



AABR NEWS

Australian Association of Bush Regenerators

working with natural processes

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The inaugural Albert Morris Ecological Restoration Award

A consortium of Australian restoration NGOs, being AABR, Greening Australia, the Society for Ecological Restoration Australasia and the Australian Network for Plant Conservation, make up the Albert Morris Award Committee who oversaw the perpetual award for ecological restoration. The inaugural award was presented at the Awards dinner in Broken Hill on the 24th August 2017. See Pages 8-9.

The Albert Morris Award is a sculpture by Badger Bates. Badger is a well know artist and comes from the Paakantji people of the Darling River, western NSW. The sculpture is called 'Regeneration' and it is made from Dead Finish *Acacia tetragonophylla* from Broken Hill.

Martin Driver from the Australian Network for Plant Conservation on behalf of the Albert Morris Award Committee, presented the award to Darriea Turley, Mayor of Broken Hill who received the award on behalf of the people of Broken Hill and all the organisations that contributed towards the success of the project from 1936-1958.



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President's Perspective

Broken Hill field trip

In this issue we report on a range of things, not least being the successful Broken Hill field visit. Over 60 visitors joined around 50 locals to attend the Albert Morris Awards dinner in Broken Hill. While mainly from Sydney and the Blue Mountains, the visitors came from many other regions including from five capital cities and three regional cities. All joined in the many activities that were organised during the very packed three days in partnership with Broken Hill City Council, Barrier Field Naturalists, Landcare Broken Hill and the Broken Hill Art Exchange.

The Awards Ceremony In Broken Hill (see report pages 8- 9) was the culmination of the festivities. The field work in the reserves itself (see two reports pages 4 and 7) was the focus of the preceding days.

However our recent feedback survey showed us that many visitors and locals also particularly enjoyed the two history events: the bus trip to look at the regeneration reserves led by Peter Ardill and the information evening held at the historic Broken Hill Synagogue. Over 95 people attended the bus trip and around 75 attended the information evening, including substantial numbers of Broken Hill locals. A range of other events were also enjoyed, including the art events organised by the Broken Hill Art Exchange, and bushwalk organised by Landcare.

Feedback on Broken Hill visit

Of the 60 or so visitors that attended the field trip over 40 of these filled in our feedback survey. While we asked for suggestions for things that could be improved, the overwhelming response was positive, with around 75% answering 'yes' and 25% answering 'maybe' to a question asking

whether they would consider returning for a similar trip in the future. So a future trip is on the cards, which AABR considers important because we feel we have developed some important relationships with organisations in Broken Hill and that these relationships should continue for our mutual benefit.

Future newsletters will continue to report on some of the events at Broken Hill – including the cryptogram transfer trial and the plant surveys, both events which proved very popular with those who attended them.

Documentary movie fundraising

AABR is launching a drive to raise further funds for completing the Broken Hill Regeneration Reserves Documentary in collaboration with the Albert Morris Award Committee. We consider this movie will be the main mechanism for raising the profile of Albert and Margaret Morris's work nationally and internationally. Over two weeks of filming has already been recorded in Broken Hill by filmmaker Virginia Bear, who is preparing a trailer to help with fundraising.

Anyone interested in assisting with that fundraising campaign is welcome to email me on president@aabr.org.au

Tein McDonald

President AABR

AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF BUSH REGENERATORS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

AABR's Annual General Meeting was held on the 19th September 2017 at the Sydney Central YHA.

The special resolutions, of which members had been notified, were all passed.

Your AABR Committee

The following positions were elected.

- President: Tein McDonald
- Treasurer: Suzanne Pritchard
- Secretary: Jane Gye

Committee members: Agata Mitchell, Matthew Pearson, Ben Ford and Scott Meier.

Our committee includes members from Sydney, coastal NSW and South Australia.

Many thanks to Elisabeth Dark, Melanie Ledgett and Andrew McGahey, who leave the committee, for their contribution.

Non-committee positions are

- Suzanne Pritchard - Executive Officer and Education Officer
- Heather Stolle - Public Officer
- Louise Brodie - Membership and Newsletter
- Danny Hirschfeld - Accreditation
- Mitra Gusheh - Website maintenance
- Virginia Bear - Photography and videography

Discussion

After the close of the formal meeting, there was discussion on how to progress better understanding of contract bush regeneration and address a number of issues identified by contractors so that bushland restoration work is of good quality.

This will involve working with both contractors and those who use them.

Welcome to new AABR Members

Lisa Jones
Rosalind King
Dennis Needer
David Rush
Kate Schott

Business

Bush Habitat Restoration Co-operative Limited

Year in review: What AABR has achieved

Activities between the AGM Oct 2016 and AGM Sept 2017

Newsletter and Bulletins

- 4 newsletters produced. Sixteen pages, colour. Emailed to around 630 people, and around 30 printed in B & W and sent out by post. Thanks to everyone for input, proof reading, and Lynne Springett for sending out the ones to postal addresses.
- 21 e-bulletins sent, 10 relating to Albert Morris Award

Electronic forums

- AABR website. In the past year there were 16,000 users of the website over 27,000 sessions, who visited for an average of 2 minutes 7 seconds. Bush Jobs, Home page, Bradley method, Willows and regenTV had the most pageviews. There was an average monthly usage of 2,300, weekly 642, daily 61 users with 92% from Australia. 50% access the site from desktop, 37% by mobile, 12% by tablet. Ongoing management by Mitra Gusheh.
- Facebook likes/followers are at 1200, up from 974 at October last year. The reach of the Facebook page over the past year peaked at 1,307 on 5th May 2017.

Events

- Adelaide orchid workshop organised by Matthew Pearson 18 Oct 2016
- Grass identification course by Van Klaphake, held on July 8-9, with 31 participants - organised by Ben Ford
- Pioneer Bush Regenerators' lunch Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden Mon 6 March 2017.

Albert Morris Award in Broken Hill

- Reconnaissance trip by AABR members to Broken Hill 27 February to 3 March 2017 including conducting a workshop with all stakeholders in Albert Morris regen areas (TM, LB, JG, SM, VB, LS)
- AABR (Tein McDonald) stakeholder liaison trip to Broken Hill 16-20 May to further arrangements for the big Albert Morris Award in August
- Approximately 51 visitors and 30 locals were involved in the Albert Morris Award trip to Broken Hill 20-24 August
- Some participants attended the Nyngan waterponding field tour
- 24 August 2017 – Albert Morris Inaugural Award Presentation night in Broken Hill conducted through AABR's partnership in Albert Morris Award committee - 116 attendees
- Albert Morris documentary video in production – Little Gecko Media.

Representation and Submissions

- Mary-Lou Lewis and Louise Brodie served on the Environmental Trust Technical Committees for Restoration and Rehabilitation Grant Program applications for both community and for local government
- AABR (Tein McDonald) attended meeting with Environmental Trust 13 October 16 (with Peter Dixon and 4 project managers)

- AABR (Jane Gye) attended Commonwealth Department of Agriculture and Water Resources Environmental Biosecurity Stakeholder Engagement Forum 26 October 2016 in Canberra
- Presentation of 'What AABR does' to NSW Central West Councils Environment and Waterways Alliance 16 November 2016 (Suzanne Pritchard and Jane Gye).
- Applied for Jen Ford to be AABR's rep on the National 'Amenity Horticulture, Landscaping, Conservation and Land Management Industry Reference Committee' of the Australian Industry Skills Committee (AISC) 10 April 2017 (Notified successful 28 Jun)
- Submission June 2017 on changes to the NSW *Biodiversity Conservation Act*
- AABR Partner contribution to the 2nd Edition of National Standards for the Practice of Ecological Restoration in Australia (now online).

Grant applications submitted

- Submitted EOI 10 April 2017 for NSW Environmental Trust Education grant to review 2007 Bush Regeneration Contract Guidelines. Invited to make full submission – Submitted 11 July 2017.
- Assisted Barrier Field Naturalists Club (Broken Hill) to submit an EOI for NSW ET Education grant 10 April 2017.

RegenTV

- regenTV videos have accumulated 1900 plays of the 24 professional videos that have been produced from AABR's forums of 2016 and 2014 and field days with the accompanying indexes. Three sets of learning resources, with fact sheets (3) and work sheets (4) have been produced covering the themes of seed and plant production areas, appropriate approaches to restoration and reference ecosystems. Another ten videos have been produced and are pending upload.

AABR Administration

- Engaged bookkeeper October 16
- Suzanne Pritchard began role as Exec Officer December 2016
- Completion of transition to online membership renewals and other administrative improvements. Renewals are from 1st of July, and up to the end of August 2017 over half of our members (total membership ~633) are financial for 2017-18. Our new renewal process appears to have people renewing more quickly.

Accreditation assessments

- 16 Accreditation applications were dealt with: Two approved and eight are still in progress. Five lapsed with applicant not supplying sufficient information and one withdrew.

It is thanks to the committee and numerous AABR members that we were able to achieve so much.

Fun with weeds in Broken Hill.

The recent AABR trip to Broken Hill incorporated some practical work sessions to help control some of the weeds in the Regeneration Reserves. As can be expected the visiting regenerators were keen to get involved. Naturally being in a new location threw up some new weeds and situations.

Tackling a Mesquite infestation

Lyndal Sullivan

Background work

When we learned that our 'job' in Broken Hill was to treat mesquite in one of the historic reserves, we began the search for information. The only information readily available on the treatment of this significant weed was from an agricultural perspective dealing with large areas by spraying or basal barking, using heavy duty herbicide mixes. Nothing in the literature indicated that there were any effective alternative methods.

As spraying or basal barking was not considered to be suitable or safe for a working bee of volunteers with various levels of experience, there was a need to find a bush regenerator who had worked on this weed.

Eventually contact was made with Martha Gouniai, the Landcare Coordinator based in Broken Hill. She assured us that the Cut and Paint method could be used but would only work with the herbicide Access® mixed with diesel.

On arrival in Broken Hill and our first inspection of the site to be worked, we discovered that the mesquite plants were almost leafless but weren't dead. Most of these shrubs, which were anything up to 2.5 metres tall, had been sprayed about 18 months previously. However the stems were still alive and very little leaf was present on most plants. Whilst not an optimal stage to be treating plants, non-spray techniques were used and hopefully something will be learned from monitoring these.

On the site

Drawing on our experience of dealing with dormant willows in the Blue Mountains, it was decided to give this same approach a try. These near dormant shrubs were treated by drilling and injecting, in this case using the recommended Access®/diesel mix. Larger mesquite plants were drilled and injected, whilst smaller ones were scraped and painted.

If this does work, it will be a new technique in the area for dealing with these large woody weeds.



Cutting away the thorny branches of mesquite, to get to the base of the bush to drill. Photo: L Sullivan

Our practical session in Broken Hill focussed on a creekline which had an infestation of mesquite, boxthorn and a patch of *Arundo donax*. We had two sessions in the reserve, with a group of 14 on the first day, and 12 on the second. The visitors gained an understanding of two of the major weeds in this landscape, and an experience of treating them.

All the Mesquite and Boxthorn in and adjacent to the two main channels were treated. Boxthorn was cut and painted using glyphosate. Work commenced on treating one of the patches of *Arundo donax* by cutting and painting with glyphosate.

Hopefully there will be follow-up of the area to see whether our methodology has been successful. After our session, I met with Martha Gouniai from Landcare and explained the work done on this Reserve, with a view to visits to the site to check on the effectiveness of our work.



The thorns and leaves of mesquite Photo: DAFWA

Mesquite

Mesquite or honey mesquite recorded in NSW is *Prosopis glandulosa* Torr. var. *glandulosa*, is a member of the Fabaceae. In NSW it is found cultivated and occasionally naturalized in inland districts; south from Deniliquin and Broken Hill districts.

Honey mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa* var. *glandulosa*) is regarded as an environmental weed in Queensland and Western Australia, and as a potential environmental weed or "sleeper weed" in many other parts of Australia. In addition to this, the mesquites (*Prosopis* spp.) are one of the 20 Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) in Australia.

The plant is primarily native to the Southwestern United States and Northern Mexico. It is different from most invasive species because it is highly invasive in its native range, due to the imbalance in its native ecosystem. It has been introduced to parts of Africa, Asia, and Australia and is considered by the World Conservation Union as one of the world's most problematic invasive species.

The indigenous peoples of California and southwestern North America used parts of *Prosopis glandulosa* as a medicinal plant, food source, building and tools material, and fuel. The thorns of the plant were used as tattoo needles, and the ashes for tattoos. The hard wood is prized for making tools and arrow points, and for the unique flavour it lends to foods cooked over it.

Mesquite is one of the most expensive types of wood in the US. It was a popular wood used by early Spaniards to build ships, but is now used most commonly for high-end rustic furniture and cabinets.

Watch out for this alarming weed from the Brisbane region

Carole Bristow

We know how important it is to control weeds before they take over a site.

Dyschoriste depressa is one to look out for.

People in northern NSW need to be on the alert for a challenging invader now spreading in the Brisbane region - a forb which can grow to knee height, *Dyschoriste depressa*, in the family Acanthaceae. I have seen the common name of butterfly heaven given to it, an unfortunate name as it makes it seem like a desirable plant. It spreads quickly. Along one particular creek in Brisbane its presence when first found was already 2 km long by 20 metres wide – in almost a monoculture. It is native to southern Africa. In Australia it is currently only naturalised in the Moreton district in south-eastern Queensland

Nothing seems to daunt it. It enjoys creekside situations, shade or sun, and will grow in shallow freshwater, and also among mangroves in saline water. If it strays into mown grassland and gets regularly mowed, it simply develops a creeping habit, rooting along its stems.

When still small, it can be easy to confuse with plants of *Rostellularia obtusa*. However, it has rather woody feel to its stems, especially towards the base which helps distinguish it. Once it has grown to any size, it is easy to identify. It has opposite elliptic leaves with entire margins, up to 50mm in length. It bears tiny mauve flowers in clusters in the leaf axils. These produce a crowd of seedpods which open to explosively release the seeds. As with other weed species, it is easily spread by mowing machinery.

My own experience of treatment is hand removal and bagging. I have advice from one weed management team that they have used Kamba M at 4mls/10Litres with excellent results.

Further information and images are found online at the following links:

<https://weeds.brisbane.qld.gov.au/weeds/dyschoriste>

<https://keyserver.lucidcentral.org/weeds/data/media/Html/>

[dyschoriste_depressa.htm](https://keyserver.lucidcentral.org/weeds/data/media/Html/dyschoriste_depressa.htm)

<http://technigro.com.au/documents/TVM%20Mar%202014.pdf>



Above and left: Photos showing habit and flowers of *Dyschoriste depressa*. Photos: Sheldon Navie



Would the Broken Hill Regeneration Reserves meet today's National Standards?

Tein McDonald, President AABR

The inauguration of the Albert Morris Award for Ecological Restoration coincides with the 80th Anniversary of the completion of the first stage of fencing of the landmark Broken Hill Regeneration Reserves project – and it also coincides with the imminent publication of the 2nd Edition of the *National Standards for the Practice of Ecological Restoration in Australia* (Standards Reference Group SERA 2017).

The synchronicity gives us pause to ask 'how would the Broken Hill project stack up in terms of today's restoration standards?' Well let's take a look.

The National Standards highlight six key principles to be adopted to optimise a project's potential for success. These can be expressed simply as:

- (i) use a local indigenous reference model;
- (ii) be guided by level of resilience and degradation;
- (iii) identify clear targets, goals and objectives;
- (iv) strive for the highest and best level of recovery possible;
- (v) draw on relevant insights from science and practice; and last but not least,
- (vi) engage stakeholders.

The following is a brief outline of my own interpretation of the Broken Hill Regeneration Reserves project, as interpreted through the lens of a range of historians (reviewed in Ardill 2017) and my own observations of the site. These six principles are of course not the only ones listed in the Standards – nor the only ones applicable to the Broken Hill scenario - but their adoption, whether consciously applied or not, go a long way to improving outcomes at a reference site.

(i) Use a local indigenous reference model

Although a skilled horticulturist known to have used exotic species in landscape plantings, Morris was a skilled botanist specialising in desert flora, particularly the local species, and was a keen observer of local fauna and ecological processes. He identified that the local species were the ones best suited to the local conditions. His adoption of a regeneration approach was a conscious choice to foster the recovery of the site's pre-existing vegetation communities.

(ii) Be guided by level of resilience and degradation

Morris identified there was a range of levels of degradation on site and that areas with at least some topsoil remaining were likely to have the capacity to recover. In areas without topsoil he identified that furrowing and seeding might be needed, or even planting in some cases. His recommendation for applying a natural regeneration approach, supplemented by planting or seeding only if and where needed, was clearly guided by his appreciation of levels of resilience and degradation.

(iii) Identify clear targets, goals and objectives

The project's goals and target – although not represented in a formal plan such as we would do today – were to reinstate functional local vegetation communities for sand stabilisation and to act as a sanctuary for native flora and fauna. The primary objective was clearly stated from the outset: to erect fencing to exclude livestock and rabbits to allow native vegetation regeneration to occur.

(iv) Strive for the highest and best level of recovery possible

The goals were clearly ambitious from the start although would have been impossible to predict precisely the level of recovery that would occur over time. Without doubt, the aspiration of all involved was to achieve as high a level of biological and functional recovery as was possible under the circumstances.

(v) Draw on relevant insights from science and practice

The project drew upon Morris's own knowledge of botany and ecology which he had developed over decades of observation of local ecosystems and of botanical study, assisted by state herbaria. He is likely to have been at least aware of the University of Adelaide's fencing experiment at Koonamore Reserve in South Australia and may have gained insights from it. Primarily, Morris conducted his own applied science trials in the soil binding properties of native plants and into regeneration after stock exclusion and furrowing on pastoral properties (reviewed in Ardill 2017).

(vi) Engage stakeholders

The project was run by the Mine Managers' Association on land managed by Broken Hill City Council, on the advice of Albert Morris. A major intent of the project was to achieve benefits to the community and it was well publicised. Consequently the project ultimately attracted high levels of public support, despite some vandalism of a type that is not unusual in urban areas (Reviewed in Ardill 2017). It was built upon a history of community-led advocacy, particularly by the Barrier Field Naturalists Club, to counter sand drift and conserve nature. The project continues to be managed by Broken Hill City Council, with support of Landcare Broken Hill and the ongoing involvement of the Barrier Field Naturalists Club .

References:

Ardill, P.J. (2017) *Albert Morris and the Broken Hill regeneration area: time, landscape and renewal*. July, 2017. www.aabr.org.au Australian Association of Bush Regenerators (AABR). Sydney.

Standards Reference Group SERA (2017) *National Standards for the Practice of Ecological Restoration in Australia* Second Edition. Society for Ecological Restoration Australasia. Available from URL www.seraustralasia.com

Trialling treatment of a new weed in Broken Hill

Scott Meier

Works commenced in the cool of the mornings over the two day work period with an active and eager group of more than twenty participants, all keen to address an assortment of weeds lining the ephemeral creek-line with occasional remnant River Red-Gums reminding us of a previous plant community.

Radiating from a stormwater culvert, which drains South Broken Hill, an assortment of weeds were identified and prioritised for treatment during a pre work-site visit. These included *Schinus mole* (Pepper Tree), *Searsia lancea* (Willow Rhus), *Osteospermum ecklonis* (African Daisy) and Prickly Pear. Working out which trees to treat was carefully done, so that follow-up would be minimal.

Pepper trees are a spreading, evergreen tree originally from South America. They were widely planted in the early years of European settlement as a shade tree, and are viewed with affection by many as they are trees that they have been familiar with. With this in mind, not every tree was to be treated at this time, and some trees were left untreated. Small Pepper Trees were cut and painted with neat glyphosate and larger individuals stem injected and filled with neat glyphosate.

The African daisy plants were hand pulled or cut and painted with neat glyphosate on the sensitive creek-bank. Prickly Pear was cut and removed from creek-line and sensitive native vegetation, with some sprayed with Access® Herbicide (Triclopyr and Picloram)

The *Searsia lancea* (willow rhus) was a new species for everyone. It had many berries and was obviously bird spread, with small trees infesting areas underneath large eucalypts on the creekline. The identification of this small tree was checked to ensure it was a weed. As there was no record of how this weed was treated on other locations, a *Searsia lancea* control trial was undertaken. Small individuals were cut and painted with neat Glyphosate 360 g/l herbicide; larger specimens were stem injected and filled with neat Glyphosate.

The two work sessions allowed a the group motivated bush regenerators to contribute to restoration of historically significant restoration site, plus the ability to signal the presence of a highly invasive and emerging weed species (*Searsia lancea*) and conduct a trial for its control.



Above: *Searsia lancea* Willow Rhus or Karee Photo: Cherie von Hörchner

Searsia lancea Willow Rhus

In 2016, it was reported that an invasive tree appeared to be affecting native species at Sunset Strip on Lake Menindee in far west NSW. This was the first report of the plant in Australia.

Willow Rhus, also known as Karee, is a drought-resistant perennial native to South Africa. However it has invaded and become naturalised in dry parts of the United States.

The Sunset Strip Progress Association sent a sample of the plant to botanists in Sydney earlier this year who identified the tree. It is suspected that the tree was planted as a plant for erosion control.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-01-11/invasive-tree-species-27contributing-to-demise27-of-native-fl/7079920>



Searsia lancea

a. habit - fruiting branch
b. habit thumbnail of whole plant
c. leaf, showing adaxial and abaxial surfaces
d. leaf venation detail

Scale bar: a = 48mm, b = - 3.3m, c = 40mm, d = 6mm

Illustrated for NSW Flora on line Job no 787 Mar 2017
Lesley Etikan



Albert Morris Award - Dinner August 2017

At the Albert Morris Award Dinner, Tein McDonald, representing the Society for Ecological Restoration Australasia was the MC. The following citations were presented.



Above: Paul Gibson Roy (from Greening Australia) presented to Peter Oldsen (representing the NSW Government).

To the New South Wales Government for its role in supporting the Broken Hill Regeneration Reserves, firstly providing financial and administrative support for the extension of the pre-WWII Regeneration Reserves as early as 1938-39. Secondly, it contributed to the planning and ultimate completion of the Regeneration Reserves system to the north and east of Broken Hill between 1946 and 1958.



Above: Gary Cook President of the Broken Hill Art Exchange, presented the citation for the Mine Managers' Association to Bruce Byrne, General Manager Perilya.

The Mine Managers' Association, representing the three major Broken Hill mining companies, was recognised with a citation for its active support of the implementation of the pre-WWII Broken Hill Regeneration Reserves from 1936 and participation in the post-WWII extension of the Regeneration Reserves to the north and east of the city. Notably this honours Zinc Corporation's A.J. (Jim) Keast and Maurice Mawby who supported Albert Morris and gained senior corporate administrative support for the first reserves from 1936 and supported Margaret Morris after Albert's death. William S. Robinson (Zinc Corporation) and Andrew Fairweather (Mine Managers' Association) also supported the scheme, and Jack Scougall (Zinc Corporation employee) managed the construction aspects of the Regeneration Reserves and managed the Corporation's nursery



Above: James Bourne from the Barrier Field Naturalists presented a citation to Darriea Turley, Mayor on behalf of Broken Hill Council.

Broken Hill City Council is recognised by a citation for approving, as early as 1936, the fencing of the first set of Broken Hill Regeneration Reserves and for advocating for and financially supporting the completion of the full reserves system between 1946 and 1958. The Council has been Trustee of the reserves from their inception to the present day, establishing and upholding by-laws for their conservation and active management. Council has managed the Regeneration Reserves system throughout the decades and has supported the work of dedicated individuals and community groups in the Reserves - including decades of dedicated planting work by William Cuy and Roy Edwards and the contemporary work of Landcare Broken Hill.



Above: Louise Brodie representing AABR presented to Miles Clothier, President of the Barrier Field Naturalists

The Barrier Field Naturalists' Club is recognised for their formative role in supporting the Broken Hill Regeneration Reserves - particularly providing a solid institutional platform for the study of the natural sciences, cultural and historical issues to residents of Broken Hill and surrounding areas. They recommended to the State government the fencing of the reserves in 1935 and were prominent in supporting Albert Morris and the Mine Managers' Association when the first Broken Hill Regeneration Reserves were created in 1936. They actively supported the creation of the post-WWII Regeneration Reserves of 1951-58. Prominent club members who were involved in the aforesaid activities include Albert Morris, Margaret Morris, Doctor William MacGillivray, Doctor Ian MacGillivray, Edmund Dow, Maurice Mawby, Jack Scougall, May Harding, Clarence Chadwick, Messrs Smethurst, Faerhmann, Fairweather and Wiggins and many more.

Three days of festivities for the Albert Morris Award Dinner 21-24 August 2017

The Albert Morris Restoration Award Committee (whose partners are Greening Australia, Society for Ecological Restoration Australasia, Australian Network for Plant Conservation and AABR) hosted a truly memorable event in August in Broken Hill, to celebrate the inaugural Albert Morris Ecological Restoration Award and the 80th anniversary of the fencing of 'The Regen' in Broken Hill. This award celebrates one of the oldest ecological restoration projects in the world and the first to deliberately employ a natural regeneration approach.

At an Awards Dinner at the Palace Hotel in Broken Hill, the Albert Morris inaugural award for the Broken Hill Regeneration Reserves was presented to the Mayor of Broken Hill, Darriea Turley, for all the people of Broken Hill and all the individuals, agencies and organisations who made the project a success over the last 80 years. Citations were presented to six key individual agencies including Albert Morris, Margaret Morris, Barrier Field Naturalists Club, The Mining Industry Association, Broken Hill City Council and the NSW Government.

The Awards Dinner was the culmination of three days of festivities involving over 30 Broken Hill locals and over 60 visiting restoration practitioners from four capital cities and many regions of NSW, Victoria, Queensland and the ACT. The wide range of activities included a welcome reception at the Regional Art Gallery, a bus tour of the reserves (attended by nearly 100 people), an information evening, art exhibitions at the Broken Hill Art Exchange, bushwalks, a tour of the Living Deserve and, last, but not least, eight separate working bees within the reserves. Sponsors and collaborators included Broken Hill City Council, the Barrier Field Naturalists Club, Landcare Broken Hill, Broken Hill Exchange, Dr Barbara Briggs, Jane Lemann, The University of Sydney, Bushland and Rainforest Restoration & Consulting, and Bushland Restoration Services.



Above: Paul Adcock from the BH Art Exchange presented the citation to Barbara Briggs, Margaret's niece.

Margaret Morris was recognised with a citation being a founding and active member of the Barrier Field Naturalist Club working with Albert Morris in the development of his herbarium, home nursery, plant experimentation, urban plantation and regeneration projects. Margaret became a competent amateur botanist, developing seed collection and nursery management skills. After the death of Albert Morris, she stepped into the leadership role for the ongoing management of the reserves. Margaret actively ran the Zinc Corporation nursery and trained a successor, ran her home nursery and gave botanical and regeneration advice. Margaret collected and published data demonstrating the success of the pre-war Regeneration Reserves and publicised extensively the benefits of the regen reserves in numerous media articles. She attended the August 1947 conference of the Broken Hill regeneration committee.



Left: Wayne Lovis from Broken Hill Landcare presented the citation for Albert Morris to Meredith Robertson past committee member of the Barrier Field Naturalists.

Albert Morris was recognised with a citation, for conceiving of and driving one of the earliest known ecological restoration projects in the modern world. Throughout his life and often with his wife Margaret by his side, Albert gradually educated himself in botany, ecology, plant propagation and regeneration techniques. Desertification around Broken Hill was extreme and many assumed it was natural or irreversible. Albert consistently advocated that fencing to exclude livestock and rabbits would achieve recovery of native vegetation, stabilise drifting sand dunes and provide better living conditions for the local residents. In 1936 he demonstrated to the Zinc Corporation that regeneration of the local native ecosystem would occur after fencing. He drove the implementation of the Broken Hill Regeneration Reserves. Although Albert died before his vision was fully realised, his work was so well conceived that the project was completed by others over the subsequent two decades. The Regeneration Reserves system – the pre and post-WWII reserves - is a living memorial to this pioneer in whose honour the perpetual Albert Morris Ecological Restoration Award is named.

COLLABORATING ORGANISATIONS

Landcare Broken Hill

SPONSORS:

Platinum sponsors: Broken Hill City Council,
Dr Barbara Briggs

Gold Sponsors:

The School of Life and Environmental Sciences (SOLES) University of Sydney,



Broken Hill Art Exchange

BARRIER FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB INC



THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY



Bronze Sponsor
Jane Lemann





Photo: Megan Rowlatt

Intrepid Landcare? Landcare for a new generation.

**Elisha Duxbury, GSLN Local Landcare Coordinator
Naomi Edwards, Intrepid Landcare**

The term 'Landcare' is familiar yet difficult to define. The movement's origins stretch back to land management groups formed by farmers in the 1940s and came to prominence in the late 1980s after a program was introduced by the Victorian government, which encouraged the unusual marriage between conservationists and farmers to tackle local environmental degradation issues. This approach to land management gained momentum during the 1990s and those years were declared the 'Decade of Landcare' by Australian Soil Conservation Ministers.

Due to its history, Landcare is frequently associated with agriculture and rural areas, whereas the term Bushcare generally arose to cover bushland restoration in urban areas. Over the last few decades Australia has seen a proliferation of 'Care', 'Friends of', and other community groups, along with the necessary formation of wider environmental networks to provide regional and local support. State and national organisations have simultaneously recognised the opportunity to expand the definition of Landcare to include the many types of landscapes across the country. The Landcare movement has grown in recent years to include a diverse variety of groups that 'care' for the natural environment across urban, peri-urban, and regional areas.

Where are young people among these groups?

This has been the question echoing throughout the Landcare movement for at least the last decade. Environmental networks like the Greater Sydney Landcare Network (GSLN), which more recently walked onto the scene in 2015, feedback about the lack of young people in Landcare from their network members was no different.

Under-engagement of a younger demographic, 16 years to the thirty-something year old, is a universal problem in the Landcare and Bushcare sphere. This holds true for both urban and regional areas despite the higher proportion of young people living in cities. Given the need and desire to have young people get involved there have been initiatives designed to stimulate 'youth engagement' - hence Intrepid Landcare.

Illawarra Intrepid Landcare was formed in 2009 when Megan Rowlatt, a young person in Landcare decided to design and

promote a different kind of Landcare experience for young people in her local community. The turnout was huge and it was an enormous surprise to her! After being recognised for her different approach to engaging people in Landcare, she was invited to Queensland by another young Landcare leader, Naomi Edwards, to help drive another different way for young people on the Gold Coast. Connected initially through Instagram, they co-led a weekend Landcare leadership retreat and the results were again huge, and surprising. Their story goes something like accidentally pitching their approach to be a national initiative, and with the support of their networks and Landcare Australia they soon established Intrepid Landcare as a national organisation.

Inspiring young people in Western Sydney

After hearing Megan Rowlatt and Naomi Edwards speak at a Landcare conference, the GSLN Chair, Bev Debrincat, approached them about the possibility of running their signature Intrepid Landcare Leadership Retreats in Greater Sydney. Megan and Naomi soon teamed up with Elisha Duxbury, one of their new Local Landcare Coordinators (LLC) to make it happen.

The first question they were hit with was which region of Sydney were they going to tackle first? GSLN received funds in 2016 from Greater Sydney Local Land Services to run a series of Landcare



Retreat rubbish clean up.jpg - Photo: Steven Body

and Bushcare events in Western Sydney. The Cumberland Plain in Western Sydney is the one of the most biodiverse regions in the Sydney Basin, however, less than 6% of its original coverage remains. There are several endangered ecological communities in Western Sydney and the active Cumberland Plain Landcare and Bushcare Support Program restore areas of ecological significance.

With such activity and support happening in Western Sydney, the Network decided to kick-start Intrepid Landcare in Western Sydney, and earlier this year Intrepid Landcare ran one of their signature retreats at Brewongle Environmental Education Centre in Sackville North (March 25 and 26). The retreat attracted



applications from across Sydney and wider, and a group of seventeen local 18 - 35 year olds were selected given their passion and inspiration to make a difference in Western Sydney.

The retreat was a carefully co-designed and included activities which exposed the young leaders to a variety of Landcare and conservation initiatives, inspiring people in the landscape doing great things, cultural awareness experiences, outdoor adventure, and how to go about leading for the local environment with leadership development, project design, tribe culture and team building skills.

By the end of the weekend the young leaders were inspired to kick-start a Western Sydney Intrepid Landcare (a local tribe of Intrepid Landcare, hosted and support by the Network) to support the Hawksbury Environmental Action Group. They started planning a calendar of conservation events across Western Sydney which other young people could get involved in. The Network's mission was achieved - to stimulate youth engagement in Landcare.

Co-design collaboration is at the core of Intrepid Landcare. Inviting key people in the landscape to connect with passionate young people interested in stepping up to take action on environmental issues, is key to mobilise action – and an Intrepid Landcare tribe. These key people immediately create a local network for young people to access and seek knowledge, support and mentorship which is vital to Intrepid Landcare's success.

"Our research and experience in working with young people has shown that some of the biggest barriers for young people getting involved or creating their own initiatives is that they don't even know what's already happening in their community, or who to talk to. These interactions during the leadership retreats break down that barrier and the groups can start creating. The possibilities are endless!", shares Intrepid Landcare co-founder Megan Rowlett.

"We need to access the wisdom and support of staff and an older generation of volunteers, as well as give young people the creative freedom to create the experiences they and their peers want to show up to so everyone can contribute."

Training the local community in youth engagement

The retreat was also complemented by an Intrepid Landcare *Intrepid Way workshop* (April 3rd) hosted by the GSLN and supported by NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH). Intrepid Landcare received early support from OEH to publish a workbook and a run workshop series across NSW to share their different approach – their tips and ideas to engage young people. You can access the workbook titled, *Tips & ideas to support young people to create change*, via intrepidlandcare.org

What is great about the workbook and workshop approach was that the Network's members became trained in how to co-design youth engagement opportunities for young people, and with young people. Intrepid Landcare has shown the success of co-design to overcome the lack of young people contributing to the design of projects, as most often, youth engagement opportunities are designed without young people contributing to the story.

The Western Sydney region now has 20 environmental volunteers and professionals, and increasingly more energetic young leaders practicing an Intrepid approach for Landcare and Bushcare, all things environmental.

The future?

Since the retreat, the Network has supported the kick-start of Western Sydney Intrepid Landcare. New young leaders now regularly attend Cumberland Plain Support Programs and other Western Sydney Landcare events, and are being mentored by the



Above: Over 40 young people from Gippsland and beyond recently supported Gippsland Intrepid Landcare National Tree Day event with planting over 4000 trees to turn a paddock into a forest. Photo: Morgane Cazaubon

other Local Landcare Coordinator, Xuela Sledge. A subgroup in the Hawkesbury area has formed a Hawkesbury Environmental Action Group and has a Landcare site where they regularly undertake restoration works. It is now a regular thing to see social media posts about kicking some serious lantana and having fun, hanging out and being inspired. You can follow Western Sydney Intrepid Landcare on Facebook – click the link! (<https://www.facebook.com/Western-Sydney-Intrepid-Landcare-143041956223301/>).

The Network aims to support future Intrepid Landcare Leadership Retreats and Intrepid Way workshops to foster the creation of a Sydney-wide Landcare network driven by young people as part of a Greater Sydney Young Landcare Leaders project. We are currently seeking expressions of interest from individuals and organisations who would like to be involved with the project. The next Intrepid Landcare Leadership Retreat will be held in South-Western Sydney (10-11 December).

What else is happening across Australia for Intrepid Landcare?

Since kick-starting as a national organisation in 2015 there has been an organic drive by young people and networks wanting Intrepid Landcare in their community. Requests and current tribes are dotted around Australia:

- Illawarra Intrepid Landcare (NSW)
- Gold Coast Intrepid Landcare (QLD)
- Hunter Intrepid Landcare (NSW)
- Northern Rivers Intrepid Landcare (NSW)
- Western Sydney Intrepid Landcare (NSW)
- Gippsland Intrepid Landcare (VIC)
- Brisbane Intrepid Landcare (QLD)
- UOW Intrepid Landcare (NSW)
- ANU Intrepid Landcare (ACT)

There is also interest from Sunshine Coast, Ipswich, Wagga Wagga, North Queensland and Western Australia, and even someone from Mexico wants to make it happen in Central America. If you are in these areas or generally interested, connect with Intrepid Landcare to see how to make it happen!

"It is inspiring to see young people in their community take the initiative themselves to lead on stuff that matters to them.



Above: Storytelling, hula hooping and planting grasslands was the theme at Northern Rivers Intrepid Landcare *Creeks n grass* event. Photo credit Northern Rivers Intrepid Landcare

In many cases this surprises networks who for years haven't seen young people attend anything. It is also great to see tribes venture into other areas to learn from other communities, like Brisbane Intrepid Landcare keen to find out what happens in Ipswich. Or Gold Coast Intrepid's support Northern Rivers events. Or Melbourne based crew head to the hills in West Gippsland to turn paddocks into forests and enjoy a zero-waste local produce meal", said Intrepid Landcare co-founder Naomi Edwards.

"It's really, restoration with a difference, a whole lot of fun".

Get Involved

To get involved in the **Greater Sydney Young Landcare Leaders Project**

Ph: 4724 2147, Mob: 0420 274 283

E: elisha.duxbury@greatersydneylandcare.org

Contact **Xuela Sledge** to get involved with the **Cumberland Plain Support Program**

Ph: 4724 2146

E: xuela.sledge@greatersydneylandcare.org

To connect with **Intrepid Landcare** via hello@intrepidlandcare.org or visit intrepidlandcare.org

Challenges of AABR Annual Renewals Mystery monies from mystery members

Thank you to everyone who has been wrangling with the new renewal system and paying upon the invoices, reminders and emails that have arisen unknowingly from the system.

Apologies to those that have tried to pay with **Paypal** and incurred frustration...the problem has been identified and a solution is on its way.

There have been a few **mystery transactions** that we're trying to identify. Unfortunately if the member's name or invoice number isn't obvious or you haven't provided an explanatory email it is impossible to identify where the money has come from.

So if you recognise any of the following descriptors and can provide the transaction details, please send an email to admin@aabr.org.au and we'll credit the money to you.

- MELLOR 2017 18 MEMBERSHIP
- SWETHA INTERNATI MEMBER & D
- PRESSURE COUNCILS BE BUSH
- SYDNEY CU FEES AND ACCRED

Saturday October 28th, Lake Macquarie NSW

The Fern & The Burn, Coal Point

This field trip will highlight the transformation that is underway in Stansfield Reserve at Coal Point after the medium-high intensity environmental burn of 6/4/16. Half of the *Asparagus aethiopicus* infested reserve was burnt and is now undergoing a native regeneration explosion. See how the local group is trialling different techniques to manage the asparagus fern regrowth.

A presentation will also be given on the 6-year Environmental Trust project, Threatened Species Last Stand on the Coal Point Peninsula.

Go to the [eventbrite booking site](https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-fern-and-burn-coal-point-tickets-36301151722), which has more detail and book so we know who is coming (the event is free).

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-fern-and-burn-coal-point-tickets-36301151722>

Or contact Suzanne on admin@aabr.org.au or 0438 596 741



Suzanne Pritchard, AABR Education

RegenTV has been beavering away in the background finalizing the production of some short restoration gems. These presentations are from the first AABR Seminar in 2013 and an inspiring project from Lord Howe Island from the 2016 Forum.

All videos can be seen at <http://www.aabr.org.au/regentv/>

Protecting Paradise – Restoring The Flora And Fauna Of World Heritage Listed Lord Howe Island - Sue & Hank Bower (25min)

A unique assisted regeneration project that is aiming for complete eradication of vertebrate and weed species due to the isolation of Lord Howe Island. The World Heritage status and legal framework provides for unhindered access to all terrain across the island, enabling all pest populations to be targeted thanks to a strong community engagement, effective communication and whole of island monitoring.



Woorim Dune Recovery Project, Moreton Bay Qld, Sunshine Coast Qld -Spencer Shaw – (5min)

'It's as Simple as Spinifex' is a case study on increasing community awareness to stabilize dunes by erecting a simple fence structure to control pedestrian activity and alerting the public to the issue with explanatory signage. These simple solutions provided the conditions for the natural systems to expand and stabilize the dunes.

Restoration of a Saltmarsh Community - Nerida Gill (6min)

A concise case study outlining an offset transformation of a highly degraded saltmarsh community at Kurnell. Careful planning and extensive community education is helping to address years of degradation from vehicles and timber getting. The community has been engaged around the benefits of food chain health to improve fish stocks. A monitoring program was put in place to compare the restoration project with a reference community. Natural processes are doing the rest.

New on the AABR website

Have you visited the website lately?

Photo Gallery

The photo gallery is full of happy memories from the Broken Hill Field Trip and Albert Morris Awards www.aabr.org.au/gallery/

The AABR Committee

If you'd like to know a bit more about the 2017-18 AABR Committee their profiles are at www.aabr.org.au/about-aabr/aabr-committee-members/

Collecting Seed and Plant Production for Restoration - Ross Rapmund (5min)

A clear overview of the production requirements of a community nursery and the role a nursery can play in alleviating the impacts of population fragmentation in the landscape. This snapshot highlights the need for genetic diversity in seed stock, how that diversity is encouraged and the importance of documentation.

Dune and Littoral Rainforest Restoration Wamberal Lagoon Nature Reserve - Deb Holloman (5min)

This video is a snapshot of the threats and restoration achievements at Wamberal Lagoon Nature Reserve on the Central Coast. Home of rare plants and the only lagoon that is surrounded by National Park in an urban setting it comes with its own unique set of human induced threats. Adaptive management quickly turned an act of arson into an opportunity to increase the regeneration outcomes.

Gooseberry and Hooka Islands: Part Of The Berkeley Nature Reserve, Illawarra, NSW - Gerard Proust. (6min)

This case study discusses how the key threatening process of exotic vines and scramblers and Lantana invasion were tackled on Gooseberry and Hooka Islands in Lake Illawarra. Perseverance and the Bradley methodology has seen the recovery of threatened species and the native vegetation community.



Above: Saltmarsh community at Kurnell
Photo V Bear. Little Gecko

Books:

Environmental History and Ecology of Moreton Bay

Daryl McPhee

An interdisciplinary examination of the geologic, marine and human history of Moreton Bay.

The south-east Queensland region is currently experiencing rapid urbanisation, which puts pressure on the unique and diverse natural environment of Moreton Bay. Moreton Bay is also an important biogeographic region because its coral reefs, seagrass beds, mangroves and saltmarshes provide a suitable environment for both tropical and temperate species. The bay supports a large number of species of global conservation significance, including marine turtles, dugongs, dolphins, whales and migratory shorebirds, which use the area for feeding or breeding.

Environmental History and Ecology of Moreton Bay provides an interdisciplinary examination of Moreton Bay, increasing understanding of existing and emerging pressures on the region and how these may be mitigated and managed. The book has chapters on the bay's human uses by Aboriginal peoples and later European settlers, its geology, water quality, marine habitats and animal communities, and commercial and recreational fisheries.

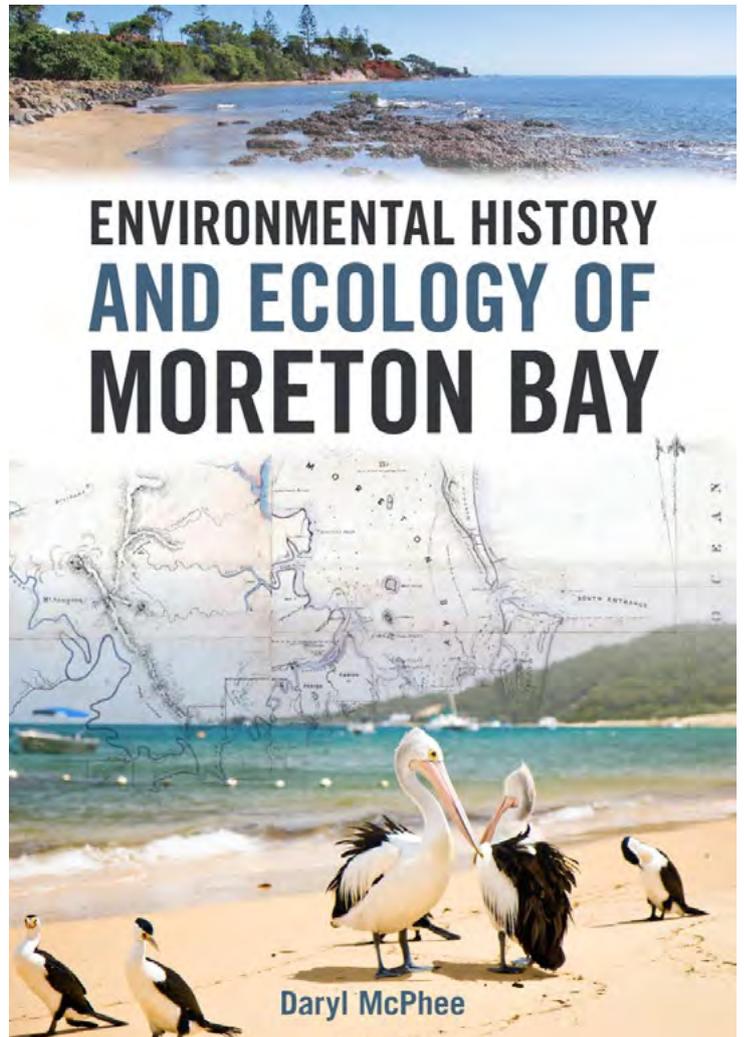
Publisher: CSIRO Publishing

Paperback | August 2017 | \$ 69.95

ISBN: 9781486307210 | 208 pages | 245 x 170 mm

ePDF | ISBN: 9781486307227 Available from [eRetailers](#)

ePUB | ISBN: 9781486307234 Available from [eRetailers](#)



The Hawkesbury River

A Social and Natural History

Paul Boon

A definitive account of the natural history of the Hawkesbury River and the pivotal role it has played in history.

The Hawkesbury River is the longest coastal river in New South Wales. It is a vital source of water and food, has a long Aboriginal history and was critical for the survival of the early British colony at Sydney. The Hawkesbury's weathered shores, cliffs and fertile plains have inspired generations of artists. It is surrounded by an unparalleled mosaic of national parks, including the second-oldest national park in Australia, Ku-ring-gai National Park. Although it lies only 35 km north of Sydney, to many today the Hawkesbury is a 'hidden river' – its historical and natural significance not understood or appreciated.

The Hawkesbury River: A Social and Natural History describes the formation of the river, how it functions ecologically, how it has influenced humans and their patterns of settlement and how this has affected the river. It covers the geography, geology, hydrology and ecology of the river through its use by Aboriginal and European people and its role in transport, defence and culture.

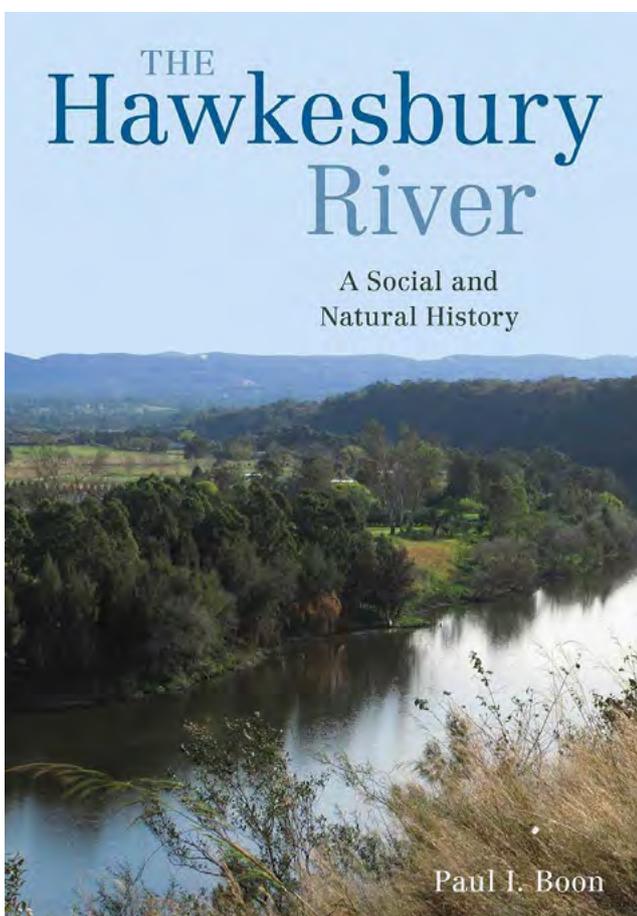
Publisher: CSIRO Publishing

Hardback | July 2017 | \$120.00

ISBN: 9780643107595 | 584 pages | 245 x 170 mm

ePDF | ISBN: 9780643107601 Available from [eRetailers](#)

ePUB | ISBN: 9780643107618 Available from [eRetailers](#)



Safe Tick Removal Update

Lyndy Rees, AABR

There has been a trend recently to use wart and skin tag freeze products which contain ether to kill ticks before removal. This practice has been recently publicised by the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA). This group has a focus on preventing anaphylaxis and not on possible disease transmission from tick bites. The method of freezing ticks before removal is not proven by clinical studies, but based on the clinical experience of doctors treating people for tick allergies. **The ASCIA recommendation is only for people with a known tick allergy.** The use of freezing agents to kill ticks is not indicated on these products' labels and there are contraindications to be aware of.

Tweeze or Freeze?

However, a recent literature review, *Methods of tick removal: A systematic review of the literature* Coleman and Coleman 2017, concludes that fine tipped tweezers or commercially produced tick removal tools are the best method for tick removal. The study states that the freezing of ticks prior to removal is not scientifically validated, though shows promise.

In the review the mechanical removal of ticks was found to be the current accepted medical practice. This is endorsed by The World Health Organisation (WHO) and the USA Centres for Diseases Control (CDC).

The correct use of mechanical methods for tick removal is to grasp the tick around the mouthparts rather than the body of the tick, with the tick being removed by steadily increasing pressure. If the tick is removed intact studies have shown that post removal complications decrease. Use antiseptic on the bite site.

Coleman, N, Coleman, S. (2017) *Methods of tick removal: A systematic review of the literature* Australian Medical Journal AM 2017;10(1):53-62

Removing ticks

The Australian Government, Department of Health recommends that if you suffer from allergic reactions to ticks, only attempt to remove a tick whilst at a medical facility such as an Emergency Department.

In non-allergic individuals remove a tick with fine tipped forceps, grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible. Pull upwards with steady pressure - avoid jerking or twisting the tick.

Prior to removal, the tick may be sprayed with an aerosol insect repellent containing pyrethrin or a pyrethroid chemical, although there is currently no evidence to suggest that this is of benefit. Permethrin based creams, which are available from chemists, may also be used. Apply at least twice at one minute intervals.

If you have difficulty removing the tick or suffer any symptoms after removal, seek medical attention urgently.

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/ohp-tick-bite-prevention.htm>

Tick Ease, Tick Remover for People and Pets.

A new tick removal product *Tick Remover for People and Pets* has just come into the Australian market and sold by Tick Ease Australia. The tweezers are purpose made tick removal tweezers.

They comply with Australia Health Department tick removal guidelines

These tweezers can be purchased direct from Tick Ease Australia :

Safari Life East Coast Email: safarilifeclimbing@gmail.com

Walks for rainforest species identification

Northern NSW and SE Qld.

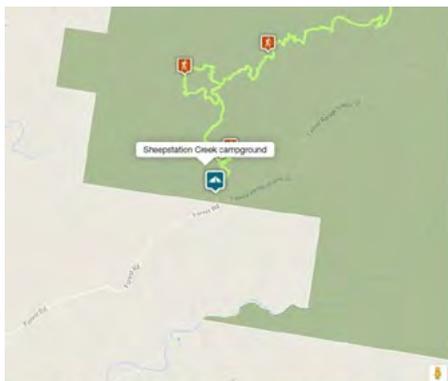
Peter Poropat, is running walks where he will use bark and trunks of Australian rainforest trees for the identification of their genus.

4th November 2017. 10 am

Border Ranges - Sheep Station Creek Walk

Starts Sheep Station Creek Camping Ground

Cost \$20 per person



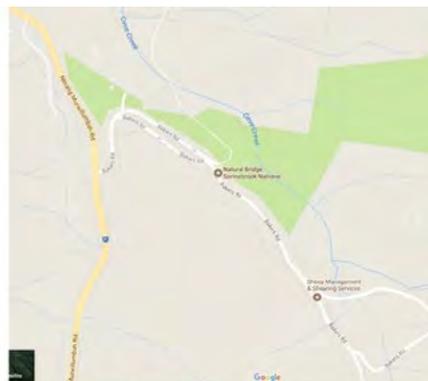
Sheep Station Ck

9th December 2017 10 am

Springbrook NP. Natural Arch Walk

Starts Natural Arch Car Park

Cost \$20 per person



Natural Arch



White Euodia
Melicope micrococca

What's happening

**Wednesday 25 to Friday
27 October 2017**

NSW Landcare and Local Land Services Conference

The NSW Landcare and Local Land Services Conference is a biannual event charged with showcasing the best in partnership, landcare and natural resource management. The conference invites community, industry and government to come together to network and share their successes.

The 2017 NSW Landcare and Local Land Services Conference will be held in Albury, NSW. The Conference is being hosted by Landcare NSW and Murray Local Land Services, and is being coordinated in partnership with local Landcare and community groups.

Renowned science communicator, Dr Karl Kruszelnicki, who is best-known for his weekly radio spot on Triple J, will be the keynote speaker at the conference.

This conference is the premier event to showcase sustainability, Landcare and volunteering across NSW and includes the annual Landcare Muster and the NSW State Landcare Awards. Don't miss this chance to gather with around 300 people from Landcare and community groups, farmers, Aboriginal groups, industry and government representatives from across NSW and Australia.

The theme for the Conference is 'Sharing our Stories'. Conference topics will focus on agriculture, biodiversity, water and Aboriginal Landcare.

WHERE: Albury Entertainment Centre, Albury, NSW

For more information

<http://nswlandcareconference.com.au/>

AABR EVENT

**Saturday October 28th,
Lake Macquarie NSW**

The Fern & The Burn, Coal Point

This field trip will highlight the transformation that is underway in Stansfield Reserve at Coal Point after the medium-high intensity environmental burn of 6/4/16. Half of the *Asparagus aethiopicus* infested reserve was burnt and is now undergoing a native regeneration explosion. See how the local group is trialling different techniques to manage the asparagus fern regrowth.

A presentation will also be given on the 6-year Environmental Trust project, Threatened Species Last Stand on the Coal Point Peninsula.

Go to the [eventbrite booking site](https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-fern-and-burn-coal-point-tickets-36301151722), which has more detail and book so we know who is coming (the event is free).

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-fern-and-burn-coal-point-tickets-36301151722>

Or contact Suzanne on admin@aabr.org.au or 0438 596 741

October 23rd to 29th

Aussie Backyard Birdcount

Use last years app (it will be updated, or download from the website. You can also submit a form.

<https://aussiebirdcount.org.au/>

**Sunday 26th November to
Friday 1st December 2017**

Putting ecology to work

The joint conference of the Ecological Society of Australia and the New Zealand Ecological Society

The Ecological Society of Australia and the New Zealand Ecological Society are delighted to announce EcoTAS 2017, the sixth joint meeting organised by the two societies.

EcoTAS 2017 promises an exciting programme of plenary speakers, symposia, workshops and social events. The theme of EcoTAS 2017, 'Putting ecology to work', is a call to focus on how ecological science can contribute to the economy, society, culture and public policy, as well as to the health of the environment and quality of life.

WHERE: Cypress Lakes Conference Centre in the Hunter Valley in NSW

For more details: <http://ecotas2017.org.au/>

Friends of Grasslands

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

Friends of Grasslands is a community group dedicated to the 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 holds a number of events and activities

www.fog.org.au/



Australian Association of Bush Regenerators

President

Tein McDonald president@aabr.org.au

Treasurer

Suzanne Pritchard admin@aabr.org.au

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

Scott Meier, Ben Ford, Matthew Pearson, Agata Mitchell.

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 January, April, July, and November.

**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 (<i>or \$0 with newsletter exchange</i>)

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