



Goulburn Broken Landcare Snapshot 2004/05



Landcare Group Name: Burnt Creek Landcare Group

Group Contact Person: Sandy

Contact Phone Number/s:

Length of Group Operation:

Your Story of Success

Project Name:

Project Location:

Project Partners (if any):

Project Funding Source/s & Amounts:

Project Description: (300-500 words)

Burnt Creek Landcare Group targets an area from Avenel, Longwood, up into the hills, Tarcombe Road down to Oak Valley Road. It has approximately 110 landholders of which 60 – 80 are regular members paying \$20 per year. Membership offers various advantages. We believe it is quite important to actually remind people of what the benefits of being a Landcare group is because we have a very diverse pattern of land ownership and it is increasingly becoming more and more urbanised with people.

The group started in 1985 and was one of the very early groups. It started as a single focus group concentrating on rabbits. Rabbits at the time were an absolute nightmare. The rabbit population at the time was between 500 & 600 per kilometre.

The Granite Creek group was formed as a result of the amalgamation of six like-minded groups, again starting as a single focus group concentrating on rabbits. The success was quite dramatic and the subject of a national television documentary.

The group commenced a campaign to fight Patterson's Curse (Battling the Burnt Creek Blues) in 2000 and in it's last year. There are 29 landholders involved. The landholdings range in size from 5 acres to 7,100 acres and 15% of the Landholders own 80% of the total area.

There are a very large number of small landholders. The group has experienced some difficulties with the commercial vineyard controlling weeds. Vineyards also attract foxes due to the abundance of grapes. So there is a diversity of landholders and enterprises.

Battling the Burnt Creek Blues project has been successful, as far as any program dealing with Patterson's Curse can be, by using a combination of spraying and use of super phosphate.

The group held a field day recently dealing with pasture establishment and pasture maintenance, cell grazing, creating proper competition for Patterson's Curse, including filter strips.



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The group is watering Patterson's Curse during summer to encourage the crown boring weevils which is a biological control that is showing real promise. The students at Avenel Primary School assist in exercises to collect the weevils.

"Landcare cannot happen unless you put landholder care first". This means financial viability, health, family succession, pressures from other landholders, increasing property values and other factors. The Landcare movement must accept responsibility for promoting their message throughout Australia and for taking an active role in the development and promotion of public policy issues to ensure the viability of services in rural communities.

Landcare has to obtain more secure and long term sources of funding. The speaker has concerns that funding from government sources will decrease. It is important that the level of funding is maintained so that facilitators who have a secure career path. Unless we can get a better understanding of Landcare and landholder issues we are placing project effectiveness at risk.