

Kyogle Landcare

August/October Update



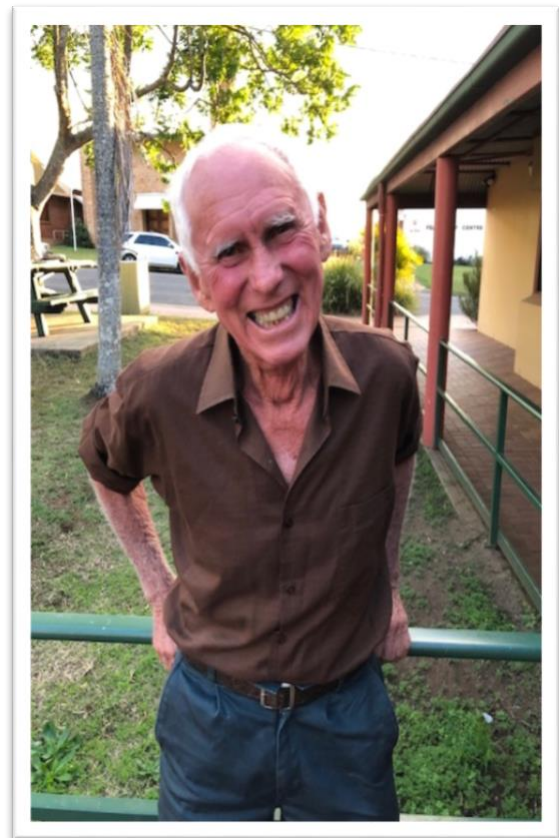
2019 State Landcare Awards

Dairy farmer, beef farmer, market gardener, builder, fencing contractor, protester and resident Iarrikan; meet Don Durrant from Afterlee, near Kyogle, our nominee for the 2019 State Landcare Awards.

Don's passion (some may call it an obsession), is his love for the forest. His ongoing desire to regenerate, rejuvenate and re-educate all about the importance of this vitally important natural resource was sown as a young boy roaming the rainforest with his father back in the 1940's.

Due to unfortunate family circumstances Don had to leave the family farm at the age of seven, but his love for the forest saw him return in 1971 to the original family farm of 81 hectares. For the next 17 years he dreamed of owning the rainforest next door and asked his neighbour if he would sell the rainforest. He said, 'No way – I love that rainforest' By luck he got old before Don and seventeen years later they settled on a price.

The original dairy farm now comprises another 271 hectares of lovingly restored forest, creating the



Don Durrant

largest privately-owned dry rainforest in New South Wales.

The forest provides habitat for many endangered species including: potoroos, black striped wallabies, red legged pademelons, koalas, brush tailed phascogales, whompoo pigeons, rose crown pigeons, powerful owls and noisy pittas. As well it is home to the rare *Owenia cepiodora* trees. Of all known existing *Owenia cepiodora* trees Don has more than all the other identified sites put together.

Join Kyogle Landcare in September for a walk around this magnificent environment and appreciate Don's approach "get out of bed early and go to bed late" which has resulted in the planting of over 160 000 trees.



WEED ALERT - Privet

There are two species of privet that are weeds in our area and they are commonly referred to as Large Leaf Privet (*Ligustrum lucidum*) and Small Leaf Privet (*Ligustrum sinense*). Originally from China, both of these species are persistent in our region particularly along our creeks and rivers. Privet is a weed people should be aware of and be able to identify so control can be carried out swiftly before it can spread

In cases where privet is not controlled it will form a dense thicket where no other native plant species will grow. The fruit are dark purple when ripe form in clusters

Plants are laden with berries in autumn and winter. Birds find these berries delicious and spread them up and down water courses. However, many berries still drop and germinate creating dense impenetrable thickets (particularly Small Leaf Privet).



There are various methods of control including hand removal, cut & paint, foliar spray, basal bark and stem injection. The method chosen will depend on factors such as size of infestation, size of weeds and location of privet.

National Tree Planting Day

National Tree Day, was co-founded in 1996 by Planet Ark and Olivia Newton-John. It has now grown in to Australia's largest community tree planting and nature protection event.

Each year, about 300,000 people volunteer their time to engage in environmental activities that educate individuals about the world around them. It's a day to venture outdoors and get to know your community, and most importantly, to have fun!



Some of the hard-working happy volunteers

Around 30 eager volunteers came together at the Kyogle Amphitheatre. Amazingly within 2 hours the group planted over 500 trees, shrubs, and ground covers. to plant around 500 plants including: Blue Quandong, Coolamons, Tallowwoods, Hoop Pines, Ribberries, Lilly Pillies, and many native gingers, Dianellas and Lomandras

Funding for the trees was provided by the Kyogle Healthy Towns Challenge. We also thank Janelle Saffin for her generous donation.



Don Durrant planting one of the trees donated by Janelle Saffin

Now the trees are in the ground we need to ensure the site is well looked after into the future. Any volunteers who would like to help water and mulch this area please contact Rob on 0437866911.

Job's Tears

Work has begun at Upper Horseshoe Creek removing the invasive plant Job's Tears from along 10 kilometres of creek. This plant is a recent addition to the catchment and if not controlled will swamp the Richmond River

The aim is to eradicate this weed from the upper reaches of Horseshoe Creek. A team of five are working with landholders to firstly remove the seed heads This will be followed up by removing the entire plant.

Unfortunately, as the team have moved along the creek they have discovered many Giant Devil's Fig and are also removing these as they go at the request of Rous.

To date 6 kilometres of seed heads have been removed and 3 kilometers are now clear of the plant...(until the sneaky dormant seeds re shoot!)



As you can see from the above photo the Job's Tears has created an almost impenetrable forest in places, swallowing the creek. And yes, there is a creek behind the workers.

Follow up work will be required for at least 3 years to remove the young shoots as they resurface.



Thanks to Rous for their support.

Celebrate Landcare Week

Save the Date - Site visit

Where: Vidlers Road Afterlee

What: Showcasing Don Durrant's dry rainforest

When: Saturday 8th September

Time: 9am to 3pm.

Bring: Water, lunch and snacks.

Wear: Sunscreen, hat and sturdy shoes.

RSVP: Rob by Wednesday 4th September

Feeling Batty...

Where: Kyogle Ampitheatre

What: Build a bat box and learn about bats.

When: 30th August Friday

Time: 4.30 – 5.15 Bat box construction activity (great for kids. Followed by a talk and walk with bat ecologist Chris Grant

Bring: Yourself and some water (in a non-plastic bottle)

Wear: Sturdy shoes.

More to come

More pics of our fabulous volunteers.



Upcoming Events...

- ◆ Landcare meeting 1st October , 6 – 7.30.
Landcare Office
- ◆ Nursery and regeneration team every
Tuesday 9am until 12ish.
- ◆ Working Bee Horseshoe Creek 18th August ,
Sunday – 9 – 11
- ◆ Working Bee Fawcett's Creek 24th August
Saturday 9 - 11



