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May
2023

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AABR NEWS

Australian Association of Bush Regenerators

working with natural processes

What do regenerators do?

A new resource from AABR

AABR has produced graphics to illustrate what bush regeneration is all about.

The 12 graphics tell a story and have been posted on social media sites to explain what bush regenerators do. This is often difficult as those not familiar with bush regeneration think it is all about planting trees. Those of us who are involved in carrying out bush regeneration know that it is much more!

Basically bush regeneration is the rehabilitation of degraded bush to a healthier community of native plants and animals. Whilst sounding a bit complicated, the aim is to restore and maintain ecosystem health by helping the natural regeneration of indigenous plants. This is usually done by reducing the effect of the processes that are causing the degradation.

Further information on these graphics is found on the relevant AABR webpage: <https://www.aabr.org.au/learn/what-i-bush-regeneration/>

The graphics are available in landscape and portrait formats to download to use for educational purposes. There are 12 graphics with brief and to the point explanations of bush regeneration. See pages 4 and 5 of this newsletter to see the graphics 3 to 12.

On the webpage there is a link to the pdf which has the graphics which can also be downloaded here: https://www.aabr.org.au/_upload/learn/WhatIsBR/2023AABR-What-do-Bushregenerators-Do.pdf.

Above right.
No 1 provides a background to the series

No 2 (right) tells us that the practice of bush regeneration is basically one of harnessing natural recovery processes.



President's Perspective

Evolving AABR

I thought that I would take the opportunity of using this President's Report to talk about how the new national structure and constitution that AABR adopted a few years ago are working.

In 2021 AABR members voted on a new structure for AABR, with an Australia-wide board and capacity for members to start up branches at a state/territory or a regional level and a constitution and bylaws that better reflected what AABR does and how it works and which would facilitate a move towards AABR becoming an environmental charity.

The pace of change enabled through these changes was impacted by COVID (as it affected virtually all NGOs), but there has been steady, if slow change.

The first AABR State/Territory Branch, AABR Victoria was established and has been very active in collaborating with other organisations, forming and running working groups, engaging with government and running online events.

The AABR Board has been discussing how we could facilitate members setting up AABR operations in other jurisdictions and we have taken some initial steps in developing relationships with like minded NGOs in South Australia and the ACT and hope to start running events there in the next few months. Our Walks and Talks Working Group is planning field-based events in Queensland and South Australia.

The slight majority of AABR members are based in NSW and so the AABR Board has decided to engage with our NSW members

to gauge their interest in having a NSW Branch and, if there is an interest, to support them in setting it up. Having a State or Territory Branch allows for better targeted events, better engagement with jurisdiction based NGOs, communities, local councils and agencies and a greater ability to set targeted priorities and act on them. Keep an eye out over the next month or so about an online forum to discuss the set up of a NSW Branch.

Even in jurisdictions where there is no branch, we do encourage members who are keen, to represent AABR through engaging with government, attending workshops and forums, running field trips and engaging with the Board to raise issues and opportunities. Please call me any time and we can chat about how you can get involved.

Our other main intent from our changes was to gain charity status which in turn would allow for Deductible Gift recipient status. This is still a work in progress, with concerns that AABR is an industry association, rather than an environmental NGO hampering our registration. We will continue to engage with the government on this, as both charity and DGR status would help AABR raise funds to do more in advocating for the best practice restoration and management of our precious ecosystems.

As always, if you have any ideas, want to get more involved or just want a chat about AABR, please contact me at president@aabr.org.au or give me a call 0478 741 111.

Peter Dixon
President

Film: Myrtle Rust The Silent Killer

This new film shares first-hand stories on myrtle rust from indigenous rangers, scientists and landowners. Learn how our precious species and landscapes are under threat and the conservation actions we can take to save them.

Watch it on YouTube [HERE](#).



Welcome to new AABR Members

Aarohi Singhel	Katarina Huljev
Abraham Mijares-Urrutia	Kris Bruner
Bevan Allchurch	Luke Teamo
Claire Hewitt	Marian Collier
Daniel Foote	Matthew Cornwall
David Garratty	Megan Barkle
David Wilson	Nicolas Cameron
Dawn Worthington	Rita Riccio
Dennis Wangeskog	
Eva Davis Jones	Business
Gabriela Gomes	Mountains to Sea: Natural
Isaac Wishart	Area Management
Joshua Markham	Work Eco

Not For Profit

Greater Sydney Landcare

Agency

City of Gold Coast
ACT Natural Resource
Management

Congratulations on Accreditation

Elliot Bowerman
Matthew Whitelock

Anton Vigenser
Elliot Brooks

"AABR acknowledges Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Nations of this continent and recognises their custodianship and continuing connection to its land, waters and community."

"We pay our respects to the Elders past and present and future, for they hold the memories, traditions, culture and hopes of Indigenous peoples across the nation."

AABR Submissions

AABR makes submissions on processes and draft documents covering topics which are relevant to AABR.

These can be found on the AABR Website <https://www.aabr.org.au/about-aabr/policies/>

Below is some information on recent AABR submissions, and a call for public submissions.

AABR Submission on the Nature Repair Market Bill 2023 and a new call for public submissions by 1 June

In March this year AABR made a submission to the Australian Government's (draft) *Nature Repair Market Bill 2023* which has now been introduced into Parliament (House of Representatives). The purpose of the Bill is to establish a market whereby landholders undertaking nature repair works on their land can have a 'Biodiversity certificate' registered that can be traded with a buyer wishing to support that work for whatever reason (philanthropic or to compensate for their own damage to ecosystems elsewhere i.e. offsets). There is potential for the Market to have positive outcomes however, there are also a lot of uncertainties and potential pitfalls that could mean that it could fail to deliver or worse, could drive further degradation.

On 30 March, the Senate referred the *Nature Repair Market Bill 2023* and the *Nature Repair Market (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2023* to the Environment and Communications Legislation Committee for inquiry. **Importantly the public is invited to make a submission to this inquiry by 1 June 2023.** (Senate inquiries into Bills are quite standard and not a sign that the Government has concerns about the Bill).

Where will it go from there? Once the debate commences in the lower house it is likely that the Coalition will support it as they see it as a variation of a Bill they introduced in the previous term of Parliament. This means there is probably no appetite for either party to make changes. However, there is some potential to talk with your Coalition or ALP reps if you wish to lobby for small changes – or to make a submission to the Senate Enquiry.

Some of AABR concerns with the Bill as it stands are:

- Membership of the Nature Repair Market (NRM) Committee does not require any member to have ecological restoration expertise (yet the Committee will approve and review Methodologies).
- The word restoration is not mentioned once in the 260 pages of legislation. Although the bill is called 'nature repair' it is not used much in the Bill itself. ('Enhancement' is mentioned in the purpose of the Bill but there is no definition of either enhancement or repair in the Definitions section of the Bill).
- Biodiversity certificates may be used as offsets, but this information is not required to be recorded on certificates. (Some labelling is permitted however – so a solution may be that sellers who do not want their certificates to be used for offsets tag these clearly and use this as a marketing point).
- It is unclear who or when the Methodologies will be developed and what best practices will be.
- It is not clear how higher quality work will be encouraged over low quality work. It appears that the scheme is relying on sellers and buyers to work this out between them.

AABR Submission on The Draft National Feral Deer Action Plan

The Plan is being developed by a Working Group and information about the plan can be found at <https://feraldeerplan.org.au/the-plan/>. AABR made a submission in March 2023.

Briefly AABR supports the control, if not eradication, of feral animals given their damage to habitats of native flora, fauna, and other organisms. This particularly applies to feral deer which are a continuing, worsening threat to Australia's unique ecological systems. In conducting programs for control (i.e. culling/killing), AABR urges more attention to minimising suffering (i.e. attending to animal welfare) of feral deer, and involvement of expertise, through RSPCA, for example. This draft Plan shows increasing feral deer populations and widening distribution, especially into peri-urban areas (risking human injury, disease, and death) and into protected areas, including World Heritage, Australian Heritage, and RAMSAR wetland. It also describes that feral deer were declared as threatening processes under Federal and State environment protection legislation.

AABR presented three concerns:

- The relationship of deer farming to the existence of feral deer. Thinking about control of feral deer should also encompass measures to control escapes from and management of deer farming
- The need to better understand the lack of success with previous control measures including the regulatory framework – the rules, the funding, staffing and capacity.
- Agency. Where does responsibility lie?

AABR Submission to the Australian Government Senate Inquiry into the impacts and management of feral horses in the Australian Alps

AABR has just made a submission to the above inquiry. This submission raises a number of points based on AABR's relevant expertise.

To read the full submission, please go to the AABR website.

What do regenerators do?

AABR graphics 3 to 12.



The third meme pinpoints the very basis of the approach to restoration described in no 2 – the adapted capacity of organisms to recover. (But this is only to the extent the disturbance is similar to one they have evolved to recover from!)



The fourth in the series emphasises that different types of ecosystems can require different knowledge and skills – so you often find people specialising in one or other ecosystem! Regenerators include both professionals and volunteers, all playing different and major roles.



The fifth in the series shows how reading the resilience of a site requires some insight into the often hidden 'recovery' mechanisms of native plants.



Number 6 shows how resilience can often be triggered just by removing competition...but sometimes it requires other triggers too!

Tuesday 26th to Saturday 30th September 2023 (in person)
Tuesday 7th and Wednesday 8th November 2023 (virtual)

SER2023

DARWIN AUSTRALIA
26-30 SEPTEMBER 2023

SER 2023

10th World Conference on Ecological Restoration

The Conference theme is
Nature and people as one: celebrating and restoring connection.

The conference will be held in person on 26-30 September 2023 in Darwin, Australia with a separate opportunity for **virtual participation** on **7-8 November 2023**.

Early Bird Registration:

Registrations are now open for both the in-person component (in Darwin 26th to 30th September 2023) and the virtual component (7th to 8th November 2023 -which includes a natural regeneration session).

Be sure to **register by May 12th to get the Early Bird discount.** (Note: 'Equity' and 'Open Door' rates are available on an honours system.)

For more information and registration go to: <https://ser2023.org/>

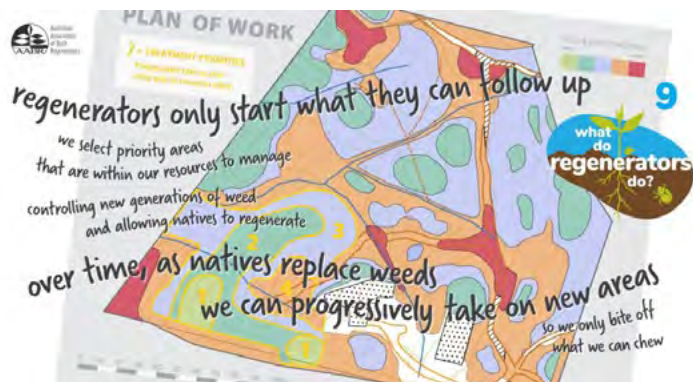
AABR Assistance

AABR is offering limited financial assistance to AABR members presenting papers (if they register prior to the Early Bird closing date of May 12).

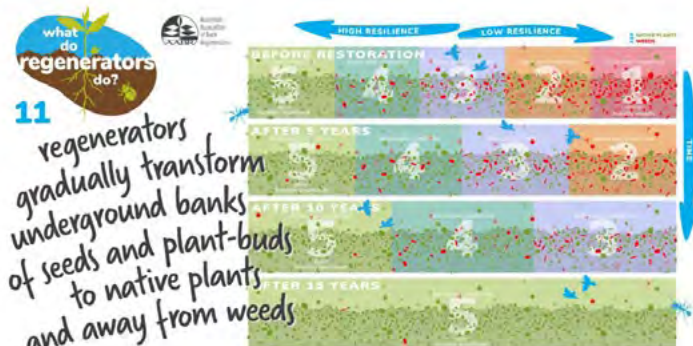
Organised by
 Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) and
 Society for Ecological Restoration Australasia (SERA)



The seventh in the series refers to that all-important process of regularly returning to a site multiple times to 'follow-up' in order to secure the transition back to native dominance!



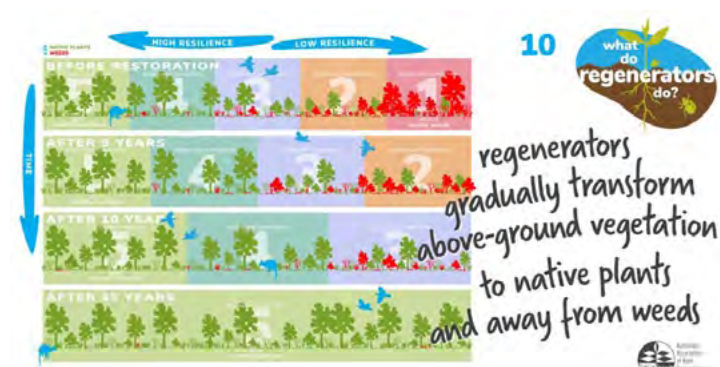
The ninth in the series conveys that commonsense dictum....take a big job on in smaller, secure steps. The graphic shows mapping the health of the vegetation and tells us to 'only bite off what we can chew'



The eleventh in the series points to a gradual transformation BELOW ground. (For soil seed bank-dependent ecosystems this can be the key to success.)



The eighth in AABR's 'What do regenerators do' series depicts the spatial pattern of recovery is usually one of expanding nuclei. This one uses different colour to indicate the health of native vegetation.



Number 10 points to the results over time with the graphic illustrating a gradual transformation ABOVE ground.



Number 12 refers to the importance of reintroduction when it is clear that a site's residual capacity to recover has been entirely or even just partially depleted.

Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25th May

Nature Conservation Council of NSW's Bushfire Conference 2023

Location: NSW Teachers Federation Conference Centre, Sydney.

In-person and virtual.

Field day: Ku-ring-gai Field Day on Friday 26th May

The extended speaker list for both conference days (24th, 25th May) has now been released and is available on our website.

More details for our field day on the 26th are also available.

Over 30 speakers have now been announced for the conference including representatives from universities, government departments, firefighting agencies, councils, Aboriginal

organisations and collectives, non-profit organisations and more, will be presenting some truly fascinating talks across two exciting days of learning and networking.



Nature Conservation Council
The voice for Nature



Bushfire Program

In-person ticket options close on May 9th, and virtual tickets on the 18th, so make sure you don't miss out and get your tickets today! For more information and tickets go to <https://evelynchiafornatureconservationcouncil.cmail19.com/t-t-l-zldujk-autukcly-k/>

Regeneration at Willoughby Council

Monique Van Vugt, Bushcare Supervisor

Willoughby City Council

Willoughby local government area is located about nine kilometres north of Sydney CBD and covers 22.43 square kilometres. The main highway from Sydney going north (Pacific Highway) runs through the area on one of the ridgetops. The area is part of the traditional lands of the Cammeraygal people.

Our bushland

In Willoughby we have over 300ha of bushland that Council is responsible for looking after. Within that area there are diverse vegetation communities ranging from heath, scrub, woodlands, open and tall forests, rainforest and mangrove and saltmarsh. The number of native plant species found is remarkably large.

Willoughby Council area has two vegetation communities listed as Critically Endangered Ecological Communities under the NSW *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.

- Blue Gum High Forest (Sydney Sandstone Gully Forest), which is unique to soils derived from shale, and soils that occur at the interface of shale and sandstone substrates. Most of this soil type occurs along ridge lines and is covered by houses and roads. This vegetation community is also listed as Critically Endangered under the Commonwealth EPBC Act (*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*)
- Sydney Turpentine-Ironbark Forest (Sydney Sandstone Gully Forest) grows in the soil landscape transition zone between shale and sandstone soils - downslope of areas of shale derived soil, but upslope of the sandstone derived soils.

Willoughby's natural biodiversity includes the superb lyrebird, powerful owl, swamp wallaby, sugar gliders, echidnas, and common tree snake, red-crowned toadlet and native bees, beetles and other pollinators. There are approximately 200 species of native vertebrate animals in the council area. As well as surveys of reserves, Council also has the Wildlife Watchers program for residents and others to record sightings.

Our bush regenerators

The people who work in the bushland in Willoughby are as diverse and interesting as the vegetation types. We have a range of bush regeneration contractor companies, eight in-house bush regeneration staff and approximately 300 bushcare volunteers. Usually, the interaction between these three groups is quite limited and their approaches to bush regeneration can be quite different. I don't want to try to pigeon hole each group, nor rate the pros and cons in their approach to work as it's impossible and I would be writing a thesis I don't have time for. One thing I have observed though is when these groups do interact there can be moments of inspiration, excitement and fun.

2019 brought along a change to the bushland management structure at Willoughby Council. The bushcare team was lucky enough to gain the two most experienced long term bush regenerators at Willoughby (Phil Sarkies and Trinh Pham). They brought with them a wide range of knowledge, skills and expertise, particularly in using fire as a weeding and regeneration tool but more importantly they brought their passion.

Phil Sarkies has planned, prepared, conducted and post-fire weeded over 150 ecological / hazard reduction burns, and has been carrying out bush regeneration without a drop of poison since 1999 and run the fox baiting program since its inception in 2000. Trinh brings her 25 years of experience working in



Above: Willoughby Bushcare Volunteer David (foreground) flame weeding with Phil Sarkies (background) at Artarmon Reserve.

Willoughby bushland and passion for teaching and inspiring volunteers. She has always maintained that volunteers are so much more than just weeders.

So what changes have been made to the bushcare program at Willoughby since 2019. The most note-worthy change has been incorporating volunteers into our ecological hazard reduction burns. Our volunteer groups are able to be involved and partake in the planning and preparing of a burn and post fire weeding. I won't delve too deeply into the whole process and what the volunteers get out of the whole experience, as you can watch the presentation that Phil and Geoff Shuetrim (bushcare volunteer) gave at the 2022 National Landcare conference *Vols on Hot Coals*.

Our annual Bushcare Training Course has undergone a recent overhaul. Now volunteers get to learn about and try out herbicide-free weeding tools (flame weeding and the tree popper) and the importance of getting to know everything about your weeds on site (root structure, dispersal mechanism, lifecycle). By introducing new tools and techniques and encouraging volunteers to look at weeds and their sites in a different way by removing herbicide from the situation, switches their brains into gear.

Of particular interest was our Tree Popper and everyone had a turn 'popping' an ochona *Ochna serrulata*. With that satisfying sound of roots coming free (some teenagers have said it's as satisfying as popping a pimple, Yuck!) some of our volunteers got so addicted to the ease and joy of pulling an ochona out by its roots it was hard to get them to stop, others instead stepped up to the challenge and picked an ochona 2.5m tall to get out. All were removed successfully and everyone got their very own "kinky root" photo as a memento.



Preparing sites for burning - Blue Gum Park Bushcare group.



The best thing about sharing your passion and knowledge with other people is when you see other people catch it. When we see our volunteers realise that turning up to bushcare isn't just about pulling a few weeds (not that there is anything wrong with that), but you can think outside the box and come up with a crazy idea or find a "new" tool to tackle a weed on your site.



Above. Using the tree popper to remove a small-leaf privet.
Photos supplied by Willoughby Council

Vols on Hot Coals: How Ecological Hazard Reduction Burning has rekindled the Flame within Bushcare Volunteers

Presentation at the 2022 National Landcare conference by Phil Sarkies (Willoughby Council) and Geoff Scheutrim (Willoughby Council Bushcarer)

This presentation tells the story of how Willoughby Council set up a Fire Hazard Reduction team after bushfires in 1994. The team has developed a controlled burning technique that meets fire mitigation obligations with the ecological needs of the bush and the wildlife it supports. The planning, the preparation and the lighting of its burns are never based on fuel loads and square metres covered alone. Intimate knowledge of the local ecology and the needs of native vegetation that rely on fire for survival are also carefully considered.

This presentation explores the 'Low and Slow' philosophy of Willoughby Council's burning, which offers wildlife the opportunity to seek refuge, while the canopy is left unharmed. It outlines how volunteers are guided and encouraged to participate with the burn preparation process, providing a rich learning environment. The greatest learning curve for volunteers is addressing post-fire care as specialised weeding strategies and techniques are introduced.

The presentation and more information can be found [HERE](https://www.landcarer.com.au/viewdocument/vols-on-hot-coals-how-ecological-h-1?CommunityKey=209ca50d-8a1c-44e6-a875-4a83ee8491de&tab=librarydocuments) .
<https://www.landcarer.com.au/viewdocument/vols-on-hot-coals-how-ecological-h-1?CommunityKey=209ca50d-8a1c-44e6-a875-4a83ee8491de&tab=librarydocuments>

Vale: Alex Floyd

Many regenerators will be familiar with the work of Alex Floyd, known for his knowledge and work with rainforest vegetation. Alex Floyd developed an expert knowledge of rainforest flora and was a staunch defender of rainforests against extensive logging. Such was his wide knowledge that several plants were named after him.

Born in Victoria in 1926, Alex died at Coffs Harbour NSW on 12 December 2022. Excelling in botany at University of Melbourne he then moved to the Australian Forestry School in Canberra in 1949. He worked with the Department of Forestry in Papua New Guinea and 30 years with the Forestry Commission of New South Wales.

He was seconded to the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service to use his knowledge of rainforest flora to undertake a review of the conservation status of the State's rainforest communities, retiring in 1988.

He was active in starting the North Coast Regional Botanic Gardens at Coffs Harbour, and the herbarium he built up during his time at Forestry was transferred to this botanic garden after his retirement.

Floyd had an expert knowledge of the rainforest flora and his 'N.S.W. Rainforest Trees' in ten parts (1960-80) issued in 'Research Notes' of the Commission, provides a comprehensive account of a large number of species.

Two genera and several species are named in his honour. Several hours of oral history spoken by Alex is available at the National Library of Australia.

Collated from a range of sources.



A Smutty Solution for tackling Wandering Trad invasion in NSW

Ben Gooden and Isabel Zeil-Rolfe

CSIRO Health and Biosecurity,

Ben.Gooden@csiro.au

Wandering trad *Tradescantia fluminensis* is an herbaceous groundcover that is native to South America and has become a significant environmental weed of temperate regions of Australia, with hotspots of invasion in moist forests of eastern NSW, Southeast Queensland, and the Dandenong Ranges region of Victoria. This weed is a problematic invader of shaded, moist sites, including intact rainforests, where it can smother the groundcover and dramatically reduce native vegetation diversity.

From a management point of view, this weed is one of the most problematic invasive plants to control in sensitive rainforest ecosystems, where the application of chemical herbicides is often undesirable, due to potential off target impacts of spray drift on native vegetation. Even where wandering trad infestations are successfully knocked back by herbicides in the short term, the infestations are able to reinvade the bush in the longer term by the regeneration of residual stem fragments.

There is now a novel biocontrol agent available to assist with controlling wandering trad infestations in sensitive ecosystems across eastern Australia: a leaf smut fungus named *Kordyana brasiliensis*. The fungus infects the leaves of wandering trad and reduces the growth of the plant by disrupting its ability to photosynthesise. After several weeks, severe infection by the fungus can result in leaf senescence and an overall reduction in the foliage cover of wandering trad.

The fungus was discovered on wandering trad during exploratory surveys in Brazil that were performed by researchers at the Universidade Federal de Viçosa (~300 km north of Rio de Janeiro). This exploratory research was part of the biocontrol program for this weed in New Zealand, led by Landcare Research. In 2014, the CSIRO commenced rigorous assessment of the

potential risks posed by the fungus to non-target native and ornamental plants closely related to wandering trad that are present in Australia. This included native plants within the genera *Commelina*, *Aneilema* and *Pollia*. Tests were undertaken in a quarantine facility in Australia. Results obtained by the CSIRO demonstrated that the fungus is highly host specific towards wandering trad. All Australian populations of wandering trad tested were attacked by the fungus, yet all native plant species were shown to be highly resistant to infection.

CSIRO began releasing this safe biocontrol agent throughout NSW in 2020 in partnership with hundreds of community groups and landholders to help control priority infestations of wandering trad, with a focus on sensitive ecosystems where the use of herbicides was undesirable. The method for release was simple – CSIRO researchers cultured the fungus in the laboratory and dispatched healthy, viable batches of the fungus via post to registered participants who then planted the infected wandering trad stems directly into dense patches of the weed. To increase the chances of infection being transferred to the field, participants were instructed to release the fungus in dense patches of trad in sheltered, moist sites.

In parallel to these community releases, the researchers also undertook controlled experimental releases of the fungus at fixed plots that have since been monitored two times per year for the past 3 years. Approximately 100 monitoring plots were established, located along the entire eastern coastline of NSW. Monitoring involved the assessment of wandering trad foliage cover, disease severity and the composition of associated native vegetation.

Results of smut release

The results of these releases have been spectacular. The dedicated bush regeneration volunteers spearheaded the release of the fungus at hundreds of sites across NSW, including in



Dense infestation of wandering trad (*Tradescantia fluminensis* with white flowers) smothering the undergrowth of native rainforest vegetation along a creek embankment in Kangaroo Valley, NSW.

National Parks and other high value conservation reserves where persistent wandering trad invasion had threatened the sensitive native vegetation for decades. At these community release sites, establishment of the fungus was slow going, with early signs of infection in the local population evident only after about 1 year. However, after two years, at least 50% of release sites showed almost 100% of wandering trad stems to be infected with the fungus. Then, after 2.5 years, wandering trad cover declined significantly in many locations, especially in warm, humid areas along creeklines and under dense tree canopies.

At the CSIRO fixed plots, intensive monitoring revealed indeed that the fungus caused a significant decline of the weed after 2 years. In northern NSW, the fungus reduced trad cover by 80% on average, which allowed for vigorous recruitment of native plant seedlings. However, on average, in the southern parts of NSW, the impacts of infection on the weed were less pronounced, with only 50% reduction in the Illawarra and Shoalhaven regions, and only a 20% reduction on the far south coast between Batemans Bay and Bega. Our research suggests this is due to higher average rainfall, humidity, and winter temperatures in the northern region, which promote more vigorous fungal growth and spread.

The Future

Although the current project finishes in June 2023, CSIRO will continue to undertake research on the fungus, with a focus on the recovery of native vegetation communities in areas that were once smothered by wandering trad. After June 2023, the CSIRO will no longer be able to provide the fungus to interested participants. However, to support ongoing participation by interested community members in biocontrol agent releases, the CSIRO will upload the locations of releases made on public land to the Atlas of Living Australia's Biocontrol Hub. With reference to release instructions (see link below) and a map of previous release locations, bush regenerators will be able to collect and redistribute the fungus themselves to new locations (on the condition that permission from relevant land managers is obtained beforehand).

The CSIRO wishes to thank all volunteers for participating in the release program and helping to reduce the impacts of wandering trad on the environment. We are especially grateful for everyone's patience in delivering this project with only limited opportunity for face-to-face engagement due to COVID-19 travel restrictions.

Right: Disease symptoms caused by the leaf-smut fungus *Kordyana brasiliensis* on leaves of wandering trad (*Tradescantia fluminensis*).

These are characterised by diffuse chlorotic (i.e. yellowish) spots on the upper surface of leaves (A) and corresponding whitish lesions on the lower surface of leaves where fungal spores are produced (B).

Lesions become necrotic as they mature, eventually causing leaf death (Photo: B. Gooden; Taken at Kangaroo Valley, NSW).



Biological weed control

Weed control usually involves either physical removal of the weed or the use of herbicides. Biological control (biocontrol) involves the introduction of natural enemies (insects, mites and pathogens) of a target weed that will reduce the density of the weed to a level that is acceptable and that will maintain the weed density at that level.

Prior to biocontrol agents being released, extensive research is undertaken to ensure that only biocontrol agents that don't threaten desirable non-target species are used.

It is an economical, self-sustaining and environmentally-friendly management technique, which is an effective method for long-term weed control. Biocontrol does not eradicate weeds, but can reduce populations to acceptable levels, or suppress them to levels where they can be controlled in combination with other methods.

Further information

For information on the work of CSIRO, and research on other weed species

<https://research.csiro.au/weed-biocontrol/>

More about work on wandering trad

<https://research.csiro.au/wandering-trad/our-research/>

https://research.csiro.au/wandering-trad/wp-content/uploads/sites/173/2020/09/Wandering-Trad-Biocontrol_Release-Information_NSW-Enviro-Trust_07.09.20.pdf

<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/policy/risk-analysis/biological-control-agents/risk-analyses/completed-risk-analyses/ra-release-kordyana-brasiliensis>

Find out about the weed biocontrol hub

<https://biocollect.ala.org.au/biocontrolhub>

This project has been proudly supported by the NSW Government through its Environmental Trust.

South West Rocks Community Dune Care

A case study of a successful community volunteer group over 30 years

Caroline Adams, Ian Burnett and Alan Hill

South West Rocks is a small town on the mid-north coast of NSW, around 450 kilometres north of Sydney. The area has high biodiversity, but like many coastal areas, invasive weeds had become a major problem in native bushland.

In 1992 a small group of friends gathered at Smoky Cape lighthouse. We were dismayed to see bitou bush *Chrysanthemoides monilifera* ssp *rotundata* smothering much of the native coastal vegetation. We hatched a very ambitious goal: to rid the bushland of bitou bush north from the lighthouse around to the mouth of the Macleay River. A mere 12 kilometers of coastline! But we held to the old adage: 'if not us, then who; if not now, then when?' We were determined to preserve one of the most beautiful sections of the Australian coast.

This group evolved into South West Rocks Community Dune Care. A small group of volunteers spent the first 10 years 'bitou bashing' in small areas when we could manage to get together. The areas were either favourite scenic spots for members or areas not yet completely dominated by bitou bush. We only just managed to hold the line in these few restricted areas.

Good fortune sometimes comes from the least expected quarter

Over Christmas / New Year 2001 there was a major fire which swept through more than 80% of the coastal strip, being particularly destructive to the many significant patches of littoral rainforest scattered along this section of coastline. This fire devastated the native vegetation but provided an opportunity to take the upper hand on weed control.

The fire impacted both the native vegetation and the weeds. With some weed species the adult plants are killed. However, many weed species are also well adapted to fire. In the case of bitou bush the fire stimulated the soil borne seedbank to germinate, resulting in millions of seedlings. Bitou bush, *Lantana camara* and many other weeds appeared in places which were previously considered weed free. Birds and foxes had eaten the seeds and voided them across the landscape, so the seedbank was widely distributed. When deposited in relatively heathy bushland, with intact canopies, seeds often will not germinate due to competition. The fire had removed or reduced this competition, allowing seeds to germinate in areas not previously infested by weeds. And they did –in their millions! Adding to the problem, many weeds such as *Ochna serrulata*, a number of

species of asparagus and glory lily *Gloriosa superba* are also well adapted to fire and happily re-sprout from underground stems, roots and tubers. A nightmare scenario!

We realised to make any inroads into the burgeoning weed infestations we needed more resources - both money and labour - and that we were in for the long term.

We were successful in attracting funds, increasing volunteer participation and getting work done effectively on the ground. But we were working along about 10km of coastline, and in hundreds of hectares of land with different land tenures (National Parks, Council, Crown Land). We also needed to allocate work to contractors, manage volunteers, apply for ongoing funds, keep accurate records for reporting purposes and manage relatively large amounts of money.

Our group had a stable and knowledgeable core, but we recognised that much of the expertise and knowledge was in our heads. Not always the best place to be! Also if anything happened to a few key people, then all our gained experience and planning would be lost.

To address this problem, we made a proposal to NPWS that we, South West Rocks Community Dune Care, develop a 10 year Weed Management Action Plan for the Coastal strip between Smoky Cape and South West Rocks township. NPWS supported this proposal and funded the development of the plan. The plan was expanded to stretch between the beach access track at Smoky Beach and north to the Macleay River mouth - a distance of approximately 15km covering several land tenures. The plan identified 14 catchments and broke the entire area up into some 73 work management units. Our group developed an action plan for each work management unit based on the issues identified at the time. (In 2023, this plan has now been extended to cover 16.5km of the coastline).

Around the time we were developing our Action Plan we also recognised we needed more people to help our local volunteers. We created a "visiting volunteer program". Some members, who own holiday accommodation in the area, made them available for one week per month in the cooler months of the year. Arakoon House, a heritage listed property, became available. Arakoon House was originally built in 1886 as a hotel and has now been converted into four large two bedroom self contained apartments.

Now, by 2023, we have had many hundreds of visiting volunteers join us, for up to a week at a time. Many have returned year on year and indeed some many times per year! Quite a few now return for holidays to the town.



Smoky Cape Lighthouse

Photo on the left taken April 2007. Photo on the right taken September 2013. Showing the change from bitou bush to native vegetation. Photo Alan Hill

So how are things for us now?

We have developed and implemented a detailed strategic 10 year plan. This is a dynamic plan and regularly updated over the past 14 years. It has proved invaluable in attracting funding and as a tool to manage weeds on a landscape scale.

We have been successful in gaining grants, which to date total over \$1.2 million, allowing the employment of bush regeneration contractors to treat most of the larger infestations and many of the more intractable weeds. We have even had specialist abseiling weed contractors on the cliffs. Contractors and volunteers mutually reinforce each other's role. Contractors do broad area / hard country. Volunteers do follow-up and can see progress and that they are part of a bigger picture.

Our volunteer efforts are managing to keep up with the follow-up required (just!) and last year (2022), between our local volunteers and the visiting volunteers, we exceeded 4,000 hours work removing invasive weeds. And that was in a *La Nina Covid* year!

We have been recognised for our efforts by being awarded the Regional, State and National Coastcare winners for 2011-12. More recently one of our founding members, Alan Hill, has been awarded an Order of Australia Medal for his consistent ongoing work with the project.



Nice place to work!!

Photo Alan Hill

Successes, Failures and Lessons Learnt

- Establishment and ongoing success of our visiting volunteer program.
- Over the past 20 years this ever expanding volunteer base has contributed over 45,000 hours work, with some regular work days attracting 25-30 people with some over 50. Why?
 - consistent calendar: 4th Sunday of month
 - cooler months only, April – November
 - delicious morning teas and lunch provided by members
 - volunteers have time to socialise
 - strategic planning allows volunteers to see the progress and feel satisfied their work is making a real difference
 - regular PR in local papers
 - training for new volunteers is provided by contractor and experienced vols to make people feel confident.
- Diversification of membership roles with individuals taking on: volunteer co-ordination, PR and media, accounting

An Invitation to work with South West Rocks Dune Care

So here is an invitation to join us, see what we are up to and hopefully enjoy this beautiful location with us. Information is found on our [Facebook Page](#) or our website <http://southwestrocksdunecare.com.au>. There are several YouTube videos made by John Illingsworth - link to the [SWRDC](#) playlist .

If you would like to book in or find out more, please email me at hillyuille@bigpond.com or you can contact me by phone on 0419012640.

Hope to see you there.

Regards - Alan Hill and the rest of the SWRDC team.

Working Dates are on the website – in brief:

Regular working Sundays for 2023: 28st May; 25th June; 23th July; 27th August; 24th Sept; 22rd Oct; 26th Nov.

Visiting volunteer weeks are: Sat. 27th May to 3rd of June; Sat 24th June to 1st July and Sat 26th Aug to 2nd September.

and governance, community education and outreach, grant writing and administration, bush regen contractor administration and catering.

- Successfully cleared bitou bush from over 15km coastline, using a combination of contractors and follow up by volunteers plus the use of splatter guns to increase productivity in the early days of bitou bush control .
- Controlled ground asparagus *Asparagus aethiopicus* over more than 10Ha
- Identified *Asparagus falcatus* sicklethorn as a serious emerging weed in the area and successfully applied for a 3 year grant which will be completed in June 2023.
- Initiated the use of drones to survey for weeds and record the progress of our work.
- Encouraged members to take 'ownership' of individual sites. The group then provides extra resources and technical back-up to help them achieve their objective. This has been particularly successful and we now have 6-7 sub groups. One spectacular example is that one individual has contributed over 2,000 hours successfully hand weeding and eradicating mother of millions *Bryophyllum delagoense* which covered many hectares of the dunes!
- So far we have failed to adequately control glory lily. This is despite undertaking the recommended spray treatments for the past 10 years. We hope our most recent 4 year grant from the NSW Environmental Trust will enable us to develop more effective methods for control.

OAM for Alan Hill

Alan Hill, who is well known in NSW bush regeneration circles, was awarded an OAM in the Australia Day 2023 Honours List 'For service to conservation and the environment'. Alan has been involved in the South West Rocks Community Dune Care as a founding member since 1992, and says success is due to the entire Dunecare group who deserve a group award .



AABR Walk and Talk - River Avenue Bushcare Site at Lane Cove National Park

Tony Butteris, Friends of Lane Cove National Park and host

After delays of over two years because of covid and 'the big wet', finally on Saturday 25th March 2023 we had an AABR visit to Friends of LCNP, River Avenue site.

When we put our hand up for the visit, I thought that we had a story to tell, as in addition to our regular bushcare, this particular highly degraded area had been the site of annual community planting days since 2010. Since then, we have planted more than 12,000 local plants enhancing an important habitat corridor.

Lane Cove National Park is in Sydney's northern suburbs. It was opened in 1938 and with many additions now consists of around 700 hectares stretching from Pennant Hills in the north, south to Hunters Hill. However, in many areas it is very narrow, with more than 1,000 neighbours and all the problems that brings.

Many Sydneysiders remember that in 1994 a major bushfire swept through the park, burning more than 90% of it. That caused an outpouring of support, resulting in the establishment of Friends of LCNP and a bushcare program with more than 20 regular bushcare sites. Most continue today and Friends of LCNP now regularly contribute more than 7,000 volunteer hours per year to assist regeneration in the park. You can see more about the Friends of LCNP at [Friends of Lane Cove NP](#).



Map of Lane Cove National Park. The narrow corridor is clearly seen

The 'River Avenue' bushcare site was not one of these original sites, as the area was not part of the park in 1994. It was added into the park around 2000 as part of a program consolidating many of the smaller adjacent areas of bushland that had been controlled by local councils.

The site is large, stretching almost one kilometre along

the edge of the Lane Cove River. For bush regeneration purposes it can be considered as three distinct areas. Two of which are managed with traditional bush regeneration techniques. However, the central area has had a great deal of disturbance, and there is virtually no resilience in this section. That led us to our planting program to enhance the very degraded habitat corridor.

The degraded area

In 2009 Friends of LCNP were lucky to obtain a grant from the NSW Environmental Trust for work in the riparian areas. As part of that grant, we started with a small-scale community planting program on an area that had been mechanically cleared of dense weed and then capped with crushed sandstone by NPWS. That led the Friends to partner with National Tree Day, which we found was the ideal way of connecting with volunteers. Additionally, that first grant led Friends to successfully seek grants from a range of groups including City of Ryde, NRMA, Foundation for National Parks, Landcom, NSW DPI Fish Habitat, The Commonwealth Government and lastly (for us) a left field organisation, Planting Trees for the Queens Jubilee.

The AABR walk started at the site of the 2022 planting for the Queen's Jubilee event, when 150 volunteers planted over 1,200 plants most of which were grown in the Friend's nursery from seed collected in the park. The AABR group saw that the plants had grown well, but so had the weeds, which have been a major problem this year with the wet weather.

The group walked down stream viewing areas planted in previous years - in effect going back in time. The planted area is mapped as the EEC Swamp Oak Flood Plain Forest. However, it was very narrow and very degraded, with weeds including large and small-leaved privet and invasive vines such as balloon vine and Madeira vine blanketing and killing much of the native vegetation.

Large Tree Day plantings were cancelled due to Covid in 2020 and 2021 with the regular volunteers doing small scale plantings (300+ plants) after volunteers were allowed to return to the park. The 2020 area was particularly interesting, the planted species were doing well but there had also been a considerable natural regeneration of *Casuarina glauca* as a result of the withdrawal of mowing.

Walking back to the original 2010 planting the group could see that in most places the regeneration was good, but they also looked at problem areas. In particular one area that the volunteers had not been able to get back to because of the 'covid' lock down (we lost well over 500 hours on this site) and another area that had been badly affected by a Sydney Water operation to trace a sewer leak.



The very degraded area cleared of weed and capped with crushed sandstone in 2009 prior to planting

Photos Tony Butteris

The regeneration area

After viewing the planted areas, the group moved into the more resilient areas. Firstly, to look at an area of salt marsh. The volunteers were particularly pleased with the regeneration in this area as before they started it was not obvious that there was any salt marsh. One of the major factors in this section was the removal of large privets and the reed, *Arundo donax*. That action allowed more light to reach the salt marsh plants.

The group then viewed two areas that we think would both be classed as Swamp Sclerophyll Forest, but which present quite differently. The first section is an ephemeral freshwater wetland dominated by *Melaleuca linariifolia*, which we think is one of the most beautiful locations in the park. The second, referred to as Secret River, features a water meadow of saltwater couch and a

rock overhang where you can 'feel' the presence of generations of indigenous inhabitants.

After looking at these two exquisite areas the group then left the site by way of a total disaster. The 'Privet Forest' which is an area where the soil is almost entirely river dredge (it includes a large number of shells which can be confused with a midden). The privets are large, 6+ metres tall and almost entirely covered by balloon vine *Cardiospermum grandiflorum*. In the past there has been some progress in this area, with the help of corporate groups. However, with Covid and other problems they have not visited for nearly three years, hopefully this will be addressed in the near future.

To conclude the inspection the group visited a nearby site, at the start of the 'Fairyland Walk', where there is very high resilience. The volunteer group in that area is coordinated by Janet Fairlie-Cunningham, who is one of the original 1994 members of Friends of LCNP, a longtime bush regenerator and AABR member. Janet made a number of interesting observations during the walk including that: she has observed that snake vine *Stephania japonica* was becoming rampant, and it could possibly be affected by 'global warming'. She also suggested that while it is often said that the area of mangroves have expanding over the last 200 years, due to siltation. Much of this apparent increase may be because historians are comparing the situation nowadays with photos from the 1890s when there had been many years of clearing mangroves for use as fuel.

Friends of LCNP would like to thank all at AABR for giving us the chance to show this site to a wider group and particularly to Chloe and Suzanne for organising the day.

What I learnt at the Walk and Talk

Nicole Robinson

On 25 March 2023, I was very fortunate to participate in a wonderful event organised by AABR at Lane Cove National Park.

Our guide, Tony Butteriss commenced with a respectful Acknowledgement of Country to the original custodians. The *Field Guide to the Bushland of the Lane Cove Valley* (2010) – which Chloë Mason passed around on the day – describes the main Aboriginal coastal language group as that of the Kuring-Gai people with clan/subgroup in the Upper Lane Cove Valley we explored being the Terramerragal people. Tony reflected on their presence in the landscape and special relationship to country, which was particularly easy to perceive at the sandstone overhang.

The generosity Tony, his wife, Glynis and Janet showed us in sharing their detailed knowledge of the stunning sites and their histories, including the history of the careful volunteer and contract work done on the sites (such a lot of work!), their regeneration goals for the sites and the challenges – both environmental and human – will stay with me for a long time. They noted that Friends of Lane Cove NP commenced in response to the bushfires in 1994 that burned most of the bushland in the Lane Cove National Park – there were more than 20 bushcare sites established in the park, a positive outcome from that traumatic event.

We looked at the River Avenue site, which stretches for roughly one kilometre along the side of the Lane Cove River. We began our walk at the Queen's Jubilee 2022 plantings before moving to earlier plantings where we saw a significant privet *Ligustrum sinense* infestation covered in balloon vine *Cardiospermum grandiflorum*. We moved from there to the lovely saltmarsh, which had managed to remain relatively weed free, and then on to a stunning area under the sandstone overhang that was rescued from weeds by natural bush regeneration.



One of the highlights of the walk was the fresh water wet land area, classified as Swamp Sclerophyll Forest. It is dominated by *Melaleuca linariifolia* with an understory of *Gahnia* and sedges. Photos Tony Butteris

Tony explained that while natural regeneration is preferred, plantings were necessary at the Queen's Jubilee site, because it had become so degraded, having been previously cleared completely. We observed that corporate groups along with local volunteers had done a great job planting hundreds of trees there! Tony noted that some sites had suffered from a lack of weeding during COVID-19 lockdown and were practically back at square one whereas others had remained relatively weed free, despite the lack of human intervention during the lockdown.

We learnt about the significant challenges in successfully removing madeira vine (*Anredera cordifolia*) in the sites. Even when the bulk of the vines are "removed", the numerous aerial tubers are very difficult to remove so the vines are very difficult to remove entirely. In the weeks since the walk, I have started to notice more and more madeira vines growing in neighbours' gardens in my own suburb with concern!

Tony also observed some jobs are so large they require contract labour (and funding) to make a dent, such as the removal of the significant privet forest.

Despite the significant challenges they face from encroaching weeds, including from Mickey Mouse bush (*Ochna serrulata*) the sites were absolutely beautiful with many beautiful native trees (including feathery wattle and tree ferns), shrubs and grasses showing off their beauty. Janet noted that the large number of moths flitting about in the long grasses as we walked along were a good sign of the health of the sites.

We talked about the need to engage more young people to take up the regeneration torch into the future, given our native flora (and the fauna relying on them) are under so much pressure from urbanisation and climate change.

Other group members were also experienced bush regenerators who shared their knowledge of plants and regeneration techniques with far less experienced group members, like me. Janet pointed out changes she had observed in some plants becoming more present in the landscape over time (since the 1990s), as the likely result of climate change.

For me, the act of bushcare/regeneration is in and of itself a form of healing, that connects people to this country and to their local community - so important in this era of all pervasive technology.

Active walking talks like this one are a way to introduce people to the art and science of bushcare and the magic of the bush itself - hiding in plain sight in pockets of suburbia.

Janet told us sometimes her group is down to 2 working volunteers, which is shocking when she has so much knowledge to share, along with the benefits people stand to gain from working with her and others in their local community in such a glorious setting. I'm sure the walk with Tony, Glynis and Janet was a call to arms for many of us to think of ways to inspire the next generations to join in and reap the personal benefits (as well as generate them for the environment).

I'm sure I'm not the only participant that day, who would express gratitude and admiration to Tony, Glynis and Janet for their time



At Lane Cove National Park. AABR Walks and Talks allow participants to meet other regenerators and learn from everyone. Photo :James Hook

and generosity in sharing their expertise with us and introducing us to sites of such great beauty.

It made it much harder to go back to my desk job the next day!

Broken Hill Regen Area - New Publication

Albert Morris and the Broken Hill regeneration area: ecologically informed restoration responses to degraded arid landscapes 1936–58

By Peter J Ardill

Fourth Edition, Released January 2023.

This fully revised and enhanced edition is available as a free download at <https://www.aabr.org.au/morris-broken-hill/>

This is one of the globe's classic natural regeneration projects; nationally and internationally acclaimed; historically significant Australian environmental repair.

This new edition features fresh research, illustrations and historical documentation. Features include:

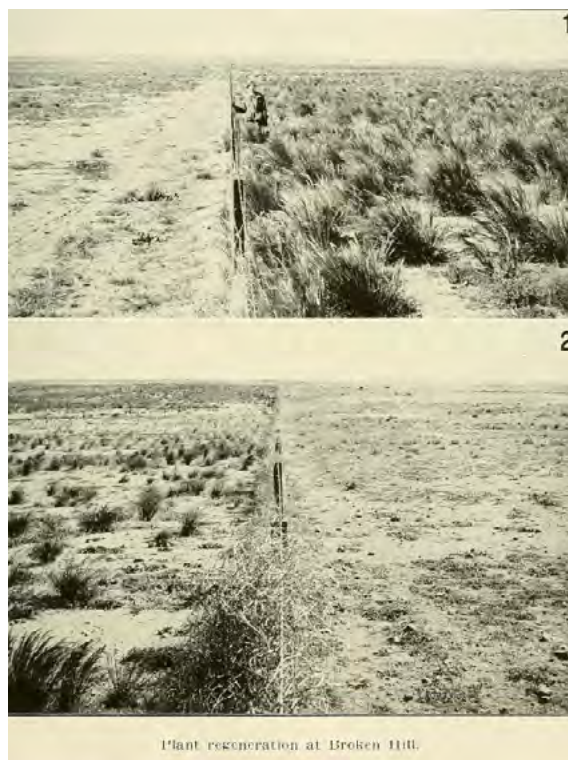
- Additional analysis: the natural regeneration technique; erosion management challenges; stakeholder engagement; ethical restoration; failings of the regeneration area project; contemporaneous international revegetation work and much more.
- The First Nations context: dispossession; degradation of homelands; failure to engage with Traditional Owners and Custodians and their ecological knowledge.
- Introducing pioneers of Australian settler natural area restoration and their highly successful conservation work: Albert Morris; Margaret Morris; May Harding; sisters Joan and Eileen Bradley; Donald MacDonald; Roger Good; Ambrose Crawford.
- Coverage of contemporary restoration topics: ecological restoration; spontaneous natural regeneration; facilitated natural regeneration; stock exclosure; soil seed banks; seed vitality; stakeholder engagement; plant succession; reference ecosystems; science-practice partnerships.

By Peter J Ardill BA, LLB, MA (Accredited AABR practitioner).

Reviewed by Dr Tein McDonald AM.

Published by the Australian Association of Bush Regenerators Inc.

Also of interest: the Australian Association of Bush Regenerator's short film *Renewal in the Desert*, created by Virginia Bear (Little Gecko Media). Go to <https://www.aabr.org.au/regentv/> to see this beautifully filmed story of the Broken Hill regeneration area.



Plant regeneration at Broken Hill.

Natural regeneration at Broken Hill: well vegetated regeneration reserves adjacent to overgrazed public land. Source: Pidgeon, Ashby (1940).

Korinderie Ridge Regen Week – Aug 2–6 2023

Come along to this year's Regen Week at Korinderie Ridge!

Have you ever joined in on a bush regen holiday? Are you interested in learning about how to protect native flora within an incredibly unique and diverse forest of northern NSW? Do you love great food and camping? Or perhaps you have skills to share and would like a chance to network and be inspired with like-minded people?

Regen Week is held over 5 days on a multiple occupancy bushland property, adjacent to Bundjalung National Park and near Evans Head Northern NSW.

Each morning you will join with Korinderie residents in small teams with a skilled team leader to remove lantana from conservation areas for 4 hours. In exchange, the community provides all of your delicious meals, bushland campsites, hot showers and opportunities for afternoon sightseeing, or relaxing. We also enjoy night time spot-lighting and campfire conversation (we chop your wood!).



Korinderie Ridge covers 196ha of old growth forest. It has extensive spotted gum/iron bark forest with gullies of wet sclerophyll and rainforest species such as towering stands of Bangalow Palm and Hoop Pine. The land is home to threatened arboreal mammals – the brush tailed phascogale and squirrel gliders, and large forest owls such as the Powerful Owl. Removing lantana protects these species, maintains floristic diversity. Regen Week is a unique opportunity to be a part of this long term conservation project.

This is the 20th annual Regen Week! We look forward to welcoming back many regulars, and we hope to meet some new faces. The combined effort of community members and volunteers has completed the majority of the primary work over the last 19 years but primary work is still needed in some fertile rainforest gullies and there is always plenty of follow up to do. You will be placed in a team that matches your abilities and needs.

If you are interested in booking or receiving further written information, please contact **Rachel** at regenweek@korinderie.org.au or 0493407260 and check out the [Korinderie Facebook](#) page, or the website for updated gallery of photos of past years' events.

'Re-greening Country' event August and Sept 2023

'Moorlands' near Gunning, South Western Slopes of NSW

'Moorlands' is owned and managed by Vince Heffernan, a 6th generation sheep grazer and noted expert on new forms of regenerative land management. The 1200 ha (3,000 acre) property which has been in the family for over 180 years is located 3.5 hours from Sydney (1.5 hours from Canberra). Vince follows a combined organic/biodynamic approach coupled with rotational grazing to produce lamb. Find out more about farming practices and lamb production at <https://moorlandslamb.com.au/>. Vince is the Chair of Upper Lachlan Landcare Inc. which supports landowners in the region to enable them to care for the environment.

For 20 years great efforts were undertaken to recreate an open woodland environment by rebuilding the functionality of the natural ecosystem at Moorlands. In August, September and October this year, another 5,000 trees and shrubs (supplied by Greening Australia) will be planted in 3 paddocks adjoining previous plantings completed in 2020, 2021 and 2020. The tubestock will include eucalypts, acacia, callistemon and many other native species indigenous to the area.

One goal is to improve habitat for native fauna including endangered species. Another is to add this planting to the work of thousands of landholders and partners to create Australia's biggest carbon sink and establish one million hectares of habitat across southern Australia. For more information. <https://www.greeningaustralia.org.au/programs/great-southern-landscapes/> To achieve this goal, Greening Australia assists in terms of tubestock, nature fibre weed mat and tree guards.



Dates: The available weekends (based on the very busy farming schedule) are:

- 12 - 13 August
- 26 - 27 August
- 8 - 9 September
- 18 - 22 September (for volunteers who wish to continue planting during the week)
- 22 - 23 September
- 30 Sep - 1 October

There are plenty of other activities to do before or after and the Upper Lachlan district is frequented by a huge variety of birds.

Call or text Adrian Polhill (0424 478 498), or email adrianpolhill@hotmail.com for further information, to register or if have any questions. (Adrian is Vice President of the Oatley Flora and Fauna Conservation Society, who are supporting this project).



What's happening

7 – 10 August 2023



NSW Weed Conference

The NSW Weeds Conference hosted by the Weed Society of NSW, will be held in Dubbo NSW and showcase the latest research and ideas for managing the establishment, impact and spread of weeds.

The conference theme is *weeds gone wild* with the conference sub-themes being:

- Taming the Wild | Onground Weed Control Methods
- Searching the Wild | Weed Surveillance
- What's gone Wild
- Community and Stakeholders
- Networking and Sharing Knowledge

The conference will include a range of options to explore Dubbo and the surrounding region.

Registration is now open.

- Early bird registration until 5 pm on Friday 20th June 2023
- Standard Registration after 5 pm on Friday 30th June 2023

For more information and to register please go to the website <https://www.nswweedsconf.org.au/>

23 - 24 August 2023

Victorian Weeds Seminar

To be held at Queenscliff, Victoria

Hosted by the Weed Society of Victoria

<https://www.wsvic.org.au/events>
Details to come

Sunday 3rd to Friday 8th
September 2023



65th Annual Symposium of the International Association of Vegetation Science

Opal Cove Resort, Coffs Harbour, NSW

The Conference theme is

The Future of Vegetation in the 22nd Century'

Side events include the pre and post-conference tours, and several mid-week day-long excursions to choose from.

Visit the [website](https://iavsaustralia2023.com/) to find out more, register and submit abstracts for oral and poster presentations.

<https://iavsaustralia2023.com/>



For more information go to

<https://www.landcaretas.org.au/conference2023>



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of Bush Regenerators
Working with natural processes

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Australian Association of Bush Regenerators

The Australian Association of Bush

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

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

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

AABR also offers accreditation for experienced practitioners.

AABR News is usually published in January, April, July, and November.

AABR C/O Total Environment Centre

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enquiries@aabr.org.au

ABN: 89 059 120 802 ARBN: 059 120 802

Membership fees

Individuals \$35 (unwaged \$20)

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

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

Government \$60

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

Benefits of Membership:

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

Newsletter contributions and comments are welcome

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

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of AABR