had a profound role in controlling a major environmental pest species. Over the past 7 years, at least 43,000 mynas have been removed by CIMAG members using backyard traps. The full number is unknown as not all trappers provide monthly returns.

What is known though, is that the Indian Myna has now dropped to the 14th most common bird in Canberra according to the GBS. Canberrans report that small birds are back in their gardens, rosellas are no longer being evicted from tree hollows, backyard patios and bbq areas are not being fouled, and there are fewer raucous roosts at dusk.

Thanks to the efforts of a community-action trapping program, Indian Mynas are no longer the major pest they once were in the Canberra area.

Contact: Bill Handke, President, Canberra Indian Myna Action Group Inc P: 02 6231 7461

gallery.mailchimp.com/69c4cb05e3d77af33a023c5/files/IA_CRC_

"Major myna trap" shows promise in Lismore

From *Lismore City Council News, 6 June 2013*

They've coined it the 'major myna trap' and it lives up to its name in more ways than one.

Lismore Men & Community Shed volunteers have been building new Indian myna traps, more than four times the size of previous models, in the hope of catching flocks of the pests rather than single birds.

The new traps are part of a joint effort to control the invasive species between Richmond Landcare and Lismore City Council, which cannot afford to make the traps without the help of volunteers.

Presenting a certificate of appreciation to the Men & Community Shed recently, Mayor Jenny Dowell said in a time of tight budgets and competing demands, community partnerships were critical. She explained they are an integral part of Council's Imagine Lismore 10 Year Plan.

"We know we can't do things alone anymore. Like councils



Indian Myna chicks in a tree hollow nest. Wentworth Falls NSW. Photo V.Bear

throughout the state and the nation, it's getting harder to make ends meet. This is a small but important example of a wonderful community partnership," she said.

"There is no way we could provide these traps at a reasonable cost – the labour and materials are cost prohibitive for Council. Yet here we are, trialling them out in the community. We don't want Indian mynas to get entrenched here – as a community we need to work together to stop them spreading. If we don't do something we will be overrun."

Jenny spoke of her experiences living in Melbourne, where Indian mynas have displaced huge numbers of native birds – a problem the Northern Rivers faces if the pests cannot be controlled.

It is hoped the major myna traps will play a key role in eradicating Indian mynas, which were introduced in the late 1860s to protect market gardens from insects. Much like the cane toad, they quickly adapted to Australian conditions, bred copiously and devastated native wildlife.

Council encourages community members to get involved in the Lismore Indian Myna Control Program, with small and easy-to-use backyard traps available for \$12.80.

To join the control program phone Richmond Landcare Incorporated on 6619 1582 or to report sightings of large flocks of the birds phone Council on 1300 87 83 87.

www.lismore.nsw.gov.au/cp_themes/default/page.asp?p=DOC-HYI-21-15-86

Indian Mynas not wanted in Tasmania

From *Feral Flier Invasive Animals CRC Newsletter Issue 235, March 2013*

Common or Indian Myna birds are listed by the World Conservation Union (IUCN) as one of the world's 100 most invasive species, and the Invasive Animals CRC reports them as being one of the most disliked introduced species in Australia.

Along eastern mainland Australia, Indian Mynas have become a major urban nuisance. They have displaced many native species, are a human health risk, and adversely impact on biodiversity. They are also increasingly causing damage to community gardens, fruit crops, and feed on grain and stock food.

Indian Mynas are not currently established in Tasmania and are not wanted in that State. After receiving sighting reports from members of the public in the Devonport CBD and port areas, and the Hobart port area during April, the Invasive Species Branch of the Tasmanian Department Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment began incursion response surveillance and monitoring activities.

No further sightings have been recorded. Although active monitoring will be scaled back for now, authorities are ready with incursion response processes should new sightings occur.

Everyone can help by reporting new incursions to the Invasive Species Hotline on 1300 369 688.

If possible, please take photos of suspected Indian Mynas to help in species identification and follow-up investigations.

To aid in identification, people can also download the new App 'Field Guide to Pest Animals of Australia' for Smartphones, produced by Invasive Animals CRC, that includes what Indian Mynas sound and look like, together with information on 30 other pest animal species. This App can be downloaded free of charge from the Apple App Store at itunes.apple.com/au/app/field-guide-to-pest-animals/id634197149?mt=8.

Links:

Invasive Species Branch (Tasmania): current alert and to report sightings in Tasmania www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/WebPages/PWOD-95K2WH?open

More information and to report Indian myna sightings nationally: MynaScan www.feralscan.org.au/mynascan/

Other notes and news

Natural regeneration: connecting regional Australia

From *Ian Lunt's Ecological Research Site, June 2013. Author: Ian Lunt*

Want to re-connect fragmented landscapes? Where would you start? With natural regeneration of course.

Natural regeneration of native trees and shrubs is abundant in many regions, where it provides valuable habitat and linkages between patches of native vegetation. Last week I gave a talk at the Biodiversity Across The Borders conference in Ballarat in a session on landscape connectivity, on behalf of my co-authors Lisa Smallbone and Alison Matthews. Our talk covered four topics.

1. Why do we get extensive natural regeneration in some regions?
2. Where do we find lots of natural regeneration in Victoria?
3. How valuable is natural regeneration for birds?
4. How can we incorporate natural regeneration in connectivity planning?

If you didn't get to last week's conference, you can now watch the video of the talk, courtesy of YouTube.

The video presents my voice-over commentary and the PowerPoint slides. Unfortunately, it doesn't include the Google Earth flyover that we showed on the day, as we couldn't record a high quality screen image of the flyover.

If the embedded video does not appear on your mobile device, you can watch it at YouTube, at this link. We hope you enjoy the talk. If nothing else, we think you'll be surprised at how widespread natural regeneration is in many regions

ianluntresearch.wordpress.com/

New Australia21 report released: Repairing and preparing Australia's landscapes for global change: Why we must do much more

Supplied by Australia21

Australia needs to look at its landscapes in new ways if it is to meet the 21st Century challenges associated with climate change and food, water and energy security.

The report is based on an expert roundtable held at the University of Melbourne on 21 February 2013 to discuss the benefits of large-scale reforestation and revegetation, and how they could best be achieved. The project was co-sponsored by the Natural Resources Conservation League of Victoria and the Primary Industries Adaptation Research Network. Funding was also provided through a bequest from Jan Lee Martin.

Australia21 director, Richard Eckersley, the author of the report said: 'For all the policy developments and practical achievements of the past 20 to 30 years in managing our environments and ecosystems, we are not closing the gap between the magnitude of the challenge and the scale of our response. Without a new vision for creating healthy, resilient landscapes, we will experience continuing environmental decline and degradation.'

A new vision for Australian landscapes would:

- Embrace all Australian landscapes and all Australians, rural and urban alike. Landscapes are a vital part of local, regional and national identity; all our futures depend on them.
- Acknowledge climate change as a 'game changer', in terms of both the role of landscapes in mitigation and adaptation, and

the huge, varied, but still uncertain, impacts of climate change on landscapes.

- Stimulate the growth of a landscape regeneration and management industry to produce the capacity to use available funding and meet policy objectives.

Richard Eckersley also said: 'The continuing failure to close the gap between what we are doing in landscape management and what we know we need to do means we are squandering our natural heritage and betraying future generations.

The reasons for the lack of progress are not, now, primarily to do with poor policy or lack of public funding. They include cultural features such as the divide between urban and rural Australians and our growing disconnection from nature and all it provides for us. The state of our landscapes is not among the issues and concerns that dominate public and political debate; it should be.

Conversely, what we have achieved in the last two to three decades provides the foundation for a much bigger and bolder endeavour to maintain, restore and regenerate our unique environments. In doing that, it could become a symbol of a much broader transformation of Australia into a genuinely sustainable society.'

The benefits of large-scale landscape regeneration, reforestation and revegetation include: preserving biodiversity; reducing soil and water loss and degradation; providing shelter, shade and fodder; cooler regional climates; carbon sequestration; increasing soil fertility and productivity; more sustainable agriculture; more timber and other tree products; better pollination; production of biofuels; enhanced food, water and energy security; benefits to tourism; supporting rural communities; creating employment; bridging the cultural divide between city and country; promoting national reconciliation; improving people's wellbeing; and higher civic morale.

The report is available on the Australia21 website www.australia21.org.au/ to view in HTML and to download in PDF.

Australia21 is an independent, non-profit organisation whose core purpose is multidisciplinary research and inquiry on issues of strategic importance to Australia in the 21st century.

New model to save farm biodiversity

From ABC Tasmanian Country Hour, 6 June 2013. Author: Rose Grant

Farmers in one of Australia's biodiversity hotspots are starting to be paid annually for the work they do as stewards looking after their land.

A new scheme is using philanthropic funds to bring a balance between conservation and agriculture in Tasmania's midlands district.

The scheme was launched in one of the few intact native grassy woodlands remaining after 200 years of grazing.

One of the instigators, Julian Von Bibra has signed up almost 200 hectares of his 'Beaufront' farm, and says it's about getting conservation on the farm balance sheet.

"Most of what remains in this landscape is held in private hands. Those of us who are lucky enough to own it now need to take that responsibility very seriously.

There's immense biodiversity, and so we discover rare and threatened species that might only occur in two or three different spots.

You then have a responsibility to look after those. The exciting thing for us is that this now provides a form of return from conservation.

It's something we've been working towards for many years now. Historically we would have made money out of grazing sheep here.

Now we recognise it has conservation values and they are being paid for".

The Midlands Conservation Fund has been set up with philanthropic funding, in partnership with the Tasmanian Land Conservancy and Bush Heritage Fund and the Federal Government's Caring for our Country program.

The Fund's goal is to raise \$10M by the year 2020, to pay farmers for conservation work on 64,000 hectares of private land in Tasmania's Midlands.

It's started with 3,000 hectares on ten farms and \$3.3M from the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation, the Sidney Myer Fund, The Myer Foundation and the John T Reid Charitable Trust.

Philanthropist and chairman of the Midlands Conservation Fund, Andy Myer, says there is nothing else in Australia that makes it viable for farmers to put land under conservation management long-term.

Mr Myer says the scheme is using a tender process to set the price, giving stewardship a value like wool or meat or crops on farm.

"It was a bit like a market place. We tested the market," Andy Myer said.

"We had an assessment done internally through the ecologist, to value what we thought were the values on certain properties.

Obviously the farmers had their own idea of what they thought their land was worth.

So it was a market place meeting by negotiation.

It's real dollars relative to the value of the land, and real dollars relative to alternate use."

Andy Myer says it's a new framework for conservation that's broadly applicable in biodiverse regions and he wants the farming and philanthropic and investor community to recognise the model.

The Tasmanian Land Conservancy and Bush Heritage Fund are closely involved and will be monitoring the ecological outcomes on the ground.

Land Conservancy chief executive, Jane Hutchinson says there are three features about the fund that are innovative.

"The beauty about this fund is that it's done in partnership, that it's very well supported, and it's on-going, for ever.

The design of the program is that it's a 10-year rolling agreement, so at the 10-year mark the organisations and the land owners will have discussions about how that's all working.

But if the program has been designed in the way we hope it has and believe it has, then it will be easy to make that decision.

The fund is going to be there.

The partnership is supported through best science.

So we have a full expectation and hope that it will continue to be amazing."

www.abc.net.au/news/2013-06-05/tasmania-farm-biodiversity-conservation-stewardship/4735068

What's happening

15-18 July

12th Queensland Weed Symposium—
Weeds: Everyone's Business

Where The Boat Club, Hervey Bay

Contact www.icebergevents.com/qws2013/

20-21 July

AABR Sydney Plant ID workshops with Van
Klaphake—Eucalypts

Where Cecil Hall Earlwood. Bookings essential.

Contact email Paul at ibb56@yahoo.com.au

Saturday 24 August

THECA's 12th Bushcare Forum, Building
Resilience in Biodiversity: Ecological, Social
and Economic

Where Queensland Centre for Advanced
Technologies (QCAT) 1 Technology Court Pullenvale

Contact www.theca.asn.au/forum_2013_1.shtml

The Hut Environmental and Community Association
(THECA) 12th Bushcare Forum will explore issues in
restoring and managing biodiversity for the long-term
future and for resilience in the South East Queensland
region.

3-5 September

NSW Landcare and Catchment Management
Forum

Where Newcastle

The Forum will showcase sustainability, landcare
and volunteering. Coordinated by the Hunter-
Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority in
partnership with other organisations and agencies,
the forum will be held in Newcastle with a number of
field trips conducted around the region to showcase
the environmental values and the amazing work being
done by community groups, individuals and agencies
to protect and enhance it.

Sunday 8 September

Bushcare's Major Day Out

Where Over 100 locations across Australia

Contact bushcaresmajordayout.org/

Everyone is invited to gather and do their bit for our
remaining bushland. A range of activities; walks,
planting, weed removal, photography workshops as
well as native plant identification and well celebrated
morning teas.

9-12 September

17th NSW Biennial Weeds Conference—
Weeds Have No Boundaries

Where Corowa RSL Club, Corowa

Contact nswweedsconference2013.com

- see first hand the weed management challenges
along the Murray River Region
- meet with and learn from other weed managers
- find out about the latest development in weed
management, policy, research, new incursions
- network with others working in weed management at
social functions
- gain an understanding of the latest technology and
research findings
- link up with people/organisations in specific aspects
of weed management that closely align with areas of
expertise
- understand new weed threats
- make new friends or working relationships
- appreciate the broad depth of experience and
knowledge of people working in weed management
disciplines
- experience what Corowa has to offer.

9-15 September

2nd International Grasslands Congress—
Revitalising Grasslands to Sustain Our
Communities

Where Sydney

Contact www.igc2013.com

The program will explore the current issues facing
grasslands around the world and share the latest
industry developments and solutions. We are providing
opportunities for early career researchers.

- improving production efficiency to revitalise
grasslands
- improving grassland environment and resources
- people, rights, policies, practices and processes.

Aims to present a program which is participative,
innovative, stimulating, thought-provoking and
enriching by offering networking and learning
opportunities to new and experienced, grassland
scientists, extension workers, postgraduate students
and some undergraduate students, agri-business

professionals, policy makers, leading livestock
producers and farmers from all over the world.

27-29 September

Queensland Landcare Conference—Healthy
Habitats... Profitable Production

Where Warwick

Contact headwaters.ddrlandcare.org/

Bringing together hundreds of land managers,
extension staff and researchers finding solutions for
balancing healthy habitats and profitable production.

Thursday 3 October

AABR's regeneration—launch of the
revitalised AABR—seminar and site visit

Where Sydney Olympic Park

Contact secretary@aabr.org 0415 647 409

6-11 October

The SER2013 World Conference on
Ecological Restoration: Reflections on the
Past, Directions for the Future

Where Madison Wisconsin USA

Contact www.ser2013.org/

The 5th World Conference of the Society for Ecological
Restoration will bring together more than 1,200
delegates from around the world interested in the
science and practice of ecological restoration as it
relates to natural resource management, climate
change responses, biodiversity conservation, local and
indigenous communities, environmental policy and
sustainable livelihoods.

18th October

Sydney Weeds Professional Forum

Where: NSW Teachers Federation Conference Centre,
Surry Hills

Technical forum for weed management professionals
and operational staff in the Greater Sydney and Blue
Mountains region. To build capacity of the weed
management workforce. To share new technical
information, knowledge, strategies and experiences.
Also a chance to network and make new contacts.

Contact: Rosanna Luca 9895 7488 (Wed - Fri)
Rosanna.Luca@cma.nsw.gov.au

AABR NSW

President

Tein McDonald
president@aabr.org.au

Vice President

Matt Springall

Treasurer

Paul Ibbetson

Membership Officer

Louise Brodie
membership@aabr.org.au

Secretary

Jane Gye
secretary@aabr.org.au

Other committee members

Heather Stolle
Elisabeth Dark
David Wakeham
Kate Low
Scott Meier
Neridah Davies

Northeast NSW/Southeast QLD sub committee

Mike Delaney 02 6621 9588
miked@envite.org.au

AABR News is the quarterly newsletter of the Australian Association of Bush Regenerators (NSW) AABR Inc, usually published in March, June, September and December.

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 C/O Total Environment Centre Suite 2, 89 Jones Street Ultimo NSW 2007

0407 002 921

www.aabr.org.au

enquiries@aabr.org.au

ABN: 33 053 528 029 ARBN: 059 120 802

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

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

Newsletter contributions and comments are welcome

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

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

**New
membership
system starts
3 October
2013**