

biodiversity

OUR GOALS:

1. Assist with increasing the extent of native vegetation by 200ha by 2017 (2ha in urban areas);
2. Assist with improving the condition of 500ha of native vegetation by 2017 (20ha in urban areas)

The Biodiversity Super-group was established this year. The Super-group is made up of 32 scientists, bureaucrats and community activists representing organisations like UNE, Landcare, Armidale Tree Group, NSW Local Land Services and Armidale and Uralla councils. The aim of the Super-group is to coordinate on-the-ground actions and longer-term planning to coordinate regeneration in Armidale and across the region.

GRANTS

Members of the Super-group collaborated to submit a Saving Our Species grant from the NSW Threatened Species Network. The Armidale Tree Group is the lead applicant in the proposed project that is seeking \$736,400 from the NSW Government. The project brings together a consortium of community groups, government, local government, private landholders and university partners to manage threats and monitor plant species on the southern part of the Northern Tablelands of NSW.

This application was led by Armidale Tree Group. Contact Dave Carr for more information dbcarr@bigpond.com

Members of the Biodiversity Super-group are collaborating to submit an application for funding through the Australian government Twenty Million

Trees program. The application is a partnership of AURG, ATG and ADC with the grant being administered by SNELCC.

The group plans to apply for around \$100,000 to re-establish native vegetation in a section of the creeklands in Armidale. The site roughly identified is in reaches P and Q of the Draft Revegetation Guidelines for the Urban Reaches of Dumaresq Creek (2009).

This application was led by Armidale Urban Rivercare Group. Contact Bruce Whan for more information

IMPROVING THE EXTENT AND CONDITION OF BIODIVERSITY

Koala Register –Council records koala sightings on its GIS system. This helps identify habitat and breeding areas to inform development decisions and support funding applications for habitat enhancement projects.

If you see a koala in Armidale: go to [weblink](#) and register your sighting.

Landholders are looking after two endangered ecological communities and a number of koala feed trees by managing grazing and controlling woody and herbaceous weeds.

Council is assisting the Armidale Urban Rivercare Group's revegetation efforts on Dumaresq Creek in accordance with Council's Revegetation Guidelines.

Two assessments of threatened flora were undertaken to ensure extraction from Council's new gravel pits does not harm endangered plant communities.

This year Council planted 161 street trees and 56 park trees. Propagation trials are underway to produce male-only *Pistacia chinensis* to replace all female street trees as these are considered environmental weeds. The males are difficult to clone, previous grafting attempts have failed and they are not available commercially.

A community group continues to do great bush regeneration work in Drummond Park.

NEW ENGLAND WEEDS AUTHORITY (NEWA)

Invasion by weeds is one of Australia's most serious and expensive land degradation problems. A weed is generally characterised as a plant growing where it is not wanted or where it was not originally present that will cause impact on agriculture, human health and the environment.

A weed is declared noxious because its control will provide a benefit to the community over and above the cost of implementing control programs.

Continuity in weed management provides benefits for local communities. NEWA as a single purpose County Council has a major role to play in reducing the impacts from weeds declared noxious in the New England & Northern Tablelands region. Noxious weeds officers are the first line of defence against noxious weeds in NSW.

The New England Weeds Authority (NEWA) area is comprised of Armidale Dumaresq, Guyra, Uralla and Walcha local government areas. The Authority covers 18,255 sq kms with a rolling three year inspection program, and is also responsible for weed control on 4,000 kms of Council road reserves.

The Authority also provides advice on weed control and weed identification, private works on request and general enquiries.

NEWA's strategy:

- Exclude - prevent the establishment of new weed species in our region;
- Eradicate or contain - eliminate or prevent the spread of new weed species in our region;
- Effectively manage - reduce the impacts of widespread invasive weed species;
- Educate - ensure community, industry and government stakeholders have the knowledge to identify and manage invasive weed species.

Go to www.newa.com.au or [facebook](#) for more information.

ARMIDALE URBAN RIVERCARE GROUP

Volunteers of Armidale's Urban Rivercare Group (AURG) have been working on Dumaresq Creek since 2002 to replace weeds with native vegetation. If you walk along the creek from Sport UNE to Cooks Road, or at Black Gully, Martin's Gully or Tilbuster Ponds you won't be able to miss the work they've been doing.

AURG gets funding from state and federal government as well as significant support from Southern New England Landcare (SNELCC), Armidale Dumaresq Council and the Armidale Dumaresq Lions Club.

AURG has about 80 members and working bees along Dumaresq Creek are held on the second Sunday of each month except in June, July, December and January.

During 2013-14 670 hours of work resulted in approximately 4000 trees and shrubs planted by volunteers and groups like Armidale High School, Inland Technology, and UNE students from overseas.

If you would like to get involved with AURG contact:

Bruce Whan on 0407 456 169 or whan11@bigpond.com

Southern New England Landcare on 6772 9123 or mail@snelcc.org.au

Follow AURG on facebook.

SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND LANDCARE

Frog Dreaming is a two-day journey for children to learn about sustainable land management. This year Frog Dreaming was a finalist in the National Landcare Awards.

The 7th Frog Dreaming conference at Kentucky welcomed students & mentors from Uralla, Waldorf, Drummond and Armidale High School. There were many highlights; the Little Miss Landcare project demo, the solar duck idea for generating electricity, sustainable action at Drummond & insect hotels at Waldorf.. The outstanding tribal performances led by our student mentors and their gurus... The bonfire & fire twirling.... 'Emu in the Sky' dreaming story with Dan...Bec Smith beating the earth drum beat Friends of Waldorf's excellent service & nourishing menu the fun had by all camping by the light of the moonBiodiversity walkabout .. Insect hotels with Chris Riley Our beloved totem rocks with Bec.... Wildlife at 'The Hill' with NTLLS Marty Dillon Fighting Ferals with Tim Collinsworm farms with Tracey Carr from NIRW and who could forget native revegetation 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 were an active and keen part in creating meaningful connections with & between the students— thank you Georgie, Zia, Fitz, Grace, Aziz, Ellis, Bonnie, Francesca and Bella.

Contact Sara Schmude at Southern New England Landcare for more information sara@snelcc.org.au

Contact Carol Davies to add your story to next year's SOE. cdavies@armidale.nsw.gov.au or 6770 3686.