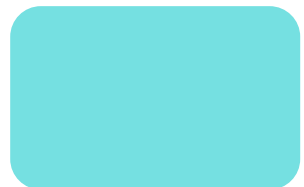


Landcare NSW Inc

Project Report

Regional Australia Bank 2014-2015



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Introduction

Regional Australia Bank (formerly Community Mutual) partnered with Landcare NSW for their e-statement campaign. For every customer that switched to receiving their statements electronically, Landcare NSW receives \$1.

This supports the activities of local Landcare groups in the operating area of Regional Australia Bank to undertake their environmental conservation, education and sustainable agriculture projects.

The partnership has been running since 2013. During the 2013-14 period 4 projects were supported. This report covers the use of funds received and allocated during the 2014-2015 period. These projects have now been completed and are outlined in this report.

Landcare NSW and the local Landcare groups involved in 2014/16 would like to thank Regional Australia Bank for their on-going support.

Devolved Funding Method

For the 2014-2015 distribution, funds were devolved to worthy Landcare group projects through the following method.

1. Availability of the Regional Australia Bank funding was promoted to all Landcare Groups in the areas where Regional Australia Bank have a branch.
2. Interested groups were asked to complete a brief project application form (Attachment 1), including a description of their project and the funding required, among other details.
3. Funds were granted to the projects that showed wide community involvement in the activity.
4. Projects were funded in priority order until all funding was allocated.

In total, \$6557.27 (ex GST was received, this was distributed to 7 projects. Unfortunately one project did not proceed and the funds for this have been held back to include in next year's distribution process.

Funded Projects

Total funding available for 2014/2015:	\$6557
Southern New England Landcare - Frog Dreaming	(\$682)
Congewai Valley Landcare - Regent honey Eater Project	(\$750)
Wollombi Valley Landcare Field Day - Meeting of the Waters	(\$750)
Murrurundi Landcare Tidy Towns Committee - Page's River Warriors Project	(\$750)
Manning Landcare - Farm Gate Tour	(\$750)
Landcare NSW – Pozible Crowd-Funding Training Workshops	(\$2057)
Balance held for future distribution	\$818

Project Reporting

Each project provided a brief report or case study to Landcare NSW to show their outcomes from the funding provided. The reporting is included in the following pages.



FROG DREAMING

People, Place, Storytelling

A 2-day inspirational journey into sustainable land management

FROG 2015 OVERVIEW

The 8th Frog Dreaming conference welcomed 98 students & mentors from Kentucky, Waldorf, Kingstown, Drummond, Minimbah, NEGS and Armidale High School.

A special event to celebrate our 4th year at 'The Hill' with the Taylor family - the property, a mixed superfine wool/agroforestry enterprise, presented a colourful spring backdrop for all to delight in & wonder about biodiversity & the role it plays in sustainable land management.

There were many highlights; the Little Landcarers project demo, Farm diversity @ The Hill with Lydie Taylor, lunchbox waste audit with Drummond & Minimbah's worm farm composting system ... Another highlight was the Group Action Planning (GAP) with all the school groups coming up with inspiring project ideas to use in their community.

But wait there's more—**outstanding tribal storytelling** led by our student mentors and their gurus....the



biggest bonfire ever & the Waldorf fire twirling... spotlighting & those ubiquitous wildlife sightings ...Bec Smith beating the **earth drum beat** the fun had by all **camping** by the light of the moon. Day 2 starting with Lydie Taylors Biodiversity walkabout through the **Frog Forest planting** .. Insect hotels with Guru Steve McAlpin..... **Wildlife at 'The Hill'** with NTLLS Marty Dillon **Fighting Ferals** with Tim Collins Frog totems with Matt & his carpet python and the great **native revegetation project** with Michael Taylor, who also shared with us his amazing family property/playground to explore, create, wonder and have fun in.

This year our returning mentors were awesome—they played an active and keen part in creating meaningful connections with & between the

students— thank you Georgie, Zia, Fitz, Grace, Siobhan, Aziz, Emily, Bonnie, Sam, Phoebe, Francesca, Rhoie, Georgina & Harriet— you are all beautiful people. A special mention and a big thank you goes to the Gurus, the same inspiring people that volunteer their time year after year - they are Matt McKenzie (Thalgarrah), Tim Collins (Armidale Tree Group), Carina Johnson (NT LLS), Ruth Tremont (SNEL), Helen Schwarz (Herbert Pk Landcare), Steve McAlpin (the Universe), and Bec Smith (AHS Ag teacher & frog founder). And to Tom Livanos & Kristy Youman for all your help on the day.

And lastly to our valued sponsors— thank you for your **on-going support** (logos below).. Especially Northern Tablelands Local Land Services & Northern Inland Regional Waste. **P h o t o s a t** www.facebook.com/pages/Frog-Dreaming/345505065515650?ref=hl

"The expression 'It takes a village to raise a child' comes to life at Frog Dreaming - it takes a community to embrace children and guide them to the rich, full life that is possible for them. This was evident in the passion the adult leaders brought to the event, both in the supportive role of developing leadership in the mentors, which the event provides; and in inspiring the younger students to work together in thinking smartly about caring for the environment, facing challenges, being respectful and using common sense to manage behaviour."

Joanne Lowe—Waldorf School teacher

CONTACT:

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Community Landcare Coordinator
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Local Land Services
Northern Tablelands



CATEGORY FINALIST
2013



Congewai Valley Landcare - Regent honey Eater Project

<http://hunterlandcare.org.au/regent-honey-eater-report-2015/>



⚡ Show all

Regent Honey Eater Report 2015



Recently, Congewai Valley Landcare Inc received a small grant of \$1500 to use for establishment of further habitat for the critically endangered Regent Honey Eater.

This medium sized bird used to be prolific along the East Coast but with habitat disappearing numbers have diminished and breeding colonies reduced to only a few sites. Cessnock LGA is lucky to be one of those areas, and Congewai Valley runs south from the main colony areas. With the money received from Community Mutual Group and Hunter Region Landcare the group has planted small areas of suitable trees on four different properties, leading away from the main breeding areas.

Suitable tree species were determined and Max Elliott (Grow Local – Cessnock Region Native plants) contracted to germinate and grow out the selected species. A lead time of some 5-6 months was needed for him to complete this preparatory work.

A local Landcare meeting was held to allow members to learn of this particular bird, with the main presentation being given by Mick Roderick (Birds Australia). The history, habitats and behaviours were discussed along with some other relevant facts about the area and other local birds. At the meeting it was obvious that a number of locals are passionate about the bird populations of the valley, and regularly observe the different populations around the properties.

Volunteer sites for the Regent Honey Eater project were sought, with guidelines stating that areas needed to be able to accommodate 125 trees, of varying species, be safely fenced from stock at least until trees are of a size able to survive contact with them. The possible sites were inspected by the committee, and preparations conducted by the owners, to allow plantings in April 2015.

Planting days were relaxed and social with many hands making quick work of the task. Three days in total were needed and each day ended with some tasty morsels and friendly chatting! Luckily the weather has been kind since planting, and there has been regular small amounts of rain so landholders have not had to water the plants that much, and they seem to all be growing well.

We look forward to seeing much more of this rather pretty local bird over coming years, and thank all who supported us. The tree species ;planted in this project were

- *Corymbia maculata* (Spotted Gum)
- *Casuarina cunninghamiana* (River Oak)
- *Euc. amplifolia* (Cabbage Gum)
- *Euc. tereticornis* (Forest Red Gum)
- *Euc. fibrosa* (Broad-leaved Ironbark)
- *Euc. moluccana* (Grey Box)
- *Angophora floribunda* (Rough-barked Apple)
- *Euc. agglomerata* (Kurri) (Stringybark)
- *Euc. punctata* (Grey Gum)



Postscript : another small grant has been received and will be used to establish several more sites further up the valley.

Many thanks again to Landcare NSW!!

Wollombi Valley Landcare Field Day - Meeting of the Waters

<http://hunterlandcare.org.au/wollombi-valley-landcare-woody-weed-workshop/>



Show all

Wollombi Valley Landcare Woody Weed Workshop



Photo care of The Maitland Mercury <http://www.maitlandmercury.com.au/story/2916219/taking-the-fight-to-african-olive-plant/>

Wollombi Valley Landcare

Woody Weed Workshop



Saturday 13th of December from 10am until 1pm.

We have chosen some of our favourite local weeds to focus on and have access to a fine display of Privet, Tree of Heaven, and Blackberry and just for a little variety, Japanese Honeysuckle.

A variety of control techniques will be discussed and demonstrated on the day, including how best to tackle large infestations or just isolated plants.

We have invited Barry Shepherd, Cessnock Councils Weed Control Officer, who will concentrate on chemical control using knapsack sprayers. Barry will cover the recommended types of herbicide for specific species as well as different ways of applying the herbicide, e.g. as a foliage spray or as a basal spray.

As much of our weed control occurs near creek lines, issues like water contamination and erosion control will also be covered on the day. We hope to cover most of your issues and concerns through practical demonstrations, rather than just talking about them.

The weeds mentioned above are just a starting point. Please feel free to discuss your particular favourite, bring along samples of plants/weeds you may want help identifying. If you have techniques that you have found successful please let us know.

The workshop will be held on Tony Palfreeman's property which is on Payne's Crossing Road about half a kilometre north of Wollombi (towards Broke) Parking will be available in the paddock just past Cuneens Bridge. Lookout for the Landcare signs.

This workshop, and associated follow up weed control of the site, is being made possible through funding support from the Community Mutual Group and Hunter Local Land Services, the day is the result of a partnership between Wollombi Valley Landcare, Cessnock City Council, the Hunter Regional Landcare Network and Landcare NSW.

Your attendance will support us as we continue the revitalisation of Landcare in your local area, district and region.

Everyone is welcome. Landcare membership is not required and attendance is free. Please contact; wollombi.landcare@gmail.com or call Chris Jackson on 4998 8660 or John Hughson 0478 214 498 to RSVP or if you have any questions.

Don't forget to wear covered shoes for walking, sunsafe clothing, (long pants, long sleeves and a hat) and BYO chair Chris Jackson (President Wollombi Valley Landcare)

Murrurundi Landcare Tidy Towns Committee - Page's River Warriors Project

http://www.murrurundi.nsw.au/page.php?id=530&chamber_tag=Murrurundi&chamber_state=NSW

New metal flora banners at Wilson memorial Oval

A wonderful day was had at the unveiling of new banners at Wilson memorial Oval on Sunday 21st June 2015.

The new banners were sponsored by Hunter Regional Land Care Service & Community Mutual.

Another one sponsored by Hunter Local Land Serve and the third one was sponsored by Turning the Page's. Deputy Mayor Cr. Maurice Collison did the honours of unveiling of the new banners and we had about 30 people turn up for the event. Cr Collison along with the help of Steve Eccles (LLS) planted a native tree on the day to commemorate the event.

Lion's Club provided a lovely BBQ lunch after the unveiling on their new BBQ facilities in Wilson Memorial Oval.



ABOVE: New banners at Wilson Oval



LEFT: Fran Wachtel Artist with Jen Castles (HRLLS) & Robyn Orman (Page's River Warriors)

RIGHT: Cr Collison planted a grevillea with help from Steve Eccles (LLS) to help commemorate the day.

Manning Landcare - Farm Gate Tour

<http://www.landcare.nsw.gov.au/groups/manning-landcare/farm-gate-tour>

Local Links - Stronger Communities

LLCICM-012

Farm Gate Tour

Manning Landcare

Showcasing diverse enterprises in the lower Manning Valley.

The issue

Manning Landcare developed a community, social farming event to bring people together. The Manning Valley has many enterprising producers, many on small landholdings. These landholders have interesting and varied systems producing products that are mostly sold locally. These ventures often struggle to raise awareness of their business within the local community and find marketing their products time consuming and costly. The Valley also has a high rate of new landowners buying land, most coming from non-farming backgrounds, yet with production expectations of their new land. By introducing them to Landcare through this event we created a mindfulness of best practice and where to turn to for information. The Farm Gate Tour offers:

- Current enterprises can raise awareness of their products, production values and add to their customer base, including an opportunity to offer samples/taste tests and to sell product.
- For Tour goers it gives people the opportunity to visit, observe and interact with current enterprises. To try and buy local products, supporting local farming networks, while enjoying a self drive experience round a beautiful part of the Manning Valley

The solution

Our aim was to provide these producers with the opportunity to open their properties to the public. To showcase their business and products and to promote best practice land management techniques and to connect members of the public with small enterprise farming & Landcare.

We approached producers in one area of the Manning Valley, the Lower Manning - from Glenthorne to the Mitchells Island, to gauge interest in the idea. Four family enterprises were extremely keen to participate. Manning Landcare worked with the landholders to plan for the tour, how to accommodate numbers, traffic control, signage, and more. A double sided flyer was developed with a brief description of each farm, the address and details for food, stops and more. These flyers were printed and distributed through the rural mail in the surrounding areas. Local papers were notified and the flyer was shared to many relevant Group Facebook pages and to local Clubs of all sorts.

The impact

The Farm Gate Tour was held on the Saturday the 30th of May 2015. Our 4 farms were delighted with the attendance, the interest of participants, contact details collected and product sold. Manning Landcare ran a BBQ and information stall at Island in the Stream Worm Farm, both Landcare co-ordinators were in attendance to answer questions and assist with pamphlets, brochures and books.

This activity is part of the Local Landcare Coordinators Initiative



Local Land Services

The Local Landcare Coordinators Initiative is funded by the NSW Government, and is supported through the partnership of Local Land Services and Landcare NSW.



Key facts

- The overwhelming response was positive: Comments - "when is the next one?"
- Our Landcare database benefited as well!
- Follow us: <https://www.facebook.com/Manning-Landcare-Inc-558113824276657/>

Project Partners



Nov 28, 2016

Landcare NSW – Pozible Crowd-Funding Training Workshops

Landcare NSW worked with Landcare networks to host a crowdfunding workshop in their region.

The funding from Community Mutual allowed Landcare NSW to provide trainers to assist groups to learn how they can widen their net on potential funding for their projects. Four workshops were run across the state culminating in 15 projects submitted to the launch of the Pozible Landcare partnership at the National Landcare Conference in September 2014. The event was run with the assistance of Southern New England and attracted a wide range of groups including Landcare from across the region, and other community based organisations in the Armidale region.

How to Crowdfund Your Community Project



Workshop

7th August, 2014

3:30pm-7:30pm

Where: Café Affamato, 85 & 87 Marsh St, Armidale

Learn how to plan and run a crowdfunding campaign for your project, followed by a net-mapping session.

Finger food will be supplied during the break. Limited vacancies.

RSVP Friday 1st August

Zac Geldof - 0423 274 311

zgeldof@myune.edu.au

Evelyn Osborne - 0427 539 408

eosborn4@myune.edu.au



Attachment 1. Project Expression of Interest Form

Project Expression of Interest - Community Mutual

Open to groups in the New England, Orana and Hunter regions for funding between \$200-\$1,500

Name of project

Contact name

Name of group

Contact email

Nearest town/locality

Contact phone number

Project description - up to 300 words on the where, what and why of your project

Why is this project important in your community?

Value of funds requested

Estimated total project value

Is your group a member of Landcare NSW?

☐ Yes

☐ No



Landcare NSW would like to thank the Community Mutual Group for their support of Landcare.