



AABR NEWS

Australian Association of Bush Regenerators

working with natural processes

Nº 129
June
2016

AABR Forum and Dinner

AABR Forum

Experience Counts! New standards - 30 years repairing Australian nature

Thursday, 21 July 2016

Registration opens 8 am. Be there at 8.45 for an 8.50 start 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM

Join us for an outstanding day of invited speakers marking the NSW launch of the *National Standards for the Practice of Ecological Restoration in Australia*.

Hear presentations about some of the most impressive terrestrial and marine restoration projects in urban and rural Vic, NSW, Qld and SA - as well as the latest on seed production and genetics for broadscale restoration in fragmented landscapes.

Further information is available on the AABR website . <http://www.aabr.org.au>

LOCATION: Teachers Federation Conference Centre, 37 Reservoir St, Surry Hills

BOOKING: Bookings and more information **BOOK HERE**

(<http://restoration-forum.eventbrite.com.au>)

See Page 3 for more information on the Forum, the Dinner and AABR awards

AABR Walks and Talks

Bathurst Saturday 24th September 2016

Enjoy a day in and around Bathurst in the Central West of NSW guided by locals involved in restorations. See what work is being done in the area.

TIME: 10am to 2 pm **WHERE:** Bathurst

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST: email: Secretary@aabr.org.au or phone 0407 002 921

See Page 5 for more information



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President's Perspective

BOOK NOW for AABR's 30th ANNIVERSARY DINNER.

As readers will know, AABR is combining our 30th anniversary celebrations with the fantastic Forum on July 21st. (If you haven't booked yet, get in quickly before Early Bird prices end on 30th June – More about the Forum on page 3)

But the dinner.....

This is going to be the most wonderful event where members can meet up with old friends and share memories of more than three decades of bush regeneration camaraderie. Lubricated by a few wines and a looping slide show of historic and current photos, we cannot help but heartily enjoy and celebrate our time together.

The awards.

These will be a small part of the dinner and will not be a stiff, formal affair but an opportunity to express the gratitude of our industry to those who laid its foundations. Plans are well advanced to not only present awards in the four categories listed below – but to also award life membership citations to all the retired bush regenerators we can find. (Please send your ideas to me at president@aabr.org.au asap.)

CALL FOR PHOTOS OF BUSH REGENERATORS.

Photos – contributed by YOU – will form the centrepiece of the entertainment for the evening, with a trivial quiz to 'Name the bush regenerators'...from a range of districts across Australia.

PLEASE SEND YOUR PHOTOS TO

SUZANNE education@aabr.org.au SO THAT WE CAN ASSEMBLE THE SLIDE SHOW. (Photo files should be less than 1.5 meg each and include a caption with site name, date and the names of those pictured.) DUE DATE JULY 10.

RENEWALS

Those for whom we have email addresses should have received renewal notices by email. Those without email will receive them in the post shortly.

Remember to let us know if you get a new email address, as we send out email bulletins to members from time to time

Tein McDonald.

President AABR

AABR Bush Regenerator Awards

AABR is instigating awards for those who have made major contributions to bush regeneration in a variety of ways.

Presentation of the AABR Awards will be at the AABR Bush Regenerator AWARDS DINNER - July 21st 2016 (immediately following the FORUM!)

Nominations for AABR Awards in the following four categories will close at 5pm July 8.

Download the nomination form from the aabr website (www.aabr.org.au) or email president@aabr.org.au. Email your nominations to mledg@optusnet.com.au.

NOMINATION CATEGORIES AND CRITERIA:

1. Major Pioneer in Bush Regeneration

The nominee has successfully demonstrated an innovative philosophy, method or technique that has substantially advanced the cause of bush regeneration

2. Outstanding Contribution to Community Bush Regeneration

The nominee has inspired high accomplishment among bush regeneration volunteers

3. Outstanding Contribution to Bush Regeneration Communication / Education

The nominee has played an important role in informing practitioners and a broader audience about the philosophy and practice of bush regeneration

4. Outstanding service to AABR

The nominee has contributed substantial time and effort as a member of an AABR committee or sub-committee

Welcome to new AABR Members

Kate Boyd

Daniel Craddock

Melissa Smith

Annaliese French

Michael Corke

Suzanne Eacott

Congratulations on accreditation

Tina Raveneau

Michael Gee

What would you like to see in YOUR newsletter?

We are always open to suggestions to make the newsletter better for you.

AABR is always looking for contributions from members to share knowledge and opportunities. Ideas for other stories are always welcome.

Drop us a line: newsletter@aabr.org.au

AABR Forum

Experience Counts! New standards - 30 years repairing Australian nature

Thursday, 21 July 2016, from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM

TOPICS AND SPEAKERS

- *Principles in practice: Thirty years of ecological restoration on the Merri Creek, Melbourne.* Brian Bainbridge, Merri Creek Management Committee, Vic
- *Wetland restoration case studies from the Discovery Bay Coast in South Australia and Victoria:* Mark Bachmann, Nature Glenelg Trust, SA
- *Upping the ante on restoration: Landscape scale restoration on Travelling Stock Reserves in the NSW Riverina.* Ian Davidson, Regeneration Solutions, NSW
- *Restoration in fragmented landscapes: The importance of genetics.* Linda Broadhurst, CSIRO, Canberra
- *Using the Atlas of Living Australia to assist provenance selection for restoration plantings under climate change.* Trevor Booth, CSIRO, Canberra
- *Translating science into practice in Greening Australia's seed production areas.* Paul Gibson Roy, Greening Australia
- *40 years restoration and production on a working sheep station: Barrabool, NSW: a case study.* Martin Driver, farmer, NSW
- *Massaging the Bradley Method to treat 44 hectares of African Olive at the Western Sydney Parklands.* Edgar Friemanis, Ecohort Pty Ltd
- *Trajectories to full recovery: Rocky Creek Dam Regeneration area, Big Scrub, northern NSW.* Brett Weissel, Rous Water, NSW
- *Restoring underwater forests.* Ziggy Marzinelli, University of New South Wales
- *The Dewfish Demonstration Reach: Aquatic habitat restoration for native fish recovery.* Andrew Norris, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, QLD
- *Protecting paradise: Restoring the flora and fauna of World Heritage listed Lord Howe Island.* Hank Bower and Sue Bower, Lord Howe Island Board, NSW

The event will also mark the launch of AABR's innovative video library—RegenTV—which will be recording the forum for posterity.

The forum is being hosted by four of Australia's leading ecological restoration organisations:

Australian Association of Bush Regenerators

Australian Network for Plant Conservation

Greening Australia

Society for Ecological Restoration Australasia

Further information is available on the AABR website: <http://www.aabr.org.au>

LOCATION: Teachers Federation Conference Centre, 37 Reservoir St, Surry Hills

BOOKING: Bookings and more information:

[BOOK HERE](#)

(<http://restoration-forum.eventbrite.com.au>)

AABR TAFE Awards

Did you know that AABR also sponsors two awards for TAFE Bush Regeneration students, both in memory of bush regenerators?

The Beverley Blacklock Award is given at Ryde TAFE, and the Mark Foster Award at TAFE on the Central Coast.

Mark Foster Reserve created in memorium

"Mark Foster was a bush regenerator who tragically died a few years ago in a motor bike accident on his way to work. He was only 18 when he started as a regenerator and passed away far too young. The Mark Foster Reserve on the the central coast of NSW has been dedicated to his memory thanks to the work of several of his colleagues"

Melanie Ledgett

AABR Awards Dinner

Thursday, 21 July 2016

This is the Inaugural AABR Awards Dinner.

TIME: 6pm

VENUE: The dinner will be held at a restaurant in Surry Hills, close to the Forum venue.

COST: The ticket price of \$65 includes some alcohol.

BOOKING: Bookings and more information:

[BOOK HERE](#)

(<http://restoration-forum.eventbrite.com.au>)

Seed Harvesting for Restoration

AABR walk and talk

Scott Meier, AABR

The end of February 2016 brought hot and dry conditions to the Hunter Valley in NSW, which was the setting for this recent AABR 'Walk and Talk' led by Tim Berryman of Cumberland Plain Seeds.

Consistent and above average rainfall during the majority of the summer culminated in a bumper harvest of indigenous grass seed from the managed native pastures of the slated Coal & Allied mine site located in the proximity of the town of Muswellbrook in the Upper Hunter Valley.

Tim led the discussion and information session for a small group of enthusiastic contractors, researchers and potential end users. He explained that twelve species of grass dominated the acres of tall and swaying native pastures spread before us and was the result of a partnership between Coal & Allied and Tim's seed supply business. The original aim was to provide large quantities of high quality native seed for the rehabilitation of mined lands managed by Coal & Allied. Timed slashing and targeted weed control over preceding years had allowed the various native grasses and groundcovers of this resilient landscape to dominate in a manner rarely encountered in east coast NSW.

Seated in the shade of an arching Pepper Tree, Tim and partners explained in detail the process of harvesting six to eight tonnes of raw seed from the surrounding paddocks. Discussion ensued regarding the wisdom of carefully refining and separating individual grass species, at great expense, simply to combine species during sowing. Additionally opinions were canvassed regarding provenance and the practice of developing informed specifications for restoration contracts.

Mid-day sun coincided with the display of the tractor mounted Brush Seed Harvester on a section of native pasture as yet not harvested. A 20 minute operation delivered several kilos of raw, blended seed and trash. The driver explained that differing weather conditions bring differing seed ripening patterns and that staged harvesting during the season could deliver seed blends with differing percentages of individual grass species as may be requested from a customer.

While the minesite restoration areas were not part of the tour, Tim spoke to seed sowing through a range of techniques including hydromulching, direct drilling and finally the



Left: Raw seed straight from the paddock and brush harvester..

Right: Once put through the seed thresher, the seed and trash is more uniform and can effectively be sown at this point

Photos Scott Meier



spraying of water/seed mix without using polymers usually associated with hydromulching, followed by chain harrowing to embed the seed in the soil.

The pros and cons of sacrificial cover crops including Japanese Millet, Barley and Triticale were also canvassed along with the water requirements for establishing grassy understories including the critical need for good soil moisture during the first 3 months of establishment.

Lunch and a cup of tea concluded with a visit to various pastures to observe the difference between areas that had been managed for weed control.

The day ended with a visit to Tim's seed processing shed in the town of Singleton. The seed thresher was demonstrated with its capacity to break the seed and trash into a more separated and uniform product rather than the clumping mats delivered from the brush harvester in the paddock. Apparently chaffy drills are able to sow seed with the least amount of



Above: The thresher.

Below left: Tim Berrymand the the seed coater.

Main photo page 4:Native grasses for harvesting growing on a property in the Hunter Valley

Photos: Virginia Bear, Little Gecko



preparation. Next to the thresher sat a 'modified header' that is capable of sifting into differing sizes in a single operation. Further along stood a newly acquired seed coater that is in the research and development phase – with the potential to improve seed reliability and spread-ability.

The Hunter field trip and the recent AABR field trip to the University of Western Sydney demonstrated that broadscale restoration techniques have developed considerably in recent years. These successes need to be widely communicated and understood as significant areas of the Australian landscape would benefit from the ecosystem services provided by diverse native grasslands.

AABR walk and talk

Bathurst Saturday 24th September 2016

Enjoy a day in and around Bathurst in the Central West of NSW to see what work is being done in the area.

AABR Member Diana Kureen and her colleagues at the Local Land Services will show us a variety of sites.

Saturday

The day would include visits to:

- Box Gum Grassy Woodland - Endangered Ecological Community
- Restoration sites, on and around Mount Panorama.
- Various creekline restoration projects, including Schauberger Sills, and
- A site that is looking to restore Regent Honeyeater habitat.

TIME: Saturday 10am until 3 pm

WHERE: Bathurst. Exact meeting place to be determined.

Arriving Friday?

Whilst the site visit is on Saturday, it is anticipated that a number of people will be there on Friday night.

A meal out to meet others will be arranged and also possibly a talk on the Regent Honeyeater.

Accommodation

There is a variety of accommodation available at Bathurst and environs ranging from the camping ground (which has cabins), motels, hotels and bed & breakfasts.

More Information and booking:

Contact Jane on secretary@aabr.org.au or call AABR on 0407 002 921

Western Sydney Parklands - Massaging the Bradley Method: AABR walk and talk

Elisabeth Dark, AABR

The Western Sydney Parklands (WSP) are around 35 kilometres west of the Sydney CBD. Running from just over Richmond Road in the north to Bringelly Road in the south, it is bounded for much of its length by the M7. Prospect Reservoir, Eastern Creek Racing circuit and the International Equestrian Centre are all within these parklands. It is in both the Georges River and Hawkesbury-Nepean catchments.

It is a long corridor of Cumberland Plain Woodland (CPW), a plant community listed as critically endangered at both state and national level, that is now highly fragmented throughout its range in western Sydney. The site has been infested with woody weeds, especially African olive (*Olea europaea* subsp. *cuspidata*) which has taken over many disturbed open space areas in the west of Sydney over the last 20 years.

Much of the area now known as WSP was previously cleared and used as farmland. Today it is a multi function parkland encompassing conservation, recreation and tourism. It also houses major infrastructure and utilities including gas pipelines and major roads which have been routed through it.

It is managed by the Western Sydney Parklands Trust, a state government agency that is not funded by the Treasury.

Issues

These were outlined by David Kirkland, the Principal Program Officer, Environment, for Parramatta Park and Western Sydney Parklands Trusts:

- Funding challenge. The Trust derives revenue from leases and licences and the reality is that to manage a site like this costs a lot of money.



Our hosts: David Kirkland from the Park Trust and Edgar Freimanis from EcoHort Pty Ltd.



A stand of *Themeda australis*, being one of the many native grass species found in the woodland in the park.

- Impacts of current, and possible future, park users including utilities, mountain bike trails, walking tracks, plus the legacy of the previous use of some areas as farmland. Exotic grasses blow in from the adjacent M7 motorway.
- Appropriate fire regime. The recommended fire interval for CPW is 5 - 12 years. Some areas of WSP are burned by arsonists but, as the area is not considered a significant fire hazard, there is no approval for hazard reduction burns or ecological burns. David sees that there is scope for burning as a training exercise for Fire & Rescue.

Project

The Biodiversity Fund made it possible to bring into active management an area of 44 hectares at Abbotsbury, (south of the M4) over a 3 year timeframe. EcoHort Pty Ltd was the contractor awarded the project. EcoHort's director, Edgar Freimanis, led us on a tour of key sections of the site and outlined the issues and outcomes for each.

This event was titled 'Massaging the Bradley Method' because it was recognised early in the project that the funding level, timeframe and site size would necessitate creative thinking. Most areas had at least some native groundcover and native canopy, but the mid storey was highly variable. Edgar realised that more than one approach needed to be applied, depending on the density of woody weed present and the assessed resilience. He has drawn on successful projects elsewhere in western Sydney including the continuing African olive removal at Mount Annan. In some places at Abbotsbury the African olive was so dense that walking through it was impossible. This dictated the initial priority of working along overgrown tracks to enable vehicle access.

Site 1 along the main vehicle track was the first area of weed-infested woodland to be tackled. A conventional low-tech method was utilised, initially drilling mature olives to avoid creating huge piles of cut material, injecting with glyphosate, and leaving smaller ones for later treatment. With this method approximately 1500m² could be covered in a day with a bigish team and using, typically, approximately 10 litres of glyphosate herbicide a day, but this figure does not include returning later to treat the small olives. After a few months it became apparent that reliance on this labour-intensive method exclusively would mean failing to achieve the project target.

Site 2 is a gully area. It was thought that cows from the site's dairy farm days camped regularly in the flatter gully, resulting in the olives being less thick though the weed growth was still difficult to penetrate. There was appreciable native grass cover and all structural layers were present.

Away from the tracks, a rethink of approach was required. Ed decided to try brushcutting and chainsawing. Smaller olives were brushcut, as were the lower branches of some larger olives, partly to allow access while clearing. Larger olives were chainsawed, and all cut stumps and trunks were basal sprayed. Initially the spray was a mix of Garlon® and diesel (which is unpleasant for workers) then the team switched after a few months to Biosafe (a biodiesel), to replace the diesel and which seems to work as well as the diesel in helping the Garlon® to penetrate into the olives.

Depending on how thick the olives were, it was possible to cut double or triple the area in a day, compared with Site 1. As well as this increase in productivity, at the end of each session the team would leave the area comprehensively treated as opposed to in Site 1 having to return to do the second stage of primary work.

Mechanical clearing of this area was not considered because it would have caused too much damage to the native vegetation. Similarly, direct seeding was not considered necessary, though an increase in diversity could be beneficial. With increased light now and some ongoing management the grass layer (dominated by *Microlaena stipoides* and *Oplismenus* sp) has thickened significantly.

The primary work was done approximately 20 months ago, with follow up during the primary stage to remove emerging weeds. Since then, there has been follow up approximately four months afterwards and at 12 months. There were no weeds apparent on site at the time of the field visit but Ed talked here about the difficulty of managing continuing weed growth on a tight budget.

Site 3 is a gently sloping hillside where mechanical clearing was employed in Sept-Oct 2014. What Ed looked for in deciding to use large machinery was: relatively flat terrain, accessibility with a machine, thick olive and minimal native groundcover. Prior to clearing, there was no visibility through the olive forest.

The tritter used here had a 140 horse power motor and ran on a steel track. It had a push bar that pushed the olives over and grubbed some out by the roots, then it ran over the debris and mulched it. It converted the olive forest down to ground level, leaving the site bare except for mulch. Its limitations are it can't deal with really big olives, and it is not selective, so that any native vegetation is likely to be caught up. The benefit is the area the tritter can cover – here it was 8000m² in a day.

The remaining stumps reshoot and require treatment. A number of approaches were tried, beginning with the conventional one of poisoning the stumps immediately after the machine. The problem with this was that a lot of stumps were buried under the



Using the tritter to remove dense growth of African Olive in 2014. (photo supplied by Edgar Freimanis from EcoHort Pty Ltd).



On this site, after trittering, good regeneration is seen of Acacia sp. and groundcovers. Previously the site had dense growth of African olive.

mulch. This issue was solved by deciding to wait for regrowth to reach 500mm then foliar spraying with Garlon plus Biosafe diesel, the herbicide choice being determined by the fact that the root systems were commensurate to a big plant. This technique was very effective. Seedlings and olives under about three metres as a general rule were sprayed with Brushhoff, which worked really well.

Three lots of follow up have been done here for secondary weed control. This site, because it is now totally exposed and with minimal canopy, has had prolific weeds including African daisy, thistle, Paddy's lucerne. The thick mulch cover, while inhibiting native germination, has no doubt assisted in management of the annuals.

Ed's concern here was that because the area had been under such thick olive canopy for a lengthy period, the perennial grass seedbank might be spent and future work might be a losing battle with annual weeds. This concern appears to be unfounded as native grasses are now present, though not the same suite



A view of the woodland structure. This area had dense olive and was tritterted then seeded with native grasses

as down in the gully. Regeneration prospects seem to be good with the tritterter possibly causing beneficial disturbance to the native seedbank and stimulating germination of species now appearing, including *Acacia implexa*, other wattles, *Indigofera australis* and Fabaceae groundcovers. While there is currently minimal eucalypt canopy (1-2 mature trees in middle of the cleared area) there is some exposed ground where eucalypts may germinate in the long term.

Remaining sites: Ed took us around six areas in total. Sites 4 and 5 were both trittertered. Because of concerns of possible erosion at Site 5, and with little regeneration in 12 months, following break down of the olive mulch the area was hand sown with a selection of perennial grasses. These were applied at the rate of 1gm/m². Ed wonders now whether this may have been unnecessary. Site 6, on top of the ridge, had an infestation of African olive to 4m high, which was hi-volume sprayed with selective herbicide metsulfuron methyl, to mixed success. This is a cost-effective method if there is not much risk of collateral damage.

Since this treatment, a patch of 20 endangered *Pimelea spicata* plants has appeared where there was previously only the dense olive. Ed regards this as a big success of the project.

Lessons from the project

This project has followed the precepts of Natural Area Regeneration (NAR) by working with the resilience of the site. Areas with lower density weed infestations, and existing native groundcover, were targeted for initial work as we would expect.

The challenge with grant funded projects is the valid expectation of achieving significant benefit in a short time frame. When the objective is to clear dense woody weeds from an area of infested bushland, it is necessary to weigh up all the options available. The important thing is to have a good understanding of the site issues and to assess the likely outcome of intervention, so that the technique chosen is appropriate to the site. In this case the primary work options used were:

- Cut/drill and paint (similar to method in Site 1) – most 'clean' result with least disturbance.
- Brushcutting/chainsawing (as in Site 2) – much faster method, more disturbance than the method used in Site 1 but suitable for moderately weedy areas.
- Tritterter – fastest and most economic option, suitable for dense African olive forest.

Twenty hectares of the 44 to be treated, were trittertered. Without the tritterter, this section of WSP would still be heavily infested with African olive. Ed commented that when you hand clear a large area of olive you are going to have to invest a lot in follow up weeding, regardless of the type of primary treatment used.

The appearance of *Pimelea spicata* in a new site is a project 'win' and might increase the chances of obtaining further funding for NAR on site.

For such a significant site, it is unfortunate that currently no consistent monitoring is being done. The contract team has been doing anecdotal monitoring. Cumberland

Bird Observers and Univeristy of NSW do bird surveys. It is to be hoped that more formal surveying can be programmed in the future.

The Future

There remains the important issue of long term maintenance. The primary phase of the project finished four months ahead of schedule, leaving the final 16 months for intensive secondary work. While we visited the site in a dry period with little weed growth and at the onset of colder weather, when conditions change so will the weed response. Woody weed regrowth and recurrent annuals are an issue. Ed reported that he had to take a targeted approach to follow up, including spraying of selective herbicides, to treat as much as they could while doing minimal damage to natives. Contract constraints restricted hand weeding to really sensitive areas.

The contract work has been done skilfully. With this intervention the site has undoubtedly been given a valuable opportunity to strengthen diversity and resilience.

With the completion of the contract, the site will now be managed under the parklands general maintenance contract, with the anticipated result that some areas will deteriorate under less regular management. David is hoping to source funding from elsewhere, including possibly an agreement to biobank this site, to ensure long term active management by professional regenerators.

Our thanks to both David and Ed for their time and for sharing their expertise.

Unless indicated, photos are by Virginia Bear. These are taken from the video of the visit which will be soon loaded onto the AABR RegenTV webpage.



A view looking across western Sydney to the Sydney CBD

Letter to AABR: Opinion Piece

Frank Gasparre

Current Director of Bushland Management Solutions Pty Ltd

I have the pleasure of having reached a few milestones in the last few years. One of them is achieving an age where I officially become experienced. I prefer this term to the age based reality that it reflects. Having now officially gained "experience" something else that happens is a constant urge to share the hard won knowledge that comes with experience. If you are the unfortunate victim of this right/need to share my experiences, I apologise in advance.

I started my time in this industry as a part time casual regenerator, in the old "red" and "green" team times, worked as a paid regenerator in local councils, worked as a technical officer in local and state government agencies, and then as an educator, and now back to working as a contractor, albeit as a company owner.

Over this time, one of the things that I have noticed as critical to our industry is the vagaries of the budget cycles. The perpetual uncertainties of modern council budget cycles have a flow on effect to the whole industry. The impact is particularly a problem for those working on the contracting side. To illustrate the problem, if you work in the public sector, please imagine the following scenario.

Scenario

It's Friday 1st of July, 2016. Jenny and Joe Bloggs turn up for work at the recently amalgamated Nirvana Shire Council, renamed as Purgatory by the NSW Government following a study that recommended it be called Heaven.

Your manager pulls you aside and says "I am sorry Jenny and Joe, but we have decided that until the budget figures are fully endorsed by Council, your job is suspended and you will not be receiving your wages, so please go home, and we will get back to you when we have sorted it out. It may be August, it may be September, but it will definitely be before November. We love your work but that's the best security we can offer you.

Your options:

Option 1 – you tell your boss, of course, no problem, let me know when you have sorted it, and I love the environment so much that I will wait patiently until you decide whether you want to have an environmental program.

Option 2 – Ask your recent Lotto winning uncle for a loan

Option 3 – leave the industry in frustration at the stupidity of public sector budget cycles.

Sadly, this is the very real scenario that a very high percentage of skilled and motivated staff in the contracting world find themselves in every July, but very few people know someone who won Lotto.

Why does this happen?

The reasons are complex, and sometimes unavoidable, but for many local councils this problem doesn't arise. Almost all of the councils we work for have established systems that mean that their contracts are ready to go from July 1, or very close to it.

Ah but this can't be done I hear some of you say. We can't issue

any contracts until the council confirms its budget at meeting x of the new financial year business papers.

There is a lot that you can do to make sure that when council x finally does confirm its budget / management plan, that you have your contracts ready to go and minimise delays.

If concern for the welfare of poor bush regeneration contractors is not your main driving concern, just imagine how feral a moderately degraded site can go if it doesn't get worked between July to November.

The methods that councils use to be as ready as possible are as follows.

Issue your specifications early, say May, and have the responses back and assessment completed before July 1, with any necessary approvals in principle done.

I hear some of you say once more "this can't be done"! Not true. It can and is being done by many councils. The insertion of one simple line such as "subject to final confirmation of council budgets for the 2016/17 financial year" in the contract specification and assessment outline gives you the ability to hold off on issuing contracts if something gets in the way.

This isn't a 100% failproof system. One of our clients did all of the above and had a nearly 6 month delay due to internal processes that were imposed on them. But when they did overcome the obstruction, they had specifications written, ready to go, and assessments completed, and were ready to move forward and minimise the impacts.

So mistake number one is, not to write your specification or determine or commence your tender process until your manager comes to you and says, your budget got approved last night. In most instances, the final budget approval will be in line with the budget drafts that have been available for months. In my time at Parramatta, budget planning used to commence as early as November the previous year with most figures well and truly final by March.

So please, get your documentation out early, complete your assessments and get all the ducks in a row as early as possible. The sooner that you are ready to issue your contracts in the new financial year, the sooner that the skilled and motivated workers that you depend on can eat, and the less weed seed gets deposited that spring growing season.

In the same thread, another key way of avoiding the problem of delay in contract allocations is to extend contracts beyond 1 financial year (subject to performance of course). Four of the councils we work for issue tender specifications for three years.

Again, I hear you say, "you cant do that, council can't approve expenditure beyond a financial year"!!!

Yet again, my experience can tell you, rubbish. A simple disclaimer in the tender specification saying words to the effect of "Continuation of the contract is subject to performance and council budget allocations". This makes it compliant with the requirements of the Local Government Act and gives you the flexibility to make sure you don't get stuck with a non performing contractor.

For better or worse, contractors are the mainstay of the bush regeneration industry. Please help them to stay in the industry, stay viable, and keep the highly motivated and skilled staff that you need to get the job done in work!!

Restoring bushland at Remony Farm

AABR walk and talk, April 2016

Janet Fox, Remony Farm, Kurrajong NSW

Remony Farm situated in the Lower Blue Mountains, began as a Crown grant which was established in 1823. The old farmhouse still stands but has had various modifications.

The farm was once an apricot orchard and the contours of the land farmed are still evident. It then became an Andalusian horse stud and a riding school in the 1980s. There is a stable for seven horses, a schoolroom and a small apartment. There are two arenas at the back of the property. Presently it is a mixed farm – cattle, sheep and chickens as well as a bed and breakfast.

The long and windy road up from the creek to the main house



Flourishing grass trees in the woodland

was built around 1952 when the electricity company had to maintain the power lines that flowed through to Lithgow. The result was the embankments were severely damaged and by the time I arrived the area was choked with lantana (*Lantana camara*), privets (*Ligustrum lucidum* and *L. sinense*) and the insidious trad, (*Tradescantia albiflora*).

The farm is bounded by creeks on three sides; two unnamed creeks and the pristine Little Wheeney Creek (below the escarpment), and the western section by another property. It is along the two unnamed creeks that bound the property to the north and south that most of the conservation work has been done over the last nine years. The geology of the farm is primarily Wianamatta shale in the gullies and Hawkesbury sandstone on the escarpments.

We came to the 21 hectare property in 2007. In the early days of ownership I sought advice from HRN (the former Hawkesbury Rainforest Network), the former Catchment Management Authority and did a CALM (Conservation and Land Management) course at the Richmond TAFE, plus various Pro-farming courses. It was from these banks of knowledge that I realised I had several hectares of Turpentine/Ironbark

Forest along the escarpment that was in good condition, and Temperate Rainforest with influences of Dry Rainforest in the gullies which was in poor condition. Both of these vegetation types are endangered ecological communities under the NSW *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*. It is the Turpentine / Ironbark forest which I am restoring with the aim of providing a good habitat for quolls, lyrebirds and a myriad of small birds.

I have had a series of Landcare grants over the years, then Green Corp and currently the Green Army. I am endeavouring to have Green Army Round V work on the property later on in the year.

The AABR Walk:

We had about fifteen guests who were perfectly happy to amble around the property. They ranged from new property owners, to bush carers with many years of experience. We were filmed by Virginia of Little Gecko Media for a video which will go on the RegenTV website.

The walk began on the ridge Turpentine/ Ironbark Forest. Thanks to a CMA grant for fencing, cattle have been excluded for six years. The regeneration of the understory has been impressive. In fact we now have other issues to consider such as the sightings of koalas in this area, which have made us rethink the use of fire to reduce the fuel load for fire protection. Consideration will be given to using low intensity fire or manual thinning of the Blackthorn (*Bursaria spinosa*) and young turpentines (*Syncarpia glomulifera*) or a combination of both methods.

We then walked to an impressive stand of Broadleaf Grass-tree (*Xanthorrhoea arborea*) which has come back significantly since the cattle were removed. I suspect

as we have not had fires through the area for decades, the cattle actually did a service in eating these trees down as now they are flourishing. There was discussion on the use of crash grazing on some of these sites as an aspect of sustainable agriculture whilst maintaining healthy bush.

The group ambled down to the unnamed creek below the dam. This creek runs into Little Wheeney Creek. Weed infiltration has



Regenerating rainforest after weed removal.



The patch where Janet first started clearing lantana. Regenerating eucalypts can be seen in the background.

occurred in the upper area of the stream. Cat's claw creeper has made a small impact along with taro (*Colocasia esculenta*), crofton weed (*Ageratina adenophora*) and lantana. With the aid of a Kurrajong Cat's Claw Creeper Grant and the Green Army these weeds are slowly being eliminated.

As we walked around the south-east border of the property it was discussed that there was good regeneration of trees and grasses such as the stout bamboo grass (*Austrostipa ramossissima*) once the lantana is removed. It was reinforced to the group that as in any site where weed removal has been done, constant follow-up work is needed.

We finished the walk in the gully along the road - a large section which has been severely compromised with erosion and weed invasion for over 70 years.

The deep, steep sided gully hampered access to the thick blanket of predominantly lantana. This area was the last to be given attention for weed removal and it has required the most amount of my energy and a series of grants.

We walked into the area for about 150 metres but as it is quite fragile we thought it prudent not to disturb it too much. I explained my many challenges and the various methods used to restore the gully to its natural habitat. It was fortunate the dominant gully species were still evident; coachwood (*Ceratopetalum apetalum*), red ash (*Alphitonia excelsa*) black wattle (*Acacia parramattensis*), koda (*Ehretia acuminata*) and lastly yellow ash/bonewood (*Emmenosperma alphitonoides*) The understory since the removal of a large area of lantana and privet has been very resilient and is now dominated by sassafras (*Doryphora sassafras*) native hibiscus (*Backhousia myrtifolia*) and native peach (*Trema aspera*). Ground covers such as mat rush (*Lomandra longifolia*), *Microlaena stipoides*, basket grass (*Oplismenus aemulus*), stout bamboo grass (*Austrostipa ramosissima*) are all in abundance. The vegetation mix and structure provide habitat for smaller insect-eating birds, such as the eastern yellow robin (*Eopsaltria australis*), yellow thornbills (*Acanthiza nana*) and of course the spotted pardalote (*Pardalotus punctatus*).

We had an open discussion of the mistakes I had made, such as, not removing the tradescantia immediately as it appeared, to learning what areas had good natural resilience so plantings were not necessary, and learning patience and observation. I also explained that I used all methods of bush regeneration from hand weeding

and hauling out bags of tradescantia (to be fed to the chooks) and *Bidens pilosa*, to using herbicide sparingly on extremely steep slopes.

As the day concluded and as we walked up the windy driveway looking at the mostly restored gully I tried to explain the big difference in working on a private property to working on public/crown land. As a private landholder I could select sections to be worked on according to my energy levels or the climate of the day.

There is so much more to do and I would love to migrate up the gully but I will leave that to another day.

AABR would like to thank Janet for making her place available for an AABR Walk and Talk, and sharing her experiences.

Photos: Virginia Bear. These are taken from the video of the visit which will be soon loaded onto the AABR RegenTV webpage.



Above: Steeply sloping rainforest gully. Janet is hand weeding trad and allowing native grasses and groundcovers to spread.



Regenerating dry rainforest now fenced to protect it from grazing. Pasture is managed by grazing with Dorper sheep and Belted Galloway cattle. Janet uses crash grazing techniques to manage weeds.



Chilean jasmine (*Mandevilla laxa*) Another weedy garden escape

Tess Heighes, Secretary,
Upper Kangaroo Valley Landcare Group inc

I was alerted to this environmental weed a few years ago by a visitor from Queensland who noticed it growing along the roadside of the Upper Kangaroo Valley area in sub-tropical rainforest when the vine was flowering in mid-summer. She mentioned it was an environmental weed in tropical areas of Queensland.

Whilst still promoted as a garden plant for its fragrance, this attractive vigorous climber is a garden escapee and environmental weed. It has established in some forest areas of the Upper Kangaroo River and can smother the native hosts. Adventitious trailing ancillary stems spread through the forest in search of new hosts. New roots appear at the nodes of these stems whenever there is contact with the soil. PLANTnet NSWFlora on line describes its distribution as being naturalized in several areas, recorded for Comboyne, Dorrigo, Sydney and Tamworth districts.

Characteristics of Chilean Jasmine

Chilean jasmine has opposite leaves and a milky sap. The stems are woody towards the base and established vines have a lignotuber just at or below the soil. During summer the vine has showy terminal white flowers and the seeds are in long pendulous beanlike pods as shown in the photograph. When the pods open, the dried seeds with a fluffy appendage are spread by wind. New plants germinate in favorable light and moist areas generally on the margins of the forest. The plants can defoliate during heavy frosts but survive and thrive with new foliage in Spring.

There are many hybrids of this climber available in nurseries and the reproductive potential of these is unknown at this stage. The red flowering variety has not been seen colonizing locally.



Chilean jasmine smothering rainforest vegetation



Open seed pods showing the dried seeds and fluffy appendages..



Chilean jasmine in flower.

Eradication

Initially I tried some control by the cut and paint method before I noticed the rhizomatous tendency of the vines rooting at every node right into the forested areas. It was a steep and difficult area to access and I abandoned my efforts until our Landcare Group had a site meeting and decided we would approach Local Land Services for funding to employ a contractor to try and eradicate the infestation. During this time we had discovered single outbreaks in several areas up to three kilometres from this site and found it growing along the fence line of a local resident.

It is best to dig up new plants making sure to remove the lignotuber and any trailing stems with roots. The 'cut and paint' method of herbicide (approx 50% glyphosate) application can also be used making sure to cut into the lignotuber to apply the herbicide. All rooted ancillary stems need to be removed or treated. For well established infestations, an integrated program combining the above methods with follow up spot spraying of a selective brush killer may be required to eradicate the infestation.

The isolated patches and suspected source were successfully treated once we discovered the resistance to the cut and paint method due to the woody lignotuberos root (see attached photo) which was then directly cut or scraped and applied with undiluted glyphosate. We have not yet achieved total control of the more extensive infestation covering about one hectare.

Upper Kangaroo Valley Landcare

The Upper Kangaroo Valley Landcare Group has been active in the control of Chilean jasmine infestations in the Upper River area. During 2014 we applied to Local Land Services for funding to control this newly recognised environmental weed in our area. In February 2015 we were allocated a Grant of \$5390 to employ a contractor to do the Primary target weeding of the dense infestation covering approximately one hectare of rainforest. Our Group is committed to a \$1000 in kind contribution towards this work. Our volunteers have been involved in removing seedlings and treating the woody lignotubers, which in many places have



Chilean jasmine tuber before treatment

regenerated new shoots. The extensive work is ongoing and we hope you will find a substitute plant if you want a flowering vine for your garden.

The Upper Kangaroo Valley Landcare Group inc. was originally a Bushcare Group formed in the early nineties to eradicate privet on a Council Picnic area on the banks of the Kangaroo River opposite the Upper River Hall.

This expanded into more extensive weed control such as blackberry, madeira vine, honeysuckle, moth vine and Trad. To go beyond this area for privet control on adjoining and riparian private land we incorporated as a Landcare Group in late 2004. We have about six to eight active volunteers working on eight sites once a month and are supported by a dozen or so financial members and landholders.

Our weed control list is expanding and we welcome any volunteers who would like to assist a happy bunch of 'local biodiversity protectors'

For more information contact Tess on 02 4422 7147.

All photos: Tess Heighes



RegenTV, the AABR online library of restoration videos from forums and fields day, will be officially launched at the 30th Anniversary AABR forum on 21st July. Along with videos there will be educational resources for students and life-long learners.

RegenTV allows for the sharing of current thinking in a rapidly growing field, in a climate changing world. All of the presentations at this year's forum will also be recorded.

Three more videos from past forums have recently been added to the ever-expanding catalogue.

Peter Jensen from the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust outlines the tools and techniques that have been trialled to assist the restoration Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub (ESBS) at North Head Sanctuary. The site holds nearly half of the remaining ESBS (77ha) and professional

and volunteers bush regenerators have utilised three different strategies to assist restoration; regeneration resilience, thinning of over-storey vegetation and prescribed burns.

Brendon Levot from Toolijoola discusses the management of African olives and the Bare-nosed Wombat on a 27 hectare environmental restoration project at Cobbitty. The process of looking after the animals to ensure their survival as well as the plants in the revegetation project is discussed.

Nola Hancock's talk on local provenance and more distant seed sources tackled the big question. Does seed from the local site perform better? Nola's conclusion is that mixing seed sources are best. In addition the disadvantages of local provenance were that due to the fragmentation of the landscape, population sizes are smaller which increases inbreeding depression resulting in reduced genetic fitness. The implications for plants trying to evolve in a climate changing world are also discussed.

A selection of videos are currently available for your viewing pleasure at regenTV (<http://www.aabr.org.au/regentv/>).

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

BMDO. It's on again.

Go crazy for Bushcare's Major Day Out

Isabelle Connolly, Bushcare's Major Day Out Organising Committee

Bushcare's Major Day Out is an annual national event each September that celebrates the wonderful work being done to preserve Australia's amazing biodiversity through bushcare. If you haven't heard about it, then why not get involved this year to either showcase your site to your local community or gather together neighbours, friends and family to help out at a site where you'd like to contribute

Don Wilson, President of the Bushcare's Major Day Out Committee, came up with the idea six years ago, after being inspired by the huge national participation in Clean Up Australia Day. His vision is that one day most Australians will understand the threats facing our bush and the need for bushcarers so that more people get involved.

Local councils, state governments and Landcare Australia have embraced Don's idea and helped him grow the number of sites participating across Australia from twelve in 2010 to 247 sites in 2015. Costa Georgiadis and Angus Stewart from the ABC TV show Gardening Australia are also big supporters. Costa, the patron sees BMDO "as a wonderful way of bringing Bushcare to public attention". Meanwhile Angus Stewart strongly encourages involvement to ensure that weeds don't "displace the plants and the wonderful wildlife that goes with it".

The need for more volunteers could not be more pressing as Australia's biodiversity is in decline with more than 1,700 species and ecological communities threatened and at risk of extinction [1] Weeds are ranked the second biggest threat to our bush after land clearing. More than 3,100 foreign plants have become naturalised in Australia [2] and about 2700 have been identified as weeds, causing social, economic and environmental impacts.

Bushcare not only makes a real difference to biodiversity allowing native flora and fauna to reestablish but it is also beneficial to our wellbeing. The moderate exercise that it requires within a natural environment reduces stress, while the knowledge that you are doing something good for the environment and making new friends in your local community can increase self-esteem.

The event is not only about weeding but having fun too as it also celebrates your good work. We'd like people to be creative and cheeky this year. Why not convert your morning tea, a crucial part of bushcare into a mad

[1]. Threatened Species under the EPBC Act

www.environment.gov.au <March 2016>

[2] Downey P, Scanlon T and Hosking J, 'Prioritising weed species based on their threat and ability to impact on biodiversity: a case study from New South Wales', Plant Protection Quarterly Vol 25(3) 2010 111-126.



Costa Georgiadis and Don Wilson BMDO 2014 at Clive Park, Northbridge. Photo: Isabelle Connolly.

hatters party, a high tea, cake off, or tasting event for wine, coffee, bush tucker or better still, edible weed tucker? A bush walk could become a treasure hunt, a onesie or spotlight walk or Inspector Clouseau adventure in search of a particular species or site feature with clues, gopro cameras or drones. Music, poetry or art could play a part. Why not weave weed vines or create a sculpture from broken branches? Habitat could be embellished at your site with workshops to construct and erect native bee or nest boxes, or how about tapping into a local citizen science project? Local Aboriginal groups may also like to get involved with a smoking ceremony, bush tucker talk or Aboriginal site tour. The list is endless. Have fun with it!

This year Bushcare's Major Day Out will be held on (and around) Sunday 11 September, just after National Threatened Species Day. So how about getting involved to celebrate bushcare. Just visit www.bushcaresmajordayout.org for more information and hope to see you there.

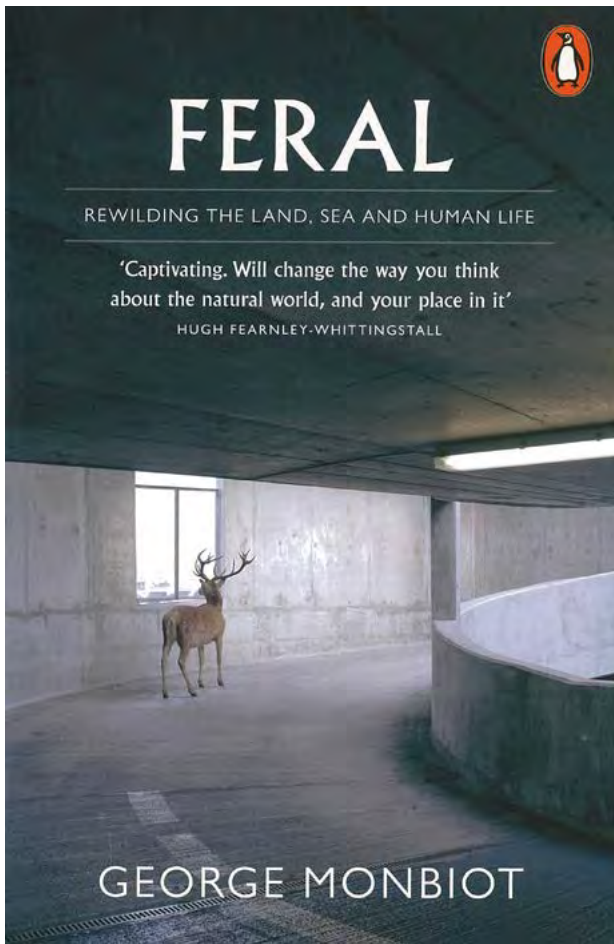


Castlecrag bushcarers at BMDO 2015. Photo: Matthew Keighery.

www.bushcaresmajordayout.org



Books



Feral: Rewilding the Land, Sea and Human Life

George Monbiot

Those of us who work in the bush are sometimes described as Ferals, a somewhat derogatory term in Australia. 'Gone Feral' colloquially describes that which has gone wild and no longer responds to the tender hand of domestication. Feral animals and plants are those species that have had the audacity to survive and thrive without assistance after being introduced post 1788 and in many cases have gone on to wreak havoc on indigenous ecosystems. European humans are of course excluded from this definition because primarily it is us telling the story...

As opposed to our antipodean negative view of the term in *Feral*, UK author George Monbiot sets out to tell us a tale of re-engaging with the natural world and reintroducing fauna and flora to landscapes stripped of their ecological diversity and function by centuries and in some cases millennia of extractive, simplistic and destructive land management practices. At the heart of his story is not a simple benevolent need for humans to heal the earth's woes by giving back to nature, but to re-wild ourselves from the monotony and ecological impoverishment of our civilised, urban societies by engaging with nature and re-instating diverse self-maintaining ecosystems.

This book is well worth a read, with many thought provoking tales from across the planet, it challenges the dominant mindset that has placed the earth in the midst of a major extinction event and humanity in an ecologically and culturally impoverished world of our own making.

As Bush Regenerators we are privileged to undertake works that assist ecosystems to recover and restore function, so let's wear the badge of Feral with pride, as we are at the forefront of a brave new wilder, some may say Feral, world.

Penguin UK 2014; \$24.99 – Paperback, 336 Pages – isbn 9781926428215

<https://www.penguin.com.au/products/9780141975580/feral-searching-enchancement-frontiers-rewilding>

George Monbiot is a British writer, known for his environmental and political activism. He writes a weekly column for The Guardian, and is the author of a number of books. <http://www.monbiot.com>

Book reviewed by Spencer Shaw

Engaging CALD communities in Bushcare & Landcare

The Ethnic Communities' Council of NSW (ECC) Landcare project aims to help incorporate CALD (culturally and linguistically diverse) communities in Bushcare and Landcare programs.

Recently a brochure has been produced to assist. The brochure has some tips on engaging CALD communities and how the bilingual educators available through the ECC can assist you.

The team has been working hard to get ready to facilitate natural resource management awareness-raising activities for groups from their cultural communities in local bush areas. t

For more information about the project see the website:

<http://www.eccnsw.org.au/SCC.aspx>

Australian Network for Plant Conservation Inc

APCC11
11th Australasian Plant Conservation Conference 2016

LA TROBE UNIVERSITY

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS VICTORIA

11th Australasian Plant Conservation Conference 2016
"New Approaches to Plant Conservation
Challenges in the Modern World"

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, Melbourne
14th – 18th November 2016

CONFERENCE THEMES

- Assisted colonisation as a practical tool for climate change mitigation.
- Conservation for people and nature: how do we maximise the benefits for both?
- Rethinking landscape restoration: seed production, provenance, conservation planning.
- Holistic conservation: the role of mutualisms in ensuring functional ecosystem recovery (eg. pollinators, soils).
- Rescuing small populations from extinction.
- New challenges, emerging ideas

Sponsorship opportunities now available!

Call for Abstracts closes 8 July 2016
Early bird registrations close 26 August 2016

For more information go to:
www.anpc.asn.au/conferences/2016

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
Gregory Andrews
Commonwealth Threatened Species Commissioner

PLENARY SPEAKERS:
Dr Jen Silcock
University of Queensland

Dr David Kendal
University of Melbourne

Dr Paul Gibson-Roy
Greening Australia, NSW

Ms Leonie Monks
WA Dept of Parks and Wildlife

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS

The endangered *Caladenia fulva* (Swamp Spider-orchid) is only known to occur in the Stawell area in the Victorian goldfields region. Photo credit: Nicola Bester
Polygonum orientale (Chinese Stick-in-the-Mud) is known from only one population in Victoria at Lake Okeech, and four locations in southern NSW. Photo credit: RD Mackinnon

What's happening

Thursday, 21 July 2016

AABR Forum

Experience Counts! New standards - 30 years repairing Australian nature from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM

Join us for an outstanding day of invited speakers marking the NSW launch of the National Standards for the Practice of Ecological Restoration in Australia.

Hear presentations about some of the most impressive terrestrial and marine restoration projects in urban and rural Vic, NSW, Qld and SA - as well as the latest on seed production and genetics for broadscale restoration in fragmented landscapes.

Further information is available on the AABR website . <http://www.aabr.org.au>

LOCATION: Teachers Federation Conference Centre, 37 Reservoir St, Surry Hills

BOOKING: Bookings and more information

BOOK HERE

(<http://restoration-forum.eventbrite.com.au>)

See Page 3 for more information on the Forum, the Dinner and AABR awards

Tuesday 23rd August 2016

Weed Management Demonstration Day

WHERE: Parramatta Park, Sydney

Showcasing some contemporary techniques used to detect, control and educate about weeds

Contact Nicola Dixon, Greater Sydney Weeds Action Program project officer

02 4574 9601 or wapadmin@hrcc.nsw.gov.au

Saturday 24th September 2016

Bathurst - AABR Walk and Talk

Enjoy a day in and around Bathurst in the Central West of NSW guided see what work is being done in the area.

TIME: 10am to 2 pm

WHERE: Bathhurst

See Page 5 for more information

INFORMATION AND BOOKING

Email Jane at secretary@aabr.org.au

or call 0407 002 921.

15-18 November 2016

11th Australasian Plant Conservation Conference

'New Approaches to Plant Conservation Challenges in the Modern World'

APCC11 aims to bring plant conservation scientists and practitioners together to discuss how best to approach the key threats to plant conservation in Australia.

An increased understanding of the current and potential future impacts of climate change will significantly influence the practice of conservation in Australia. While the challenges remain the same - how to deal with habitat loss, how to recover small populations, how to connect habitat - it is clear that restoration goals, extinction risk assessments and species translocations have all been re-imagined in the face of climate change. New approaches to plant conservation are now available to practitioners and in this conference, we want to explore the ways that plant conservationists are dealing with the modern challenges of protecting Australian plant diversity

Where Melbourne Vic.

Registrations open Monday 9th May 2016

<http://www.anpc.asn.au/conferences/2016>

ENVIROSOURCE

The Envirosource website has a section for events from all over Australia covering a diversity of topics related to the environment and sustainability.

Go to:

<https://www.envirosource.com.au/events>

The web site is an easy way to find what you need such as opportunities, knowledge and resources.

Tap into Australia's leading environmental organisations and individuals, from wherever you're located.

This central knowledge hub aims to highlight all the positive environmental work happening across Australia. It's a great place to find (and share) your environmental events, jobs, awards, grants, tenders and panels. You'll also find lots of other tools to support your work including articles and webinars. And this is just the beginning.

Friends of Grasslands

For a whole swag of interesting events, check out the FoG calender.

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

www.fog.org.au/



President

Tein McDonald president@aabr.org.au

Treasurer

Kirsten Vine

Membership Officer

Louise Brodie membership@aabr.org.au

Secretary

Jane Gye secretary@aabr.org.au

Website advertising

Mitra Gusheh advertise@aabr.org.au

Committee members

Elisabeth Dark, Spencer Shaw, Kate Low, Scott Meier, Suzanne Pritchard, Kirsten Vine, Mark Cachia, Melanie Ledgett, Ben Ford, Matthew Pearson

Northeast NSW/Southeast QLD subcommittee

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

Coffs Harbour subcommittee

Lindy Davis 0448 651 239 or
02 6654 5313

Australian Association of Bush Regenerators

The Australian Association of Bush

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

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

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

AABR also offers accreditation for experienced practitioners.

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

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0407 002 921

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enquiries@aabr.org.au

ABN: 33 053 528 029 ARBN: 059 120 802

Membership fees

Individuals \$30 (unwaged \$15)

Organisations (*does not confer membership to individuals in the organisation*)

- business (< 5 staff) \$120
- business (5-20 staff) \$300
- business (> 20 staff) \$480

Government \$60

Not for profit \$30 (*or \$0 with newsletter exchange*)

Benefits of Membership:

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

Newsletter contributions and comments are welcome

Contact Louise Brodie newsletter@aabr.org.au 0407 068 688

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of AABR