

Carbon Farming

Is Carbon the next product that you will be able to sell from your farm?

The potential for Carbon farming has been discussed regularly in the media as a part of the debate about Carbon Emission abatement programs for Australia.

At the local level the SRCMA Monaro Grasslands LMT has commissioned work to get a better understanding of the potential for Carbon sequestration in Monaro Grassland soils (talk to Tim Fletcher 6452 1455).

At the national level, the Federal Government has introduced the Carbon Farming Initiative . This will provide methodology for undertaking and assessing carbon sequestration initiatives and provide information to landholders as to how they can access Carbon Trading markets. For information about this go to www.climatechange.gov.au/government/initiatives/carbon-farming-initiative .

For good background information about soil carbon the following online documents are good introductory guides

- ◆ [CSIRO Fact Sheet on "Soil Carbon the Basics" \(November 2008\)](#)
- ◆ [A Farmers Guide to Soil Carbon Under Pasture](#)
- ◆ ["Soil Carbon Sequestration Potential \(May 2010\)- A Review for Australian Agriculture"](#)



Landcare Group contacts

Berridale Rocky Plain Landcare

Chair—Stuart Reid 6456 3371
Secretary—Harry Bentley 6456 3068
Treasurer—Phil Daley 6456 5313

Snowy River Landcare (covers Dalgety and Bungarby areas)

Chair—Peter Lette 6456 3034
Secretary—Elena Guarracino 6456 5299

Maclaughlin River Landcare

Chair—Howard Charles 6454 6403
Secretary—Vicky Bridgewater 6453 6234
Treasurer—Jim Haylock 6454 6250

Jindabyne East Residents Committee

Shane Trengove 64561 276

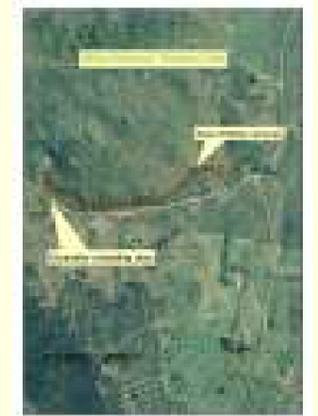


Upper Snowy Landcare News

In a Wet Year we



- Had Chemcert training
- Sprayed Weeds of National Significance
- Visited to learn from others
- Grew Pasture Crops
- Built fences to manage remnant vegetation
- Major projects in our creeks and rivers



If 2010 was busy, do you know what we have planned for 2011?

What a difference a Year makes

2009 Cooma had 375 mm of rain. At this time in 2009 we were running Stockplan Courses and building drought feedlots. In 2010 Cooma had 720 mm. With rains in February we saw the flowers of the grassland in full display and the pasture feed set us up for a good Autumn and Winter. In the Spring and early summer the grass reached the top of the fences. The main initiative for the USLC in 2011 will be to follow up the principles of "managing what we have got" - whether it is the best like 2010 or the worst like 2009—managing not only what a variable climate can serve up but also looking at managing the farming business to suit your enterprise.



This will be the major focus of the training courses we will run in 2011 and also will be the theme for our Landcare dinner in June.

Our focus this year will also be to get the Landcare groups to develop plans for the funding opportunities that will become available. Always be prepared for the gift horse looking for "shovel ready" projects.





"Tending the Grassroots" Project

This year USLC will receive \$35 000 from a Caring from our Country submission by South East Landcare, which is made up of the 7 District Landcare Associations in the Southern Rivers CMA region.

The priorities for our funding from the "Tending the Grassroots" include:

- * **Better grazing, better profits, better country**—as a follow up to the trip to Nigel Kerin's and Lachlan Campbell's properties last year we will be looking to introduce these principles into our catchment. This will include a combination of training days and mentoring on your own property. More information will follow soon;
- * **Testing solutions for woodland dieback**—as a follow up to our field day on 18th March there will be an opportunity for landholders to apply for funding to assist them try out some of the techniques that were discussed on the day. The emphasis will be on those rocky outcrops that seem to be suffering the most from the effects of dieback. Further information will be given on the day of the field day; and
- * **Serrated Tussock control works** in the area covered by Snowy River Landcare group—this funding will be used to provide members of the Landcare group with herbicide to spot spray Serrated Tussock. This funding will be made available prior to the prime spraying time in late Winter, early Spring. More information will be provided through the Snowy River Landcare group.

The "Tending the Grassroots Project" is a one year project to provide funding to support priority Landcare works. The successful application was the result of the strong working relationship that exists between Landcare in our region and the Southern Rivers CMA.

What causes a gully



The main features of gully erosion evident in these photo include:

- ◆ The dark topsoil layer with a grey "bleached" layer sitting on top of a yellow coloured subsoil
- ◆ The subsoil is weak when it gets wet and erodes easily as shown by the "fluted" edges of the gully. (The main reason for the low wet strength is the amount of Sodium in the soil, which makes the soil disperse when it is wet)
- ◆ More humus and grass roots in the dark topsoil hold the soil together but water moving through the grey layer slowly 'melts' the soil away from this layer and weakens the protective cover of topsoil
- ◆ The height difference between the gully floor and the land above creates a "waterfall effect" that can cause rapid movement of the gully head uphill in storm events or prolonged runoff events

Funding is currently available for gully erosion control in the Matong and Beloka catchments through the USLC erosion control program with money provided by the Caring for our Country program and also the Matong Beloka Section 10 funding, which is a NSW government program.

Enquiries regarding this funding can be directed to Mark Robertson on 6452 1455



What's on in 2011



USLC and SOUTHERN RIVERS CMA DINNER

Friday 17 June 2011

"Landcare and the Challenges and Constraints of Sustainable Food Production "

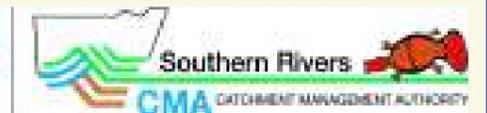
The area of sustainable food production and agriculture facing the emerging insecurities of water, energy, carbon and food is becoming of increasing importance.

The solutions to these challenges will come from local knowledge and local communities and the role that Landcare can play in meeting these challenges through peer support, mentoring and working with Natural Resource Management organisations.

Our speaker will be Jason Alexandra, who has worked with MDBA, LWA, Greening Australia, had his own consultancy business and is a Landcarer from wayback.

Dalgety Memorial Hall

6.30 for 7.00 Friday 17 June 2011



Woodland Dieback Field Day

8.30 am Friday 18 March 2011

Dalgety Memorial Hall (and in the field)



There has been a lot of interest in the decline in the health of the woodlands in the Berridale and Dalgety areas, In the last few years especially, a large number of trees have lost leaves and many have died.

Guest speakers on the day (including CSIRO, Greening Australia and Sydney University) will explore factors relevant to the local dieback and the field trips will show you how to assess dieback on your property and discuss potential solutions to the problem.

RSVP mark.robertson@cma.nsw.gov.au or 6452 1455 by 11 March 2011

Serrated Tussock Control field day

8.30 am Friday 11 February 2011

Berridale Rocky Plain Landcare group are running this day to show you the best control techniques for Serrated Tussock. The day starts at the CMA hall at Berridale and also has in the field demonstrations :

- * Know your weed—recognising Serrated Tussock and good grasses that might look like it
- * The life cycle of the Serrated Tussock plant—and the best time to end its life
- * Best practice spray techniques—from big rigs to backpacks and spray selections
- * Developing a Serrated Tussock Control plan
- * How to record your efforts

RSVP anna.rudd@cma.nsw.gov.au or 6452 1455 by 8/2/2011



CARING FOR OUR COUNTRY