



Working with local people to achieve
healthy, natural ecosystems and
sustainable productive landuse

EUROBODALLA LANDCARE NEWSLETTER

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Coming Events – Page 8

Children's Activity (PG)
Dune Plants and Sand Sculptures
Congo Creek entrance
Congo Campground
3 – 5pm, Sat 19th January

For further information contact:-

PG - Peter Gow 4475 1001
EP - Emma Patyus 4474 7300
JL – Jo Lane 0429 445 897

Jan/Feb 2013

Life membership awarded to two great workers



Doug and Julie Gowen with Maureen Baker

Life membership was recently granted to Doug and Julie Gowen by the Tuross Lakes Preservation Group at their Annual General Meeting for their considerable contribution to caring for the environment at Tuross Head and in the Tuross River Catchment

Before presenting members, Doug & Julie Gowen with a Life Membership Certificate, TLPG's group coordinator, Maureen Baker, reminisced a little about the early days of the group.....

Tuross Lakes Preservation Group

By Maureen Baker

We formed in 1990 because we were concerned about various environmental issues.

Our first campaign was in regard to the proposal to close off part of Coila Lake for prawn farming. We were successful in opposing that development due to its potential impact on the environment of the lake as well as other factors such as loss of income for traditional prawn farmers.

The Federal government had begun its Decade of Landcare and groups were forming around the country. A Dunecare group had formed at South Durras in the late 1980s but we were the first Landcare group to be registered in this shire.

Jim & I went to see the Evans family on Coopers Island about fencing off a point known as the Brambles near the Four Ways which was badly eroded. Mick Ivory and Len Cameron were involved and with the help of a small government grant we managed to round up enough volunteers to erect the fencing. We then dug up *Casuarina glauca* seedlings from the vacant land on Coila Lake (with the consent of the owners) for planting on the Brambles foreshore.



Eurobodalla Landcarers visit a TLPG Erosion Control site at Kyla Park, Tuross Head.

Doug & Julie Gowen were two of those who helped carry out that first planting on Coopers Island and have been helping ever since. For many years now Doug has provided his truck to carry our materials and equipment to numerous sites around the peninsula and has used his knowledge and expertise acquired from a lifetime experience of managing land to help lead many rehabilitation projects. Julie is constantly being called upon for her botanical knowledge and has been our treasurer over a long period of time.

So it is certainly high time that we formally thanked them for their extensive contribution.

Doug & Julie were then presented with a Life Membership certificate

Akolele Coastcare group turns Two Years Old

By Robyn Levey



Jo Lewis, Kerrie Ryan, Cathy Jordan and Taina Podlesak with Peter Gow at a weed identification day when the group first started.

Akolele Coastcare has just celebrated its second birthday. Even though we are a small group, the fruits of our labours are beginning to be seen around the area.

A Community Action Grant enabled us to be assisted by local weed contractors James Cook and Tony Hall from Brighter Day Landscapes to visit the area on a regular basis and attack the big jobs.

Backpackers working with Conservation Volunteers Australia have also helped us clear two of the bigger areas of weeds and replant with local native varieties. One area was opposite Serendip Lane and the other on the lakes edge north of the bridge. Work was also carried out on the track surface around the lake with this funding last year.

Work this year has mainly concentrated on the verge areas of Turners Drive and along the service road below Bermagui Road.

A beautiful section of littoral rain forest exists below Umburra so we have been attempting to stop the progress of many weeds into this area. There is now less lantana, blackberry, turkey rhubarb, madiera vine, seaside daisy, moth plant, creeping groundsel, bridal creeper, wandering jew, crucifix orchids and mother of millions coming to maturity to again litter our beautiful area and a greater appreciation and understanding of our native flora is developing.

This is an ongoing project. We meet monthly on the first Friday of the month - in the morning during summer when it's cooler and afternoons in winter when it's warmer.

There will be no meeting in January but we will resume our efforts in February. Anyone wishing to help out would be very welcome. Contact Robyn Levey on (02) 4473 7732

Eurobodalla Landcarers participate in Cultural Exchange program



Aboriginal Elder Trish Ellis talking with Eurobodalla Landcare representatives on the Cultural Exchange tour

The Cultural Exchange program is all about sharing our cultures - exchanging our experiences, history and traditions. It is about various ways of caring for the land. Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority is conducting a series of Cultural Exchange events with funding from the Australian Government Caring for our Country program.

The first was run with the Aboriginal environmental officers from Mogo, which allowed for Aboriginal people to learn to facilitate and share their culture.

The second cultural exchange was conducted by Trish Ellis, Karen Lee, and Peter Gow on Friday 30th November as a bus tour for Eurobodalla Landcare volunteers.

The Landcare people talked about their projects to care for the land and the cultural exchange allowed for the opportunity to share traditional ecological knowledge. The bus tour was well attended with 34 people representing eight local Landcare groups.

We visited Aboriginal; and Landcare sites in the lower Deua Catchment concluding with lunch and Aboriginal cultural activities at Shelly Beach using Stringybark and Lomandra for weaving and ropemaking. The artefact identification was important for the Landcare participants so they can recognize the presence Aboriginal sites while conducting their Landcare works.

Summary of the Eurobodalla Landcare Management Committee's Report to Council on 2011/12 Activities

Landcare activities occur across the whole landscape of the Eurobodalla irrespective of land tenure. Landcare programs include all natural resource projects such as Bushcare, Coastcare, Dunecare, Rivercare and other relevant 'care' projects throughout the Eurobodalla.

Landcare in Eurobodalla Shire evolved from Dunecare groups which commenced community volunteer weed control work and environmental rehabilitation projects in the late 1980's.

In the early 1990's Council formed a Dunecare committee which included groups from South Durras, Broulee / Mossy Point, Kianga / Dalmeny / Narooma, Potato Point, Long Beach and the Tuross Lakes Preservation Group. The committee hosted a Dunecare coordinator who provided support for projects on degraded ocean foreshore reserves under Council's care, control & management.

In 1997 Council expanded its support by endorsing formation of Eurobodalla Landcare Management Committee, a s.355 committee of Council, with membership from community groups working on all types of natural resource management on both public and private land. Works are conducted in line with the Eurobodalla Landcare Management Committee Management Agreement endorsed 13 November 2007.

Eurobodalla Landcare groups engage in a variety of projects and employ numerous strategies for the implementation of environmental works. The groups have addressed a wide range of environmental issues.

Landcare works have included, but are not limited to:

- Coastal and gully erosion control
- Erosion control devices and works
- Myna Bird Control activities
- Exotic and noxious weed control
- Development of Community Gardens
- Revegetation projects, re-establishing vegetation ecosystems
- Bush regeneration projects
- Rehabilitation of riparian buffers
- Construction of access walkways and staircases
- Rubbish removal
- Training to improve the capacity and skills of Landcare group members and rural landholders
- Environmental education of the wider community

Project Locations:

- Caring for our Country Community Action Grants (federal) have funded 4 projects implemented at Rosedale, Guerilla Bay and Burrawang; Mystery Bay, Handkerchief Beach and Akolele: Long Beach, Surfside, and South Durras; Lilli Pilli, Malua Bay, Surf Beach and Denhams Beach.
- Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority has provided the Eurobodalla Landcare Management Committee funding for two projects – Strengthening Community NRM in Eurobodalla; and Ecosystem Conservation by Eurobodalla Coastal Communities.
- NSW Industry and Investment has funded a project to protect riparian areas from weed invasion on the Deua River.

- South East Landcare (SEL) have provided funding for the Tending to the Grassroots - Priority Landcare Works in Southern Rivers Project to assist with works on private properties
- The Eurobodalla High Ecological Value Aquatic Ecosystems (HEVAE) Rivers and Coastal Sites Rehabilitation Project 2011 has commenced, assisting coastal groups and groups in the Tuross and Deua catchments.
- In addition, Landcare volunteer works continue on many unfunded projects throughout the shire. These locations include South Durras, Long Beach, Maloneys Beach, Surfside, Hanging Rock, Denhams Beach, Mosquito Bay, Lilli Pilli, Malua Bay, Guerilla Bay, Burrawang, Broulee / Bengello, North Head, Shelly Beach, Deua Valley, Rosedale, Surf Beach, Tuross, Congo, Potato Point, Narooma, Dalmeny, Moruya, Handkerchief Beach, Mystery Bay, and Akolele.

Training was provided to enhance the skills of existing Landcare groups and the wider community. Training initiatives included:

- Healthy Soils Field Day
- Fencing Skills Workshop
- Native Grasses Field Day
- SAGE Garden Blitz and Southeast Harvest Festival
- Bushcare Training Days conducted at a range of sites with participation from the Campbell Page Moruya Youth group, Moruya Scouts, Community volunteers, and various school groups
- Weed control training was provided to the National Green Jobs Corps team

Landcare activity 2011/12

The Eurobodalla Landcare had 26 active groups during the 2011/12 period. Over 500 individuals participated in projects, activities, or initiatives supported by Eurobodalla Landcare.

Participants in Eurobodalla Landcare initiatives have contributed an estimated 14,936 volunteer hours which are valued at \$431,880 (based on \$30/hour, the Australian Government value for volunteer labour).

Eurobodalla Landcare groups have been involved in planning and / or implementing projects supported by \$ 292,598 of external grant funding. This does not include funds for ongoing projects from 2010/11.

Environmental education initiatives are supported by Landcare groups and Council's Natural Resource Team staff.

- Environmental education stalls were conducted at 'Art and Environment on the Path – Broulee' to provide information on weeds and weed control.
- SAGE Garden Blitz and Southeast Harvest Festival attracted over two thousand participants
- 'Plant Swap' stalls were conducted at local markets and other locations throughout the year

To view the Eurobodalla Landcare Groups' Annual Report 2011/12 and the Eurobodalla Landcare and Council Operations and Review go to http://www.esc.nsw.gov.au/media/485106/agenda_public.pdf

See O12/231 Eurobodalla Landcare Groups' Annual Report 2011/12 on Page 33

See O12/232 Eurobodalla Landcare and Council Operations and Review on Page 41

Eurobodalla Rural Training at Mogendoura Farm

Twelve local landholders were given the opportunity to participate in an Introduction to Physical Property Management Planning workshop supported by Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority and the Australian Government Caring for our Country program.



Physical Property Management Planning workshop at Mogendoura Farm

The workshop was conducted by Alison Elvin from Natural Capital and Eurobodalla Landcare Community Support Officer, Peter Gow, at Mogendoura Farm on the Moruya River.

Participants were trained in how to develop a Physical Property Management Plan using clear plastic overlays on top of an aerial photograph of their property. They mapped their existing infrastructure including water supply (creeks, river, dams), tracks, and fences as well as natural features including wetlands, gullies, and remnant native vegetation.



Showing their Property Plans developed at the Landcare workshop – Will Douglas, John Bourne, Jenny Bourne, Sam Fearnley, Mark Wilson, Terry Gillam, Sandra McFarland, Rob Bradley, Stephen McFarland, Ian Peters, Alda Rudzis, Trainer – Alison Elvin, and Girts Kalnins.

The trainees also learnt that it is important to undertake activities on their land that match the land capability. The land is classified according to its capability, recognising the natural limitations of soil type, and features such as slope, aspect, salinity, and soil depth.

Areas of low agricultural potential such as estuarine wetlands and steeper rock land are best left and protected with native vegetation.

There was considerable interest in the use of cell grazing and techniques to allow more efficient grazing management for livestock. A visit to a property with an extensive and efficient cell grazing system is being organised for early next year.

For more information about Landcare Rural Training initiatives in Eurobodalla please contact the Eurobodalla Landcare Community Support Officer, Peter Gow, on 4475 1001 or peter.gow@cma.nsw.gov.au

Coming Events

Children's Activity **"Dune Plants and Sand Sculptures"**

3 – 5pm, Sat 19th January

Learn about native beach plants, beach weeds, and Bushcare weed control techniques. Beach plants have to be hardy to survive in the harsh conditions of strong winds, sand drift, and salt spray present on our beaches. The dune sands are also low in nutrients and available freshwater. We will be looking at the succession of vegetation from the Beach Spinifex found nearest the ocean, to the Coastal Banksia and Eucalypts located in the hind dune area. We will conclude by making sand sculptures of your favourite marine creatures - what will you make - seahorse, crab, fish, dolphin, shark, shell, lobster, or turtle?

Meet at the Noticeboards at the Congo Campground Shelter shed

For more information contact Peter Gow on 4475 1001