



Wollombi Valley Landcare Group News for June 2009

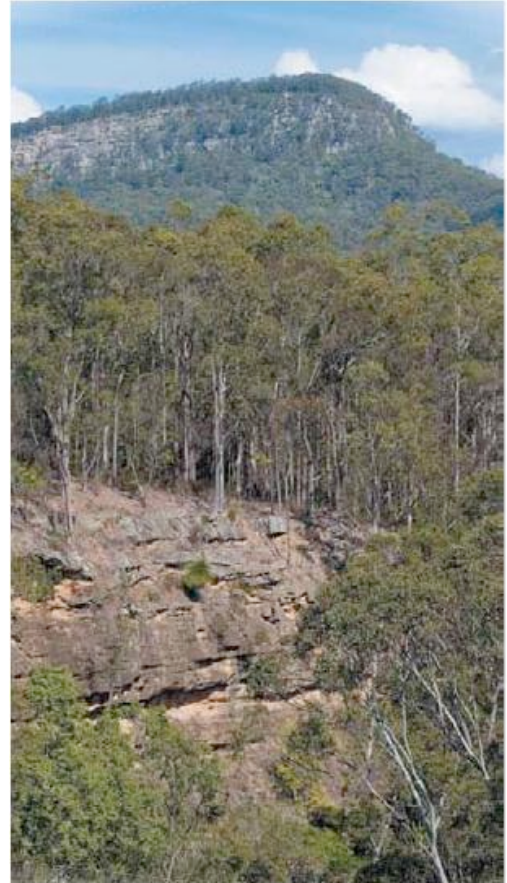


A visit to Bow Wow Creek Gorge

The next Landcare meeting will be held at 10:00 am on Saturday 20th Jun at Pam & Colin Fitzsimon's property, "Bow Wow Creek", 444 Sandy Creek Road, between Quorrobolong and Mulbring

Pam and Colin Fitzsimons have kindly offered to take us on a walk of Bow Wow Creek Gorge that has very distinctive fossils and geological features as well as sub-tropical rainforest and varied birdlife. We will have a 2-3 hour walk with the owners, Pam and Colin Fitzsimons. The walk will be at a leisurely pace with plenty of opportunities to look at the features of the gorge, followed by lunch together. Please bring a plate to share please, as well as your own utensils. It is a bush walk so ensure you have suitable clothing and footwear, a hat, water bottle, camera and binoculars.

Feel free to Ring Catherine Craig on 4998 3286 if you would like a lift.



Bow Wow Creek Gorge is a National Heritage listed site. You can find more details by going to the Australian Government website at www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/ahdb/search.pl?mode=place_detail;place_id=1224

Directions to the Fitzsimon's property:

It is a 30-40 minute drive from Wollombi through Millfield, Paxton, Ellalong and Quorrobolong to 444 Sandy Creek Road (look out for signs).

Looking forward to seeing you there.

Catherine Craig (4998 3236)

Everyone is welcome.

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of Wollombi Valley Landcare Group Inc, or any other Landcare agency or government department, but are presented to promote discussion about and the practice of sustainable land use and environmental responsibility.

President's Report - April 2009

My second year as President has been free of dramatic local weather. Some rain, but no real flooding. A bit of hot weather but not long lasting and we scraped through without any major bushfires in our area. Our land is prospering during this milder time. Plantings have survived and grown. A problem that did arise was Sydney Gas's intentions to drill for coal bed methane in our valley. A very unattractive proposal.

Meetings this year began with our visit to Brian and Barbara Barnes' place and their tropical plants in June.

A workshop on woody weeds in August with particular emphasis on Lantana, Tree of Heaven and Green Cestrum.

October saw us continuing on this theme with an inspection of the willow problem, removal and native plantings in Burralong Valley.

December at Brian and Sally Woodward's property allowed us to see their creek timber structures and be brought up to date in the Sydney Gas invasion and "Firewise" precautions.

Our last meeting, in February, was a talk by Wayne Erskine on changes in the Wollombi Brook since European settlement. A DVD of this talk is available at cost price from Graham Taylor.

For this April meeting, our Annual General Meeting, we are visiting Colin Towill's very impressive streambank regeneration in Blaxland's Arm.

Other activities.

Lesley, Catherine, Graham and I have staffed the Landcare stall at the Laguna Market every month this year except for the time we were rained off. We are providing Landcare information and the opportunity to join to weekenders and locals. I also offer a plant identification service.

We have had some success in poisoning the woody weeds *Lantana*, *Privet* (both species) and *Tree of Heaven* with glyphosate using the brush and injection of stems systems. Interestingly, it did not work on wild olives on Catherine Craig's property in Wollombi.

Fox control. Our efforts to get a fox control program up and running on the 31 properties that have requested our assistance is continuing under Robyn Lamond's coordination. The latest information is that under certain circumstances it is now possible to bait near our own residences. We are employing Hunter Land Management to put out the actual poison in this initial program.

Propagation Workshop by Evelyn Bloom and Judy West. An introduction to propagating native shrubs from cuttings was run in September and was very successful. We hope to do this again.

Indian Myna Bird Trap. We purchased the trap and set it up at Evelyn Bloom's. No luck yet in catching the target species.

I would like to thank the Committee for all their hard work and especially our retiring Treasurer, Linda Wilkinson, who after a 2-year stint is requesting a replacement. This leaves us without a Treasurer.

All other Committee members have agreed to continue.

Join the Landcare Committee

We really need an injection of fresh ideas from new faces and a few more hands on deck. It is really not onerous to help run your Landcare group. As a committee we meet for a couple of hours only every 2 months and jobs are shared around by an enthusiastic, currently too small, committee.

As an existing member of Landcare we encourage you to get involved and share the load, otherwise the organisation is going to slowly fade away.

Please call Jane Mowatt 4998 8158 with your ideas and offers of help.

WOLLOMBI VALLEY LANDCARE GROUP INC

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held at Colin & Aynette Towill's property
510 Blaxland's Arm Rd, Laguna
on Saturday April 18, 2009

Meeting opened: 2.30pm

Attendance and apologies: As per attendance sheet

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of April 2008

Acceptance moved: Robyn Lamond Seconded: Linda Wilkinson

Business arising from the Minutes

None

President's Report

Jane read her annual report that will be published in the June newsletter

Acceptance moved: Colin Towill Seconded: Andrew Mortlock

Treasurer's Report

Linda presented her annual report that will be published in the June newsletter.

Acceptance moved: Robyn Lamond Seconded: Jane Mowatt

Election of Committee for 2009/10

A returning officer, Andrew Mortlock, took charge of the meeting, declaring all committee positions vacant and presented nominations received for the following management committee members, which were all duly elected unopposed.

President: Jane Mowatt

Treasurer: -

Secretary & Public Officer: Robyn Lamond

Information Coordinator: Graham Taylor

Vice President: Catherine Craig

Minutes Secretary: Lesley Williams

Ordinary Members: -

Members will be encouraged to fill the above vacant positions.

Meeting closed: 2.55 pm

Treasurer's Report

WOLLOMBI VALLEY LANDCARE GROUP - STATEMENT 2008 - 2009

Cat/Sub	Date	Description	Amount
BALANCE	at 31 March 2008		\$17,949.12
INCOME	Date banked		
Membership	7/05/08	Margaret COLLIN	\$15.00
	7/05/08	Margaret & Russ NYMAN	\$15.00
	7/05/08	Robyn LAMOND	\$40.00
	7/05/08	Denis & Pam MAHONY	\$15.00
	7/05/08	Gillian & Fred JAMES	\$15.00
	7/05/08	Jane MOWATT	\$40.00
	7/05/08	Shelagh & John BRIGG	\$40.00
	7/05/08	Jennie & Tony BOND	\$40.00
	7/05/08	Alister & Linda WILKINSON	\$40.00
	7/05/08	Graham & Sue TAYLOR	\$15.00
	7/05/08	Alan TAYLOR	\$15.00
	13/05/08	Margaret & Tony (Richard) BAUER	\$40.00
	13/05/08	Tim HORSTEAD	\$40.00
	13/05/08	Peter & Deanna DIMOND	\$40.00
	13/05/08	Louise DAVIS	\$15.00
	13/05/08	Arnold & Kerry CHOROMANSKI	\$40.00
	13/05/08	Jean-Claude FERRIER	\$15.00
	13/05/08	Audrey BALLA	\$40.00
	13/05/08	Laurie & Joan TUMMINELLO	\$40.00
	13/05/08	Will & Cate SADLER	\$40.00
	3/07/08	Adam LAVERICK & Rebecca JONES	\$40.00
	3/07/08	John & Irja MARCHANT	\$40.00
	3/07/08	Catherine CRAIG	\$40.00
	3/07/08	Colin & Aynette TOWILL	\$15.00
	3/07/08	Andrew MORTLOCK	\$15.00
	3/07/08	Richard & Lia (Celia) TIMSON	\$40.00
	3/07/08	Grant & Julie HARTLEY	\$30.00
	3/09/08	Vicki & Ian BARRY	\$40.00
	3/09/08	Gwen & Russell LANSBURY	\$40.00
	3/09/08	Doug & Doe MACKIE	\$40.00
	3/09/08	Jan LLOYD	\$40.00
	3/09/08	Linda BOOTH	\$15.00
	3/09/08	Karen JONES	\$15.00
	3/09/08	Chris JACKSON	\$40.00
	3/09/08	Warren CLARKE	\$40.00
	8/10/08	Lucy & David DENNISON	\$40.00
	8/10/08	Virginia WHEWAY	\$15.00
	10/12/08	Michael NOYCE	\$15.00
	6/01/09	John & Roslyn GILLIES	\$40.00
		TOTAL MEMBERSHIPS	\$1,200.00
OTHER INCOME			
Interest	2/06/08	Credit Interest	\$62.98
	1/10/08	Credit Interest	\$30.99
		Credit Interest TOTAL	\$93.97
Sales	7/05/08	Book	\$105.00
	3/09/08	Book	\$105.00
	8/10/08	Book	\$30.00
	10/12/08	Book	\$30.00
		Sales TOTAL	\$270.00
		TOTAL INCOME OTHER	\$363.97
TOTAL INCOME			\$1,563.97

EXPENSES:	Date of Cheque		
Newsletter	21/06/08	April 2008	\$46.96
	21/06/08	Letterbox flyers	\$13.10
	21/06/08	June 2008	\$33.43
	14/10/08	August 2008	\$29.54
		TOTAL NEWSLETTER EXPENSES	\$123.03
Rental Premises	20/07/08	Laguna Hall	\$28.00
		TOTAL RENTAL EXPENSES	\$28.00
Business costs	29/03/08	Public Liability Insurance	\$300.00
	19/04/08	Donation - Wollombi School	\$25.00
	28/04/08	Purchase of Weed ID Books (x 20)	\$286.05
	1/06/08	Postage (Robyn)	\$10.00
	2/06/08	Myna Trap + Hose + Postage	\$458.00
	29/08/08	Purchase of Weed ID Books (x 10)	\$139.64
	29/08/08	NSW Office of Fair Trading	\$68.00
	14/10/08	Bird Identification Book	\$35.95
	30/12/08	Community Environment Network Membership	\$40.00
		TOTAL BUSINESS EXPENSES	\$1,362.64
TOTAL EXPENSES			\$1,513.67
BALANCE AT 31st MARCH 2009			\$17,999.42

Note, there would appear to be several outstanding expenses relating to newsletter production and distribution. The last cheque requisition for newsletters for the 2008 - 2009 financial year relates to the August 2008 newsletter. Therefore, additional newsletter expenses for this year will have to be included in the 2009 - 2010 statement.

In addition, the payment for public liability insurance that falls due on the 31st of March of each year appears in the following years statement.

Wollombi Valley Landcare Group Contacts

Mail: Wollombi Valley Landcare Group, Inc. c/o Wollombi General Store, Wollombi 2325

Items for newsletter: Graham Taylor - 9981 6317/4998 3326 wollombi.landcare@gmail.com

Dates for your diary

Sunday 14 June	<u>Bird Walk in Cessnock</u> - Kurri Area
Saturday 20 June	<u>Landcare Meeting</u> - Visit to Bow Wow Creek Gorge
Sunday 21 June	<u>Landcare Stall</u> at Laguna Markets 9:30am to 1:00pm
Sunday 19 July	<u>Landcare Stall</u> at Laguna Markets 9:30am to 1:00pm
Saturday 15 August	<u>Landcare Meeting</u> - Details to be advised

Back copies

Back copies of previous issues of the Wollombi Valley Landcare newsletter are now available on the Wollombi Valley Online website at <http://wollombi.nsw.au> by clicking on Local News, selecting News Archive and scrolling down through the listing for the newsletter you want - they are listed in chronological order.

Environmental Defender's Office New South Wales

The Environmental Defender's Office Ltd (EDO) is a not-for-profit community legal centre specialising in public interest environmental law. We help individuals and community groups who are working to protect the natural and built environment.

In addition to providing legal advice, the EDO responds to numerous other requests for information, such as EDO publications and workshops.



NEW Updated EDO Fact Sheets

EDO (NSW) has now completed the lengthy process of updating all of its legal fact sheets. The fact sheets are a helpful resource for anyone seeking to understand how to use the law to protect the environment. They cover most aspects of environmental law in plain language text and are available in html and pdf format.

The fact sheets can be accessed on the EDO (NSW) website at www.edo.org.au/edonsw/site/factsheets.php

Tel: 9262 6989 Fax: 9262 6998 Freecall: (NSW only) 1800 626 239

Other News

New NSW wilderness area declared

Almost 120,000 hectares of bushland in the Hunter region of NSW has been declared a wilderness area, completing a 'green chain' around Sydney. The area sits inside Yengo National Park, stretching from the Blue Mountains, east to Windsor and north to Singleton. The 'green chain' is made up of various wilderness areas, such as the Nattai, Grose and Wollemi areas, each receiving the highest level of protection for flora and fauna.

For more information on the declaration, visit

http://www.cch.com.au/au/News/ShowNews.aspx?ID=31378&Type=F&TopicIDNews=8&CategoryIDNews=36&u_i=110629

Sydney Morning Herald: The Hunter - a peephole to future of others (30 May 2009)

This article looks at the impacts of mining in the Hunter Valley on residents, particularly in regards to farmers and interruptions to pastoral use of the region. The EDO has been providing assistance to Minewatch, a resident action group in the Hunter.

A full text of the article can be found at <http://business.smh.com.au/business/the-hunter--a-peephole-to-future-of-others-20090529-bqa6.html>

Illegal Dredging Costs Hunter Valley Operator \$19,000

The Downing Centre Local Court has imposed a fine of \$18,000 plus costs on Hexxon Minerals Pty Ltd, after finding the company guilty of illegally dredging 2,000 tonnes of sand at Wollombi brook (near Singleton NSW) without a valid permit under the Rivers and Foreshore Improvement Act 1948.

According to David Harriss, NSW Deputy Director General of Water Management, "all permits issued under the Rivers and Foreshore Improvement Act are subject to a number of conditions

for the protection of the natural environment. Hexxon's actions of dredging without proper consent were likely to have caused environmental harm."

The legislation under which the offence occurred was recently amended, with in-stream activities now requiring a 'controlled activity' approval under the Water Management Act 2000. Under the Water Management Act 2000, the maximum penalty against a corporation for carrying out dredging operations without an approval is \$1.1 million, and in the case of a continuing offence, a further penalty of \$132,000 for each day the offence continues.

Sustainability & energy saving tips:

Electricity tariffs are going to continue to rise!

In June 2007 it was announced that tariffs would increase by about 20% over the next 3 years (2007 – 2010) and there is no doubt further increases will occur in the future. It is therefore imperative that every consumer do what they can to ensure they are not wasting electricity.

Tariff increases are determined by the NSW Government *Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal* (IPART) who are responsible for setting the regulated retail electricity tariffs charged by the Standard Retailers in NSW – *Country Energy*, *EnergyAustralia* and *Integral Energy* – to small retail customers on standard form customer contracts. In the Hunter region, *EnergyAustralia* is the principal supplier.

The following extract from the IPART report gives an indication of the annual tariff and percentage increases from 2007 – 2010.

Table 2 Indicative Increases in annual bills for typical customers of EnergyAustralia (\$/customer, nominal, ex-GST)

Description	2006/07 bill	2007/08 bill	2008/09 bill	2009/10 bill	Increase 2006/07 – 2007/08 (%)	Increase 2007/08 – 2008/09 (%)	Increase 2008/09 – 2009/10 (%)
Residential							
Low usage (3000 kWh per year)	444	476	512	549	7.2%	7.5%	7.3%

One area where you can save money is with the many consumers that are common place in most homes. Many items such as televisions, stereo equipment, DVD players, fax machines, etc all consume electricity while on standby.

Switching off the television with the remote means it is still on standby consuming electricity until the next day when you switch it on again to watch your favourite TV program. The same applies if you have a computer. And the printer, modem, etc all of which are consuming electricity as they wait until you need to use them again. In many homes we now have as many electrical consumers as did small offices less than 10 years ago.

The only way to stop this constant consumption is to switch off as many items as you can at the powerpoint. However it takes discipline to go around the home switching off all these items all the time. So why not get a powerboard from the local store and use it to connect the TV, DVD, VHS recorder and stereo to the powerpoint, then one flick at the powerpoint and they are all off, and you are saving about 34 watts per hour. And why not another powerboard to connect all the computer related gear? In fact, now it is possible to get powerboards with a remote so you don't have to reach behind the furniture to get to the power point.

And what about the innocuous little recharger for the mobile phone that we leave plugged into the powerpoint and switched on even when the mobile phone is not connected – 50 watts per hour or 0.72kW per day! Nokia estimates that two-thirds of the total energy consumed by the mobile phone is wasted as a result of people leaving the charger idle in a live socket once the phone has been unplugged.

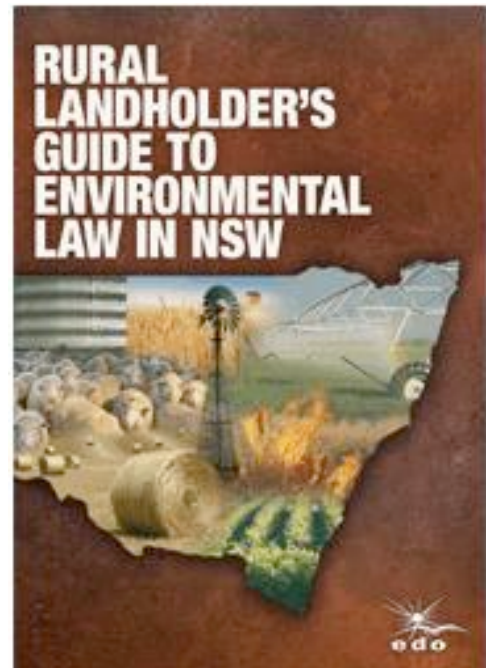
Rural Landholders Guide to Environmental Law in NSW

We now have a new supply of Rural Landholders Guide to Environmental Law in NSW (2nd Edition). See below. Get your copy at the June meeting or pick one up from the Landcare Stall at Laguna Market on the 3rd Sunday of the month, 9.30am – 12.30pm

Published by the Environmental Defenders Office NSW this booklet helps you understand your legal rights and obligations as a landholder and to manage your land in accordance with environmental and natural resource management law.

It includes:

- vegetation management
- protected plants and animals
- bushfire management
- water management
- development consent
- pollution
- agricultural chemicals
- crops and stock
- mining and quarrying
- heritage protection
- voluntary conservation



The booklet is based on a 1999 publication entitled *Your Land Has Rights*, prepared by EDO on behalf of the Wollombi Valley, Burrellong Valley, Mulbring and Mount Vincent Landcare Groups. The 1st Edition of the new guide was prepared by EDO with financial support from the Hunter Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority and the NSW Government's Environmental Trust.

"It's great to hear that the guide is popular. We are looking to update and reprint it in the coming months. Any feedback you have would be appreciated. Have we left anything out? Do we need to cover anything in more detail? Is the style ok etc?"

Jemilah Hallinan | Education Officer Email: jemilah.hallinan@edo.org.au
Environmental Defender's Office (NSW) | Level 1, 89 York Street, Sydney NSW 2000
ph: 9262 6989 | fax: 9262 6998 | www.edo.org.au/edonsw

Greenhouse Pollution in New South Wales

Burning fossil fuels for energy accounts for most greenhouse pollution. This energy is used mainly in the production, transport and retail of our goods and services. The goods and services consumed by an average Australian create a total of nearly 19 tonnes of greenhouse pollution a year. That's about the same amount created by 9 round car trips from Perth to Melbourne.

And how do we compare? In the Cessnock Hunter area the average greenhouse pollution per person per year is 16.68 tonnes compared to the NSW state average of 19.31 tonnes and the national average of 18.9 tonnes.

Australian Conservation Foundation - <http://www.acfonline.org.au/consumptionatlas/>

Want to know how you rate?

Go to http://www.acfonline.org.au/custom_greenhome/calculator.asp?section_id=86