



A field day at 'Allandale' in Narrandera, exploring the connection between Cultural heritage and biodiversity conservation.

The issue

Cultural connections in Australian conservation face several challenges, including the difficulty of mainstream society recognising intangible Cultural resources and integrating traditional ecological knowledge into mainstream frameworks. Systemic barriers, such as historical disconnection from policy and inadequate funding, further complicate efforts. However, positive approaches are emerging. Collaborative research models respect traditional knowledge as scientific input, fostering holistic management strategies. Additionally, recognising landscapes as living Cultural entities supports First Nations-led initiatives, protecting both ecological and Cultural heritage. Genuine partnerships and mutual respect are essential for success.

The solution

Murrumbidgee Landcare hosted a Cultural Connections in Conservation field day on November 18, 2024, at 'Allandale' near Narrandera. The event, funded by NSW Landcare and the Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT), focused on private land conservation and the BCT's Revolving Fund

The field day featured three key speakers who shared insights on local conservation efforts:

- **Cultural Heritage** : Michael from Sandhills Artefacts led a walk exploring Indigenous cultural heritage, discussing bush tucker, traditional land management, and weed eradication.
- **Native Seed Restoration** : Natasha from Murray Native Seed Services explained direct seeding techniques and demonstrated their application.
- **Conservation Insights** : Dieuwer from the BCT discussed the Cultural Heritage due diligence process for Revolving Fund properties and provided an overview of conservation work at 'Allandale'.

The impact

Participants at the Cultural Connections in Conservation field day at 'Allandale' gained essential insights into biodiversity conservation and cultural heritage. They learned about the significance of cultural heritage sites and traditional land management from Michael of Sandhills Artefacts, enhancing appreciation for First Nations knowledge. Natasha Lappin provided practical skills in direct seeding techniques to boost biodiversity on properties. Dieuwer Reynders discussed the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust's due diligence processes and conservation strategies, fostering a deeper understanding of sustainable land management. Collectively, these outcomes empowered attendees to implement effective conservation practices while valuing cultural heritage in environmental stewardship.



- 16 people attended the field day.
- Koalas, kangaroos, swift parrots, emus, and red-belly black snakes were sighted by participants - highlighting the biodiversity value in the area.
- Three Cultural heritage sites were visited during the field day.

Project Partners



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