

Results from the Landcare Executive Workshop and Xmas in July

By Su Wild-River

This year, Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council hosted a Landcare Executive Workshop and Xmas in July dinner. It was marvellous to get so many Landcare people together in the one room for these events, and we also gathered the memories, visions and ideas from everyone about local Landcare priorities. This is a short report from the event.

Our goals in hosting this event were to:

- celebrate Landcare achievements,
- educate and inform Landcare members about resources and initiatives,
- contribute to district Landcare momentum, and
- help to steer Landcare initiatives over the future for the greatest benefits.

26 local Landcare executives described the wonderful work they have been doing over the last few years. The table on the right is a summary and we'd love to add to it from the other groups.

Landcare Executives worked together to envision a future landscape shaped by successful Landcare work. Figure 1 below summarises our vision for changes that we hope that Landcare can achieve over the next 25 years.

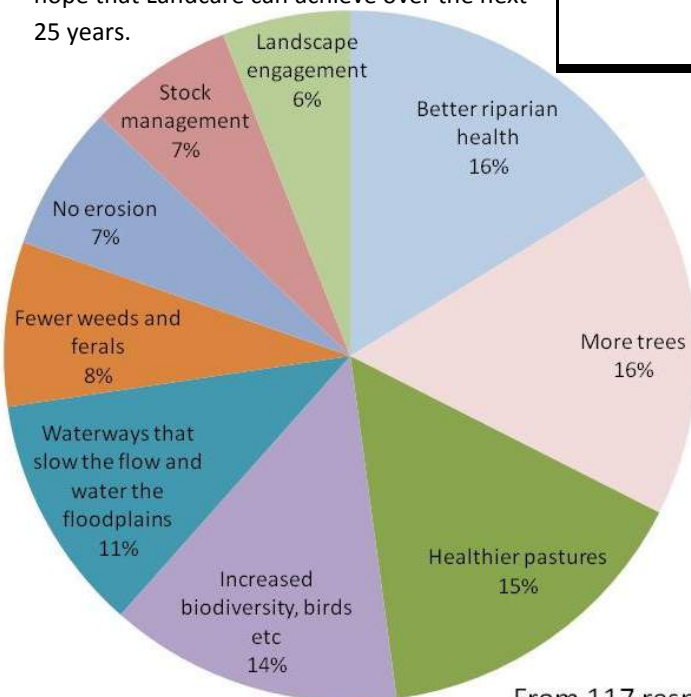


Figure 1. Future landscape changes to arise from an upcoming 25 years of successful Landcare

From 117 responses

Group	Focus issues and most significant changes
Bungonia Park Trust	Protecting the village from becoming a quarry haulage route, planning for Woodward's Creek improvements, planting out the riparian zone, establishing and planting out a creek walk, coordinating project submissions, establishing a creek walk and establishing the Bogong Bushfood Garden.
Mulloon/Reedy Creek	Tree planting, including paddock trees and arranging relevant talks such as bushfire recovery.
Jacqua Creek	Raising the level of Jacqua Creek to achieve water overflow to the flood plain, revegetation of the creek and riparian zone, nick point stabilisation and natural sequence farming.
Braidwood Rural	Tree planting that has transformed the landscape with some really significant plantings.
Snowball	Weed management, feral animal management especially pigs and winning the Local Environment Plan debate about proposed RU2 and E3 zones.
Braidwood Urban	Food sustainability including establishing a community garden, native vegetation, public amenities for the community including a path along Flood Creek and a footbridge.
Windellama	Locals linking landscapes project, establishing biodiversity corridors, achieving erosion control by nipping it in the bud, fencing and preserving crown land areas and helping to raise local resident awareness of local environmental problems.
Friends of Mongarlowe River	Protecting the Mongarlowe River catchment and its biodiversity, particularly through projects to protect the endangered Macquarie Perch and to stabilise a large, eroding bank.
Mongarlowe	Bed control structures in Tantulean Creek, broom and crack willow control, farm forestry demonstration on Northangera/Budawang Road, Clean Up Australia day for the past eight years, and Streamwatch.
Upper Deua	Improving riparian health along the Araluen Creek including sediment control to stabilise the creek bed, reducing erosion pressure by removing debris blockages, improving water quality, environmental health of the stream and increasing ponding within the creek system.

About 65 people joined us for the Xmas in July dinner. Food was from Vanilla Catering, using as much locally-produced food as possible. We ate local beef, locally-smoked ham, local carrots, parsnips, beetroots, broccoli, pumpkin, kale, coleslaw, potatoes, lemons, berries and rhubarb. Suppliers included Jillamatong, Kindrachuk farm, Hazelwood Farm and others. Wine was from Braidwood Estate and truffles from Tarago Truffles. The food was an absolutely delicious celebration of sustainable local produce.

Naturally, the good food and cheer got the cerebral juices flowing alongside their digestive companions.

A rather cheeky Santa introduced the formal part of the dinner session and handed out gift packs of worms..... for the compost heaps of people who had been very, very good.

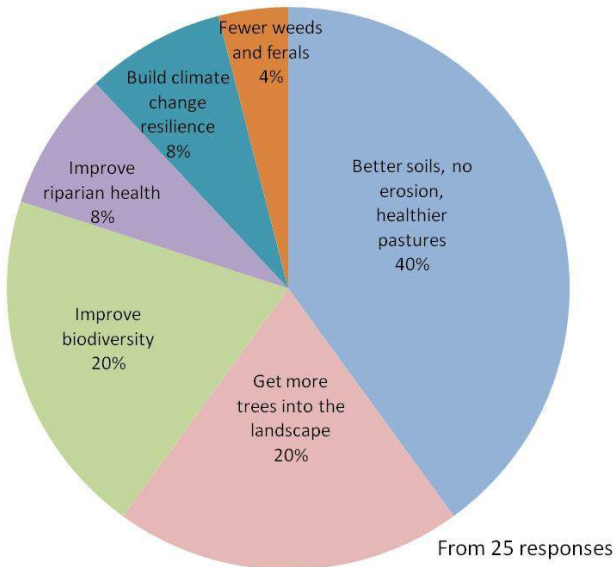


Figure 2: The most important things for Landcare to do - focus of physical and practical work

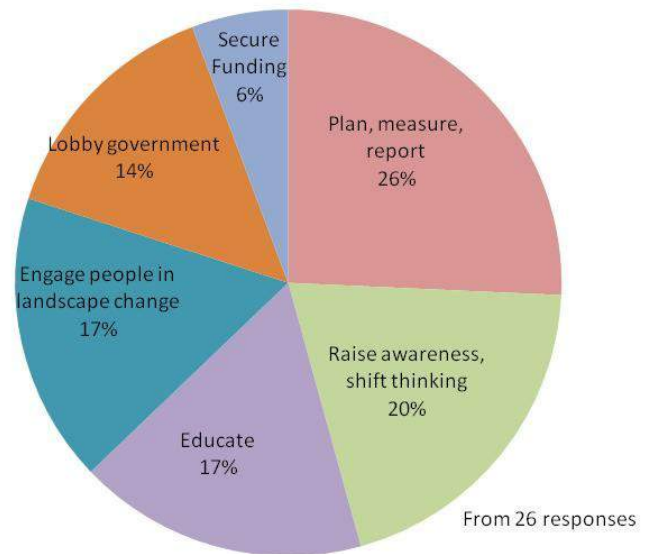


Figure 3: The most important things for Landcare to do - types of

I ran through a short presentation about the ideas Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council has for its work in the next six months and beyond. During the presentation, Landcarers were invited to complete a survey form to give us their ideas, inspirations, feedback and direction for the months ahead.

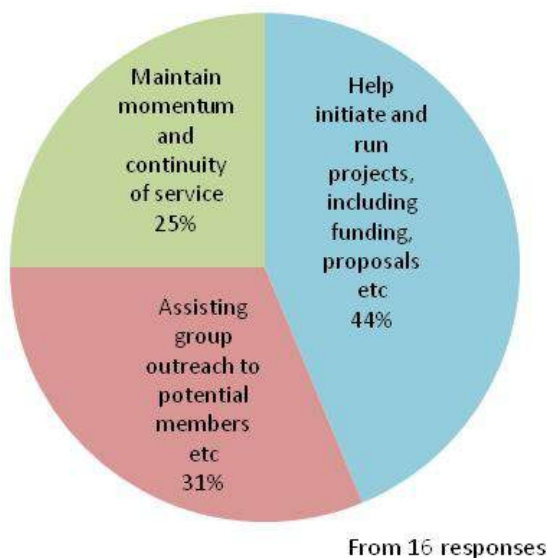
A few of the key messages we received from the survey are shown here. The most important things for Landcare to do included a mix of physical and engagement actions. The most important focal areas for physical work was to achieve better soils, no erosion and healthier pastures, getting more trees into the landscape, improved biodiversity, riparian health, climate change resilience and feral animal and weed control.



Engagement priorities are shown in Figure 3 and include planning, measuring, reporting on projects, raising awareness and shifting thinking, educating, engaging generally, lobbying government and securing funding.

Some people shared their ideas about how Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council can best help the local Landcare groups. Figure 4 shows the priorities to be initiating and running projects, assisting outreach to potential members and maintaining Landcare momentum.

A full report will be available very soon on our website at <http://www.uppershoalhavenlandcare.com.au/news-and-updates/publications/>



How Upper Shoalhaven Landcare can best support local Landcare groups