

Landcare Group Name: Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative

Group Contact Person: Doug Lade

Contact Phone Number/s:

Length of Group Operation:

Your Story of Success

Project Name: Rabbits

Project Location: Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative

Project Partners (if any):

Project Funding Source/s & Amounts:

Project Description: (300-500 words)

Doug gave an overview of his experience with fighting problems with rabbits. As a child he was taught to set rabbit traps and to run down rabbits. In those days most property owners kept rabbiting dogs.

Rabbit warrens were netted and ferrets were used to chase the rabbits out into the nets. There were several full time rabbit trappers in the area around Highlands Caves area that trapped rabbits, lived off the meat and sell to a rabbit buyers.

Dame Jean McNamara developed the myxomatosis virus. They discovered that the rabbit flea was the best way of spreading that virus.

The thing that Doug is very keen on is for Landcare to get complete coverage of an area with poisoning with 1080 but would need by start by clearing blackberries and bracken and then rip the burrows or excavate. The Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative is insisting that anyone wishing to rip burrows must put in a request through Landcare stating an approximate time period they would need the ripper for. Otherwise the larger properties would use up all the subsidised monies getting their rabbits under control. Doug's group like to spread the subsidiary over all the people in the area.

The hobby farmers come up for a quiet weekend and will not do anything about rabbits or thistles. The H.C.C.C. has organised field days to assist with the blowing up of burrows, provision of ferret and also gassing of burrows. Some of the hobby farmers get the message and are quite keen. In the case of the others, H.C.C.C. attempt to get permission from the landowner undertake the work using local Landcare volunteers.

Doug recognised the valuable assistance given by the Landcare Coordinator when encouraging landholders to become involved in group poisoning programmes.