



NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2010

FEBRUARY ACTIVITY DAY

It has been a slow start to the year with our first Activity Day cancelled due to wet weather. Our AGM, also scheduled for the February Activity Day, will be held next month. Details below.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT for 2009

Our Annual General Meeting will now be held on our next Activity Day (6th March). For those members who are unable to join us, the following summary provides an overview our achievements during 2009.

- **ACTIVITY DAYS:** The Mulgoa Landcare Group met for a total of 10 Activity Days during 2009. One Activity Day was cancelled due to wind (September). We averaged 7.5 volunteers at each of the 10 Activity Days (one volunteer per activity day less than 2008). We visited 5 different sites during the year, 1 of which was new to our project in 2009 (the Torresan's property).
- **FUNDING;** We were allocated \$10,000 of funding from the CMA which was spent at two sites, The Torresan property (primary control of enormous amounts of African Olive) and the Sibbald property (extending primary bush regeneration work and some fencing). National Parks and Wildlife Service also made a \$5000 contribution toward our project which provided contract assistance to control Cats Claw Creeper and Lantana in the Mulgoa Nature Reserve. Finally, an additional \$1500 was received from the Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority to undertake a small amount of follow-up work at 'Glenleigh' following the work that was completed with the Conservation Incentives Program in 2008.
- **PLANTING:** A number of planting events were held during 2009. In total we planted 600 plants along Mulgoa Creek (300 planted by Green Corp at the Torresan property, 120 planted by Bonny Rigg Catholic College also at the Torresan property, 100 planted by Amex staff at Glenleigh, 50 planted by our group at the Sibbald property and 30 planted by students of Nepean Christian School at the School site in August.)
- **FENCING:** About 50m of fencing was installed by our group on the Sibbald property –with the remaining 40m due for completion by Jim this summer. The Torresan family have replaced their stock exclusion fencing along more than 200m of Mulgoa Creek.



MULGOA VALLEY LANDCARE GROUP



- **VOLUNTEER SUPPORT;** Our project along Mulgoa Creek has once again been well supported by a variety of organizations and individuals which provides our project with invaluable assistance and momentum. Our 'Glenleigh' site received two visits from Blue Mountains TAFE Students. They continued their work on the 'escarpment' section of 'Glenleigh' assisting with important primary and secondary weed control work. Teams from the 'Green Corp' initiative spent about 8 days working at a number of our sites including 'Glenleigh', Mulgoa Nature Reserve, the Golf Course and the Torresan Property. We were joined by Staff members from Bonny Rigg Catholic College who participated in a planting afternoon. A team of 12 staff from American Express held a 'community assistance' event in November undertaking bush regeneration and planting at Glenleigh, Nepean Christian School held a Bushcare event for their year (students who also participated in bush regeneration and planting activities. Four teaching students from the Australian Catholic University joined us for some experience in bush regeneration and natural resource management, completing an assignment on our activities as part of their Diploma. Luke Thompson and Emily contributed additional hours of bush regeneration as part of their Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award. The Aboriginal Vines Team, funded by the HNCMA, completed almost \$15,000 of labour support targeting exotic vines at 3 sites along Mulgoa Creek.
- **PRESENTATIONS;** The activities of the Mulgoa Landcare Group were promoted at three major events in 2009. Firstly an overview of Landcare and European Heritage of the Mulgoa Valley was presented to a regional meeting of Inner Wheel. Secondly, Luke Thompson represented our Group during National Landcare Week, participating in a full day Kayak event from Warragamba Dam to Penrith and finally, Luke once again lent his support to promote Landcare awareness and participation by assisting with the Landcare Stall at the Mulgoa Bicentenary celebrations in Mulgoa Park in November 2009

HOLDEN HABITATS

Holden Dealerships across Australia have combined to support a series of important environmental repair projects in local communities. The program is called "Holden Habitats" and will assist Landcare Groups to restore creeks, control weeds and revegetate areas for habitat for native species. Holden Customers will be given the opportunity to make a donation to Landcare as part of their servicing charge. Five pilot projects are currently being launched across Australia – and I am thrilled to report that the Mulgoa Creek restoration project is one of them!!! The official launch will be held on Friday 26th February at 'Glenleigh' by Minister for Environment and Climate Change, the Hon. Frank Sartor MP.

Funding provided by Holden toward our project will be directed to multiple sites along Mulgoa Creek to assist property owners in the restoration of their section of this vital habitat corridor.



ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUNDING

I am very excited to report that our application for funding through the State Government's Environmental Trust has been successful. We were advised only last week of our success and our funding should be available in April. We will receive \$30,000 per year over the next 3 years (\$90,000 in total) which will be used to provide bush regeneration assistance at 5 of our largest sites along Mulgoa Creek. We have nominated 7 target weeds to be addressed with this funding and will support this project by targeting the same 7 weed species at 15 other sites along Mulgoa Creek on our regular Activity Days.

This funding will guarantee a busy but highly successful 3 years and I am very optimistic that we can turn the tide against the spread of invasive weeds and demonstrate the return of healthy vegetation communities along Mulgoa Creek.

CONTRIBUTION FROM St. DOMINICS COLLEGE

Last year I mentioned that the students and staff of St. Dominics College in Penrith had made a very generous contribution toward our group of \$2000. I have allocated \$500 of this toward the set up costs of our own Web site (we have a web page linked to Mulgoa Progress Association – however I thought it timely that we have our very own site) and I also approached Penrith Council to see if they could match the remaining \$1500 to undertake some much needed secondary bush regeneration work at Gow Park. Penrith Council have kindly agreed to the joint project and we will soon be underway with a \$3000 contract at Gow Park to assist with re-emerging weed problems at that site. Our sincere thanks to St. Dominic's College for their very generous support of our work, and also to Penrith Council for their ongoing support of our group

MARCH ACTIVITY DAY

Our next Activity Day will be held on

**Saturday 6th March
commencing at 9:00 am
at Gow Park
on Littlefields Road,
Mulgoa**

Bring a hat and a snack – see you there
Cheers
Lisa