



## Goulburn Broken Landcare Snapshot

2004/05

Landcare Group Name: Highlands Landcare Group

Group Contact Person: Scott McKay

Contact Phone Number/s: \_\_\_\_\_

Length of Group Operation: Commenced in 1992

### **Your Story of Success**

Project Name: Blackberry Saturday

Project Location: Highlands

Project Partners (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Project Funding Source/s & Amounts: Good Neighbour Program /Second Generation Landcare

### **Project Description:** (300-500 words)

The Highlands Landcare Group is part of the Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative which covers approximately 50,000 – 60,000 hectares of mainly granite country, lots of creeks, lots of blackberries and lots of weeds. The main focus initially was rabbits, then weeds and now the group is moving onto doing revegetation works while still doing rabbits and weeds. Last year approximately 30,000 trees were planted in the area.

Blackberries have been a real problem. They get into the rivers and streams and spread. In about 1999 or 2000 the group decided to target blackberries. As a way of getting people involved in the group and blackberry control, they initiated a project called "Blackberry Saturday" where volunteers went out and sprayed the roadsides, targeting a 12 kilometre area stretching through the highlands. The area was a very public area with a major infestation. It took 8,000 litres of "Cutout" along the 12 Kilometre stretch of road with 28 volunteers with assistance from the CFA for water cartage.

There was some funding provided under the "Good Neighbour" program for the first couple of years support from the local council to undertake the work. To encourage participation in the project, the group organised a cricket match and BBQ in the afternoon between the CFA and Landcare. The rule was "No Spray – No Play". What started off as a cricket match between the blokes turned out to be a cricket match between families. The youngest participant was 8 and the oldest was 80 with 20 players per side.

This day was very successful and over the year the group had a number of enquiries from people wanting to target blackberries on their land. The following year the group targeted 3 properties with obvious blackberries. The owners covered the costs and made a donation to the Landcare Group. The group targeted roadside area and these same sites over the next two years plus an extra two sites.

In 2004 the group 20 Kilometres of roadside and 5 private landholders. The amount of chemicals required was reduced dramatically and is a fair indicator of the success of the program.

The group has worked with groups in Walhalla and Maldon to clean up a creek and plant trees and have used the lure of a cricket match to encourage participation.

The Highlands in the late 90's had gone from being a very rural area to having a lot of people. The project has really contributed to bringing the community together to beautify the town and the environment. Blackberry Saturday has inspired two other projects. One targets Pattersons Curse and the other targets gorse and broom.