

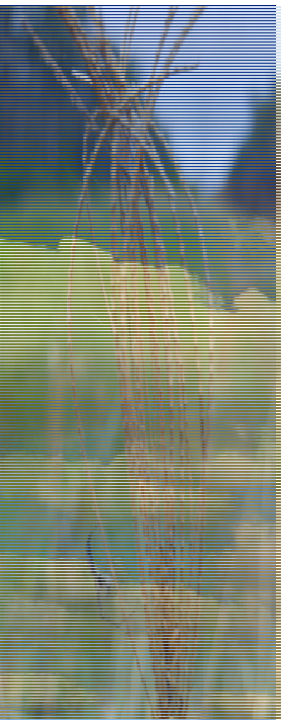


Building resilience across western Sydney's Cumberland Plain Woodland with partners, people and culture

Aug 2021



Greater Sydney
Landcare
Network Inc



C. Beranek



Cumberland Plain Restoration Program – Intro...

- Cumberland plain = western Sydney suburbs = all *endangered*
 - 7 years; Saving our Species project
 - funded by Environmental Trust (approx. \$350,000)
 - 8 initial partners (now 10)
 - 5 NPWS sites, 2 Council and 1 private
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- Aims:
 - a) eco/ cultural fire
 - b) habitat enhancement
 - c) community engagement and education



PARTNERS = sharing skills & knowledge = resilient project team with better chance of success

Greater Sydney Landcare Network

- Governance
- Grant admin experience
- Community engagement approach
- Large network
- Off park on-ground knowledge
- Ability to auspice grant proponents
- Non-gov; can carry funds over financial years

NPWS – SOS and Cumberland Area

- Superior knowledge and skills in fire planning and implementation
- On-ground workforce to support project actions
- Task and systems driven
- Access to technical staff
- Large reserves and therefore high level benefit of project on biodiversity
- Well known brand





Photo courtesy of P. Ridgeway

Cumberland Plain Woodland



Castlereagh Scribbly Gum Woodland



Cooks River Castlereagh Ironbark Forest

I would like to pay my respects to the Traditional Owners of this country, the *Dharug* people... the true custodians of the Cumberland Plain...





Bursaria dominated midstorey



Photos courtesy of V. O'Donovan, NPWS

ECOLOGICAL burn 1 – Scheyville National Park

- Burn didn't infiltrate the Woodland, as thick stands of Bursaria in the mid story prevented this
- Trittering will now be carried out and seasoned before another burn attempted.





Yellomundee Regional Park Cultural Burn Pilot 2014

CULTURAL burning

- Planning phase only
- NPWS cultural burns ready to go – according to known Aboriginal sites
- Off-park sites chosen and Indigenous consultation begun
- IMPORTANT to involve Traditional Owners at the onset – the burn then becomes culturally informed
- Partnership becomes a sharing of knowledge and skills – planning *and* implementation phase





Australian Native Plant Society



Exocarpos cupressiformis
NATIVE CHERRY



African Love Grass



Bursaria dominated mid storey

BURN NOT JUST FOR BURNING SAKE, BUT TO TICK ECO *and* CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS

- Increase cultural outcomes eg culturally significant bush tucker; reducing modern day management issues eg weeds like AL Grass
- Consider burn as part of a Caring for Country program to be ongoing over many years and not isolated
- Bringing in cultural expertise to renew culture across the Cumberland Plain
- Low intensity cool burns that if carried out correctly can aid in the restoration of bushland
- A management tool we should not be scared of





Photos courtesy of V. O'Donovan, NPWS



HABITAT MANAGEMENT

Thinning

- Thinning of native saplings to encourage a 'woodland' environment – a more OPEN one
- Triterter bursaria with cut and paint follow up – not spraying





Little Lorikeet (above)

Micro bats – Eastern Free Tailed Bat (below)

Artificial hollows

- Installed into areas where there was an absence in canopy species
- Installed where trees were young – previously been cleared
- Little Lorikeet both threatened Landscape species and targets of this project
- Little Lorikeet seen on neighbouring private land



Coarse woody debris...

- Logs returned into the landscape for an endangered snail...the Cumberland Plain Land Snail
- Such heavy work for such a small creature...
- Not always possible as very costly
- Plethora logs available from clearing for development
- Better coordination could see a wasted resource use for good



Photos courtesy of V. O'Donovan, NPWS





PEOPLE

Community engagement
'catch ups' after Covid...

*Forum on the Biodiversity of
western Sydney (4/12/20)*

- 65 attendees
- GSLLS grant
- Volunteer/WS encouragement event
- 5 expert speakers
- Consultation = small booklet
- Two new CPRP project sites (non-funded)



The Draft Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan

A conservation plan for Western Sydney to 2056
August 2020

State of the Cumberland Plain
2017-18



Mark Pearson MLC Home Bills Campaigns Parliament News
Animal Justice Party Petition to Ban Kangaroo Wildlife Trade

Only 6,400 hectares of the original 107,000 hectares of Cumberland Plain Woodland still exists.

✓ The Plan will reclassify 10,014 hectares of land as 'urban capable', impacting over 1,000 hectares of the Woodland.

✗ The Plan won't



The Sydney Morning Herald



WEBINAR

Threatened Species Day (Sept 7)

- Raising awareness to the threat more clearing poses to the Cumberland Plain
- Describes the Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan in plain English
- 80 people register to attend
- Online resources uploaded
- Major developer approaches Landcare





COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT cont.



Planting on school grounds



In class awareness raising



Community spotlighting events



CPW property walk and talk



Guided school bird walks



Thanks!

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