



Fencing the creek from grazing cattle helped improve the property and operations at Mt Mercer.



Paterson's curse.

Bio control results for curse

THANKS to the introduction of a suite of insects, the impact of Paterson's curse on agricultural crops and native plants is being reduced.

Paterson's curse, a winter annual, often becomes the dominant species in pastures. It can produce more than 5000 seeds per plant per year. It contains pyrrolizidine alkaloids, which can cause liver damage if livestock graze the weed for extended periods.

Over two decades, biocontrol measures, as tested by the CSIRO and distributed by state governments, have helped stop the weed from outcompeting pasture, without the need for chemical treatments. Seven insects that attack all stages of Paterson's curse have been released and are established in the field. These insects have been shown to cause plant death and reduce seed set.

Biocontrol has worked well in National Parks, reserves, and on roadsides. Wherever Paterson's curse occurs the insects can also be found, giving native vegetation a better chance.

■ Visit weedbiocontrol.com.au for details.

Generational on-farm changes at Murrawuk

LANDCARE has changed thousands of farms for the better, but few have undergone the transformation that Danny Laffan has performed on "Murrawuk", the 400-hectare Mt Mercer, Victoria, farm he took up in 1990.

The farm was then a single paddock. "The only way we could manage the cattle was if we got them all into the yards," Mr Laffan recalled.

The creek was a growing erosion gully, and salinity was eating productivity away from the lower end.

"We hadn't even heard of Landcare at that stage, but an old bloke next door mentioned it to me," he said.

When Woody-Yaloak Landcare group formed in 1993, Mr Laffan joined up for 23 years. The group has always focused on the interface between landscape restoration and productivity, and that proved to be just the tonic Mr Laffan needed.

In 1994, Mr Laffan started the long, rewarding process of making a flogged-out farm into a productive one.

His first step was to fence out the saline area of the creek and plant it out to trees. At that point, enthusiasm trumped knowledge.

"We started at the wrong end of the creek," he ac-

knowledges. "We were working with the symptom, not the cause."

It took 10 years for that work to bring about a productive result, during which Mr Laffan moved on.

With help from farm consultant and fellow Woody-Yaloak member, Cam Nicholson, Mr Laffan started to sow down new pasture. With Mr Nicholson's guidance, he learned to manage grazing on improved pastures to sustain productivity and longevity. The first pasture sown in the mid 1990s is still going strong.

Mr Laffan subsequently fenced the entire 2 to 3km of

creekline. "It was partly selfish," he admits.

"The cows would calve in the bare erosion gullies along the creek, and it was a hell of a job to

check on them on a winter day. But once we fenced off the creek, the gullies revegetated and formed windbreaks – and the creek water cleaned up."

Mr Laffan hasn't invested in dams. Through the funding agreements he made to fence off the creek, he instead built a reticulated offstream watering system.

Recently, he and others in the group began bridging the winter feed gap by sowing

forage crops, with several advantages. Not only does Mr Laffan buy in less or no supplementary feed, young stock gain weight faster on the forage crops, and he can turn them off faster, leaving more feed for breeding stock.

For Mr Laffan, Landcare has been far more than just "planting trees". It has given financial assistance for big projects, and the know-how to lift productivity, while Woody-Yaloak has explored issues like chemical use and red-legged earth mite control.

"I don't know how we would have done it without Landcare," he reflects.

Landcare Lane, a regional landmark



Corowa Landcare has planted out a 1.5-kilometre laneway, linking two areas of remnant vegetation. It has been formally named "Landcare Lane".

COROWA District Landcare group has been active in the South Riverina for 20 years.

The group is dedicated to and increasing awareness and education around improving agricultural practices, the environment, and biodiversity in the Southern Riverina.

Over the years the group has participated in many regeneration projects, centred on improving the local eucalypt communities. In 1999,

local Landcarer and farmer Delwyn Clifton recognised that roadside plantings serve to preserve and connect remnant vegetation. She enlisted the help of Landcare, Murray Catchment Management Authority, local school children, neighbours, and family to plant a 1.5-kilometre laneway with indigenous trees, shrubs and groundcovers, linking two areas of remnant vegetation.

To celebrate Delwyn's

initiative and the efforts of Landcare in the region, the laneway has been formally named and registered as "Landcare Lane".

Now a local landmark, the laneway and its plantings act as a shelterbelt, help control weeds, provide shade and shelter for livestock, and food for native fauna, while allowing birds and reptiles to move freely across the landscape.

Seventeen years on,

Corowa District Landcare welcomes you to visit Landcare Lane and celebrate the efforts of Landcare. Landcare Lane is located between Redlands Road and Fairfield Lane on the Riverina Highway, about 30km northwest of Corowa. GPS S35° 48.242' E146° 13.168' (southern end), GPS S35° 47.343' E146° 13.343' (northern end)

■ For more information contact Joanne Diver on (02) 6033 8933.



Strengthening Aust Ag from the ground up

BY ASSISTANT MINISTER TO THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, KEITH PITT

AS ASSISTANT Minister to the Deputy Prime Minister, I was excited to be given the opportunity to support the Landcare Movement and work closely with you to deliver its priorities.

I bought my first farm in 1998 and my second in 2004. I soon learnt about the challenges that arise with farming in Australia, as well as the importance of effective land management.

We know that our farmers are some of the best in the world at what they do. They understand that growing high quality produce starts with a healthy, strong foundation. I see our farmers as among our most dedicated conservationists and land managers, which is reassuring, given they manage more than half of Australia's total land mass.

While our farmers, producers and land managers have continued to demonstrate their innovative and

effective approaches to modern-day farming, we understand that the government has a key role to play in supporting their work and conserving the natural resources of soil, water and vegetation, on which they rely.

Through the National Landcare Programme, the Australian government will invest \$1 billion to support sustainable agriculture, as well as the protection, conservation and rehabilitation of Australia's natural environment. The Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper continues to deliver on key initiatives that will bring about a range of benefits and support for our farming sector.

Almost \$3 billion has been allocated to support farmers and rural communities to strengthen drought preparedness and risk management. This includes \$25.8 million to help the State and Territory governments manage pest animals and weeds in drought affected areas. To ensure farmers continue to have access to a clean,

sustainable water source, \$676,000 has been allocated to finalise the development of a new herbicide tool to clear irrigation channels of submersed aquatic weeds.

We are also delivering on our commitment to invest \$500 million in developing the nation's water infrastructure. Water is the lifeblood of our river ecosystems, which are so important in sustaining Australia's unique flora and fauna. Many communities across the country also rely on these river systems for their wellbeing and livelihoods. The National water Infrastructure Development Fund will support a range of projects across the country to secure our water supplies.

This is just a snapshot of the government's plan to sustain and boost Australia's agriculture sector, through sustainable initiatives that protect and rehabilitate our most fundamental resource – the natural environment. It is an exciting time for Australian agriculture and I look forward to seeing what lies ahead.



Assistant Minister to the Deputy Prime Minister, Keith Pitt.

Apply for a drought loan now

DROUGHT-affected farm businesses in all states and the Northern Territory have until 30 June 2016 to apply for drought-related concessional loans. A Drought Concessional Loan, with an interest rate of 2.71 per cent, can be used for planting and/or restocking activities. Farm businesses should not self-assess before making an application for a Drought

Recovery Loan. Contact the relevant delivery agency in your jurisdiction to discuss eligibility and what is available. More information about the concessional loans that will be available in 2016-17 will be announced soon. ■ Visit agriculture.gov.au/ assistance.

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Busy times for Landcare

AS THE CEO of Landcare Australia, I'm pleased to announce that the 2016 National Landcare Conference and Awards dates have been set for 21-23 September, and the location of Melbourne Conference and Exhibition Centre has been confirmed.

Applications for Round Five of the Green Army Programme are now open.

You can apply for either Stream 1 – Multi-Project Proposals – for three to 15 projects, or Stream 2 for one or two projects.

To apply you will need to follow the Guidelines which provides a full list of applica-

tion requirements including eligibility.

For more information email greenarmy@landcareaustralia.com.au

The results from our 2016 Landcare in Focus readership survey – advertised in the March edition – are in.

We would like to thank all those who took the time to complete the survey.

The lucky winner of the iPad will be selected and contacted in the coming weeks.

Even though we're still crunching the numbers and analysing the information that you provided, our editorial team is already hard

at work implementing some of the recommendations you provided.

Lastly, a few weeks ago, Landcare Australia published our first annual special magazine edition, themed Building Drought Resilience.

The 16 page edition contained articles from a wide variety of highly informative sources. If you missed out on your copy, I urge you to email us your contact details requesting one.

By **Tessa Jakszewicz**, Landcare Australia CEO
■ Email lif@landcareaustralia.com.au to receive your copy.

Do you have a story to tell?

We seek your submissions of stories or story ideas from across the Landcare network discussing your successes and learning opportunities. The objective is to highlight the wonderful and diverse ways in which "Landcare" is interpreted and implemented around Australia.

Landcare in Focus is distributed to a wide readership of over 300,000 – which provides you a great opportunity to have your story heard across Australia.

All article submissions must adhere to the following guidelines and the deadlines below and must include:

- One article of between 100-500 words saved as a Microsoft Word document or a PDF.
- 1-3 high resolution images that clearly illustrate the accompanying article (must be at least 1.5MB in size and more than 300dpi).
- Contact information or weblink for readers seeking more information about your story.

Edition	Topic	Deadline
August 2016	National Landcare Conference & Awards special edt. Tell us your stories related to the national conference & awards, and conference theme	21 July, 2016
November 2016	Grazing management for improved productivity and profitability, soil resource management and variable rainfall response Tell us your stories of improved on farm productivity from grazing management, or stories of soil management, or rainfall response.	21 October, 2016



For more information or to pitch our editorial team your story idea, contact us at: lif@landcareaustralia.com.au

Due to space restrictions some article content may be edited, we also cannot guarantee that all submissions will be published.



Australian Government



Healthy pastures bloom after 25 years of grants

GRAZIERS on the NSW Northern Tablelands have new insights into how to reduce soil degradation and create healthy pastures, thanks to the Australian Government's 25th anniversary National Landcare Grants.

The All the Dirt III - building knowledge for resilient, sustainable soil management project, supported by Southern New England Landcare Coordinating Committee Inc., aims to increase sustainable pasture management practices in the Malpas Catchment community - a grazer dominated group in the highly productive NSW Northern Tablelands. It was one of 291 projects delivered nationally under the 25th anniversary round of the grants, with each Landcare project receiving between \$5,000 and \$20,000.

Under this innovative project, soil management courses are delivered to give graziers new skills to adopt the best land management practices that address soil degradation, reduce the risk of contaminants entering the catchment system and regenerate a healthy soil pasture system to sustain resilient and productive grazing ecosystems. The project also helps land managers understand the impacts of their stock and input management on soil health and productivity. Understanding and adopting these best practices will allow the graziers to improve the pasture productivity and farm profits.

Another innovative project also funded by 25th Anniversary Landcare Grants round was The Match Crop Inputs with Potential Yield in Harden project, supported by Harden Murrumburrah



All the Dirt III Farm Day participants share soil and paddock management advice. Further information about the National Landcare Programme can be found online at www.nrm.gov.au.

Landcare Group. Participants used the Yield Prophet online crop production tool designed to optimise crop inputs and potential yield each season. Online modelling allows farmers to better manage extreme climate risks and avoid overinvesting in fertilisers and other farm inputs.

The simulation results from Yield Prophet provide information that allows farmers and advisors to forecast yield: manage climate and soil water risks; make informed decisions about fertiliser and irrigation applications, and assess the effect of changing sowing dates or varieties. The expected out-

comes of the project include increasing long term farm gate profits by improving soil, water, fertiliser and other farm input management.

During 2015, the project had established 25 Yield Prophet sites, with 19 wheat sites and six canola sites in the Harden, Young and Cootamundra areas. The sites

covered different wheat cultivars, planting dates, paddock histories, soil types and locations. The information collected from the sites can be applied to a wide range of situations. The project will be completed in June 2016 and the yield data will be analysed and compared with the results from the model.



Get help with your financial strategy.

Free rural financial advice

THE Australian Government's new Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS) funding round is up and running to will deliver vital support to farming families across Australia over the next three years.

The RFCS provides free rural financial counselling to farmers, fishing enterprises, forestry growers and harvesters, and small related businesses who are suffering financial hardship.

Under the new \$47 million funding package, forest growers and harvesters suffering financial hardship will now be able to access the service in addition to farmers, fishers, and small related businesses.

There are 12 service providers across Australia that employ rural financial counsellors to assist clients in need living in every Australian state as well as the Northern Territory. The Government is strengthening the RFCS by implementing enhancements arising from the National Rural Advisory Council's 2014 review of the service.

■ Visit agriculture.gov.au/rfcs.



Peter Henry inspects direct seeding one year on at Taillem Bend, SA.

Revegetating the Mallee

WAYNE Brown, Director of Environments by Design, has been quietly celebrating 25 years of Revegetation and Landcare - having been appointed South Australia's first Revegetation Officer in 1990.

He is still amazed by the commitment to revegetation by Murray Mallee farmers.

In association with the SA No Till Farmers Association his business is currently delivering a project that will revegetate 1,000 hectares of

cleared land and improve 500ha of poor or degraded existing vegetation on farming properties over six years.

"Working in the Murray Mallee is never easy due to low rainfall, hot summers and high winds," Mr Brown said.

"However, experience does count, we have had great success in these conditions and we are generally used to reviewing and implementing difficult projects.

"This year, Mallee farmers

will provide 300ha of land for revegetation.

"The demand for revegetation and land management assistance remains strong with a constant stream of farmers knocking at our doors to assist them to realise the opportunity."

The project is now in its fourth year and, as Wayne observes, "It's all very rewarding."

■ Contact wayne@environmentsbydesign.com.au or 0408 813 628.



Putting sustainability into every bottle



Sustainability at Taylors occurs from the vine to the bottle.

SET in one of Australia's oldest wine growing regions, wine producer, Taylors, is blending three generations of tradition with farm practices that cut down its environmental impact.

Clinton Taylor, a third generation director and the company's operations manager, said the family believed taking care of the land would produce better fruit and ensure future generations could operate the vineyard.

A key part of the property's sustainability is the management and use of water across the entire operation. To cut down on water use, a system was introduced to recycle waste water for vine irrigation. The system takes waste

water from the wine making process, removes the organic material and then pumps it through to the vines.

"The water that comes out of production contains organic matter like yeast and sugar that could be harmful to the vines. By using oxygen to agitate the naturally occurring bacteria we are able to remove these contaminants and use the water on the vines," Clinton said.

Alongside the water recycling, straw is placed at the base of the vines to cut down evaporation and maintain soil moisture.

"We've found that the use of straw has increased our moisture content by 30 per cent," he said. Part of their

water resource management plan included the rehabilitation of the land surrounding the Wakefield River, which runs through the vineyard. The river plays a vital role in wine operation.

The rehabilitation task included replanting native trees and shrubs. The Taylors decided to use this as an opportunity to engage with the community and invited people to visit the property and plant trees and shrubs.

"As a family business, it's important we give people a sense of belonging and to be a part of the community we operate in. Holding community days was a great way to get the locals involved and to show our commitment to

improving the environment," Clinton said. Included in the protection of the river was the implementation of a risk assessment strategy across the business's operations to ensure any spillages that could contaminate the river were acted on quickly.

"Our strategy includes a quick response should there be a spillage to ensure damage is minimal and an action plan to take steps to fix it," he said. The Taylors have even opened the gate to the sheep surrounding the vineyard to control weeds near the vines and mow the grass. The operation rotates 200 head of Merinos eight months of the year, which are less abrasive than mowing around the

vines and don't compact the soil as tractors do. They've cut down on tractor use and have found the soil soaks up more rain.

"We've been able to source the sheep from local farmers so we can give them a hand, providing them with feed, and there's been an improvement on our soil quality and water efficiency," he said.

A shift to a sustainable business model has set the Taylors apart from other winemakers as they've been able to produce the first Australian carbon neutral wine under their 80 Acres label and reduced carbon emissions by 15 per cent per bottle as part of their Lean+Green bottle initiative.



Kinglake Primary School students on planting day.

Lorax Project keeps growing

THE Upper Goulburn Landcare Networks revegetation Lorax Project is now into its seventh year of tree planting throughout the Murrindindi Shire in NSW.

Last year 294 corporate, school group and Landcare volunteers helped plant a total of 7,720 indigenous plants.

They have revegetated over 30 hectares of farmland and waterways on 23 properties at Strath Creek, Flowerdale, Kinglake, Glenburn, Limestone, Yea and Murrindindi.

Thousands of seedlings are being grown to prepare for another Lorax Project planting season, which will start again in late May.

The revegetation carried out through the project helps reduce run-off, erosion and the loss of valuable topsoil, as well as improving water quality.

The project has provided shade and weather protection for stock. It created links with remnant native vegetation wildlife corridors, and improved the visual amenity of the properties.

■ Contact Chris Cobern, 0413 855 490.

Whole of paddock rehab a win-win



Threatened species such as these Superb Parrots use the rehabilitated paddocks for habitat.

Photo by Graham Fifield.

WHOLE of Paddock Rehabilitation (WOPR) is developed to combat land degradation problems such as salinity, erosion, paddock tree decline, biodiversity loss, and climate change.

A partnership between a Binalong, NSW, landholder Leon Garry and Greening Australia, WOPR works within existing paddock boundaries. Livestock are removed from the paddock, then widely spaced bands of

trees and shrubs are planted or direct seeded along the contour. After five years the trees have grown enough to withstand browsing, and stock can be returned in a rotational grazing system.

The programme also provides a stewardship payment to the landholder, to partially compensate the loss of production while the paddock is rested. Since 2008, nearly 100 landholders have signed, with over 2,670 hectares re-

habilitated, and 590ha ready to go this spring.

Landholder Dave Hewlett, Yass, NSW, signed up in 2010 to rehabilitate a paddock that was unusable due to its exposed position. It is now used as a lambing paddock, and he says lambing percentage for twinning ewes has increased to over 140 per cent.

"The beauty of it is the windbreaks within the paddocks. It's not as if the pad-

dock is completely turned over to a forest. You've just got trees sown in that are going to increase productivity and bring back native wildlife," Mr Hewlett said.

The scalability of WOPR is helping revegetate large areas, with research demonstrating biodiversity benefits of these larger areas. Regular bird surveys have recorded many species, including the threatened Superb Parrot.

■ Visit bit.ly/GA-WOPR.

Makims make good

RICHARD Makim and his wife Judi arrived in New England in 2004, where they purchased the historic 1827 Moredun Station – bringing with them more than 40 years of experience on outback cattle grazing near Julia Creek in North Queensland.

As they had done before on their northern properties, the Makims set about organising a holistic grazing system, having completed a course with respected agricultural consultants RCS in 1997.

“We had plenty to learn about New England after our time farming the outback. It became quickly apparent that it was very different, with year-round rainfall compared to monsoonal Queensland,” Mr Makim said. “We selected the high country to invest in, based upon BOM maps, which graphically showed 100 years of weather. We opted for the most blue-green we could see. We’d had enough of red and yellow for a while.”

The Makims followed conventional agronomy advice, with fertiliser and pasture planning in their first two years. Then progressing to the set-up paddock fencing and of water delivered by 65mm pipe at four litres/second – all without consistent positive result.

Clearly, the Makims had much to learn about the function of ground cover and carbon sequestration on their property – which had been previously heavily farmed with a long super history.

From a presentation delivered by Gabe Brown at the Acres USA conference in December 2014, the Makims learned what getting their soil from 1 per cent soil



Richard Makim in improved pasture at Moredun Station, New England, NSW.

carbon, (an area average for their soils) to 3 per cent actually meant for climate resilience.

Gabe Brown had found that going from 1 per cent soil carbon – with an infiltration rate of 13mm/hr – to 3 per cent lifted infiltration to 200mm/hr and made a huge difference to his capture of rainfall and his control of erosion. His retention of soil moisture lifted from under 200,000 litres/ha, to about 1.2 million litres/ha. The idea therefore was to manage ruminants, using photosynthesis as efficiently as possible, to increase organic matter and carbon on Moredun Station. “Because

of the past practices, soil carbon was shallow, along with root depth – to manage this required measuring soil deficiencies and soft tissue of a few young stock; and supplementing of both soil and stock whilst roots and carbon got deep again,” he said.

On their journey, they have made compost, and fortified it with trace minerals and foliated them as well. They have used organics, biodynamics and radionics, and kept up the density rest and rotations. They have added 800-900 Dorper ewes and followers for weed control.

The measures they have taken have been successful and by 2011, the University

of New England produced a paddock measurement during the Soil Carbon Research Program (SCaRP) trial of 2.5 per cent – considered an outlier but true. A recent soil test in another paddock measured 11 per cent organic matter at a depth of 20cm, which translates to 5.5 per cent soil carbon. As the soil and roots deepened, animals began to walk away from the provided supplements. Performance, already good from supplements, got better and cheaper.

“We have witnessed everything driving the system in positive J curve fashion, at about 3 per cent carbon. The success of both

native and improved pastures rocketed as our soils recovered,” Mr Makim said. “Establishing good ground cover and good carbon levels reduces erosion, and from Gabe Brown’s teachings we have learned that organic matter of 1 per cent (0.5 per cent soil carbon) consists of 1000lbs of nitrogen, 220lbs of phosphorous, 140lbs of sulphur, and many other nutrients.”

Rainfall is now put through the soil rather than over it. Dams fill, not just from runoff but from rising water tables. Streams have become clean, and nutrients stay put – making the farm sustainable for the next generation.

Native veg an evolving strategy

KANGAROO Island is known for its diverse wildlife and natural reserves, which are major drawcards for tourism and its lucrative produce market.

However, with almost half the island’s native vegetation under the management of farmers, they have the challenge of ensuring they can continue to maximise productivity, while effectively managing, and where appropriate restoring, native vegetation on their property under a strict legislative framework.

Proposed changes to native vegetation management regulations in South Australia could potentially allow landholders to create native vegetation offsets and credits which could be used, or traded, to offset native vegetation clearance. This will enable landholders to strategically decide how they manage native vegetation and receive an income from protecting and enhancing it.

The experience shows a strategic, sequential approach produces landscape scale benefits, particularly when working with private landholders where their co-investment often dictates the pace of progress. The collection and maintenance of GIS datasets provides a sound basis for demonstrating results and strategic planning for future works to maximise ecosystem resilience. The regulation reforms should support landholders to better manage their land.

■ Email grant.flanagan@sa.gov.au

LANDCARE AUSTRALIA

TREK FOR AUSSIE FARMERS

TASMANIA, FEB 2017

Australia, will you support our farmers and your future? Join the Trek for Aussie Farmers with Charlie Arnott and you will empower our farmers to build resilience against natural disasters and work together to ensure their land remains sustainable, healthy and prepared.

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST www.inspiredadventures.com.au/events/landcare-trek-4-aussie-farmers-2017



INSPIRED
ADVENTURES



Intensifying efforts to tackle the feral cats

BY GREGORY ANDREWS,
THREATENED SPECIES
COMMISSIONER

AS I travel around Australia, I am privileged to meet many Australians working tirelessly to protect our environment.

Landcare members are a huge part of this effort, and the dedication and professionalism of Landcare always impresses me. I want to say thank you for what you have done, and invite you to join in the fight against extinctions — in particular, the fight against feral cats.

Feral cats are the number one driver of extinctions today, with more than 20 small mammals already extinct because of them. The lesser bilby, the desert bandicoot, the crescent nailtail wallaby — lost to us forever. And feral cats threaten 124 nationally listed threatened species, hunting and killing them each and every night.

Since the Threatened Species Strategy was launched by Environment Minister Greg Hunt in June 2015, over \$10 million has been invested by the Australian Government in projects that are tackling feral cats.

We have started to see results, but governments can't do it alone. As I meet community groups, the private sector, non-government organisations and state governments, I can see that partnerships are key.

To this end, I wrote to all 56 Natural Resource Management (NRM) organisations and 563 local governments to call for intensified effort. I have received over 100 responses, with councils and NRMs pledging their commitment to the fight against feral cats.

This national movement to tackle feral cats is an opportunity for Landcare. I invite



Gregory Andrews, Threatened Species Commissioner has stepped up the efforts to target feral cats.

you to contact your local council and NRM group and advise them that Landcare groups are ready and able to assist. NRMs are providing 20 per cent of their funding to local community action and Landcare groups tackling feral cats is a great example of this. Local councils are also

providing free or low cost feral cat traps and funding humane euthanasia.

To help track the national effort and celebrate successes, I am also asking all who contribute to tackling feral cats to record their actions on the free feral cat mobile app www.feralcatscan.org.

With information reporting through the app, we can convey the huge commitment being made by so many local community groups.

Experiencing the personal commitment of community members and Landcare groups firsthand has been the most impressive and

humbling part of delivering the Threatened Species Strategy.

I want to thank Landcare groups for what you have already done, what you are doing, and what I know you will continue to do to protect the future of Australia's threatened species.

Manage risk with the right cover

INSURANCE can significantly reduce the financial risks farmers face from production and revenue loss.

But choosing the right insurance can be challenging.

The Australian Government is providing one-off rebates to help farmers prepare and apply for a new insurance policy to manage drought and other production and market risks.

Rebates are up to \$2,500 to cover half of the cost of carrying out one or more eligible activity — undertaking an assessment required by an insurance provider, compiling historical farm performance data or analysing insurance options.

The Managing Farm Risk Programme is part of the Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper, the Australian Government's plan to grow our agriculture sector for stronger farmers and a stronger economy.

The Australian Government understands that insurance for risks — like adverse weather, drought and fluctuating markets — can protect farm profits.

Conditions apply.
■ Visit agriculture.gov.au/mfrp



Green Army – round five

LANDCARE Australia has partnered with ManpowerGroup as a Service Provider for the Green Army programme. If you or your group has a project where a Green Army team may complement your work and achieve great environmental and / or heritage outcomes, Landcare Australia and ManpowerGroup would like to hear from you. Please contact us on (02) 9412 1040 or via email greenarmy@landcareaustralia.com.au

A leader in sustainable farming

INTEGRATION of native grasses, and native tree and shrub plantings have helped make Kilmarnock, on the banks of the Namoi River, a leader in biodiversity and sustainable farming.

Over 50 years, John and Robyn Watson have planted more than 16,000 natives on

their properties, including many tree lines and restoration work along the banks of the river, and barriers around fields and connect riverine environs and areas of natural bush.

University of New England studies have shown that many species of small birds and micro bats use the tree

lines as corridors to move around the farms.

Many migratory birds — including pelicans, broilgas, musk duck and budgerigars — use "Kilmarnock" each year.

The native grasses growing under the tree lines provide ideal habitat for predator insects which kill invasive bugs

in the crops.

Insecticide has not been sprayed on cotton crops for nine years, resulting in the build-up of large numbers of beneficial insects and spiders.

When the fields are cultivated hundreds of magpies and crows follow the tractors to eat the

heliethis larvae that have pupated in the soil.

The reduction in the use of chemical fertiliser and increase in natural fertiliser has seen a surge in earthworms.

■ For more information about the project email wjwatson@northnet.com.au



Group makes big improvements

Shelterbelts adding value

THE Bowning-Bookham Landcare Group is made up of hardworking landholders in southern NSW who are working to improve the environment and the health of their properties, which range in size from a few hectares to thousands of acres.

The group, based near Yass, NSW, works to establish on-farm shelterbelts that improve farmland, boost productivity and help producers keep their livestock and crops healthy.

Shelterbelts - which provide proven benefits to the productivity and survival of livestock and adjacent crops - are usually planted along fence lines or waterways to help prevent or reverse erosion, improve pasture and create habitats that encourage native birds, animals and insects to the area.

Native fauna, in turn, can control insect pests that harm livestock and crops, by feeding on or competing with the pests.

As an added benefit, the amount of pesticide use is reduced, which minimises the chance of runoff into waterways.

Elizabeth Goodfellow,



Shelterbelts provide proven benefits to the productivity and survival of livestock and adjacent crops.

from Bowning-Bookham Landcare Group, explained that many of the plants used in shelterbelt creation are grown locally at the group's nursery.

Because they are already

acclimatised to the soil types, weather conditions, and the pests found in the area, they have a higher chance of long-term survival.

"The group has discovered the best outcome is achieved

by planting fast growing, resilient shrubs such as acacias and bottle brushes so they can protect the varieties that take longer to establish," Ms Goodfellow said.

"Our Landcare nursery

propagates seedlings and provides information about the uses, growing conditions and hardiness of the plants we provide.

"We feel that it is most beneficial to grow a few

species that we know well, and that our members have identified as useful plants for their specific needs."

The plants chosen include a mix of native grasses, shrubs and trees to mimic natural bushland and to encourage a wide range of fauna.

This helps improve the biodiversity found on farm and can provide the habitat needed for fauna to thrive.

"We also found plants from the area will provide the food and shelter that native fauna needs," Ms Goodfellow said.

In establishing a shelterbelt, the group first fences off the area to prevent livestock eating the seedlings, depositing excessive nutrients and rubbing against the more established plants.

Members of the group regularly attend farm visits and workshops and invite speakers to share their knowledge and varied experience.

In the future the group plans to work to help each other with fencing projects and planting, and to apply for grants for materials and equipment.

■ Visit bit.ly/bdlandcare for contact details.

Killara kids create orchard and bee hotel

STUDENTS at Killara Primary School in Sunbury, Victoria, have become keen horticulturalists after the donation of a single plum tree sparked the idea for creating an 'outdoor classroom' project.

After the school received a tree through the Healthy Living Hume programme in

2014, the Sunbury Community Health Centre offered to match, one for one, any other fruit trees it could source.

The generous donation of six fruit trees from Bunnings Sunbury helped to build project momentum.

And with that, the school had 13 trees for their new orchard.

A site that connects the school grounds with a local reserve was cleared of galeonia and cape weed.

Students and teachers set to work designing and creating a 12mx12m grid layout for the orchard.

The trees were planted, staked and guarded a few days later.

Volunteer parents and students came in during the September school holidays and mulched the whole area.

Killara Primary School also created a 'Native Bee Hotel' in the orchard, to provide a place where native bees can safely nest.

The majority of native bees don't sting, so they are ideal

pollinators within a school.

The orchard is now an exciting and productive part of the school environment.

The students enjoy weeding, watering and caring for the trees.

The school's plan for the future is to continue to promote healthy eating and to share the fruit with students

once the orchard trees have matured.

Killara Primary School is involved in Sustainability Victoria's ResourceSmart initiative.

■ Robyn Smith of Killara Primary School is happy to answer any questions.

■ Email Smith.robyn.rs@edumail.vic.gov.au.

A percentage of Nature's Way sales is donated to Landcare to continue initiatives protecting the environment.





Landcare in action

THIS September, join your fellow Landcarers to share stories of Collaborative Communities – Landcare in Action at the biennial National Landcare Conference and Awards.

From Wednesday, 21 September, until Friday, 23 September, the nationwide Landcare community will come together with the country's best researchers, businesses and associations at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Landcare Australia is working on behalf of the organising committee to develop a conference programme – for release within the next month – that will focus on four streams: Climate Impacts and Responses; Community Engagement; Landscape Challenges and Responses; and Collaboration and Innovation.

The conference promises to be engaging and diverse, offering information and activities to interest the diverse range of individuals that comprise the Landcare movement – from farmers and farming groups to metropolitan volunteers; from community groups to natural resource management professionals; and industry, state and regional bodies.

Landcarers and Landcare groups from across the country manage our invaluable land and water assets – they grow our food, and care for our soils and our environment.

This year's conference will provide an ideal platform to celebrate, share and learn, so that the movement can continue to develop and build resilient and productive land assets for future generations.

Delegates can also join in by celebrating our 2016



A scene from the 2014 National Landcare Conference.

National Landcare Awards finalists and winners on the evening of Thursday, 22 September, at Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Since Landcare's inception, the National Landcare Awards ceremonies have showcased the achievements and history of the Landcare movement, and have recognised and honoured the invaluable contribution of volunteers to the initiative.

Funded by the federal Department of Agriculture and Water Resources – with categories sponsored by Fairfax Media, Indigenous Land Corporation and ManpowerGroup – this year's

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This year's conference will provide an ideal platform to celebrate, share and learn, so that the movement can continue to develop and build resilient and productive land assets for future generations

awards will celebrate the projects and partnerships around Australia that continue to strengthen Landcare participation and protect our precious natural resources.

The Bob Hawke Landcare Award will also be presented to one individual who has been involved in championing the Landcare ethic and inspiring others to take

action.

This award acknowledges an individual who demonstrates a remarkable commitment to caring for the land, champions better practices, and gives their time to sharing knowledge with others so that they too can prosper.

The 2016 National Landcare Conference and Awards is delivered by Landcare Australia in partnership with the Australian Government's Department of Agriculture and Water Resources.

The conference is proudly supported by the Victorian Government.

■ Visit landcareaustralia.com.au to find out more.

Building dreams, making partners

BILL Muller had a dream. His farm dam was surrounded by bare ground, suffering erosion, and devoid of native wildlife. But Bill had a vision of a healthy, biodiverse dam with vegetation in and around it, fish and birds, and clean water.

Luckily, Murrumbidgee Landcare's Cross Property Planning (CPP) project was able to provide the knowledge and resources to turn Bill's vision into reality. This project is linking and enhancing the fragmented remnant vegetation in our landscape.

Through funding from the Australian Government's Biodiversity Fund and the NSW Environmental Trust, 74 landholders have now revegetated 797ha, and protected 695ha of remnants. The project uses a "cross-property" approach, supporting landholders to undertake works which connect with existing (or proposed) vegetation on neighbouring properties.

Workshops, field days and social events have also helped rebuild community connections, and provided landholders with a better understanding of how conservation can be integrated with agricultural production.

"This dam used to be the worst on my property; now I love it," Bill said. "It's inspired me to tackle other problems across my farm, and try to create habitat connections that link across the landscape."

Bill's new dream reflects the vision of the CPP project.

■ Email nmaher@mli.org.au
– NICOLE MAHER



Registrations opening soon for the

2016 National Landcare Conference

21 - 23 September 2016

Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre

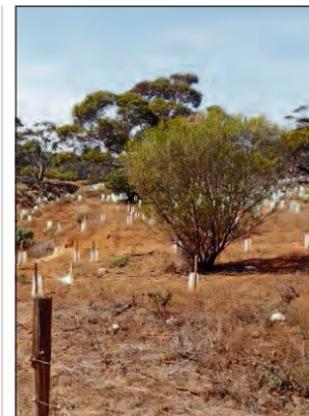
www.nationallandcareconference.org.au





Landcare Australia

Greening at Moculta with some BIGG help



Landcare is planting trees under the 20 Million Trees Programme.

20mil trees project boost

OVER the next three years Landcare Australia is partnering with Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association (GWALP) to deliver significant projects in South Australia for the Australian Government's 20 Million Trees programme.

One project, between Kanmantoo and Wattle Flat will restore 172 hectares of the critically endangered Peppermint Box Woodland community, that has historically been extensively cleared.

The project aims to plant over 120,000 trees.

The second project, Creating Critical Catchment to Coast Connectivity, will revegetate 124 hectares of critical habitat in the River Murray lower lakes region in South Australia.

The project will plant over 71,000 trees to provide increased connectivity between the Ferris-McDonald and Tokuremoar reserves, as well as linking remnant areas along the Coorong Lower Lakes Murray Mouth and Ramsar site.

More info: enquiries@landcareaustralia.com.au

THE Klemm family operate a 570 hectare farm in Moculta, South Australia that produces 1.8 million litres of milk annually.

A watercourse weaves its way through the property, which in part was infested with weeds and had as little as 10 per cent ground cover along its banks.

To improve the health of the waterway and to ensure the property was both sustainable and productive the Klemms decided to rehabilitate the watercourse.

To do this, the family worked with the Barossa Improved Grazing Group (BIGG), Natural Resource Adelaide Mt Lofty rangers.

BIGG is a community

driven network of livestock production and farming groups from the Barossa and surrounding areas.

They fenced off 250 metres of watercourse and to subdivide it into sections so they could trial different plants to measure what would have the most impact.

The requirement of the rehabilitation project was to ensure the watercourse would flow freely throughout the year, and provide habitat for local fauna.

Prior to the project, the watercourse became heavily pugged in summer, flowing only in the winter.

With the area fenced, to keep the cattle out, work began on weed removal by the



use of sprays to knock out the leafy weeds and pulling by hand to remove the woody weeds such as roses and artichokes.

During this preparation, a flora and fauna survey was

undertaken to understand what was there.

A combination of native grasses, mid-story and long-story plants were planted in July 2015 with local species chosen to mimic existing habitats.

With the particularly dry conditions experienced in 2015 the family watered the plants in October, December, January and early March 2016.

Speaking on behalf of the family, Murray said the results from the rehabilitation in the first year were promising with over 70 per cent of the plant species surviving and establishing.

"We've seen an increase in groundcover across the site

to 90 to 100 per cent," says Mr Klemm.

"This has significantly reduced the risk of erosion and run-off."

In the future, the family will fence off an adjacent section used for cropping to assess the

With the establishment of the plants, further bird and fauna surveys will be repeated to measure the success of the habitats.

The family will also monitor improvement to milk production due to the improved pasture through rotational grazing and the herd's access to shade and shelter.

Visit the www.bigggroup.org.au for more information.

Putting grassroots adaptation on map



Word Cloud that reflects comments from the 'Mapping Grassroots Adaptation' website.

LANDCARE communities are rethinking the way they conduct revegetation and other rehabilitation initiatives in response to a changing climate, according to ongoing research conducted by CSIRO and the University of Technology Sydney.

For example, one Landcare group have changed the way they plant native species to avoid destruction of existing non-native riparian corridors which continue to

provide shade and help alleviate increased temperatures while the new native vegetation becomes established. In another example, farmers have changed the vegetation mix on their grazing properties to retain more soil moisture and buffer increased evaporation in increasingly hotter conditions. Urban areas are adapting, with some residents observing 'full sun' no longer applies when planting some species and

changing species or planting in shadier areas.

These examples are all part of a project designed to showcase adaptation actions at the grassroots level. The purpose of the project is to document informal adaptation actions in response to a changing climate and share these actions with others who may learn from them. All comments are posted on a map which shows the actions taken in differ-

ent regions.

The project is funded by the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage and running in NSW and the ACT but if there is sufficient demand it may expand to other states.

Share your innovative adaptation actions with others, or to learn from other people's initiatives, visit <https://csiro.mysocialpinpoint.com/adapt#/> throughout 2016. Contact Tom.Measham@csiro.au.



Tips and tricks from the experts

Buy and heat with wood

MORE than 900,000 Australian families use wood heating, not surprising given it has been proven to be one of the most cost-effective forms of heating.

Australian Home Heating Association General Manager, Demi Brown, said by using firewood – a renewable source of energy – wood heating also generated low greenhouse emissions.

Wood heaters sold in Australia are tested and approved to meet tough standards. With over 300 heater models currently available – all of which comply with these strict Australian standards – choosing the right heater for your home can be challenging.

“The best way to get as much out of your heater as possible is to be responsible – correctly operating your heater is just as important as installing a wood heater that meets both the needs of your home and complies with the Australian Standard,” Mrs Brown said.

Every buyer must ask themselves the following questions:

- How much heating do I need?



Consult the Australian Home Heating Association before buying a wood heater.

- How big an area will it be heating?
 - Is my home well insulated?
 - Where will the wood come from, and how much will it cost?
- When shopping around,

AHHA recommends taking a copy of your floor plan with you. This will help retailers size a unit accurately, and suggest the best position for installation.

Burning dry well-sea-

soned wood from a reputable supplier, and having your wood heater serviced and the flue cleaned each year in spring or early summer are among the best ways to keep your wood heater operating

at optimum efficiency.

Other AHHA tips for correct use include:

- Use kindling wood, paper, and firelighters to get the fire started. Add larger pieces of wood only after a

hot bed of coals has been established.

- Leave air controls open for at least 15-20 minutes to start the fire burning and when re-loading.
- Don't close air supply totally overnight – a little air avoids a lot of smoke.
- A wood heater will burn better with three or four smaller logs, rather than one or two large ones.
- Insulate your home, close doors and curtains to conserve heat, but allow enough fresh air for efficient combustion.
- Make sure the heater is the right size for its purpose, and is properly installed by a person qualified to do so.

“There really are a lot of options out there to suit so many different buyers,” Mrs Brown said. “I encourage anyone considering buying a wood heater to speak to an AHHA member in their area, so they can receive the best advice on what heater is best for their home or business.”

Australian Home Heating Association is a long-time Landcare sponsor.

- Visit homeheat.com.au or contact (08) 8351 9288.

Small block farm feeding a family

DANNY and Daniell Day moved to a semi-rural 3.5 acre block at Kholo, on Brisbane's North-Western boundary with Ipswich in late 2012. Over the past four years the acreage has been transformed into a productive hobby farm.

They cleaned up the weed infested paddock, and estab-

lished a vegetable garden. Danny also installed fencing to enable pastoral rotation on the block, and year round grass for the family's cows – assisted by loaning out cow lawnmowers to neighbours through electric fence agistment.

When not providing milk for calves, the abundance

of milk produced by Daisy the cow is used to make cheese and yoghurt, as well as ice cream, with a little left over to share with other cheese makers.

A yearling the calf birthed on the property was home butchered, and over 12 months later the family are still eating steaks and

cuts from the deep freezer. A purchased yearling calf, is actively servicing Daisy, hopefully producing a calf in early 2017.

A 3000 litre aquaponic system has been installed near the house with 100+ jade perch providing an abundance of nutrients for fruit and vegetable gardens.

Wicking beds and traditional soil gardens mean that the family often have full meals produced completely from produce (both plant and protein) raised and grown at home.

In addition to the food production activities on the block the Days are also members of Working To-

wards Wildlife through the Brisbane City Council, which has advised them on weed control and formation of a plan for growing habitat that links in with surrounding corridors. To date over 150 native trees and grasses have been planted on the site.

- To learn more contact daydaniell@hotmail.com



The AHHA's top tips for the proper use of wood heaters are:

1. Use kindling wood, paper and firelighters to get the fire started and add larger pieces of wood only after a bed of hot bed of coals has been established.
2. Leave air controls open for at least 15-20 minutes to start the fire burning and when re-loading.
3. Don't close air supply totally overnight – a little air avoids a lot of smoke.
4. A wood heater will burn better with three or four smaller logs rather than one or two large ones.
5. Make sure the heater is the right size for its purpose and is properly installed by a person qualified to do so.

Lion Dairy's CEO

Connecting the dairy to its farmers

LANDCARE Australia interviewed Lion Dairy & Drinks CEO, Murray Jeffrey, to find out how his organisation is working to encourage sustainable agricultural practices on farm.

1. Tell me about Lion Dairy & Drinks and explain why sustainable agriculture is a core focus of your organisation's strategy?

We have a clear three-year strategy to improve our performance and deliver sustainable profit growth.

We're excited to engage with our farmers and other suppliers around this clear and compelling growth plan.

We want to move from more short-term and transactional relationships to genuine partnerships based on competitive and secure pricing, with a clear strategy that delivers confidence and growth opportunity to farmers. The Lion Landcare Grants programme is a great example of how we do this.

2. How does Lion Dairy engage with farmers to assist them in becoming more sustainable?

Through the Lion Landcare Grants programme, we're investing in dairy farmers and helping them improve the environmental performance of their operations and deliver sustainable cost reductions.

3. What revegetation and biodiversity initiatives does Lion Dairy encourage or support of its farmers?

As part of the Lion Landcare Grants programme in 2015, we provided funding to Riverlight Dairies in South Australia to undertake a project to revegetate the farm after a large bushfire in 2014 burnt 400,000-plus hectares.

Fencing and 30 cattle were lost in the fires, as well as many large, established trees.

These trees not only provided shade and shelter to the cattle, but they were part of a biodiversity corridor that linked to vegetation in the Adelaide Hills.

With the help of local volunteers, 6000 trees were planted on the farm runoff.

These trees will assist with the absorption of carbon dioxide, control erosion and provide habitats for

native animals.

4. In what other ways does Lion support farmers?

We have a number of avenues for continual engagement with our farmers, including a dedicated website, monthly e-newsletter, and annual regional meetings where farmers are provided with insights into our sales and marketing strategies and other relevant business plans, along with current industry information and an open discussion around topics of interest.

5. Where do you see the future of sustainable agriculture and biodiversity in Australian farming heading?

As we continue to see more farmers adopting new technology and implementing sustainable change, we are also seeing greater efficiency, higher production, increased profits and most importantly an increase in environmental care and stewardship.

The farmers want their next generation to inherit a farm that has been cared for to the best possible standards.

6. In your experience, are Lion farmers finding sustainable farming practices more cost effective than traditional farming?

There are a number of examples from this year's grants programme alone which show that farmers are benefitting from cost savings.

In WA, Dairy Farmer Warrick Tyrrell used his grant to replace his dairy's constant speed vacuum pump with a variable speed controlled pump, and to install an Auzimax electricity motoring device.

This has reduced energy consumption in the milk harvesting process, therefore reducing overall electricity use and greenhouse gas emissions.

7. As more farmers are adopting sustainable land and water resource management practices, are they seeing improvements in overall productivity?

Certainly, as farmers are adopting sustainable agricultural practices and as new technology evolves, this in turn will improve overall productivity. For



The Peel River anabranch damage requiring remediation work.



Lion Dairy & Drinks CEO, Murray Jeffrey.

example, simply adopting heat exchange systems will reduce power and water used in the dairy and there are also gains in efficiency.

Or retaining and using effluent captured in the dairy and reusing back out on the dairy pastures puts nutrients back into the soil that would have otherwise been wasted.

8. Sustainable farming may improve costs but in your experience, does it improve the quality of the end product and the dairy farm?

Happy cows have been proven to produce more milk. A successful, sustainable farm with good pastures, access to high quality water, and shelter from sun and wind all contribute to delivering high quality milk.

Our continual investment in this critical area has resulted in reductions in key metrics and these will continually improve as time goes on.

9. In your opinion, what are some of the obstacles or objections that farmers may have in

changing to more sustainable practices? Such as reducing energy use and increasing biodiversity on farms.

Cost and time can sometimes be a factor when adopting sustainable practices. The Landcare programme offers grants that help farmers to complete a sustainable project on their farm.

10. Do you see revegetation and biodiversity as an important part of sustainable agriculture in the dairy industry? Can you provide an example where this is evident?

Yes, we are proud to be part of a project with Landcare Australia - among other partners - where funding has been committed to vital remediation works on the invaluable Wallamore anabranch and the main channel of the Peel River, near Tamworth in Northern NSW.

The bank of the Wallamore anabranch is in particularly poor condition and

badly eroding. At high flows landholders experience significant erosion, farming land loss and reduced productivity, with significant impacts on water quality and aquatic ecosystems.

11. What's the future direction of Lion Dairy and its relationship with its farmers looking like?

We believe in long-term, sustainable partnerships with our suppliers and to me, the future looks very bright. Technology on farm is increasing day by day and we are focused on providing our suppliers with the most up-to-date toolkits to use to benefit their farm in a holistic way.

Farming is a complex balance between many competing forces, many of which are outside of anyone's control. It's important to us that our farmers continually invest and improve their businesses to ensure they are around for many years to come.

■ To learn more about Lion Dairy & Drinks bit.ly/



Landcare In Focus

May 2016 ~ www.landcareonline.com.au

Take +action 4 our future!

TO SUPPORT World Environment Day 2016, Landcare Australia has called on Australians to take positive #Action4theLand during the month-long lead-up to 5 June.

#Action4theLand puts the emphasis on the entire community coming together to take small actions that combine to make vast progress towards the protection of the invaluable land and water resources that sustain all of us.

Landcare Australia CEO, Tessa Jakszewicz launched the month-long #Action4theLand campaign, asking people to get creative in their support for World Environment Day.

"From the ground and water that provides us food, to the jobs that provide us financial stability, to the schools that teach us, and the homes that provide us shelter, every Australian has a responsibility to come together as a community to care for our country with a day of positive action on Friday, 3 June," Ms Jakszewicz said. "We're asking that every business, school, community group, elected leader and



Contact Rob Novotny at rob.novotny@landcareaustralia.com.au for details or check out www.action4theland.org.au

individual across Australia take small actions to make Australia a better place. Landcare Australia sincerely hopes that our call out 'What positive #Action4theLand will you take?' can bring

attention to this global day, and will lead to a groundswell of community events right across the country."

The campaign website www.action4theland.org.au, will over the coming month

play host to social sharing, competitions, interactive games, tips on how people can get involved, and a fundraising portal for those wishing to help Landcare Australia as it works with

farms on sustainable agricultural practices.

Landcare Australia encourages people to visit the website regularly over the coming weeks as the social content and interactive as-

pect expand. The site will also become a social media hub for people to share and vote for their favourite photo in the #Challenge4theLand competition. All posts using the #Action4theLand and #Challenge4theLand hashtags will be captured and featured on the site.

People can make donations either directly to Landcare or to their registered friends, family and colleagues at any time throughout the campaign, with all funds raised going back to Landcare Australia to support the efforts of local Landcare groups.

World Environment Day is a United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) initiative encouraging worldwide awareness and action for the environment annually on 5 June. Over the years it has grown to be a broad, global platform for public outreach that is widely celebrated by stakeholders in over 100 countries.

In 2016, Landcare Australia has chosen the Friday prior - 3 June - as its day of celebration and #Action4theLand.

GROWING BEEF AND RAINFOREST AT CLUNES



THE recent planting of 6,250 trees - by the Big Scrub Landcare's Green Army team - on the 300ha Eureka Beef property near Clunes in the Byron Bay hinterland, links two critically endangered lowland rainforest remnants.

Land owners, the Morton family, are five years into a 20-year property management plan, which aims to improve the properties biodiversity.

Components of this plan

include fencing-off riparian areas and establishing practical corridors between rainforest remnants.

"We aim to leave the farm to future generations in a better condition than it was received. We farm in a way that protects natural resources and provides opportunities for biodiversity conservation," Mr Andrew Morton said.

Dr Tony Parkes, President of Big Scrub Landcare explained, "Our restoration

work involves managing weeds which are degrading rainforest remnants and planting rainforest on cleared land.

"This enables animals that depend on the rainforest to better move across areas to breed and feed."

The project, being carried out under the Australian Government's Green Army initiative, will result in the planting of four hectares of lowland subtropical rainforest, expansion and

buffering of a National Park Reserve remnant, and provision of improved stepping stone habitats for rainforest biodiversity in an agricultural landscape.

The Green Army team conducting the works has the support of professional EnviTE Environment bush regenerators in site preparation and planting.

For more information about Green Army projects, visit bit.ly/1T4iPR3

PICTURED LEFT

April English and Georgia Cox prime the pump at the start of the day and connect up the hose for watering in the trees.

Landcare is asking you...

what positive #Action4theLand will you take?

Take part in Landcare Australia's World Environment Day #Action4theLand campaign.

Every dollar raised will make a real difference, by directly supporting Landcare groups and projects across Australia.

Think Positive.
Be Positive.
Act Positive!

Support World Environment Day 2016



For further information on how you, your workplace, or your school can get involved, visit www.action4theland.org.au