

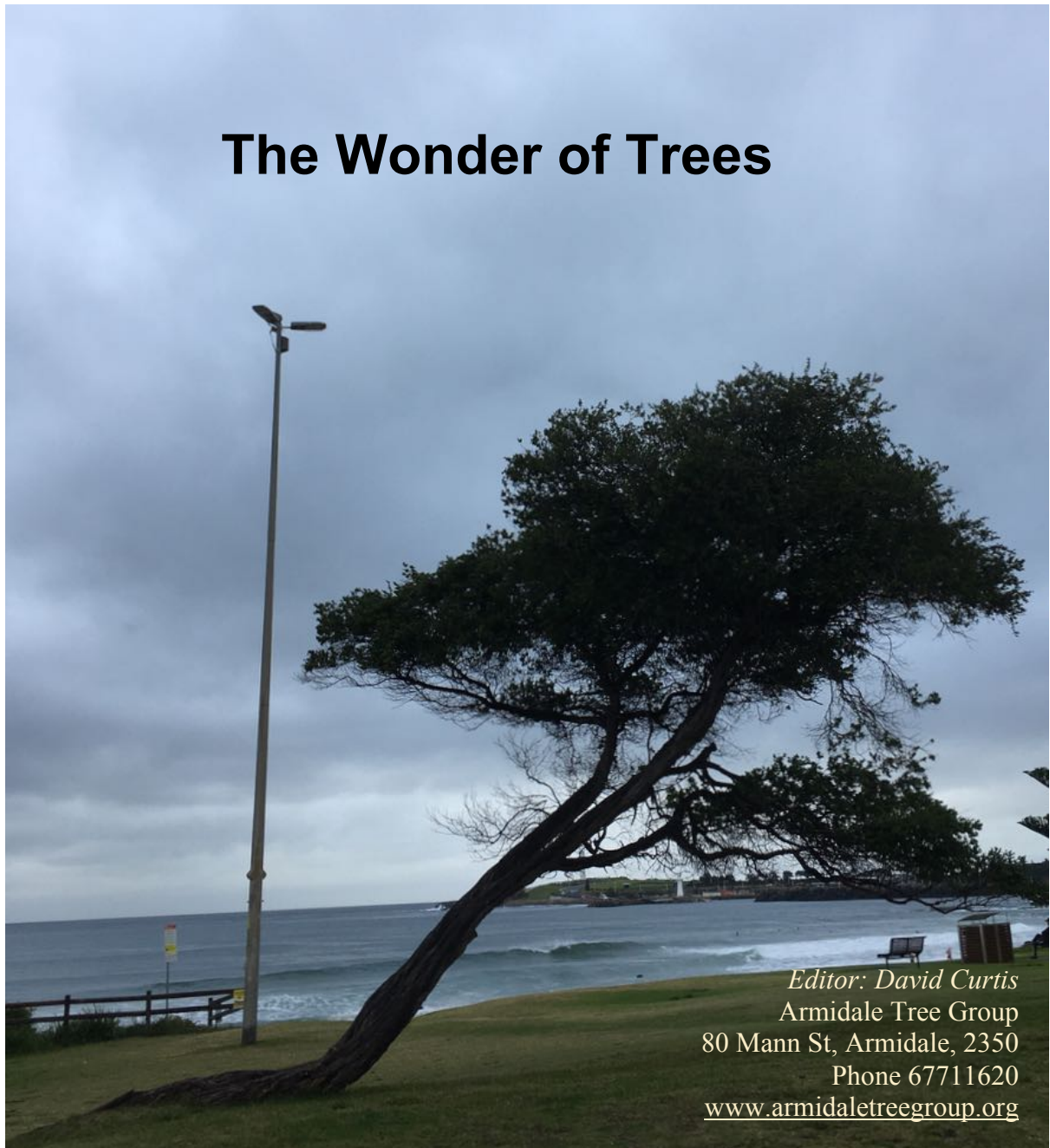
# ARMIDALE TREE GROUP NEWSLETTER

Number 119 Spring Edition

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## The Wonder of Trees



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**Editor's note: 2020 Spring Edition**

After a conversation with Kerry earlier this year we decided to dedicate this newsletter to the wonder of trees. Since I first began propagating trees on the balcony of Drummond College when I was a uni student (in 1973!) from seeds given to me by Hans Wissman at the Botany Department at UNE I have enjoyed growing trees and watching them grow. Some of those first trees are now mature ironbarks and angophoras growing on the farm that my parents used to own and it gives me enormous pleasure to have been able to witness in my own lifetime fully grown trees that grew from minute seeds the size of grains of sand.

As we enter a more pleasant spring than last year's was, may the pleasure of being amongst trees and growing them be with all readers!

In this edition we have the following to share:

- The Wonder of Trees
- Another Spring Planting by Paul and Cathryn McFarland
- The New Tree Planting Mounder by Paul McFarland
- Tree Planting Working Bees on the City to Pine Forest Walking Track by Chris Nadolny
- An Update on Koala Research in the Northern Tablelands by John Lemon
- My Favourite Tree by Helen Webb
- Drought Monitoring photos from various members – how is the bush recovering? Some before and after photos
- Return to Malpas Dam plantings — 21 November
- Black Gully Festival — 14 November (live-streamed)
- Nursery News
- Every Tree Counts
- AGM — 18 November

# The Wonder of Trees

by David Curtis

On October 16<sup>th</sup> this year Wollongong residents (me among them) woke to this headline in the local *Illawarra Mercury*: ‘Belmore Bastardry’ in which we learnt that two beautiful native tea trees had been brutally hacked by vandals, removing their entire canopies. These trees are wonderfully gnarled and twisted trees just next to a children’s playground in Belmore Basin (our famous harbour) and generations of children have climbed up them and played happily. Articles followed with headlines: ‘Part of our history gone’ and ‘Cash for tree information’. Wollongong’s mayor was quoted as saying ‘These were beautiful trees that had been climbed upon by many, many children and had provided shade and amenity to this much-loved area.’ He labelled the vandalism ‘distressing’.



*Illawarra Mercury*, Friday 16 October 2020, front page.

The community reacted with outrage, with hundreds of people commiserating over their loss. The *Mercury* quoted several parents who shared their memories about these ‘much-loved natural landmarks’, remembering ‘the patina on the trunks of the trees from generations of kids playing on them’. One parent wrote ‘I have such happy memories of my (now grown) kids playing in those trees’. Another wrote ‘these tea trees are iconic to the area, a favourite for children to clamber about and for shelter ... what a horrible and selfish act to damage them like this.’

The trees are within the Wollongong Harbour State Heritage Precinct and were retained when the area was developed because they were recognised as highly significant native trees. The mayor (Gordon Bradbury) said ‘Anyone familiar with these trees will know how they just draw children to their branches ... kids love nothing more than to climb the twisted trunks and the bark has been smoothed by many feet and shoes over the years’.

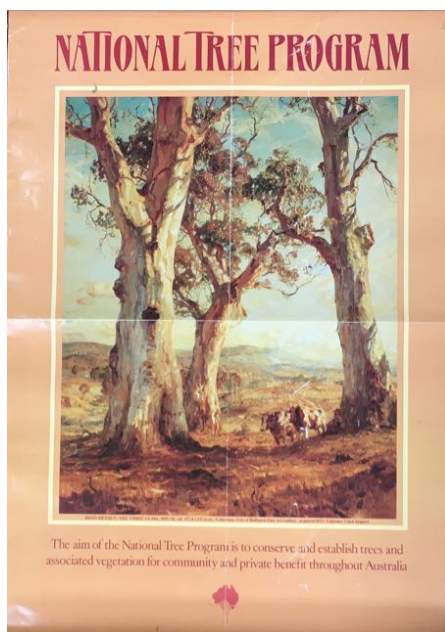
A few days later I read in the *Good Weekend* a long article about the American singer Bruce Springsteen which included his reminiscences of his love of his childhood tree:



He [Springsteen] is paying homage to his “childhood friend”, a towering copper beech tree that once stood 50 metres from his family home. As a boy, he lived under its branches, deployed its roots as a fort for his toy soldiers, and climbed into its upper reaches to make way for all “the dreaming room” he needed. That tree is gone now, replaced by a parking lot, and Springsteen’s heart sinks and roars at the senselessness of that tree’s erasure from this earth. History matters and this tree had witnessed too much to have been done away with so easily. (*Good Weekend* 31 October 2020, page 15)

To me these articles speak to an underlying love of trees within people, no matter how urbanised we become. As the American ecologist Nalini Nadkarni has written in her book *Between Earth and Sky: Our Intimate Connections to Trees*: ‘Trees fulfil needs at all levels, from the basics of food and shelter and health, to our sense of time and play, to our expressions of creativity and spirituality’ (p. 264).

When Kerry and I discussed me editing a tree group newsletter on the theme of trees I went to my library shelf and pulled out a dozen or so books dating from the 1940s till now and dealing with different aspects of our relationship with trees (and mirroring mine over my lifetime). My mind drifted back to 1983 — the National Year of the Tree. At that time the Fraser Government introduced the National Tree Program which had as its aim ‘to conserve and establish trees and associated vegetation for community and private benefit throughout Australia.’



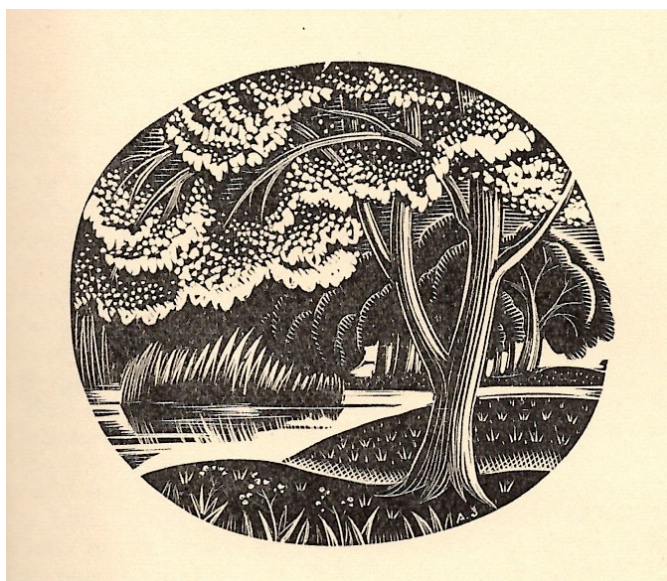
The National Year of the Tree came just after a debilitating drought and in Armidale was marked by a series of lectures at the local TAFE. I distinctly remember being riveted by local CSIRO scientist Rob Davidson’s powerful eloquence for the values of native vegetation to provide habitat for natural pest controlling agents such as birds and parasitic wasps. The power of his voice and his passion still echoes all these years later in my mind and it was a powerful motivator to us who formed the Armidale Tree Group (in 1983), along of course, with a desire to reverse the devastating dieback that had afflicted our region. Full of youthful enthusiasm that outweighed our plant propagation skills we began growing trees in our backyard for the first of many volunteer tree plantings that the tree group has been doing now for almost 40 years.

But the Year of the Tree didn’t come out of nowhere ... it was in the zeitgeist. I recall some of the lead up. It included the ground-breaking conference organised by CSIRO (*Eucalypt Dieback in Forests and Woodlands*) in Canberra at which several New England scientists presented papers, including Chris Nadolny, John Williams, Hugh Ford, John Duggin, and Brian Richards. Also in Melbourne in 1980 was the first *Focus on Farm Trees Conference: The Decline of Trees in the Rural Landscape* and then the follow-up conference *Focus on Farm Trees II: Reversing the Decline of Trees* held in Armidale in 1984. These conferences brought to the attention of the public and policy-makers the value of trees in the farming regions of Australia and the widespread decline of trees. The dieback of rural trees and increasing soil salinity were visual reminders that made their presence felt in many newspapers of the time. The dramatic nature of the widespread death (or just decline) of trees in various farming regions in NSW, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, Tasmania and Queensland in the late 1970s and early 1980s really grabbed the public’s attention and motivated the organisers of the conferences, and, no doubt, the organisers of the first National Tree Program. Certainly the view of the barren paddocks at my back door when I lived at the edge of Armidale in the 1980s was a powerful motivator for me.



**Dieback outside Uralla. Photo: David Curtis, mid-1990s.**

Of course scientists and concerned farmers and others didn't just discover trees and their value. Among my dozen books is a small volume by Alec Chisholm called *News from Nature* that was my mother's. This book published in 1948 contains a series of naturalist's stories written during World War II about the Australian bush and its creatures, designed to '... serve in some measure however slight, to soothe the public mind during the stress of the period.' In a time of a global pandemic and recession we can relate to this simple aim of seeking solace from nature.



**Wood engraving by Allan Jordon, from *News from Nature* by Alec Chisholm, Georgian House 1948.**

Two inspiring books came to my attention in the early 1980s: *My Life My Trees* by Richard St. Barbe Baker and *The Man Who Planted Trees* by Jean Giono. Whilst the second of these (the most wonderful story of an inspiring man called Elzéard Bouffier who patiently re-wooded a deserted landscape in France by spending his life planting acorns) was a fantasy, the story of Richard St. Barbe Baker was very real. I heard an interview with him on the *Science Show* on ABC radio when he was in his 90s and his words are still clear in my memory as he described his relationship with trees: how trees transpired water vapour and respired oxygen into the atmosphere; their multiple uses to humans; and his founding of the Men of the Trees in Africa, and later in Australia and elsewhere. He recounted experiencing



trees in his youth: ‘In the wood among the pines, it seemed that for one brief moment I had tasted immortality, and in a few seconds had lived in eternity. This experience may last forever.’ (p. 12).

In the landmark *Think Trees Grow Trees*, published in 1985, the Governor-General of Australia (Sir Ninian Stephen) wrote:

Until quite recently Australians, in common with other peoples, thought of trees as little more than a source of timber and of firewood. Now we know that there is almost no end to the virtues of trees ... It is when topsoils blow away and paddocks and hill slopes erode, when salt bearing water tables rise and once fertile lands become salt pans, when improved pastures turn sour and acid and when rivers flow saline and town water supplies are threatened that we begin to realise how vital to Australia are her woodlands and forests ... But Australia’s trees are more than just vital components of its fragile environment. They *are* its landscape and its unique beauty too. They give comfort to the spirit of Man [sic] and on them our native fauna depend for food and shelter.

Through the 1980s there were huge steps forward in working out how to grow trees efficiently, as represented by the 1988 book by Julianne Venning *Growing Trees for Farms, Parks and Roadsides: A Revegetation Manual*. The chapter headings say it all: Selecting species, Collecting seed, Preparing the site, Natural regeneration, Direct seeding, Planting seedlings, Maintenance, Tree people. I love the last one: ‘Tree people.’ This is a listing of all the key tree pioneers in Australia at the time. When I look over the list now I see several old friends, and different people who have inspired me on my journey with trees — farmers, researchers, extension people, and others from community organisations. What a nice thing to be called: A tree person!

Within a relatively short period the somewhat modest program of the National Tree Program evolved into the One Billion Trees Program of the Hawke Government, run by Greening Australia which was the forerunner of a greatly increased commitment to revegetation by the Federal Government through the 1990s and into this millennium.

From the 1990s and early 2000s I selected three books from authors who had a huge impact on me and others involved in revegetation through that time. Rod Bird’s *Farm Forestry in Southern Australia* summarised his work during the ‘80s and ‘90s on growing native trees on farms for timber production and shelter. His work on designing shelter for farms was particularly influential on us on the Tablelands and he made several trips to the region to speak at field days. In a similar vein was Rowan Reid’s work on farm forestry, described in the book he wrote with Peter Stephen in 2001 (*The Farmer’s Forest: Multipurpose Forestry for Australian Farmers*). John Fenton was another tree planter and farm forester from Victoria who had a huge influence on my thinking and to whose property Lanark we organised a couple of bus trips when I worked with Greening Australia. He wrote a beautiful book *The Untrained Environmentalist: How an Australian grazier brought his barren property back to life* (2010). In this book he described how he took the property he inherited in 1956 and brought it back to life with establishment of massive plantings, wetlands and farm forestry, resulting in a farming practice that balanced good farming with conservation and environmental programs.



Lanark was a showcase for on-farm tree plantings in the 1990s and inspired many farmers to do the same. John concluded his book by saying: ‘Australia needs as many tree stories as can be told.’

As I scan through my books I see they fall into categories mirroring my journey with trees through my life. From my early adulthood when I was working as a botanist they are mostly botany books. Then as I became involved in revegetation most of my books from the 1990s and early 2000s deal with the practicalities of establishing trees. More recently the books are more philosophical in tone. From my mother (a keen naturalist and bush regenerator) I inherited *Tree: A biography* by David Suzuki and Wayne Grady (2005) which tells the life story of a single majestic Douglas-fir on the Pacific coast of North America. Also from mum *If Trees Could Speak: Stories of Australia's Greatest Trees* by Bob Beale (2007) which is a wonderful celebration of magnificent individual trees from around Australia. Peter Wohlleben's 2015 book *The Hidden Life of Trees* has been an international best-seller and tells the story of how trees communicate among themselves. *Overstory* by Richard Powers (2018) translates some of these ideas into novel form, which as the blurb on the back correctly says, leaves one with a slightly adjusted frame of reference.

And finally I come back to Nalini's book *Between Earth and Sky* which I quoted at the start of this article. Nalini has spent her life climbing trees as she is an ecologist of the rainforest canopy and has studied the rainforests of Costa Rica. She structures her book around the idea of Maslow's hierarchy of needs and shows how trees provide us at every level of those needs. She starts with physical needs (such as air, food, water and other material necessities), progresses through physical security (shelters, fire, windbreaks) and a sense of place, then health (through providing medicines and spaces for recreation), and then ends up with how trees give us a sense of history and their role in our spiritual life. She cleverly weaves together her scientific observations with her own evolving relationship with trees.

I first met Nalini after she marked my PhD thesis and then invited me to speak at a conference of the Ecological Society of America about using the arts to raise awareness and communicate information in the extension and environmental education context. As an ecologist she is very interesting as she often works with artists to help communicate the scientific information she collects in the tree canopies. She spoke at our 2016 Ecoarts conference with her collaborator Jodi Lomask, director and choreographer of the modern dance troupe Capacitor. Nalini literally took the dance company into the tree canopies and together they developed a dance work that was used to communicate the canopy ecosystem.

This relationship between trees and art (and spirituality) runs very deep in many cultures in the world. Some readers will remember the oratorio *God's Drawing Board* by Ralph Steadman and Elena Kats-Chernin that the Armidale community commissioned and performed. This work lamented the loss of trees from the landscape through dieback and celebrated the community's efforts to bring them back.

In her paper ‘Tree veneration: how ancient traditions can lead to pro-environmental behaviour’ at the recent 3<sup>rd</sup> national Ecoarts Australis conference, Louise Fowler-Smith



**Mural in Paris. Photo: David Curtis 2019**



describes the tradition of venerating trees in India and outlined the formation of the eco-artist collective, The Tree Veneration Society (<https://treevenerationsociety.com>). She writes ‘through the dual process of adornment and adoration, [trees] become beacons for the recognition of the environment as something that necessarily connects the human and the non-human.’ Her paper can be read in the just-published book by Ecoarts Australis: *Using the Visual and Performing Arts to Encourage Pro-environmental Behaviour* Cambridge Scholars Publishing (<https://www.cambridgescholars.com/using-the-visual-and-performing-arts-to-encourage-pro-environmental-behaviour>)

I had a most heart-warming experience just recently with some trees that I grew a long time ago. We were visiting friends at their farm near Orange. In my 20s I planted a number of eucalypts near their farmhouse. On this morning, I opened the door of our tiny little caravan and looked outside. It had been snowing the night before so it was pretty brisk. As we lay snug in our little gypsy caravan I looked into the canopy of a yellow box and an adjacent manna gum that I had planted about 40 years ago and watched two pairs of magpies going back and forth to their respective nests (one in each tree) and feeding their babies. It definitely felt good that in a landscape with not too many trees left, habitat had been created for a new generation of magpies to fill the mornings with their wonderful songs.



Photo: David Curtis 2020

So as I look around our house at all the things that trees give me: the furniture and sculptures I have made from trees that we have cut; the air I breathe and water I drink; the fruit I eat; the shade provided in summer to ameliorate the heat; the books I read that expand my understanding of the world; the climbing towers for my grand-daughter through which she explores the world, finds her physical limits and discovers the wonders of the natural world; and the solace I find in gazing into their canopies I can truly celebrate the Wonder of Trees!



## Another Spring Planting is Completed...

by Paul and Cathryn McFarland

Fifteen years ago we decided to undertake planting native vegetation on our small property east of Armidale. Our block was originally part of a larger sheep grazing property. When we originally purchased the land there were few trees, some native grasses and lots of different weeds on the land. Our initial efforts went into building a house and establishing a garden, especially trees, in the house yard. Once this was under control (always an on-going task, as many of you reading this will have experienced in your own situation), we then turned our attention to the rest of the property. Every year since 2006 we have planted native vegetation in strategic corridors around the property. Every year trees have been supplied by the Armidale Tree Group (ATG). Every year our core planting has been achieved with the help of friends who have willingly volunteered their time to assist. Although the group has varied from year to year, Robyn, Peter, John and Karin deserve special mention, having formed the core of this group throughout.



**Robyn, John and Karin planting trees (Photo: C. McFarland)**

Planting days have been hard work, but also an enjoyable social event, supplemented with a bbq lunch and cold refreshments (beers being reserved until after the work day is done). To date, the volunteers have helped plant about 5,000 trees and shrubs. In recent years we have been able to accelerate our planting rate by obtaining grant funds from the Local Land Services and Southern New England Landcare. This has meant that in addition to our own planting efforts, an additional 2,300 plants have been added. This year we self-funded another 900 trees and shrubs. The ATG has provided the trees and the labour for planting the grant-funded works in past years and this year's planting.





**ATG staff planting trees, 2020 (Photo: P. McFarland).**

Of all the people that need to be acknowledged in making the plantings possible, one person above all needs to be mentioned, the ATG's Rob Johnson. Rob and his team are responsible for propagating the plants and managing the orders. Rob works quietly and tirelessly in his beloved nursery making all this possible. He has produced the required plants for us on the day every year, without fail.

When we stand back and look at the work completed, we appreciate the magnitude of everyone's efforts and the lessons we have learned. Some years have been more successful than others. Annual weather conditions seem to have played a key factor in the success of plantings, including establishment and rate of growth. The highly variable soils on our land have also proved a challenge. Some lessons are more obvious than others, such as: don't ever, ever think that however much you rinse a spray tank it will not remain contaminated; trees planted during the worst of the drought can thrive if water can be kept up to them; mulching trees is only an advantage in certain locations; older stock respect fences, but calves will often find a way through electric fences and damage seedlings and young trees. Different techniques have also been tried, but early preparation, deep ripping and mounding have proven best, with regular, follow-up watering a must. Now, onto fencing, watering and weeding (and planning next year's planting).

# Moulder's Marvellous Makeover

by Paul McFarland

Tree planters will be aware that, where possible, mounding of rows to be planted can be particularly helpful to the success of plant growth. For many years the Armidale Tree Group has had a moulder available for use in preparing areas for tree planting. The moulder was not widely used due to it being relatively inconvenient to use. The trailer-mounted moulder required towing to site and then some assembly. After use the disassembly and repacking process took some time. Remembering how the moulder went back on the trailer was not easy.

Thanks to the ATG's Environmental Manager, Paul Cahill, the old cumbersome moulder is a thing of the past. Paul has given the moulder a complete makeover. Not only has the moulder received a new coat of paint, it can now be easily loaded on and off the back of a table-top ute. I for one am very grateful for Paul's initiative and skill in transforming the old 'ugly duckling' into a thing of beauty and convenience.



**'Before' and 'after' photos of the moulder. (Photos: P. McFarland)**

## Working Bees on the City to Pine Forest Walking Track

by Chris Nadolny (CWC sub-committee)

There are a series of closed roads on the northern fringe of Armidale, which comprise part of the City to Pine Forest Walking Track. The concept of the Walking Track was originally championed by Kath Wray, founder of Citizens Wildlife Corridors, many years ago. It is regularly used by walkers, bird-watchers, joggers and others wishing to enjoy pleasant surroundings. Native trees and shrubs have been retained and in most places the ground cover mostly comprises native wildflowers and grasses. However, exotic shrubs, such as pyracantha and hawthorn, and weeds, such as ivy and African lovegrass, are slowly increasing in abundance and threaten the condition of the vegetation.

The Tree Group has embarked on efforts to maintain the condition of the vegetation through a series of community working bees, following a plan approved by Council. The working bees, usually held on the first Sunday of each month, involve hand weeding or "cutting and painting" of invasive weeds. Currently efforts are focused on the laneway between Trelawney Road and Blue Wren Road. For more information about the working bees phone Ken Barnett: 0428 851 952.



## **A Mini-update on Koala Research in the Northern Tablelands of NSW**

**John Lemon — JML Environmental Consultants Pty Ltd**

This is a bit of a good news/bad news story about the koalas in our part of the world. Some of you may know that the Save our Species programme of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment – no white boards please – were able to provide a modest amount of funding to Stringybark Ecological to capture and fit GPS/VHF tracking collars onto three koalas in the area north east of Armidale in 2019/20.

Previously they provided funds to capture and fit GPS/VHF tracking collars onto koalas in the Mount Duval area; specifically, on the UNE properties of ‘Newholme’ and ‘Kirby’ in 2018/19. The reason for this was to try and determine the home ranges of the species in this part of the landscape and also to try and determine what trees were preferred for browse and for shelter. This data has helped with what was a knowledge gap in this part of NSW. It seems that the New England region has the potential to become a refugia area for not only koalas, but also for other native fauna. The impact of climate change in the western areas of the state is most likely a significant factor in this west to east movement of fauna across the landscape.

So, the good news part of the article. In September 2019, we caught two females with joeys during what was a time of severe drought. One at Killen’s TSR and one at Sunnyside. Both mothers and joeys were healthy and disease free and, as it was a pretty hot, smoky and dry time, they were monitored on a regular basis. Leading up to and during the mating season, both joeys were most likely weaned and dispersed by the less than considerate males, vying for interaction – you know what I mean - with the mums. At Sunnyside we saw a male, the female and joey in the same stringybark. Now, this is what made my heart sing. When I recaptured both females in March 2020 to remove the collars, they both had new joeys in their pouches. Let’s hope that they all survived and I feel pretty confident that that was the case, as the drought had ‘broken’ and both females had put on weight and condition. In addition, Armidale Regional Council managed to secure funds to purchase 10 Koala Drinking Stations which were installed by volunteers at Killen’s TSR, Sunnyside, ‘Newholme’ and other locations where we knew they could be used by koalas during the drought.



**Drinking station for koalas (Photo: John Lemon).**

Now, the bad news part of this article. As I had previously worked on koala projects in the Gunnedah Basin, I was part of a team that took tissue samples from captured and collared koalas as well as road kill koalas. These were then given to the Australian Museum for future DNA analysis. This was a minor part of those projects but during the last decade something really awful has been playing out across the Liverpool Plains/Gunnedah Basin. When we experienced two consecutive heatwaves in November and December in 2009, during a pretty awful drought, we estimated that we lost approximately 25% of the koala population. This was documented during an ABC programme on Catalyst called 'Koala Heatwave' on the 14/4/2011. Since then there has been the 2011/12 drought; the Warrumbungle bushfire which destroyed 95% of the National Park; a record maximum temperature of 46.9°C at the Gunnedah Airport weather station in 2014 and the recent 2018 – 2020 drought. Farming friends at Emerald Hill, west of Gunnedah, haven't seen a koala on their property for more than twelve months. They would normally see one every couple of weeks. I suspect that the koala population has declined significantly in the last decade. Most researchers agree that the estimated loss is 50%. I believe that the extent of decline in the population is closer to 75%. This is based on my personal experience and anecdotal observations from farmers and landholders I have known and worked with for a very long time.

Speaking with farmers and friends across the landscape from Gunnedah and the surrounding areas to the east, it appeared that there were increasing sightings near Moombi and in the Uralla/Armidale area. I have a hypothesis that koalas may have been doing what my wife and I did, but just a bit slower. Moving from west to east to a cooler climate. I started collecting tissue samples from koalas taken into care that died, koalas that had been reported as road kill and koalas that we captured and ear tagged – the tissue from that procedure being sampled. Earlier this year I delivered 32 tissue samples to the Australian Museum and will take at least another 10 samples to Sydney next month. Hand delivery is the only option as the samples are too precious to risk losing in the post and are also preserved in 95% ethanol.

In conclusion, this is the bad news part of the article, as well as what I documented above. The only way I can help to build this data set with the Australian Museum is to keep collecting tissue from dead koalas. If you, the reader, or anyone else that you know comes across a dead koala, please let me know by calling me on my mobile which is 0427 414 871. I'll do all I can to collect it. That way, we can at least gain some valuable data that may assist with long term landscape planning and strategies to assist koalas that may or may not be heading to the cooler climate of the Northern Tablelands. In addition, Dr Karl Vernes from UNE is also collecting and freezing the koalas for future analysis so we can try and achieve something of value from the unfortunate demise of these special animals.



**Mother koala distressed (approx 3 metres off the ground). Photo: John Lemon.**





**Mother and joey. (Photo: John Lemon)**

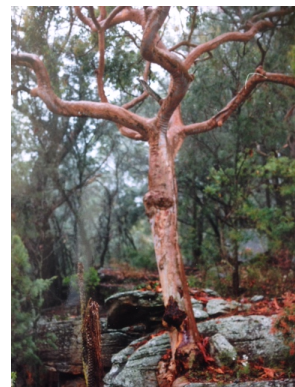


# My Favourite Tree

by Helen Webb

## Smooth-barked apple *Angophora costata*

My favourite tree is this big *Angophora costata* growing in amongst the sandstone outcrops at Ahimsa, a National Trust property in Cheltenham where we lived and where our daughter was born. The tree has a great presence and character and changes colour in different lights and seasons.



*Angophora costata*    Photos: Helen Webb

### Do you have a favourite native tree?

Send a picture and tell us about why you love this particular tree. If you have a poetic bent you may wish to send us a poem about a tree or trees, as well as or instead of a photo. Send to [manager@armidaletreegroup.org.au](mailto:manager@armidaletreegroup.org.au)



## **Drought Monitoring Results**

- 1. Western side of the Mike O'Keeffe Woodland, near Kentucky Street  
Armidale Lat -30.5267, Long 151.6709  
Photos taken by Kerry Steller**



**18 Nov 2019**



**20 October 2020**

- 2. Creeklands behind 13 Holmes Ave, Armidale.  
Photos taken by Bea Bliele.**



**10 December 2019**



**13 January 2020**



**October 2020**



**3. Invergowrie: 30.52088, 1512034**  
**Photos taken by Ash Powell.**



**2 January 2020**



**9 March 2020**



**October 2020**





# Return to Malpas Dam

10.30 am Saturday 21st Nov

*30 YEARS AGO, THE ARMIDALE TREE GROUP COMPLETED ITS FIRST MAJOR PLANTING OF OVER 20,000 TREES AT MALPAS DAM. JOIN US IN REVISING THE SITE!*



**Meeting at Malpas Dam Lookout:** Turn right at Sunnyside Road (Malpas Dam Turn off near the Black Mountain Roadhouse) then first left towards the dam and follow the signs provided for approx. 5 km and three gates to the lookout

**What to Bring:** Hat, Water, walking shoes, morning tea and lunch

RSVP by 14th November 2020 to: [narrelleclarke@bigpond.com](mailto:narrelleclarke@bigpond.com)

For inquiries call 0427721245



**Early volunteer planting at Malpas Dam circa 1986. Chris Nadolny, Sophie and Terry Forman and their children, Fran, Ellen and Huon Curtis, Garry and Rowan Slocombe and Kath Wray. Photo: David Curtis.**



Malpas Dam 5 October 2020. The tree group plants are on the eastern (right hand side) of the dam. Photo: Terry Cooke.

## Black Gully Festival 2020

10TH ANNUAL

# BLACK GULLY FESTIVAL 2020






LIVE STREAMED @

[www.facebook.com/blackgully](https://www.facebook.com/blackgully)

- > MUSICIANS
- > DANCERS
- > SUSTAINABILITY VIDEOS
- > INTERVIEWS
- + MUCH MORE

14TH NOV

3pm - 6pm



**C:\ Celebrate the Black Gully Festival wherever you can get an INTERNET connection. Get together with friends and a screen to watch amazing event!**

Proudly supported by








## Nursery News

**Good news:** Congratulations to our manager, Alicia Cooper and Ambrose McDermott, on the birth of their daughter Aurelia Annmarie on 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2020. We wish them all the best with their new family. Alicia will be on maternity leave until mid-January 2021.

Our new spring native plant stock is coming out as quickly as we can ensure it is ready for sale. Vegetable seedlings are available now. A rush on sales in Autumn after the rain and an increase in gardening due to COVID19 lockdowns left us in short supply. Thank you for your patience and support of our community nursery at this difficult time. Thank you to Rob Johnson and his team for keeping the retail area stocked.

Our Environmental Services Team is busy planting thousands of trees on order and are fully booked to the end of this year. Thanks to Paul Cahill and his team for all their travel away and hard work planting.

Two new tanks have been installed to help with water storage and one hoop house has had a new 'skin' makeover and a working bee was held by the committee to do some repairs around the nursery. Thanks to all those involved in helping out.

**Bad news:** The hailstorm on October 28<sup>th</sup> caused damage to the shade structures over the sales area as the photo shows. Hopefully insurance will cover the cost of damaged infrastructure. Luckily plant stock was not affected so native plants and vegetable/herb stock sales can continue unaffected.



**Damage from the hail storm. Photo David Steller.**



## Every Tree Counts — Maintenance of Projects

This planting at the Banded Bee Farm is an extension of a previous planting by ATG which represents the most upstream planting for the Every Tree Counts corridor running from Saumarez Ponds to the gorge at Dangar's Falls along Saumarez Creek.



**Tree planting at the Banded Bee Farm — part of the Every Tree Counts tree corridor.  
Photos: Adam Blakester.**

### **ATG Notice of Annual General Meeting**

The AGM of the Armidale Tree Group Inc.  
will be held on **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2020**  
**at 5.30pm** in the Mike O'Keeffe Woodland Centre.

All financial members are eligible to nominate  
for a position on the committee.

Nomination forms available from Garry Slocombe at

[Treasurer@ArmidaleTreeGroup.org.au](mailto:Treasurer@ArmidaleTreeGroup.org.au)

or by calling 0418 249 912 or 6771 1620.

Due to COVID restrictions only 20 people may attend the Centre.

Others may be connected by ZOOM.

**RSVP** to the above contact details if attending.



## Membership Application/Renewal

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Email (Required):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment method:** cash / cheque / credit card / direct credit

Please indicate your membership preference, you will receive an email when membership is due:

- ☐ \$5.00 for 1 year
- ☐ \$10 for 2 years
- ☐ \$25 for 5 years
- ☐ \$50 for 10 years

Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please find enclosed my/our cheque\* for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\* Make cheques payable to Armidale Tree Group Inc.

or

Please debit my credit card for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Card type:** Visa / Mastercard only

**Card number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Expiry date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CCV number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name on card** \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**To pay by Direct Credit Please remit payment to**

**BSB: 932000 Account No...620682 (please tag payment as 'subs')**

[accounts@armidaletreegroup.org.au](mailto:accounts@armidaletreegroup.org.au)

**Donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible to The Armidale Tree Group Fund**

Date processed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Office use only**

\_\_\_\_\_