



AABR NEWS

Australian Association of Bush Regenerators

working with natural processes

Nº 130
September
2016

President's Perspective

New members

2

regenTV - up, up and away

3

Integrated fire and weed
management on the
Cumberland Plain

4

AABR Awards

6

Book: Decades of healing

13

Citizen Science Projects

Hollows as Homes

Aussie Backyard Bird Count

14

What's Happening

16

AABR AGM

AABR's Annual General Meeting and Social Get-together will be held on

Wednesday 12 October 2016

5.30 for 6pm start.

Where: THE AGINCOURT HOTEL (upstairs bistro), just near Central Station, corner Harris and George Streets, Broadway, Sydney.

The pub's bistro will be open for food and drinks from 5.30pm, so come along and have a relaxed evening meal with other AABR members, and hear about all the exciting things that AABR has been doing, and plans for the future.

AGENDA

1. Confirmation of last General Meeting
2. Receive various reports from the committee on the activities of AABR during the past year.
3. Elect office-bearers of AABR and ordinary committee members.
4. Receive and consider the financial statement

Call for Committee Members (See page 2)

If you are interested, have a question, or would like a nomination form, please call Tein (02 6682 2885) or Jane (02 9456 6626), or email secretary@aabr.org.au

AABR 30 year dinner photos

View photos from the AABR 30 year dinner at

<http://www.aabr.org.au/aabr-awards-dinner-a-great-success/>



Photos: V Bear and S Pritchard

President's Perspective

AABR FORUM AND AWARDS DINNER A BIG SUCCESS.

As readers will be see from the photos linked to the AABR website <http://www.aabr.org.au/aabr-awards-dinner-a-great-success/> – the July Forum and Inaugural Awards dinner were greatly appreciated by many.

Around 300 people attended the forum where 15 inspiring speakers ably illustrated various elements of the National **Standards for the Practice of Ecological Restoration** - a project in which AABR and the forum co-hosts (SERA, ANPC and Greening Australia are Partners). More about this next issue. The Forum also allowed AABR to publically launch our **regenTV** educational video platform, funded by the NSW Environmental Trust. (See more detail on that on page 3). Importantly – all the presentations from the Forum have been video-recorded and will ultimately be uploaded on the regenTV site. Sponsorship for the event was generously provided by the Platinum sponsor: Toolijooa – as well as the Silver sponsors Arborgreen, All Stakes Supply and Hills Bushcare.

The AABR awards dinner also did not disappoint. Around 90 people gathered for an 'intimate' dinner to catch up with friends and colleagues and provided an opportunity for representatives of the current industry to express gratitude to those who have pioneered and shaped our industry over the last few decades. (See transcripts of the citations on pages 6 to 12). The photos of bush regenerators and their projects that were collected together for the event were projected as a slide show throughout the evening and will be available on an AABR photo database in the future, subject to the appropriate permissions.

Welcome to new AABR Members

Micaela Ashton	Greg Pointing
Karen Benhar	Anthony Powell
Kylie Brooks	Sue-Ellen Smith
Gavin Evans	Alison Steele
Gill Fowler	Julie Vejle
Sean Granger	Samuel Webber
Rachel Heaton	Madelaine Willcock
Robert Lawrence	
Rosalie Lawrence	Congratulations on accreditation
Asha Mazzella	
Liza McGuigan	Brendan Cranney
Ben North	Jeremy Dunlop
Daniel Perkovic	Matthew Pearson

CURRENT AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS.

An announcement was made at the AABR dinner of AABR's intention to employ a **part-time Executive Officer** (See advert on page 12) and a bookkeeper – which are steps the committee now believes are needed to meet the demands of a growing organisation. This will free up the committee to focus on forging stronger links with a growing constituency of up and coming bush regeneration sole traders and companies, as well as other ecological restoration practitioners. By involving this more diverse constituency in the running of AABR, our organisation will develop a capacity to continually convey our message about protecting and restoring Australia's precious bushland.

UPCOMING AABR AGM.

Please note that the next **AGM (October 12th 2016.5.30 for 6pm)** will be 'Regen in the Pub'. Come to **the Agincourt Hotel**, (corner Harris and George Streets, Broadway, Sydney). Positions that need filling include that of **AABR treasurer** – now a very easy job as we are engaging a paid bookkeeper! Willing volunteers are asked to email secretary@aabr.org.au or just come along and nominate yourself at the meeting.

Tein McDonald.
President AABR

AABR AGM

Call for Committee Members

Would you like to help on the AABR committee or any of our informal sub-committees (newsletter, website, events etc)? Most of the work is done by email or phone linkup, so if you can squeeze in a little time to help AABR, we'd really appreciate it!

With the employment of a part-time executive officer and a bookkeeper, the committee will be able to focus on different things. (see Presidents Perspective above)

Nominations can be made at the AGM

If you are interested, have a question, or would like a nomination form, please call Tein (02 6682 2885) or Jane (02 9456 6626), or email secretary@aabr.org.au.

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



is up, up and away!

RegenTV was launched on July 21 at the AABR Forum. Currently there are 13 videos and 2 sets of learning resources available, with more videos on the way, all on the [regenTV video platform](#).

The videos have been crafted by Virginia Bear of Little Gecko Media, and the learning materials have been reviewed by educators and we will be getting feedback from the users as well.

We have taken a very broad view of a learner because there are so many learning situations such as undertaking formal studies; landcare and bushcare expanding their knowledge; and professional development.

Video Themes

There are six themes. One video can have more than one theme and it is around the themes that the learning materials have been developed. The themes are:

- **Engaging others** which emphasises partnerships and relationships have made the project a success
- **Evaluating Progress (5-star recovery)** highlights case studies that have used adaptive management to review the progress of work and incorporate the findings. The learning materials use the evaluation proformas from the National Restoration Standards
- **Landscape scale restoration & rehabilitation** - the BIG projects, Gondwana link, Great Eastern Ranges, pipelines etc.
- **Reference Ecosystems (including times of environmental change)** showcases the thinking that has gone into developing a model that the restoration project aspires to.
- **Restoration approach- selecting appropriate approach** are reconstruction and restoration videos that focus on the overall process as well as the nitty-gritty of specific techniques.
- **Seed Sourcing - Seed & plant production areas and genetic issues** looks at the new thinking around provenance strategies and the role of seed production areas.

Sorting the videos



There is an ability to sort the videos using tags, that will be more useful when the 50 or so videos are all up. These relate to specific issues e.g. migratory shore birds, grassy woodlands, saltmarsh, community involvement to name a few.

You can also hone in on your interest using the index, which will promptly get you to the relevant location.

Learning Resources

A set of Learning Resources is being developed around each theme and related to the National Restoration Standards.

Currently the themes covered are Seed and plant production areas & genetic issues and Reference Ecosystems and Evaluating Progress .

Educators in the industry have reviewed the resources for their relevance and usefulness so we're hoping that they'll be a great tool to share the National Restoration Standards in the context of the field days and forums.

The Learning Resources include a Fact Sheet related to a theme and summarising the relationship to the National Restoration Standards ; Work sheets with activities and questions related to the videos and National Restoration Standards.

A teacher's question and answer guide is available upon request for some learning resources.

Feedback

We will be setting up an online evaluation tool to get feedback from students in the near future. If you or your organization are interested in participating it would be great to hear from you.

If you feel like dropping a casual post on Facebook to tell us about how you're using the regenTV resources we'd appreciate that as well.

The current list of videos include

- AABR field tour Cumberland Plain seed production facility. Guide: Dr Paul Gibson-Roy
- Field day Australian Botanic Garden, Mount Annan. Seed production area
- Mike Delaney: Big Scrub Rainforest-Integrating remnant regeneration, regrowth and plantings across an agricultural landscape
- Peggy Svoboda – Helping Saltmarsh recover in the Hunter River Estuary, NSW
- Peggy O'Donnell (Cardno), Geoff Sainty (Sainty & Associates) and Mia Dalby-Ball (Dragonfly Environmental). Planning, implementation and results of a constructed saltmarsh at Penrhyn Estuary, Port Botany.
- Dan Cunningham (Program leader, Waterways, Sydney Water). Cook's River naturalisation, Sydney.
- Elizabeth MacPhee. Reconstruction of native plant communities on rock dumps in Kosciuszko
- Brendon Levot, Southern Sydney Bush Regeneration Site Supervisor, Toolijoa Environmental Restoration. Management of Bare-nosed wombats within an environmental restoration project, Cobbitty, NSW.
- Peter Jensen, Environment Officer, Sydney Harbour Federation Trust. Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub restoration and management at North Head Sanctuary, Manly, NSW.
- Nola Hancock, Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, Macquarie University. Local provenance and more distant seed sources; fragmented landscapes and climate change
- Nigel Tucker. Restoration, regeneration and resilience in the tropics
- Justin Jonson. Large scale reconstruction of semi-arid ecosystems in south-west Western Australia
- Tim Berryman. Goals and logistics of restoring grassy understoreys on mined land in the Hunter.

For more information about the learning resources or to assist in providing an evaluation of the video please contact Suzanne Pritchard at education@aabr.org.au

This program has been assisted by the New South Wales Government through its Environmental Trust.



Integrated fire and weed management in the Cumberland Plain – African lovegrass

Michelle Rose
Bushfire Program Coordinator
Nature Conservation Council of NSW

Integrating fire into Cumberland Plain weed management is a very promising approach, which supports a shift from a highly degraded system back towards a resilient system that will resist weed invasion.

Results from recent integrated fire and weed management trials aiming to support restoration of native vegetation in the Cumberland Plain demonstrated that it is possible to break the dominance of African lovegrass, even in the most disturbed sites.

The Project

Using Fire as a Restoration Tool in Cumberland Plain Vegetation is a project that has been run in Cattai and Scheyville National Parks from early 2013 to January 2016. The project was assisted by the NSW Government through the Environmental Trust.

The plant and animal diversity in the Cumberland Plain region has been greatly impacted by past agricultural activities and the development of western Sydney. Restoration of native vegetation is an important management priority for reserves in the area, especially those that include key remnants of unique vegetation such as the critically endangered Cumberland Plain Woodland.

Previous work had established the importance of fire for regeneration of ecosystems in the Cumberland Plain and it was also recognised that hazard reduction burns require some post-burn weed treatment where systems are very disturbed.

At Scheyville and Cattai National Parks in Sydney's west, introduced weeds like the African lovegrass (*Eragrostis curvula*), African olive (*Olea europaea ssp africana*) and lantana (*Lantana camara*) thrive in areas that have previously been cleared for agriculture and development. NPWS in this area had previously worked with integrated fire and weed treatment to manage African olive.

The development of this project was seen as an opportunity to compare the various treatment combinations to determine the best use of resources for control of lovegrass — the key difference being that funding allowed for an experimental design with three surveys undertaken.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) collaborated for this project with Western Sydney University, the Nature Conservation Council of NSW, The Australian Association of Bush Regenerators, Muru Mittigar Aboriginal Centre and Aquila Ecological to trial integrated fire and weed management treatments to better understand the role of fire in supporting regeneration of native vegetation.

African love grass (*Eragrostis curvula*)

African lovegrass is a highly resilient species of tussock grass that can suppress the growth of natives and alter grass and woodland systems as it forms monocultures. It was thought to have been accidentally introduced into Australia prior to 1900 but has since been deliberately introduced for pasture and erosion control. Being an introduced species, its proliferation also negatively impacts wildlife by contributing to habitat loss. Lovegrass is considered an 'ecological transformer' as once it dominates an area the ecosystem is unlikely to revert to a more natural condition without significant management intervention.

Treatments trialled

Management protocols for African lovegrass generally recommend the use of herbicide and caution against the



A sward of African lovegrass in Cumberland Plain woodland. Photo: M Rose

application of fire as lovegrass rapidly regenerates following fire. However, the approach of this project was to allow us to test the potential benefits of an integrated treatment combining the application of fire and herbicide. Trials were held across 48 plots in two locations in Cattai and Scheyville National Parks.

To determine the most effective approach to help shift the dynamics of an African lovegrass dominated system, the plots were treated with various combinations of herbicide and

fire. The project trialled six different treatments: no treatment; herbicide only; fire only; herbicide followed by fire; fire followed by herbicide; and herbicide then fire then herbicide again.

The findings

The trial allowed a good comparison between herbicide application and fire, as methods of controlling African lovegrass singly or in combination. When applied alone herbicide kills the lovegrass, but leaves a thick thatch or mat of dead leaves which has potential to restrict recruitment of further species from the seed or bud/tuber bank. Singly, fire reduces lovegrass cover in the short-term, but resprouting of the basal shoots and seedling recruitment means that the canopy cover is restored fairly quickly, again limiting subsequent recruitment by other species.

The results from using both fire and herbicide indicated that combining them takes advantage of the benefits of both. The lovegrass sward is removed and consumed by the fire, and the herbicide limits further re-sprouting and recruitment. Of the three ways of combining herbicide and fire that were trialled, the herbicide + fire + herbicide was the most effective at controlling the lovegrass, closely followed by the fire + herbicide treatment. The third combination (herbicide + fire) was less effective at reducing lovegrass at one of the sites (Scheyville), and so would be ranked third in effectiveness. It could still be used as a treatment for lovegrass if local conditions dictated this order of application.

Overall, the easiest and most cost effective solution is the fire followed by herbicide treatment as it effectively halves the amount of chemical used, and scheduling is easiest (compared to the herbicide followed by fire – as fire treatments can be difficult to schedule precisely due to weather conditions).

The current trials have demonstrated that it is possible to break the dominance of African lovegrass, even in the most disturbed sites. It is very likely that the benefits from applying these treatments will be even greater when they are used in more intact vegetation, with better native recruitment potential than our current sites. Applying these treatments in more disturbed sites may still be very beneficial when combined with additional treatments to boost native species (e.g. native seed addition).

The next step

The next step is to restore native vegetation on the sites. Both natives and other weeds are emerging on the trial sites and treatment will need to be ongoing. As the land managers, NPWS will maintain and observe the plots into the future. It is anticipated that a paper on this with the full floristic list of recovery on the sites from the surveys will be produced. Other ways to assist the regeneration of native species such as seeding or scalping will also be examined.

Implications for land managers

In these African lovegrass dominated systems of the Cumberland Plain active intervention is required. The project results demonstrate that the use of herbicide or fire in isolation is unlikely to be successful for restoration efforts but combined treatments have a very good chance of success. Active management in these systems will benefit from incorporating fire into standard regeneration techniques. The combined fire/herbicide approach has already been applied in around 50 hectares of land in nearby reserves.

Integrating fire into Cumberland Plain weed management is a very promising approach, supporting a shift from a highly degraded system back towards a resilient system that will resist weed invasion. As weeds are minimised through this approach it is expected that management will become much easier and require less resources.

The booklet outlining the project and the control of lovegrass can be downloaded at

http://www.nature.org.au/media/213734/cumberland_african-lovegrass_web_jan2016.pdf

For further information contact: Michelle Rose

w: (02) 9516 0359 or 9516 1488 | e: mrose@nature.org.au



AABR Awards 2016

AABR was incorporated in NSW in 1986, and in July of this year, a **30 year anniversary dinner** was held. To celebrate, AABR instigated awards to those in our industry who laid its foundations. At the dinner, the following Awards were announced.

MAJOR BUSH REGENERATION PIONEERS

JOAN AND EILEEN BRADLEY



Working in a local reserve in Mosman in Sydney, Joan and Eileen Bradley developed the Bradley Method of Bush Regeneration. The method, first published in Joan's small book *Bush Regeneration* in 1970,

is one of the main foundations upon which the work of early bush regeneration and the industry has developed. It is based on the recognition that all species have an adapted capacity to regenerate and this allows degraded sites to have more potential to regenerate than may first meet the eye.

The Bradley Method's three principles have been variously interpreted over the decades but always boil down to fostering natural recovery, a focus that has acted as the foundation for all subsequent bush regeneration work.

While Links between the Bradley Method and work overseas on resilience theory were not made until the 1990s, this capacity for natural recovery is now considered a primary ecosystem element to be assessed prior to any ecological restoration project.

JOHN STOCKARD.



Bush regeneration has had many pioneers who have had to brave resistance and opposition. However, none has been more challenged than John Stockard whose ground-breaking work at Wingham Brush taught us many major lessons that have never been acknowledged formally by the bush regeneration industry.

The lessons from the work at Wingham Brush (on the mid north coast of NSW) showed that subtropical rainforest is highly resilient and can rapidly recover even from very high levels of degradation, given appropriate treatment; John showed that herbicide, including herbicide spray, can be used safely, sensitively and effectively to achieve very substantial efficiencies in bush regeneration practice with negligible if any, negative impact; and also demonstrated that the strategy of releasing natural recovery capacity can be employed using a range of tactics suited to the site and vegetation community.

Wingham Brush was once so degraded it could have been

written off by conservationists but it is now a Nature Reserve of outstanding conservation value. This is the proof of the work of John and his team. However, we also recognise that John broke through the barrier of dogma in bush regeneration, showing that if we understand the recovery capacity of natural areas and work within that, there is no limit to the scope for innovation.



EVELYN BLOOM

Evelyn Hickey was pivotal in the early days of bush regeneration as her work with the NSW National Trust was crucial in getting bush regeneration accepted by many Sydney Councils with the employment of professional bush regenerators under contract.

Like many people in our field her work started with on-ground conservation work fighting for a Mowbray Park wetland when it was threatened with development of a sports field. She became involved with the National Trust and employed Joan Bradley and Toni May at Blackwood Sanctuary, a Trust property where this 'new' bushland management method was used. She employed Robin Buchanan in 1976 to write a botanical description and a management plan for Blackwood, which was published in 1977 followed by similar reports for other National Trust properties, and surveys of numerous bushland areas for local government; with many leading to bush regeneration contracts. This represented a massive expansion of bush regeneration from its previous geographic area, Mosman and Lane Cove, and propelled the industry forward to a legitimate option for managers of substantial bushland areas in Sydney and, subsequently, other parts of Australia.

Evelyn also recognised that this meant that training was needed and she started the classes for bush regenerators in 1980. This indirectly led to training being expanded and taken up by other training institutions including TAFE.

Evelyn later became involved in the Wingham Brush controversy, in which the more extensive used of herbicide contrasted sharply with the Trust's methods at the time. Whilst the industry now appreciates John's approach for that site, we recognise Evelyn's substantial contributions to the bush regeneration industry.



HELEN PRESTON

Helen had a courageous pioneering spirit in the face of significant opposition to bush regeneration. Without her tenacity the industry, and bush regeneration courses, would not have been established in the way they have. She had a clear vision of what needed to be done to shift public and institutional thinking

away from management practices destructive of bushland and towards a 'restorative' ethic. At times she pursued initiatives in this area, irrespective of the high personal toll this may have cost her.

Helen played a major role in local conservation battles through STEP (South Turramurra Environmental Protection), and trained and worked in bush regeneration with the NSW National Trust and Bradley & May. In the mid-1980s, she became an influential member of what is considered Australia's first local government bushland management committee at Ku-ring-gai Council. The

work of this committee, including the first plan of management for local government bushland under the planning instrument SEPP19, set a new standard for local government generally. She supervised what is considered to have been the first full time government employed team of bush regenerators, breaking through intense opposition from both indoor and outdoor staff. The innovative on-ground techniques she successfully applied in the field (at sites in the northern suburbs of Sydney) paved the way for future generations of bush regeneration officers and field teams, who still use many of those techniques today.

Helen also devised and taught an ecologically sound technique of fuel reduction to enhance fire safety near homes. 'Selective hand clearing' focused on the removal of fuel in a way that broke fuel continuity, reducing fire hazard while retaining some discontinuous native vegetation. This was proposed as an alternative to the overburning and repeated slashing of traditional fire hazard reduction, and influenced subsequent regulations for fuel management.

Helen was also instrumental in getting TAFE to run bush regeneration courses, and became AABR's first president, serving in that role for a year, between 1986 and 1987. She was a member of the group instrumental in establishing the organisation.



RALPH WOODFORD

In northern NSW, using innovative assisted regeneration techniques, Ralph demonstrated the potential to achieve substantial regeneration of rainforest at an ex-dairy farm adjacent to the Big Scrub Flora Reserve, now part of Nightcap National Park. This pioneering work, now continued by the site owner Rous Water, has influenced rainforest

regeneration throughout Australia.

Working over a 30 year period from the early 1980s, Ralph trialled a range of techniques to remove weeds, triggering regeneration of a succession of rainforest species. All treatments resulted in outstanding regeneration and what was a completely cleared farm now includes over 90 percent of the tree and shrub species occurring in the adjacent Big Scrub Flora Reserve. A recent survey showed that all the areas worked over the last 30 years have largely recovered to self-organising state that will ultimately lead to full recovery of the diverse subtropical rainforest that previously existed on the site.

Ralph became Team Leader Bush Regeneration, leading restoration and revegetation work at other Rous Water properties including Emigrant Creek Dam, Dunoon, Whian Falls and Howards Grass along the Wilsons River. Always interested in a range of plant communities, he also played a major role in the conservation and ongoing restoration of Dorrobeebe Grass Reserve, one of a small number of grassy openings in the Big Scrub area.

Ralph said that restoration 'has allowed me to make some real connections with the environment and find a positive place in the natural world. It is an empowering process and hopefully, through seeing the response at my site, other people will be encouraged to become involved in the restoration process at their own sites.'

Ralph's hope has certainly been realised. While he died in Nov 2015, he lived to see many people spurred on to restore rainforest on private and public land in the region, in no small part due to what he demonstrated in his regeneration trials at Rocky Creek and elsewhere.

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO BUSH REGENERATION EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION

ROBIN BUCHANAN



Frank Gasparre presenting Robin with her award.

Robin has been Sydney's foremost teacher of bush regeneration – and author of its text books. She has trained many hundreds of professional and community bush regenerators, as well as subsequent generations of

teachers. As such, her name is synonymous with the appropriate practice of bush regeneration.

Robin began her bush regeneration career with the National Trust of NSW, when Bradley & May was first contracted to work at a range of sites around Sydney. In 1976 she was employed to write a botanical description and a management plan for the Trust's Blackwood Sanctuary and then went on to write similar reports for other National Trust properties, such as Ahimsa and The Burley Griffin Lodge at Avalon. In collaboration with Evelyn Hickey, Robin undertook bushland management surveys and assessments for a number of Sydney councils including Mosman, Kogarah, North Sydney, Lane Cove, Willoughby, Pittwater and Manly – and subsequently on her own for other councils including Ku-ring-gai. These surveys were instrumental in the councils subsequently adopting bush regeneration programs.

Robin taught in the National Trust's Bush Regeneration course. In the mid-1980s she developed curriculum for and, in 1989, started teaching the first bush regeneration course in Australia: Bushland Weed Control and the Bushland Supervisor Certificate course, offered at Ryde College of TAFE in Sydney, developed with the support of Rohan Hayes and Neil Black (after representations from Helen Petersen and Janet Fairlie-Cuninghame). This course underwent a range of revisions and ultimately transformed into a Natural Area Restoration and later Conservation and Land Management qualifications registered under a National Training Package. Curriculum developed by Robin was (informally) used by all other NSW TAFEs running bush regeneration courses, to ensure an acceptable high standard. Robin taught at Ryde TAFE for over 23 years. Many of these were as head of the Conservation and Land management team.

Robin was invited by TAFE Learning Publications to write a textbook for the courses. *Bush Regeneration - Recovering Australian Landscapes* was published and distributed in 1990 and remains one of the most authoritative and popular textbooks for introducing people to the practice of bush regeneration. Some 20 years later, Robin published another book: *Restoring Natural Areas in Australia*. It is vintage Robin – people had wanted a republishing of the first book, but Robin could see how much the profession had changed, and started again.

Robin has inspired generations of bush regenerators. Her incisive mind, quick wit, and dry sense of humour have all helped. But it is her remarkable ability to take difficult concepts and distil them in a way that beginners can comprehend that makes her such a remarkable educator and communicator. She has changed the face of our profession

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO BUSH REGENERATION

JANET FAIRLIE-CUNINGHAME



Ben Ford presenting Janet's award.

Janet has been a long term practitioner of bush regeneration, working with Joan and Eileen Bradley in National Trust teams and in volunteer projects. She has lent her support to many on-ground projects and programs and has been instrumental in championing the cause of bush regeneration at local and state government levels.

With others, she also played a key role in advocating for the establishment of vocational courses in bush regeneration at TAFE and in the formation of AABR. Janet taught Bush Regeneration as a part-time TAFE teacher for many years. For the past 19 years she has been working as a permanent part-time Field Officer with the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, and at 82 still works 14 hours per week with the Service doing bush regeneration as well as some community volunteering.

Janet never fails to warmly support all individuals working to conserve and regenerate bushland and remains a highly regarded and inspiring environmental champion.

LYN WHILEY



Lyn worked as a bush regenerator and supervisor with the National Trust of NSW from the early 1980s mainly on sites in southern Sydney.

In those early years of bush regeneration, Lyn demonstrated an overall innovative way of managing bushland sites. A thorough site analysis was undertaken at each of the reserves under her management, a work plan

developed and then implemented. Throughout the project, monitoring was carried out with quadrats, photopoints and sometimes trial plots set up to test different approaches.

Lyn continually trialed different treatment methods to find the most successful way to treat problem weeds. For example at Parsley Bay an area of mature Madeira Vine was scrape/painted with glyphosate and left with a tarp on the ground to catch any fallen tubers in order to test if tubers were killed on the vine as well as the plant, which it proved to do. An easier more efficient method to treat Asparagus Fern was found by Lyn and her husband, Peter, with the invention of the 'Peter Lever'. Meticulous records were kept on her sites: spreadsheets of monthly bird visitation, other fauna, flora and regenerated species lists.

Over the decades, Lyn has been an outstanding supervisor, training and educating team members and encouraging involvement in the development of work plans and methods. Through her teaching of bush regeneration at Padstow TAFE and other training courses, Lyn was an educator and an inspiration to many bush regenerators.

CAROLE BRISTOW



Brisbane Resident, Carole Bristow, has inspired many in the Brisbane area to become interested and remain interested in ecological restoration; and in particular, weed management to achieve assisted natural regeneration.

Carole is leader of two bush regeneration projects (Golds Scrub and Cliveden Avenue Reserve) and is a co-worker on other projects including The Fort Bushland

and Wolston Creek Bushland Reserve. There have been some excellent results at these sites, overcoming natural or human disturbances that have affected these sites over the decades.

Carole is acknowledged for speaking simply about natural regeneration among Habitat Brisbane bushcare groups and catchment associations, throughout 20 years of volunteer work, and before it was widely known. She has influenced projects to recognise that restoration can be a co-operative effort between Nature and the practitioners and that they do not always need to plant and that if they do, they should use local communities as their guide, so that local landscape character and authenticity can be maintained.

PAT PIKE

Pat Pike has been a quiet and persistent achiever as a botanist and bush regeneration educator for over four decades. Pat was a biology teacher at Pennant Hills High School in Sydney, and is fondly remembered by former students. She also taught Bush Regeneration at Ryde TAFE.

Pat worked as a bush regenerator at a range of sites and was engaged as a bush regeneration volunteer trainer with Hornsby Council when their Bushcare Program first started in the early 1990s. She provided an anchor for many community volunteer groups and influenced many people to become committed volunteers.



Pat was active in the Hornsby Herbarium group from its start in 1996 until recently. This group goes out most Fridays to different parts of the Shire to record the distribution patterns of all the plants growing in the Shire. Their work has resulted in a comprehensive on-line public record.

On her retirement Pat continued to work with volunteer bush regeneration groups in Hornsby shire and to contribute to species lists of reserves She has always been generous in sharing her particular interest in native grasses - in fact it would be hard to find a better expert.

In 2015 Pat was presented with a Life Membership of the Australian Plants Society NSW for her contribution to the body of knowledge of native flora.

ROSEMARY JOSEPH



Rosemary Joseph was an early regenerator in northern NSW. Rosemary enrolled in the National Trust bush regeneration course under Robin Buchanan in the late 1970s whilst still resident in Sydney.

Moving to northern NSW in the early 1980s, she took her interest and expanding skills with her. In 1981 she supported Keith King, from Lismore

City Council, to start a bush regeneration project in the dry rainforest remnant at Rotary Park, Lismore to commemorate the Australian Year of the Tree (1982). Two National Trust officers came to Lismore to meet with Keith and a project started with Rosemary as the Leading Hand of the team employed by Council, with technical support from Keith and also John Stockard, and effectively saved that rainforest from extinction.

Rosemary then formed a contract rainforest regeneration team with colleagues Graeme Reid and Dennis Sellars, carrying out contract work for over 30 years. During the early decades, Rosemary prepared bush regeneration plans for all the Nature Reserves in the NPWS Northern Rivers District and became the trainer for all National Parks staff.

She was the first teacher of the Bush Regeneration Course at Wollongbar TAFE, a course which has run continuously, sometimes with 2 or 3 intakes per year. Teaching for many years at TAFE, she taught most of the subsequent waves of bush regenerators in the growing industry on the far north coast of NSW, and a crop of other teachers.

Rosemary and her co-workers shared their skills and supported those interested in a career in ecological restoration which – to quote Rhonda James “is an industry where we are on the front line working with nature and its amazing ability to recover from disturbances.”

When told about the award, Rosemary said “This award really means a lot to me because - like so many others in bush regen - it was a huge part of my life for so long and I absolutely loved it; ticks, leeches, jumping ants and heat notwithstanding! I never got over the thrill of seeing the forest recover... even if really degraded, a native plant will appear at some time. I still miss working in the forest with the ‘A’ team.”

MARITA MACRAE

Marita has been involved in professional and volunteer bush regeneration in the Pittwater area of the northern beaches in Sydney (and beyond) since 1990. Marita was a co-founder of Pittwater Natural Heritage Association in 1994 and has been a Pittwater Environmental Foundation Director since its inception in 2006. She also founded the Bangalley Head Landcare group



in 2012 to get bush regeneration contract help on private land adjoining the reserve and in the reserve itself. She is a dedicated convenor of and participant in several Bushcare groups.

In 1990, together with a small group of volunteers known as ‘Friends of Avalon Dunes’ Dune Care Group, Marita paved a path to restoration of the dunes from its Bitou Bush riddled state, garnering support from Council and residents.

Successful grant applications allowed for maintenance of the work, and highlighted the effectiveness and importance of this work to Council, the community and other stakeholders.

Many educational projects in the area have been pioneered through her desire to share her knowledge and passion for conservation. These included projects such as Breakfast with the Birds, a Zoomobile project to educate school students about their resident wildlife, sacred kingfisher nest box installation and monitoring, regular birding walks and talks, weed information stalls, and “The Asparagus Monster” which makes random and frightening appearances at environmental events!

Marita has received much community recognition for her bush regeneration and community awareness work, including an OAM in 2004, and the Ruth Readford Lifetime Achievement Award in 2013.

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO COMMUNITY BUSH REGENERATION

ANDREW ALLANSON



In South Australia, the Bush For Life program is well-known. In 1994, while working for Trees For Life, Andrew recognised that bushland outside of National Park Reserves was often being neglected, so he helped create Bush For Life, a volunteer based bush regeneration program. Inspired by the work

of Enid Robertson (National Trust of South Australia Volunteer and Botanist) the Bush For Life program has been a thriving program for over twenty years.

Participants who become involved, first attend a one-day training workshop on Bush Regeneration, and are then offered a choice of bushland sites to care for (supervised by part-time trained Co-ordinators), either on Local Government reserves or on roadsides. All necessary equipment is supplied to undertake the work and volunteers are encouraged to keep records, as well as a Herbarium of plant species on their sites. Photopoints are set up, but by the early 2000s, Bushland Condition Monitoring was used on a percentage of sites to ascertain improvements.

Over the years, the Bush For Life program expanded the range of activities in which volunteers could become further involved. Through the program volunteers are assisting in the management of over 4,000 hectares of bushland on public land and also private properties across the Mt Lofty Ranges, as well as in the South Australian Murray Mallee.

In 2009, Andrew left Trees For Life after seventeen years, to become more involved in the Murray Mallee region of South Australia. Nowadays Andrew and his partner Janet, run their own bush management business, Irongrass Environmental Rehabilitation Services. This involves bush regeneration work, but also training landholders in bush regeneration techniques. He is the Chairperson of the Eastern Hills and Murray Plains Catchment Group.

Andrew is quoted as saying ‘As a conservationist I believe in involving more people in working in conservation, so that they have a direct connection with the real issues - rather than just the “not in my back yard” issues... I love our bushland, and I’m really concerned how Australians are increasingly disconnected with our bushland. Many people say that they love our bush, and just because they might live in rural areas doesn’t mean they live “in the bush”.

NANCY PALLIN

Nancy has long been involved in the active conservation and restoration of bushland, both in Sydney and other areas.

In the early-to-mid 1980s Nancy initiated a bush regeneration and habitat restoration project at Flying-fox Reserve, Gordon, a site in northern Sydney with very high and visible levels of degradation of the sort that were (at that time) avoided even by professional bush regenerators. The volunteer team, led by Nancy, demonstrated very high levels of success in restoring habitat for 'the bats' while conserving a declining plant community. Simultaneously, Nancy and the Flying-fox Reserve committee negotiated the conservation management of this important maternity site.

With a background in science, environmental education and particularly, bat conservation, Nancy has, for many decades, promoted a greater understanding among bush regenerators



that plants and animals have mutualistic relationships and must be considered together. She has sought to incorporate plant and animal science into the Flying-fox Reserve Habitat Restoration Project – often applying cutting edge approaches and techniques in both spheres.

In this way the project has demonstrated many untested techniques, showing many professional regenerators what could be done to recover remnants suffering higher levels of degradation. It was also the first community bush regeneration project in Ku-ring-gai Council area – setting an example for scores of other groups. Today there are thousands of bush regeneration volunteers working throughout Sydney.

Nancy and husband Robert initiated community bush regeneration work in Lane Cove National Park, (probably a first in NSW National Parks) with a bush regeneration breakfast to 'give back to the park something of what it gives us'. That led to the highly successful Lane Cove NP bush regeneration program where 18 community bush regeneration groups were set up after the 1994 bushfires.

Nancy initiated and led other bush regeneration projects at Paddy Pallin and Princess Park Reserves, Lindfield and Ben Ricketts in Jamberoo, south of Sydney. On Jamberoo Mountain the Pallins initiated and are still leading the community involvement in ridding the rainforest below the Barren Grounds Nature Reserve of a variety of weeds. This ongoing Landcare project directly inspired many other people to become involved. Rob and Nancy have participated in the Lord Howe Island bush regeneration weeks for the past 15 years!

Recognising that bush regeneration – or ecological restoration – starts with stopping the damage; Nancy set up and led the long and successful campaign against the NSW Government to save a rare remnant of Blue Gum High Forest in northern Sydney and secure its restoration and management.

RYMILL ABELL

Rymill has been regenerating for at least 32 years. He became involved in bush regeneration with a group of co-workers who started a lunchtime regeneration group in the bushland of the CSIRO lab in Lindfield. Margaret Beavis, also a bush regenerator, was one of the group. He subsequently became involved in volunteer groups at Paddy Pallin Reserve, Lindfield and Manns Point, Greenwich as well as Lane Cove National Park.



In 1998 Rymill initiated, with Sheila and Keith Walkerden and Ian Hutton, the highly successful Lord Howe Island bush regeneration tours where interested people from the mainland visited the island for a working holiday, weeding in the mornings and going for tours in the afternoon. Rymill promoted these rewarding holidays on radio, particularly, the ABC

Sunday morning program Australia All Over compared by Macca. The Lord Howe Island Bush Regeneration Tours are still going although Rymill has retired.

MARGARET REIDY



Bill Dixon presents Margaret's award.

Margaret Reidy has been a bush regeneration volunteer in Lane Cove National Park since the early 1990s; was an inaugural member of the Friends of Lane Cove National Park; and has been long-time president of 'the Friends'. In her roles as President of Friends and coordinating her own Little Blue Gum Creek bush regeneration group, Margaret helps maintain high standards in the Lane Cove National Park Bush Regeneration Program that was spawned by the 1994 bushfire.

Under her watch, the Friends were instrumental in obtaining many grants, not least being the more than \$150K of grants to support the first 6 years of the Ridge to River regeneration program. Importantly, this Ridge to River program allowed Parks to fund professional bush regeneration contractors to work alongside the volunteers to mutual benefit. This integrated work by all the teams, paid and unpaid, external and internal, resulted in outstanding recovery of extensive degraded areas in the Park and showed that locally indigenous ecosystems do not have to spirally decline in condition but can be renewed for the future.

Margaret's modest and kind nature and dedication of so much of her personal time has encouraged many others to work in bush regeneration. As far as we know she works in three bush regeneration volunteer groups within the park as well as at the Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden – and worked with the team instrumental in protecting Blue Gum High Forest on private land. In 2000 Margaret received a Centenary of Federation award for services to the community and an Order of Australia Medal for Services to the Environment.

NOELA AND BILL JONES

Noela Kirkwood started working as a bush regenerator with Joan Bradley in Mosman in the very early days of the Bradley method and later worked in contracts managed by the National Trust of NSW, particularly including Twin Road Forest, East Ryde (which later became Wallumatta Nature Reserve).

Noela became a valued field supervisor for the National Trust and later, instructor with the TAFE bush regeneration courses. Combining an exhaustive knowledge of plants with a deep knowledge of birds, Noela is one of the most experienced and respected regenerators in the Sydney area. She married Bill Jones a fellow member of the Australian Plants Society and they worked together in local bush regeneration programs. Bill worked for the National Trust for several years and later spent a few years as a founding director of Bush Habitat Restoration Co-operative.

OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO AABR

PETER DIXON

Peter Dixon joined AABR in 1992, and served as President of AABR for eight years from 1995. He raised its profile as the peak NSW organisation representing professional and volunteer bush regenerators. Peter worked as a regenerator, in catchment management and grant management. Under his leadership AABR's accreditation system became firmly established and strengthened its relationship with contractors and consultants and other work — leaving AABR in a strong position for the future



Peter with current president Tein McDonald

HEATHER STOLLE



Heather Stolle is a bush regeneration practitioner with many decades of experience in Sydney's South. Heather joined AABR in 1995, and has somehow found time to serve on the AABR committee for 20 years from 1996. While she is no longer able to serve on

the committee she continues in the role of Public Officer and handling communications from the public.

AABR is immensely grateful for the contribution she has made and still makes.

DANNY HIRSCHFELD

Danny has been an AABR member for 20 years since 1996 and served as Membership Officer for 12 of those. Danny has worked as a bush regenerator, local government bushland officer, consultant and TAFE teacher. Passionate about maintaining standards of practice, Danny has also managed the Bush Regenerator Accreditation process for AABR for over a decade, overseeing the development of the 12 AABR competencies and was the first Chair and is now the co-ordinator of AABR'S Bush Regeneration Practitioner Accreditation Sub-committee.



Noela and Bill Jones continued to work in bush regeneration, including from 1994 with the NPWS in Lane Cove National Park. Other volunteer sites they worked in included Ku-ring-gai, Ryde and Hornsby Councils as Members of the group Voluntary Weeders (renamed Roving Group). Sadly the group has recently

discontinued after 32 years. They were part of the Council interpretive program at the Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden for many years. Bill and Noela worked as Bushcare trainers for Ku-ring-gai Council and they continued bush regeneration on a voluntary basis in the Quarry Creek site and various other sites in West Pymble. They spent several years at Hawks Nest performing Bush Regeneration, particularly in key Koala habitat areas. They also participated in the holiday weeding programs at Lord Howe Island. Both Noela and Bill have encouraged and supported many bush regeneration projects throughout northern Sydney and, through their work, have influenced and inspired many, many bush regenerators. They continue BR volunteering and inspiring others, even now in their 80s

DEB HOLLOMAN

A resident of the NSW Central Coast, Deb has spent the last 20 years devoted to conservation of the natural environment, principally through bush regeneration and ecosystem management. Her intelligent insight has prompted her to gather people along on her journey knowing that success can only be achieved by fostering a love of the bushland and its fauna amongst as many people as possible.



She has always been smart enough and humble enough to realise she

couldn't do it alone so she has given countless hours and never diminishing energy to sharing her passion with others — to shine a light on the beauty and fascination that our bushland has to offer.

She has taken numerous young folk under her wing, nurturing their growing interest and giving them skills and knowledge. Many have been lucky to have come across Deb and now find themselves almost magically in a job in the Conservation field, something they thought they could only dream of!

She has given purpose and a new world of comradeship to older members of the community. Her oldest volunteers are in their 80s and Deb does anything it takes to support them to venture off into the bush for adventure and fun. Her youngest protégés have been as young as four years old; they are shown grubs, worms and beetles and take on the excitement of the bush.

Deb has single-handedly managed her community program to carry out successful and sustained bush regeneration works on hundreds of hectares of remnant bushland, achieving over 4,000 hours of voluntary work and inadvertently forming a significant and strong group who care for each other and will fight for the bush against developers and bureaucrats. She also does not shy away from battles to maintain her volunteer support program. She will be standing up against the bureaucrats who do not have the vision or passion that she, you and I share.

PAUL IBBETSON



Paul Ibbetson served as AABR's honorary treasurer for 16 years, retiring in 2014, whilst working as a regenerator for National Parks. Paul's careful management of the accounts not only kept AABR afloat but also allowed us to build a capital base from which to expand to the broader organisation we have become and ensure that our reporting

requirements to both ASIC and the Office of Fair Trading. For all these contributions, AABR owes a deep debt of gratitude to Paul.

VIRGINIA BEAR



Virginia has been a long time member of AABR, joining in 1989. While working as a bush regenerator and a bushland management officer with local government, Virginia was the vice president of AABR in 1990, president from 1991 to 1993, and subsequently on the

newsletter sub-committee, and newsletter editor for many years. Her illustrations for the National Trust on weed removal techniques are a considered classic and have been extensively republished. During those years Virginia also donated many hours to AABR developing our 'brand' and providing artwork that has contributed to AABR's presence in electronic and print media. Virginia is now AABR's RegenTVs videographer and editor, again contributing far more than she is paid for.

While no longer on the committee we thank Virginia for her unstinting contributions and insights on a range of subjects.

LOUISE BRODIE



Louise joined AABR in 1987 and served on the as vice-president for one year and treasurer for three, followed by several years as AABR's Membership Officer, maintaining the database records for membership and managing renewal notices.

Louise worked as a regenerator, contract manager and for OEH in private land conservation and on volunteer projects. She has also been involved for a number of years in producing the Newsletter, firstly on the newsletter subcommittee, and is its current editor.

MITRA GUSHEH



Mitra has contributed untold voluntary hours to AABR for the past 15 years, constructing and maintaining AABR's website. This was done while Mitra was undertaking a post-graduate research degree, lecturing at University of Technology Sydney, running her own business, involvement in social welfare programs - and last but not least; raising her children.

We thank Mitra for her willing and generous contributions to AABR.

Early regenerators

At the AABR 30 year dinner, bush regenerators who worked during the early years and are now largely retired were also recognised.

A full list of these regenerators will be in the next newsletter

Committee Vacancy Treasurer



At the AABR AGM, all positions are available.

However currently the position of Treasurer is vacant as Kirsten Vine our current Treasurer has had to step down.

Note that the duties will be changed as AABR now has a bookkeeper to do the main accounting requirements.

Please call Tein (02 6682 2885) or Jane (02 9456 6626), or email secretary@aabr.org.au if you would like to know more about this position in order to nominate yourself or another member.

Part-time executive officer sought by AABR

AABR is seeking a highly competent and highly motivated person to undertake part-time administrative work to assist the committee expand AABR's range of activities, promote membership and accreditation, apply for grants and a range of other duties.

For details of duties, conditions and remuneration or to apply, please contact secretary@aabr.org.au or president@aabr.org.au.

Applications close: October 30th 2016.

Book: Decades of Healing – Wasteland to Wetland

By Alan Lane, Popes Glen Bushcare Group

Sometimes groups just decide to restore a site which seems to have insurmountable problems. Popes Glen at Blackheath in the Blue Mountains of NSW, could be counted as one of these.

The group's story of restoration of the area has now been told in a publication *Decades of Healing* by Alan Lane, a member of the bushcare group. The group started informally in 1990 but the will to work on the highly degraded areas came later. The book tells the story of the restoration from a willow infested creekline and silt flat from 2002 to 2015. The story makes for an interesting and easy read, with a marvellous tale to tell.

The areas was typical of a degraded creek line where upstream developments had led to silt collecting and forming a large silt flat which had become invaded by weeds, most notably a dense forest of mature, multi-trunked crack willow (*Salix fragilis*) up to about 30 m tall.

In addition, the creek is subject to great and sudden water flows after storm events, becoming a torrent for short periods of time. As well as silt, this water flow carried urban rubbish and large debris, and led to erosion of the creek banks, often destroying work which had been carried out.

The group worked by trial and error (known technically as adaptive management!) and trialed a variety of techniques to gain knowledge which helped in the restoration. Such trials included testing the survival of a variety of local plant species to find out which would be the most successful in the revegetation of the silt flat. Long stem plants were tried without success due to anoxic soils. Testing for tree guards which would best protect the seedlings from being eaten was also carried out.

Ways of dealing with the stormwater was another challenge. Several versions of weirs were tried, each being destroyed by the surges of water. Eventually professional help was sought and contractors brought in. All of these are described in the book.

The approach of the group is described as testing, testing, testing, and the group decided that adaptive management of an ambitious rehabilitation program requires on-going data collection to:

1. know and understand what is happening
2. allow appropriate choices and decisions to be made
3. learn lessons from the successes and failures .

That is why the group monitor as many parameters as they can to document the changes on the site in as much detail as possible, recording the outcomes, both positive and negative. This provides knowledge of how successful the restoration is.

The site has many of the characteristics of a blue mountains swamp, a vegetation type which is listed as Endangered Ecological Communities (EEC) under the Australian *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* (EPBC), 1999.

Along the way the group has been able to access grants for contract work on the site, and has had support and assistance from Blue Mountains City Council, factors which are necessary for the success of such a project.

Dip into this wonderful story and read about the trials and tribulations of taking on such a job. Check out the photos to see the progress.

Greater Sydney Landcare Network Inc. (GSLN) has published the book of 106 pages; 89 photos; contents page; bibliography.

The book is available electronically through bookfunnel in pdf, MOBI (for Kindle readers) and EPUB formats via the link below.

<http://dl.bookfunnel.com/i3nt7ey9v9>

For more information on the group go to

<http://popesglen.bushcarebluemountains.org.au>

Reviewed by Louise Brodie, AABR Newsletter Editor



Above shows the creek in 2005.

The photo on the right shows the results of restoration work in 2014.

Photo: Popes Glen Bushcare



Citizen Science programs:

The ability for the public to work with scientists and be involved in adding to our knowledge is termed citizen science. Bush regenerators are in an ideal situation to contribute to some of these programs.

Hollows as Homes

The **Hollows as Homes** program allows for the recording of the presence of tree hollows, nest boxes or other types of hollows (e.g. a power pole being used by a bird to nest in). It is a collaborative effort between Dr John Martin at the Royal Botanic Gardens, and Adrian Davis at the University of Sydney, within input from Dr Richard Major (Australian Museum) and A/Prof Charlotte Taylor (University of Sydney). It builds upon research that arose from Adrian's PhD on tree hollows and competition.

Currently the project is supported by the Sydney Coastal Councils Group through funding from the Australian Government, so the initial focus is in Sydney. However, it is open for everyone to access across the state. More funding will be sought to promote the program statewide.

Why is this work important?

Many species of animals rely on tree hollows. In NSW, hollow-dependent species include at least 46 mammals, 81 birds, 31 reptiles and 16 frogs, of which 40 species are listed as threatened. Loss of Hollow-bearing Trees has been listed as a key threatening process to biodiversity under the NSW *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*.

In urban and agricultural areas large, hollow-bearing trees are in decline. Retaining existing hollow-bearing paddock trees, ensuring that younger paddock trees are maintained so that they form hollows, and gaining a greater understanding of

how wildlife use paddock trees is vital to maintaining wildlife in agricultural areas.

In urban areas, hollow-bearing trees are often removed for development. Sometimes large trees are retained but dead or damaged branches may be removed for public safety, which prevents a hollow forming. Urban bushland typically contains half the number of hollows that are present in bushland outside metropolitan areas.

Hollows as Homes aims to increase our knowledge and understanding about tree hollows — their distribution, types of hollows and how wildlife use them, including artificial hollows or nest boxes.

How to participate

Participants register online at www.hollowsashomes.com and create an account. This allows them to have multiple hollows assigned to their account, and to personalise their hollows by naming them. Participants register their hollows and take some one-off measurements. Then, for any hollow, wildlife sightings or lack of are submitted. A minimum of watching for ten minutes per fortnight is best, but people can monitor as frequently as they wish. The *register a wildlife sighting* button is a shortcut straight to the wildlife input section of your hollow.

A *group* function has also been set up, where, for example, a bush regeneration group can create a group for their reserve that contains several hollows. Someone creates the group and every person added to the group can log/gps hollows/nest boxes that exist in that patch of bushland, and log the number and type of hollows, add wildlife sightings to any of the hollows, and view data that other members of the team submit.

Training and information on assessing hollows is on the webpage. Participants will be providing valuable information on the number and distribution of hollows, distribution of different types of hollows and wildlife using the hollows and nest boxes. Some of this information is still largely unknown.

What happens to the data ?

There are 30 councils (prior to mergers) in the Sydney region that are currently supporting the project. Hollows as Homes collects data to inform council management plans. Currently, data can be exported out of the database and people, such as councils, can import it into their own database. Other land managers are also able to benefit from the same information and several other land management agencies from across NSW also support the project.

Left: Dr Adrian Davis presented a Hollows as Homes workshop at The Habitat community native plant nursery and food garden in Ryde on Saturday 24 September. The talk covered such relevant topics as habitat, habitat loss, habitat conservation and the audience was shown photos of a wide variety of interesting fauna which has been found to use hollows around Sydney.

The session also included a visit to a nearby stand of eucalyptus trees (where one and possibly two hollows are being used by sulphur-crested cockatoos, brushtail possum and rainbow lorikeets) to discuss how to collect the information required by the Hollows as Homes Project.

Photo: Pam Ward, The Habitat.



Aussie Backyard Bird Count

17 - 23 October 2016

Join in one of Australia's largest citizen science projects.

The third #AussieBirdCount will be held during National Bird Week, 17-23 October. At this time of the year, being spring, birds are more lively and visible. They begin nesting, breeding and flocking and generally appear more playful. In addition thousands of migrant birds return to our shores in spring, so it is the ideal time to carry out the bird count.

BirdLife Australia and its Birds in Backyards Program have come together to create the Aussie Backyard Bird Count. They are encouraging everybody to head outdoors to look, learn and get involved in the count.

The aim is to count 1.5 million birds during the week from 17-23 October. In 2015, more than 42,000 nature-loving Australians took time out of their busy schedules to enjoy the birds around them, counting more than 1 million birds, including the rainbow lorikeet which took out the number one spot for the second year running.

How to get involved

To get involved all you need is 20 minutes, your favourite outdoor space, and some keen eyesight.

Simply record the birds you see on our <http://aussiebirdcount.org.au/#app> or through the **Submit a Count** tab at the top of your computer screen at <http://aussiebirdcount.org.au>. You'll instantly see live statistics on the number of people taking part and the number of birds and species counted in your neighbourhood and the whole of Australia. During the count leader boards and results will be updated daily.



Not only will you get to know your feathered neighbours, but you'll be contributing to a vital pool of information from across the nation that will help us see how Australian birds are faring.

With a **great app** (available for download on 1 October), which is especially designed to help people find and count as many birds as they can, you can join in.

Download the app and join the count at aussiebirdcount.org.au.

You can complete as many counts as you like over the week – friends and family can get together, head into the great outdoors and start counting!



Right: There is a Field Guide/Bird Finder built into the app and on the website to help you identify birds. When looking at the bird try to note its size, shape and colour. This will allow the app to give you the most accurate choices.

Hollows as Homes (Cont.)

The information will add to scientific literature and allow councils and other land managers to better plan our suburbs to retain existing wildlife habitat and to educate the community about the importance of tree hollows and how they are used. It is hoped that the database will be able to be linked with other databases.

The data will add to our knowledge. Comparisons can be made about hollow distribution and density in different habitats and regions across the state. We will also be able to look at and compare the level of competition for tree hollows and the types and diversity of animals that gather at tree hollows in different regions and environments. Regional and property planning can use the information.

There will be a limited amount of publicly available information which will be displayed on the website. The database and website (which is hosted by the Royal Botanic Gardens) have been set up to be ongoing with the project overseen by Dr John Martin, and data can be submitted indefinitely. After the initial funding, any further funding can be used for more intensive efforts on promotion and facilitation of the project.

For information on how you can be a part of this exciting project, visit www.hollowsashomes.com or www.facebook.com/HollowsAsHomes



Rainbow lorikeets(above) use tree hollows. In the 2015 Aussie Backyard Bird Count, rainbow lorikeets took out the number one spot as the most common bird.

Alternatively, you can email the coordinator Dr Adrian Davis at hollows.ashomes@gmail.com for more information.

Adrian is also happy to give a seminar/presentation on the project. See photo and caption on page 14.

There is also an 'explainer' video (60sec summary of the project) at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EpQtat76d6Q>

What's happening



Australian Network for
Plant Conservation Inc



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 are still available!

Registrations close 28 October 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



The endangered *Caladenia fulva* (Tommy Spidee-orchid) is only known to occur in the Stowell area in the Victorian goldfields region. Photo credit: Houshika Reiter
Petalogonum striatellum (Omnes Stork's-hill) is known from only one population in Victoria at Lake Omnes, and four locations in southern NSW. Photo credit: RO Makinson

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 calendar.

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/



Australian Association of Bush Regenerators

President
Tein McDonald president@aabr.org.au

Treasurer
Vacant

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

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

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

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

AABR also offers accreditation for experienced practitioners.

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

AABR C/O Total Environment Centre
P.O. Box K61 Haymarket NSW 1240
0407 002 921

www.aabr.org.au
enquiries@aabr.org.au

ABN: 33 053 528 029 ARBN: 059 120 802

Membership fees

Individuals	\$30 (unwaged \$15)
Organisations (<i>does not confer membership to individuals in the organisation</i>)	
• 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