

Tamworth Regional Landcare Association Small Grants Program 2024
Project Report for Frog Habitat on Public Land – Currawong Park

2024 Project Focus:	Weed Management
Project Commencement:	10 March 2024
Project Completion:	27 October 2024
Total Project Expenditure:	\$6,042 (TRLA contribution via SGP; \$2,500)
No. Project Volunteers:	19 (15 adults and 4 children/teens)
Environmental education to:	Approx. 80 people

Key Project Activities/Outcomes:

- On-site **consultation** with **Paul Moxon**, TRLA Nursery Manager, 13/3/24 (45-minute duration) to discuss weed management issues & strategies.
- On-site **consultation** with **Ian Lawrence**, wetlands expert, 28/4/24 (60-minute duration) to discuss weed management issues & strategies.
- **Consultation** (phone call) with **Angus Johnston**, Biocarbon Soil, 3/7/24.
- Preparation of detailed '**Weed Management Strategy for Currawong Park**' (3/7/24).
- **Removal of massive Oleander** x 3 in March (\$1,320 - TRLA Small Grant funded*).
- **Removal of Date Palms** x2 in May (\$3,300 funded by a volunteer DONATION).
- Approx **10-12 weekend working bees** between March and the end of October to further implement the weed management strategy:
 1. Site preparation (for revegetation in 2025); brush cutting long kikuyu grass; digging in gypsum; spreading compost; covering entire site with geofabric and finally mulch (100 sqm). *This area will act as a buffer to protect our frog pond zone from encroaching kikuyu grass.*
 2. Narrow-leaf Cumbungi (Bulrush) management – digging out roots & runners, removing seed heads. Ongoing activity.
 3. General weeding of existing shrub zones, swales and areas around the pond. Ongoing activity.

*TRLA Grant funding also used for purchase of geofabric & pins, compost, gypsum and water safe chemical.

Other achievements : -

- Celebratory morning tea with Currawong Park Volunteers, Susan Wilson, Landcare Coordinator and Ian Lawrence (late April 2024)
- Installation of TRC sponsored permanent signage (QR code to Frog Pond on TRLA website);
- Addition of 'Habitat Stepping Stones' to above signage
- Several Currawong Park Volunteers have become TRLA Members

- New partnership with Tamworth Local Aboriginal Land Council (Walaaybaa Rangers). (Rangers have assisted with Cumbungi management and will be returning in 2025 to work with us on habitat enhancement ground works)
- Participation in the inaugural *Tamworth Water Week Open Gardens Trail* weekend - education to park visitors regarding the value of native plants for biodiversity conservation and restoration. Visit Currawong Park online at: tamworthopengardentrail.com.au/gardens/currawong-park/
- Content for TRLA website updated in late 2024

TRLA Strategic Objectives addressed

By engaging local families in on-ground works to enhance biodiversity, and providing environmental education (via the Open Gardens weekend), we can demonstrate that this project has aligned closely with the following TRLA objectives:

Objective 1.1: Create activities that reflect the TRLA Mission to aspire to grow the Landcare movement in the Tamworth Region by

- 1) Restoring and conserving biodiversity
- 2) Engaging the community using environmental education

Objective 2: Restoring and Conserving Biodiversity

2.4. Promote the potential biodiversity values of urban and peri urban areas and support their development

Objective 5. Youth, Education & Nature Experiences

5.1 Engage young people in Landcare

Future Plans

In 2025 we will embark on an exciting program of revegetation that will enhance and extend our natural habitat areas at Currawong Park.

Gallery



Oleanders x 3 and Twin Date Palms removed in 2024



Volunteers prepare buffer zone (previously long kikuyu grass)



3rd birthday celebrations, April 2024



3rd birthday celebrations



Water Week Open Gardens Trail Weekend 26 & 27 October 2024.



New signage with QR Code to TRLA website plus 'Habitat Stepping Stone' logo added.

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