

Murrumbateman Landcare Group



Presidents Report, September 2nd, 2010

With over 100 paid /casual members Murrumbateman Landcare Group has had a very successful year although we sadly missed our President, Treasurer and Public officers Lynn and Andrew Bain who moved from Murrumbateman early in the year.

Activities for 2009/10

- **Monthly meetings** We introduced a new format to streamline monthly meetings by removing items such as the Treasurers report and minutes of previous meetings. This was replaced by a summary of activities, short project reports and “bring in a plant” for ID. As well as planning meetings we have had a great range of speakers through the year - Dr Veronica Doerr - a CSIRO evolutionary ecologist and expert in landscape connectivity; ‘Conservation farmer of the Year’ John Ive on the impact of climate change on soil moisture; John Feehan the dung beetle specialist; Lisa, Saan and Jenny on managing horses on small blocks; Emeritus Professor James Trappe from the US on native Australian fungi and truffles and of course our FROG WATCH speaker Emma Kneightly tonight.
- **Projects and funding** Our group has been very successful with 5 funding grants this year and has been progressing some large projects - 3 grants for 'Landcare Linkages for Biodiversity (LLB) for design and setup, on-ground works, one for the Murrumbateman Common and one for the continuation of our Myna control project although we had to return the Caring for Our Country Grant for the LLB due to overlapping funding from MCMA. MLG also submitted a joint application with GA Capital Region for \$170K Sustainable Small Farms Project.
- **Community Landcare Native Plant Nursery** One of MLG’s most popular programs. Activities included a large Spring 2009 and Autumn 2010 propagation program, sourcing seed specific to local vegetation communities, providing tree guards, propagation materials and advice on plantings. The Spring program starts this Saturday at 9am with 7 propagation sessions over the next 3 mths.
- Large and comprehensive **displays** at the 2009 Murrumbateman Field Days
- Spring 2009 **Birds on Farms** walk at Picaree Hill with Alex Drew, expert ornithologist
- Autumn 2010 **Birds on Farms in Revegetation** walk at the McFarlane’s with Nikki Taws, expert ornithologist
- **Provided advice** via email enquiries, Lions Club, Rec Grounds, attended / submitted MLG input to Yass Shire Council community consultation events, to members on NRM events such as farm forestry, biodynamics, Greening Australia events, seed collecting workshops across the region, plantings etc
- MLG member John Ive voted “**Conservation Farmer of the Year**” – congratulations John
- Distribute **booklets** “Flora of Murrumbateman”, weeds management, etc
- Murrumbateman **Cemetery** - ongoing management
- December **Christmas party** at Poachers Pantry with other Landcare members from the Yass Area Network of Landcare Groups
- **Website** has unfortunately not been able to get up and running so a job for next year

MANY THANKS TO the fantastic and hard working committee members:- Jenny our secretary, Ro - VP, Sheridan- treasurer, Penny- memberships; the Nursery sub-committee of Lisa, Virginia and Debra, and Greg who often helps out in ways (including ‘movie director’ to create a short PlaceStory on LLB!)

Jacqui Stal

2nd September 2010