



NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2012

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Wow! Can't believe it's 2012 already and shaping up to be yet another busy and successful year of Landcare.

I hope that all of our members and readers found some time to relax over the Christmas / New Year period. I always like to reflect on achievements of the outgoing year and plan the 'To Do' lists of the incoming year. Is it just meor is the 'To Do' list always longer than the 'achievements' list?

ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST PROJECT...

Our Environmental Trust Project is progressing well with Year 2 (of a three year project) now complete. The annual report for 2011 should be submitted by the end of this month and our final payment of \$30,000 will be received shortly thereafter. We will continue to undertake contract bush regeneration at 5 sites with this funding (Glenmore Heritage Valley Golf Course, 'Glenleigh', Nepean Christian School, the Freeburn and Torresan properties. Our regular Activity Days will continue on the first Saturday of each month at various locations.

RIVER RESTORATION PROJECTS...

Two smaller projects were awarded by the Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority (CMA) late last year. The first is a restoration project on a small section of Mulgoa Creek between the entrance bridges to the Penrith Waste Depot and the Nepean Christian School. We note the generosity of Penrith Waste Depot's contribution of \$3,000 over three years which was the impetus for the CMA to then match that contribution with a further \$3,000.

The second project is a result of another generous contribution of \$2,000, this time from St. Dominic's College, with a matching commitment from the National Parks and Wildlife Service of \$2,000. Together with some volunteer support from the Mulgoa valley Landcare Group, the CMA has made a \$9,500 contribution toward this project. Regeneration works will be carried out in the Mulgoa Nature Reserve and on the Sibbald property with this funding.



MULGOA VALLEY LANDCARE GROUP



NEW APPLICATION...

A new round of Environmental trust funding has been made available to Landcare/Community groups as a result of the State Government's election commitment last year. This grant is available to community groups working on large scale, long term projects and applicants must apply for between \$200,000 to \$250,000 over a 6 year time frame.

With both State and Federal Governments tightening budgets dramatically over the next few years, funding assistance via other channels will be limited and highly competitive.

So, despite the difficult timing (applications close 31st January 2012), I have committed to lodging an application on behalf of the Mulgoa Valley Landcare Group to continue a very similar style of project to our current one - with the bulk of funding directed toward our most degraded sections of Mulgoa Creek (which I will refer to as 'Weed Hot Spots'). We will also consider funding a consultant to work directly with property owners at times convenient to the property owner in a training capacity. Another item on my wish list would be to revisit the "weed Mapping and Bushland Resilience Survey undertaken in 1999. It would be amazing to compare results a decade later (and great to actually show that we ARE making a difference).

The support from property owners for this new application (particularly our large properties with enduring weed issues) has been **OVERWHELMING** and I am humbled by the commitments from Graham Windridge at Glenleigh who, pending the success of our application, will contribute \$1,000 pa for the 6 years of the project (total \$6,000 contribution), Terry Kim from Glenmore Heritage Valley Golf Course, who has committed the same amount and from Nepean Christian School who have pledge a cash contribution of \$2,000 as well as the involvement of students in an educational capacity. I am delighted and inspired by this response to my requests for support of yet another project and extend my deepest thanks to all of the property owners and volunteers who remain committed to our work! **THANK YOU.**

The outcome of our application will not be known until April/May – so **EVERBODY** keep **EVERTHING** crossed until then. A six year project will surely turn the tide in our battle to control weeds and restore native vegetation communities!

FEBRUARY ACTIVITY DAY

Our first Activity Day for 2012, and a very brief AGM will be held on

Saturday 4th February

in the Mulgoa Nature Reserve.

Meet at my place (478 Mulgoa Rd, Regentville)

at 9:00 am SHARP

We will walk in to our work site as a group. Bring a light weight morning tea as we will need to carry supplies and tools with us.

Looking forward to seeing everyone – with renewed energy for a busy year ahead!!!

For all enquiries contact Lisa on (0411)487 512 or email lisa@mulgoalandcare.org.au