



Report: Workshop 1 ~ Upper Mooki Rehydration Project: Walk & Talk with Craig Carter and Stuart Austin 12 December 2020

Introduction

Three educational workshops provided by Upper Mooki Landcare Inc are to be provided as part of the contractual arrangements with LLS under the funding Australian Governments National Land Care Program and the Regional Land Partnerships and Catchment Action NSW.

The first education workshop of the Upper Mook Rehydration Project was held at Tallawang, 358 Cattle Creek Road, Parraweena on Friday 12th December 2020.

The timing of the workshop was determined following a request from Mrs A Baker, Project Manager, North West Local Land Services.

Assistance to design a promotional flyer and facilitate bookings through Eventbrite was received from Tamworth Regional Landcare Staff, Lana Andrews, Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator (North West) and Penny Milson, Local Landcare Coordinator - Liverpool Plains Region.

Walk and Talk with Craig & Stuart

Join Upper Mooki Landcare Inc. for a creek walk and paddock talk with **Stuart Austin & Craig Carter** hosting conversations about practice management followed by a Christmas BBQ

12 December 2020
4:30pm-8:00pm

Free to Upper Mooki Landcare members and Rehydration Project participants
Other community members \$25

Numbers are limited and **RSVPs essential**.
Eventbrite: <https://tallawangcreekwalk.eventbrite.com.au>
Enquiries to Nicky
nicky@tallawang.com or 0488 056199

BYO Food and Drinks
COVID safety measures will be in place.

This event is supported by North West Local Land Services through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

Speakers at the interactive workshop were:

- **Craig Carter:** Landowner, "Tallawang", Parraweena. Craig has been recognised as a leader in regenerative agriculture (2014 National Carbon Cocky (Soil Carbon Sequestration) Awards; 2019 Runner up Excellence in Landcare Farming (New England North West Landcare); 2019 State Landcare Championship for Innovation).
- **Stuart Austin:** General Manager, Wilmot Pastoral Co, Hernani, NSW. Stuart is a leader in profitable regenerative agriculture management models, using various technology tools to measure production in the business, including Maia Grazing.



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Craig Carter (left) & Stuart Austin (right)

Attendance:

40 people attended the workshop. 35 registered through Eventbrite. Attendees came from a wide area – from Lismore, Oxley Island, Narrabri, Armidale, Uralla, Tamworth, Timor, and the local area.

The workshop was free to members of Upper Mooki Landcare Inc, with others paying \$25.

Verbal permission for photographs was sought and given by all participants at the beginning of the workshop.



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Content:

The workshop was designed to be fully interactive between the speakers and the audience. It was conducted initially in a paddock at Tallawang, and then moved to a walk along Yarramanbah Creek.

Discussion points included:

- Increasing soil water retention using a combination of grazing strategies, fencing and structural earth works in paddocks
- Manage the challenge of lower, irregular/destructive rainfall in combination with increased temperatures and higher evaporation
- Rehydrating soil
- Preventing erosion.
- Increasing diversity of ground cover.
- Highlighting more desirable species e.g. *dicanthium sericeum*.
- Cover cropping
- Slowing water energy/ flow in the creek and increasing plant diversity.
- Facilitating the creek to recreate a “chain of ponds”.
- Grazing times and recovery periods.

Following the creek walk, a bbq was held at “Tallawang” homestead, with Covid safe measures in place.

A community member was the winner of “Call of the Reed Warbler” by Charlie Massey, for her input to the Community Survey for the the Upper Mooki Landcare 2021 - 2026 Strategic Plan (in final preparation).







The presence of LLS staff Angela Baker (Rehydration Project Manager) and Tim Watts (Senior Land Services Officer - Projects) was appreciated.