

NATIVE GRASSES IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP 2008

A survey of the rural community in Eurobodalla identified a need to learn more about pasture species – both native and exotic. The Eurobodalla Landcare Community support officer, Peter Gow, assisted the Eurobodalla Landcare Management Committee to develop a funding application to Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority, which proved successful.

A Botanist from Brogo, Jackie Miles, was engaged to conduct the workshop, in partnership with Hayden Kingston, District Agronomist, Dept Primary Industries. A package for participants was produced with input from Peter Gow, Jackie Miles, and Hayden Kingston, which included a CD, workshop notes, and Paddock Plants fact sheets.



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

Twenty five local residents participated in the workshop, which included a field trip, to learn about the Native Grasses of Eurobodalla. Participants found that 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.

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

There was so much interest that Eurobodalla Landcare later conducted a second workshop for those who missed out on the first Native Grasses Workshop.