

EUROBODALLA LANDCARE NEWSLETTER

January 2009

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DUNE PROTECTION WITH A VIEW

South Durras Landcare volunteers worked through all the four seasons in one week to construct a viewing platform and beach walkway adjacent to the public reserve at the south end of Cookies Beach.

With an expected increase in visitor numbers it was important that a defined beach access be established. The new beach access rationalizes a number of pedestrian tracks which were contributing to erosion of the dunal vegetation and should prevent further damage to the dunes.

It also encourages pedestrians to access the beach away from the boat ramp where they have been interfering with boat launching.

The viewing platform provides a place to sit and view the scenery of Beagle Bay. 200 native shrubs, groundcovers and grasses planted on the dunes around the walkway will further enhance the scenery. These plants were grown from local seed sources and will grow quickly to cover the bare dunes around the site and stabilize the sand.



The completed viewing platform, walkway and revegetation area with Landcare volunteers and Green Corps (L-R) Paul May, Charlotte Sky, Skye Falzon, Emma Moungaloa, Andrew Kirkley, Jim McGarry, Sean Mezzino, Chris Leach, Glen Hebditch, Jay Hebditch.

The Eurobodalla Green Corps team assisted the Landcare group by installing the holey belt walkway and fence. 'Beachgoers welcomed the new walkway and viewing platform, it was well used the day it was finished.' said Heidi Thomson, Council's Environment Project Officer 'It will provide environmental benefits by directing people away from the eroded dune areas and allowing regeneration of the vegetation.' Murrumurang Resort thanked the community members for their effort by providing lunch to all of the volunteer workers.

The project was funded by the Australian Government Envirofund.

REGIONAL CLEAN BEACH CHALLENGE AWARDS 2009

Council and a number of local community groups were successful in achieving four awards at the recent South Coast Region “Clean Beach Challenge” awards. The “Clean Beach Challenge” recognises and rewards coastal communities, local councils, volunteers including Landcare groups and surf life saving clubs for initiatives that enhance, protect and preserve the NSW Coastline. This includes dune and habitat conservation and environmental education programs. The program is hosted by ‘Keep Australia Beautiful NSW’. Within the Eurobodalla Shire area, four projects were nominated for the regional south coast 2009 Clean Beach Challenge. A Council staff member attended the Regional Clean Beach Challenge Awards presentation at the Tathra Surf Club in November. The results of the nominated projects are as detailed below.

Winner – Environmental Protection Award

Bengello Reserve

The project was awarded for the conservation measures implemented in improving and maintaining the condition of over 300 hectares of coastal forest and wetland located between the Moruya River and the village of Broulee. Council’s commitment to the conservation of the area through a Property Vegetation Plan (PVP) and Bengello Masterplan was also acknowledged as being a vital factor in conserving the Bengello reserve. Broulee / Mossy Point Dunecare group have been assisting with environmental work in the area funded by an Australian Government Envirofund grant.

Highly Commended – Community Partnership and Action Award

Surfside Beach

This project was highly commended on the partnerships formed with the local community, Landcare group, Council, Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority, Conservation Volunteers Australia and Green Corps in implementing the foreshore reserve restoration activities. The project focused on removing environmental weeds and replanting with the assistance and support of the adjoining property owners.

Winner – Community Partnership and Action Award

Moruya Surf Club

The project won the award for developing a long-term plan for energy and water efficiency, and implementing stage 1 of the plan for the Surf Club. This included installing solar panels, running a community fund raising event in cooperation with Clean Energy for Eternity and Broulee Surf Club, installing new shower heads and installing half flush toilets. Council cocontributed to the installation of the solar panels. Stage 2 will be implemented this year (funding pending) and will include another fund raising swim, installation of a solar hot water panel and installation of a rainwater tank.

Winner – Youth Legends

Mystery Bay

This project won the award due to the partnerships created between the community and young people. The Year 10 Narooma High School students were involved with making nesting boxes which were installed for birds and tree dwelling mammals at the Mystery Bay Primitive Campground. Other aspects of the project included installing fencing, replanting and mulching campsites that were no longer used,

rationalising pedestrian beach access, controlling exotic weeds and addressing erosion problems.

REPORTS TO COUNCIL

Several reports of relevance to the Eurobodalla Landcare groups went to the 16th December Meeting of Eurobodalla Shire Council:-

E08/6 ACACIA SOPHORAE USAGE IN THE LONG BEACH AREA

E08/8 ENVIRONMENT TEAM STATUS REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 2008

E08/9 LANDCARE PROJECT PROPOSALS

E08/10 REGIONAL CLEAN BEACH CHALLENGE AWARDS 2009

E08/11 ESTUARY & COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS: OFFER OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE 2008

To view Reports click on

<http://www.esc.nsw.gov.au/Publications/AgendaMinutes/cr081216a.pdf>

COMMUNITY COASTCARE

Community Coastcare grants have been announced. For more information go to <http://www.nrm.gov.au/funding/coastcare-successful.html>

Some of the successful local project applications involving Eurobodalla Landcare groups include:-

- **Applicant - Long Beach Landcare**
Project Title - Coastal wattle management study and weed control for the Long Beach foreshore
Project Summary – This application for the Management of the Long Beach Foreshore Project comprises two components:-
 1. Coastal Exotic Weed Control; and
 2. Coastal Wattle Management Study.
 1. Coastal Exotic Weed Control:-

The foreshore, hind dune and adjacent wetland are under threat from exotic weeds. The main weeds in the area are Asparagus fern, Bridal Creeper, Cape Ivy, Moth Vine, and Turkey Rhubarb. These species are very invasive and a threat to the biodiversity of the site. Long Beach Landcare will be continuing their coastal weed control work throughout these areas. Training in Bush Regeneration will be provided to new participants who join with the Long Beach Landcare group in undertaking weed control works to increase community skills, knowledge, and engagement.
 2. Coastal Wattle Management Study:-

The Long Beach Landcare group is seeking to commission a study into the management of Coastal Wattle, *Acacia longifolia sophorae*. There is concern that the Coastal Wattle is spreading and may form a monoculture thus reducing the biodiversity of the area. The current dunal area is heavily invested with *Acacia* species to the apparent detriment of other endemic species.

The Long Beach Landcare group, with Council approval and community support, has conducted a pilot program of removal of approximately 20 Acacia sophorae and replaced them with endemic and less invasive species. However, this on-ground effort may not be producing satisfactory results and the point has been reached where professional assistance is required to develop a management and control regime if deemed appropriate.

The study will assist with the identification of the issues associated with the monoculture of Acacia and present viable options for the dunal management of the Long Beach area. The options must consider best coastal practices, environmental protection and asset management.
Coastcare funding - \$25,063.64

- **Applicant - Lilli Pilli / Malua Bay Landcare -
Project Title - Reedy Creek Rehabilitation**

Project Summary -

The project will educate the adjoining landholders and businesses about acceptable activities in the reserve, the importance of the riparian ecosystem, how they can get involved with the Landcare group and have a positive impact on the coastal reserve. Weed control contractors will be engaged to tackle the more difficult sites and tasks. Once weeds have been removed then 200 native tube stock will be planted. The local community will be educated about garden escapee plants, the importance of Endangered Ecological Communities (EEC'S) in their local area and will be encouraged to participate in a 'caring for your local coastal reserve' field day.

The project will implement a coordinated approach to include the adjoining landholders, businesses, the broader community, the local school and the Landcare group to have a positive impact on the potential EEC, by improving biodiversity and water quality of Reedy Creek.
Coastcare funding - \$17,280.91

- **Applicant - Southern Council's Group -
Project Title - South Coast Communities Sea Spurge Control
(SCCSC)**

Project Summary - Local Indigenous communities, coastal volunteer groups, local, state and federal government agencies will work together to establish a containment line to stop the northwards advance of the invasion of Sea Spurge weed along the NSW coast. The key to Sea Spurge control is the destruction of all plants (whether by hand pulling or chemical control) on a site with sufficient frequency (2-3 times per annum) to prevent seeding and replenishment/ establishment of the seed bank. This will be achieved through:

1. Appointment of 3 part-time Project Coordinators (1 per effected LGA – Shoalhaven (to also cover Kiama), Eurobodalla and Bega) who will:

- Monitor, map and assess severity of infestations on all beaches in their LGA on a 6-monthly basis;

- Determine appropriate control method for each site which are consistent with Sea Spurge Management Plans and in consultation with the relevant land manager;
 - Oversee the implementation of control work by weed control contractors and Koori work crews;
 - Support volunteer engagement; and
 - Arouse community awareness.
2. Engagement of Koori Work Crews from Local Aboriginal Land Councils (LALCs) who will:
- Undertake regular patrols of all beaches in their LALC;
 - Receive training in weed identification, chemical and other appropriate control techniques; and
 - Undertake control work in consultation with and under supervision of the Project Coordinator.
3. Amplifying, recognising and supporting local volunteer effort. Community engagement and knowledge sharing are integral to the success of this project.
- Coastcare funding - \$249,329.28*

CARING FOR OUR COUNTRY INVESTMENT PROPOSALS FOR 2009-2010

The Australian Government's Business Plan for 2009-2010 seeks investment proposals that contribute to the delivery of Caring for our Country targets. If you wish to submit an investment proposal for a project, you should read the business plan and visit the Caring for our Country funding web pages for information (available soon) about the requirements of applications.

Please note: small projects (\$20,000-100,000 per annum), medium (up to \$2-3million per annum) and large scale (up to \$20million over 4 years) are being sought.

Closing date 6 Mar 2009. The business plan can be accessed at www.nrm.gov.au/publications/books/business-plan.html and information for applications will be available online soon at www.nrm.gov.au/index.html

Contact one of the Caring for our Country Facilitators for further details www.nrm.gov.au/contacts/ausgovt.html or call the information contact number on 1800 552 008

WETLAND CARERS NETWORK ESTABLISHED

Funding has flowed to lead agency Conservation Volunteers Australia to establish a Wetland Carers Network in south-east NSW. From Wollongong to Bega to Braidwood, community members and groups involved in caring for wetlands or riparian areas on public or private land are invited to join the Network.

Coordinator of the project, Susan Rhind, explained the background behind the Network. “Last year, during a major regional conference held by the Southern Rivers CMA, the need to provide support to community groups was identified. As a result, we will be offering training and providing opportunities to get together and to share stories about conservation work’. “With help from staff in the Southern Rivers CMA, Councils and Landcare groups, my first task is to contact community members involved in wetland protection and rehabilitation projects, to find out exactly what training they would find useful. This will involve a short phone survey”.

Once the training needs have been identified, CVA will coordinate training days. “A Wetland Carers Network newsletter will also be developed”, says Susan’. “The purpose of this is to share stories about the work we are all doing – the wins, losses, frustrations, helpful hints and the plain funny aspects of trying to care for the land”. Anyone working to rehabilitate or care for wetlands, creeks or soggy bogs is invited to join the Network. To contribute your story or be involved in the survey, contact your local Community Support Officer or Susan Rhind at Conservation Volunteers on 4228 9246.



Regional Wetland Carers Network – Eurobodalla Meeting participants
Michael Andrews (CVA Regional Manager), Susan Rhind (Wetlands Network Coordinator), Jenny Dixon and Maureen Baker (Tuross Lakes Landcare), Peter Gow (Community Support Officer), and Allison Baird (Long Beach Landcare)
Photo – Courtney Fink