

Report on Upper Deua Catchment Landcare Group Araluen Creek Restoration Project Community Engagement for Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council 22 February 2023

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, 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

The project is coming to completion; however a major issue is not all work sites are complete and there is a significant cost over-run. This is not a USLC responsibility however impacts on the USLC community engagement, particularly re the re-vegetation. Nonetheless, we are proceeding with a community planting day on Saturday 1 April. At this stage for all extents and purposes it is proposed that USLC's commitments and delivery of the project will be complete by end of April and any future assistance would need be to be negotiated.

Update – Administration

- Erin and Jane attended the October meeting of UDLCG
- Erin attended the November General Meetings of UDLCG
- Larry and Erin attended the January UDCLG AGM and General Meeting
- Clare's contract has been extended till end of April. No additional \$\$ just spreading the work services over a longer time frame.
- Budget – is on track and currently would end with a positive balance (approx. \$1,500). Some additional allocations are needed (for things beyond the initial budget), such as extra hours of video filming, drone person for community planting day and graphic designer / illustrator to assist with the display boards. This expenditure = approx. \$3,000 and would put the project into negative of approx. \$1,500. Andy at LLS has indicated that some \$\$ from the LLS account that sits in the USLC account for the Araluen Creek could be used to top up the community engagement side of the project. Process for this needs to be clarified.

Update – Workshops

Forthcoming

- Saturday 25 February – Apical Weeds Workshop#2 – 25 RSVPs

Completed

- Saturday 3 September – Seed collection and propagation – 17 people attended
- Saturday 27 August – Riparian Workshop – 25 people attended
- Saturday 25 June – Apical Weeds Workshop – 25 people attended
- Saturday 28 May – Soil Erosion Workshop – 15 people attended
- Saturday 26 February – Geology of Araluen – 30 people attended

Note: workshops now generally get good local media in advance as well as post-event coverage. In addition, more recently workshop participants receive info hand-outs post the event.

Update – Community Re-vegetation Planting Day

- Saturday 1 April – flyer attached
- Plus celebration lunch to acknowledge the project
- Planting list compiled and being desk-top published with graphics and descriptions.

Update – Video

- Video will now be complete in April. Final filming at the Community Re-vegetation Planting Day
- 25 November – filming Day – various site, focus on earthwork footage, interviews with Lyall (Soil Conservation Services)

Update – Bridge to Bridge Display Boards

- Outcome is five display boards on natural / environment/ landcare aspects as part of the Araluen Historic Trail. In conjunction with Araluen Progress Association.
- Brief prepared and agreed. Quotes obtained. Liaison with Araluen Progress Association established.
- Text and graphics for Boards underway.



**UPPER DEUA CATCHMENT
LANDCARE GROUP AND UPPER
SHOALHAVEN LANDCARE
COUNCIL INVITE YOU TO OUR**

**COMMUNITY PLANTING DAY AND
CELEBRATION LUNCH FOR THIS STAGE
OF THE ARALUEN CREEK RESTORATION
PROJECT**

APRIL

SATURDAY 1 10 AM
2023

**RECREATION GROUND
5969 ARALUEN RD, ARALUEN**

LUNCH 12.30PM

PLEASE RSVP TO:

UPPERSHOALHAVEN@GMAIL.COM.AU



Upper Deua
Catchment
Landcare



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Landcare
Council

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

Community News



New councillor elected in QPRC countback

The Quesantbeyan - Palarang Liberals are happy to announce the election of Mr Ross Macdonald to Council as a result of a countback following the resignation of former Liberal Councillor Jacqueline Temouth.

Ross contested the council election in September 2021 as part of the ticket that saw two Liberal Councillors elected. The 2021 election saw the Liberals not only double their representation on Council but also elected more women to council than any other ticket.

Ross lives in Wambain with his partner and works in the Not For Profit sector following a career in the Australian Defence Force, Australian Public Service, as a long

standing Ministerial Adviser and was a ACT Manager for the Liberals and Nationals 'Say Yes' campaign for the same sex marriage plebiscite.

"I'm excited to have the chance to represent our community as part of the Quesantbeyan-Palarang Regional Council, Councillor elect Macdonald said.

"Council deals with so many issues that directly impact members of our community, I'll put their interests first as I represent them in this term".

"I look forward to working with my fellow Councillors and Council staff and the community".

Image of Cr Macdonald supplied

Christmas Hamper wrap up

The Combined Churches Christmas Hamper packing day was held in Bungendore before Christmas on the 21st of December last year. Working together with other community groups to help take a bit of stress off families and individuals over Christmas has been a joint venture between St Philp's Anglican and St Mary's Catholic churches for many years and it's wonderful to see the relationship between the two

deepen and include other community groups such as Rotary & Lions.

This was the first time the packing event had been held in the Bungendore Scout Hall and the larger facility meant a more streamlined approach to organising and packing around 100 hampers. Many individuals from Bungendore and surrounds came together to pack and distribute the



hampers across Bungendore and Captains Flat. The activity was supported by Bungendore Country Butchery, Hyacinth Bouquets, IGA, The Regional Independent, Bungendore CWA, Bungendore Rodeo & Ball Committee, Captains Flat Community, Bendigo Community Bank, Rotary, Lions, The Bungendore Food Hub, Clever Craft, Upcycled Treasure, Share The Dignity, and many individuals who dropped off donations of cash, gift cards and non-perishable items. Once items had been collected and

additional items purchased, they were grouped into categories which made it easier for our packing volunteers to put together thoughtful hampers for the recipients. The hampers were later distributed by volunteers from Rotary and the community. The project came in at a cost of approx. \$7000 last year and we are very grateful for the community support. Images supplied



Weed workshop coming up

The Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council is hosting a workshop series as part of their role in assisting the Araluen Creek Restoration Project with the Upper Deus Catchment Landcare Group. The chunky part of the project is the actual large scale works along the creek.

However, in addition to substantial erosion control works on the actual creek, the project is focused on the other necessary elements to look after Araluen Creek, such as riparian health and waterwatch monitoring, re-vegetation, weed control and measures to keep stock out of the creek line

by fencing and providing alternative water sources. In addition, we have looked at small scale erosion control measures. Our next workshop is Saturday 25 February 2023.

The workshops are FREE plus morning tea and a light lunch provided.

Interested? Then sign up, RSVP to: upper Shoalhaven@gmail.com or to Clare on 0412 425 865 (text and voicemail are good too) ☺

Practical Weed Control Workshop - Saturday 25 February 2023

Learn the best ways to manage weeds on your property

What: Practical Weed Control

Where: Araluen Campground

When: Saturday 25 February 8.30am - 2.30pm

Why: Learn about the various ways to control and eradicate weeds on your property

Who: The workshop will be led by Daniel Anderson of Apical.

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 Tussock and African Lovegrass. Techniques will address management and control measures for different stages of growth - seedling through to mature plants.

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Araluen Creek Restoration Project - the big earthworks are set to start

By Cath Harrison, Upper Deua Catchment Landcare Group Community Liaison and Clare Henderson, Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council

Woohoo we are almost ready to rock and roll on the big soil erosion works, the key part of the Araluen Creek Restoration Project. Rock, well we have about 460 tonnes of rock ready to be put in place. Roll, and yep we have to roll about 29 truckloads of root logs and quite a few tree trunks to roll into place. Thankfully big machines will do this once the ground is dry enough. With modern day computer apps can we set the time lapse footage to some good old rock 'n' roll music. Interesting concept, looking for creative assistance.

Onsite Construction - finally happening

We are pretty excited that Soil Conservation Service construction work will start on Monday 31 October and will take about three weeks. Weather permitting, as we are getting another big downpour of rain now. Weather has hampered us previously, if it rains a lot, we get high creek flows at the remediation sites and boggy conditions.



This in turn limits the movement of machinery and vehicles onsite.

However, once done, the remediation of the thirteen sites will deliver stability, reduce sediment movement, control erosion and future bank collapses.

We need you to assist plant out the sites

Planning for re-vegetation of sites is well under way and we are aiming for plantings in November, probably a series of events, rather than just a one-day planting event. With the regular rain events we are experiencing we have had to rethink our planting schedule. Sites will be planted out once works have been completed. We will repeat this process for all sites. If you can please express interest in assisting in this task. Contact: upper.shoalhaven@gmail.com

Moving ahead

The big earthworks are vital, however we still have lots to do, to complement the works. Fencing is important, alternative water supply, away from the creek is important, weed management is important and re-vegetation is important. We are already planning another planting in autumn 2023 and so we are having a seed propagation workshop in November to get some seedlings on the go, ready for planting in autumn. Once again with Lyn Ellis, a local experienced native plant nursery operator.

We are calling out to local Araluen volunteers to come along, learn about seed collection, propagation and the growing of native plants. This planting day is a strategy that will allow us to have a follow-up round of planting in early 2023 with locally grown

WE NEED YOU!

TO HELP PUT 1,500 PLANTS ALONG ARALUEN CREEK DURING NOVEMBER.

THE FINAL PART OF THE ARALUEN CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT IS RE-VEGETATING ALL THE SITES. EARTHWORKS ARE HAPPENING IN EARLY NOVEMBER AND THEN WE CAN PLANT. HOWEVER FOR ALL SORTS OF REASONS WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO DO THIS SITE-BY-SITE. BE GREAT IF YOU COULD HELP. EXPRESS INTEREST AND WE'LL LET YOU KNOW THE PLANTING DAYS.

SEND YOUR EO! TO:
upper.shoalhaven@gmail.com

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endemic plants. Participants get to take home trays of seeds for germination and to nurture the plants until autumn next year, when we will get together to plant them out. For further information contact Cath on 0248 464 079 or by email: cathharri@gmail.com

Weeds information hand-outs

Contact Clare@dacelo.com.au if you'd like to see our Practical Weeds Management info sheets, that we have put together following our workshop with Apical back in June. The focus was on woody weeds, however Daniel, Manager of Apical, also gave a philosophical overview. Great reading.

Photo: Clare Henderson

Workshop Notices



WEED MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

SATURDAY

25

FEBRUARY

8:30AM - 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 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 Tussock 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 Catchment Landcare's Araluen Creek Restoration project.



Upper Deua
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