



Upper Deua Catchment Landcare Group Inc.

Araluen Creek Restoration Project

Community Newsletter

May 2022

General Meeting

The next general meeting of the UDCLG will be held on **FRIDAY 17th JUNE** 2PM at Robyn's Cafe, Majors Creek Mountain Rd. Please join us for project updates, reports and upcoming events. New members always welcome and encouraged to join. We would love to have some younger community members become part of Landcare. The environment needs your commitment.

Araluen Creek Restoration Project Update

The Araluen Creek Restoration Project is funded by the Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Fund through the joint Commonwealth/State Disaster Recovery Funding. The project aims to deliver in stream works that will support the creek and its environs into the future.

Project Delays

Due to the constant flooding project completion timeframes have been pushed back with Soil Conservation works rescheduled to commence in August/September. On site works are anticipated to be completed over a three week period, consecutively progressing through the sites. Fencing to protect the remediated site followed by re-vegetation will provide the infrastructure for regeneration to occur, delivering stability, reducing sediment movement, control erosion and protection from future bank collapses. The group in partnership with the Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council and the SE Local Land Services aim to achieve positive results that will improve water quality and minimize further damage.

Project Production & Reference Material

Araluen Creek Restoration project components will be drawn together to showcase the project and create an informative reference including an audio and visual production with project construction footage and local interviews. The end result will be a useful resource and reference tool enabling communities to appreciate that recovery from disasters can be achieved.

Araluen History Trail

In conjunction with the APAs' Araluen History Trail Project historical information from the goldfield and its impact on the environment to the history of the Upper Deua Landcare Group will be presented through information boards. The group has been active for 30 years in Araluen and is a well-oiled machine with many successful achievements including the Bridge to Bridge project which was highly praised and received a prestigious award, the bed log project produced excellent environmental outcomes.

Workshops

Complimentary workshops of local relevance assist landholders and the community to increase knowledge, learn new techniques and raise awareness of our unique local environment. I encourage you to attend.

Re Vegetation of Sites & Volunteer Assistance to Plant Trees

Re-vegetation of the sites is set to take place in Spring with 1,500 native species to get in the ground post construction. Please keep this in mind as many hands will make for a quick and efficient planting out of sites directly after completion. Re-vegetation volunteers will be required to be a member of the group for insurance purpose.





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Workshop No. 2

Erosion Control

Saturday 28th May 2022



SAVE THE DATE

EROSION CONTROL WORKSHOP

SATURDAY 28TH MAY

9:30 - 12:30 PM
856 MAJORS CREEK MOUNTAIN RD
(DIRECTIONS GIVEN UPON RSVP)

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

This workshop will provide landholders with hands-on skills and information on how to treat and prevent erosion after fire.

Presenter Andrew Taylor will cover erosion processes and control techniques, as well as help you identify what methods are best suited to your catchment size and soil type.

The workshop also examines low cost soil erosion techniques and more technical erosion structures.

Come along to Araluen. Some give aways of coir logs and jute mesh will be available on the day.

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



Erosion Control Workshop

Participant Giveaways

The UDCLG will provide all Erosion Workshop participants with plants to take home and plant on their property.

Workshop No 1 Report Available

Call or email Clare if you would like a copy of Leah's presentation relating to the Geology of the Araluen Valley workshop held earlier this year. E: clare.henderson@webone.com.au

M: 0421 425665

RSVP for upcoming workshop to uppershoalhaven@gmail.com

Who's who in 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 he is 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





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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.



Andy Taylor



Andy on the job assessing flood damage.
Araluen Creek Restoration Project

UDCLG Executive

President: Tony Peters E: antipeters@gmail.com
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UDCLG Contacts

Project Information

Cath Harrison, Project Liaison
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Newsletter is prepared by Cath. If you require a hard copy or would like to contribute an article of relevance towards the newsletter please contact me preferable by email. Landline unreliable.

Membership

Upper Deua Catchment Landcare Group Inc membership is \$2 annually or \$5 for 3 years.
Contact Treasurer, Robyn Clubb.
E: clubbr@yahoo.com
Membership form attached for your convenience.

Target Weed

Each month I will provide information on the control and eradication of weeds which are prolific in the area. Starting with one of the worst of all - Privet

Privet - broad-leaf (*Ligustrum lucidum*)

Broad-leaf privet is an evergreen shrub. Used in gardens, it now has extensive environmental, agricultural and human health impacts.

How does this weed affect you?

Privets are considered to be serious environmental weeds throughout Australia. Infestations threaten biodiversity, including endangered plant and animal species and ecological communities. Dense stands of privet prevent other vegetation surviving or establishing. Broad-leaf privet invades ecosystems including subtropical and coastal rainforests, rainforest margins, warm-temperate and dry rainforest, wet and dry eucalypt forests, grassy woodlands, grasslands and riparian vegetation.

It is reported that privet pollen causes allergic reactions and hay fever. It is unlikely that the pollen of privet is strongly allergenic; however, cross-reactivity can occur where people who are sensitive to grass pollen can become sensitive to privet, producing allergic reactions. It is thought that the perfume of privet flowers causes these reactions, not the pollen. Reactions occur commonly during spring and early summer when privets produce masses of flowers and pollen. These include allergy-like symptoms such as asthma and irritation of mucous membranes.

Privet berries and leaves have been reported to be mildly toxic to humans and livestock if ingested in large amounts; however, no known cases of poisoning have occurred in Australia.

Privets invade native and plantation forest industries, orchards and pastures in Australia. Costs of control are high and yields are reduced by the presence of privet in these production systems.

Where is it found?

Broad-leaf privet originates from eastern Asia. It occurs as a widespread weed in coastal and tableland areas of New South Wales.

How does it spread?

Privet seeds are commonly spread by fruit-eating birds. Birds such as pied currawongs, silver-eyes and rosellas can spread the seed widely into previously uninfested areas. Privet seedlings often germinate in clusters, as a result of birds regurgitating the seeds. Birds and rabbits assist germination by removal of the soft coating around the seed.

Privets are also spread through the sale of garden plants from nurseries and markets, the dumping of garden waste containing seeds and the sale of foliage in floral arrangements containing fruit and seeds. Seeds can also be spread in flowing water.

What does it look like?

Broad-leaf privet grows as an evergreen shrub or small tree to a height of 4–10 m. The brown bark is covered in small white lenticels (pores that allow gas exchange).

Pointed oval-shaped leaves occur in opposite pairs, and are 4–13 cm long and 3–6 cm wide. The upper leaf surface is dark green and glossy or shiny while the under-surface is paler with distinct veins. Leaves are hairless.

Cream or white tubular flowers with four petal-like lobes occur in branched clusters – each flower is 3.5–6.0 mm long. Flowers have a sickly sweet fragrance.

Berries are 9 mm long and 12 mm in diameter, and are green when young, turning red through to blue to glossy or purplish black as they ripen. Berries usually contain two oval-shaped ribbed seeds 5 mm long. Roots are woody, branching, thickened at the crown and mostly shallow.

What type of environment does it grow in?

Broad-leaf privets prefer warm, humid environments with moderate to high soil moisture throughout the year. Creeks, gullies and drainage lines are favoured by both species, but seedlings are able to establish in drier areas if run-off water is temporarily available. Both species occur in areas with rainfall between 700–1600 mm. Its seedlings can tolerate very low light levels, allowing them to persist beneath dense canopies of vegetation.



Australian Government



NSW GOVERNMENT

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



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Privets have been found growing in a range of soil types, from pure sands through to friable loams, and almost pure clays. However, it is generally agreed that privets thrive on more fertile shale or clay-derived soils found in riparian areas.

Control

The following are guiding principles for privet control and management. Locate, map and monitor the extent of an infestation and any changes in weediness, as well as any cultivated plants in the locality of the infestation. Identify key sites, assets or industries at risk from the infestation (natural ecosystems, human health, primary production, etc.). Control infestations in close proximity to the identified key sites/assets/industries, aiming to reduce weed density. Prevent spread from cultivated plants in the locality. Continue to control growth and spread of the infestation.

Controlling spread

Wide dispersal of seed by birds cannot be controlled; therefore controlling the spread of privet requires the removal of seed trees and young seedlings before they produce seed.

Follow up control and revegetation

Many attempts to control or remove privet have failed because of its ability to regenerate vigorously from root and stem suckers. Follow-up control measures are critical for successful removal. The removal of large numbers of privet bushes from other vegetation can cause enough disturbance that reinfestation occurs. Revegetation with appropriate species, along with ongoing weed control, can assist with preventing reinfestation. Where privet is providing a replacement habitat and food source for fruit-eating birds, control efforts should ensure that removal is undertaken gradually in combination with revegetation with suitable species.

Manual removal

Manual removal techniques such as the original 'Bradley method' allow for good control of privet with minimal disturbance to the surrounding vegetation. These techniques involve hand-weeding of small and medium-sized privet plants, where the gaps left by weeding should be similar to those that occur naturally after the death of a native plant. Soil disturbance should also be minimised.

Broad-leaf privet is easy to pull up when it has a stem diameter of less than 2–3 cm, particularly after rain. Similar sized small-leaf privet is more difficult to remove as the stems are more likely to break from the root system when pulled, leaving viable root segments capable of regeneration. Small-leaf privets should be dug out and the plants placed upside-down to dry out the roots.

Control with herbicides

Foliar treatments can be made to flushes of seedlings and groups of plants up to 3 m high. Plants should be actively growing, not under heat or moisture stress, and complete coverage of the foliage is necessary to ensure successful control. Foliar treatments are appropriate where infestations contain dense stands of privet and little or no other valuable vegetation. Basal bark applications are appropriate for treating larger individual plants in amongst other vegetation. Every trunk or stem arising from the ground should be treated.

Stem injection is also appropriate for treating larger individual plants in amongst other vegetation. Stem injection has been found to be the most cost-effective method of control in terms of volume of herbicide and labour costs. It is also most effective in terms of reducing off-target herbicide damage to other vegetation.

Where it is possible or desirable to completely remove whole plants, herbicide treatment of the cut stumps should be carried out in order to

prevent regrowth from stumps. Cut-stump application of herbicides is very effective for controlling young plants, suckers or regrowth.

Mechanical removal

Earth-moving machinery may be suitable for removal of dense stands of privet if high levels of soil disturbance can be tolerated. Large areas of seedlings or regrowth can be slashed. These methods will reduce the seeding capacity of a large infestation, but will not eradicate it. Follow-up with herbicide control or manual removal may provide higher levels of control. These areas should also be revegetated with trees, shrubs, ground covers or pastures and repeatedly hand-weeded or slashed thereafter. Mechanical removal is not recommended in steep areas or near water courses.

Fire

Burning is generally ineffective against privet. Privet thickets are of low flammability and bushfires do not readily move through privet-dominated vegetation. Even when fire is very intense, privets are able to regenerate rapidly by sprouting or suckering. There is evidence to suggest that both broad and small-leaf privets can recover after high intensity fires have killed the above-ground plant material (flowering has reoccurred within 3 years). Fire has been used as an initial control measure, followed up by treatment of regrowth with cut stump herbicide applications the following year. Persistent annual cool burns have been shown to eliminate small-leaf and European privet in southern USA, and it is thought that frequent fires probably assist with controlling seedling establishment of privet in infested eucalypt forests and woodlands in Australia.

Biological control

There are no introduced biological control agents available for privet control in Australia.

Reducing nutrient levels

Increased nutrient levels often contribute to the presence of privet infestations. Reducing or stopping the movement of nutrients in water from residential or industrial areas into riparian areas may help prevent establishment of large privet infestations.

Weed information available at <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/weeds/>



Mature Broad Leaf Privet tree

Privet berries contain at least 2 seeds each. Potentially there are more than 200 new trees on this small branch alone.

