



Grazing Group Field Day

Mid Lachlan Landcare's Grazing Group is pleased to announce that its 4th Major Field Day was a great success. Hosted by Gary and Anne Johnson at 'Tulangji' Boorowa on 6th March 2013, the day was outstanding with 40 landholders attending as well as representatives from Lachlan Catchment Management Authority and Greening Australia.

Speakers provided highly interesting and passionate talks and included Professor David Lindenmayer from the Australian National University, Ben Jobson from the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, Geoff Kay from the Box Gum Grassy Woodland Environmental Stewardship Project, and Gary Johnson, owner of 'Tulangji'.

Professor Lindenmayer has written and contributed to over 700 scientific papers and 50 books and has been internationally and nationally recognised for his work in on-farm conservation. He began the day discussing the Box Gum Grassy Woodland Environmental Stewardship Project and its aim to collect data over 15 years from sites in Queensland through to South Australia. Professor Lindenmayer provided landholders advice on how to increase diversity and improve ecology when planning planting sites. Topics included selecting the best location for planting trees, block and corridor plantings, size and age of plantings, species to use, fallen timber and how it all works together to increase biodiversity and productivity. Professor Lindenmayer is dedicated to applying science to conserve threatened ecological communities within agriculturally productive country and was very positive about receiving practical feedback from landholders.



Professor David Lindenmayer presenting his talk to landholders

Ben Jobson from SEWPAC spoke briefly about the Federal Government's guarantee of funding for the duration of the Box Gum Grassy Woodland Project and acknowledged his pleasure at attending a appropriately managed grazing property where the project was being undertaken.

Gary Johnson, owner of 'Tulangi' presented his talk titled 'From the edge to a little prosperity', a passionate, from the heart talk about the major changes he had to make on his property in order to make it more sustainable, more productive and more viable. He spoke about how a holistic management course changed his core business and long term vision, enabling him to understand and improve his water, mineral and energy cycles. He learnt how to build resilience into his country against drought, fire and storms by employing grazing management principles that aimed for 100% ground cover, 100% of the time. He also spoke about his participation in the Box Gum Grassy Woodland Project and how it is working to improve profitability on his farm through ecological improvements.



Gary Johnson - 'From the edge to a little prosperity'

Geoff Kay is the Project Manager for the Box Gum Grassy Woodland Environmental Stewardship Project who also designed and manages the Australian National University's Long Term Grazing Study. Geoff spoke out in the field at one of 'Tulangi's' monitoring sites and discussed with landholders how after just four years of monitoring, the Box Gum Grassy Woodland project was already collating good quality data. He also talked about how flexibility could be built into the project, making it easy for landholders to negotiate.



Geoff Kay speaking at a monitoring site on 'Tulangi'

Overall, the field day was highly positive and interesting, attracting a wide range of landholders from as far as Orange and the Murrumbidgee region. The day provided an opportunity for landholders to attend a working property that was operating successfully under the stewardship project, and the chance for active discussion with landholders keen to share information and knowledge from a wide range of topics.

Mid Lachlan Landcare would like to thank all speakers, particularly Professor Lindenmayer for sharing their time and knowledge at 'Tulangi'. Special thanks to Gary and Anne Johnson for hosting the day.

Scott Hickman

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