



TAKING A LOOK AT LANDCARE - SEPTEMBER 2021

YARRIE LAKE LANDCARE GROUP

By George Truman - North West Local Land Services

Yarrie Lake Landcare Group was formed in March 1999 when the Landcare facilitator for the area suggested the idea to 6 farming enterprises at a Landcare meeting. They agreed and started the group which now has around 50 members from the surrounding district and extends west of Narrabri to Wee Waa and south to the edge of the Pilliga Forest.

The group is very active in organising events and activities to help its members better manage their farms and increase their understanding and knowledge of sustainability. Some of the field days that the group has organised or attended have been establishing and managing tropical pastures, understanding soils and their characteristics, rotational and cell grazing, livestock handling, use of compost, water spreading and ponding, incorporation of legumes, understanding sodic soils, identification of crops and pastures suitable for their soil types and identification of native grasses.

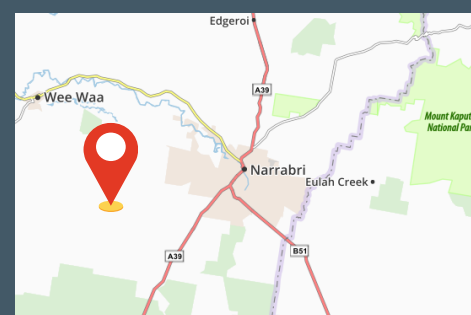
They have undertaken many funded Landcare projects and are currently involved with the Australian Government's National Landcare Program in partnership with Merrimborough Landcare Group. This project involves undertaking 20 capacity building activities over a 4 year period and compiling the results of this into a Strategic Plan. This project is supported by the Regional Land Partnerships (Agriculture) Program, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program. Members have been very keen to participate and share knowledge as the drought, a changing climate and pressures to maintain sustainability and productivity have been recognised as key areas where they can learn and implement actions into their farming enterprises. The group work closely with staff from North West Local Land Services and actively participate in events and opportunities that are relevant to their area.

Key Facts

- Group formed in 1999
- Around 50 members
- Extends west of Narrabri to Wee Waa and south to the edge of the Pilliga
- For more info contact:

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This project has enabled the group to connect with industry and technical specialists to help them work together and identify activities that are tailored to their area, landscape and soil types. This has led to new members joining, younger people becoming involved and has broadened their contact base. There has been a lot more sharing of ideas and this has flowed onto other activities that landholders in the area have undertaken.

There are not a lot of other community groups locally so the Landcare Group has been a focus for training (chemical, bush fire, baiting) as well as morning tea get togethers and other social events. The group has been embraced by the community and this has contributed significantly to gaining new members and an increase in activities and participation in events. It has also become an important social support group especially during drought periods.



Yarrie Lake field day

The future is looking good for the group as the change in the season and good prices for commodities has given people confidence that the landscape has the potential to recover from drought. Many of the activities that members have participated in has increased their understanding and their ability to implement changes that will better help them manage their farms in the future. They are keen to promote the area for younger people to move into agriculture and members are very keen to share their knowledge and provide an opportunity for people to see what they are doing.

Future ideas and challenges are focused on fine-tuning their input costs to production, changing plants and crops to suit the climate and soil conditions, improving their soil nutrition and fertility and improving their grazing management. They are very aware of the natural environment and the importance of tree corridors and maintaining natural vegetation as it provides many benefits.

"The future is looking good for this group - the change in season and good prices for commodities has given people confidence that the landscape has the potential to recover from drought"

GEORGE TRUMAN



Yarrie Lake Field Day