



THE LANDCARE PERSPECTIVE



THE ANNUAL NEWSLETTER OF THE UPPER SHOALHAVEN LANDCARE COUNCIL - SUMMER 2019

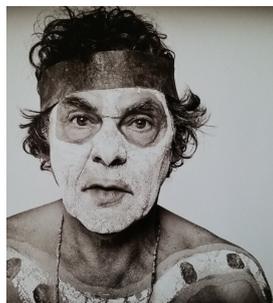
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WOODWARDS CREEK



THE 2019 TWO FIRES FESTIVAL



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Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council Publishing Policy

Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council welcomes and encourages diverse and robust discussion on Landcare issues. We publish the Landcare Perspective as a forum for the Landcare community to talk about any Landcare issues and welcome contributing articles. The USLC does not endorse the views or material contained in the contributions of members of the public or other contributors. The USLC may edit, remove or exercise its discretion not to publish your contribution for legal, editorial or operational reasons, including if it is offensive, compromising, intentionally false or misleading or for other reasons.



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HELLO FROM LANDCARE



President's Report Sarah Merriman

Rebecca and I attended the LLCI (Local Landcare Co-ordinator Initiative) State Gathering in Sydney 18-20 March. The Gathering was held at the NCIE (National Centre of Indigenous Excellence) in Redfern a great venue in the centre of Sydney. As a new chair, this was my first conference on behalf of USLC and it was quite an eye opener for me. In total there were approx. 120 people mainly the Local Landcare Coordinators and Committee Members but there were also representatives from organisations such as the Rice Growers' Association. The eye opener for me was the big differences in what initiatives and programs were being rolled out by the LLCs. For example, out West the main focus of one of LLCs is feral pest control namely wild dogs. Their focus is on working with LLS (Local Land Services) in ariel baiting of wild dogs and one coordinator proudly showed me a picture of a paddock full of up to 100 dead wild dogs. In other instances, some LLCs focus and budget is spent on weed control both chemical and not. And while these are problems on a much larger and more pressing scale than our own area it was such a stark contrast as to what we do in our program. It also was an eye opener for me that there were representatives from large organisations, such as the mentioned the Rice Growers' Association, who work with Landcare on regenerative and best farm practices. Which made me think that there is room for us to work with organisations in our area. A couple of standout presentations for me were Bruce Pascoe's talk, author of Dark Emu – I even managed to get him to sign my book! A must read for a deeper understanding of Indigenous land management and care. And an inspiring Change Management Workshop with Paul Ryan an amazing speaker who spoke about our need for Transformation Change and how important the work of Landcare is as it is addressing some of the top 10 global risks. See ausresilience.com.au and find Paul Ryan under Speaking.

Post the NSW State Election and the election of a conservative Government the 2 nd round of LLCI2 funding has been the dramatically cut from 21 hrs a week to 10 hrs a week. The funding cuts are across the board from the top down to the local I co-ordinators.





HELLO FROM LANDCARE



This is a huge challenge for us and I do not want to see us fold in the face of massive funding cuts. My understanding is that some local co-ordinators have sadly folded but I would hope that we can rise to the challenge even with such limited hours for our co-ordinator. As chair of USLC I think it is important that we raise the profile of the work we do. Even the CEO of Landcare NSW, Adrian Zammit, acknowledged that as an organisation who gives great value for government money “bang for your buck” more than doubling in return through environment and social capital, we are too modest. And even this is obviously not enough for the Government. In NSW alone there are 20,000 not for profit organisations all vying for Government money. It is a very competitive environment and I would like to explore what other partner or sponsorship opportunities are out there in our community & to do a better job or promoting the fantastic work that we do.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge all the remarkable work Rebecca has done and hope that the dramatic funding cuts do not affect our ability to attract and retain such a dedicated Local Landcare Coordinator

LOCAL LANDCARE COORDINATOR PROGRAM 2019-2023

Purpose and Objectives of the Local Landcare Coordinator:

The core role of the Local Coordinator is that of a coordinator and enabler of Community Landcare and Landcare organisations. The Local Coordinator is charged with empowering Landcare to achieve their own goals in alignment with those of the Program. The Local Coordinator will assist their Landcare networks and groups to directly interact with Landcare and agencies at the local district and network scale. They will focus on supporting Landcare organisations to enable participation in Landcare by individuals and sub groups. Their outcomes will be measured directly against key accountabilities. Local Coordinators will work with their specific host organisations and the other Landcare groups/organisations across their regions to increase the capacity of these groups to deliver against the outcomes of the Program. Local Coordinators will be expected to collaborate with a range of Landcare support mechanisms including other Local Coordinators, Regional Coordinators, Landcare Committees and Local Land Services. The Local Coordinator is not a Project Officer, solely responsible for the delivery of other grant funded projects, however should be a resource for Landcare to effectively partner, attract project funding and to empower successful delivery.

Key Accountabilities of the Local Landcare Coordinator:

- Support volunteer engagement and coordinate participation in natural resource management activities that address critical agricultural sustainability & environmental issues
- Support increased community engagement in Landcare
- Support increased governance and organisational process in Landcare organisations in their region
- Providing support to groups, networks and landholders
- Undertake planning, develop partnerships and secure resourcing through project grants and other sources
- Support improvements in stability and long term viability of Landcare in their region
- Work with Regional Coordinators to support the development and implementation of a Regional Priority Plan
- Embrace fee-for-service opportunities where appropriate
- Facilitate linkages between Landcare activities/projects and Local Land Services and Landcare NSW strategic objectives
- Participation in and delivery of regional and state Community-of-Practice
- Monitor, evaluate and report on program outcomes.

Key Challenges for the Local Landcare Coordinator:

- Role is not specifically for the purpose of management of other funding programs, grants or projects
- Management of expectations of local Host Committee and those of other Landcare Communities within the Local Coordinator's region
- Management of time and on ground funding constraints
- Management of part time role
- Management of priorities between delivery of on ground outcomes and service to Landcare community and program requirements such as reporting and attendance at Community-of-Practice events.

Key Relationships of the Local Landcare Coordinator:

- Host Organisation committee
- Other Landcare Coordinators in the region anacross NSW
- Other Landcare staff and other Landcare Community members
- Local Land Services staff and Landcare NSW staff
- The NSW Landcare Program Management Team
- Other potential partner stakeholders

This activity is part of the Local Landcare Coordinators Initiative



Local Land
Services

The Local Landcare Coordinators Initiative is funded by the NSW Government, and is supported through the partnership of Local Land Services and Landcare NSW.



Currockbilly Mountain Nursery

By Richard Stone, Joint Partner Currockbilly Mountain Nursery

“The best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago, the second best time is now.” Chinese Proverb

I had always wanted to set up a native plant nursery on our land at Charleys Forest just north of Mongarlowe Village, it's just taken me way too long! I graduated from an Associate Diploma of Horticulture, specialising in Production Horticulture way back in 1990. I started building the nursery in late 2016 and sowed the first eucalypt seeds in June of 2017. We now have 230 m² under cover of shade and hot houses with two specialised potting on areas. The process starts in our first potting on shed where we load up forestry tubes with a native potting mix. From there the sown seeds are taken next door into the hot house. Germination can take as little as three weeks or up to six months depending on the time of year and the freshness and quality of the seed.

I like to do our own seed collection from local plants. Finding seed that is accessible is always a challenge so it's always a bonus when you come across a fallen branch or tree with good seed capsules unopened on them. Otherwise I use a pole pruner which allows me to get seed up to 4 meters off the ground. December is a really busy time for collecting wattle seed and you have to time the collection just right. Too early and the seed won't be ripe, too late and the wattle pods will have burst and you don't get any seed. Whatever seed I collect then has to be sorted down to as pure seed as I can get by sifting the unwanted trash out starting with large screens and progressively moving to smaller sieves.

Plants from the myrtaceous plantfamily which includes Eucalyptus (Gum trees), Callistemon (Bottle brushes), Melaleuca (paper barks) and Leptospermum (tea tree) have very fine seeds, some less than 0.5 mm in diameter and when you consider that up to 50% of the seed in any one hard seed capsule is chaff or trash it takes a lot of seed to raise a tray of 40 tubes.

We over-seed each tube to try and maximise successful germination. Sometimes we will get a dozen or more seedlings germinating in the one tube. At this point we cut back to one strong seedling with a pair of small scissors.





CURROCKABILLY MOUNTAIN NURSERY CONTINUED.....

It can be very frustrating when you get six or more seedlings germinating in one tube and none germinating in the neighbouring tube. When the seedlings get to a good size we take them out of the hot house and into the 50% shade-house. Depending on the species and the time of year and growth rates the plants will spend four to six months under cover. We then move them to our 30% shade-house to harden them up before we sell them. We endeavour to grow only frost tolerant plants that will suit our local conditions. Generally we have two planting seasons on the Southern Tablelands, spring, mid-September to mid-November and autumn, March to mid-May.

Good site preparation is the key to a successful planting. Depending on your soil type I recommend ripping a good 3 to 4 months in advance of your planting time. This is particularly important in heavier clay and granite soils as it gives the rip-line time to collapse back in on itself and fills any air voids that can be deadly to young plant roots. Ripping also helps shatter hard and heavy soils creating fissures for roots to grow into.



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CURROCKABILLY MOUNTAIN NURSERY CONTINUED.....

Good planting technique also boosts your chances of success. My top ten tips for planting are;

- Always buy good quality stock, suitable for your area & purposes
- Seek Local advice about what species will grow in your area
- Look for good root development and a healthy canopy – root to shoot ratio
- Have your site well prepared
- Saturate your trees fully by soaking them in bucket of water for at least ½ hour prior to planting. When the air bubbles stop the plant is fully saturated. It's OK to keep the plants in the bucket whilst planting; adding a seaweed type fertiliser at this time is also beneficial.
- Don't bury your tree too deep, nor too shallow – It's OK to cover the top of the tube with 25 mm/1" of soil
- Plants grow in soil, not air! Make sure you firm the soil down to get rid of any air pockets
- Make a water holding reservoir around the plant that can hold at least 4 to 5 litres of water
- Water in as soon as possible after planting and follow up watering as required, at least twice in the first two weeks
- If planting in cold weather (frosts) or hot, dry summer weather don't be afraid to trim off any soft new red growth at the growing tips

We sow seed throughout the year except the really cold winter months. Happy planting.

Woodwards creek project

Bugonia Park Land Managers

We are seven volunteer Ministerial appointees on a Crown Lands Reserve whose task is to manage the 15 hectares of Crown land including a bio-diversity hot spot, an endangered ecological community of Tablelands Gassy Box Gum Woodland, which is vulnerable due to the erosion in Woodward's Creek in our Historic Bungonia Village environment.

The issue: Huge 4-5metre erosion in Woodward's Creek. The Bungonia Park Trust had tried multiple mitigation efforts at revegetation over years; the 5-6 metre erosion channel and infrequent massive storm events resulted in not only huge soil removal (est at 40,000 tonnes) but plantings were ripped out by the force of the water. A longer term solution was the only way to go. Issues have included the continuing severe drought; Hydrographic analysis prior to the project indicated that there was nil soil moisture, to as low as 6 metres.

Woodwards Creek Project continued..

The solution: Woodward's Creek Project; Rehabilitation for Water Quality and Habitat Repair 2018: Stage 1 Scope: This project aims to mitigate stream bed and bank erosion to recreate a "chain of ponds" and stable in-stream habitat suitable to support a range of aquatic organisms. These works will halt further degradation, promote channel recovery by storage of sediment and enhance the habitat values of adjacent endangered Tablelands Grassy Box Gum Woodland native vegetation [currently identified as a priority for protection].



Aim:-As channel water velocity is slowed and water quality improves, the new areas will be colonised from adjacent bio-diverse zones. Species will be able to move along creek elements. More water will be stored within the system supporting biota in and around the watercourse and provide improved water quality for the receiving Sydney Catchment.

Process:- Design works were completed by NSW Dept. of Soil Conservation for the entire reach of Woodward's Creek within the Crown Land area managed by the Bungonia Park Trust. Public tender process indicated that the \$100,000 grant was inadequate to complete the entire project, so the BP Trust returned to the grant body - NSW Government Environmental Trust and to designer - Dept. of Soil Conservation, for modifications to allow an effective staging of the project. The Soil Conservation Service had won the competitive tender and provided a fixed contract price for the works and was willing to support a staged element. After extensive re-design, re-approvals and a re-budgeting process, plus unforeseen challenges, such as the merging of Local Land Services and Soil Conservation; changes in personnel and location of offices, a Soil Conservation project manager was appointed and the implementation planning undertaken. Our other major donor, Boral, was key to financial viability -- Boral having committed to Supply 2000 tonnes of rock to the project. Stage 1 project was decided to consist of 2 major in-stream rock structures and 2 major in-stream bank log structures.

Woodwards Creek Project continued..

The impact

Initially we had some local sabotage attempts to the project implementation and some disapproval - the site was 'disgusting'—it was not a manicured green-sward. However, stakeholders, visitors at the Opening and from multiple other events, are discovering great interest in the project. We continue to have the assistance of the Community Corrections Work Bus and they have been instrumental in the major after care and maintenance; replacing the material covering the access tracks - watering through the drought [there is no very little available water on-site], planting and mulching. The Goulburn Field Naturalist group Society have also assisted with the plantings, which are doing remarkably well for the conditions. We now have some water being held in the system; not much, but a start. In these drought conditions it is still important. As was hoped, plants have begun re-vegetating naturally, the fallen and conserved materials [carbon] retained in the system as bank and stream elements on the site are showing signs of use as habitat for insects and some small fungus growths have also begun.

The learning

The tiny group of seven Bungonia Park Land Manager (BPLM) volunteers also coped with resignations, death and serious illnesses during the evolution of this Stage 1 of the project. We learnt greater resilience in ourselves and each other; learnt that we had chosen really well in our patient funding body, stakeholders and project partners, and learnt that there is immense generosity and support in the wider community for work that is seen as valuable despite its difficulties. The BPLM continue now with the required 5 years of detailed site monitoring, photo logging, plant counts in 5 quadrats; stream watch monitoring in the downstream Bungonia Creek, weed management through contractors and mosaic weeding by BPLM volunteers. We have learnt that planting carefully with paper, initial watering, organic mulch and animal/wind protection, much will survive even with



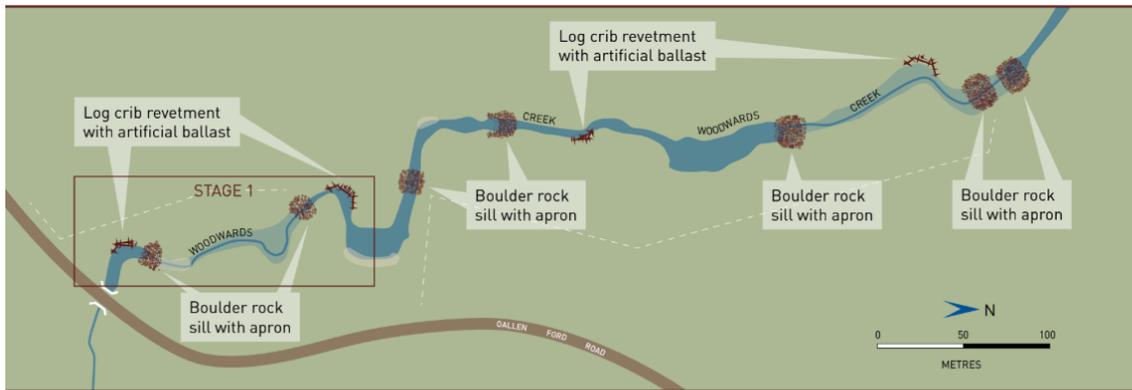
Woodwards Creek Project continued..

rare hand watering, even if however, it creates tempting food sources for increased numbers of macropods and feral deer, which we have not been able to overcome as yet. Each of these processes is allowing BPLM to gain a longitudinal understanding of re-vegetation processes on the site, knowledge which we can then pass on to our visitors. We expect that the project area will be colonised from adjacent bio-diverse zones and species will find a restored link in the riparian chain to the other Creek elements and to Bungonia National Park.

Key facts; The Woodward's Creek Stage 1 project area is 5 hectares of re-vegetation with endogenous Bungonia area species as well as 150 *Allocasuarina littoralis* to provide linkage with the Great Western Wildlife Corridor Project specifically, the Glossy Black Cockatoo (threatened Species) food tree corridor; Creek banks re-seeded and planted with *Acacia mearnsii* and *Lomandra longifolia*; [many did not survive the harsh drought]. Natural re-generation with lots of pioneer species is increasing, as we have finally had some rain. We also planted groups of *Pomaderris cotoneaster*, *Melaleuca parvistaminea*, *Bursariaspisosa*, *Hakea sericea*, *Hakea salicifolia*, *Banksia marginata* on the BPLM re-generation area and have had a high survival rate with these understorey plantings. Of the 238 total plants, 150 were 'Glossies in the Mist' *Allocasuarinas* from NPWS; of the other mixed 98, 91 have survived. Within the 1 metre sq Quadrats, the highest species number was 13 and lowest 5 with *Austrodanthonia* sp., *Themeda australis* and *Microlena stipoides* showing good representation as major elements in the count; therefore we are confident that colonisation of native species has a positive future.

WOODWARDS CREEK

STAGE 1: Rehabilitation for Water Quality and Habitat Repair BUNGONIA PARK TRUST PROJECT, MAY 2018



DESIGN: Soil Conservation Commission of NSW - Soil Conservation Services - Brad Davies
IMPLEMENTATION/PROJECT MANAGEMENT: NSW Soil Conservation Service - Lyall Bogue and Christie-Lee White
Total Vegetation Management Pty Ltd - Robert Ireland, Jack Tranter and John Ross
Bungonia Park Trust - Diana Moran (President), Anne Wiggan (Secretary) and Margo Crossley (Treasurer)
FINANCIAL SUPPORT: NSW Dept Primary Industries - Crown Lands - Integrated Rehabilitation Plan for Woodward's Creek Grant 2012
NSW Dept Primary Industries - Office of Environment and Heritage - NSW Environmental Trust Grant 2014

PARTNERSHIPS: Boral Peppertree Quarry, Marulan South Limestone - Angus Shedden, David Wesley and Sharon Makin
PEJAR Local Aboriginal Land Council/Delise Freeman - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage, NSW Department of Industry, Land and Water
NSW Dept Crown Lands, South East Local Land Services - David Hillborn (Bradwood and Nowral)
Upper Shoalhaven Landcare - Dr. Su Wild-River, NSW Department of Justice - Community Corrections Work Bus (Goulburn)
NSW Office of Environment - 'Save our Species' - The Great Western Wildlife Corridor Project - 'Glossies in the Mist'

This project aims to mitigate stream bed and bank erosion to recreate a 'chain of ponds' which is a stable in-stream habitat suitable to support a range of aquatic organisms. This will enhance the habitat values of the surrounding endangered Grassy Box Gum Woodland.

As channel velocity is slowed and water quality improves, the new areas should be colonised from adjacent eco-systems. More water will be stored within the system, supporting flora and fauna in and around the watercourse and providing improved water quality for the downstream Sydney Catchment.

This project has been assisted by the New South Wales Government through its Environmental Trust.



One Punters Highlight from the Two Fires Festival 2019.

by Geoff Davies

For me a particular highlight among many was the session on Saturday examining the theme of this year's festival, Food Health and Healing Land. The speakers presented a range of approaches to bringing the land, and ourselves, back to health, including permaculture, regenerative farming and indigenous cultivation, foods and burning methods. Several presenters spoke of their difficult journeys learning how to work with the land instead of trying to impose inappropriate European methods. Permaculture aims to create a food ecosystem that becomes self-supporting and productive, and it has been very successful in demonstrating the production of healthy food without the need for artificial fertilisers or poisons. Regenerative farming, on the other hand, seeks to allow the land and its native species to regenerate. Its main success so far is in regenerating perennial native pasture grasses. The perennial grasses put down deeper roots and, being much better adapted to local conditions, they survive droughts and pests better than introduced species. They were quickly killed off in the early days by overgrazing but farmers are now finding that they survive and thrive with short bursts of grazing interspersed with longer recovery times. This works even using introduced cattle, so long as the cattle are moved frequently. No-one yet seems to be trying to re-create the kangaroo grazing that dominated in the old days – although one speaker allowed he had unintentionally attracted a large contingent of roos.

Budawang Elder Noel Butler of Ulladulla pointed out that we eat mainly a few dozen species, out of a conventional selection of a few hundred, but in Australia there are thousands of food plants all around us that we have ignored until quite recently. Some of these are now being harvested and cultivated, although they tend to be marketed mainly overseas as 'superfoods'. C'mon Aussies! Noel also practised his preaching in the park over a pit fire, with delicious results.

Noel Webster of Nowra described traditional burning practices that he and others are reviving. The small-scale burns ensure diverse plants and animals and reduce the chance of destructive bushfires. He gave a fascinating account of many signs used to decide when and where 'cool burning' can succeed, including such subtleties as waiting for the first heavy dew in autumn, so freshly burnt ground will immediately receive moisture. With careful attention to signs from plants and animals a burn will restrict itself to a small area. He contrasted one of his burns with an out-of-control and destructive Whitefella burn in the same area on the same warm day. Clearly we would benefit from drawing on the thousands of years of experience our indigenous friends have to offer. I was not the only one to feel we are starting to move beyond permaculture, which has been based mainly on northern hemisphere plants, good as it is. We are at last learning about our own very different land and how to live in it. There is a great deal more to learn, and we need to get the word out so continuing destruction of the land can be slowed and reversed.

If you missed the Food, Health and Healing the Land session, you can watch the presentations online at the Two Fires Festival website: <http://twofiresfestival.org.au/video/>
Next is a summary of the speakers at the Food, Health and Healing the Land Session

Two Fires Festival 2019 continued.....



Watch Aunty Fran's presentation at the 2019 Two Fires Festival here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OeI6bQsJ9M&feature=emb_logo

Aunty Fran Bodkin In her words: “My name is Fran Bodkin and I am a descendant of the D'harawal people of the Bidiagal clan. I am an educator of D'harawal knowledge and hold a Bachelor of Arts and Sciences with five majors, one of which is Environmental Sciences, plus other post graduate degrees. Combining the knowledge passed down through my Aboriginal mother, my University education and my unquenchable journey of lifelong learning, I bring a holistic understanding of the environment.” Aunty Fran is an Elder on Campus at University of Western Sydney, serving on several UWS committees. She educates young Aboriginal kids at school and helps to prepare them for university, in an endeavour to develop their curiosity about 'this land', and to develop their desire to learn about our planet, and the natural sciences. She says that: “We have to learn that we can live in harmony within the environment and do not have to destroy it”. Aunty Fran has published three books on D'harawal culture, stories and natural resources. For some of Aunty Fran's stories see <https://dharawalstories.com/> -



Watch Noel's presentation at the 2019 Two Fires Festival here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KeGapH_7enA&feature=emb_logo

Noel Webster, Over the last 15 years, Noel has worked with the local Aboriginal community to develop approaches to land management that recognise the cultural values of biodiversity and the environment. Noel holds the position of Aboriginal Community Support Officer with Local Land Services. Mudjingaalbaraga Firesticks is a project that Noel has initiated and managed through Nowra Local Aboriginal Land Council, to initiate discussion on Traditional Knowledge Systems amongst local Aboriginal community groups & to develop and implement Traditional burn practices on Country. The project used low intensity fire to undertake a strategic approach to control local weed species, reduce fire hazard fuels, reconstruct Traditional Aboriginal landscapes, & restore native vegetation to improve biodiversity outcomes on Aboriginal community lands that have been exposed to the impacts of mistreatment and lack of recognition to Traditional land management practices. The project included a workshop to teach local community to understand landscapes, how to read the fire indicators, and when to apply the appropriate fire knowledge.

Two Fires Festival 2019 continued....



Watch Noel Butler's presentation at the 2019 Two Fires Festival here:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y9IYWYIHDxo&feature=emb_logo

Noel Butler, Budawang Elder from the Yuin Nation, is a qualified teacher, educator, mentor, horticulturist, chef and historian. Together with his wife Trish, Noel has been teaching, delivering programs and working with Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal adults and children for over 35 years. Their Aboriginal Cultural Education programs are provided through "Nuragunyu", which derives from two Dhurga words: "Nura" meaning Country, and "Gunyu" meaning Swan. "The things we teach find their origins in history and real life, from an Aboriginal perspective. We seek to offer this with sensitivity and respect to all who want to share the experience of this great land we call home. We will talk about bush skills, bush food, history, lifestyle, music, song and dance."



Watch David's presentation at the 2019 Two Fires Festival here:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qkh3dyQ-7jo&feature=emb_logo

David Marsh, Boorowa grazier, is acknowledged for alerting primary producers to the fact that a healthy catchment & long-term profitability go hand in hand. He was pivotal in the early growth of the Landcare movement. David's property "Allendale" has long been a proving ground for sympathetic land management. David was one of the first people in the Boorowa district to use direct seeding techniques for planting trees, & his on-ground practice has been hugely influential in educating other landholders, with the Marsh family hosting thousands of visitors to their property since 1989. David has also shared his knowledge away from the farm, addressing over 50 farmer groups and conferences across Australia on holistic management, planning for drought, healthy soils and biodiversity.



Watch Bronwyn's presentation at the 2019 Two Fires Festival here:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qkh3dyQ-7jo&feature=emb_logo

Bronwyn Richards and Helen Lynch own and run Wynlen House, a small enterprise following the age-old tradition of growing organic food to be consumed locally. At Wynlen House Urban Micro Farm they grow vegetables, and raise sheep, poultry and pigs for meat on a large suburban block in the village of Braidwood, NSW. The Farm's freshly harvested produce is sold every Saturday morning in Braidwood's main street from a market stall.

Two Fires Festival 2019 continued.....



Martin Royds is a fifth generation beef cattle farmer from Braidwood. His family arrived in the district in early 1842. Martin has been farming since the 1980s and is an awarded Landcare advocate. His main farm, 'Jillamatong' is 450 hectares, and he manages another 1200 hectares in the district. His goal is "is to manage the land to be commercially profitable, regenerative and an enjoyable place for family and friends to be."

Watch Martin's presentation at the 2019 Two Fires Festival here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6WOo2wDoYIQ&feature=emb_logo



David Watson, from Millpost Farm. The discovery of a site of significant Aboriginal heritage has brought farmers and Traditional Owners in NSW together in a rare collaboration. Indigenous archaeologist and anthropologist Dave Johnston discovered an ancient axe quarry site on a NSW property called "Millpost" that is now listed on the New South Wales special sites register. Since then the owners of the property, the Watsons, and the Traditional Owners of the area, the Ngunnawal and Nambri people have cooperated to both protect and promote the area. It's a rare collaboration because very few sites of significant Aboriginal heritage listed in NSW are on privately held land. The Watsons are local landcare champions and graziers who have worked tirelessly to improve the cleared and windswept landscape, just west of Bungendore. The landscape is now dominated by trees planted over the past few decades: 15 kilometres of windbreaks and woodlots that join remnant native vegetation to form wildlife corridors, while sheltering stock, wildlife and pasture from the desiccating summer winds and the winter gales. The trees provide firewood for our hearth, timber for building, and fodder for the sheep during the extremes of our seasons.

Watch David's presentation at the 2019 Two Fires Festival here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Ue9U2Na1Ns&feature=emb_logo

Millpost - The Quarry

This story has been sourced from: <https://www.nativetitlesa.org/aboriginalway/one-place-many-stories>

The discovery of a site of significant Aboriginal heritage has brought farmers and Traditional Owners in NSW together in a rare collaboration. Indigenous archaeologist and anthropologist Dave Johnston discovered an ancient axe quarry site on a NSW property called "Millpost" that has now been listed on the New South Wales special sites register. Since then the farmers of the property and the Traditional Owners of the area, the Ngunnawal and Nambri people have cooperated to protect and promote the area. It's a rare collaboration because very few sites of significant Aboriginal heritage listed in NSW are on privately held land. It seems that for many years farmers have kept heritage discoveries on their property secret. Dave Johnston told an audience at Flinders University recently about the site and the work that had been done to protect and promote it. He spoke to Aboriginal Way after the event to tell us more and explained how he came to identify the axe quarry site after being invited for a picnic by the Watson family who live on the property.

Uncovering the site

"We were invited out for a picnic with a group of friends, to go up to David Watson's favourite place on the property, up on this hill where he grew up as a kid, it was his favourite place. "He was hoping there might be something there. I looked around, I couldn't see any evidence straight away, but I said, look, it's a good visual point, you can see the Brindabellas and the various ranges around Canberra, into the valley, Millpost Valley. "But then I looked around again as we were leaving, I thought what was a granite outcrop, I looked and saw this blue stone. I thought, oh, that's a bit different, it's been chipped too. And I thought, oh, it's a vehicle's chipped this big block. Then it just dawned on me as I looked around, this isn't granite, it's basalt, which is the most popular stone for making stone axes around the country. "And I realised that this outcrop was basalt, not granite... and I could see it growing in my eyes, and as being a massive outcrop of basalt that has been quarried. And the axe blanks were there specifically for making axes, and it was an axe quarry site for the metadolerite" he said. Mr Johnston had worked with the local Nambri and Ngunnawal communities in the area for over 35 years and so immediately spoke to them about the find at Millpost. "So I thought, well here we are, we'll stop here. We'll go and contact the Elders. The farmers were keen to meet with the traditional owners, the custodians" he said.

Having the site recognised

Dave Johnston worked with the Traditional Owners, the farmers and the Office of Environment and Heritage New South Wales and the outcrop was recorded as "majorly significant Aboriginal site" and a special site for the state. "Just recently the Minister in New South Wales declared it an Aboriginal place on their special list, that's a separate list to just the general Aboriginal sites registrar. So it's quite a significant find. "It's just such an important and great opportunity for the communities to come together and share and recognise and look after the place, which they're doing" Mr Johnston said.

Millpost - The Quarry

Working together

The Watson farming family were happy to collaborate with the traditional custodians on protecting the site. It can be a rare attitude still for many pastoralists and property owners said Mr Johnston. "The original false news was, you know, from a native title, came that Aboriginal peoples and farmers just couldn't be friends, so to speak. Aboriginal people were going to steal their land through this native title. And all these false news and false stories that have gone on. "The Watsons broke the mold in saying 'well look, we actually want to know about the local community'". The Watsons have been on the property for five generations and expressed a respect for the Aboriginal people before them as well as an interest in the full history of the site. "There are many histories, but if people who love country, their families, have an attachment to the land, and look, are worried and concerned about its future and their children's future, who better than Aboriginal communities and property owners?" asked Mr Johnston. "There are so many histories. And everyone has an angle of their history. But that is shared" he said. Engaging with the site was also significant for local Ngunnawal and Nambri people, including Matilda House, Molly Bell and Carl and James Mundy. "The Aboriginal people that came to the site, even though they hadn't been out Millpost in their generation, finding the sites was part of their heritage. "This is a process where people are coming together to say, hey, we actually do care about our local history and heritage, and if governments aren't adequately, I would argue, looking after our heritage, Australia's heritage and Indigenous heritage, then you know, the locals and good people can" Mr Johnston said.

Economic opportunities

The significant find at Millpost offers potential for tourism and other economic development, with people working in partnership said Mr Johnston. "We've just run an Indigenous outreach program utilising that site and hospitality of the Watsons." "It's the start. Now we're growing it, and we're also looking, can we get some economic opportunities alternate for the farmers, having some cultural tourism both European and Aboriginal with the Traditional Owners working together in partnerships, and that's what we're starting. It can't be everywhere do that, but it's certainly working here" he said.

Overcoming fear about finding heritage

This particular site, while special in the way it has been managed, is not unique in terms of heritage across the nation explained Mr Johnston. "Australia as a whole is a cultural landscape. Aboriginal people have been here for 65,000 plus years, their survival, everyone, you know, making tools, implements, that is our archaeology. That's our physical remains that are there, our existence symbolising it." "It's our footprints in the sand, so to speak" said Mr Johnston. In the past, property owners may have been reluctant to share their finds Mr Johnston said. "Every farm would have a collection. However, it's illegal to collect and destroy sites by collecting them, but in the old days everyone did it "So we always said, you know, every farmer has the best collection under the house. And that's true. "The difficulty is that

Millpost - The Quarry

there's fears that 'we've taken the artefacts, we might get sued'. Well, it is illegal now to do that, but the old collections prior to that legislation are fine" "For years, because they didn't want black fellas coming in to take their land, so... But when they realised they don't, there's an opportunity for a conversation" he said. That conversation has commenced, led by examples such as Millpost and changing attitudes among farmers Mr Johnston said. "The ANU just the last couple of weeks have been running some workshops with farmers and Aboriginal groups about some of the collections they've had under their sheds, collected from years ago before the laws said it was illegal to do that. "But more importantly the Watsons, and other farmers like that, are talking to their neighbours, talking to their family down the road, talking at the local shows. "They are the better ones to let the other farmers know, 'hey, this is a great relationship we've got here, we've got so much to gain and little to lose'. "The other farmers will listen to the other farmers first. Breaking down those stumbling blocks that are actually just glass houses is wonderful to see, and watching the community grow in this way" Mr Johnston said.

You can see a video about the Millpost project here: <https://vimeo.com/184172289>

By Lucy Kingston

In 2019 thanks to the hard work of Dave and also Roy Barker and Barinna South from OEH, the site was gazetted by the NSW government a protected Aboriginal Place. More than 100 guests including traditional owners, local graziers, friends and family joined the Watson Family for the ceremony, a walk and tree planting at the site.



Mongarlowe River map

The poster version is available to members for \$20 (via email) and at the VIC for \$25 to the general public. If you'd like the Fine Art print on acid-free cotton paper \$50 for members \$75 for non-members, These have long term durability- and beauty!

FineArt Map (\$50) or PosterMap (\$20)

To order Email Sue Doran (secretaryfmr@gmail.com) or Andrew Clarke (andrewclark5678@gmail.com)

THE MONGARLOWE RIVER

"Little River" from its source to the Shoalhaven

This map shows part of the traditional country of the Dhurga Language Group - ref. Noel Butler

PUBLIC ACCESS POINTS

- Q1 Mongarlowe River Picnic Area Monga National Park
- Q2 Daryurus Picnic Area, Monga National Park
- Q3 Burke's Crossing
- Q4 Mongarlowe Village at Bridge

WATER RACES

- Ah Hak's Diggings
- Bell's Creek
- Burke's Crossing (1.5 km South)
- Curraoan
- Feagans Creek
- Hull Moon
- Long Flat (Major's Creek)
- Major's Creek
- Nettleton's Creek
- Newbury's Point
- Sapling Yard Creek
- Sheep Station Creek
- Tantulean Creek
- Ten Mile Race (2 kms East of Mongarlowe)
- Upper Araluen
- Warrumbucca Creek
- Wolby's (2 kms North-West of Mongarlowe)

RARE MAMMALS

- Agile Antechinus
- Easter Freetail Bat
- Featherfall Glider
- Golden-Tipped Bat
- Greater Broad-Nosed Bat
- Greater Glider
- Koala (Coombes*)
- Long-Nosed Bandicoot (Budla*)
- Platypus (Yarabul*)
- Pygmy Possum
- Spotted Tail Quoll
- Sugar Glider
- Water Rat (Kakali*)
- Yellow-Bellied Glider

HISTORIC GOLD MINES

- X1 Alma Mine
- X2 Broad Gully Alluvials
- X3 Day Dawn Gold Mine
- X4 Dog's Head Mine
- X5 Earl of Granville Mine
- X6 Golden Streak Mine
- X7 Great Britain Line of Reef
- X8 Homeward Bound (Rise and Shine)
- X9 Pride of Mongarlowe Claim
- X10 Red White and Blue Claim
- X11 Warrumbucca Mines

RARE FISH

- Macquarie Perch
- Long-Finned Eel
- Mountain Galaxia

RARE PLANTS

- Araluen Gum
- Bell's Creek Zieria
- Blue Bush Kacacia
- Chef's-Cap Correa
- Clyde Mountain Tea Tree
- Corang River Cypress
- Monga Bitter Pea
- Monga Waratah
- Mongarlowe Mallee
- Plumwood/Pinkwood
- Rhomboid Boronia
- Rope Rush

FROGS (Goodtadt*)

- Banjo Frog
- Common Eastern Froglet
- Giant Burrowing Frog
- Haswell's Toadlet
- Littlejohn's Tree Frog
- Peres's Tree Frog
- Smooth Toadlet
- Spotted Grass Frog
- Striped Marsh Frog
- Sluttering Barred Frog
- Whistling Tree Frog

REPTILES

- Black Rock Skink
- Blue-Tongue Lizard
- Copperhead Snake
- Eastern Brown Snake
- Eastern Tiger Snake (Gurr*)
- Eastern Water Dragon
- Jasby Lizard (Banbaran*)
- Lace Monitor (Barnaga*)
- Long-Necked Tortoise
- Red-Bellied Black Snake (Mundha*)
- Water Skink

RARE BIRDS

- Barking Owl
- Emerald Dove
- Fork-Tailed Swift
- Gang Gang Cockatoo
- Glossy Black Cockatoo
- Masked Owl
- Olive Whistler
- Pink Robin
- Powerful Owl
- Rainbow Bee Eater
- Rufous Fantail
- Sooty Owl
- Spotted Quail-Thrush

HISTORIC SITES

- 01 Aboriginal stone tool work site
- 02 Judith Wright's "Edge"
- 03, 05, 06, 09 old Aboriginal campsites
- 04 Site of Chinese Cemetery and Joss House
- 07 2003 Forest Protest and tree sit
- 08 Site of Old Monga saw-mill
- 010 Aboriginal Reserve gazetted in 1976, revoked in 1916

"CHINESE WALLS" (STONE PACKED EMBANKMENTS)

- Ah Hak's Diggings
- Araluen Creek
- Bell's Creek
- Bentley's Point
- Broad Gully
- Curraoan
- Flanagan's Point
- Major's Creek
- Sapling Yard Creek
- Tantulean Creek

TUNNELS

- Broad Gully
- Hull Moon
- Major's Creek
- Sydney Heads

1853 Aboriginal people of 2 tribes meet to fight here, peace is made, then a three-day corroboree is held to celebrate. **

ARALUEN Place of Water Lilies

MORUYA A water crossing

Aboriginal words & place names
ref. Noel Butler and A.W. Reed
** Monga intro: ed. Robyn Steller

Drawn by Christine Payne for The Friends of The Mongarlowe

FRIENDS OF THE MONGARLOWE RIVER INC

preserving the integrity of our river and its catchment

Taxpayers have paid dearly to destroy forest near the Corn Trail: An update

By Harry Laing - Convener, Forest Working Group of Friends of the Mongarlowe River

Now that harvesting has ceased in compartment 517 of Buckenbowra State Forest (adjacent to the Corn Trail) it is timely to give an update to all those concerned about the logging. Following questions in parliament by David Shoebridge MLC, it was revealed that the total income received by Forestry Corp for timber, chip and firewood from Compartment 517 was \$186,113. Friends of the Mongarlowe River (FMR) estimated that they would receive between \$95,000 and \$200,000, so our estimates were correct. When questioned about the costs of logging in 517, the government's answer was: 'the costs for these activities are not recorded on a per compartment basis.' In other words, the government tries to keep the costs secret.

FMR estimated costs could be around \$1,000,000, including the substantial costs of roadmaking. The Forestry Corp CEO, Nick Roberts, recently told Mr Shoebridge that the cost of harvest and haul operations was \$1,084,522. The shocking reality is that logging Compartment 517 was done at a very large loss. NSW taxpayers have paid Forestry Corp to destroy 294 ha of forest, surrounded on three sides by National Park and on the fourth by a special exclusion zone. The main uses of the timber were 34% for woodchips and 28% for firewood. So a forest adjacent to the Monga National Park was destroyed at a big loss to produce low grade products. FMR estimates that at least 100 Greater Gliders died when compartment 517 was logged. Their needs were completely disregarded. Given the value of our native forests as carbon stores, and the intrinsic value of their biodiversity, it is a scandal to be cutting them down at a substantial financial loss.

Recently, the Victorian Government has said that all logging in that state's native forests will cease by 2030, with a phase-out from 2025 and transition to harvesting only plantation timber. The unsustainable native forest logging industry in Victoria is in decline, as the volume of available hardwood timber has plummeted, while there is a stark realisation that, if such logging continues, then the Leadbeater's Possum and the Greater Glider would probably become extinct. FMR will continue to lobby the government of NSW to do the sensible thing, and stop wasting public money on destructive logging of native forests.

The economics of logging hardwood native forests do not stack up. We are now paying for our native forests to be destroyed when they are worth so much more left standing. There are currently several compartments on the logging schedule in our area for next year, including compartments either side of the King's Highway near the Western Distributor Road. Forestry Corp plans to log beside the highway. In early March the Deputy Premier, John Barilaro, told me and another FMR member, before the state election, that logging compartment 517 was 'not worth it' (Braidwood Times 7 March 2019). We urge readers of the Braidwood Times to make their views known to Mr Barilaro yet again. After all, it's only 30 years since New Zealand phased out logging of native forests, because they realised it was not sustainable.

Tips & ideas to support young people to create change



Intrepid Landcare, as it says on their website (<https://intrepidlandcare.org/>), is an organisation that aims to empower young people to lead on stuff that matters. They provide a common space to inspire, connect and empower young people to act and lead with Landcare. The organisation was started in 2015 by Megan Rowlatt and Naomi Edwards, and is now run by a young and passionate Board and creative group of contributors with diverse backgrounds.

Their vision is for young people to be connected with their communities and to be caring for the environment, and their mission is to empower young people to lead on important matters that make a difference.

Intrepid Landcare has been researching and designing a way forward for local communities to come together to co-design exciting and inclusive environmental projects and programs, with young people and for young people. A new workbook has been launched. You can get a copy of the workbook right here!: https://intrepidlandcare.b-cdn.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Intrepid-Way-Resource-2019_online-version.pdf

The workbook and workshop package aims to fill one of many gaps when it comes to designing youth engagement opportunities for young people. The objective of our package is to overcome the lack of young people contributing to the design of projects, as most often, youth engagement opportunities are designed without young people contributing to the story.

Backed by the latest research, they have designed this workbook for young people and people who support young people so they can walk through some simple and creative steps which help young people create change. This involves identifying where young people are in the community, busting assumptions we hold about young people, through to the power of storytelling and crafting your why for powerful engagement, and how to string project ideas together that have no boundaries or limits. The workbook is designed to be walked through via an Intrepid Way workshop, but is also useful as a stand-alone tool to guide you through these processes step by step.

You can also find the workbook here: <https://landcare.nsw.gov.au/resources/useful-interesting-things/tips-ideas-to-support-young-people-to-create-change/>

David Marsh's Reading List

Aldo Leopold, *A Sand County Almanac*, should be required reading for anyone managing land, google The Land Ethic; The River of the Mother of God; Round River; For the Love of the Land

Savory and Butterfield, *Holistic Management*

Mary E White, *The Greening of Gondwana*; *After the Greening*; *Listen our Land is Crying*; *Running Down*, *Water in a Changing Land*; *Earth Alive*, from *Microbes to a Living Planet*;

Lynn Margulis, *Microcosmos* and *A Garden of Microbial Delights*

Rachel Carson, *Under the Sea Wind*; *Silent Spring*, *The Edge of the Sea*; *The Sea Around Us*

James Lovelock, *Healing Gaia*; *Gaia*; *The Vanishing Face of Gaia*; *Rough Ride to the Future*

John Muir, *Nature Writings*

Tim Flannery, *The Future Eaters*; *The Weather Makers*; *Country*; *Atmosphere of Hope*

Fred Pearce, *When the Rivers Run Dry*; *The Land Grabbers*

Hunter and Amory Lovins and Paul Hawken, *Natural Capitalism*

Paul Hawken, *The Ecology of Commerce*; *Blessed Unrest*; *Drawdown*

Wendell Berry, *The Art of the Commonplace*; *The Unsettling of America*

Bill Vitek, Wes Jackson, (editors), *The Virtues of Ignorance*

Ilya Prigogine, *Order Out of Chaos*; *The End of Certainty*

Fritjov Capra, *The Web of Life*; *The Systems View of Life*

Jeremy Rifkin, *Entropy, into the Greenhouse World*

Elizabeth Kolbert, *Field Notes from a Catastrophe*

Patrick McCully, *Silenced Rivers*

Charles Darwin, *On the Origin of Species*; *The Descent of Man*

Andre Voisin, *Grass Productivity*

Sir Albert Howard, *An Agricultural Testament*

FH King, *Farmers of Forty Centuries*

Friend Sykes, *Humus and the Farmer*

Jacks and White, *The Rape of the Earth*

Louise E Howard, *The Earth's Green Carpet*

George Mossop, *Running the Gauntlet*

Donald Worster, *Natures Economy*

Bill Gammage, *The Biggest Estate on Earth*

EO Wilson, *The Diversity of Life*

Masanobu Fukuoka, *The One Straw Revolution*; *The Road Back to Nature*; *The Natural Way of Farming*

Alex Podolinski, *Biodynamic Farming*

Bill Mollison, *Permaculture*

Peter Andrews, *Back from the Brink*; *Beyond the Brink*

Wes Jackson, *Consulting the Genius of the Place*

WEH Stanner, *The Dreaming and other Essays*

Eugene P Odum, *Basic Ecology*; *Fundamentals of Ecology*

Jared Diamond, *Guns Germs and Steel*, *Collapse*

J. Bronowski, *The Ascent Of Man*

E. F. Schumacher, *Small is Beautiful*

Louis Bromfield, *Malabar Farm*

Barr and Cary, *Greening a Brown land*

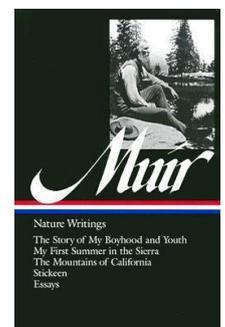
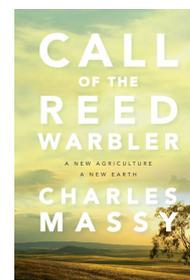
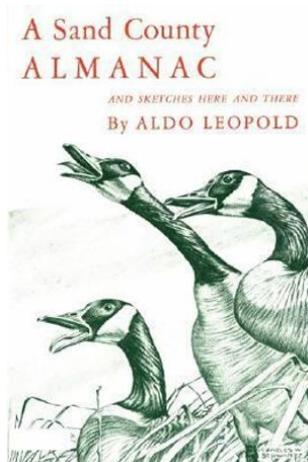
Major Thomas Mitchell, *Three Expeditions into Eastern Australia*

Captain Charles Sturt, *Journal of Exploration of the Murrumbidgee*

Charles Massy, *Call of the Reed Warbler*, *A New Agriculture*, *A New Earth*

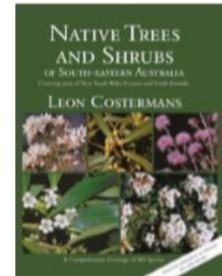
Isabella Tree, *Wilding*

Gabe Brown, *Dirt to Soil*

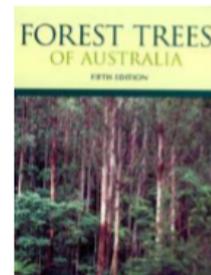


Recommended reading for native seed collection and propagation (from Lyn Ellis)

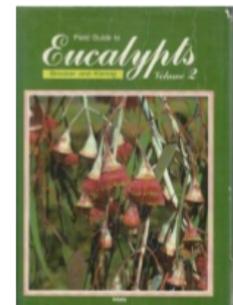
Native trees and shrubs of SouthEastern Australia by Leon Costermans



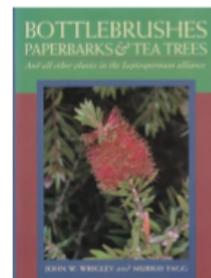
Forest Trees of Australia by DJ Boland, MIH Brooker, GM Chippendale, N Hall, BPM Hyland, RD Johnston, DA Kleinig, MW McDonald, JD Turner and CSIRO



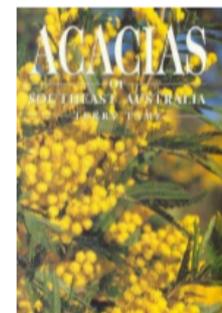
Field guide to eucalypts by M.I.H. Brooker and D.A. Kleinig



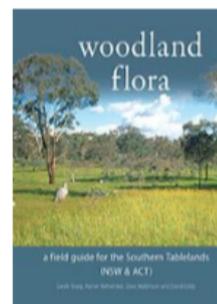
Bottlebrushes, Paperbarks and Tea Trees by John Wrigley, Murray Fagg (Hardback, 1993)



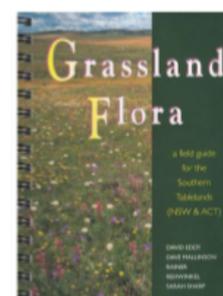
Acacias of Southeast Australia by Terry Tame - Kangaroo Press



Woodland Flora, A Field Guide for the Southern Tablelands (NSW & ACT) Sarah Sharp, Rainer Rehwinkel, Dave Mallinson, David Eddy



Grassland Flora - A Field Guide for the Southern Tablelands by David Eddy, Dave Mallinson, Rainer Rehwinkel and Sarah Sharp





Upper
Shoalhaven
Landcare



ABOUT THE UPPER SHOALHAVEN LANDCARE NETWORK

The Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council (USLC) is the representative umbrella body of Landcare in the Upper Shoalhaven region of South Eastern NSW. The Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council represents around 300 members and 20 Landcare groups. The organisation is overseen by seven-member executive committee and 1 part-time staff located at the Local Land Services Office, 42 Ryrie Street in Braidwood who can be contacted on 02 48422594 OR at upper.shoalhaven@gmail.com

The Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council is the umbrella group for 20 Landcare Groups in the region. USLC has been in existence since 1995. The region is part of the South East Local Land Services Area and extends from Marulan, Wingello and Tallong in the north, to Snowball and the top of Currumbene Creek in the south. In the east we are bordered by Bungendore and Taylors Creek, while our western boundary is defined by the Minuma Range, Currowan State Forest, The Budawang Range and Moreton National Park. The Upper Deua and Lake George Catchment areas are also part of our network featuring the town centres of Majors Creek, Araluen, Tarago and Bungendore.

Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council

PO Box 97,

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Phone: (02) 4842 2594

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Incorporated no. 1586113

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**Local Land
Services**

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