

The Upper Bidgee Bulletin

The Upper Murrumbidgee Landcare Quarterly Newsletter



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Welcome to the Autumn edition of The Upper Bidgee Bulletin. After a slow start to the year things have really moved into full swing in the last couple of months. We have been spoilt for choice when it comes to events throughout the region. The lack of rain has been the only thing to put a dampener on the year. Fingers crossed for winter rain. In the meantime we hope that this edition of the UBB helps distract you....



UMLC President's Report

by Tony Robinson

As George has indicated in her Coordinator's Corner, the Local Land Services funding for her position runs out at the end of this month. To lose George will be a tremendous blow as she has been an outstanding Coordinator for UMLC and has rejuvenated Landcare in our area. It has also made my job as President so much easier with all her energy, ideas and ability quietly to get things done. There may be some hope for funding for a short continuation of her role but that is still under discussion. I thank Local Land Services for its initiative in funding and supporting our Landcare Coordinators. I hope this can be continued when the second round of National Landcare Program funding flows through next year.

In this issue of the Upper Bidgee Bulletin there are a number of articles about pest animals and their control. Reducing the damage that pest animals do can sometimes be achieved by non-lethal means such as fencing and other barriers. In many other cases where the damage being done is on a vast scale, then lethal means may be the only option. Carp damage in our waterways is a case in point. A method being considered for carp control in Australia is the use of a virus, and the decision to release this virus will be put to the federal government at the end of this year. A recent series of information seminars showed the enormous amount of work on efficacy and safety that is required to get such an agent to the stage of an application for release. More information can be found at <http://www.carp.gov.au>

Lastly, I would like to mention the small farms visits that were run a few weekends ago. Despite the inclement weather and a problem with the bus, those attending came to appreciate the management required to farm alpacas, dorper sheep and organic vegetables. Inspirational. We must run such events again.



Coordinators Corner

The year is rapidly slipping away and with it possibly my work with you. Working with Upper Murrumbidgee Landcare has been a wonderful experience and it has been a privilege to work with our committee. They have been so supportive over the last couple of years, in particular our Chair, Tony, who has continually been a sounding board for me. Thanks to you all.

It always seems to be busy between Upper Bidgee Bullitens and this past three months has been no exception. Save our Scarle Robin projects continue to dominate in some of our areas, we had a Farming Choices tour and the Feral Fighters program is tra us up on feral animal control. We also have upcoming events like our Celebration dinner and the Cultural Burn field day. Further information on these upcoming events is below.

We once again have a mix of articles for this edition. I hope you enjoy.

Landcare and Friends Celebration Dinner

We would like to invite all Landcare and Friends to a dinner on Saturday May 5th to help us celebrate the achievements of all of our members. The ever charming and entertaining Rainer Rehwinkel will be our MC for the evening. We also have a few short films about some of our local Landcare groups.



So come along to the new Royalla Community Hall at 6:30pm this Saturday for a fun filled evening. Tickets are \$26.50 and available [here](#) or for more information call Georgeanna on 0429 779 928.

Upcoming activities....

- **Landcare and Friends Celebration Dinner** is happening on at 6:30pm Saturday May 5th at Royalla Community Hall. Call Georgeanna Story on 0429 779 928 for further information.
- **Passion Mashin** workshop to help energise your volunteer groups by Les Robinson is on 5th May. Contact office@see-change.org.au for details.
- **Traditional Burning for the 21st Century.** Upper Shoalhaven Landcare present the Millpost workshop on Sunday 6th May. Contact Rebecca Klomp on 4842 2594 for details.
- **Aboriginal Agriculture:** Aboriginal Cultural Land Management and Sustainable and Productive Rural Practice for the 21st Century. Join a conversation on May 9th 5-7pm. Contact Molonglo Catchment Group on 6299 2119 for details.
- **Michelago Feral Fighters** is on 19th May at Michelago Community Hall. Call Georgeanna Story on 0429 779 928 for further information.
- **Traditional Burning for the 21st Century.** UMLC and Greening Australia present the Monaro Tablelands workshop at Murrumbidgee National Park, Oak, Billililgra on Saturday 2nd June. Call Georgeanna Story on 0429 779 928 for further information.
- **UMLC meeting** on 5 June in Michelago. Contact Georgeanna Story on 0429 779 928 for details.
- Farm Tracks, Trails and Drainage Field Day on 18th June. contact Cooma Waterwatch on coomawaterwatch@gmail.com for details.



Feral Fighters
Targeting rabbits and foxes: Together we can make a difference

Invasive species have no place in our landscape. The ability and responsibility to manage feral animals rests with every land manager

Feral Fighters is an initiative to strategically target pest control at regional levels through coordinated control campaigns.

By registering to become a Feral Fighter you will receive training in the use of pesticides and the biological control, Calicivirus RHDV1 K5, access to traps and support with coordinated control campaigns from Local Land Services.

All Michelago residents are invited to come along and participate in this Feral Fighters targeting rabbits training day. Proudly supported by Michelago Landcare.

Saturday 19th May
 10 – 12:30pm
 Refreshments provided

Michelago Community Hall
 Ryrie St, Michelago

RSVP by
 Thursday 17th May

Email
 Georgeanna at upper.murrumbidgee@gmail.com

Phone
 0429779928

This project is supported by Local Land Services through funding provided Services Community, Industry and Landcare Fund grant.

Farm Tracks, Trails and Drainage Field Day

A well constructed road is a valuable asset to your property. How a road or trail is designed, built and maintained will influence how it holds up in all types of weather and the effort and cost required to keep it maintained. A well built track will ensure erosion is minimised and avoid impact on sensitive areas including creek crossings which also has on farm benefits for water quality and biodiversity.

Join us to discuss:

- Principles of good road design and drainage
- Construction basics (what you and your contractor should know)
- Erosion control and road maintenance
- What can you do and what can't you do? Rules and regulations to consider when you are putting in a road or creek crossing on your property

Speakers:

- Peter Fogarty – Soil Scientist and Soil Knowledge Network Member
- Ashley Bolton- Operations Manager, Soil Conservation Service
- Antia Brademann – Cooma Waterwatch Coordinator
- Jo Powells – Agricultural Advisor, South East Local Land Services

When: Monday 18th June, 2018
Time: 9:30am – 3:00pm
Where: Cooma (details provided on RSVP)
RSVP: Antia: 0429 778 633
 coomawaterwatch@gmail.com
 Jo: 0429 785 986
 jo.powells@lls.nsw.gov.au
 Morning tea & lunch will be provided

ABORIGINAL AGRICULTURE: Aboriginal Cultural Land Management and Sustainable and Productive Rural Practice for the 21st Century

An early evening conversation with Bill Gammage and Bruce Pascoe

Facilitated by Peter Bridgewater (Chair Landcare ACT) and Ngunawal Elder Wally Bell

You are invited to join Bruce, Bill, Peter and Wally in conversation on 9th May 2018, 5-7pm (drinks and nibbles from 4.30pm) at Building 1 Room A21, University of Canberra
 Located next to Mazona Cafe, in 'The Hub' located below the Corridor between Building 1 and Building 8
 Free parking available near College Street
 Bookings: RSVP@indigenouslandcare.org.au by 7th May

Dark Emu
 BRUCE PASCOE
 BLACK BEARD: THE MYSTERY OF AUSTRALIA

The Biggest Estate on Earth
 BILL GAMMAGE
 HOW AUSTRALIA'S WOODS GOT THERE

The 21st Century is a time for rural landholders, whether producers or custodians, to try something new and be open to change.

Imagine a society based on the inseparability of people, the land and water; a rural landscape that is shaped by the integration of the spirit of the land, its people, environmental and cultural heritage and economic decision-making. Consider also, agricultural practice based on heritage, change and adaptation – sustained by growing plants and working with animals using methods that evolved with the land and its conditions, not imposed.

We live in the remnants of land and water management practices of past peoples. People have shaped Australia to ensure continuity, balance, abundance and certainty – management by strategies that are being questioned. With doubt so fundamental and widespread, how can we confidently say we are managing our rural landscapes well?

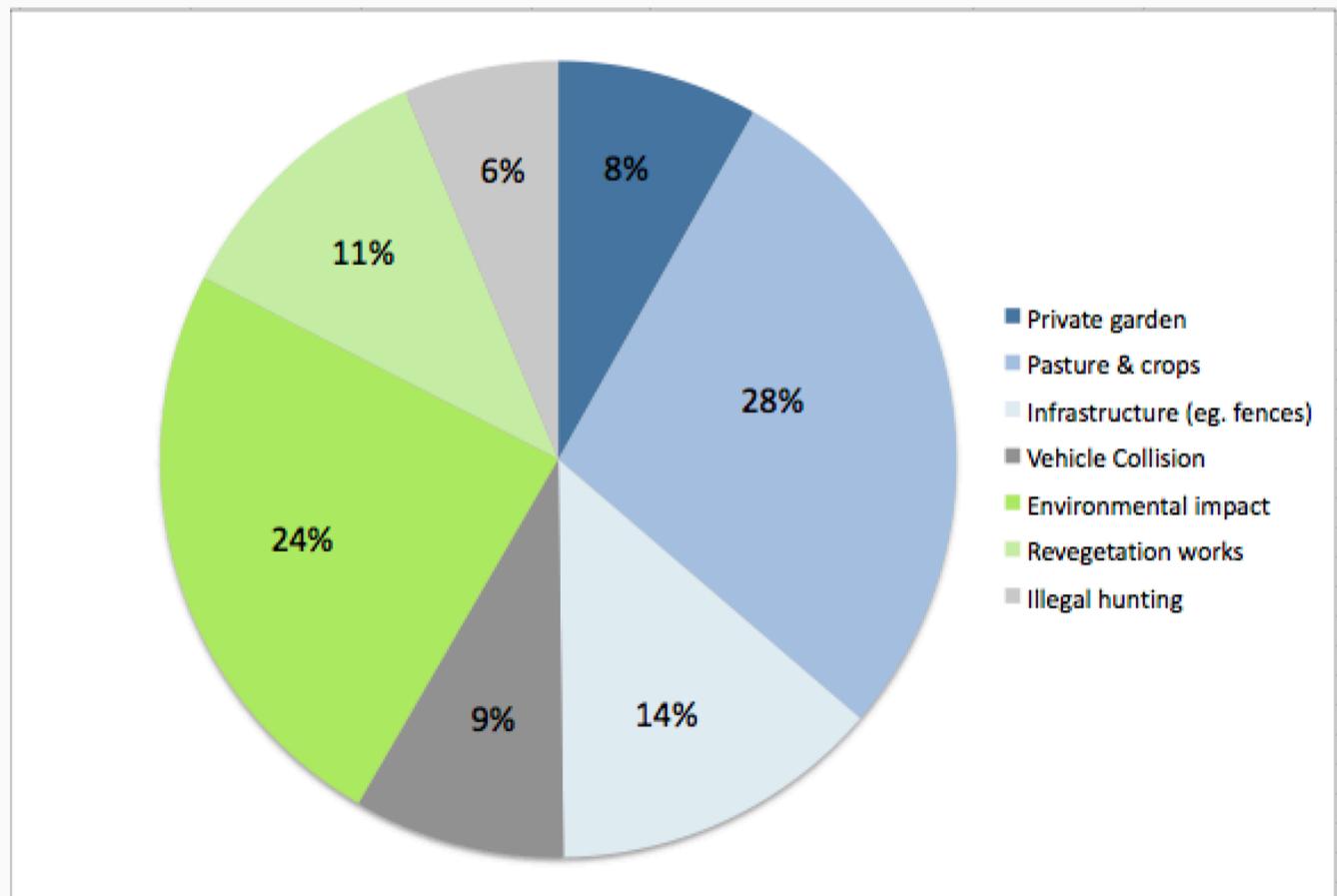
Bruce Pascoe and Bill Gammage have done the research and have written the books. We've read their books, and we accept what they say. What do we do now?



Wild Deer Landholder Perception Survey- an update

by Georgeanna Story

The report on the Landholders Perception of Wild Deer survey is coming together and there are some interesting and startling results. There was an overwhelming perception that wild deer should be classed as a pest species and that control is necessary their region. What was also clear, is that wild deer are costing landholders dearly, through both their impact and control costs. We calculated a conservative annual cost of \$2,000 per person, totalling over \$1 million just for the survey participants alone.



Percent of wild deer impact costs for each category of environmental and agricultural value.

When completed the report will be available online through our website <http://www.landcare.nsw.gov.au/groups/upper-murrumbidgee-landcare-committee>.

We would like to thank all those that participated in the survey and all those that supported the production and delivery.

Native Tree Planting Guide

by Lauren Van

The Upper Snowy Landcare Network stall at the Dalgety Show was a hive of activity with locals lining up to take home their free Native Tree Planting Guide launched by Hon Bronnie Taylor along with a free native tree.

Shane Trengove (USLN Chair) spoke to the crowds about the importance of the guide on the back of the massive tree dieback affecting the region and Michael Platts from Monaro Tree Nursery explained the steps involved to successfully plant and raise a tree in our challenging climate.

We are delighted that more than 30 local people have signed up to receive the Upper Snowy Landcare online newsletter and learn more about Landcare and what it has to offer.

If you would like to receive your hard copy of the guide please go to the Snowy Monaro Regional Council in Cooma, the Cooma Visitors Centre or the Cooma Library or if you would like it in electronic form please contact Lauren on 0411 402 978 or contact@uppersnowylandcare.org.au.



Pest Animal Management Plan

by Kylie Challen

Did you have your say on the management of pest animals in the NSW South East region?

The consultation period for the South East Local Land Services draft South East Regional Strategic Pest Animal Management Plan (RSPAMP) is now closed.

The NSW Government state that the economic impact of wild rabbits, carp, pigs, foxes, dogs, goats and introduced birds is estimated at \$170 million in NSW.

Pest animals pose significant threat to vulnerable species and ecological communities, with feral pigs alone impacting on 361 species and ecological communities listed as nationally threatened.

The purpose of the RSPAMP is to set the strategic direction for pest animal management in the region and guide resourcing and investment dedicated to coordinated pest animal management. The draft RSPAMP has been developed collaboratively with the South East Regional Pest Animal Committee and South East Local Land Services.

The management of pest animals in the South East is a complex and challenging situation which cannot be ignored. We can only win the fight against pest animals by working in partnership. Community groups such as the Upper Murrumbidgee Landcare and Carwoola Feral Fighters, are an important part of pest awareness and management in this area.

Information sessions about the RSPAMP were held in Cooma, Goulburn and the South Coast. There was a substantial turnout of

those will concerns about pest animal management and many constructive comments on the RSPAMP were received.

For more information or to download a copy of the plan, visit: www.lis.nsw.gov.au/pestplan



Protecting and Enhancing our Rivers Field Day

by Antia Brademan, Waterwatch

Did you know it takes about 200 years for a tree to develop medium sized hollows needed by animals such as antechinus, possums, kangaroos and bats? Not all trees make hollows, but native species found in our local riparian zones do. Riparian zones are the areas of the landscape directly adjoining rivers, creeks and drainage lines. Willow trees never develop hollows, no matter what age. Dense shrubs, fallen logs and native tussocks are also vital for habitat.



Participants enjoy a walk through an intact riparian vegetation community

Did you know that a tree canopy cover of just 25% in our riparian zones can decrease water temperatures in our creeks and rivers by 4°C compared to unshaded systems? This will assist to reduce impact of hot summer temperatures on our waterways including the risk of algal blooms and stress to fish.

Did you know that well vegetated riparian zones on your farm will help to filter run-off and improve water quality, store carbon, provide biodiversity, connect the landscape as well as provide shelter areas and drought refuge for stock? Yet, our local ribbon gum floodplain woodlands, once widespread have now been extensively cleared and we are missing out on the benefits they provide.

The Protecting and Enhancing our Rivers Field Day, held at Numeralla last weekend, was well attended by locals interested to learn more about the above riparian zone functions and how to identify local plant species on a walk through a ribbon gum floodplain woodland. After morning tea the group visited a revegetation site to discuss the best planting methods for our local area. Anyone who has tried to grow plants on the Monaro knows that given the cold winters, hot summers, variable soils and little rainfall we experience, getting plants established can be a difficult task. Best practice methods discussed included those in the Upper Snow

Landcare Network's newly published 'Native Tree and Shrub Planting Guide' which has been developed to assist landholders with local planting projects. The planting guide can be found on the web on the Upper Snowy Landcare Network's website.



Discussion on the benefits of various planting techniques

The field day was hosted by Numeralla Landcare and supported by South East Local Land Services, Cooma Waterwatch, the Upper Murrumbidgee Landcare Committee and the Upper Snowy Landcare Network. These organisations often work collaboratively in regard to land management issues in our region.



Upper Murrumbidgee Landcare Farming Choices tour

by Georgeanna Story

Our Farming Choices: Small Farms Bus Tour was a day that threw up all sorts of challenges. There was a howling wind and the bus broke down, but in the Landcare spirit everyone dealt with what was in front of them and got on with making the most of it. After an impromptu Rural Fire shed tour (thank you Tony!) we piled into a convoy of cars and made our way to the first stop, Pacawoolly, an alpaca farm owned by our Landcare members Jo and Gary Gaha. We were treated to a guided tour through the farm and were able to experience the alpacas up close. The session offered valuable information about the ins and outs of owning alpacas. Jo and Gary were a wealth of information and generous in sharing their experiences.



Jo and her alpacas, managed for their fine wool

After a much needed cuppa we moved up the road to Ingalara Ridge, a sheep farm specialising in Dorpor sheep. Barry Woolac

and Jacqui Williams provided detailed explanations not only into the sheep, but also the soils of the area and management options for dealing with African Lovegrass. After a tour of the farm our generous hosts opened their home to us for lunch and a much appreciated break from the weather.



Barry explaining his grazing management for the Dorpor sheep

Our final stop for the day was then Ingelara with Beatris and Tobias, the biodynamic farmers that focus on market garden and goat production. Once again we were treated to a wealth of knowledge on the specific farming techniques that are proving sustainable on this farm. Soil health and crop rotation methods were high on the agenda and tour participants were treated to some potato and garlic samples.



Tobias demonstrating management techniques and produce of Ingelara

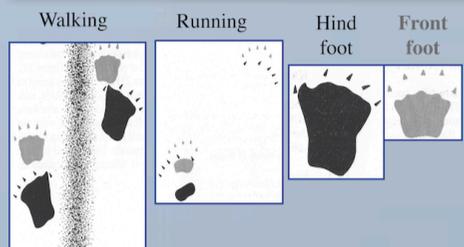
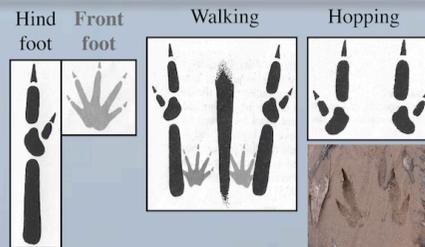
What started out to be a less than ideal beginning proved to be a fantastic day for all concerned. A big thank you to all of our presenters and participants for your enthusiasm and expertise.

Wetlands and their Animals

Wetlands are critical environments for protecting water quality, erosion prevention and flood storage. They also provide habitat for fish and other types of wildlife. To help enjoy and understand the wildlife that you may detect in wetlands the UMLC produced a brochure, *Wetland Animals: Who's tracks are those?*

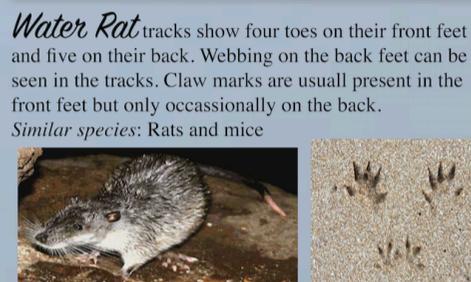
Kangaroo & Wallaby tracks show five clawed toes on their front feet and an elongated hind foot with two main toes. Occasionally two smaller grooming toes on the hind feet leave tracks. When walking the tail also leaves a track between the feet.

Similar species: Different macropod species can sometimes be distinguished by the size of the feet or the size & distribution of pads.



Platypus tracks show five toed webbed feet. When walking the body and tail leaves a track between the feet but when running they are lifted, leaving no track.

Similar species: Echidna display a similar gait but lack the webbed feet.



Water Rat tracks show four toes on their front feet and five on their back. Webbing on the back feet can be seen in the tracks. Claw marks are usually present in the front feet but only occasionally on the back.

Similar species: Rats and mice



Bird tracks most commonly show three toes pointing forward and one toe pointing backwards. Tracks are alternate when walking and paired when hopping.

Wetland Animals

Lizards leave alternate tracks with varying number of toes, depending on the species. Between the footmarks is a drag mark left by the belly and tail.



Pig tracks display a cloven hoof track where the third and fourth toe make the track. Occasionally the dew claws will also leave a print.

Similar species: Deer, goat and sheep.

Fox tracks show four clawed toes on each of their four feet, each defined by well developed pads. The front foot is larger than the hind foot.

Similar species: Dog and cat.



UMLC ran their Farming Choice: Small Farms tour.

Royalla Landcare held their Feral Fighters workshop.

Cooma Waterwatch, SE LLS, Upper Snowy Landcare and UMLC held Protecting and Enhancing our Rivers Field Day at Numeralla.

Molonglo Catchment Group Cultural Burn workshop at Wandjali.

K2C held a Save our Scarlet Robin workshop in Michelago.

Upper Shoalhaven Landcare ran their Fungi workshop at Reisdale.

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When: Monday 18th June, 2018

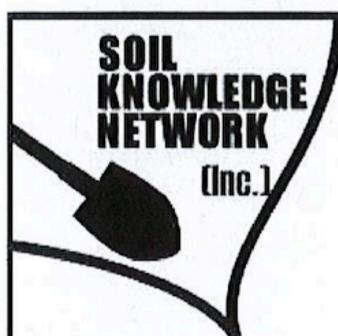
Time: 9:30am – 3:00pm

Where: Cooma (details provided on RSVP)

RSVP: Antia: 0429 778 633
coomawaterwatch@gmail.com

Jo: 0429 785 986
jo.powells@lls.nsw.gov.au

Morning tea & lunch will be provided



Local Land
Services
South East



In the news...

Biodiversity Conservation Trust. The BCT is offering \$37 million in its first round of programs in 2018; and will offer a further \$ million in 2018–19. The implementation of some BCT programs – such as the Conservation Tender – will require additional support and collaboration from Local Landcare Coordinators and Host Organisations, and the BCT will provide support to Landcare to assist with this. More details can be found at <https://www.bct.nsw.gov.au>

Frog ID App. FrogID is a national citizen science project that is helping us learn more about what is happening to Australia's frogs. All around the country, people are recording frog calls with nothing more than a smartphone. Find out more information [here](#).

Saving our Scarlet Robin Project is still interested in hearing from landholders keen to participate in projects that will help to protect and attract woodland birds. Expressions of interest for the next round of funding are due by the end of August. For more information contact Felicity Sturgiss at felicity.sturgiss@lfs.nsw.gov.au.

Upper Murrumbidgee Landcare Committee is registered as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission ABN 51686917287.



Upper Murrumbidgee Landcare, Upper Bidgee Bulletin

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upper.murrumbidgee@gmail.com

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