

Winter 2015

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Bombay Landcare Glossy Black Cockatoo Project

By Bronwyn Johnson, Bombay Landcare Group

The Glossy Black Cockatoo is listed as vulnerable in NSW and the ACT. Historically several factors have contributed to its vulnerability, including land clearing, ongoing loss of hollow-bearing trees, urbanisation and over-grazing.

The Glossy Black's vulnerability is also related to its specialist feeding habits. It feeds exclusively on Allocasuarina species (aka Casuarina, commonly called "Sheoak"), a tree that is particularly susceptible to grazing animals (stock and native) which find its seedlings and young trees very palatable, particularly in drier seasons.

As part of the Kosciuszko to Coast Program (see p8 and below) the Glossy Black Cockatoo project aims to increase the area and connectivity between these cockatoos' foraging habitat by increasing the availability of Allocasuarina species, their main source of food.

Kosciuszko to Coast (K2C) is a partnership of thirteen organisations and numerous businesses, landowners and individuals working with landholders in South East NSW (K2C region) to connect, conserve and recover our grasslands, woodlands,

riparian and wetland areas, small bush birds, arboreal mammals and treasured forest communities and species. K2C is also a proud regional partner of national-scale connectivity initiative, the Great Eastern Ranges.

Glossy Black Cockatoos (48 cm) are smaller than the larger Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo (56-66cm) for which they are often mistaken. Glossy Blacks are most readily distinguished by their broad bulbous bill, low rounded crest and the male bird's bright red tail panels. The female has paler tail panels and irregular yellow blotches on face and neck. They are quiet feeders whose tough, specially shaped beak is designed to split the woody cones of Allocasuarinas for the seeds inside.



Glossy Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus lathami*) Female, Kobbie Creek, SE Queensland, Australia By Aviceda (Own work) [CC BY-SA 3.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>)], via Wikimedia Commons

Breeding occurs every two years with a single egg being laid from late January to early June. After a long nesting period the young are de-

pendent on their parents for at least 12 months. Large hollow-bearing trees are needed for breeding, emphasising the need to re-

Continued on p8



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 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. Our full publication policy is under development and a draft will be provide on request.

President's report

By Martin Royds, President, Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council

Welcome all to the Winter report. When the last Perspective came out I was in Africa looking at a pig project aimed at regenerating pastures, building soil and empowering small-scale farmers. I spent time with some very inspiring farmers who had grown up with Allen Savory (founder of Holistic Management). It was great to meet such enthusiastic and resilient people. They have some problems and challenges we fortunately don't have, like being shot at, chased by lions, or having their land confiscated. Interestingly, their 'worst' weeds were wattles, and eucalypts grow like crazy. Very envious.

Its been a big quarter again for Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council. The Executive has started a strategic planning process to set us up and lead us into the future. This was led by Richard Stone and Dr Su Wild-River.

I was able to share our positive plan for the future with the nine other District Landcare Council representatives who came to Braidwood for a South East Landcare Council meeting recently. They were impressed we were being so pro-active, and wanted copies of our program.

We are also working with our partners in the South East Local Land Services. This work involves sharing with them our strategic plan, and how it can fit in with government goals for natural resource management and support of primary industries in the NSW South East Region. This newsletter is an example of our contribution to public good outcomes. The Landcare Perspective goes out to nearly 1,000 people each quarter. The articles continue to promote innovative and regenerative farming practices, together with biodiversity and other natural resource outcomes.

We also welcome as honorary members, many sitting members of governments in our area. These include the Honourable John Barilaro, Member for Eden Monaro, Dr Peter Hendy, Member for Monaro, and all of the Palerang Councillors. We hope that these new memberships will help to build connections between our grassroots members and broader decision makers.

As Su has explained in her article, the funding issues continue to be a challenge for us to keep excellent people in official positions. We have been extremely fortunate to have somebody of Dr Su Wild-River's skills and enthusiasm to help us through these challenging times. She has re-invigorated Landcare in a time when most of our compatriots have been wilting. We have been able to be progressive and positive in setting up for a blooming future.

These efforts have led to an increase in Landcare groups and an increase in membership. We have achieved project outcomes above expectations and below budget. In one year with Su we have brought in over \$220,000 in new project funding from grants using \$80,000 in government funding. We have undertaken strategic planning activities with our local Landcare groups, and within the USLC executive, that are setting us up for the future. Su has submitted proposals for many exciting new projects and partnerships. As one example, we have partnered with the Braidwood Regional Arts Group in an Expression of Interest for a project on *Art-Culture and Agri-Culture*. If successful, this project will provide many new connections between the Landcare movement and our local artistic communities.

The government has come up with this crazy idea that having people on tenterhooks, relying on competitive grants will drive productivity improvements. Research has shown that it costs four times as much to re-train and put someone back into a position that has become vacant. So it is my opinion that continuity of the Landcare Support Officer is a far better use of public money than these uncertain grant programs.

We have positioned ourselves so that we won't be left with a gap. Until September, when we hope to for success in our next funding guarantee, Richard Stone has agreed to continue Su's initiatives and add his own enthusiasm and skills to continue strengthening the Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Organisation for the future. We are lucky in this area because we have so many enthusiastic and diversely skilled community members who are willing to give their time and knowledge to improving our economic, environmental and social wellbeing.

I look forward to working with Richard and his new Local Leaders skills in harnessing our local talent to further grow and strengthen the Landcare legacy.

All going to plan, in September we will be able to recruit a Landcare Support Officer for the longer term. So all those interested, start preparing your CVs.



Youth and Landcare

By Rebecca Klomp



Rebecca Klomp at Regen Festival 2015

People involved in Landcare commonly express the need to engage and recruit the local youth in the programs and environmental issues of the region. How do we involve youth with Landcare? This seems to be a recurrent question throughout the country. It also is a topic I have been contemplating for a while now. For me, it is easy, I want to be involved and connected with the land and food production of the region but how can we get more people involved to build up a motivated Landcare youth network.

After speaking to young people who attended the REGEN festival just outside of Majors Creek in February this year, it left me a lot to think about. Most people were in the same mind that caring for the land is important. However, caring for the land is difficult for a number of reasons; Majority of the younger generation is occupied with growing up, adventuring, relationships, study and careers. Most express having little time, being over committed and having unstable living arrangements. The most fascinating point coming from the youth at REGEN was the lack of interesting opportunity to help. Some even expressing that they are not necessarily interested in helping the programs already established as they feel like they have no control

or say over the work and it can end up feeling like free labour. Some people also touched on the ideas of a generational gap needing to be bridged and that Landcare needs to be constantly evolving and adapting to the times and ideas of the younger generations.

What I would like to see for Braidwood and the surrounding regions is an Upper Shoalhaven Youth Landcare network, based off the framework of the Illawarra Youth Landcare Group. The network should be the means to bring together young people from different regions in the Upper Shoalhaven area, to learn new

techniques and hear about regional environmental issues, socialise, exchange ideas, and create general awareness and confidence in the local youth. I'd like to see engagement that is flexible and infrequent but repeated activities. This engagement should provide positive and meaningful experiences offered in one off unique events, working bees, workshops and field days.

Below I have listed a few ideas for events and workshops aimed at the youth, I'd love to hear your ideas.

- Bird watching and stream watch field days
- Bush food and material workshops
- Canoeing and weed identification
- Habitat restoration – nest box building and installation
- Scat and track identification
- Small scale market gardens
- Backyard/farm self sufficiency ideas and workshops
- Community biodiversity surveying skills
- Local WWOOFA's -giving their time for in exchange for food.
- Gardening and local food workshop
- Attracting butterflies, bees and birds to your garden

B4CC Biodiversity Program Felicity Sturgiss

FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR REVEGETATION PROJECTS.

APPLY NOW FOR SPRING PLANTING.

The B4CC program is looking for landholders interested in creating 1ha biodiversity patches on their properties. These can also be riparian, however rounder patches are preferred as a means of reducing 'the edge effect'. Support available is financial and personnel based. A common approach is for Landcare to fund the cost of fencing materials and tubestock while landholders provide the fencing and planting labour. Funding can be from \$2,500 to \$4,000/ha however every site is different. Expression of Interest forms can be mailed out, downloaded from the website or collected from the Landcare/Local Land Services office at 42 Ryrie Street Braidwood. <http://tinyurl.com/oaff6yn> for a form or call Felicity on 0427 111 101



An example of biodiversity patches in a rural landscape at 'Mundango' (see article on page 16)

Biodiversity program update

Restoration and Research

The 'Snappygumbo' restoration project is well underway with the 95ha property recently being visited by 'Enviroquest' contractors who are removing pine wildlings, serrated tussock, willows, broom poplars from 2km of Shoalhaven river frontage. [\(continued pg 6\)](#)



Photo credit: Scott Hartman of 'Enviroquest'.

Mudsuckers in our midst

The rats, rabbits or cockroaches of the river: European carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) are in the Shoalhaven system as many



Image by Stuart Mitchell. Source: <http://www.pestsmart.org.au/pest-animal-species/european-carp/learn/>

people know. They have been here for decades, however we don't have a good grasp on their population density, and whether numbers are stable, increasing or decreasing. If they are stable or decreasing it

will be a first for anywhere. The international union for the conservation of nature (IUCN) list carp among the world's worst 100 invasive species. It's an interesting list – including *Acacia mearnsii* (black wattle) *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, rabbits, Nile perch, cats, and the myna bird or Indian myna.

The reasons for Carps bad reputation are largely threefold.

- 1) Carp are voracious filter feeders. This means they sift through the mud and debris on the floor of a waterway sucking up eggs and uprooting vegetation but most significantly, stirring up all the sediment so that waterways that were once clear are now continuously muddy. This presents a range of complications here and around the world. Most Australian fish have evolved in clear water and are visual hunters. In turbid water they cannot see their prey. This turbidity also reduces the ability of light to penetrate the water and in turn, reduces photosynthesis occurring underwater by submerged vegetation. In systems like the Murray-Darling these plants are very important in the oxygenation of the water. And guess what [\(continued overleaf\)](#)



B4CC Biodiversity Program

2) Carp are extremely well adapted very low oxygen content (they gulp air at the surface) and temperatures ranging from 3—35 degrees &

3) a single female carp can produce over a million eggs per year.

Carp were one of the species in high abundance below the dam wall at Tallowa after it was completed in 1976. While the dam has caused a major impediment to the migration of carp up river, it has also impaired the migration of many other species as Gehrke et al state in their 2001 report:

'The most striking result was an accumulation of fish directly below the dam, including carp, Coxs gudgeon, striped gudgeon, common galaxias, long-finned eels, short-finned eels, Australian bass, striped mullet, freshwater mullet and freshwater herring. More species were encountered below the dam than at other sites in the system. Juvenile and small fish (<100 mm) made up a large proportion (79%) of the fish below the dam. Natural populations of ten migratory species (Australian bass, Australian grayling, striped mullet, freshwater mullet, freshwater herring, striped gudgeon, empire gudgeon, short-headed lamprey, common galaxias and bullrouths) are presumed to be extinct above the dam as a result of obstructed fish passage.'



Tallowa Dam on the Shoalhaven River. (Image courtesy of the SCA <http://www.sca.nsw.gov.au/water/visit/tallowa-dam>)

Techniques, technology and innovations for Carp Catching



Photocredit: pestsmart.org.au

Acoustic attractants and repellents

Thwaites and Fredberg (2013) name carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) 'hearing specialists'.

Carp can detect sound

pressure over a broad frequency range (up to several KHz) and at low sound intensities. This means that carp can detect the lowest noise levels encountered in low flow or stagnant freshwater habitats such as wind, waves and the sounds of other animals. It is likely that this aptitude has evolved for use in very muddy or turbid waters where sight is limited. Using this sensitivity, scientists have had success attracting carp by playing sounds underwater. In this way previously dispersed animals become concentrated and are more easily trapped and removed. Research into what sounds works best is ongoing.

Other methods

Daughterless carp, pheromone attractants, koi herpes virus, exclusion, physical removal and chemical poisons have all been attempted. Daughterless carp is an exciting development that modifies the genes of carp so that they produce largely male offspring. Releasing these animal into the populations may mean over several generations carp numbers are significantly reduced.

The best entrepreneurial approach is in my opinion 'Charlie Carp'. It is 100% carp fertiliser for your garden. Check it out.



How to Catch a Carp

Canberra fishos have some great tips on their website, as do 'fishing tips depot' and many many others. Carp fishing competitions abound in Australia - yet the interesting part is that catching a carp is not as easy as you think. They are ugly and numerous and a pest and may seem easy to catch but since they are mudsuckers they are accustomed to sucking things in and spitting them out again while they determine whether or not they will swallow it. So this is what they are doing with your bait.

Some great tips I have picked up from a webtrawl are:

Carp love corn - use it as burley to bring them in and see if they are present but don't overdo it on the free food. Get some of that corn on your hook and if corn doesn't work the other tips for the best bait are bread and worms.

Have a very sharp hook. Steve from Canberra fishos recommends a hook that will scratch your fingernail otherwise your fat fish is just sucking in the hook and spitting it out. It needs to be sharp enough grab in as she spits it out.

A gentle tug on the line can still be a big fish.. be patient, carp



Carp on the bank of the Mongarlowe River.
Photo credit: Di Bot - Friends of Mongarlowe River

will test out your bait a few times before striking

Hide your hook well.

Carp are cluey. If you can match your hook colour to the bottom of the water it should help.

A Carp-A-Thon for the upper Shoalhaven???

If you want to get a prize winning ugly monster out of the Australian waterways there be many a carp-a-thon for you to enjoy. If you are keen on one here in the Upper Shoalhaven, the Braidwood Fishing Club have run a couple in the past and will take measurements and weights from members at any

time. To become a member of the Braidwood Fishing Club you just need to become a member of the Braidwood RSL. \$10 a year and they meet once a month on the first Wednesday. Next meeting is on July 1 at the Braidwood Serviceman's Club in Coronation Street. 7.30pm.

Continued from page 4 Biodiversity Program update



Macropus rufogriseus Photo credit: Felicity Sturgiss

The 'Saddlecamp' project camera has captured some *Macropus rufogriseus* or Red-necked wallabies which are distinguished by their black paws and toes and lowered V8's they drive.

These monkeys have made small but wild homes in Scotland, France, Germany, England, the Isle of Man, New Zealand (where they are a pest) and more recently in Austria ruining the slogan that there are no Kangaroos in Austria.

Continued from page 4 Mudsuckers in our midst

Since the construction of a trap and transport fish ladder at Talloa Dam in 2009, it is probable that carp are also using the ladder as best they can. I am yet to find a report detailing its success or otherwise, but am waiting to hear back from the NSW Government.

Carp sightings

Reports have come in from the main river channel at Larbet, Jembaicumbene, the Mongarlowe River and Stuarts crossing. If you have caught or seen a carp could you let us know? Google 'sightings upper shoalhaven' and follow the link or email us at usudsightings@gmail.com.

Biodiversity Legislation Review

The final report of the review of Biodiversity legislation in NSW has been published. The relevant biodiversity legislation under review are:

- National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974
- Native Vegetation Act 2003
- Nature Conservation Trust Act 2001
- Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/biodiversitylegislation/review.htm>



Conservation Covenant Options in NSW as adapted from the EDO Handbook.

Conservation Mechanism	Organisation	Legal protection for the conservation of your land	Legally binding?	Incentives?	Tax and rates exemptions and concessions	Support offered	Establishment	Link	Act or mechanism type
Trust Agreements	Nature Conservation Trust of NSW	High	Yes and in perpetuity, registered on title, Enforceable	Some – in specific areas	State Land Tax Concession	High – stewardship program	Varies – negotiated terms	http://nct.org.au/guides/land-governments-to-govern-here/VI/BDY/Cell	Nature Conservation Trust Act 2001
Conservation Agreements	NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH)	High	Yes and in perpetuity, registered on title, Enforceable	No	Local Government Rate exemption, State Land Tax exemption, income tax deduction, concessional capital gains tax treatment	High – become a Conservation Partner	Varies – negotiated	http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/food/conservation/consentments.htm	National Parks & Wildlife Act 1974
Conservation Property Vegetation Plans	NSW Local Land Services	High - Moderate	Yes, can be shorter timeframes or in perpetuity, registered on title and 149 cert, Enforceable.	In some areas	No	Dependent on LLS	Moderate	http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/vegetation/bpp.htm	Native Vegetation Act 2003
Various Landholder Management Agreements and Environmental Stewardship programs	Various: usually LLS, Landcare affiliated organisations	Moderate	Yes – during the specified timeframe through a contract. Occasional option offered for Conservation PYP or Conservation Agreements as part of contract.	Yes – grants and occasionally market based incentives	No	Dependent on LLS/Contract offered	High - Moderate	http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/ Search for your relevant regional Landcare association	Contractual
Wildlife Refuge	NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH)	Low	Yes, registered on title but can be removed anytime at request of owner, hunting prohibited.	No	No	Moderate – linked to the Conservation Partners Program	Simple	http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/food/WildlifeRefuges.htm	National Parks & Wildlife Act 1974
BioBanking	NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH)	High but at the detriment to offset impacts elsewhere	Yes and in perpetuity, registered on title, Enforceable	No	Taxation issues – including GST in some circumstances	Low	Complex	http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/biobanking/	Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995
Land for Wildlife Scheme	Community Environment Network (community not for profit organisation)	Low	No	No	No	Moderate – the 'Land for Wildlife' program is a support network	Simple	http://www.cen.org.au/Land-for-Wildlife/	Land for Wildlife Register

Adapted from A guide to private conservation in NSW Environmental Defender's Office: Sydney: http://www.edonsw.org.au/legal_rules_2014

For any assistance with these options or a bigger copy of the table please contact Felicity Sturgiss on 0427 111 101 or email felicity.sturgiss@lls.nsw.gov.au



Bombay Landcare Glossy Black Cockatoo

Continued from Page 1

Several other species occur in the K2C region, including *Allocasuarina verticillata* (Drooping She-Oak) and *Allocasuarina torulosa* (Forest She-oak). Most people would also be familiar with *Casuarina cunninghamiana* (River She-oak) which grows to 30 metres. In NSW the River She-oak is protected by law because of its vital role in binding river banks and helping to prevent stream-bank erosion.

Under the Glossy Black Cockatoo project, selected *Allocasuarina* species have already been planted in appropriate habitat in the K2C region between Queanbeyan and Cooma, complementing plantings that have been carried out in the ACT. The latest stage of the project has concentrated on Landcare areas in the north-eastern end of the K2C region.



Tree planting in full swing. Picture by Bronwyn Johnson.

Bombay Landcare group became involved through member Bronwyn Johnson, who volunteered her property "Ridgewood" for the project. Two *Allocasuarina littoralis* have been identified growing naturally on the property, suggesting that before historical clearing the species would have been present in greater numbers, as occurs in neighbouring forested areas.

After inspection by the project coordinator Ben Hanrahan of Greening Australia ACT, a site on "Ridgewood" was accepted as a suitable location for planting *Allocasuarina littoralis*. Greening Australia ACT provided 200 seedlings, hardwood stakes and tree guards.

Bombay Landcare members first used the USLC ripper and moulder to prepare the well-drained and elevated site. Volunteers were mustered to undertake planting over the weekend of 18-19 April, although preceding wet weather and forecast rain threatened to scuttle arrangements. Fortunately, however, the rain held off and planting went ahead as planned on the Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning. USLC Landcare Coordinator, Su Wild-River, kicked

Kosciuszko to Coast (K2C) is a partnership of thirteen organisations and numerous businesses, landowners and individuals working with landholders in South East NSW (K2C region) to connect, conserve and recover our grasslands, woodlands, riparian and wetland areas, small bush birds, arboreal mammals and treasured forest communities and species. K2C is also a proud regional partner of national-scale connectivity initiative, the Great Eastern Ranges.

off proceedings on Saturday by demonstrating the recommended planting method.

Bombay's keen band of volunteers – over the two half-days a total of 16 adults and 2 children took part – succeeded in planting 200 *Allocasuarina littoralis* seedlings, protected by stakes and guards and thoroughly watered in. As the last stakes were being hammered into place on Sunday morning, rain showers could be seen approaching from the south, just giving time to pack up and scuttle back to shelter for a barbecue lunch, well-deserved after such a great effort by Bombay Landcare members.

Let's hope that it won't be too many years before we notice more frequent visits to the area by the Glossy Black Cockatoo.

Greening Australia ACT would be interested in hearing from landowners in this area wishing to undertake similar planting on their properties. Anyone interested in similar plantings should contact Upper Shoalhaven Land care Council and/or Ben Hanrahan at Greening Australia ACT.

Sources

Taylors Creek Landcare item in Tarago Times Feb 2015.

Reference books:

The Trees of NSW – RH Anderson (NSW Government Printer 1968)

Australian Native Plants – Wrigley & Fagg, (Reed New Holland 1998)

Growing Native Plants – Canberra Botanic Gardens (vol 3, 1973)

Field Guide to Birds of Australia – Simpson & Day (2000)

Wide view looking North.

Picture by Bronwyn Johnson.



Braidwood Urban Landcare Group opens Judith Wright Gardens

Contributed by Catherine Moore, and written on May 31, Judith Wright's birthday.

How appropriate it was to schedule the opening of the Judith Wright Garden with the Two Fires Festival, especially in 2015, the centenary of Judith's birth! The Judith Wright and Braidwood Community Gardens straddle Flood Creek, spilling down the hill from the end of Garvey Street to Bombay Rd, and Braidwood Urban Landcare Group (BULG) has been working there for several years on projects including the Community Garden, a footpath, bridge and other infrastructure.

Digging Stick Art and Food partnered with BULG to provide hot soup, rabbit curry and more for the event before BULG Chair Donna Hazell began the



Donna and Rosalie Hazell, Rosalie with Noel Butler from Digging Stick Art and Food. Photo by Cath Moore.



Name plaque inscribed in a hardwood tree trunk by Julian Laffan. Photo by Cath Moore.

formal proceedings with an enthusiastic and informative background on the project, also acknowledging the many people who had worked to make it all happen, and reading one of Judith's poems, Child and Wattle Tree.

About 70 people came along to the garden opening, including a number of the traditional custodians who were participating in the Two Fires Festival. One of those was Noel Butler, who worked with Ian Marr on the Dhurga Rock in Ryrie Park, and he spoke heart-warmingly with a focus on the importance of collaboration and working together, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, for the future.

Many of the attendees provided hands-on assistance by helping to plant three new contour swales with fruit and nut trees and edible perennials as part of a new orchard to contribute to local food production and the

natural assets of our town and up on the hill in the inspiring creek-side gathering space, the next phase of native shrubs and ground-covers. The formalities culminated in the unveiling of the name plaque, fittingly inscribed by Julian Laffan in a hardwood tree trunk, which will eventually break down and further nourish the gardens. Speaking as an onlooker, I would like to give congratulations to all those involved in the Community and Judith Wright Gardens projects. They have come a long way since the land was made available and there is still much to do, but I think that many of the locals

who visit the gardens as part of their daily walks will want to become involved in these great community-building projects.



The crowd at the opening. Photo by Cath Moore.

Getting acquainted with garlic

Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council, in partnership with the Braidwood Garlic Growers Group, is running a project Grow the Braidwood Garlic Growers.

Participants at 27 properties have started growing garlic, or increased their crops this season. The project is taking advantage of our optimal garlic-growing climate and working to establish a local wholesale garlic industry.

By Chris Fowler.

A local [SE region] worm liquid supplier from whom I was buying talked me into planting 'a few more than normal' corms of Russian [sometimes called Elephant] garlic to see how it would perform away from coastal influence and in the slightly colder climate of Bywong.



Figure 1. 100sq metre garlic plot. Photo by Chris Fowler.

First results were encouraging so the decision was made to expand to an area of about 100 sq. m. before deciding whether to tackle full scale production. [Fig 1]



Figure 2. Home-made planter in action. Photo by Chris Fowler.

The soil is silty loam. The area was prepared by rotary hoeing several times over late summer with the addition of large quantities of mushroom compost, cow manure and other compost, and watered regularly with a mixture of worm, seaweed and fish liquid fertiliser at a rate approximating 5 – 10 L per hectare. 10kg of granular seaweed as also added. A pre-planting soil sample was taken in early April 2015 [with plans for a post harvest comparison in early summer]. That lab report is not yet in. Temporary fencing provides limited protection against wildlife.

During early discussions with other growers it became apparent that weeds can become a serious problem

during the growing period and in larger scale production mulching could become a significant expense. Various mulches were considered. Organic vegetable growers suggested that some success had been achieved with the use of black plastic for weed suppression prior to planting so the decision was made to experiment with this process for 6 weeks before planting. Recovery from loss of microbial activity was not expected to be a problem.

An order for seed garlic had been placed before joining the Braidwood Garlic Growers initiative but seed from an organic grower [Rochfords] in Northern



Figure 3. Chris' plot in May 2015. Photo by Chris Fowler.



Another of the plots in the project to grow the Braidwood Garlic Growers. This photo by Andy Taylor is the plot being grown by Andy and Melanie bond.

NSW will provide the basis for good quality stock into the future as crops are produced.

The limited, small area of planting provided an opportunity to experiment with row and bulb spacing and a planter was made up from 25mm electrical conduit, stiffened in the handle with wooden dowel. Spacing was 150mm in both directions. [Fig 2]

Interestingly, the holes proved to be too small for some of the Russian corms and later rain apparently provided sufficient water pressure to 'pop' out a random selection over the whole patch! 20 kgs of seed was planted by two people in about 4 hours into 9 rows. A further 3 rows of Oriental Purple seed from the same source was added a few days later.

The rows [and later the whole area] were heavily mulched with mushroom compost after the plastic experiment appeared to have little effect on grass growth from root stock. Further experimentation will be undertaken.

To date [late May 2015] garlic development has been satisfactory with fortnightly applications of water/fertiliser using only a worm and seaweed liquid [as above]. [Fig. 3]

The Grow the Braidwood Garlic Growers initiative has been a very useful exercise providing good information and a focal point for the exchange of ideas and background about garlic growing in the SE region.

Blessing the Braidwood garlic

By Su Wild-River (inspired by Bronwyn Richards)

A new plot of garlic at the local Anglican Church in Elrington Street is one of the notable crops of garlic being grown as part of the project to Grow the Braidwood Garlic Growers.

On Sunday 27 May, this plot received a formal blessing from the Anglican Parish.

The photos here show the lovely garlic plot which is growing very well out the back of the church, on a site which was previously overgrown with hemlock and other weeds. The photos also show the blessing as it happened.

The blessing of our garlic is very welcome. After all, as Bronwyn Richards pointed out, primary production is an uncertain business, and assistance from any source is welcome.



Noticing the changing days

By Su Wild-River

Is anyone feeling SAD? Seasonal Affective Disorder, otherwise known as the winter blues is a seasonal pattern of recurrent depression that occurs at a certain time of the year, and remits at other times. It affects more people in areas where the winter days are shortest. For instance, in America, it affects 1.4% in Florida, but 9.9% in Alaska. So maybe about 1 in 20 of the good folk in our district are feeling SAD at the moment (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seasonal_affective_disorder).

The good news is that we'll feel better soon. Winter solstice is just around the corner, so this year the days will start lengthening from 22 June onwards. The winter solstice is one of eight mathematically distinct moments of the year, in terms of the length of days. I find it both interesting and useful to take note of each of these moments. The Gaelic calendar is helpful because it marks each of the eight moments with a festival. In the southern hemisphere, we have to shift each festival by 6 months. You'll see what I mean in the paragraphs that follow.

The solstices are the longest and shortest days and nights of the year. Winter solstice, or Yule is the shortest day and the longest night. Around here the Yule day is only 9 hours, 46 minutes and 30 seconds long. After Yule, the days start to lengthen, but only very slowly at first. The day after Yule is less than 1 second longer than Yule, and the next day is longer by 2 seconds.

8 August is Imbolc which translates as "in the belly", or "ewe's milk" since that's the start of lambing. Imbolc marks the end of the SAD time of the year, because this is when the days start becoming noticeably longer, with 1 minute and 41 seconds difference between 1 and 2 August.

Days and nights are of equal length at the Spring and Autumn equinoxes. These are also the times when day lengths change most dramatically and some people get SAD because of this rapid change of day length as well. Each day is about 2 minutes and 12 seconds longer than the one before around the spring equinox.

Beltane is the spring festival, traditionally celebrated with cleansing fire, and optimism. Days are still lengthening, but more slowly than before.

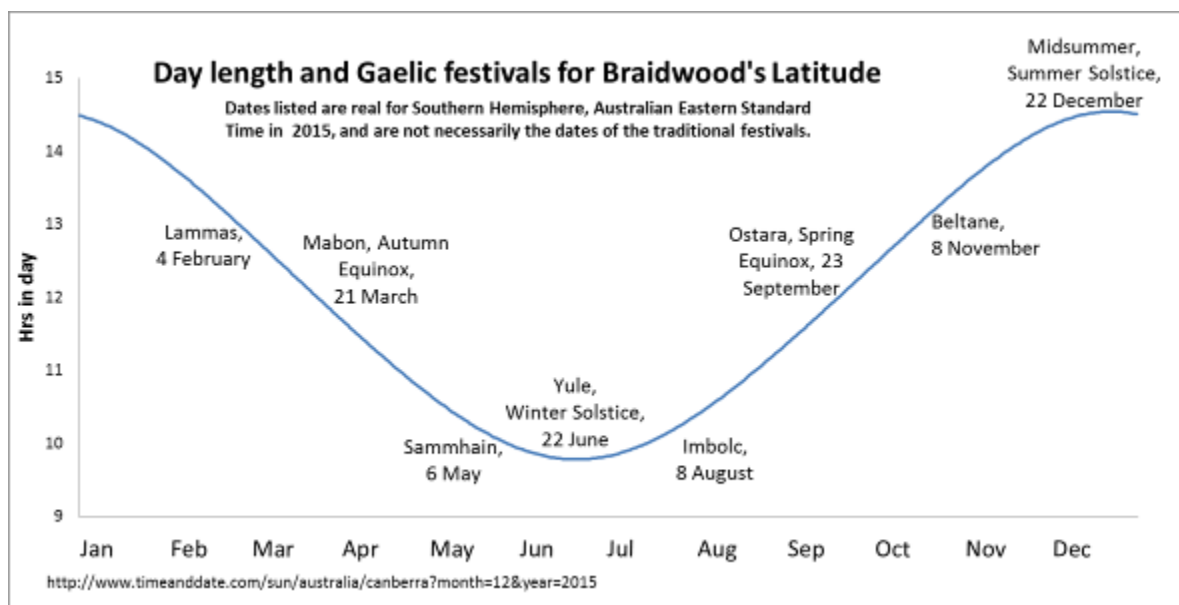
Midsummer, or the summer solstice is the longest day of the year and ours will be 14 hours, 32 minutes and 30 seconds. Midsummer was celebrated with fire in the northern hemisphere, but we'd be foolhardy to light up here because this is bushfire season in our part of the world.

Lammas on 4 February is the harvest festival, celebrated with banquets of fresh produce. This is the point of the year where days start getting noticeably shorter. Mabon, the Autumn equinox follows with equal days and nights, and speedily lengthening darkness.

Samhain is the day of the dead, or Halloween in the northern hemisphere. Samhain brings on the long, dark nights that make some of us SAD.

Local climate observer, Roger Hosking notes a seasonal change in the length of "Summer" (October to November) due to climate change (increasing warmth) is equivalent to about two days per year each year. The most rapid daily changes in averaged temperatures are in March and October, about 0.1 degrees Celsius per day. The rate of climate change is about 0.08 degree Celsius.

(Festival information is from Wikipedia)



Strategic Planning for the Upper Shoalhaven

By Richard Stone

As some readers may be aware Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council has embarked on putting together a strategic plan that will provide us with a vision - a mission, which will help us to deliver on short & longer term objectives and goals.

Why would we embark on such a process some of you dear readers may ask?

A good starting point is to ask, ***“Is our organisation making a difference and are we achieving results?”***

I think most of our members & supporters would likely agree that USLC over its twenty year history has made a difference and has achieved results. However in this ever increasing competitive funding surroundings how do we demonstrate to funding bodies that we are publicly accountable and transparent, have a good governance structure in place and provide excellent value for investment dollars?

This is where a Strategic Plan can provide us with the necessary tools to guide us into the short, medium & long term future. We took our first steps in the strategic planning process in early May this year. The meeting was attended by most of the USLC executive, Pete Pigott, (Our regional Landcare Facilitator & South East Local Land Services representative), & also our very first Landcare support Officer, Peter Hazell with written input by one of our previous Landcare Support Officers, Sky Kidd and Biodiversity Program Manager, Felicity Sturgiss.

Ambitiously we set out to get some runs on the board by trying to define

- Who we are as an organisation,
- Where are we now?
- Where are we going?
- And the most pressing question,
- How will we get there?

These simple queries may not seem like difficult questions but they form the platform for a shared vision and will ensure that the organisation is working towards a common purpose. Meeting participants were given a *Pre Meeting Thought Provoker* to get people thinking about USLC in a bigger picture context (I have included those ten questions at the end of this article & invite readers to answer these same questions, send your reply's to; upper.shoalhaven@gmail.com).

The meeting was facilitated by our fabulous outgoing Landcare Support Officer, Su Wild-River and by Richard Stone (USLC Vice Chair). We needed to set a cracking pace to endeavour to come up with some concrete results after a meeting that went for five hours, and I'm pleased to report to the USLC community that we were able to do just



that. We completed several tasks as individuals & through group brain storming sessions that helped inform us as to those tricky questions I mentioned before. One of these tasks was to undertake an *environmental scan* or *PEST analysis* to establish what the current community trends are. PEST stands for; Political, Economic, Social & Technological analysis & is a good way of setting the scene for where & how we see ourselves against each of these broad headings.

Having completed this process we were able to move on to identifying who our stakeholders are and where they fit in to the running of the organisation. Then some more tricky questions that needed to be answered;

What do we do well?

What could we do better?

What is our main reason for being here?

In answering these questions we were then able to proceed to identify what the *Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats* (SWOT) USLC faces. SWOTing PESTs was not something that participants had anticipated as being part of the day's proceedings

With all this information gathered we were able to have a go at pinning down our *Vision, Mission & Goals*.

USLC DRAFT VISION STATEMENT

Resilient and prosperous communities in diverse and sustainable landscapes

USLC DRAFT MISSION STATEMENT

To engage and enhance local communities in building and maintaining landscapes with sustainable

Now that we had established draft vision & mission statements our final task for the day was to establish organisational goals.

Goals are the destination that an organisation hopes to reach. They set out what we want to accomplish.

To establish goals, we all took a few minutes to write down some ideas relating to each of the main elements of our draft mission. Those three areas are:

- Engaging and enhancing communities,
- Building and maintaining landscapes, and
- Achieving sustainable productivity and resilient biodiversity.

At the end of this first session we achieved what I believe are some sound first steps towards developing a brief for a facilitator to assist us in completing a strategic plan. As yet we haven't set a date for continuing the development of the plan but it will be opened up to the wider Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Community, our stakeholders, partners & significant others. So dear reader if you have an interest in attending watch out for notifications in the next *Landcare Perspective* and our regular email updates

Draft USLC Goals For The Next 3 – 5 Years

Goals For Engaging And Enhancing Communities

1. Support the goals and functions of Landcare Groups and others (eg with forms, insurance, risk assessments)
2. Lobby funding bodies for continuing support
3. Find innovators, facilitators and deliver empower programs to educate community and stakeholders with on-ground works.
4. Maintain the LC perspective and database
5. Engage with the objectives of the National Landcare Program
6. Maintain and enhance communications with other groups and landholders
7. Continue supporting groups with funding-driven and organically sourced project ideas
8. Clear understanding with communities and partners about what the USLC does and offers
9. Develop a suite of products to grow an independent financial base
10. Create closer bond between the community and environment

USLC Strategic Planning – Pre Meeting Participant Thought

Provoker

What are the STRENGTHS of our organisation?

What could our organisation be DOING BETTER?

What has happened in the past three years in the NRM sector and in our region that could/has affect our organisation?

What OPPORTUNITIES exist for us in the changing community NRM sector and our region?

What THREATS are facing us in the changing community NRM sector and our region?

Do you think we have a clear MISSION and VISION? That is we know what the purpose of the organisation is (mission) and we know what we would like the organisation to look like in the future (vision).

Clear MISSION: YES NO

Clear VISION: YES NO

What do you think the MISSION of the organisation is/should be:

What do you think the VISION of the organisation is/should be:

What SUCCESSES have we achieved and what enabled us to achieve them?

What CHALLENGES have we not achieved and what prevented us from achieving them?

What do you think is the current CULTURE of the organisation?

What is the most important OUTCOME that you would like to achieve on the strategic planning day?

Email your responses to: upper.shoalhaven@gmail.com
For the full report on USLC Strategic Planning day go to:
<http://www.uppershoalhavenlandcare.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Report-on-Strategic-Planning-meeting.pdf>

Goals For Building And Maintaining Landscapes

1. Showcase healthy, diverse and productive landscapes that enhance the natural and capital value of the district
2. Continue to run field days, excursion and gatherings on sites on a wide range of topics
3. Fund on-ground works
4. Develop and foster productive and economic enterprises to improve healthy, clean water and improve biodiversity and environmental/economic/social sustainability
5. Long term, integrated program coordination
6. Promote biosecurity in tandem with partners and stakeholders
7. Audit available offerings to identify gaps and opportunities
8. Support and promote local government programs for weed management

Goals for sustainable productivity and resilient biodiversity

1. Build community organisations that share and develop regenerative farming practices to create a sustainable and diverse agricultural industry that is based on healthy, local produce
2. Consolidate our knowledge bank and make it accessible and shared.

55th tree planting at Mundango

By Su Wild-River, with Geoff and Sally White

55th Tree Planting at Mundango

This April, the good folk of Mundango completed their 55th tree planting. Property owners Geoff and Sally White did their first planting in August 1983 on a rocky knob overlooking the King's Highway. 32 years later, they and their volunteer tree planters have many stories to tell. Here are a few of their insights.



Siting is a key consideration. The site determines which trees to plant as well as the benefits that can be gained from the planting. The general benefits of revegetation are to provide habitat and food sources for native flora and fauna, while contributing to farm productivity by providing shelter, alternative grazing areas and habitat for beneficial pest predators. Planting trees can also stabilise erosion, control salinity, provide wind breaks for stock and pastures within about 200m, and shade for livestock. Different sites also deliver their own unique benefits.

This particular site will allow stock to have some protection close to a water source.

Geoff and Sally tell me one of the most important things is to get the preparation right. Don't skimp on the fences, and prepare the ground for planting well in advance. For this planting, the site is a simple square of steel posts with ringlock sheep fencing and two top lines of barbed wire, all professionally installed.

The preparation on site has been to use a tractor to put in rip lines along contours, then mound up back over them, and wait about six months before planting. This time-frame is short enough that the soil stays soft for planting, but settled enough to prevent air pockets that would damage tree roots.

Everything needs to be ready before the planting starts. That includes the site preparation, water, stakes, guards, medical supplies, tree planting equipment nourishment, and of course the suitable tree tube-stock. This project is to plant out about 280 tube stock, roughly divided between Acacias and Eucalypts.

The tree planting event itself is a way to reach out to friends who like the idea of planting trees, and want to enjoy the day. About 12 people have travelled from Canberra, Sydney and other places to be part of it. A delicious morning tea with cake and bikkies is a highlight. Geoff and Sally are right that with good preparation, the planting is the easy part.



Elizabeth Oliver shows us how the trees go in

1. It helps enormously if the Mundango hosts scoop out little basin before the planting day capable of taking five litres of water without spilling.
2. Tubestock needs to be allocated to suitable spots to ensure the right plant goes into the right soil conditions for that plant.



3. A Hamilton's Tree Planter is used to make a hole just the right size for the tubestock. These tree planters are great bits of gear, and the Landcare Council has some available to hire, but if the soil is sandy, a spade or shovel is more suitable.



4. The tree is removed from its tube and the roots left just as they are – not loosened in any way – and then planted deeply into the holes.



5. Tree guards are installed around each tree, and
 6. Five litres of water goes on top.
- Now all that is left is some weeding as the trees grow and occasional watering if there is a really dry spell.



Thanks Geoff and Sally your work is truly ground breaking and transformative..

Mulloon Community Landscape Rehydration Project

By Peter Hazell



Background

The Mulloon Institute has proposed the Mulloon Community Landscape Rehydration Project (MCLRP) to the landowners adjoining or crossing Mulloon Creek's mid to lower reaches. With support from landowners, project partners, and key stakeholders, the Mulloon Institute hopes to facilitate a better understanding of the current state of Mulloon's natural resources and to support and coordinate the efforts of all interested parties in rebuilding a functioning and resilient Mulloon Valley landscape.

MCLRP Partners and stakeholders

Community

Mulloon landowners
Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council
Broader Landcare community

Philanthropy

Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation
Veolia Mulwaree Trust

Government

South East Local Land Services
Water NSW (formerly SCA)
NSW Office of Water
Office of Environment and Heritage
NSW DPI Fisheries
Crown Lands
Palerang Shire Council

Research

NSW DPI Agriculture – Water Research
Australian National University
University of Canberra

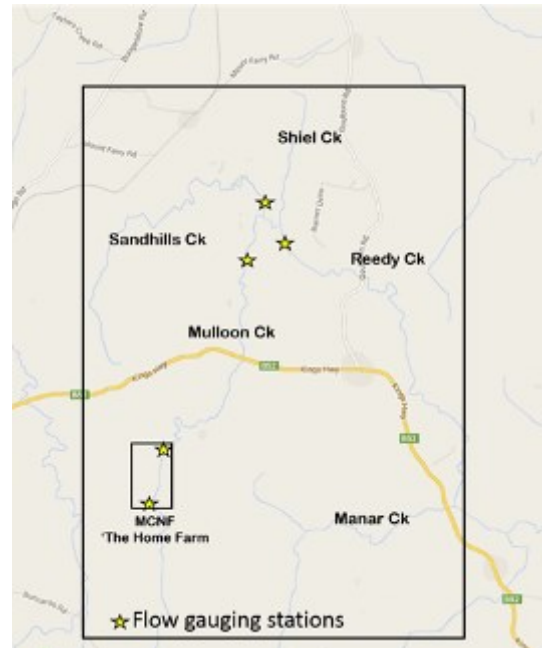
Scientific benchmarking

Scientific monitoring is a cornerstone of the MCLRP. Well before any landscape interventions take place, catchment scale benchmarks are

being established for water flow, water quality, Geomorphology, biodiversity, primary production and community motivation.



DPI Research Hydrologist, Tony Bernardi, checking the flow gauge at the lower end of the 'Home Farm' site.



Location of stream gauges along Mulloon, Reedy and Sandhills Creeks.

Landscape planning

Coupled with the benchmarking, a landscape plan is being prepared that identifies where interventions will occur and the nature of those interventions. If you have seen the original Natural Sequence Farming Trial at Mulloon Creek Natural Farm, then creek interventions will be similar to those.

The Mulloon Institute

The Mulloon Institute is an environmental and agricultural research and education centre, based at Mulloon Creek Natural Farm. It is a non-profit registered charity with a focus on applied research and education 'in the paddock'. MI works closely with farmers, rural communities and researchers, as well as extension and support personnel to fulfil its mission.

The Mulloon Institute is directed by an Advisory Committee, chaired by the Hon. Margaret Reid, former President of The Senate. Its research program is directed by a Science Advisory Committee, chaired by Prof. Steve Dovers, Director of the ANU's Fenner School of Environment and Society.

The Mulloon Institute was established in 2011 by Tony Coote, owner of Mulloon Creek Natural Farm. Tony has bequeathed Mulloon Creek Natural Farm to The Mulloon Institute so that the research and education it supports can continue in the long-term.

So long and thanks for all the trees

By Su Wild-River

Views expressed here are my own, and not necessarily those of the Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council.

This will be the last Landcare Perspective that I have the privilege to edit. I'm sad to say that I won't be the Temporary Landcare Support Officer for Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council any more from mid-June 2015.

This time last month the future for USLC looked grim. It seemed likely that there'd be at least a three month gap in funding for my position, and that after that, the available funds, and therefore my potential income would be much reduced.

Unfortunately, I can't run my family without an income, and so I applied for a few jobs just in case. I was lucky to land a wonderful new job being an "Energy Efficiency Senior Project Officer" for the ACT government.

Thankfully, in the meantime, a small grant has been provided to Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council which does fill the three month funding gap. However the outlook is still doubtful, because after that, the most likely scenario is that USLC will be surviving on 5/8 of its current funding base, which is already pretty tight.

I came into the Temporary Landcare Support Officer (TLSO) job having been an Executive member of a Local Landcare Group for about a decade. Friends of Mongarlowe River had run several successful projects and even won a Landcare Award for one of them, before I landed the job as the Temporary Landcare Support Officer (9TLSO). This background meant I came with a lot of on-ground Landcare experience, but little knowledge of the politics, history, or bigger picture of the movement.

Now I have learned about the continually reducing funding base that has been provided for Landcare over more than a decade up until now. The Decade of Landcare in the 1990s was followed by a reduction in support for the network of district Landcare facilitators, who I now know, play a vital role linking communities to funding opportunities. Those funding opportunities have also been cut back, and seem to me to be hamstrung by top-down rules and restrictions that confound communities' ability for the self-determination that breeds

effective, long-term engagement.

The Green Army is example. Money has been shifted from Landcare support into a program where young people do hard work for below award wages, and with limited industrial protection. The projects are complex to set up and run, but the limited funding available goes to service providers, not to the sponsors. I understand that it takes between 1 and 2 days for sponsor organisations to support the on-ground work for a Green Army project, but there is no funding within the program to support that work.

I only hope that the \$15m promised for Landcare by the newly elected NSW Liberal National Party hits the ground, and provides sufficient confidence and certainty to enable the movement to continue moving.

Despite these tough times, Landcare continues to be a wonderfully effective and inspiring institution. The people I have met and worked with during this job have been the most wonderful part of the work. The good people of Bungonia, Jacqua Creek, Mongarlowe, Mulloon and Upper Deua Catchment have shown me their Landcare successes, their wonderful waterways and their visions for more. I have heard of challenges faced by

Landcare groups where national parks and other protected areas can be uncomfortable neighbours for farmers. I have learned much about how to trap foxes, pigs and rabbits, rehydrate landscapes and better ways to plant trees. I have had wonderful meals, brilliant conversations and shared big ideas. I have been delighted to welcome over 200 new members to USLC, to see new Landcare groups start, and to clarify various insurance and constitutional issues. Over 10 grant applications that went in under my watch have generated over \$220,000 in new funding for our district. Another seven grant applications that I've had a hand in will be decided after I leave. I sincerely hope that some of these (at least) are successful, and that they bear delicious fruit.

Thank you so much for having me, and I hope to see you around the ridges, in the waterholes and under the trees.





Australian Government

The 'Corridor links and Carbon Sinks: Biodiversity for Carbon and Corridors' project is supported through funding from the Australian Government.

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