

Report on Upper Deua Catchment Landcare Group Araluen Creek Restoration Project Community Engagement for Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council 28 July 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.

General Overview

Things are moving, not just literally. Next week, 1 August, the materials for the soil erosion works, about 400 tonnes of big rocks, tree roots and tree logs will be transported onto sites. Work will then commence on the soil erosion works. Video work will take place next week and during the works.

Update – Administration

- Clare and Larry attended the 17 June and 15 July General Meeting of UDCLG

Update – Workshops

Completed

- Saturday 25 June – Apical Weeds Workshop completed 25 people attended.
- Promotional article in Regional Independent 22 June (attached)
- Media – article in UDCLG – Araluen Creek Restoration Project, Community Newsletter 11 July, Braidwood Bugle 28 June (attached)
- Forthcoming USLC August newsletter.
- Andy's tips and tricks on soil erosion flyer in progress
- Apical woody weeds advisory in progress.

Workshop dates confirmed

- Saturday 23 July – Riparian Workshop – Lori Gould, Rivers of Carbon (cancelled COVID)
- Saturday 27 August – Riparian Workshop – re-scheduled
- Saturday 10 September – Apical – Weeds – Hands-on – campground and Penny / Tony's property

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

- Saturday 22 October – Re-vegetation Day [check with Cath]
- Saturday 22 November – Site visit post control works – all sites
- Future – re-vegetation workshop, seedlings to planting – how to

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.
- Brief in progress
- Liaison with Araluen Progress Association underway.

activities," Ms Dwyer said.

Learn the best ways to manage weeds on your property: this Saturday

Want to learn about controlling weeds of national significance - in particular African Boxthorn, Broad-leaved Privet, Small-leaved Privet and Blackberry - in our local area, particularly along our waterways? Then sign up for this workshop organised by the Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council as part of their role in assisting with the Araluen Creek Restoration Project.

What: Practical Weed Control

Where: Araluen Campground

When: Saturday 25 June, 9.30am - 2.30pm

Why: Learn about the various ways to control and eradicate weeds - African Boxthorn, Broad-leaved Privet, Small-leaved Privet and Blackberry - all major weeds of national significance in our area and along our various waterways.

Who: Upper Shoalhaven Land-



care Council, as part of their role in assisting the Araluen Creek Restoration Project with the Upper Deua Catchment Landcare Group. FREE plus morning tea and a light lunch provided.

The workshop will provide an overview of what you can do by yourself, the low-down on various methods and, for each method, what you'd need in materials, cost, how long will it take to clear various weed patches and follow-up. Plus how to make the decision of

what you can do yourself or when to call in a professional weed controller. You'll get to see various techniques in action and get an idea of what is the best solution for your situation. It will cover methods for control of these four weeds at various stages of growth.

RSVP to:
uppershoalhaven@gmail.com or
to Clare on 0412 425 665 (text or voicemail)



Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Practical Weed Control Workshop – 25 June



Photo: Larry O'Loughlin

By Clare Henderson

A bunch of about 25 people gathered at Araluen campground Saturday 25 June to look at on-ground weed control techniques. For those coming down to the Araluen Valley, there was a delightful scene of the bright blue sky and the fog over the valley. Larry O'Loughlin, Secretary of the Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council ironically said: "Gee this could be what sea-level rise might look like for the Araluen Valley".

The workshop was led by Daniel Anderson of Apical and his team of Blake and Jess. This Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council workshop was the third as part of the Araluen Creek Restoration Project.

Daniel has 20 years of practical experience of weed management, and he offered "to share what he had learned from his failures and the knowledge of the things that really work and are almost guaranteed" to save us some time from making the same mistakes. His take home message was "be strategic, weeds are a big problem, however you have limited time, limited resources, so do the things that make the big impacts. Sometimes less is more". He provided an overview of what we can do by ourselves, the low-down on various methods and needed materials, costs, time needed to clear various weed patches and follow-up. Plus, he advised on how to make the decision of what we could do ourselves and when to call in a good professional weed controller. We heard first from Greg Stone, an environmental consultant and a resident of the Araluen valley, who had walked both sides of the Creek and prepared a weed management plan identifying the types and numbers of weeds in the project area extending between Neringla Road in the south and Majors Creek Mountain Road in the north.

The survey identified seventeen species of weeds including:

- two Weeds of National Significance
- two State Priority Weeds
- seventeen Environmental Weeds
- one Local Management Programs Weed
- one Declared Pest Plant (ACT)

The most significant weed species identified across 91 survey sections were: African Boxthorn, a Weed of National Significance, which was recorded within 64 of the sections; Broad-leaved Privet, an Environmental Weed, recorded in 71 sections; Small-leaved Privet, an Environmental Weed, in 60 sections; and Blackberry, a Weed of National Significance, found in 19 survey sections. The workshop covered methods for control of these weeds at various stages of growth. And because there were some adjacent stands of Madeira vine (*Anredera cordifolia*) we had a good look at this new to the area highly invasive weed which grows over other plants smothering and killing them. Madeira vine is usually knocked out by cold weather but is now emerging in new places, perhaps which are not as cold as they used to be.



Boxthorn control, Penny Hayman, Secretary Upper Deua Landcare Catchment Group, with Daniel Anderson, of Apical with his team, Blake and Jess. Photo: Larry O'Loughlin

Daniel and his crew had a neat little trailer with all equipment needed for days of fun with weeds. There were a few containers of chemicals (including blue dye to add to liquids to show where they'd been), straight-shaft brushcutters with two-tooth shredder blades, a very small chainsaw which was demonstrably very handy for getting access to the base of weeds and providing scrapes and wells for applying poison directly to the plant, and a range of safety gear which Blake and Jess always wore when on the tools and sprays.

Daniel took the approach that volume spraying of weeds was the last desperate step of weed management and was usually just a 'weed exchange program' clearing the soil for other weeds to colonise. Although the best removal of weeds was manual, there were now too many weeds and not enough time. The use of power tools and judicious application of herbicides – using additives to assist penetration and spread – could help deal with areas that would be otherwise overrun by weeds.

The strategy for dealing with weeds was to deal with the biggest potential problems first and to deal with problems bit by bit with ongoing monitoring and maintenance. Daniel's view was that we need to deal with Madeira vine as a very high priority, lest it takes hold and crosses the road into the project area and takes over the casuarinas along the Araluen Creek. Boxthorn should be taken out and burned and privet managed by dealing first with the plants in seed or about to seed. And although we had lovely wild upstream blackberry muffins for morning tea we need to be removing it from the landscape mostly through spattering with herbicide. The problem grasses – African Love Grass, Chilean needle grass and serrated tussock – should be slashed, then sprayed when resprouting, say two weeks later.

Fourth Workshop – Riparian Management

Reminder the next workshop, with a focus of riparian management will be on Saturday 23 July 2022. Express interest now to upper.shoalhaven@gmail.com or to Clare Henderson on 0412 425 665

Who's Who on the Araluen Creek Restoration Project



Photo: > May 2022. Cath in the background taking photos at the May Soil Erosion workshop.

Cath Harrison is the Upper Deua Landcare Community Liaison Officer. This role involves producing the monthly newsletter, liaising with stakeholders, preparing media releases and in general keeping on top of all aspects of the project.

Cath is co-ordinating orders, deliveries, preparing plant species list, tubestock orders for re-vegetation, tanks, troughs, fencing to exclude livestock from the project sites enabling for successful remediation, she liaises and works with participating landholders to ensure the project is positive and a beneficial experience.

Cath says: "I love the Araluen community and I love this kind of work, being part of such a dedicated group and a very worthy environmental project. We have a lot of damage to fix in the creek and the 13 sites set for remediation will secure positive outcomes for the environment, water users and landholders in the lower catchment.

Since the 2019-2020 Black Summer Fires we are up to flood number 14 and 1,000mm of rainfall already this year. So, it's critical for our community to pull together, identify the problems and do the work, just like we are now and attract further funding to enable us to continue into the future."

Cath is also an 'unofficial' historian and documenter for the project, often found on site taking lots of photos: tanks being delivered, before and after photos of erosion control measures, workshops. Cath has been a member of the Upper Deua Catchment Landcare Group since its inception in 1996. She is custodian of many photos of the rich history of this Landcare Group and the valley.

Cath says: "fixing only one section of the creek is a band-aid. We need to unite and do the whole creek, from the top of the escarpment down to the Araluen Creeks confluence with the Deua River. It's a massive job to fix the damage after being dry for so long, then being burnt followed by numerous flooding events. Our poor old valley has been through the wars in the last couple of years. It's up to us now to try and fix it."

Woof Woof! Rescue Alert



Fire and Rescue NSW Station 236 Braidwood was tasked on Sunday morning to rescue a stranded pooch, 15 metres down a disused gold mining shaft. "We're happy to report a successful operation and the unharmed K9 was reunited with his owner. Vertical Rescue qualified Fire and Rescue NSW Station 236 was on scene for this technical operation with our friends from Mongarlowe NSW Rural Fire Service."



Workshop Notices

Workshop

Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council with
Upper Deua Landcare Catchment Group

PRESENTS

LOOKING AFTER CREEKS

S A T U R D A Y
2 7 A U G U S T

9.30am to 1.00pm

Araluen Hall, Araluen

FEATURING

Lori Gould of Rivers of Carbon

www.riversofcarbon.org.au

The workshop will cover:

- riparian management options
- creating healthy riparian areas
- monitoring waterways (waterwatch)
- riparian habitat and indicators.

RSVP

Register your interest to Clare Henderson
0412 425 665 OR upper.shoalhaven@gmail.com

This workshop is part of the Araluen Creek
Restoration project.





WEED MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

SATURDAY
10
SEPT

9:30AM - 2:30PM
ARALUEN CREEK, ARALUEN
(DIRECTIONS GIVEN UPON RSVP)

Register your interest to
Clare Henderson 0412 425 665 OR
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 – creepers and native grasses, in particular, Madeira Winter Cherry Vine, an emerging threat in the region and weed grasses such as Serrated Tussuck and African Lovegrass.

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



Australian Government



NSW
GOVERNMENT



Upper Shoalhaven
Landcare
Council

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