

NORTH EAST DOWNS NEWS



November, 2014

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The year 2014 has once again provided challenges for landholders across the North East Downs Landcare (NED) coverage area. Though the previous years were noted for extreme rainfall events, I recall only one significant and useful rainfall event in 2014 for the major portion of NED, resulting in an extension of the drought declared zone compared to 2013. Though we are becoming more informed about good custodianship of the land, the dry period has made it more difficult to implement best practice, including managing ground cover levels and adopting appropriate weed control measures. Irrespectively, it has been a successful year for NED with several field days / workshops and events.

The AGM was held at the Oakey Community Centre on 11th September with a good attendance of representatives from several NED sub groups. There were no changes to the Management Committee. I thank all members of the Committee for their support throughout 2014 and their acceptance of a further 12 months in their respective roles.

NED celebrated 25 years of 'Landcare' across Australia with a well-attended dinner on 17th October at the Oakey Community Centre, involving guest speakers Geoff Penton from QMDC, & MaryLou Gittins from CCMA, each providing a historical overview and thought provoking observations of the Aussie environment, demographic and culture.

Our Community Support Officer / Co-ordinator Owena Reimers has had a busy year combining Oakey Office duties with her other commitments as a Condamine Alliance director and the Regional representative to the Qld Water and Land Carers Board. As we move forward into 2015, the number of active projects is fewer, due to very competitive funding streams and reduced opportunities. Owena continues to submit good and varied applications, and we do have 'wins', however we accept the 'knockbacks' and move on.

We have formed good partnerships and/or participation with Condamine Alliance (CA), Qld Murray Darling Commission (QMDC), Darling Downs Regional Landcare (DDRL), Conservation Farmers Inc. (CFI), Condamine Catchment Management Association (CCMA), & Qld Water and Land Carers (QWALC), and other organisations, which do provide other project opportunities.

The challenge for the Committee and every member will be to keep the Landcare ethic foremost and happening despite the reduced level of external funding, and current weather.

Owena will continue to be the Community Support Officer / Co-ordinator throughout 2015.

I encourage everyone to visit the NED website and note the recent changes, including the facility which enables donations to the public fund. I thank everyone, including all sub group Committees, for your contribution and co-operation throughout the year, as we look forward to NED's 21st birthday in November 2015. We pray for good summer rain and a productive 2015.

Best wishes,

Graham Cooke – Chair NED.

COMING EVENTS

- **27th November** Gomaren Doctors Creek Landcare AGM
- **5th December** Aubigny Landcare Information Evening
- **15th December 2014** Bowenville Field Day
9.00am "Lonsdale" Brymaroo Irvingdale Road, Bowenville
- **31st August-2nd September 2015** Reef, Range and Red Dust QLD Landcare Conference Caloundra
- **28th November 2015** Celebrating 21 years of NED Landcare

NOTICE BOARD



NED has been able to assist the Ag Department of Oakey State High School with finances supplied by Condamine Alliance for the teacher and students to purchase materials to build a greenhouse. The greenhouse will enable the students to grow plants for resale and use in the high school grounds. The Ag Department would like to sincerely thank everyone who answered their "Wanted Ad" in the last NED newsletter and generously donated mesh and pots for use in the greenhouse.

Working field day self assessment codes

Department of Natural Resource and Mines officers attended the field day held at Quinalow to explain the changes in Queensland's vegetation management rules and how this could impact on the management of their properties. Holding a working field enabled holders to see how thinning could be carried out under the new codes. For more information on the changes to the codes contact David Hinz - Natural Resource Management Officer, Department of Natural Resources and Mines
Phone 07 46724805 Mobile 0427 962 621



The 25 years celebration raffle will be drawn on the 27th November 2014. Winners will be notified by phone and mail. The results will be published in the first newsletter next year.



DGR now on the NED website

PayPal



North East Downs Landcare Deductible Gifts Register (DGR) was established as a safe guard for the future of Landcare in the North East Downs region of the Darling Downs in Queensland. North East Downs Landcare shares the "Our Land, Our Future" goal which assists our members and the broader community to increase their capability to build more socially, culturally, economically and environmentally sustainable communities. Money raised goes to support our Landcare groups to continue to carry out on ground environmental work "Our Land" and to educate our young Landcare members who are "Our Future". All donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible. NED Landcare is a registered Charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission. We also have Deductible Gift Recipient status.

This means that all generous monetary donations over \$2, donated goods or donated services made to NED Landcare may be tax deductible.

For further information on DGR you could look at <http://www.fundingcentre.com.au/help/dgr-status> or the ATO website <https://www.ato.gov.au/Non-profit/Gifts-and-fundraising/Deductible-gift-recipients/>

Our Bank Account details are: North East Downs Landcare Public Fund, Heritage Building Society
Account Number: 7485182 BSB: 638-080

When you donate by direct deposit please send your name and address to info@nedlandcare.org.au

If you wish to donate by cheque please make the cheque payable to:- North East Downs Landcare Group Inc. P.O. Box 199, Oakey. 4401. Please include your name and address so that you can claim your tax deduction.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chair:	Graham Cooke
Vice Chair:	Ashley Volz
Secretary:	Glenys Bowtell
Treasurer:	Kimberley Lange
Members:	David Lange, Desley Spies, Cheryl Vonhoff

CHRISTMAS BREAK OFFICE HOURS

The NED office will be closed from Monday 22nd December 2014 until Monday 19th January 2015

Community Support Officer — Owena Reimers

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