

# 2023 MUSTER

## Stories from the heart

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Case study information from the Muster.

### Biodiversity

#### Moving to make our paddocks ready for a changing climate - Presented by Kathryn Mcguirk (Yass Area Network)

YAN started a "Climate Ready" project in 2018. We planted several trial sites with Eucalyptus, acacia and regional hop bush in 2020 and have been monitoring their survival rates since that time. Since 2020 we have been sourcing native seed for 40 species from Box Gum Grassy woodland plants we expect to thrive in the Yass region to 2050. We are working with NSW Adapt, Macquarie University and Royal Botanical Gardens.

**Contact - [coordinator@yan.org.au](mailto:coordinator@yan.org.au)**

Website: <https://yan.org.au/projects/climate-ready-revegetation-project>

#### Caring for Southern Pygmy Perch in the Gunning region - Presented by Sonya Duus (Gunning District Landcare)

Gunning District Landcare has had a long-term interest in the endangered Southern Pygmy Perch that have been found in local waterways. We run activities to engage the community and improve habitat, working closely with fish scientists. Most recently we have formed a partnership with Oz Fish Unlimited.

**Contact - [coordinator@gdl.org.au](mailto:coordinator@gdl.org.au)**

**Gunning District Landcare - <https://gunningdistrictlandcare.org.au/projects/item/16-threatened-southern-pygmy-perch-urgently-need-your-dams>**

#### Superb Parrot - A study in biodiversity - Presented by Vincent Heffernan (Upper Lachlan Landcare)

OEH launched an initiative to plant 'paddock' trees in the hope of providing potential nesting places for the increasingly marginalised Superb Parrot. However the deeper understanding of the threat these birds face means we require a broader and more nuanced effort. Preventing loss of existing trees is vital. Bringing balance in ecosystems so trees aren't lost due to stress or too many mistletoes. Providing food for the SP's is equally important. This may seem like a story of a parrot and a tree but goes to the complexity and integration of the entire ecosystem and our role in that as landholders and farmers. **Contact - [vince\\_heffernan@hotmail.com](mailto:vince_heffernan@hotmail.com)**

**Website:** [https://www.upperlachlanlandcare.org.au/images/Paddock\\_Tree\\_Flyer\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.upperlachlanlandcare.org.au/images/Paddock_Tree_Flyer_FINAL.pdf)

### **Supporting Endangered frogs and reptiles in the Shoalhaven - Presented by Greg Thompson (Shoalhaven Landcare)**

Community engagement has been strong in supporting two endangered species by creating extra habitat (making false rocks) for the endangered broad headed snake and reintroducing the stuttering frog into the Cambewarra range. Strategies are simple, volunteers can achieve a lot, but government hurdles are formidable.

**Contact -** [gregorywilliamthompson@gmail.com](mailto:gregorywilliamthompson@gmail.com)

**Website -** <https://landcare.nsw.gov.au/groups/shoalhaven-landcare-association-inc/bringing-the-stuttering-frog-back/>

### **Partnerships for Koala Conservation across the Southeast Region - Presented by Jess Bettanin (NSW Koala Strategy)**

In 2021 The NSW government launched the NSW Koala Strategy which is committed to the bold aim of doubling the number of koalas in NSW by 2050. Partnerships and supporting local communities to conserve koalas is one of the central pillars of the Koala Strategy.

**Contact -** [jess.bettanin@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jess.bettanin@environment.nsw.gov.au)

**Website-** <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/threatened-species/programs-legislation-and-framework/nsw-koala-strategy>

## **Engaging Community**

### **Araluen Creek Restoration Project - Presented by Penny Hayman (Upper Deua Catchment Landcare Group)**

The Araluen Creek Restoration Project is to undertake additional works to rehabilitate the Araluen Creek, from the effect of the drought, bushfires and flooding over recent years. Fundamental to the project has been partnership with landholders along the creek to obtain cooperation and collaboration. A major part of the project involves large-scale erosion control works along the creek. However, vitally important are other activities such as weed control, re-vegetation, fencing, low-cost small erosion control measures, alternative water sources for stock and ongoing creek monitoring. A community engagement program has been run over the last year on each of these aspects.

**Contact -** [pheyman@gmail.com](mailto:pheyman@gmail.com)

**Website -** <https://landcare.nsw.gov.au/groups/upper-shoalhaven-landcare-council-inc/araluen-creek-restoration-project/>

### **Can I get paid to plant trees? - Presented by Graham Fifield (Greening Australia)**

The carbon market provides an opportunity to fund large scale revegetation and conservation projects on private land. Greening Australia has been partnering with landholders over the last 3 years to help them access the carbon market; exploring opportunities to accelerate their farm plans, generate their own carbon credits or secure additional sources of income from planting trees.

**Contact - [gfifield@greeningaustralia.org.au](mailto:gfifield@greeningaustralia.org.au)**

**Website - [Talk to us about offsetting your carbon - Greening Australia - Greening Australia](#)**

## **Strategies Workshop Series - A successful Landcare & NSW Farmers partnership - Presented by Linda Cavanagh (Boorowa Community Landcare) and Catriona McAuliffe (NSW Farmers)**

Boorowa Community Landcare Group has formed a partnership with NSW Farmers Boorowa-Harden branch & delivered a series of one-day workshops designed to explore the economics of improving soil health and achieving better environmental outcomes in agricultural businesses.

**Contact - [southeastrlc20@gmail.com](mailto:southeastrlc20@gmail.com) / [mcauliffec@nswfarmers.org.au](mailto:mcauliffec@nswfarmers.org.au)**

**Website - <https://landcare.nsw.gov.au/groups/boorowa-community-landcare-group/strategies-for-success-2021/>**

## **Illawarra Intrepid Landcare - Presented by Maddy Yerbury (Intrepid Landcare)**

Illawarra Intrepid Landcare has organised several events over the past year to engage young people in landcare.

**Contact - [maddison.yerbury@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:maddison.yerbury@lls.nsw.gov.au)**

**Website - <https://landcare.nsw.gov.au/groups/illawarra-youth-landcare/>**

## **Walbunja Rangers – Presented by Andrew White (Batemans Bay LALC) and Ross Cannon (Local Land Services)**

The Walbunja Rangers have collaborated with key stakeholders to lead projects that Care for Country. Project works cover all aspects of land management; cultural burning, fauna monitoring, pest control, weed control, regeneration and revegetation. The rangers have collaborated with Local Land Services, Department of Planning and Environment, Crown Lands, Ocean Watch, Fisheries NSW, Rural Fire Service and the South Coast community. **Contact - [ross.cannon@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ross.cannon@lls.nsw.gov.au)**

**Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/bblalcwalbunjarangers/>**

## **Symbiotic land management**

### **The Regional Circularity Cooperative (RCC) - Presented by Andrew Taylor (Bega Group)**

The Regional Circularity Cooperative (RCC) has been established by Bega Group (aka Bega Cheese) to drive a transition to a circular economy in the Bega region, demonstrating how working together can drive a whole-of-community / whole of economy transition to circular economy. This transition requires a comprehensive and collaborative approach that works with economic, social, cultural and environmental drivers at numerous scales. The RCC is working with community, industry, academia, government and corporates on local, regional, national and international scales and is excited by the progress so far. Bega Valley will serve as an ideal pilot for establishing a scalable model to encourage adoption more broadly.

**Contact - [andrew.taylor@bega.com.au](mailto:andrew.taylor@bega.com.au)**

**Website** - <https://begacircularvalley.com.au/projects/project-overview-2/>

**Local Land Stewards - Incentivising Better Land Manager Environmental Practices - Presented by Melissa Henry (Local Land Services)**

Local Land Stewards has been a four-year project to work with 24 landholders in Boorowa, Upper Lachlan and Yass Valley to increase groundcover, herbage mass, pasture species diversity and perennially, having installed paddock sub-divisional fencing and additional water points. Landholders have also been participating in Landcare peer-supported grazing groups to increase their skills in time-controlled grazing and pasture monitoring.

**Contact** - [melissa.henry@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:melissa.henry@lls.nsw.gov.au)

**Website**<https://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/regions/south-east/latest-news-and-newsletters/newsletters/newsletter-issues/2020/december/understanding-regenerative-grazing>

**This Goes with That? – Symbiotic Agriculture - Presented by Julia McKay (Landcare Goulburn Mulwaree)**

Landscape management is not simple and no one system fits all circumstances. Similarly nature isn't simple. Mixes of vegetation and animals (especially our own species) cause responses over time via the process of selection – selecting for success and eliminating failures. Landcare Goulburn Mulwaree has supported a multi-species pasture trial at Parksbourne to assess the impact of a polyculture on soil health, productivity and productivity. This is a work in progress.

**Contact** - [julia@growingatgoulburn.com.au](mailto:julia@growingatgoulburn.com.au)

**Website** - <https://landcare.nsw.gov.au/groups/community-voice-for-hume/>

**Grasping Grazing Groups - Presented by Paul Cavanagh (Boorowa Community Landcare Group) and Paul Hewitt (Upper Lachlan Landcare Group)**

This presentation looked at Landcare grazing groups, and how they aim to improve landscape health, sustainable profitability, and peer support to create resilience in an unpredictable climate. The key focus is on developing grazing groups in the south-east, and this session will include a Q&A session about forming new groups, with tips on group structure and successful implementation.

**Contact** - [wingywool@yahoo.com.au](mailto:wingywool@yahoo.com.au)

**Website** - <https://landcare.nsw.gov.au/grazing-and-biodiversity-tour/>

**Saving Our Creek - One Farm's Journey - Presented by Frank Egan (Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council)**

One farm's journey to repair an 800-meter section of a local creek that traverses the property. Over the course of 15 years, we observe how the landscape changes and responds to human intervention and riparian management. The story highlights an innovative approach to creek restoration that focuses on creating structures that discharge water at a slower rate and capture debris, allowing the creek to function properly. It's an excellent example of how a little creativity can go a long way in addressing environmental issues.

**Contact** - [fegan@live.com.au](mailto:fegan@live.com.au)

Upper Shoalhaven Landcare - <https://landcare.nsw.gov.au/groups/upper-shoalhaven-landcare-council-inc/>

## Connectivity

### Supporting Habitat Connectivity in Upper Lachlan - Presented by John Anderson (Upper Lachlan Landcare)

Revegetation projects have traditionally been located where landholder interest is high. This project identified areas of the Shire that would return maximum habitat connectivity benefits for the investment of on-ground works, and established a passionate team, known as the Connectivity Crew, to guide connectivity enhancement activities and build a supportive network of partners. Learn about a process and a plan that can strategically improve habitat connectivity on a scale that has not previously been possible.

Contact - [john@jnjanderson.net](mailto:john@jnjanderson.net)

Website - <https://www.upperlachlanlandcare.org.au/projects/habitat-connectivity>

### BCT/Landcare Partnership 2.0 - Presented by Tobi Edmonds & Alice McGrath (Biodiversity Conservation Trust)

BCT and Landcare NSW will be entering into a new partnership, we would like to get feedback from Landcare Groups in the South East about what sort of projects they would like to partner with BCT on and what projects the BCT has that Landcare might like to partner on.

Contact - [Tobi.Edmonds@bct.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Tobi.Edmonds@bct.nsw.gov.au) / [Alice.McGrath@bct.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Alice.McGrath@bct.nsw.gov.au)

Website - <https://www.bct.nsw.gov.au/conservation-partners-program>

### The way it was - Restoring the Shoalhaven Flood Plain Riparian Vegetation - Presented by Kristy Henry and Greg Tedder (Local Land Services)

Kristy and Ashley Henry, former dairy producers, now beef producers are working to re-establish coastal lowlands forest and floodplain vegetation communities to sections of Horseshoe Creek, on their property. Kristy and Greg will discuss the successes and some of the challenges they are facing with this project.

Contact - [greg.tedder@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:greg.tedder@lls.nsw.gov.au)

### Living Landscapes - Presented by Michael Andrews (Bundanon Trust) & Mick Delmenico (Landcare Australia)

This presentation will provide an overview of NRM projects implemented by Bundanon, Landcare Australia and its extensive network of partners across the 900-hectare Shoalhaven River property. Participants will be introduced to the Bundanon property and its goals and aspirations and to partnership projects focusing on landscape connectivity and biodiversity.

Contact - [michael.andrews@bundanon.com.au](mailto:michael.andrews@bundanon.com.au)

## **Totally Cray - how we can contribute to the long game of threatened species recovery - Presented by Felicity Sturgiss (Local Land Services)**

An overview of the role that two 5-year NLP projects played in the bigger picture of long term threatened species recovery. Reflecting on what was learned, what was hard, what lifted our spirits and what may persist after the projects are over.

**Contact - [felicity.sturgiss@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:felicity.sturgiss@lls.nsw.gov.au)**

**Website: <https://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/help-and-advice/natural-resource-management/threatened-species>**