



Murrumbateman  
**Landcare**  
Group

## **MLG President's Report 2019 (Attachment 1)**

*2019 was another busy and successful for MLG with once again a wonderfully diverse range of activities & a strong and vibrant membership – so a big thank you to all our hard working and dedicated **volunteers**.*

Our **MLG Facebook** page still has a good following and is reaching a wider audience, and our **MLG website** grows in content to further support members and the wider community in their landcare activities.

**We continue our journey to become “climate ready”** with Gill Hall and Sue McIntyre engaged in a collaborative project across YAN and more broadly to identify, source and propagate plants from selected species seed in target areas most likely to deliver the genetic diversity for resilient revegetation in a changing climate.

**We continue to provide information** to members on other regional landcare events and advice to local community.

**Our MLG Native Plant Nursery** managers Lisa Borella and Gill Hall have worked hard with their volunteers in many working bees in what has been a very trying propagation year. Despite the dry conditions there were a great range of native grasses, shrubs and trees propagated and taken out for planting by MLG members. Again another very popular highlight was giving away trees at the Murrumbateman Field Days.

**Murrumbateman Village Crown Reserve** This year we also partnered with enthusiastic and determined Murrumbateman community members (especially Annaliese Caston) to protect a parcel of crown land that was a remnant of an endangered ecological community Box Gum Grassy Woodland with very high conservation value. This 4.5ha crown lands reserve in the middle of Murrumbateman Village is an absolute gem of rare plants and wildlife such as the Golden Sun Moth and was under threat of development. MLG is now negotiating for the licence to manage the site for its conservation values.

And just in the nick of time! The process and the outcome so far have been great with support from Dept Crown Lands, Federal Member for Parliament Mike Kelly and the newly formed “Friends of the Murrumbateman BGGW”. The conservation and protection work, and the ongoing management will be both educational and rewarding for all involved.

**We had extensive range and number of presentations, discussion nights and field days in 2019:-**

1. The year started in February with talk about the science behind seed collecting for climate change and results of an experiment applying one strategy to re-introduce forbs into native pasture; followed by a discussion of a new Landcare project to implement climate-ready re-vegetation.
2. Also in February, MLG presented at the Murrumbateman community expo, and again at the Gundaroo community expo in May which attracted a lot of interest.
3. In March the newly appointed Yass Valley Shire Weeds Officer addressed a large turn out to talk about weed control ahead of a draft weeds strategy to be released by Council.
4. In April Dr Don Fletcher presented on the natural history of the local goanna species and how to manage properties for their conservation.
5. In June Dr David Freudenberger explained the range of biodiversity conservation agreements available in NSW through the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust
6. In July MLG was treated to an evening with our local DPI Fisheries Officers to get a handle on the biggest issues for Australian native fish
7. August had a very well attended presentation by Peter Marsack on his role in painting bird images for the Australian Bird Guide
8. In September we had a discussion panel on landscape planning for planting - what to plant and where, led by Dr McIntyre.
9. in October at the Murrumbateman Field Days MLG's presentation attracted a lot of interest amongst the generally fantastic display of Landcare activities in the large Landcare and South-East Local Land Services marquee.
10. November - the MLG Spring Farm walk on Sheridan and Geoff's property ranks as a key highlight in the year. Sheridan and Geoff shared the amazing range of landcare work done on their property, and many participants said how much they enjoyed the day and were genuinely impressed by it all.....and it was fun too, with good food and drink and lovely people.
11. In December our year ends with a farm walk on Fiona Hamer and Craig Moritz' property, where they are also hosting our 2019 AGM and Christmas party.

We look forward to another great year with all our members in 2020.



*Jacqui Stol, President, on behalf of Murrumbateman Landcare Group, 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019*