

Kyogle Landcare

April Update



Bush, Butterflies and Bats

Join us for a celebration of all things Landcare on Saturday the 4th of May.

We are holding an **Open Day** at the nursery from 9 – 1pm. There is a massive plant sale with a bargain for all, as well as a range of activities.

9–10.30 - Plant Propagation Workshop

10.30-11 - Koala Talk

11–12 - Fawcett's Creek Guided Walk

12–12.30 - Birdwing Butterfly Workshop

12.30 – 1 - Wires Workshop

Morning Tea: Scones and tea or coffee for a gold coin donation available. **And** we haven't forgotten the **Kids**. **Supervised** Face painting and art activities while you patriciate in the activities and purchase a few plants.

GET EXCITED! TELL YOUR FRIENDS.



HOW TO DEFEAT THE OVERPOWERING EFFECTS OF LANTANA

(WITHOUT THE USE OF FIRE!)



The year is 1976. Two youthful Uni students, craving an alternative to city living, venture to the far north coast of New South Wales. They find like-minded people and move into the first known multiple occupancy and settle near the town of Kyogle.

After four years they decide to expand and buy their current 480-hectare property on Iron Pot Creek. The opportunity this presented allowed them to focus on their shared love of draught horses. At this point in time Sue and Wayne's only interest in the impact of weeds on the environment was associated with Crofton Weed as it is toxic to horses. At this time, they also ran cattle to keep the grass down.

During the late 70's and early 80's it was possible to ride their horses around their property and neighbouring State Forests without being fenced in by dense thickets of Lantana.

Unfortunately, during the mid to late 80's the State Forests were heavily logged. An unforeseen consequence of this logging was the invasion of Lantana that followed.

From this...



To this...

Early 2000's Sue and Wayne observed dieback on their property as well as the surrounding State Forests.

They contacted National Parks and their Ecologist John Hunter inspected Toonumbar and alerted National Parks and the Somervilles to the dieback problem.

The problem was later identified as Bell Miner Associated Dieback.

Bell Miner Associated Dieback (BMAD) Fast Facts:

2.5 million hectares of forest in NSW has the potential to be affected by Bell Miner Associated Dieback.

Bell Miners have been commonly blamed for the dieback of Eucalypts. However, Bell Miners are a native species and before the advent of Lantana had lived in balance with the native forests.

Most of the information and the number and range of species that are threatened by BMAD come from the Kyogle area.

39 species of threatened animals and 9 species of threatened plants occur in our local forests experiencing dieback.

Species include:

- ◆ Stevens Banded Snake
- ◆ Fleay's Barred Frog
- ◆ Glossy Black Cockatoo
- ◆ Eastern Bristlebird
- ◆ Koalas
- ◆ Rainforest Cassia

The proliferation of Lantana has enabled the population of Bell Miners to flourish. Bell Miners are able to nest in the Lantana understory as well as feed on the Psyllids (small sap sucking insects) that live on the Eucalypts. The Bell Miners drive all other insect eating birds out of the area. This allows the Psyllids to increase and begins the weakening of the trees, often resulting in dieback.

Without Lantana the Bell Miners would not be out of balance.



Sue – home on the range

Action

- ◆ Wayne was told a story by John Hunter about how glyphosate droplets are really effective at killing Lantana.
- ◆ With this new-found knowledge he developed a home-made splatter gun using an old cattle drench gun.
- ◆ With the help of National Parks, the splatter gun technique was trialled on parts of the property.

- ◆ The killing of the lantana allowed the forest to regenerate. Nature took over and little planting was required to heal the forest.

Success

Aerial photos indicated substantial changes to the forest over the decades since lantana removal began. Videos are now available for your perusal if you would like to find out more about Sue and Wayne's adventures at Creek's Bend, [Curing Bell Miner Dieback](#)

The improvements create the motivation to continue. It is addictive!



Dr Wayne Sommerville

Site visit

Where: Creeks Bend

What: Showcasing Sue and Wayne Sommerville's efforts to control Bell Miner Associated Dieback.

When: Saturday 27th April

Time: 10am to 12 noon.

RSVP: Rob by Wednesday 24th April

Your committee for 2019

President: Rob Drury

Vice President: Cris Matthews

Secretary: Meg Bishop

Treasurer: Bill Solomon

Public Officer: Bob Jarman

Publicity: Graeme Gibson

Nursery Coordinator: Sharon Faulkner



Upcoming Events...

- ◆ Landcare meeting 2nd April, 6 – 7.30.
Landcare Office
- ◆ Nursery and regeneration team every
Tuesday 9am until 12ish.
- ◆ Working Bee Horseshoe Creek 21st of April,
Sunday – 9 - 11
- ◆ Working Bee Fawcett's Creek cancelled due
to site visit to Somervilles.

Grass Roots Mentoring Group

We have our first get together for this year on Sat.6th April,(9.00-12.00), at a property just down Mt.Top Rd. from us, - Potessu Rd. (very easy to find)

We are looking at chemicals this time, - when to use, when not to use, how to lessen use, more efficient use, what for weeds. etc.

Jesse, who is a professional bush regenerator is also giving a talk on the new bio herbicides, which

Also I hope to have a short discussion on what lessons we can take away from this recent dry summer with regard to our approach to bush regen.

After that a weed and planting session before lunch on the deck. (you can get an idea of our days from the link below.)

Please feel free to join us if you have a free morning, and also pass the invite onto any interested person.

Cheers

Ken and Adrian

Contact us: [Grass Roots Mentoring](#)



