

## South East Local Land Services Grazing Management Project

On 26<sup>th</sup> May 2015, Mid Lachlan Landcare facilitated a Grazing Management Field Day at Pat and Pauline Star's property "Rockmount" Crookwell with guest speaker, renowned grazing management educator Dick Richardson. The field day was the first of two to be held in the region and is part of South East LLS's Grazing Management Project that aims to engage graziers to learn about, and implement sustainable and regenerative grazing practices.

The field day was well supported with 40 people attending from Crookwell, Boorowa, Yass, Bookham and Goulburn. Dick Richardson started the day with a presentation, providing his knowledge on grazing management. He spoke passionately about how sustainable grazing is intrinsically linked to healthy ecosystems, and provided practical tools on how to achieve positive outcomes for livestock, landscapes and a profitable business.

The presentation was followed by a paddock walk on "Rockmount" which provided an opportunity for participants to learn how they can implement grazing management tools in order to generate changes to plant structure and soil biology. The paddock walk also provided a chance for attendees to understand how observation skills are vital in understanding practical landscape and livestock management.

Dick's main points:

- Importance of having complex ecosystems builds resilience in our landscape so we can manage major events such as drought, fire, flood and frost. Resilience is built by using and understanding different grazing management processes making our landscapes and businesses more robust, low risk and profitable
- As managers, we need to build complexity into our landscapes by creating a matrix of variable conditions rather than managing a simplified system that is high risk. For example, adding in planned priority grazed paddocks, landscape paddocks and sabbath paddocks
- Grazing animals play a very important role. They can be used to create different outcomes, add energy into our ecosystems and build dynamic landscapes and biological communities

Thanks to Pat and Pauline Star for hosting the field day. Thanks also to Dick Richardson for providing an interesting and enjoyable day. If you would like more information please contact Scott Hickman on 0427 450 416 or email [otleigh@westnet.com.au](mailto:otleigh@westnet.com.au)



Dick Richardson provides his presentation on grazing management



Learning practical skills in the paddock