

**Final Report on Upper Deua Catchment Landcare Group
Araluen Creek Restoration Project Community Engagement
undertaken by Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council
July 2021 – June 2023
16 June 2023 – draft#1**

Overview

Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council was contracted by Upper Deua Landcare Group to assist with community engagement for the Araluen Creek Restoration Project. This involved delivery of community educational workshops; project videography, re-vegetation advice including assisting with community planting days and planting list and general publicity. This work was complementary to the community liaison undertaken by the UDCLG Project Community Liaison, Cath Harrison.

Note: all of the activities undertaken were done so in partnership and liaison with the Upper Deua Catchment Landcare Group. A key guiding principle was the use of specialist knowledge and expertise to ensure local activities were based on best practise and a solid evidence base, combined with local knowledge.

The project commenced on 1 July 2021 and finished on 30 June 2023. Covid and ongoing weather events led to a stop start nature of the project which was a major challenge.

The Araluen Creek Restoration Project was funded through the Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Fund. Other grants secured by USLC that contributed to the project included: Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife (re-vegetation support) and Australian Government Bushfire Recovery Program for Wildlife and their Habitat (native plant propagation training). Plus, there were various in-kind contributors such as from videographer Clare Young (\$4,900) and an estimated \$XX value of volunteer time (XX hours at \$46.62).

Workshops

Six educational workshops were conducted for the Araluen and broader community. These workshops included topics such as local soils and geology, soil erosion identification and management, riparian zone management, weed control and revegetation strategies and project field day to look at erosion control activities funded by this project.

Summary of the six workshops (See Attachment A for workshop flyers):

- Saturday 25 February 2023– Apical Weeds Workshop#2 – 25 attended.
- Saturday 3 September 2022 – Seed Collection and Propagation Workshop – 17 people attended.
- Saturday 27 August 2022– Riparian Workshop – 25 people attended.
- Saturday 25 June 2022– Apical Weeds Workshop – 25 people attended.
- Saturday 28 May 2022– Soil Erosion Workshop – 15 people attended.
- Saturday 26 February 2022– Geology of Araluen Workshop – 30 people attended.

Re-vegetation

USLC provided support to the project by providing revegetation support and advice, including suitable species lists, site selection, design, site preparation and planting techniques.

Three community planting days were conducted on private properties where major erosion control measures had been put in place:

- **Tuesday 30 May** – Home-schooling day, approx. 21 people attended. 150 plants in the ground, on private rural land.
- **Saturday 27 May** – Community Planting Day, approx. 15 people attended. 400 plants in the ground, on private rural land

- **Sunday 2 April 2023**– Community Planting Day, approx. 30 people attended. 400 plants in the ground, on private rural land.

USLC provided use of its planting toolkit for the community planting days. In addition, all landholders participating in the project have the option to use the USLC planting tool kit and other equipment if needed. Thanks to a grant from Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife USLC were able to provide XX tubestock, XX tree guards, XX weed mats and XX stakes, as well as catering for two of the community planting days.

The planting list was prepared in consultation with a local native plant nursery expert.

Information Sheets

Eight information sheets were prepared and were circulated to workshop participants as well their availability was advertised in various social media, community newsletters and regional media.

1. Weed management: a key part of the Araluen Creek Restoration Project
2. Tips for managing privet
3. Tips for managing boxthorn
4. Tips for managing madeira vine
5. Tips for managing blackberry
6. Native seed soil planting mix guide
7. Tips for propagating native tubestock
8. Planting list

Video

USLC contracted award-winning local videographer Clare Young to capture the story, expertise and learnings of this project (See Attach XX for biography – do you want this). The video in providing visual depiction of the damage and rehabilitation strategies in the Araluen Valley will raise awareness in the local and surrounding communities about disaster recovery processes.

The project is to produce a 3-5 minute video minute designed to document the Upper Deua Landcare Group's Araluen Creek Restoration project. The objectives of the video are to help landholders in the Araluen Valley understand and take action in response to future extreme weather events; and to raise awareness and educate surrounding communities on important issues affecting landholders due to extreme weather events. The story should express what is happening to Araluen creek, why it is happening, and how we can manage these changes. The story will give voice to landowners in Araluen and express key outcomes of the project. Ultimately, the story will illuminate what communities can achieve locally on the ground, to bring optimism and solutions to issues we face in a changing climate.

Details

- 4.5 days of filming
 - 30/05/2023 – Home-schooling re-vegetation day
 - 27/05/2023 – Re-vegetation community day (private rural land)
 - 2/04/2023 – Re-vegetation community day (private rural land)
 - 25/11/2022 – Site visits - Lyall works overview
 - 26/02/2022 – Geology Workshop / site visit
 - 31/07/2021 – Planning Meeting Araluen Hall
- 9 days of editing
- Drone footage of the creek

A directors cut of the video will be completed by 30 June 2023. The video will be launched on 9 September 2023 (flyer attached).

Other events and publicity

- 26 April 2023, Penny Hayman, Secretary Upper Deua Catchment Landcare Group gave a presentation at South-East Region Landcare Muster, an annual event for landcarers in the South-East Region
- USLC promoted and attended the UDCLG Launch event on 18 July 2021 at Araluen Hall

Community Engagement – General Publicity

Over the course of the project over 50 media articles were published in regional media and community newsletters. In addition, over 15, free advertisements were included in regional media. All events were widely advertised via social media. In addition, some free radio advertisements were played on the local Braidwood Radio (2BRW – 88.9FM).

UDCLG Presentation at South-East Landcare Muster

- 9 June 2023 – Upper Deua Landcare Presenting at the South East Landcare Muster; *USLC Newsletter*

Community Planting Days – May 2023

- 9 June 2023 – Community Tree Plantings help wrap up the Araluen Creek Restoration Project, *USLC Newsletter*

Community Planting Day – April 2023

- 9 June 2023 – Landcare Partnerships in Action – Community planting for Araluen Creek; *USLC Newsletter*
- 12 April 2023 – Landcare Partnerships in Action – Community planting for Araluen Creek; *Regional Independent*, p6
- 5 April 2023 – Community Planting for Araluen Creek Braidwood; *Braidwood's Changing Times*, p 5
- 5 April 2023 – Landcare Partnerships Community Planting for Araluen Creek *Braidwood Bugle*, p 26
- 29 March 2023 – Re-vegetating Araluen Creek – Workshop 2 April, *Regional Independent*, p 3
- 28 March 2023 – Call for Volunteers: Community Tree Planting in Araluen; *USLC Newsletter*
- 22 March 2023 – Re-vegetating Araluen Creek – stabilising the creek with plants; *Braidwood Bugle*, p 27
- 22 March 2023 – Community Planting Day ¼ page advertisement, *Braidwood's Changing Times*, p 4

Weeds Workshop – February 2023

- 28 March 2023 – Apical delivers final weeds workshop in series; *USLC Newsletter*
- 22 February 2023 – Weed Control Workshop; *Braidwood's Changing Times*, p 15
- 15 February 2023 – Weeds-Workshop-Coming-Up; *Regional Independent*, p 2
- 15 February 2023 – Weeds Workshop Coming Up; *Braidwood Bugle*, p 23

Works to start – November 2023

- 30 November 2022 – Call for Volunteers in Araluen Continuing through December; *USLC Newsletter*
- 30 November 2022 – Araluen Creek Project Update ; *USLC Newsletter*
- 2 November 2022 – Araluen Creek Restoration Project – The big earthworks are set to start, *Braidwood Bugle*, p23
- 2 November 2022 – Big earthworks to start, *Braidwood Changing Times*, p21
- 26 October 2022 – Araluen Creek Restoration Project – the big earthworks are set to start; *Regional Independent*, p 6
- 24 October 2022 – Araluen Creek Restoration Project – Update; *USLC Newsletter*

Seed propagation Workshop – September 2022

- 21 September 2022 – Learning native seed collection and propagation; *Braidwood's Changing Times*, p 9
- 16 September 2022 – Learning the Art of Native Seed Collection and Propagation with Lyn Ellis; *USLC Newsletter*
- 14 September 2022 – Learning native seed collection and propagation with Lyn Ellis; *Braidwood Bugle*, p 27
- 14 September 2022 – Learning native seed collection and propagation with Lyn Ellis; *Regional Independent*, p 9

Rivers of Carbon – August 2022

- 7 September 2022 – Rivers of Carbon and Waterwatch pay a visit to Araluen Creek; *Regional Independent*, p 5
- 7 September 2022 – Rivers of Carbon and Waterwatch pay a visit to Araluen Creek; *Braidwood's Changing Times*, p 7
- 31 August 2022 – Rivers of Carbon and Waterwatch pay a visit to Araluen Creek; *Braidwood Bugle*, p 21
- 24 August 2022 – Riparian Care and Weeds Workshops Coming up, *Braidwood Bugle*, p28
- 24 August 2022 – Looking After Creeks Workshop, *Braidwood's Changing Times*, p16 (half page advertisement)
- 16 August 2022 – Riparian Management Workshop; *USLC Newsletter*

Delivery of Materials— August 2022

- 24 August 2022 – Araluen Creek Restoration Project moving along; *Regional Independent*, p 13
- 24 August 2022 – Araluen Creek Restoration Project making progress; *Braidwood's Changing Times*, p 5
- 10 August 2022 – Who's Who in the Araluen Creek Restoration Project – Penny Hayman; *Braidwood Bugle*, p 24
- 10 August 2022 – Movement on Araluen Creek soil erosion works; *Braidwood Bugle*, p 23

Weeds Workshop – June 2022

- 22 June 2022 – Learn the best ways to manage weeds on your property: this Saturday; *Regional Independent*, p 4
- 29 June 2022 – Who's Who on the Araluen Creek Restoration Project; *Braidwood Bugle*, p 22
- 29 June 2022 – Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Practical Weed Control Workshop; *Braidwood Bugle*, p 22
- 22 June 2022 – Practical Weed Workshop at Araluen Campground this Weekend; *USLC Newsletter*

Practical Erosion Control – May 2022

- 3 August 2022 – Down and Dirty in Araluen Practical Araluen Workshop; *Regional Independent*, p 12
- 8 June 2022 – Practical Soil Erosion Techniques Workshop; *Regional Independent*, p 10
- 1 June 2022 – Practical Soil Erosion Workshop; *Braidwood Bugle*, p 27
- 31 May 2022 – Down and Dirty in Araluen: Saturday's Practical Erosion Workshop; *USLC Newsletter*

Project Update – April 2022

- 29 April 2022 – Araluen Creek Restoration Project Update. *USLC Newsletter*
- 22 April 2022 – Araluen Creek Restoration Project Update, *Braidwood's Changing Times*, p 11

Geology Workshop – February 2022

- 20 March 2022 – Geology of Araluen Workshop, Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council *USLC Newsletter*
- 21 February 2022 – Araluen Erosion Workshop Coming Soon; *USLC Newsletter*

Launch event – July 2021

- 2 July 2021 – Launch-Event and Video-EOI, Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council *USLC Newsletter*
- 9 June 2021, Congratulations to UDCLG, Braidwood Bugle, p20
- 4 June 2021 – Congratulations to Upper Deua Catchment Landcare Group, Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council *USLC Newsletter*

Website

All of the materials produced as part of the project will be available on the NSW Landcare Gateway website as a case study with hyperlinks to the materials. This website link will go live after the final completion of the project in July / August 2023. [Is this correct????]

Digital Record

A hard disk containing various digital records of the project has been collated and includes:

- All raw video footage (to be supplied 23 June)
- Drone footage
- Photos of all workshops / events / activities of the project
- Published media and advertisements
- Time lapse footage of major works at various sites
- Before and after photos of all sites (collated by UDCLG Community Liaison Coordinator)
- Information Sheets
- Anything else (?)