

DUNEDOO AREA COMMUNITY GROUP Inc.

ANNUAL REPORT

(Dunedoo Coolah Landcare)



2023 / 2024

CHAIR'S REPORT

Output from Dunedoo Area Community Group Inc.'s Coordinators and Committee has been extraordinary this year. It has been satisfying to work alongside two coordinators: firstly Fiona Luckhurst and now Carmel Bundy; and the executive team of Virginia Crompton, Anne Kable, Anne Alison and Sharon Nott who each bring their own set of amazing skills to the table. I continue to be in awe of their capacity to deliver programmes that respond to local needs. Recognition also goes to Jillie Arnott and committee members of Coolah who continue to achieve great things with the local Coolaburragundy Riverwalk and in responding to the environmental needs of their community.

The local Seed Library under the guidance of Sue Stoddart and Virginia Compton has been an integral part of our operations and has expanded to include Mendooran and Coonabarabran. The energy of volunteers is fantastic and very much appreciated.

Special thanks go to our long-term part-time Landcare Coordinator, Fiona Luckhurst. Fiona through her professional approach and experience in natural resource management has nurtured DACGI and Dunedoo Coolah Landcare in a broad range of projects during her engagement. She resigned to pursue other opportunities after she successfully helped DACGI to secure funding for a Full Time Equivalent Landcare Coordinator position. As a result, Carmel Bundy commenced as a job share part-time Landcare Coordinator in May.

Succession planning is always on the table. We need to recruit new people to enhance the fine work of our local Landcare. If you see there is someone out there who could bring skills and vitality to the group, please offer the suggestion to one of the committee or coordinators.

As society changes, there is more corporate agriculture resulting in less people in rural areas like ours. Renewable Energy will have many cumulative impacts on our organisation and our community. With less doing something for the greater good, we are finding ourselves doing more. We need to fight the good fight and draw more into the ring to add further vitality of like-minded souls.

I wish to thank the committee for working together to make our region a better place. We have a presence in the community and are a respected organisation in the town and environs. It remains a pleasure to work with you and share in the positive outcomes for our community.

To avoid burnout, we need to remind ourselves of our commitment to the natural landscape, our successes so far, and the challenges and goals on the way forward to make this a better place than the one we inherited so that we can hand it on to our children and grandchildren as future custodians of the landscape.

Sal Dent Chair

DUNEDOO AREA COMMUNITY GROUP INC.

Chairperson	Sal Dent
Vice Chairperson	Virginia Compton
Secretary	Anne Kable
Treasurer	Anne Alison
Publicity Officer	Sharon Nott
Junior Landcare Leader	Sharon Nott
Seed Library Delegate	Sue Stoddart
Aboriginal Representative	Midnight Brydon
Market Coordinators	Anne Kable, Dianne Large, Virginia Compton

Ordinary Members	42
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Coordinator Employees

Part time position	Fiona Luckhurst
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Position transitioned to new Coordinator Carmel Bundy in May 2024

Part time job share of one FTE Landcare Coordinator position

Funded projects are contracted when needed.

Facebook Followers	817
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Projects and Activities

Some of the many highlights of a busy year in Landcare!

Made N' Grown Markets – Monthly

The Markets have had continued success with another year of self-funding. Anne Kable, Virginia Compton, Colin and Dianne Large, thank you so very much for all of your incredible efforts and of course to all our committee members who attended monthly to support.



Environmental Day at Dunedoo Woodlands Outdoor Learning Centre – 25th August 2023

Educational day with the students and members of the community was a fabulous day. Learning about Bush Tucker, We continue to work with Wirradjuri Elders, Crown Lands and Local Land Services to manage these important community assets. An Intrepid Landcarer representative completed a Ecology evaluation of what trees were present at the Woodlands in November 2023 to help secure future funding for this reserve & the riverwalk. Since then, small works have been completed by Midnight Brydon to remove woody weeds, and working bees were held in May and June 2024 to continue cleaning up the area. The installation of the toilet has greatly improved the use of this space as an educational centre.

Local Land Services, Weeds Identification Day, Cobbora Hall – 21st November

We learnt about local weeds such as St Johns Wort and many others, how to correctly identify and then manage.

Dunedoo Show – 9th February

We had a wonderful day at the Dunedoo Show with our Landcare stall. Thank you to the volunteers who helped out. Special thanks to David Allworth for your talk on seed, how to gather, store and propagate.

Regional Meeting Parkes – 27th February

Sally Dent and Anne Alison attended the regional Landcare meeting in Parkes. An informative session and great collaborative experience. Always wonderful to network with our region to hear about what the other landcare groups are doing.

People Led Prevention Disaster Management Workshop with special guest Graham Ross – 26th March 2024

A well-received workshop presented by representatives from our Local Emergency Services to discuss how to prepare for emergencies and the procedures to follow during these disastrous events. Special guest Graham Ross from better homes and gardens also spoke on designing and growing gardens resilient to extreme weather conditions, nourishing our soils and the importance of chemical free gardening practices.

Showground Sheep Yard Gates

Thank you Fiona Luckhurst and Garry Connelly for the great idea to recycle the old sheep yard gates from the Dunedoo showground, a mammoth effort and still some available for sale \$75.00 each.

Grass Group Gatherings

This active group continues to meet monthly, rotating around the properties to witness Regen Ag practices in action. Well done.

Western Fencing in partnership with Delta Agribusiness – 24th April 2024

Oxley Retirement Village Morning Tea, hosted at Ellismayne

Mycology Workshop with Alison Pouliot – 9th May 2024

What a great workshop this was. Participants were introduced to the diversity and complexity of the fungi kingdom. The day also presented the opportunity for interactive

sessions, learning about the basic principals of fungi identification and importance of ecosystem health.

Art for Youth/Waste 2 Art – 3rd June 2024

Art for Youth/Waste 2 Art- Netwaste was introduced, and we hope to run this in other towns/ schools annually. Over 100 children in Dunedoo took part and Art Unlimited propose to put in a recycling component every year. The upcycled wind charms were donated back to schools and Kahkama House.

Dunedoo Coolah Landcare has registered for Garage Sale Trail 2024. We will participate at our November markets and see how it goes.

Art Unlimited – 23rd June 2024

Dunedoo Seed Library – 2 Year Celebration

Thank you to the volunteers of our Dunedoo Seed Library. This year we celebrated its second birthday, yay! A wonderful and important initiative for our town. We encourage the community to pop into the library and say hello to our volunteers. Some lovely seeds to share and we are always looking for non-hybrid seed donations.

Coolaburragundy Riverwalk Riparian Restoration

Jillie and her Coolah team in conjunction with LLS, Sean from Ozfish, and some amazing local volunteers, have worked tirelessly in the continued restoration of Coolaburragundy Creek. Not without its challenges and setbacks, the plantings of hundreds of trees for bird habitat this past year, is showing progress. A wonderful place for the community of Coolah and visitors to enjoy.

Dunedoo Riverwalk Project – On-going

We have continued throughout the year to strengthening the conceptual foundations and physical aspects of the proposed Dunedoo Riverwalk Project. It is our continued hope that this stretch along the Talbragar River will be soon better accessible for our community via shared pathways. We will continue to apply for funding into the new financial year to support this project. A big thank you to Anne Alison, Anne Kable for scoping this project, Sue Stoddart for your ongoing support, and the many other volunteers that have tirelessly helped throughout the year.

Community Networking

We are grateful and inspired by our wonderful local communities of Dunedoo, Coolah and Mendooran. We have attended numerous consultations with the Orana Renewable energy zone focusing on Environmental impacts and National Tree Day was also recognised with tree give aways to the local community.

Roy Butler, Dugald Saunders have assisted us with the emerging large scale Renewable developments as well as our local Councillors- Kathy and Dale

The hard work, dedication and passion of our executive, staff and volunteers are the reason for our continued success; as are the connections forged in our communities. Partnerships with Mens Shed and other community groups, Warrumbungle shire Council, Local Land Services, Ozfish other Landcare organisations, local Garden group, Central Kahkama House and local landholders are essential in our local community to continue to thrive and improve the liveability of our towns and landscapes.

We have had strong community involvement working with Central West Lachlan Landcare to run funded workshops, Disaster preparedness with Graham Ross and Mycology May, with Alison Pouliot.

Joining with local Mens Shed to promote the Indian Myna project and for assisting them to see their bird traps.

We led and engaged in Junior Landcare and NAIDOC celebrations, given presentations to CWA , participated in Dunedoo Show, Monthly markets, just to name a few!

We have also continued to engage with our social media community, sharing campaigns such as Threatened species; Bees and pollinators, Reduce reuse and recycle, Backyard bird Count etc

For a small committee we have achieved incredible outcomes! That's a wrap-up for 2023/2024 financial year.

Warm Regards,

Sal Dent & Carmel Bundy

Chair & Coordinator



Dunedoo Area Community Group Inc Annual General Meeting Made 'n' Grown Market Annual Report – 2024

Presented by Anne Kable, Market Coordinator. November 2024.

Stall holder bookings on Eventbrite – for the past few years we have offered stall holders a \$5 discount on site fees if they book in advance each month, on Eventbrite. The number of stall holders taking advantage of this is steadily increasing, which means that:

- we have an accurate snapshot, in advance, of who will be attending each month
- our accounting processes are more streamlined, with just one payout from Eventbrite each month
- less cash handling on the day of the market.

We encourage all current and future stallholders to take advantage of this discount.

Throughout the year, our Market Coordinator has worked hard to encourage new stall holders to come along. Suggestions, referrals and ideas for additional stall holders are always most welcome, and our Market Coordinator follows up with all enquiries about attending.

EFT payments - we have purchased a Square terminal for the market, meaning we now offer EFT card payments for purchases from our Landcare Stall and BBQ. It has been in use for the last two months and this option has been well received.

Market BBQ – 'Volunteer fatigue' is real. We are still offering local not for profit organisations and community groups the opportunity to run the BBQ, as a fund raiser for their cause. If any groups are interested in 2025 – for one month or on any number of occasions, we would love to hear from you. It would be sad to see that part of our event disappear, so get in touch and have a chat with our Market Coordinator. You might just save our volunteers from burnout!

Live music – music always adds to the atmosphere at the markets and this year, we have been lucky to have great performances at several market days, from some local musos. It adds a relaxed vibe on the day, and we receive really positive feedback from both locals and visitors whenever Annie and Glenn play.

Events

Tunes on The Turf - the November Market is always well supported by patrons and visitors, with regular and additional stall holders and Junior Joeys from St Michael's School attending. With these combined events, the second week in November is a great weekend in Dunedoo.

Dunedoo's Lost Racetracks – The Dunedoo Historical Society and Museum held this event to coincide with our October market, with a display of photos, movies, memorabilia and a vintage billycart or two in the Museum and a visit from members of the Coonabarabran Car Club with several vehicles. It was a wonderful trip down memory lane!

Our challenges

Coffee Van – Again, it has been an ongoing challenge to find a Coffee Van owner who can commit to the Made 'n' Grown Market every month, either because of other regular engagements or events that clash with our dates. Many thanks to Jodi Cormie and her Lil' Coffee Cart, from Coonabarabran, for stepping in when you could. You are always welcome!

Looking towards March 2025

- the Market will be held monthly, from March to December - at O. L. Milling Park in the Autumn, Spring and Summer months, and at Jubilee Hall in the Winter months (June, July and August)
- the Car Boot Sale will be held quarterly, with the cost for a car boot site set at \$15.

We will continue to keep our current and potential stall holders, and the broader community, informed. We will do that:

- by email
- on the Visit NSW and Warrumbungle Shire Council websites
- through local schools' online communications

through social media sites on Facebook Made n' Grown Market 3 Rivers Region

Dunedoo Coolah Landcare

Dunedoo Community Events

3 Rivers Radio Dunedoo Coolah Mendooran

We are looking forward to being able to welcome you all back in 2025.

Coolaburragundy Riverwalk Landcare Report 2024

This year at the Riverwalk has been great. We have been through dry times again, the early part of the year saw minimal rain, always a huge factor when planting trees. If you get rain after planting, it can make all the difference to the survival rate.

We had the Coolah Carp Muster in March 2024, a smaller affair but fantastic catch rates. Lots of assistance from Sean from Oz Fish who presented prizes for the largest carp, most amount, ugliest etc. Thank you to OzFish for your support with the Carp Muster, which is a part of the FRRR grant received in 2023. We are hoping the Coolah Fishing Club will take this on in the future with the support of OzFish.

We had some more trees to plant which was enabled by a grant from FRRR. We had a planting in August and a second one in October. Many thanks to Sean from OzFish for facilitating this grant. It has been a little difficult at times as there is a very big emphasis and/or, expectation for volunteers to water and continue the care for these plants. Sometime there is not enough preparation for planting, conditions are not in our favour, and this means attrition rates are high. It is a great shame that many of the trees have not made it to maturity due to this. We are hopeful that there will be some popping out of the ground and that the latest planting, for bird habitat, will survive and see birds nesting one day. Our volunteer group will do their best.

Rural Aid 10 town makeover money continues to be used to make our space better. Paul Flint has installed the bridge timbers to fix them to pylons in the ground so any flood waters in the future will not wash them down stream. Another picnic table has been installed at the southern end thanks to sponsors, see the sponsors plaques for all our generous sponsors, whether it be trees, benches, or picnic tables we say a huge thank you to you all. The Yarning Circle area had three Kurrajong trees planted last year, a donation from Barry Nott and John Horne from Dunedoo. Thank you, Paul Flint, for getting this done and caring for them.

We have been fortunate to have been successful with volunteer grants from WSC to enable us to pay for fuel etc for lawn mowers and whipper snippers for maintenance on Riverwalk. This is a huge help to the Council, and we continue to work together on this to provide our community with a safe space to enjoy.

We said goodbye to our long-time maintenance and mowing hero, Fil Ratatagia as he moved north to Gladstone to 'Go Fishing'. We miss him so much and would like to thank Fil and his super mower for all the hours they did at the Riverwalk.

Many thanks to all the Landcare group who help with working bees and quietly going about their business whether it be mowing, watering, or weeding and just generally maintaining the area for all the Coolah Community to enjoy.

We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and all the best for 2025 Jillie Arnott
Coolaburragundy Riverwalk and Coolah Landcare Group