



Upper Deua Catchment Landcare Group Inc.

Araluen Creek Restoration Project

Community Newsletter

August 2022

General Meeting

The next general meeting of the UDCLG will be held on **Friday 19th August** 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 set to begin in late August. This is great news as we have concerns that La Nina could well be returning in Spring.

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

Material Delivery

Material deliveries commenced this week with rocks, logs and root balls being transported to site for construction to begin.

This stage of the project involved the hauling of 460 tonnes of large rocks, 29 truckloads of root balls and 32 x 6 metre logs to stockpiles located in practical and accessible locations. This was a logistical challenge as all sites are not easily accessible and the ground is sodden and boggy.



Rootball delivery to stockpile. Rootballs will be installed at various sites to minimize swirling and erosion. Strategic rootball placement reduces the energy of the flow.



Truckie Dale at the stockpile



100 tonne of rock delivered to site 9

Since the 2019-2020 Black Summer fires the region has had 14 extreme rainfall events, the long-term impacts of these weather events makes the existing erosion problems worse.

Cath Harrison, Upper Deua Landcare Community Liaison Officer said: “It would be totally disappointing for further delays to the project. It’s been difficult and challenging to keep the





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momentum up with so much weather-related interruption. We just need to get some ground works started in a bid to prevent further damage occurring at the sites set for remediation. The weather is one thing we can't control."

It is expected that all deliveries will be completed by mid-August, paving the way for the actual works to commence at sites along the Araluen Creek from Neringla Bridge to the creeks confluence with the Deua River. Major construction and earthwork is planned to be completed by late August, early September.

Andy Taylor, of the South-East, Local Land Services who has the task of oversight of the erosion works said: "It's very good to be getting materials in place for the project so that we can start on ground works for the erosion control". Noting the rain conditions Andy said: "There are challenges ahead if this rain means there's a high flow and the creek's up but there's a way to deal with these things although it might take a bit longer".

"Stay tuned and let's all keep our fingers crossed that the weather is finally kind to this project", concluded Cath Harrison.

Who's who in the Araluen Creek Restoration Project – Penny Hayman

Penny Hayman is the Secretary of the Upper Deua Catchment Landcare Group and was the architect of the current Araluen Creek Restoration Creek through writing the grant application. Penny has been involved in the Upper Deua Catchment Landcare Group (UDCLG) for 15 years and as Secretary for the last decade or so.

Penny notes that the UDCLG has worked actively for 15 years to maintain the integrity of the

Araluen Creek and its tributaries to ensure the ground water (2 aquifers) level is maintained and the previously worked landscape (gold field) is stabilised. Completed works include weed management, in-stream log-sills, erosion control and pollution management. Successful sill works have raised the water table by one meter thus supporting the farming and general community in the valley.

Penny's vision is for the additional rehabilitation works leading ongoing good water quality, low levels of weed infestation, increased bank stability and maximising the retention of surface and groundwater for the benefit of the catchment, and Araluen and downstream water users. The drought, bushfires, floods have now created such levels of damage that only major efforts can be employed to stabilise the situation. She says: "Our partners Local Land Services, Soil Conservation Service and Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council have assessed the damage and have prioritised sites that require immediate attention to prevent further catastrophic outcomes for the Araluen Valley and those downstream who depend on good water quality."

She says: "Climate change and associated extreme weather events mean that remedial action is urgent and unavoidable now or future events will impact adversely the whole catchment of the Araluen Creek and Deua River compromising the whole area's viability for years to come".

For Penny this project is very much about strengthening the local community and their sense that "we can. It is all about building resilience, within the landscape and within our community".

Who's who profile contributed by Clare Henderson, USLC





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Boxthorn control at the Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council Weeds Workshop in June 2022. Penny Hayman, Secretary Upper Deua Landcare Catchment Group, with Daniel Anderson, of Apical and his team, Blake and Jess. Photo Credit: Larry O'Loughlin.

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.

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 compliance 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, Community Liaison
 E: cathharri@gmail.com

Workshop No 4

Workshop

Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council with Upper Deua Landcare Catchment Group

PRESENTS

LOOKING AFTER CREEKS

SATURDAY 27 AUGUST

9.30am to 1.00pm

Araluen (address after RSVP)

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.



**Book your spot today with Clare
 Looking after Creeks Workshop
 Saturday 27 August 2022**

Upcoming Workshop Dates

Saturday 10 September – site specific weeds

UDCLG Newsletter

Newsletter is prepared and compiled by Cath Harrison with contribution from Clare Henderson, Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council.



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Target Weed of the Month

Tobacco bush (*Solanum mauritianum*)

Tobacco bush is a shrub or small tree with large, hairy leaves. It is poisonous to livestock and humans.

How does this weed affect you?

Tobacco bush grows quickly and:

- can out-compete native vegetation is a weed in plantations
- hosts fruit fly is toxic to livestock and humans if eaten in sufficient quantities.

What does it look like?

Tobacco bush is a shrub or small tree that can grow to 4 m tall. Plants can flower and fruit in their first year.

Leaves are:

- yellowish-green above and greyish underneath
- densely hairy on both sides 9–30 cm long and 3.5–14 cm wide
- tapered at both ends on short, thick stalks
- strongly scented and smell like diesel fuel when crushed.

At the base of most larger leaves there are 1 or 2 small, stalkless leaves that are 5–20 mm long.

Flowers are:

- violet, bluish or purplish with bright yellow centres 15–25 mm wide
- star shaped with 5 petals in compact clusters at the ends of branches
- mostly present from autumn to spring but can be present anytime.

Fruit are:

- round
- 10–15 mm in diameter
- green when young
- dull yellow when ripe with 150–200 seeds.

Seeds are:

- light brown or yellowish
- 1.5–2 mm long.

Stems are:

- grey-green
- sometimes covered in small white hairs
- up to 15 cm in diameter.

Where is it found?

Tobacco bush grows along the coast of NSW from the North Coast to Araluen in the South East. It has also been found in the Murray Region. It grows in disturbed areas and is a weed in pastures, plantations and bushland. It is often found growing on the edges of forests and in riparian zones.

How does it spread?

By seed

Mature plants can produce 100 000 to 200 000 seeds per year. Most seeds are still viable after one year and some seeds may still be viable after several years. Birds and flying foxes eat the ripe fruit and spread the seed. Seed from plants growing along watercourses can be spread by water.

By plant parts

Tobacco bush can grow from damaged stems and from root pieces.



Wild Tobacco Bush control technique using 16mm spade bit followed by immediate treatment with straight round up using a suitable applicator such as a dishwashing detergent bottle.



Wild Tobacco Bush

For further weed control information go to <https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds>



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