

NORTH EAST DOWNS NEWS



August 2015

INVITATION



North East Downs Landcare Group is celebrating 21 years of Landcare.

Everyone is invited to attend the celebrations being held on Saturday, 28th November 2015 at 7.00 p.m. Oakey Cultural Centre, Campbell Street, Oakey

Guest speakers:- Peter Crawford former NED coordinator
Robert Rowlings first NED chairman

Cost \$20 per head non refundable booking fee. RSVP to the NED office by Wednesday, 18th November 2015



Early bird booking fee half price! \$10 per head if payment received on or before Wednesday, 4th November 2015

Payment options:

Cheque:- Payable to North East Downs Landcare Group Inc.
Post to P.O. Box 199 Oakey 4401

Direct deposit:- Heritage Bank Limited BSB 638 080 Account No. 5741882
Reference: 21 (your surname)



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(Please detach and return with your payment or email to owena@nedlandcare.org.au)

Attendees name/s:

Contact number:.....Dietary requirements.....

COMING EVENTS

25th August 2015

Fire management Day-Quinalow

25th August 2015

Day one - Naturally Resourceful Women Workshop,
Oakey Cultural Centre

31st Aug to 2nd Sept 2015

Reef, Range and Red Dust Conference



8th Sept 2015

Day two - Naturally Resourceful Women Bus trip

15th Sept 2015

Day three - Naturally Resourceful Women Workshop
Oakey Cultural Centre

28th Nov 2015

Celebrating 21 years of NED Landcare
Oakey Cultural Centre

NOTICE BOARD

On Thursday 4th June 2015 North East Downs Landcare Group hosted a bus trip to University of Queensland's Pinjarra Hills Campus, Algae Energy Farm and the Mt Sylvia Dolomite Mine. The Pinjarra Hills Campus is approximately 260 hectares, situated in a rural setting close to St Lucia, on the banks of the Brisbane River. The Algae Energy Farm is a demonstration facility that uses new technology to significantly reduce the costs for algae cultivation, harvesting and processing. They hope to advance large-scale algae production to sustainably and economically produce food, animal feed and bio-diesel. The tour was conducted by Professor Peer Schenk of the School of Agriculture and Food Sciences at the Pinjarra Hills Campus. Professor Schenk said that food security is highly important and there needs to be an increase of food production of 70% by 2050. Microalgae are highly productive and can be grown on non-arable land without the need for freshwater. Any type of water is suitable as they can be grown in fresh water, waste water or even brackish water. This makes the production of algae in remote areas a viable food alternative. At the farm they are trying to make it a simple process.



Mt Sylvia Diatomite Pty Ltd is the leading producer of high quality diatomaceous earth (diatomite) in Australia. Diatomaceous Earth is a natural product made up entirely of dead diatoms, the skeletons of which are made entirely of amorphous silica. It is a highly absorbent and can absorb 150% of its own weight in water. Guy Lewington, a geologist and geochemist is part owner of the mine. Mr Lewington showed us their different products and uses of diatomaceous earth. Diatomaceous Earth is used in kitty litter, plant nursery mixes, bricks, soil conditioners and for insect control. It is so successful for killing insects because the individual diatoms are like razor blades, cutting and abrading their exoskeletons. Mr Lewington took us on a tour of the quarry.



MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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

African Box Thorn "Post the Field Day where mulching of Box Thorn and other vegetation was demonstrated, the Mulching operators, John 0428 150 779 and Lance 0427 796 617 have indicated that they are willing to take enquiry where price can be discussed based on vegetation type, size, infestation density and site condition, i.e. old cultivation / rockiness etc. This information will determine both tractor horsepower requirements and the mulcher type, i.e., standard or rock mulcher and as indicated, hourly or hectare costs.

Community Support Officer **Owena Reimers**
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