

SYNOPSIS

The Eurobodalla Landcare Management Committee (ELMC) undertakes natural resource management rehabilitation works and provides training to the wider community through the active partnership between Council, its officers, and the volunteers. The attached Landcare Pictorial Report documents the activities of the active Eurobodalla Landcare Management Committee groups for 2009/10.

BACKGROUND

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 is proactive in the Eurobodalla in facilitating community and landholder contributions to environmental project works across the landscape. The ELMC is also instrumental in discussions with the Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority (SRCMA) and the Eurobodalla Local Management Team.

ISSUES

This report is to provide the summary of Landcare activities for the financial year of 2009/10.

Legal

Eurobodalla Landcare is auspiced through Council to undertake project works in accordance with the Management Plan, Estuary Management Plans and the Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority Catchment Action Plan. The ELMC oversees the operation of its member groups to ensure that occupational health and safety matters are given due consideration and that an integrated and effective project delivery is undertaken across the Eurobodalla.

Environmental

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
- Exotic and noxious weed control
- 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 of Landcare group members
- Environmental education of the wider community

Project locations:

- Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority has provided the Eurobodalla Landcare Management funding for two projects – Protecting Littoral Rainforest in Endangered Ecological Community in the Gulaga area through Lantana Control and Community Engagement; and Southern Eurobodalla Communities Caring for Coastal Ecosystems
- Caring for our Country Community Coastcare program has funded projects which have been implemented at Long Beach and Malua Bay.
- NSW Industry and Investment has funded a project to protect riparian areas from weed invasion on the Deua River.
- 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, Lilli Pilli, Malua Bay, Guerilla Bay, Broulee / Bengello, Deua Valley, Rosedale, Coila Lake Foreshore, Surf Beach, Tuross, Congo, Bingie, Potato Point, Kianga, Dalmeny, Moruya, Handkerchief Beach, and Mystery Bay.

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

- Tilba Healthy Soils Field Day
- Bushcare Training Days conducted at North Head, Broulee, Potato Point, Bingie, South Durras, Burrawang, Lilli Pilli, Denhams Beach, Mystery Bay, and Deua Valley.

Additional training in weed control techniques was provided to youth from Carroll College and the Eurobodalla 2010 National Green Jobs Corps.

Asset

The improvement of environmental assets is by various mechanisms including planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of on-ground activities to conserve and rehabilitate environmental assets.

Social Impact

The Eurobodalla Landcarers consists of 34 registered groups of which 22 were active during the 2009/10 period. Volunteers contributed a total of 12 227 hours on Landcare activities. This is a 30% increase from the hours contributed in 2008/09.

The primary on-ground activity was weed control with Landcare volunteers contributing 3,998 hours to reduce the effects of weeds on native vegetation on reserves, private property and farmland.

The Indian Myna Bird Control Landcare group contributed 3793 hours attending planning meetings, then collecting, preparing, laying, inspecting, and emptying cage traps. This is a new group that was established in the 2009/10 period and has been highly active in eradication of the pest species.

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An additional three new Coastcare groups formed – Potato Point Coastcare, Lewis Island Coastcare, and Handkerchief Beach Coastcare.

Community Consultation

The community is kept informed of Landcare initiatives via media releases. Twelve media releases were distributed on a range of environmental issues.

Landcare items are included in the new Eurobodalla Conservation Newsletter which is produced every second month. The Newsletter is distributed to 309 recipients and is also available via the Council Website.

Environmental education initiatives are supported by Landcare groups and Council's Environment Unit staff. Activities include:

- Environmental education stalls were conducted at the South Durras Plant Swap event; at the two days of Art and Environment on the Path – Broulee; and the Green It We Mean it Expo, Batemans Bay to provide information on weeds and weed control.
- A Healthy Soils Field day was conducted at Tilba on the 7 May 2010

Economic Development Employment Potential

Eurobodalla Shire Council and Eurobodalla Landcare Management Committee were assisted by the 2010 Eurobodalla National Green Jobs Corps Team providing six months employment for local youth between the ages of 17 – 20 years. Additional assistance has also been utilised from Koori work crews from Wagonga and Batemans Bay Local Aboriginal Land Councils.

Staff

The Eurobodalla Landcare Community Support Officer position, funded by the Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority, and hosted by Council, supports the activities of the Landcare groups. Additional support via grant funded Project Officers is provided where possible to instigate on ground works, awareness raising and training for Landcarers and groups. Landcare projects are also supported by the Environment Team of Council.

Strategic Links

The ELMC provide a strategic approach to natural resource management by participation on the Southern East Landcare (SEL) Network group and the Eurobodalla Local Management Team that is facilitated by the Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority (SRCMA).

The projects undertaken complement the SRCMA Catchment Action Plan and, where applicable, implement "Plans of Management" developed by Eurobodalla Shire Council and align with the objectives of the Management Plan along with activities aligned with Estuary Management Plans of Council.

All of the activities ensure there is consistency and integration with the natural resource programs and works within the region of the Southern Rivers.

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Financial

Eurobodalla Landcare volunteers have contributed 12,227 volunteer hours which are valued at \$336,810 based on \$30/hour, the Australian Government value for volunteer labour.

In addition, the Landcare groups have been working on projects utilising grant funding from a variety of sources including the Australian Government Envirofund; Caring for our Country Community Coastcare, Australian Government Volunteer Grants 2009; National Landcare Program – via Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority; Natural Resources Advisory Committee; and SRCMA Caring for our Coasts Programs.

Number of submissions	17
Number of successful applications	10
Number of grants pending	2
% successful	59% successful 12% pending 29% unsuccessful

See Appendices for

1. Eurobodalla Landcare Volunteer hours 2009- 2010
2. Landcare Applications 2009/10

CONCLUSION

Landcare programs and activities are an attempt to reverse the decline of the environment and increase the level of understanding of the significance of Landcare objectives. The projects are community driven which are fulfilling community aspirations in regard to the planning, implementation and management of their works. There is a diverse range of activities across the Eurobodalla with the common goals of improving the environment.

Eurobodalla Landcare Management Committee extends their appreciation to Council and Council staff for their on-going support and looks forward to working together with Council on future natural resource projects and initiatives.

RECOMMENDED

THAT:

1. The report titled Eurobodalla Landcare Groups' Annual Report 2009/10 be received and noted.
2. Council forward formal acknowledgment in appreciation of efforts to Eurobodalla Landcare Management Committee, and the member groups of that Committee, for their efforts.

DEBORAH LENSON
ENVIRONMENT SERVICES MANAGER
STRATEGIC, DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
Attach. Below

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Eurobodalla Landcare Volunteer hours 2009- 2010 FINAL

Group	Admin	Planning	Education	Planting	Fencing	Erosion	Weeding	Spraying	Maint'nce	Training	Signage	Rubbish	Other	Total
Broulee/ Mossy Point	11.5	10.5	367	35	15.5	4.5	104.5	0	5	70.5	0	11	0	635
Budd Island	0	0	0	0	0	0	53	0	0	0	0	0	0	53
Burrawang	5	4.5	233	0	0	0	234	3	0	0	0	11.5	0	491
Congo	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Kianga/Dalmeny	39	24	1	47	0	0	261.5	26.5	6	0	0	10.5	0	415.5
Denhams Beach	0	0	0	0	0	0	86.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	86.5
Deua River	34	0	0	30	0	0	354	0	0	30	0	0	15	463
ELMC	90.5	0	0	0	0	0	252	0	0	412	0	0	0	754.5
Indian Myna Control													3793	3793
Guerilla Bay	0	0	0	16	0	0	176.5	0	0	0	0	1	14.5	208
Lilli Pilli/ Malua Bay	33	88	24.5	0	0	0	330	27	104	46.5	0	54	22.5	729.5
Long Beach	57.5	0	18	88	0	0	790	0	2	0	1	18.5	185.5	1160.5
Mystery Bay	0	33	10	59	0	0	35	2	0	77	0	0	0	216
Newstead Pond	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	21
Potato Point	0	0	0	0	0	0	70.5	0	0	40	0	0	0	110.5
Rosedale	24	134					144	16						318
SAGE - Moruya Dist.	9	8	48.5	15.5	0	0	127.5	0	278	44.5	0	0	0	531
South Durras	0	2	112.5	35.5	16	0	221.5	11.5	43.5	72	0	12.5	66.5	593.5
Surf Beach	2	5	0	21	0	0	224	3	0	24	0	7	0	286
Surfside Bushcare	0	0	0	0	0	0	90	0	0	0	0	0	0	90
Tuross Lakes	75	108	106.5	325	99	3	385	2.5	96.5	0	1	22	7.5	1231
Tuross Valley	0	0	0	0	0	0	37.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	37.5
	380.5	420	921	672	130.5	7.5	3998	91.5	535	816.5	2	148	4104.5	12227

In-kind \$366,810	Admin	Planning	Education	Planting	Fencing	Erosion	Weeding	Spraying	Maint'nce	Training	Signage	Rubbish	Other	Total
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1. Landcare Applications 2009/10

Project Title	Applicant	Funding Body	Funds Requested	Total Costs	Submitted	Success	Comments
Volunteers Equipment	ELMC	Volunteer Grants 2009 Australian Govt Dept FHCSIA	\$4299	\$4299	25.09.09	Unsuccessful	Applied for hand tools, Marquee, Hose reel for water trailer
Volunteers Equipment	SAGE	Volunteer Grants 2009 Australian Govt Dept FHCSIA	\$5000	\$5000	25.09.09	Successful 08.12.09	Gardening tools, water tank, pump, First Aid Kit
NLP – 7 Implementation Priority Landcare Works in the Eurobodalla 2009/10	ESC	National Landcare Program – via SRCMA	\$26,000	\$67,600	07.09	Successful 09.09	
Coastal Biodiversity Conservation by Eurobodalla Coastal Communities	ELMC	C4C Community Action Grants	\$21,500	\$21,500		Unsuccessful	
Candalagan Creek and Broulee Foreshore Fish Habitat Rehabilitation	Broulee / Mossy Point Dunecare	Fish Habitat Grants	\$25,000	\$50,250	16.10.09	Unsuccessful	\$3000 contributed from ELMC/Council allocation
Deua River Australian Bass Habitat Rehabilitation 2009/10	Deua Rivercare	Fish Habitat Grants	\$12,100	\$24,300	16.10.09	Successful 16.10.09	\$2000 contributed from ELMC/Council allocation
Increasing Soil Carbon through Grazing Management and Biological Enhancement of Soil on the Far South Coast	FSCLA / ELMC	Caring for our Country	\$195, 145*	226,553		Successful	Eurobodalla and Bega Regional Project

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Project Title	Applicant	Funding Body	Funds Requested	Total Costs	Submitted	Success	Comments
Regional Wetland Carers Network	CVA	Natural Resources Advisory Committee	\$58,512*	\$171,732		Successful (funds administered by CVA Wollongong)	Regional Project conducted over 7 District Landcare Association (DLA) areas.
Strengthening Community NRM in Eurobodalla, including caring for Small Coastal Catchments and Littoral Rainforest / Coastal Vine Thickets (Landcare Community Support Officer project)	ESC / ELMC	SRCMA	\$203,800*	\$359,532		Successful	2 year project focuses on training and administrative support for Landcare groups.
Long Beach Landcare Volunteers Equipment	Long Beach Landcare	Volunteer Grants 2009 Australian Govt Dept FHCSIA	\$1638	\$1638	09.09	Successful	VSEG for equipment to the value of \$1638 (chainsaw, PPE, laminator, petrol, mower)
Southern Eurobodalla Communities Caring for Coastal Ecosystems	ELMC	SRCMA Caring for our Coasts	\$50,000	\$103,000	4.2.10	Successful 3.10	\$5,500 from existing ELMC/Council budget
Northern Eurobodalla Communities Caring for Coastal Ecosystems	ELMC	SRCMA Caring for our Coasts	\$50,000	\$100,000	4.2.10	Unsuccessful	\$2,500 from existing ELMC/Council budget
Gulaga Lantana: Stage 2 Protecting Littoral Rainforest Endangered Ecological Community in the Gulaga area through Lantana Control and Community Engagement.	ELMC	SRCMA Caring for our Coasts	\$50,000	\$101,700	4.2.10	Successful 3.10	\$3000 from existing ELMC/Council budget

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Project Title	Applicant	Funding Body	Funds Requested	Total Costs	Submitted	Success	Comments
Volunteers Equipment	ELMC	Volunteer Grants 2010 Australian Govt Dept FHCSIA	\$4998	\$4998	15.04.10	Unsuccessful	Applied for hand tools, Light weight Chainsaw, Safety Gear, Light weight Generator, Brushcutter, Hose reel for water trailer
Volunteers Equipment	Kianga / Dalmeny Dunecare	Volunteer Grants 2010 Australian Govt Dept FHCSIA	\$1668	\$1668	15.04.10	Successful 12.8.10	Applied for hand tools, Blower to clear sand / leaves off stairs and footpath, Safety gear, Brushcutter
Tending to the Grassroots – Priority Landcare Works in Southern Rivers	SEL with ELMC / ESC/ other DLA's	Aust Govt Caring for our Country 2010	\$270,000	\$441,000	15.4.10	Pending	Regional Project conducted over 7 DLA areas. \$35,000 for Eurobodalla - Landcare Priority works plus other training initiatives will be organised by SEL region wide
Northern Eurobodalla Communities Caring for Coastal Ecosystems	ELMC	Aust Govt Caring for our Country 2010	\$54,000	\$56,500	15.04.10	Pending	\$2,500 from ELMC Funding to engage weed control contractors and Koori Work team. Plant swaps, Bushcare training, and Backyard weed control advice
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED			\$1,033,660	\$1,741,270			
TOTAL FUNDING 30.6.10			\$603,863*	\$1,062,723			*Includes Landcare Support and Regional Projects involving Eurobodalla Landcare groups