

EUROBODALLA LANDCARE NEWSLETTER

March 2008

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SOUTHERN RIVERS CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY FUNDS NATIVE GRASSES IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP

Twenty five local residents enjoyed a field trip last Saturday to learn about the Native Grasses of Eurobodalla. The workshop on identification of native grasses was conducted by Jackie Miles, botanist, and Hayden Kingston from the Department of Primary Industries.

Grass plants are very differently organised from what we think of as normal plants (ones with flowers which have petals) and the various parts of them have a jargon all of their own, which needs to be mastered before one can begin trying to identify grasses.

The day started by learning about the structure and parts of the grass plant, followed by a field trip to a rural property at Broulee and then to the Moruya Cemetery. Rural cemeteries are often sites of remnant native vegetation and some unusual native grass species were found on the day. Funding to conduct the workshop was provided by the Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority's Community Partnership program.



Eurobodalla Landcare, Efarm, and Biodiversity project participants visiting Moruya Cemetery on the Native Grasses workshop

“Participants on the day were from a range of backgrounds. Some from the Efarm and rural Landcare groups wanted to learn about identification of grasses for better pasture management. Others from coastal Landcare groups wanted to learn about identifying the differences between the exotic grass weeds, and the native grass species they wish to preserve.” said Peter Gow, Landcare Community Support Officer.

There was so much interest that Eurobodalla Landcare is considering conducting a second workshop for those who missed out on this Native Grasses Workshop.

THE NATIVE GRASSES WORKSHOP IS ON AGAIN

Saturday 29th March

Due to the high level of interest we will be running the Native Grasses workshop a second time.

For further information and to book please contact Peter Gow on 4474 1329

EUROBODALLA LANDCARE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (ELMC) EXECUTIVE MEETINGS FOR 2008

All meetings are at the Eurobodalla Shire Council, Committee Room, Moruya

NOTE: There has been a change of date for the Eurobodalla Landcare Management Committee AGM – now WEDNESDAY 30TH APRIL

- ELMC Executive Meeting to plan Eurobodalla Landcare AGM, 2pm, Thursday 27th March, Committee Room
- ELMC Executive Meeting, 4pm Wednesday 30th April (Prior to the AGM), Committee Room
- ELMC AGM, 5.30 for 6pm, Wednesday 30th April , Committee Room
- ELMC Executive 12 for 12.30, Thursday 22nd May, Committee Room
- ELMC Executive 12 for 12.30 Wednesday 27th August, Committee Room
- ELMC Executive 12 for 12.30 Wednesday 26th Nov, Committee Room

Please contact Peter Gow to book for meetings on 4474 1329

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

Clean Up Australia Day 2008 is already shaping up to be the biggest ever held in the Eurobodalla. Thirty scuba divers from Canberra are leading the charge, pledging to plumb the depths of the Clyde River to clean up the fishing line, bait bags and shopping trolleys lurking under the bridge.

Sunday, March 2 is the big day, and those who prefer dry land will have plenty of opportunities to clean up litter hotspots around the Eurobodalla's bushland and waterways.

Last year some 800 local residents and over one thousand school students participated in the Eurobodalla Clean Up event, and Eurobodalla Shire Council's Clean Up coordinator, Maree Cadman, is hoping for even greater participation in 2008. "Clean Up Australia Day is not only about cleaning up our shire, it's also about having a fun day out with the family or your neighbours. Community BBQ's will be held once again to thank all the volunteers for their support in the Batemans Bay, Moruya and Narooma areas, so you really can make a fun day of it," she said.

SOUTHERN RIVERS CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY TO FUND LANDCARE SKILLS TRAINING

SRMCA have provided funding for Landcare volunteers to undertake training a range of skills. Courses in Chainsaw use and the Chemical Application Certificate have now been filled. There are still a couple of vacancies in the Senior First Aid course.

Contact Heidi Thomson on 4474 1201 to express your interest.

SEAWEEK 2ND – 8TH MARCH

To celebrate SeaweeK the Nature Coast Marine Group will have a display in Moruya library throughout that week.

On Wednesday 5th March, Batemans Marine Park Ranger, Shamaran Eichmann will also be at the Moruya library with the Marine Parks education trailer.

The trailer is designed as an educational tool, has display boards and touch tanks for live invertebrate displays. Students from Moruya Primary and St Mary's Primary will be visiting the trailer throughout the day and will have a chance to look closely and learn about the many animals that live in the local intertidal areas.

DEUA RIVERCARE TO TARGET DEUA WEEDS

The people of Deua Valley are working together to tackle the weed problems and protect their precious remnant bushland. Over the coming months the Deua Valley Rivercare group will be removing woody weeds to prevent them from spreading and threatening the healthy condition of important bushland in this area.

Environmental weeds like Privet, Wild Tobacco and Tree of Heaven are invading the native vegetation and with their large numbers of seeds and love of wet areas they thrive in places like the Deua Valley. Seeds spread by water, wind, animals and birds and if left, will spread quickly throughout the river system.

The group has received funding from the Australian Government Envirofund program to engage a weed control contractor to assist them in areas where access is difficult and sites are too steep. Many local landholders have also taken advantage of this opportunity.

Once the weeds are under control the residents will reduce the likelihood of their return by revegetating the area with native plants. These plants will be species that naturally grow in the Deua Valley and will provide competition for the weed species, reducing the need for future weed control activities.

Deua Rivercare group will conduct a field day in the area to discuss the weed problems with the community and demonstrate various weed control methods.

For further information on this project contact Environment Project Officer, Heidi Thomson, on 4474 1201.

ABOUT NEWSTREAMS

Newstreams is an email newsletter to keep people up to date about NSW fish habitat activities, and about important aquatic habitat developments in Australia and around the world. It is published electronically every two months by NSW Department of Primary Industries. In NSW many estuarine and freshwater habitats for juvenile and adult fish have been degraded or lost through urban, industrial and agricultural development. Communities around NSW are working actively to restore fish habitat.

To find the Newstreams newsletters on the DPI website click on the following link <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/aboutus/news/newsletters/newstreams>

RECREATIONAL FISHING GRANTS

Recreational fishing groups, individual anglers, councils and other organisations are being encouraged to apply for a grant to improve their community fishing facilities. NSW Minister for Primary Industries, Ian Macdonald, said the money has been made available through the Recreational Fishing Trusts.

"Money raised from the sale of the recreational fishing licence fee is placed into two trusts – one for saltwater and the other for fresh water – and must be spent on projects to improve recreational fishing in NSW," said Mr Macdonald.

"Expenditure from these trusts is overseen by committees of expert fishers on behalf of the recreational fishing community.

"Last year alone more than \$10 million was spent on big and small projects across the State.

"Funding went towards artificial reefs, stocking of freshwater native fish and trout and mulloway and prawns in estuaries, research on key fish species and fishing methods, fish aggregating devices (FADs), Fisheries Officers, Fishcare volunteers, fishing clinics and fishing platforms.

"All of these projects are great examples of licence fees working directly for the fishing community, with millions of dollars spent to further improve recreational fishing in NSW.

Applications for 2008/2009 funding close on Monday, 7 April 2008. The Trust Expenditure committees will meet soon thereafter to consider the applications. Funding applications must benefit recreational fishing.

Contributing funding and in-kind support, such as voluntary labour, is encouraged. For more information or assistance with applications contact DPI on (02) 9527 8411 or email recreational.fishingtrust@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

A full list of successful projects can be found at:
www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/recreational/your-fees

Media contact: Jason Bartlett, 0438 209 281

GRANTS FOR 2008:-

These websites are useful guides to funding sources.

Australian Government – GrantsLINK

<http://www.grantslink.gov.au/Info.aspx?NodeID=8>

NSW Government – Community Builders

<http://www2.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au/funding/programs/>

DESPERATELY SEEKING SUSTAINABLE HOMES

Do you own a home in the Eurobodalla Shire that has been built along sustainability principles? Is it solar passive? Is it built out of alternative materials? Does it generate energy using alternative methods? Does your home include innovative features to reduce water consumption, reuse water or reduce waste?

If so, would you be interesting in opening your home to others for educational purposes on “National Sustainable House Day”, which is to be held on the 14 & 15 September this year. National Sustainable House Day is an annual open day of houses around the country. The aim is to showcase sustainable design and encourage the adoption of sustainable features in existing and new homes.

If you are interested in participating, the sustainability team at Council would love to hear from you. Ideally, selected houses will be able to demonstrate a range of innovative sustainability features, and also be accessible by the public. For more information about what would be involved in opening your house for the event, or to register your interest, please contact Tracey Rich, Council’s Senior Sustainability Officer, on (02) 4474 7464 or email tracey.rich@eurocoast.nsw.gov.au

National Sustainable House Day is organised by the Australia and New Zealand Solar Energy Society (ANZSES) and funded by the Australian Government. Previously known as Solar House Day, this is the fifth year the event will be held, and interest in it is growing. Information about previous Sustainable House Days can be found at www.sustainablehouseday.com

LANDCARE GROUP HOURS FOR 2007/08

The following Eurobodalla Landcare groups have supplied their current hours for

2007/08 to 14.2.08. Thanks to Godfrey Marple for tallying the yellow Project Activity Register sheets supplied by the various Landcare groups.

Broulee/ Mossy Point	273.5
Burrawang	222
Congo	111.5
Kianga /Dalmeny/Narooma	82.5
ELMC	462.5
Guerilla Bay	68
Long Beach	167
Lilli Pilli / Malua Bay	577
Mystery Bay	202
Surf Beach	113.5
Tilba	32.5
Tuross. Lakes	784.75
TOTAL	3096.75

There may be other groups who have not yet supplied their yellow Project Activity Register Sheets. Please send them in or it will appear that your group is “Inactive”

LANDCARE – ON LINE

Landcare Australia has a website where Landcare groups doing on – ground works can lodge their contact details. The website is <http://www.landcareonline.com/> , and go to “Find a Care group” on the left hand side. The details for ELMC groups need updating. Please contact Peter Gow if you would like your details updated.

SRCMA LANDCARE GROUP SURVEY

The contact person for ELMC Landcare groups has been emailed an electronic survey form recently. Please complete and lodge these surveys by the 5th March. Contact Peter Gow if you need any assistance.

This survey, which includes all Landcare groups within the Southern Rivers CMA region, is being undertaken for the Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority. The objective of the survey is to provide a baseline against which to monitor changes in the level of engagement and support provided by the CMA over time. The questionnaire includes an assessment of:

- Your group's interaction and knowledge of the CMA;
- Support provided by the CMA to your Landcare group;
- The quality of partnerships and relationships;
- Community engagement; and
- The effectiveness of the CMA