



Wollombi Valley Landcare Group News for December 2009



Join us to celebrate Christmas 2009 on Saturday December 12 at 4pm

Our hosts for our Christmas meeting will be Shelagh & John Brigg, on their property "Injasuti" at 1498 Mount View Road, Millfield

(In Millfield, turnoff the Wollombi Road and proceed 2.7 kilometres up the Mount View Road. The Landcare signs will guide you.)



We will start with a walk through the natural areas that Shelagh has been restoring with rainforest plantings after removal of the Lantana. Find out what works in our climate, to make all the effort worthwhile. We suggest you wear sturdy shoes, trousers and a hat for the walk.

Sometimes members who haven't been to any meetings through the year are reluctant to come along to the Christmas meeting. But don't be shy, we would love to catch up and hear what others have been up to.

There will then be a brief meeting of information and updates followed by a BBQ and Christmas feast. You can bring your swimming cossie to have a dunk in the pool.

Please BYO:

- ❖ choice of cuts to cook
- ❖ salad or dessert to share
- ❖ drinks
- ❖ cutlery, glass, plate
- ❖ chair

Bread, tea/coffee, cups & BBQ tools provided

Looking forward to seeing you there. Any queries to Jane Mowatt (4998 8158)

Everyone is welcome.

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of Wollombi Valley Landcare Group Inc, or any other Landcare agency or government department, but are presented to promote discussion about and the practice of sustainable land use and environmental responsibility.

Our last meeting – A talk about the Mammals of the Wollombi Valley

On Saturday the 17th October, members and friends gathered at Wollombi Community Hall to hear a talk on the Mammals of the Wollombi Valley by Jeff Betteridge, NPWS Ranger for Yengo National Park.



With a good sized audience of both Landcare members and members of the public who were interested in our native animals, Jeff gave us an interesting talk illustrated by photos taken locally of wallaroos, grey kangaroos and swamp wallabies, etc. I, for one, now also have a much better idea of what to look out for when keeping an eye out for our endangered Brush Tailed Rock Wallaby. So if you have seen any on your property, Jeff would like to know. They are in the

Watagans and are one of the many reasons Landcare is supporting efforts to reduce the number of foxes in the area.

One aspect I particularly appreciated was Jeff's presentation (originally made for a talk to Scouts) of noises in the night. I thought I knew the calls of the Brush Tailed Possum very well indeed, but Jeff had some extra calls I wouldn't have known were from the same animal. As a welcome extra, the noises included several of the birdcalls that are heard at night around the valley - the Boobook Owl and Tawny Frogmouths. Any help identifying calls at night that might be from a mammal or a bird (or a frog!) added an extra dimension of enjoyment to living or visiting in an area so rich in wildlife.

Being able to recognise the call of a koala, is often the only way we can be sure they are still about, as they are here in Knights Arm this year.

Our thanks to Jeff for coming and sharing his knowledge of our wildlife. Now to remember to apply it to that furry object sitting up and looking at me from my front lawn!

Jane Mowatt

We have been advised that the Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) webpages at www.weeds.org.au are up and running again. With interactive features you can identify weeds in the Wollombi Valley or anywhere else in Australia. The wealth of information on willows and other WoNS weeds is back at your fingertips. A new addition to the willows page is a short preview of 'A Way With Willows' the national willows management DVD. Go to www.weeds.org.au/WoNS/willows to watch it!! Copies are available on request.

Kelly Snell, National Willows Coordinator, Department of Primary Industries (03 5226 4625 / 0448 532 701 or kelly.snell@dpi.vic.gov.au)

Taking on a new challenge further north

Having spent a 'fruitful' 13 years in the Wollombi Valley establishing an olive grove amongst many other local activities, Stewart and I are moving on to take on a new venture on the mid north coast, near Nabad. We will be only 2 hours away so can easily visit for those unique events in one of the most creative communities you're likely to find anywhere, and to catch up with our many local friends.

As a bush regenerator, I'm excited about the restoration works to promote biodiversity on our new block that will keep me fit for the next decade or two. Stewart's going to be using his 'toys' and cattle to nurture pasture and build-up the carbon in the soil. Landcare is active up there too, so we may well have information /activities to exchange.



It has been a privilege to be an active part of this Landcare group and small community. We are sad to be leaving but are equally excited about the new property and its locality.

Hope to see you at the Landcare Christmas party on December 12.

Best wishes,
Robyn Lamond

Thanks Robyn...

Since coming to the valley in late 1996 and joining Landcare, Robyn has been a very active contributor to growth of our group. Robyn has been on our Committee continuously since 1997, as President for 5 years from 2002 -2007 and as Secretary since then. Many of our activities have been the brainchild of Robyn, who first introduced Bush Regeneration Courses. Robyn would liaise with many of the organisations and authorities that have assisted our group over the years, and as the person who puts this newsletter together each couple of months, I have greatly appreciated her contributions, although at times it has been a squeeze to fit them all into 8 pages!

We will miss Robyn's enthusiasm and contributions and wish her and Stewart all the very best in their new venture up north.

Graham Taylor

Wollombi Valley Landcare Group Contacts

Mail: Wollombi Valley Landcare Group, Inc. c/o Wollombi General Store, Wollombi 2325

Items for newsletter: Graham Taylor - 9981 6317/4998 3326 wollombi.landcare@gmail.com

Back copies

Back copies of previous issues of the Wollombi Valley Landcare newsletter are now available on the Wollombi Valley Online website at <http://wollombi.nsw.au> by clicking on Local News, selecting News Archive and scrolling down through the listing for the newsletter you want - they are listed in chronological order.

Join the Landcare Committee

With Robyn's imminent departure up north we are pleased to welcome Shelagh Brigg, a long time Landcare member as our new secretary.

The current committee comprises

President	Jane Mowatt	4998 8158	janemowatt@activ8.net.au
Vice President	Catherine Craig	4998 3236	cicadahill@gmail.com
Secretary	Shelagh Brigg	4998 0092	injasuti@aapt.net.au
Treasurer Public Officer Membership Database	Louise Hicks	8901 0366 0419 919078 4998 8660	louisehicks@bigpond.com
Minutes Secretary	Lesley Williams	4998 8205	g.l.williams@iinet.net.au
Information Coordinator	Graham Taylor	9981 6317 0412 034978 4998 3326	graham.taylor@tech@gmail.com

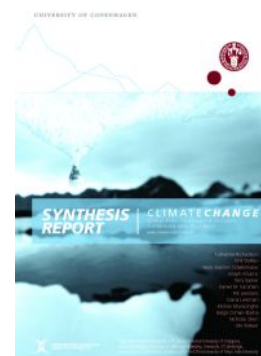
While all office bearer positions are filled, we would still like there to be several general committee members to help inject some fresh ideas from new faces. Being on the committee is really not onerous and helps to run your Landcare group. As a committee we meet for a couple of hours only every 2 months and jobs are shared around by an enthusiastic, currently too small, committee.

As an existing member of Landcare we encourage you to get involved and participate in setting the future direction of our organisation.

Please call Jane Mowatt 4998 8158 with your ideas and offers of help.

Climate change and global warming

While I am convinced that the presence of 6.8 billion humans on our planet with their growing affluence and consumption are contributing to climate change and global warming, I accept that there are still many who are unsure or believe that the earth is just going through a 'phase' not unlike changes that have occurred in the past.



Despite all claims and counter claims and the antics of some of our politicians, it is often hard to get some reliable and basic information that we can read and understand. There are of course thousands of scientific documents, numerous books, the UN Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the UK Stern Report and the Garnault Report commissioned by the federal government, but who has got the time and background to be able to read and understand these documents?

And with the forthcoming Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen this month, are we going to be able to make sense of what is being proposed and discussed? We can monitor Denmark's host country website <http://en.cop15.dk/> and learn a lot more.

However, I have found a report that in only 39 pages explains in plain English and diagrams what climate change is all about. For anyone with access to the Internet, I commend to you the "Synthesis Report" - Climate Change - Global Risks, Challenges and Decisions at www.climatecongress.ku.dk.

Graham Taylor

The benefits of being a member of Landcare...

We welcome any property owners to join our active group to learn and share information on land management issues. We usually meet on the 3rd Saturday in February, April, June, August and October and the 2nd Saturday in December, but this does occasionally change to suit circumstances.

The members pay an annual subscription of \$15 per property (or \$40 for 3 years), and elect a management committee at the AGM held each April. As a member you will receive:

- This bi-monthly newsletter by email or post
- Email postings of other land management information as and when received
- Be able to borrow Landcare equipment – see list below
- Borrow from our library of books and DVD's – see list below
- One (1) complimentary 1 hour visit from botanist Jane Mowatt to assist with native plant identification. Please contact Jane for an appointment

“Wollombi Valley Landcare Group Inc., a voluntary, self-help group of landholders, aims to raise awareness of the sustainable use of our natural resources”

OUR OBJECTIVES

Encourage the regeneration and planting of local native plant species.

Help identify and protect our local native plants and animals.

Promote sustainable land use practices.

Support programs linked to regional natural resource management plans and strategies.

Wollombi Valley Landcare Group Inc was formed on 1st March 1991 in response to the severe erosion in the upper catchment of the Wollombi Brook following the 1990 floods. The group is affiliated with the Australia wide Landcare movement. The number of financial members averages around 80.

We encourage landholders to undertake natural resource protection projects, especially when funding and assistance is available via government agencies. Many of our members have joined the *Land for Wildlife* program that offers information and advice on enhancing on-farm habitats.

We hold a landholder resources stall at the Laguna market on the 3rd Sunday of each month.

CONTACT:

Email: wollombi.landcare@gmail.com

Post: c/o Wollombi General Store, Wollombi 2325

President	Jane Mowatt	4998 8158	janemowatt@activ8.net.au
Secretary	Shelagh Brigg	4998 0092	injasuti@aapt.net.au
Treasurer	Louise Hicks	4998 8660	louisehicks@bigpond.com

Landcare equipment available on loan to members...

Item:	Location:
Auger (for planting longstem tubestock)	Loris & Lindsay Self
Auger (for planting longstem tubestock)	Loris & Lindsay Self
Fire Pump and Hoses (use with water lances)	Loris & Lindsay Self
Water Lances (for planting longstem tubestock)	Loris & Lindsay Self
Hamilton Tree Planters x 7 (for planting tubestock)	Loris & Lindsay Self
Riparian Planting Instruction Boards and colour-coded bamboo stakes	Loris & Lindsay Self
Bush Regen Equipment:	Chris Jackson
Trowel x5	
Boning knife x 12	
Bush Saw x 5	
Lopper x 3	
Secateurs x 3	
Tomahawk x 2	
Large weed bags x 3	
Heavy-duty herbicide gloves x 3	
Small funnel	
Small measuring jug	
Bottles for herbicide application	
Wooden Mallets x 3	
New Garden Gloves (various sizes) x approx 20	
Fox Trap	Catherine Craig
Myna bird trap	Catherine Craig
Library of Books/DVD's (See listing below)	Jane Mowatt

Contact details for location of equipment

We are indebted to a number of our members who have generously agreed to store and look after our equipment. So if, as a member, you would like to borrow an item then please contact the relevant person.

Catherine Craig	4998 3236	"Cicada Hill" 34 Cedar St, Wollombi
Chris Jackson & Louise Hicks	4998 8660 / 0419 800896/ 0419 919078	250 Finchley Track, Laguna
Jane Mowatt	4998 8158	387 Knights Rd, Laguna
Loris & Lindsay Self	4998 8066	630 Yango Creek Rd, Wollombi

Naming of suburbs and localities

You may recall that back in 2007, Cessnock Council in consultation with the Geographic Names Board, put forward proposals to establish definitive names and boundaries within the Cessnock LGA. This issue, which was of concern to many landholders in the valley, is again being considered with Council placing their proposals on public exhibition until Friday 11 December 2009. Details of the new proposals along with the submissions from last time are available on the Council website.

Landcare library – books available to members on loan

Landcare maintains a library of books, DVDs, CDs and a herbarium that are available on loan to members. To borrow an item you can call Jane Mowatt on 4998 8158 or call into the Landcare stand at the Laguna Market held on the third Sunday of each month.

TITLE	AUTHOR AND / OR PUBLISHER
Books	
<i>Australian Reptiles & Frogs (Cronin's Key Guide) -2009</i>	Leonard Cronin
<i>Bush Regeneration, Recovering Australian Landscapes</i>	Robin A Buchanan
<i>The Economics of Landcare</i>	David Brouwer / NSW Agriculture
<i>Electric Fencing</i>	NSW Agriculture
<i>Fencing</i>	NSW Agriculture
<i>Field Guide to Eucalypts, Volume 1 SE Australia</i>	M I H Brooker & D A Kleinig
<i>A Field Guide to Native Plants of Australia</i>	
<i>Field Guide to the Native Plants of Sydney</i>	Les Robinson
<i>Field Guide to the Orchids of New South Wales and Victoria</i>	Tim Low
<i>Grow Your Own Bushfoods</i>	Keith & Irene Smith
<i>A Guide to Better Pastures in Temperate Climates</i>	NSW Agriculture
<i>Hunter Bushland Resource Kit</i>	Hunter Catchment Management Trust
<i>Managing Waterways on Farms</i>	NSW Agriculture
<i>Native Plant or Weed – Pick the difference Volume 1</i>	NSW DPI
<i>Native Plant or Weed – Pick the difference Volume 2</i>	NSW DPI
<i>Native Plants of the Sydney District, an Identification Guide</i>	Alan Fairley & Philip Moore
<i>Nature Conservation on Farms,</i>	NSW Agriculture
<i>A Practical Guide to Soil Lichens and Bryophytes,</i>	David Eldridge & Merrin E Tozer
<i>Rainforest Trees of Mainland South-eastern Australia</i>	A G Floyd
<i>Tracks, Scats & other Traces – A Field Guide to Australian Mammals - 2004</i>	Barbara Trigg
<i>Wildlife on Farms – how to conserve native animals</i>	David Limdenmayer / CSIRO
<i>Wild Food Plants of Australia</i>	Tim Low
<i>Winning the War on Weeds</i>	Mark A Wolff
<i>Field Guide to Australian Birds</i>	Simpson & Day
Herbarium	
Herbarium of Grasses of the Hunter Valley	
DVDs, CDs & Videos	
<i>Bird Calls of the Hunter Region (4 CDs)</i>	Fred van Gessel
<i>Impacts of Climate Change on Agriculture in the Hunter (CD)</i>	
<i>Longstem Native Tubestock, the alternative to Willows (DVD)</i>	
<i>Mum and Me. Koalas Close-up and Personal (2 off DVDs & Video)</i>	
<i>Natural Sequence Farming Workshop: Defining the Science and the Practice (DVD)</i>	
<i>Property Vegetation Plans NSW Government (3 off DVDs & 1 Video)</i>	
<i>A Way with Willows: Current management and control options for willows in Australia (DVD)</i>	
<i>Weeds of the Hunter and Central Coast (CD)</i>	
<i>Wonga Fire Trail Ridge Top Walk with Jane Mowatt 30 September – 2006 (2 off DVDs)</i>	

Environmental Defender's Office New South Wales (Ltd)

Invitation for Private Conservation landholders

The Environmental Defender's Office (EDO) is seeking to consult with landholders who have been involved in private conservation. The EDO is also interested in speaking with people who are in the process of investigating or carrying out private conservation or people who have looked at private conservation options and decided against implementing a private conservation program. If you fit into any of these categories please contact us. Your feedback and experiences will be used as part of the research into a new free publication on private conservation.

Please contact Project Officer Rosemary Bullmore on (02) 9262 6989 or education@edo.org.au

Sweetwater Action Group wins Nature Conservation Council Award

The annual Nature Conservation Council's World Environment Day Awards were held recently to honour the achievements of individuals and other community groups working hard to protect the environment of NSW. This year's Marie Byles Award sponsored by ecoDesign ecoPrint went to the EDO's client Sweetwater Action Group for its three-year campaign to protect land of high conservation significance in the Lower Hunter region, from inappropriate housing estate development.

NSW Government's Sea Level Rise Policy Statement

The NSW Government has finalised the Policy Statement on Sea Level Rise following extensive consultation. Download a copy of the Policy Statement .

The Policy Statement specifies sea level planning benchmarks for the NSW coastline. These benchmarks are an increase above 1990 mean sea levels of 40 centimetres by 2050 and 90 centimetres by 2100.

Distribution on the Internet

Distribution via the Internet works fine for most members, however occasionally members change their Internet Service Provider, e.g. Bigpond, Exetel, iiNet, etc and overlook letting us know. So if you are planning a change please let us know so we can ensure you continue to receive your newsletter and email notices okay.

Most members also receive their Landcare newsletter via email in Adobe Acrobat format, e.g. the filename extension appears as 'PDF'.

Adobe Acrobat PDF files are used extensively throughout the world by companies, organisations and individuals who distribute information via the Internet. It is a universally recognised format that is displayed on all computers that have the Adobe Acrobat Reader software installed. This means that whenever you receive a PDF file all you have to do is double click on the file and the software will automatically start and you can read the document.

But if you don't have the software on your computer or the version you have is old (the current version is 9) then you can go to www.adobe.com and download a free copy of the latest version of Adobe Acrobat Reader.