

Murrumbateman Landcare Group



Chairpersons Report, AGM 5th November, 2015

- **Monthly meetings** Meetings were held on the first Thursday's of most months continuing the new range of meeting formats which have been well received by members. This included a visit to the native plant nursery with a talk, wine and cheese, a "walk and squawk" farm tour, a presentation on identifying eucalypts by CSIRO botanist, and a discussion meeting on making properties wildlife friendly
- **New native plant displays and plantings at Jones Park** A 65 sq m Box Gum Woodland native plant display garden was established Spring 2015 including raising funds of \$4000+ for garden materials, a park bench and signage. Another native planting was undertaken with Murrumbateman Scout Group to restore an area in Jones Park previously infested in blackberries with work by the scouts contributing towards their Landcare Badge
- **Projects and funding** Murrumbateman Landcare Linking Biodiversity (MLLB) is now in the monitoring and communication stages with all revegetation targets and areas managed for biodiversity and habitat linkages having been exceeded. An application to another funding agency to extend this project to the Murrumbidgee River was unfortunately not successful. Funding was received from a private donor for the nursery (see next item)
- **Native Plant Nursery** Operations at the MLG native plant nursery continue strongly with nearly 3000 native plant tubestock propagated and 2000 distributed to members and community projects with the new hothouse contributing to increased production; our private donor once again donated \$1000K through Landcare Australia including a MOU; including a Murrumbateman pre-school children seed propagation session; 10+ propagation sessions, providing tubestock for give away at the field days and markets; operation and maintenance of nursery
- **Field and Market Days** In late August MLG facilitated and undertook a large scale planting on a key habitat linkage property with approximately 40 volunteers over 2 days planting 500 trees and shrubs linking the Yass Dry Forest ridges with the Yass River riparian corridor. MLG also has been undertaking regular display stalls at the local Murrumbateman Farmers monthly markets providing advice and native tree/shrub give aways. This has boosted numbers also of new financial members to approx 70+ not including non-financial members
- **2015 Murrumbateman Field Days** MLG presented a comprehensive landcare display of native plants, propagation demonstrations, family activities for children (birds on farms) & provided a wide range of information and advice to visitors as well as giving away free native plants, in conjunction with the South East Local Land Services and other Landcare groups and attracted over 1000 visitors and new members
- **Communications** a range of communications were undertaken including local electronic newsletter items; redeveloped newsletter distribution and disseminated a wide range of information via updated email distribution list (170+) on local and regional field days, training courses, funding opportunities etc
- **Provided advice, on-ground work, assisted applications for funding and letters of support** to local landowners, NPWS, local school students, Lions Club, Rec Grounds. Submission to Upper Lachlan Council regarding MLG concerns for a Motorcross Park on a local Box Gum Woodland property. Developed a Green Space proposal for "Hawthorn" a new area recently acquired for residential development. Attended meetings regarding Murrumbateman development of village areas to include walking tracks and wildlife corridors
- **Distributed a broad range** of latest land management factsheets and booklets at meetings, field days etc.
- **Indian Myna Control Program** continued with 4 traps deployed through the area, myna numbers continue to decrease and remain low in comparison to numbers prior to trapping

Jacqui Stal

5th November 2015

