



Upper Deua Catchment Landcare Group Inc.

Araluen Creek Restoration Project

Community Newsletter

July 2022

General Meeting

The next general meeting of the UDCLG will be held on **Friday 15th July** 2pm at Robyn's Cafe, Majors Creek Mountain Rd. Join us for project updates and planning. New members always welcome.

Araluen Creek Restoration Project

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.

Onsite Construction

Soil Conservation Service construction work will commence earlier than expected with works scheduled to begin in late July. This is great news as we have concerns that La Nina could well be returning in Spring.

Materials are expected to be delivered to site in the next few weeks, with contractor engaged and ready to go.

The remediation of the 13 sites will deliver stability, reduce sediment movement, control erosion and future bank collapses.

Vegetation of Sites & Volunteer Assistance to Plant Trees

Re-vegetation of the sites will be carried out once sites have been remediated and the works are protected. In Spring we will plant 1,500 native species at the remediated sites. The group will be calling on volunteers to assist in this task. Further information regarding Planting Days will be circulated soon.

Weed Management Workshop Report

A group of 25 attended the Weed Management Workshop held on Saturday 25th June at the Araluen camping ground. With a lovely couple of farmers travelling all the way from Yass to attend.

The Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council ran the workshop in conjunction with the UDCLG's Araluen Creek Restoration Project. This is the third workshop in a series set to continue throughout the year. All workshops hold connection and relevance to the project and the local environment.

The workshop was led by Daniel Anderson of Apical Bushfire & Planning. Daniel has 20 years of practical experience working with weed management. Along with his crew of Blake and Jesse, Dan led with practical and informative advice, demonstration of technique, information on the best tools, how to tackle infestation, control strategy, chemical usage, safety and environmental factors. His take home message was "be strategic, weeds are a big problem and with limited time and limited resources do the things that make the biggest impacts. Sometimes less is more".



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



Upper Deua Catchment Landcare Group Inc. Araluen Creek Restoration Project

Community Newsletter

July 2022



Dan talking chemical usage, application rates and technique



Attentive audience – practical demonstration

Key Messages exert – Landscape Ecology

The control or eradication of invasive plants must be undertaken with strategic foresight, all activities must be carefully established to ensure that clear targets can be achieved and that efforts are directed towards the most beneficial and achievable outcomes for a given project objective at a given point in time.

Nothing in science is static, conceptualise the orders of cause and effect – all inputs create outputs, feedback loops and change thresholds are real and can be measured in biological science.

To this end, focus the inputs (effort, resources, investments) into activities that are achievable and

measurable (only start actions that can be finished, only start actions that can deliver a defined goal).

Think about successional process – what comes next, (if we intervene a cycle or trend – then we must change a threshold to achieve a sustainable reward)

Weed control – is a function of stopping the spread of a plant- we can measure this by weed extent, weed cover, weed presence.

Weed Eradication – is a function of changing thresholds in the landscape, replacing a trend or dominance with something different. Weed eradication has multiple phases and must lead to a new pattern of plant interactions in the landscape to be successful.

Contribution Credit: Dan Anderson

For a full version of Dans’ informative report please contact Cath.

Weed Management Plan

As part of the group’s broader commitments, a survey was undertaken to identify weeds, gauge the size of infestations and prevalence along the Araluen Creek.

The survey identified seventeen species of weeds including:

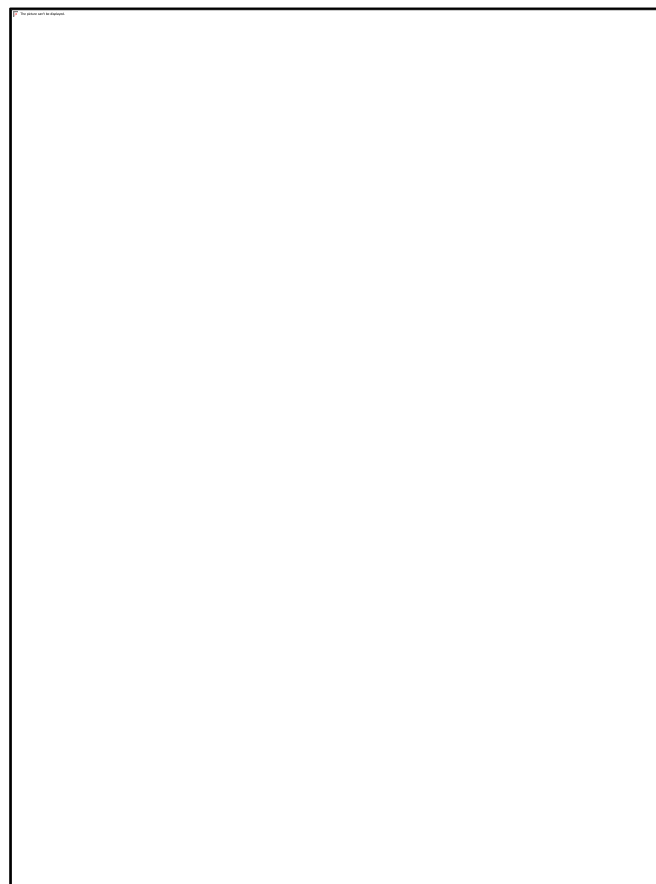




Upper Deua Catchment Landcare Group Inc.
Araluen Creek Restoration Project
Community Newsletter
July 2022

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

Workshop No 4



The most significant weed species identified were: African Boxthorn, a Weed of National Significance, Broad-leaved Privet, an Environmental Weed, Small-leaved Privet, an Environmental Weed, and Blackberry, a Weed of National Significance.

From that survey a weed management plan was developed and will form the basis of a weed control program to be implemented in partnership with landholders.

The Bridge to Bridge Project encompasses the Araluen Creek from the bridge at the camping grounds on Major Creek road to Neringla Bridge, south of the village, a length of 10km.

The project has been an ongoing commitment for the group with weed control a priority for immediate attention which in turn will minimize the amount of weed spread into the Upper Deua Catchment.

Book your spot today with Clare

Looking after Creeks Workshop

23 July 2022





Upper Deua Catchment Landcare Group Inc.
Araluen Creek Restoration Project
Community Newsletter
July 2022

Upcoming Workshop Dates

Saturday 27 August - weeds

Saturday 10 September – site specific weeds



Delivery of Troughs & Fencing Gear



Delivery of fencing materials, troughs and pipe supplied for participating landholders to fence out the remediated sites. We aim to achieve the best possible outcomes to encourage regeneration and protect restoration infrastructure.

Membership

Upper Deua Catchment Landcare Group Inc membership is \$2 annually or \$5 for 3 years. Contact Treasurer, Robyn Clubb to join or check your status. E: clubbr@yahoo.com

Note: For insurance purposes all volunteers participating in planting days and other activities are required to be a member of the UDC Landcare Group.

Project Information

Cath Harrison, Project Liaison

E: cathharri@gmail.com or P: 02 48464079

UDCLG Executive

President: Tony Peters

Secretary: Penny Hayman

Treasurer: Robyn Clubb

Target Weed of the Month

African boxthorn (Lycium ferocissimum)





Upper Deua Catchment Landcare Group Inc.

Araluen Creek Restoration Project

Community Newsletter

July 2022

African boxthorn is a thorny shrub with red berries and purple flowers. It forms impenetrable thickets and is poisonous to people.

Profile

African boxthorn:

1. has large thorns which can injure livestock forms impenetrable, spiny thickets that block access for vehicles, livestock and people
2. invades pastures, roadsides, reserves, remnant bushland and waterways
3. provides shelter and food for pest animals including foxes, rabbits and starlings prevents livestock from accessing shade
4. is poisonous to humans
5. is a host for pest insects including fruit fly, tomato fly and house fly.

Human poisoning

African boxthorn berries, leaves, stems and roots are toxic to humans. Symptoms include: nausea, vomiting, breathing difficulties and unconsciousness. Eating plant parts will cause discomfort and irritation but is not usually life-threatening.

What to do if a person is poisoned:

If the patient is unconscious, unresponsive or having difficulty breathing dial 000 or get to the emergency section of a hospital immediately.

If the patient is conscious and responsive call the Poisons Information Centre on 13 11 26 or your doctor.

If going to a hospital take a piece of the plant for identification.

What does it look like?

African boxthorn is a woody, thorny shrub that can grow up to 5 m high and 3 m wide. Young plants grow quickly. Plants sometimes drop their leaves and appear dead during drought or in winter.

Leaves are:

oval with a rounded tip smooth and fleshy

10-40 mm long bright green in clusters along the branchlets

larger and more succulent on regrowth from damaged roots.

Flowers are:

white to purple with 5 petals 1 cm in diameter

tubular at the base with purple or pale blue markings fragrant

single or in pairs in the leaf axils usually present spring and summer but can occur year round.

Fruit are:

round berries green when young orange-red when ripe

5-10 mm in diameter containing 20-70 seeds

present in autumn but can be present year round.

Seeds are:

light brown to yellow irregular-shaped flattened smooth with small raised dots

2.5 mm long and 1.5 mm wide.

Stems are:

Rigid very branched thorny with thorns up to 15 cm long on the main stem and stout thorns on the ends of branches.

Roots

African boxthorn has an extensive, deep, branched taproot that will sucker and produce new growth when broken. Roots on seedlings grow rapidly allowing them to compete with other plants.

Where is it found?

African boxthorn grows across NSW. It is most common on well drained soils of the western slopes and plains. It was brought to Australia from South Africa in the mid-1800s as a hedge plant. It has spread from around old homesteads and urban areas.

What type of environment does it grow in?

African boxthorn is drought tolerant and grows in temperate, subtropical and semi-arid regions. It can grow on all soil types, though it grows best on well-drained, sandier soils along dry creek beds. It can be found:

in woodlands

in rangelands and uncultivated pastures

in open coastal areas

along roadsides

along waterways.

How does it spread?



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



Upper Deua Catchment Landcare Group Inc. Araluen Creek Restoration Project

Community Newsletter

July 2022

By seed

African boxthorn plants are at least two years old before they flower and produce fruit. Seeds can germinate at any time of the year if there is adequate moisture and warmth.

Seed is mainly spread by animals. Birds and foxes eat the fruit and spread the seed and plants are often found beneath bird perches such as trees, poles and powerlines. Seeds can also be spread in contaminated mud or agricultural produce.

By plant parts

The extensive, branched taproot will sucker and produce new growth if broken.

References

Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment, Tasmania (2002). African boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*), DPIWE Information sheet. Available at www.dpiwe.tas.gov.au

Parsons, W.T. and Cuthbertson, E.G. (2001). *Noxious weeds of Australia, second edn*, CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood, Melbourne.

More information

[African boxthorn best practice manual](#)

[NSW Weed Risk Assessment](#)

[PlantNET NSW FloraOnline, Lycium ferocissimum. Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust.](#)

Control

Successful weed control relies on follow up after the initial efforts. This means looking for and killing regrowth or new seedlings. Using a combination of control methods is usually more successful.

To tackle African boxthorn:

treat mature plants and follow-up to suppress regrowth

kill young plants before they are two years old to prevent seed set

follow-up until African boxthorn is eradicated

promote vigorous perennial pastures to resist invasion.

