

# **Report on Upper Deua Catchment Group Araluen Creek Restoration Project Community Engagement for Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council 17 June 2022**

## **Overview**

Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council has partnered with Upper Deua Landcare Group and will be assisting the Araluen Creek Restoration Project with community educational workshops; project videography, a revegetation advice and species list, as well as using project materials for community awareness of the Bridge to Bridge project including display boards for a natural and cultural historic display walk.

## **Update – Administration**

- Clare and Erin attended the 6 May General Meeting of UDCLG

## **Update -- Workshops**

Completed

- Saturday 28 May – Soil Erosion Workshop completed 15 people attended.
- Media – article in USLC E-bulletin 31 May 2022, same article in UDCLG -- Araluen Creek Restoration Project, Community Newsletter 5 June, Braidwood Bugle 1 June (attached) and Regional Independent 8 June (attached)
- Andy's tips and tricks on soil erosion flyer in progress

Workshop dates confirmed

- Saturday 25 June – Weeds – hands-on – Araluen campground – Apical
- Saturday 23 July – Riparian Workshop – Lori Gould, Rivers of Carbon
- Saturday 27 August – Re-Vegetation Workshop – presenters being confirmed
- Saturday 10 September – Weeds – Hands-on – site to be determined – Apical

Workshop dates to be confirmed (subject to dates of soil erosion works)

- Saturday 24 September – Re-vegetation Day [check with Cath]
- Saturday 22 November – Site visit post control works – all sites

## **Update – Video**

- Video will now be complete in November (subject to earthworks)

## **Update – Re-vegetation**

- Plants are delivered, no re-vegetation in April. Cath and Penny are looking after them.

## **Update – Bridge to Bridge Display Boards**

- Outcome is - five display boards as part of the Araluen Historic Trail. In conjunction with Araluen Progress Association.
- Clare is finalising a brief on the signs and costs for the UDCLG to consider at next meeting
- We have one quote and getting two more, plus graphic designer costs
- Models we are looking at are the Macquarie Perch display board at Mongarlowe and the Little Rivers poster
- Possible topics:
  - Geology of Araluen
  - 30 years (?) of Upper Deua Catchment Landcare Group (UDCLG)
  - Specific ecological features of the Valley
  - Looking after Araluen Creek (before and after photos)
  - Upper Deua Catchment Landcare Group (UDCLG) – now and the future

## Practical Soil Erosion Techniques Workshop – 28 May 2022



The Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council Soil Erosion Workshop, the second as part of the Araluen Creek Restoration Project, gathered about 15 people to hear Andy Taylor of Local Land Services share practical advice on controlling small-scale soil erosion with simple techniques. We then ‘walked the talk’ and installed some practical on-site soil erosion measures on a patch of seriously degraded land that was previously mined for gold. Erosion control ingredients included coir logs, jute mesh, mulch, found materials like rocks and branches as well as elbow grease, and Andy’s extensive experience of how to fit them together to make water work for you.

A key element of the Araluen Creek Restoration project is landholder and community engagement to expand understanding of soil erosion restoration and remediation measures. The overall aim is building resilience back into our landscape. The project’s main activity involves some big scale soil erosion measures, big machines and big logs and rocks to stabilise the Araluen Creek and its tributaries. Andy is organising this side of the project. However, as he pointed out at the workshop, while there are different control techniques the process of soil erosion is largely the same whether it is large or small scale. Andy was able to demonstrate the principles of erosion using an example of a trickle of water on a vehicle track as we walked towards the main site.

The workshop took place at Wisbey’s Orchard owned by Robyn Clubb, who is also Treasurer of the Upper Deua Landcare Catchment Group. The area where the soil erosion remediation took place was formerly mined for gold, using dredging or hydraulic mining. The area was left almost completely denuded with no vegetation or topsoil remaining. Mining finished around the 1930s and no remediation was done. Now, decades later, while there is still a deficit of topsoil, the area is slowly regenerating with some native trees and some grasses. However, there are still points of active erosion and Andy explained it is better to get onto them sooner rather than later, to prevent them becoming larger, more costly issues. And that was the aim of the day, doing things that can be done by hand before you need to do them by machine.

“Water always wins” said Andy many times! However, his mantra was to think like water, think where it will flow, what will make it divert to places where you want it to go, think of ways to slow it down or think of how you can spread it, without creating new erosion points. Also, look more broadly at the site, the answer to preventing more erosion may be simpler than it seems. If you have any questions, contact Andy [andy.taylor@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:andy.taylor@lls.nsw.gov.au)

His other top tip for livestock producers was: “the measure to address most soil erosion is fencing. Ninety per cent of soil erosion can be fixed by keeping livestock out of areas with erosion issues. It then gives plants a chance to do their bit.”

### Who’s Who on the Araluen Creek Restoration Project

> Andy Taylor is the South East Local Land Services Senior Natural Resource Management Advisor for the Queanbeyan-Palerang region. For the Araluen Creek Restoration Project Andy is working with Soil Conservation Service co-ordinating the earth works needed to restore the creek. Big job. Lots of logistics.



Lots of materials to be moved about. Ironically, all being currently hampered by ongoing wet weather events and their impacts, the latest being the landslide on Araluen Road and the subsequent decision to defer the big earthworks to reduce additional impacts on the road.

In July 2021 Andy said: “with the fires, then the floods... this project is all about rebuilding a bit of resilience, not only in the landscape but in the community as well, it’s really about trying to support the community as a whole. It’s focused on the creek, that central lifeblood that runs through the whole landscape here, which affects everybody. And is of benefit to everybody here. Some will be in agriculture; others will be in conservation and feeling for the nature and wildlife that has been damaged. We need to build resilience into all those things so this valley can prosper.”

Andy Taylor has been living and working in the Braidwood area for over 20 years. He’s worked on a range of projects, partnering with landholders and community groups, to improve the decision making and management of the natural environment on private land. He encourages an integrated approach so that any given management action considers the uniqueness of its particular landscape and works towards achieving multiple outcomes for soil and water, native flora and fauna and farm goals. Andy’s take-home message is that all of these things are connected, and we must work together to make a difference at the landscape scale.

## Community News

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images supplied





# WEED MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

SATURDAY

25TH

JUNE

9:30-2:30 PM

ARALUEN CREEK, ARALUEN  
(DIRECTIONS GIVEN UPON RSVP)

Register your interest to  
Clare Henderson 0412 425 665 OR  
[upper.shoalhaven@gmail.com](mailto:upper.shoalhaven@gmail.com)

At this workshop weed management experts, Apical, will outline restoration, remediation and weed eradication processes and principles.

They will also provide practical demonstrations of weed removal and bush regeneration on site along the Araluen Creek.

The focus will be on – African Boxthorn, Broad-leaved Privet, Small-leaved Privet and blackberry.

Techniques will address management and control measures for different stages of growth – seedling through to mature plants.

Morning tea and lunch provided.

*This workshop is part of Upper Deua Landcare's  
Araluen Creek Restoration project.*



Upper Deua  
Catchment  
Landcare



This is a Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Fund project through the joint  
Commonwealth/State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangement



