



Bellingen Urban Landcare Group Inc

Rehabilitating Bellingen's urban land & waterways since 1995

PO Box 374 Bellingen NSW 2454

www.bellingenurbanlandcare.org.au

ABN: 77 541 458 937



BULC Chairperson's Annual Report 2013



Bellingen Urban Landcare Group Inc

Rehabilitating Bellingen's urban land & waterways since 1995

PO Box 374 Bellingen NSW 2454

www.bellingenurbanlandcare.org.au

ABN: 77 541 458 937

This year BULC has continued our work with volunteer members, contractors and partner organisations to regenerate waterways across public land in Bellingen.

The weather has been unusual for our part of the world - after rain early in the year we saw unusually long dry period which only broke in November with some cracking storms.

Onground Work

The **Western End of Bellingen Island (WEBI)** and our sites along **Cemetery Creek** through Connell Park have again been a focus.

WEBI is expanding and growing up fast. Some further large-scale revetment work on the riverbank was followed up by a great field day at the site in June, run in conjunction with Bellingen Shire Council. We've also held a couple of Sunday working bees at the site.

The bush tucker islands at Connell Park are also maturing and moving beyond seedlings to adult plants.

A council-organised *Salvinia* removal project around our site at **Ringwood Creek** was successful.

Our other sites have also had some maintenance as funding and time allows. In particular Daniel Flesch has worked hard at **The Point**.



Bellingen Urban Landcare Group Inc

Rehabilitating Bellingen's urban land & waterways since 1995

PO Box 374 Bellingen NSW 2454

www.bellingenurbanlandcare.org.au

ABN: 77 541 458 937

Partners

We've worked with St Mary's Primary School and long-term partners Bellingen EYE and Bellinger Landcare. In 2013 we've also taken steps to work more closely with Bellingen Shire Council on a number of projects and to share responsibilities for ongoing maintenance of sites.

Contractors

We've employed contractors this year to work on weed control and expansion of plantings at WEBI and maintenance across our other sites as much funding and time allowed.

Project Manager

Long standing BULC Project Manager - and founding member - Charlie Brennan passed the PM's baton to Kim Cheney in 2013. Kim has a wealth of knowledge and a long association with BULC – he's run our working bees over the past couple of years – and we're enjoying working with Kim in this new role.

We look forward to Charlie's continued involvement with the group on the committee.

Committee

Our small and capable committee has worked hard again. Special mentions to secretary Georgina Purcell, treasurer Margot Pleasant and Annie Kennedy.



Bellingen Urban Landcare Group Inc

Rehabilitating Bellingen's urban land & waterways since 1995

PO Box 374 Bellingen NSW 2454

www.bellingenurbanlandcare.org.au

ABN: 77 541 458 937

Funding

We've received some funding this year through the Jaliigiirr Biodiversity Alliance's *Jaliigiirr – Connecting Communities & Cultures through Corridors* collaborative project with a number of local environment groups.

Although this project should continue for the next four years changes to the Catchment Management Authority mean its future is uncertain at this time.

Other funding has come from Bellingen Shire Council for work at WEBI and through our MOU with council.

What next for BULC?

We moved into 2013 with some uncertainty about our future and while we've made some progress we still face unresolved issues around funding levels and responsibilities for long-term maintenance of work. We're yet to see the full impact a change of federal government will have for environmental groups across the board.

A short-term aim for 2014 is to get fencing replaced in Market Park.

Steve Coates

November 26, 2013