

**2nd Landcare/TCM
Grassroots Forum**
*“Changes, Challenges and
Opportunities”*

September 1998



Landcare Management

The meeting's been agenderised, the topic has been choosed,
I'm here to keep you thinking straight, in case you get confused.
Before you reach the part where you all start asking questions,
I'm going to start proceedings, by making some suggestions.

Now some of you are wondering, exactly what I did,
Well, I'm a specialist consultant, engaged by Mr Kidd,
To see that things run smoothly. That everything goes well,
And how is that to happen? Well, I'm about to tell.

Key personnel, that's what we need. Essential to the cause.
And start off with priority. To open reason's doors,
First we need an expert. What I require of him,
Is an in-depth analystic look at the deadly acronym.

TCM and NLP, and throw in GRDC,
DPIE, the CMC's and then there's BHP.
Have I mentioned DLWC, or NSWLWG?
You see the mess you'd be in without this help from me?

Next, some watcher overers, to protect endangered species.
To help soothe injured parties, and pick up shattered pieces,
Of once unthreatened egos - mine managers and such,
Or politicians, bureaucrats, but they don't matter much.

What about some policies? Don't fret. I think I know,
Positive extremism. That's the way to go.
Abolish all the grazing stock. Fill in all the mines.
Close the timber industry. Destroy all fishing lines.

Do away with pesticides, and herbicides as well,
Cherish all those places where pests and insects dwell,
Tax every working farmer 'til he has to leave the land,

And let the land recover. I'm sure he'd understand.

"That's too extreme. Ridiculous." I thought I heard you say,
No problem. Negative extremism. Let's go the other way.
Put a bounty on each greeny's head. Shoot every one you see.
Mine in every National Park, and affluent you'll be.

Support the cotton grower. Subsidise his spray.
Let pesticidic industries hold full, unfettered sway.
Clear fell all the forests to make way for more crops,
Irrigate like buggery 'til all the water stops.

"That's too extreme." I hear you say. Well, let us think it through,
There must be something in between that all of us can do.
The solution should be obvious, though the path is not too speedy,
We could call it a balance between the greenies and the greedy.

Maybe this extremism is not the way to go.
Compromise, (an ugly word, as most extremists know)
But that might be the answer. Might save the landcare crash,
Just think what we'd accomplish with all that Telstra cash.

It's possible the water might be fit to quaff,
Sustainable development might be on, not off.
Big business might be profitable. The greens might be content,
And compromise, not all out war, could be the big event.

So there you have it. That's my lot. You're thinking should be clear,
And it hasn't cost a lot of dough. I'm not all that dear.
When you realise I've saved this fragile, big wide land,
I know that you'll agree with me. What's two hundred grand?

BLUE - the shearer (copy right col wilson) -
Editor's note: poet's licence with spelling

2nd NSW Landcare/TCM Grassroots Forum "Changes, Challenges and Opportunities"

Forum Organising Committee

Reg Kidd	Orange City Council - Chairman
Sue Graves	Coxs River Catchment Management Committee - Chairperson
Chris Elliott	Western Catchment Management Committee
Ron Cullen	Dept of Land and Water Conservation - Director, Integrated Catchment Planning
Terry Abbott	Dept of Land and Water Conservation - Manager, Community Support
Deb Tkachenko	Dept of Land and Water Conservation - Senior Landcare Coordinator
Jenny Quealy	Dept of Land and Water Conservation - NSW Landcare Marketing Coordinator
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Mary Kovac	NSW Agriculture, Dubbo – Agriculture Environment Officer
Rochelle Callaghan	National Parks and Wildlife Service – Project Officer, Community Conservation
Michelle Clifford	Orange City Council – Economic Development Assistant
Michelle Higgins	Orange Bathurst District Landcare Coordinator
Hedy Bryant	Coxs River Catchment Management Committee

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- North Limited and NORTH PARKES MINES
- National Landcare Program / Natural Heritage Trust
- Aradlay Insurance Brokers Ltd (refer to the next page)
- Advance Energy
- Department of Land and Water Conservation



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To the Women, Men and Children in Landcare

I have been asked to say some words
Five minutes - allocated
To Gold and Silver Sponsors
So before my times abated
I say to all you carers and your coordinators
To all the Members of the Groups and all
Facilitators
Your praises have been sung around
The country end-to-end
You've won awards and medals
For Land that's on the mend
Upon degraded rivers - you've shown dedication
On care of coasts, on planting trees or bush
regeneration

The P.M. stood in Parliament and said - you lead
the world
That when it comes to Landcare
Your vision is unfurled
In countries all around the globe
Whose people share your dreams of pristine
native forests
Of clean and sparkling streams
But - Politicians' talk is cheap
And subtle in selection
You'll all get speched - to kingdom come
Before the next election
Beware all members of the house
Your promises your truths
Will get the treatment they deserve
In all the polling booths
Alas - The Politicians Ploy
Its still the same old story
Make sure you don't do all the work
While they take all the glory

You give your time and effort
From Cape York to the Bite
And Volunteer your labour
Without maybe - without might
You tend the land that's hurting
And listen to her call
Then bend your back
And sweat your sweat
And gladly give your all.
To multitudes of carers
All around this land
the women, men and children
I ask you all to stand
that I might fill and raise my glass
and toast the work you do
for all our children's children
will be grateful unto you.

Now finally my final words
I'm stretching your endurance
Makes sure if someone sues your Group
Your Group has got Insurance.

Alex Smillie, Aradlay Insurance Brokers Ltd
(Introducing the dinner on behalf of the
sponsors)



Abbreviations

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ALC	Australia Landcare Council
CMC	Catchment Management Committee
CMT	Catchment Management Trust
DLWC	Department of Land and Water Conservation
DPIE	Department of Primary Industries and Energy
EPA	Environment Protection Authority
ESD	Ecological Sustainable Development
GA	Greening Australia
Groundwater MCs	Groundwater Management Committees
IBRA	Interim Biogeographical Regional Areas
LAL	Landcare Australia Limited
LC	Landcare
LCGs	Landcare Groups
LG	Local Government
LGSA	Local Government and Shires Association
NCC	Nature Conservation Council
NCF	Nature Conservation Foundation
NFF	National Farmers Federation
NLP	National Landcare Program
NREM	Natural Resource and Environment Management
NSWLWG	NSW Landcare Working Group
NVAC	Native Vegetation Advisory Council
RAP	Regional Assessment Panel
RCC	Regional Coordinating Committee
RCCC	Regional Catchment Coordinating Committee
Reg RMCs	Regulated River Management Committees
REP	Regional Environment Plan
RO	Regional Organisation
SCMCC	State Catchment Management Coordinating Committee
SEPP	State Environment Planning Policy
TAP	Technical Assessment Panel
TCM	Total Catchment Management
Unreg RMCs	Unregulated River Management Committees
VMCs	Vegetation Management Committees

Chairman's Report

Reg Kidd, NSW Landcare Working Group, Orange City Councillor

"Changes, Challenges and Opportunities", the second statewide forum for Landcare and Total Catchment Management (TCM), held in Orange, 4th and 5th of September 1998, endeavoured to report on and progress several issues from the first forum, and be a state networking event for landcare and TCM.

The Forum played host to about 450 participants from all over the State, 60% of who were community representatives. Feedback from the participants has been generally positive, however, there was a feeling that the time devoted to the debate about the new landcare structure exceeded the concern of the majority of forum participants. Certainly not everyone was happy with the result, but I am sure that we would all agree that the future and progress of landcare and TCM should be our ultimate aim, and that we need to get behind that decision and make it work for all of us.

The most valued session was on best management practice, in which groups heard about achievements in landcare and TCM, from a range of groups and project managers. The participants also appreciated the future directions workshops because they could voice their opinions and share their thoughts with others.

The major outcomes and highlights were:

- Maree McCaskill, as a provocative and dynamic keynote speaker, who generously donated her time and energy. Maree suggested that there needed to be greater recognition for TCM/landcare activities, and that we need to value closely government/community partnerships and corporate sponsorship to effectively achieve the goals of TCM and landcare.
- The Minister for Land and Water Conservation, the Hon. Richard Amery, confirmed that the NSW Government will continue to support the State TCM/landcare support structure: the State Catchment Management Coordinating Committee (SCMCC) and the NSW Landcare Working Group and their associated projects. He also launched a new web site for NSW landcare. The address is: **www.landcare.nsw.pnc.com.au**
- Paul Trevethan, Chair SCMCC, gave a visionary speech that was well received and helped to stimulate thought on the future directions and regional issues for TCM and landcare.
- The new structure for NSW landcare recommended by the Landcare Structural Committee was overwhelmingly endorsed. The NSW Landcare Working Group now has the task of progressing the new structure that includes the appointment of 14 community members to the Working Group as representatives of the 14 Natural Resource and Environment Management regions.
- The Open Forum enabled participants to ask questions of a panel and to raise issues they felt that had not been addressed. The mood was sombre and, for some, difficult, as it did not enable participants to be visionary but rather focussed on smaller issues of concern that frustrated some of the audience. The main issues raised in the Open Forum were:
 - lack of long term funding commitment beyond the year 2000
 - concern over maintaining motivation and enthusiasm and overcoming burnout for landcare group members
 - developing links/communication/networking
 - vegetation and water reforms
 - being able to evaluate the success of landcare projects.
- Two well organised and attended field trips to landcare projects, which included practical skills development in getting a "bogged" bus mobile.
- The Marketplace displays by sponsors, other organisations and individual landcare groups and catchments, available inside the auditorium enabled the majority of participants to take advantage of their presence. The Greening Australia bookshop was particularly successful.

The Forum dinner was the highlight for me, with over 300 participants, renewing and making new acquaintances, and establishing networks.

Section 1: Direction for Landcare and TCM

The sponsors need special mention as the Forum would not have been possible without their support and generosity - Natural Heritage Trust, North Ltd and NORTH PARKES MINES, Aradlay Insurance Brokers Ltd, Advance Energy and Department of Land and Water Conservation. It was also encouraging to see them involved in the activities. The poems from Col Wilson (Blue the Shearer) and Alex Smillie, of Aradlay Insurance Brokers, will hold a special place in my recollections of the 1998 Forum.

Personally, I was blessed to work with such a dedicated and professional committee with particularly the support of the Department of Land and Water Conservation. Orange City Council, NSW Agriculture, National Parks and Wildlife Service, the State Catchment Management Coordinating Committee (SCMCC) and the NSW Landcare Working Group must also be thanked for their support and active involvement. Special mention must go to Michelle Clifford, Orange City Council, the Event Coordinator, whose tireless effort, efficiency and good humour kept us all on track and ensured that every detail was addressed.

I look forward to the next Forum in 2000 at Parkes, to be hosted by the Parkes District Landcare Committee, and the continued evolution of Landcare/TCM. There certainly are Changes, Challenges and Opportunities, both happening and ahead for us all. It's great to see TCM and landcare getting together to take these on.

Regards

Reg Kidd
Chairman
Forum Organising Committee

Why have a Second Landcare/TCM Grassroots Forum?

The second Landcare/TCM grassroots forum was organised to meet expectations raised from the first forum held at the University of Western Sydney - Hawkesbury in 1996. At this forum, two specific sub committees were formed:

1. *The Forum Outcomes Working Group* - This group was charged with furthering the 264 recommendations that were made at the first forum.
2. *The Structure Committee* - The specific task of this group was to investigate options for the formation of a landcare structure in NSW.

At the time of formation of these two specific groups it was expected that they would report their findings and deliberations at the next Landcare/TCM Forum. In addition, it was noted that the landcare and TCM community valued the grassroots style of forum, where they could contribute in either clarifying issues, raising points of dissension that needed addressing, or by coming up with new ideas of how to solve some of landcare and TCM's perennial problems. The organising committee of this second forum relied heavily on the evaluation of the first forum, and set about developing an agenda that responded to the following needs:

- To deliberate on a Structure for NSW Landcare and decide upon selected options put forward, and to hear the progress of the previous forum's outcomes
- To create opportunities for participants to network
- To learn new skills and share some skills
- To provide some direction for landcare and TCM
- To have fun

The program developed attempted to create opportunities for each of the above perceived needs to be addressed, while maintaining a grassroots flavour. This was a difficult task.

The following proceedings are presented in three sections which capitalises on the original organisation of the forum. The sections reflect **why** sessions appeared on the program:

Section 1 Provide some direction for Landcare and TCM

Keynote Address
Minister's Speech
TCM/Landcare and Regionalisation
Urban TCM and Landcare
Home Groups/ Open Discussion
Open Forum/Panel

Section 2 Responding to the previous forum

Landcare Structure Debate
Forum Outcomes Working Group
TCM/ Landcare History

Section 3 Learn new skills and share ideas

Field Trips
Skills Development
Marketplace
Best Management Practices

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Keynote Address

Maree McCaskill (introduced by Anna McMullen North Ltd and NORTH PARKES MINES)

Landcare for me has been an interesting movement because I have seen it rather in a different light to many people. When it first was launched I saw it as roughly an interesting mix of attempting to get the rural populations, some of the urban populations, government instrumentalities together to do something roughly about an embarrassment called "the state of the environment in Australia". I say embarrassment because we have had that forced down our throats for two decades or more that what we have in Australia is startlingly worse than anything else in the world and we have very comfortably swallowed it. Unfortunately what I saw, it was more in the line of a very interesting opportunity to replace the social networking that occurred in rural and regional Australia because of the urban drift or the drift to urban communities had in fact wrought havoc on the population densities in those regional centres and much of the communication network was lost. If you try and replace that, it is extremely difficult, because you have to find something that everyone can identify with. Now the farmers I can remember back in the early days suspected that it was, in actual fact, a plot by the polarised green movement to do them in. The green movement saw it as a grand opportunity to beat the rural sector to death and the government loved it because they work, (and that's every government), on the principle of divide and conquer and keep them all under control !

So, it was a very interesting start and what it has done in the last decade is prove what Australians are always very good at doing and that is taking a semblance of a great idea and moulding it into something that can be used and can be worked with and can achieve an enormous amount. My complaint after 10 years is that I do not believe that roughly the vast majority of the population of Australia - which is where I reside, and that is not in a rural or regional part of Australia but in the grand urbanised community - do not understand what Landcare is, do not really want to know about it other than for lip service reasons saying "I think it does a good thing" and in fact don't give credit after ten years for the enormous achievement that you have all done; largely voluntarily and largely from the enormous energy of a vast voluntary mass of people who number less than 7 percent of the Australian population.

Your achievements are enormous and your achievements have largely been unsung. That is the sad state of affairs for Landcare. Your efforts will ultimately see you burn out unless national, widespread, highly public, credit is given to you for what you have achieved on behalf of the whole of Australia. There needs to be some consideration given by governments to much higher profiling of the achievements and the records of repairing Australia.

So, if nothing else, I would hope that some of the bureaucracy who are in fact here today in their droves who actually run Australia, contrary to what most politicians think, do so, and mould the opinions of those leaders of our country into doing something about giving credit where credit is due. I have watched an enormous program - it would have to be one of the biggest voluntary movements I have seen - tenaciously stay and push hard knowing that there really isn't much at the end of it financially for them but that the energies have been there trying to keep that movement, energised, creative and moving on. But, it sits within a very interesting sociological pattern and that is: It is now ten years later or more going down the path way of nearly every movement I have ever watched.

Australians have to politicise every good thing that comes along and in actual fact I think a lot of Australians are not happy unless there is a stoush. They go to a meeting and they come out and if there has been a really big stoush they feel they have achieved something. If they go there and there isn't a stoush they consider it incredibly boring and not worthwhile. I wonder when we are actually going to learn what we were asked to do, right when we were small, and that is: "Share", when we were asked about partnership building and our good friends and sharing. I have watched the Landcare movement fight with other parts of its partnership. I remember being appalled at one of the national conferences, listening to the zealots in Landcare pooh pooh some of the corporates because they did not believe they were allowed to belong to Landcare. I watched the faces on some people a little while ago when Norths

(Ltd) got up to introduce me. As far as I am concerned, Landcare is for everyone. There isn't a rule that locks you out one from another. Unless we are inclusive of what we do, then the movement is destined to fail and that is the hardest change in social patterning for all of us, to be inclusive rather than exclusive. We love getting involved in something, taking it on becoming part of almost a religious zealotry and then determining who shall have the enlightenment and who shan't. As far as I am concerned the rest of Australia will not consider itself included until everyone, whether it be corporate, whether it be mining, whether it be logging, whether it be broad acre cropping using chemicals or whatever is inclusive in the movement (and there is in fact one Landcare group in Queensland where you cannot belong to the local Cotton Growers Association unless you belong to the Landcare group - they are that strongly passionate about what they do).

There are pockets of expertise, in every aspect of communities who work with or extract from the resources of this community. There is something that this movement in this room, dare I say, can learn from logging. There is something that you can all learn from the sophistication of broad acre cropping. There is something that those companies can learn from the conservation movement but I get very tired of people who assume that the movement is their's and nobody else's. Some of the pitched battles have been fought over whose philosophy is absolutely right. Well, I am going to shatter all of the PhD's and all of the amounts of money that are in fact propping up lots of faculties looking at research papers on the social issues behind Landcare by saying - and it will cost you absolutely nothing - that Landcare belongs to everyone and it should be a mesh of everyone's input and ideas.

You are being asked to repair the unwitting damage of 200 years. You want to do it in less than five. Some people want you to repair it in one year. You are probably doubting your abilities to achieve something over a decade and frankly you have had 200 years of trying to wreak havoc and wreak change on an environment and now repair it. Why are you so hard on yourself? Why do you think you are so spectacular that you can do it in a far shorter time than the time it took to damage it? Frankly, are we not now in a position in Australia where, because of the technology and the innovation that we have developed because of our isolation, that we in fact can't lay down some of the entrenched territorialism and start beginning to look for the best in expertise from all aspects and disciplines to make Landcare work?

Most people I have talked to in Landcare get frustrated by the funding. They want a tap that gets turned on and is never turned off, with unlimited funding resources, but they want the government out of it. Sounds a little like the wool industry. They want the government out of it but they want all the money. And its wonderful that for the first time I am not going to stand on a stage and be crucified over a stockpile but it is very interesting that Australians also develop this psyche that they would like all of the benefits of government funding, all of the benefits of government resources but they don't want the government in there making any decisions about it. Well, you can't have both. If you have the government in there in terms of funding then you have to allow their input and see it in the light of sharing. You actually might convince some bureaucrats to come over to your side of the line. You cannot do that if you are throwing rocks at them from the other side. It is this inclusive part that Australians are going to have to learn. There has to be that partnership. Government will only turn taps on far more volubly if they have got an incentive to do so.

I guess my political statement for the day is: Isn't it a great shame that something like the environment, which I have to say is no different to the tax system, is even a political issue? It should be an inherent, bipartisan, non-political issue that gets decided for the good of the country. (Editor's emphasis)

So, if nothing else your challenge for this two day conference is how you extricate the environment out of the political system; how you make it non-negotiable for any political party; how you take it out of the electoral football system and you in fact put it into a position where it is an argued, logically funded movement or Landcare system that is just accepted as a requirement for this nation to progress. Because then, if you take the politics out, you will have a number of things happen. You won't have to put up with unending politicians with unending speeches about what they're going to do for the environment, which they then do not deliver on, when they get to government. So you will ultimately never be disappointed.

You will know that you have some goals and some outcomes. You will be able to long term plan and you should be planning for where Landcare is going to be in the year 2010 and the year 2015; and I might add whilst everybody proudly says that is a Japanese tendency - and it is - long term planning is actually a very good process to undergo.

If we exercise those disciplines, if we can be a bit visionary and not get bogged down on a local and regional basis and say: " Where do I want Landcare to be in Australia, on a global basis? Where do we want to put Landcare in terms of how it is viewed internationally? ", that is how you then equate what you plan in a larger place back to your local region. It means you're part of a far bigger turf or patch of dirt than just your local backyard.

We do not, in Australia, very effectively see the big picture puzzle. We often only involve ourselves in fighting over the pieces. I think it is important now - more so than ever, with the state of our nation with the fact that we have become a very disparate group, with the fact that we have got one of the most divided populations purely and simply by geography. We have very little in common with each other quite frequently - or we are perceived to have little in common - and we can only live 150 or two hundred miles away from each other.

I am very lucky being a resident of Sydney and yes, I am proud to say that I actually like the pollution; I actually like living with a bit of smog and I actually enjoy millions of people in the same place as me. People seem to think that I am a heretic for doing that. I enjoy the rush and the bustle. I appreciate those people who really want to live in a place where they see one person every 7 square miles - I appreciate that that is another choice. You have got to tolerate the various choices but you know, where I come from, largely a lot of people do not understand that there is someone called an Australian, west of the divide. They do not understand who they are, what they look like. I go to some state schools in the city and I get asked silly questions like do they eat the same as us and we are only talking about an Australian population of 18 million people, but we are roughly talking about a geographic land mass not too dissimilar to the United States, where they have got over 250 million people so the actual communication channels have dissipated. We have got better technological communication and yet you think about it: for rural Australia, people are often flat out getting a decent fax line. For a lot of rural Australians, with all due respects Mr Mayor, they cannot afford to put their Bankcard "out there". So consequently if we were very very smart, one of the biggest gifts that any political party could give this nation, is an expenditure of money immediately on a massive upgrade of sophisticated telecommunications, so that you get proper fax lines and phone lines, and that you may be able to experience buying a computer and effectively going on the net. That is what immediately breaches enormous communication gaps in a lot of people in Australia where the geography is probably the worst part of our community. It divides us. It keeps people totally covered in mud.

I think this year is an absolute watershed in the whole of the Australian community because the Australian community is finally questioning their entire system. I may not like the options but at least you are being given some options. You aren't necessarily being asked to trudge the same path. Can I ask you to do the same in Landcare? Can I ask you to lay down some of the those prejudices that you may have held for the activities of what you see as some of the poorer users of the lands resources and give them a break? You cannot expect people to adopt a benchmark that you think is fine for Landcare unless you extend them a hand and give them an incentive to join with you and bring them along. You cannot expect companies to get involved and sponsor this movement if for the rest of the year they actually have enormous amounts of criticism heaped on them for what you perceive is a poor environmental performance. Isolating them, alienating them whether they be an individual or a company or a corporate is never going to solve the enormous amount of work that has to be done. And what do you face if you do not do that? Burn out: Which is very evident in Landcare.

I talked last night to a women who has run the Landcare group with a group of other people in it, in a very small border area between NSW and Queensland, and last year the Landcare group shut down. My question was to her "why? " And she said "burn out". After ten years, of pushing and pulling with such a tiny group, no-one really wants to know what we are doing on such a small scale. It is only the bigger

projects, the people with a lot more muscle that actually attract the attention. We put all the intellectual fire power we can amongst our small group to try and flow our way through reams and reams of paperwork that you have got to fill out - and I guess most of you can sympathise with that. You do not have time to run operations, read piles of paperwork that you can almost high jump over and then at the same time talk about conserving resources when the pile of paper is this high. In this day and age of enormous amounts of information there is no way the human brain can absorb all of that. The challenge for the bureaucracy is to determine a much more simplified method of getting the funds out on the ground to those enormously enthusiastic people who have sustained this movement for ten years to ensure that they don't burn out forever; so that they can see some tangible benefits of what their efforts have produced in ten or twelve years and where their efforts are going to go in the future and link them with everybody else in the nation.

So I would even like to see New South Wales Landcarers look at themselves as Australian Landcarers. The more we get bogged down in state identities the worse it becomes because the regional prejudices and battles always evolve.

I believe that the future, just the same, is rosy. Most people are in fact conscious now that practices have had to change. Codes of practices have to be enforced, people will in fact have to pay penalties for breaching legislation but at the same time I really believe that as much effort needs to be put in now to showing and showcasing the large urban populations what you have achieved. That is vitally important, because it is also tangible evidence to the rest of the world that your environmental record is not one of a major vandal, but in fact is a very good environmental record. When I go to the US EPA - as I frequently do - they feel it is mighty amusing that Australians are so incredibly hard on themselves about their record, because the rest of the world actually believe you have done an enormous amount with dwindling resources, a very small base of population but enormous enthusiasm.

So enjoy your conference. Your planning should be not 2008, try 2015.

I will leave you with a word I got from two people yesterday. And I thought it was most amusing. Two new, female CEO's, from two not for profit organisations that I know very well, quite coincidentally, both rang me yesterday with large "SOS's" and said, "Maree, I am here for the good of the industry. I have got all these board directors who are there for the good of themselves. Why can't they be altruistic like me?" I said "textbook behaviour". She said, "one of them spent 20 minutes of the board meeting correcting the grammar in the minutes. I had a paper on the outcomes for the industry for ten years and they moved standing orders aside to stay with the grammar on the minutes" and the other one said in a totally different organisation: "No good, I am so sick of it. I had a paper to determine some strategic planning and the most time they spent was how to strategically plan bigger directors fees". Altruism is not an easy thing to have and keep because an awful lot of people join lots of organisations because it looks very good on the CV and it looks very good when you elevate yourself up the platform. I think it is about time that this organisation and this movement stuck to its altruism because ultimately the benefits for you will be when you can step back and cross your arms and wipe the dirt off your hands and say, "hey the next three or four generations are going to benefit from this tangible result that I can see because our enthusiasm and passion pushed this forward and what did I get out of it? Nothing particularly personal, nothing in terms of a position or a profile but I have got the enjoyment of knowing that every single Australian will benefit from moving Landcare forward."

Keep it as yours, don't let it get tied up with politics. Thank you.

(Transcribed by a court reporter and edited by the Editor and Jenny Quealy).

Official Opening by the Minister

The Hon. Richard Amery

Minister for Land and Water Conservation and Minister for Agriculture

Councillor Richard Niven, Mayor of Orange

Mr Paul Trevethan, Chairman, State Catchment Management Coordinating Committee

Councillor Reg Kidd, Chairman, Forum Organising Committee

Landcarers and people involved in TCM.

Good morning. Thank you for inviting me to open this 2nd Landcare/TCM Forum for the people involved in Landcare and Total Catchment Management across the State.

Now when I use the word "Landcare", of course, I am also referring to all those important community care groups - Rivercare, Dunecare, Coastcare, Bushcare, as well as Landcare groups.

I would like to compliment the Forum Organising Committee for its efforts in bringing this gathering to fruition.

TCM and Landcare are often described as partnerships of community and government working for improved natural resource management.

It's fitting, therefore, that the Forum Organising Committee, a partnership of TCM and Landcare people from the community, State Government and Local Government, has worked so well together to bring you this Forum.

It is particularly pleasing to me that Local Government has played such an important role in organising the Forum. The Committee Chairman, Reg Kidd, is an Orange City Councillor, and Orange City Council has provided strong support from the outset.

I would like to thank, not only the Council, but also the other major sponsors:

- the Natural Heritage Trust
- North Ltd and NORTH PARKES MINES
- Aradlay Insurance Brokers Ltd
- and Advance Energy,

as well as a large number of smaller sponsors, too numerous for me to mention individually.

The other major sponsor is, of course, the NSW Government, which has provided funds and organisational support through a number of its agencies, particularly my own Department of Land and Water Conservation.

Without all these sponsors, we would not be here today.

The first Landcare and TCM Forum was held at the University of Western Sydney, Richmond in October 1996.

It was an historic and successful event, because it was the first statewide conference for Landcare and TCM in NSW and it improved the links between them.

The Forum established two groups to make sure that the recommendations of the Forum were pursued. They were the Forum Outcomes Working Group, chaired by Mr Kerry Pfeiffer, to progress the

recommendations, and the Landcare Structural Committee, chaired by Mr Peter Holding, to investigate options for a new structure for Landcare in NSW.

These two committees had extremely difficult and demanding tasks and I congratulate them on their hard work over the past 2 years. You have already heard a report from Mr Pfeiffer this morning on his Committee's activities.

The Landcare Structural Committee will report to you this afternoon, after which you'll be asked to vote on whether or not you want a new structure for Landcare in New South Wales.

If you decide on a new structure, the future direction of Landcare will lie in your hands.

But let me assure you that whichever way the vote goes, the NSW Government will continue to support the State Structure - currently the State Catchment Management Coordinating Committee and the NSW Landcare Working Group.

There have been a number of other significant developments directly affecting both TCM and Landcare since the first Forum.

They are:

- the TCM Review
- regionalisation
- future support for Landcare in the regions

I was pleased to approve the outcomes of the TCM Review last December, shortly after becoming Minister for Land and Water Conservation. The Review confirmed that TCM is working but did identify a number of areas for improvement.

The two most important are Catchment Management Committees and Trusts continuing their focus on strategic planning and the increased involvement of Local Government in TCM.

The organisation of this Forum is one of the best examples of increased Local Government involvement in TCM and, as I said earlier, is very pleasing.

While nearly all of the 35 TCM Review actions have already been or are now being implemented by the State Catchment Management Coordinating Committee, there are two that I feel need further attention by this Forum. These are Actions 18 and 20 which relate to regional structures.

I am concerned that the development of Regional Catchments Coordinating Committees, dealing with strategic planning, as well as Regional Organisations, concerned with funding, will see a proliferation of committees stretching even further the limited resources of the dedicated members of Catchment Management Committees.

I have noted that the issue of regionalisation is on your agenda for today.

I believe a practical and effective regional structure is required to produce Natural Resource Management Strategies and guide the investment needed to implement them. Paul Trevethan will be talking to you about models for regionalisation.

I look forward to your response and guidance on what type of regional structure delivers to you the strategic planning and funding coordination outcomes you require.

Section 1: Direction for Landcare and TCM

In the last few months the Government and the community have been examining what support for Landcare is presently available in the regions, what the future needs are and what resources will be required.

It's really up to you to determine those needs, so I urge you to get involved in this process, if you haven't already.

At the first Forum my predecessor Kim Yeadon said that the Carr Government came to office with a commitment to consolidate and enhance TCM and Landcare.

Comprehensive planning and action strategies, along with monitoring, are the best way of achieving integration and improving the health of our natural resources.

Over the past 2 years we have delivered on that commitment and will continue to do so.

We have continued to provide \$5 million per year for the TCM Enhancement Program to directly assist Landcare groups and Catchment Management Committees. Those funds are available again this financial year.

Other programs funded by the NSW Government to support community group activities in 1998/99 include:

- \$3 million for Salt Action
- \$4 million for Rivercare
- \$2.5 million for Acid Soil Action

But, as important as these programs are, they are only part of the story. Many of the staff from my two Departments, Land and Water Conservation and NSW Agriculture, provide strong support to TCM and Landcare.

There are many other ways in which the Government is supporting TCM and Landcare. For example:

- The Department of Land and Water Conservation provides support in various ways to the State's 45 Catchment Management Committee Coordinators, 13 Landcare Facilitators and 72 Landcare Coordinators - the people you consistently tell us are vital to your activities in TCM or Landcare.
- The Department manages a computer database, recently upgraded, of approximately 3000 Landcare and TCM groups and contacts across NSW.
- Last year officers from the Department of Land and Water Conservation played a major role in negotiating improved deals on public liability insurance for Landcare groups. As a result insurance is now available that not only provides better coverage but also is cheaper and easier to get.

In furthering the partnership between the community and the NSW Government, it gives me great pleasure to now launch:

A NEW WEBSITE ON THE INTERNET FOR NEW SOUTH WALES LANDCARE

This website represents a new phase in improved communication for Landcare groups by enabling internet users to directly link to information on regional Landcare activities and statewide Landcare support.

The website will also encourage increased participation in Landcare by providing the information people need to get involved.

Section 1: Direction for Landcare and TCM

It has been produced and funded by the Department of Land and Water Conservation, in conjunction with the NSW Landcare Working Group.

But in the end, real improvement in the health of our natural resources is achieved by you - the land manager, volunteer, landholder or Council.

In my relatively short time as Minister for Land and Water Conservation I have witnessed and been greatly impressed by the work that you do, in both TCM and Landcare.

So, let me thank you for your past efforts and encourage you to keep up the good work.

Which brings me back to this Forum.

I believe that gatherings like this are essential - not only to discuss the important issues of the day and the challenges, but also to recharge your batteries, so to speak - to find out what others are doing, learn some new skills, brush up on some old ones, and make some new contacts.

Of course, regional forums have an important role too and I would encourage you to continue to support those types of gatherings.

But only through a Statewide forum such as this can you gain the broader perspective of TCM and Landcare - how it's working in other regions and what new opportunities there might be in your region.

So it gives me enormous pleasure to declare this 2nd Landcare/TCM Grassroots Forum open and to wish you well in your discussions and networking over these 2 days.

Thank you.

TCM/Landcare and Regionalisation

Paul Trevethan, Chairman, State Catchment Management Coordinating Committee

Session Objectives:

To clarify the connection between landcare and TCM in the regionalisation process.

I wish to begin by looking back at the past two years since the last Landcare/TCM Forum and briefly outline the changes that have occurred:

- TCM now covers all of NSW, the last committees being appointed in the Sydney region
- Introduction of Natural Heritage Trust - considerable injection of funding; wide range of programs
- Regional Strategy Development, submission and delivery of Regional funding proposals - 13 Regions in NSW in 1998
- Changed SAP structure - leaner, with cross sectional representation, regional strategies etc
- Advent of water and vegetation reform in NSW
- The TCM Review, outcomes announced by Minister Amery December 1997
- An increasing range of acronyms to add to our operational vernacular: CMCs/CMTs, RO's, RCCC's, RCCs, RAPs, TAPs, Unreg RMCs, Reg RMCs, Groundwater MCs, VMCs. All of the above have left many of us in a state of confusion as to who is responsible for what, who should be reporting to whom, and where each committee sits relative to the others. It pleases me that the Minister has recognised this and has encouraged us to look at alternative models than those which currently exist.

We (SCMCC) have received feedback that many changes have been positive whilst concerns about the changes from others. Whilst we can accommodate many of the suggestions for improvements, it is difficult to include all as some are diametrically opposed and others wish to return to the good old days. Perhaps the most pleasing accolades have come from those involved in the system for some time and have made suggestions for improvements in the past.

At this point I would like to dwell on the subject of CHANGE.

I hope that my comments will not be taken out of context. There are certain agendas such as globalisation, competition (with or without policy), re-sizing, uneven international playing fields and regionalisation, which are going to be difficult to reverse and any attempt to do so may be impractical and unwise. Individuals may choose to step aside from the system but societies and communities will be left behind. I do not think this is an option.

The pace of change is something with which we will have to come to grips. Some of you will know the story about the top man in IBM who travelled with airline executives from New York to London to be guest speaker at their conference. He pointed out that 25 years ago he had flown with 350 people in a Jumbo carrying 350 people and that morning with the same number of people and hours. If the airline had undergone the same rate of change as that experienced in the computer industry, his mode of transport would have carried 2 million people with a flight duration of four and a half minutes!!!! The computer industry may be an extreme example but change is inevitable.

So, for us the issues at the macro-scale are:

- What changes should we make
- How quickly should the agreed changes be implemented

I should stress that the following ideas are basically my own and have not been formally submitted to SCMCC for endorsement. During the time of my Chairmanship of the State Committee, I have chosen to push the barriers in the belief that the present system could be improved (many of you will agree with that). In doing so I have:

- Listened to comments made at past CMC/T Chairman's meetings; read letters forwarded to the TCM Secretariat; observed activities of many Landcare groups; spoken with several State and

Commonwealth Ministers and State Shadow Ministers with responsibilities for resource management; with respective presidents of Local Government and Shires Association; and with Director Generals of many of the resource related agencies

Despite this I am quite prepared to concede that I am not the sole repository of knowledge for better resource management systems. What I am saying to you in all seriousness is that:

- the system could be improved; there is a model which may be workable - which to work effectively it is likely that we will have to change the ways that we do business; you should be a part of the change process; not all suggestions can be accommodated.

My suggested timeline is one of about six months of discussion, during which there would be no major adjustments, followed by possible implementation.

So let us take a glimpse of the possibilities.

Now to some lines on maps. In my experience people like to know what the boundaries are:

- CMC and CMT boundaries in NSW - 45 based on water catchments - but how large is a catchment, how long is the associated river, and how much water flows down it?; not always entire catchment - Murray River and Sydney Region
- Regions for funding purposes - 13
- Are there any other types of boundaries that may be considered?
- Interim Biogeographical Regional Areas (IBRA) regions representing vegetation types
- local government areas - in any voluntary adjustment of LG boundaries consideration of the natural environment, might be the missing link for which we've been looking
- Identity with landscape - people refer to themselves as coming from the Monaro, the Riverina etc; we may be able to take some lessons on a sense of human interaction with the landscape from aboriginals - map of tribal boundaries
- apart from geographical boundaries there are organisational or institutional changes which could be made in the interests of better integration (Figure 1):
 - whole of government approach
 - State: a peak body operating at the same level as existing bodies - SCMCC, Coastal Council, NVAC etc with a sub-committee structure: issues, policy, funding and marketing
 - Regional - 13-15 regional bodies with a sub-committee structure as for State level
 - Local - landholders/landusers and community groups

I purposefully make this diagram generic to indicate a degree of flexibility in its interpretation (refer to page 13). Landcare would be represented at all levels up to and including the peak body. As can vegetation and water reforms be integrated at all levels. Likewise for CMC members anxious about their place in the new structure, there would still be opportunities to contribute at all levels in the structure.

What would be the status of the present 46 CMCs under a new structure? Would they need to be constituted under the Catchment Management Act or formed as sub-committees of the regional body (renamed the Catchment Management Committee), and renamed Community Reference Committees? The present Act could therefore be entirely relevant without change.

Issues

- What involvement would there be for current CMC members? Surely most would be able to contribute to vegetation or water management or community reference committees?
- Will there be a loss of local ownership of resource management?
- What will future relationship be between Landcare groups and CMCs?
- How do we reconcile the difference between geographic scales and population densities?
- Will feelings of worth be diminished?
- What will be the effect on the ability to attract funds to a CMC area?
- Will our access to facilitators and other resource mechanisms be diminished?
- What will be the effect on payment of sitting fees?

Disadvantages

This represents another change in a world which is already overburdened with change.

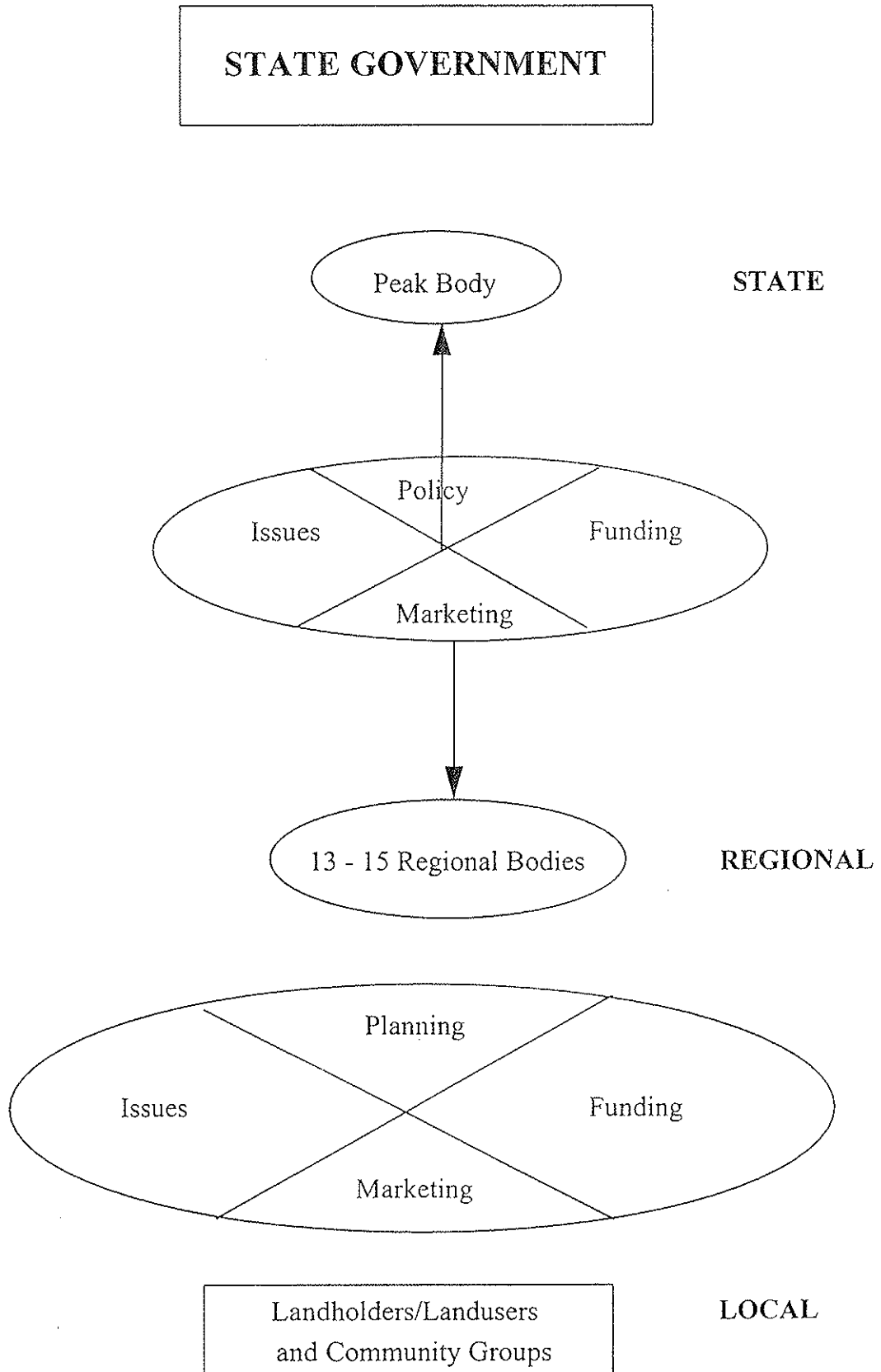
Advantages

- Will provide a framework for natural resource decision making on a regional basis - some planning has to occur at a scale smaller than the State level but larger than LG level
- Will provide the rationale for bringing water and vegetation reform processes under TCM framework, and enable future resource reforms to be considered under the TCM umbrella
- Will provide greater geographic equity between regions than that which presently exists
- Will go some way to answering questions about efficient use of funding for administration
- Enables a more meaningful relationship to be developed between catchment management and local or regional government
- Addresses the issue of proliferation of many committees
- Addresses the issue of integrated resource planning

Well there is something to think about. I look forward to engaging with you in fruitful discussion that will lead us to reviewing the situation at the next Landcare/TCM Forum in the year 2000 and being able to say that we made it happen and that we are the world leaders in community, government partnership arrangements in natural resource management.

(Edited by the Editor, from the original presentation which was circulated to all CMCs and Landcare Coordinators in NSW)

Figure 1. Proposed Structure for Natural Resource Management in New South Wales



Urban TCM and Landcare

Peter Wells, Chair Hacking River CMC

Session Objectives:

- To establish the *values* of the environmental asset and the *threatening processes* that exist in urban areas
- To demonstrate the *challenges* that exist in urban areas
- To demonstrate how *TCM solutions* are operating in urban areas
- To describe the main features of *Urban Landcare*.

INTRODUCTION

Key Concepts :

- the highly urbanised areas in the state have unique and important environmental values.
- A number of unique challenges and situations exist in the urban areas which make NREM different.
- TCM and Landcare have been adapted to suit these unique situations.

Demographics- Sydney Metropolitan region

- Area: approx. 12,000 km² (ABS, 1997);
- Population: approx. 3.934 million (ABS, 1997); Population Density: approx. 328 people per km².

1. VALUES

Economic Values

- Most popular tourist destination in the world - at least \$30m/year from international & slightly more from domestic; figures expect to increase dramatically - Sydney Olympic Games in 2000.
- local commercial fisheries > \$1.5 million, recreational fisheries >\$500,000 - 1995-96.
- largest maritime container terminal (one of world's largest natural harbours) & largest airport for import and export activity, international/domestic travel in Australia; major state train/road transport centre.

Environmental Values

- 86 km of ocean shoreline, 340km of estuary frontage, 38 ocean beaches, four drowned river valley estuaries & four coastal lagoons; 11 National Parks, 5 Regional Parks, and 6 Nature Reserves.
- Sydney is one of the most biodiverse cities in the world - extensive remnant bushland that needs to be protected and managed.

* **Flora**

- * >34 native vegetation communities(*Greenweb-Sydney, 1998*); approx. 1,500 plant species within 150km of Sydney CBD (18 vulnerable & 8 endangered spp); new species being discovered, eg Wollemi Pine; endangered vegetation communities (2) (*Sydney Coastal Councils, 1998*)

* **Fauna**

- * high biodiversity/wide habitat diversity even in residential areas (7 spp skinks & 5 spp parrots found in Sydney's urban backyards). A number of vulnerable and endangered populations/communities rep. (*Sydney Coastal Councils, 1998*). Includes Koalas at Campbelltown, Eastern Quoll in Belrose; 3 spp Frogs Vulnerable, 1 spp Endangered; 2 spp Turtle Vulnerable; 43 spp Birds Vulnerable, 9 spp Endangered; 15 spp Mammals Vulnerable, 2 Endangered.

Social Values (4m people culturally & ethnically diverse)

- High social demand of some areas within the region indicate high social value, which needs to be well managed for present and future generations - includes beaches, harbour, parks & reserves; Botanic Gardens, Taronga Zoo & Museums - all very high visitor use, highly impacted as a result.

2. ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS

Two most important issues of concern to the public (EPA, 1997 Who Cares About the Environment ?)

1. water pollution and water quality (35%)
2. air pollution (24%)

- **Water - stormwater (which transports pollutants); sewer overflows** - est cost of \$2 billion to upgrade current system to meet basic environmental standards; other problems include changes in creek flows; algal blooms; fish kills; obstructions to river flow eg weirs; changes to natural flood regimes.
- **Land** - urban sprawl; **weed infestation/bushland degradation/loss of habitat**; loss of species; feral animals; erosion & sedimentation; over use of resources; contaminated lands; chemical spills; increased soil moisture levels; altered fire regimes; high concentration of industries; intensely degraded sites.
- **Air pollution** (400/ yr die from air pollution, increasing no.s of children with raised lead levels).

3. CHALLENGES

Communication

- Large population; large non-English speaking community; lack of knowledge about TCM and environmental issues/causes - (less knowledge than that of rural areas; differences in cultural & community values - in 1997 Who cares.. only 15% of Sydney respondents fell into the pro-ecological category (rural areas 25%)).

Administration

- Many administrative bodies in Sydney Harbour alone. Recognise the importance of Local Government as the major land owner and manager in urban catchments.

Urban Pressures

- Catchments are highly urbanised (averaging 50 - 90 %) & industrialised; this is the cause of many problems and not easy to address.

4. TCM SOLUTIONS

Communication - developing community awareness and understanding

- Promotion and marketing - includes signage/drain stencils; written material in different languages; newsletters; web pages; community display days.
- Community forums & public meetings; presentations to community associations.
- Education networks - visiting schools; universities; promoting Streamwatch & other education programs; develop information resources.

Examples - Community Contract - Hacking/Berowra/Sydney Northern Beaches CMC; library information package and display tour - Lane Cove CMC; 'Bushfriendly Backyards' Video - Middle Harbour; educational video - Cooks River CMC.

Administration - the development of strong links with local government, and the establishment of partnerships with all levels of government

Examples - Lane Cove River CMC - standard catchment wide Sediment control policies & brochures and Berowra CMC - Statement of Joint Intent; Hacking CMC - Community Contract; development of standard noxious weeds lists across councils in catchment - Cowan CMC - NPWS assisted weed targeting programs all facilitating the development of Stormwater Management Plans.

Urban Pressures - increasing the understanding of these pressures and the development of a coordinated approach to solving them

Examples - pollution source inventories; bushland & water quality inventories; community water quality research projects; funding a review of SEPP 19 (Urban Bushland Policy).

5. URBAN LANDCARE / BUSHCARE/ COASTCARE

A very strong and active movement in Sydney, more frequently referred to as Bushcare than Landcare. Large numbers of volunteers involved across Sydney - 1994/5 study (Rees/Smith) 468 groups; 4, 787 volunteers 93,732 hours of work, commercially valued at \$2m. Most groups have formed in the last 5-10 years.

Majority of work tends to involve working on **PUBLIC** land, for general community benefit.

Local Government key player in Landcare/Bushcare, in association with metropolitan National Parks:

- 77% of councils with bushland in 1994 managing such programs; often as landowner or nominated manager: can provide; training, supervision, tools, tubestock, herbicide and site management. Many employ contractors to undertake work on more difficult or inaccessible sites.

BUSH REGENERATION developed only 25 years ago - techniques fairly new & still evolving.

Challenges:

- difficult to get people to work on public land, entirely for public benefit.
- often small groups, isolated from main community- have difficulty in raising additional funds.
- difficult to establish care groups in areas without large areas of remnant vegetation, or in newly developed suburbs, as difficult to establish the connection between community and environment.
- need to develop better links between groups in a catchment & develop a more regionalised focus to projects. Cross council and cross catchment NETWORKS are just starting to establish.

CONCLUSIONS

An important part of achieving a commitment to TCM is by getting the community involved in the TCM structure in the areas they are closest to, and by increasing their awareness of the holistic nature of the environment, and their real connection to it. This is the role Urban CMCs play.

While Urban-based CMCs have different problems and different needs to Rural-based CMCs, there are differences between CMCs everywhere. One of the fundamental benefits of the TCM approach is that it allows the development of flexible and adaptable solutions to suit specific situation. There are some differences in the challenges faced and solutions required that stand out between Rural and Urban CMCs - however what stands out is the many commonalities, and the role all CMCs have in supporting the development and expansion of TCM across the whole state.

There is a need to share information and solutions across the board, as all CMCs have lessons that can be shared with others, regardless of differences in location. It is important that we present a common front to the community and politicians. To do so we need to increase our understanding of the range of issues dealt with by CMCs, and of the many forms TCM takes across the state. We can then achieve a more unified and cooperative approach across the state, by better representing each other, and most importantly by making TCM more representative.

(Edited from the original presentation)

Workshops (Home Groups) - Future Directions of TCM and Landcare

Session Objectives:

- *To enable participants to workshop all their thoughts on future directions of landcare and TCM*
- *To help participants develop focus questions for the open forum session.*

The home groups were designed to help participants have their say. The following list represents the most numerous issues raised in home groups:

Opportunities for Landcare/TCM to and Beyond 2000

Home Groups' Summary put forward for discussion by the Panel during the Open Forum:

Most important

1. Lack of long term commitment (Government) post 2000.
2. Maintaining grassroots control and motivation/self sufficiency.
3. Long term funding
 - national levy/cost sharing
 - streamline funding/sponsorship.
4. Communication - developing links and support; project reporting/feedback between CMCs and Landcare.
5. Involvement in Water and Vegetation Reforms - understanding.

Other Important Opportunities

- Olympics
- Carbon credits
- Maintaining landcare ethic
- Landcare image
- Landcare integral part of life -receives resources as any other essential social service
- Insufficient understanding of big picture
- Ecological Sustainable Development (ESD) - social, economic, environment and community
- Regionalisation
- Increase participation of local government
- Reversal of rural decline and urban drift
- Maintaining of Landcare/TCM support staff.
- Training to develop community (CMCs)
- Professional development→ career path

Skills Development Sessions

Skills development sessions were conducted concurrently with the field trips. Participants had a choice of either attending 2 skills sessions or one field trip in the afternoon.

Session Presenters' Facilitators / 'Minders'

A special thanks is extended to those persons who assisted presenters to locate their venue, set up and facilitate the session. This was an invaluable task that ensured the smooth functioning of these sessions. A very special thanks to Michelle Higgins, former Bathurst Orange Landcare Coordinator, and Lyn Gough, Orange City Council, who organised and led the Emu Swamp and Blackmans Swamp trips, respectively.

a. Field Trips

Session Objective:

To focus on local landcare group plans.

Two field trips to view local landcare group projects were well supported, with over 50% of participants attending.

Blackmans Swamp Creek Landcare Group (Orange)

Leader: Lyn Gough, Orange City Council

Moulder Park, also known as Blackman's Swamp, is one of Orange's best known and most frequently used parks. The parkland and creek cover an area of approximately six city blocks, and include many sporting facilities and passive recreation areas.

The formation of the Blackman's Swamp Landcare Group, on 27th March 1994, evolved from two public meetings called by Orange City Council to discuss the planning and development of the areas adjoining Blackman's Swamp Creek from Anson Street to Woodward Street. Community concern about the deterioration of the creek and park also facilitated this action.

The main aim of the group is to encourage community education, awareness and a realisation that the community owns the creek and so it is their responsibility.

Co-operation has been given to the Landcare Group by Orange City Council (who originally allocated \$15,000 for creek improvements and appointed a gardener), and through Landcare by the Bathurst Orange Landcare Coordinator. Community awareness of the group has been strengthened through publicity in the local newspaper, radio and television coverage. At present the members of the group number 47 and has been successful in its monitoring and controlling of pollution of the creek. The Group is currently coordinating the water monitoring of the creek by Group members and school students of Orange through the "Waterwatch" program of NSW Department of Land and Water Conservation.

The group recognised the following problems:

- Vandalism; water pollution; lack of habitat for native birds; water quality; sparsity of native plants; willows blocking the creek – contamination.

The Group has had suggestions and involvement in:

- the removal of the Council nursery
- improvement in habitat for birds – approximately 2000 native trees and shrubs have been planted
- planning of parking around the pool

- control of vandalism
- water quality – testing by the local schools and community
- improvements in sewerage pollution in heavy rain or floods
- willow removal and control by the Council
- the principle of stewardship by residents and users of the park
- the placement of National Parks and Wildlife signs in the park
- erosion control.

Emu Swamp Landcare Group

Leader: Michelle Higgins, former Bathurst Orange Landcare Coordinator

Background Established on 25th August 1993, the group primarily consisted of prime lamb producers from the villages of Lucknow, Byng and Emu Swamp. The group was established to deal with “issues affecting the farm environment, native tree decline and resulting soil degradation”. These issues soon included “feral animal control gully erosion and native pasture decline”, all but one due to agricultural practices employed over the past decades.

In February 1994 the “major aim of the group was to create a sustainable system of agriculture which would see the group through the generations rather than pursue ‘quick fix’ methods. (Chris Blunt, Central Western Daily, February 1994).

Initial assessment In 1995 three areas were chosen for assessment: land use, soil type and conservation categories, and an area of erosion through:

- a number of on ground workshops; researching local information and maps; field days; assistance from the Landcare Coordinator; technical advice from departmental officers.

The current project By March 1997 ensuring the movement of wildlife and the survival of bush throughout the catchment had been incorporated into the aim/need for sustainable agricultural practices.

The group applied for a grant of \$116,189 (1996-1999) through the National Landcare Program for “Emu Swamp/Koori Landcare bush regeneration wildlife corridor project”. The aim to create wildlife corridors by fencing and linking remnant bush pockets (2.2% of total group area) and other remaining scattered vegetation. Incorporating the Orange Koori Land reserve (80 acres) which will be regenerated for bush foods, medicines and cultural education. The National Parks and Wildlife Service regard this project as having high conservation value with 2 Schedule 12 species (platypus and tiger quolls) in the area.

Planning

- Whole of group participation philosophy
- As well as group “on ground works” planning, there has been a huge onus on the individual landholder to plan
- The group has resourced a number of mediums for their planning research
- Identification of future land management needs
- Vital role of landcare coordinator
- Optimisation of the number of opportunities available

Future activities

Conduct of Phase 2 - repair eroded drainage lines and watercourses to enhance wildlife corridors; Property Planning Workshops; annual fox/cat baiting; participation/recognition activities; production of a video.

b. Skills Development

Session Objective:

To provide participants with a range of levels of skills, to assist their function in a landcare, Catchment Management Committee or other group.

The following sessions (1 hour) were run concurrently over 2 hours and well attended:

Media Skills

- Writing a Press Release - Astrid Turner, LM Communications
- Giving an Interview - Bruce Reynolds, ABC Radio Orange
- How to be an Effective Lobbyist - Public Interest Advocacy Centre
- Internet Homepage Design - OCTEC Incorporated Orange

Project Management

- Project Reporting - Richard Harriman, DLWC Funding Branch
- Effective Meeting Skills - Michael Kneipp, DLWC Staff Training Centre Wellington
- Financial Management - Jo-Anne Budrikis, B.FA, I.C.A.
- Conflict Resolution - Robyn Anderson, Orange

Sponsorship

- Fundraising for Groups - Jenny Quealy, NSW Landcare Marketing Coordinator
- Marketing and Raising Your Profile - Pamela Chalmers, Clean Up Australia
- Sponsorship - Brian Scarsbrick, Chief Executive Officer, Landcare Australia Limited

(Handouts and notes for these sessions are not included in the proceedings.)

Landcare Forum Marketplace

Introduced by BHP

The purpose of the Marketplace was to showcase supporters, sponsors, partners and service providers who work with landcare and TCM in NSW. The demand for spaces in the Marketplace was extremely high, with all available booth and wall space booked. These groups were all keen to showcase their products and services, and to network with the Forum's participants.

Forum participants were able to access the stalls, displays and staff of these supportive organisations, at times when other Program events did not interest them, because the Marketplace was open throughout the Forum. The Greening Australia Bookshop was particularly popular.

Marketplace sponsors and partners contributed funding or other resources. The Major Sponsors enjoyed prime positions in the main hall, able to be viewed throughout the Forum by all the Forum participants. Marketplace contributions allowed the coordinator to create a consistent style and professional Forum space.

The Marketplace was allocated a dedicated part of the Program - to allow participants to network with the Marketplace sponsors and partners. But an unusually vigorous debate, in the previous section, ran over time into the Marketplace section of the Program. This was not rescheduled and was a definite disappointment - for both those displaying and those seeking to gather information and contacts through the Marketplace.

Sponsorship raised through the Marketplace allowed booth display headers for each NREM region to be produced, which representatives from each region took away with them, to use in other regional forums.

Venue-size constraints and a 'full house' of participants combined to create a little discomfort. A little more space around some of the booths would have allowed for easier movement around the main hall.

Thankyou to all the Marketplace partners, in this first for landcare and TCM. We hope you are encouraged by the 1998 function to have a presence at the 2000 Forum in Parkes, in Central Western NSW.

Jenny Quealy
Marketplace coordinator.

Marketplace partners \$1,000 - \$1,500:

- SCMCC agency members:
 1. State Forests
 2. National Parks and Wildlife Service
 3. NSW Fisheries
 4. NSW Agriculture
 5. Department of Urban Affairs and Planning
 6. Environment Protection Authority
- Orange City Council
- BHP
- Hassalls and Associates
- NSW Agriculture Water SubProgram
- Acid Soil Action
- Salt Action Taskforce
- TAFE NSW Western Region
- CB Alexander Agricultural College "Tocal"
- Hazelton Airline
- NSW Farmers Association
- Law Foundation of NSW

Best Management Practice Sessions

Session Objective:

To showcase current, new and innovative projects and activities being conducted by TCM and landcare 'best management practitioners'.

Twelve (20 minute) presentations were run over three sessions, so that participants had the chance to select 3 different sessions. Summaries of these presentations follow:

Dune Care

Ruth Readford, Convenor, State Dune Care Conference

Dune Care is a community-based movement directed at the restoration of dunes and associated areas along our coast - on the public estate. It has been alive and well in NSW for over a decade. One or two groups have been in action for fifteen years.

There are groups working from the Queensland border to the Far South Coast. Dune carers work on a regular basis at some sites - perhaps a day a week, with some being found working seven days a week on land owned by the Shire, the Council, or the Crown!! And only occasionally improving the value of their own property by enhancing the visual amenity of the area and, shame! enlarging their view of the sea!

They are motivated by a desire to improve public access to the beaches, replace invasive exotic species of flora with site specific native plants and improve habitat on the land between the ocean and parklands or adjacent residential areas.

Many dune carers who have acquired a great deal of experience and expertise are now willing to assist with setting out best practice protocols and guidelines for dune care:

- for the establishment of new groups and continuing activities of established groups, agreed to by, not only the dune carers, but also the land manager for the coastal area in question
- permission to proceed with the project
- registration
- direction, from appropriate agency/ies on the best practice in dune vegetation and regeneration techniques
- community consultation
- agreement on the territorial rights and responsibilities of neighbouring groups
- insurance, liability and incorporation.

We hope that these and any other problems can be solved so that dune carers can get back to what they do best - caring for the dunes and enhancing the already beautiful coastline following best work practice.

There are three very important issues to be addressed as Dune Care moves towards 2000:

- recruitment of dune care and other coast care groups, many of which tend to have become the prerogative of an ageing section of the community
- devising schemes for maintenance and sustainability of vegetation in the areas where so much has been done, and
- continued education for beach users, for young folk in the schools and for the general public in the wider community.

Macleay Catchment Management Committee Community Resource Management Planning Process

David Anderton, Macleay Catchment Planner

ABSTRACT/NOVEL ASPECTS OF THE PROCESS

The Macleay Community Resource Management Plan has been designed to address the shortcomings that have plagued catchment plans and strategic plans since they first started being developed 6-7 years ago. These plans have been "written" documents rather than action oriented processes, and consequently have consistently failed to make the implementation step, ie to move from written objectives, goals, and actions to actual outcomes.

The Macleay Community Resource Management Plan is achieving this quickly and cheaply by networking with, and understanding the planning, budgetary and legislative position of local council and state government agencies within the catchment, then obtaining good ideas from catchment residents about their local area, and plugging these ideas into the work plans of the relevant implementing organisation.

WHAT DO WE HOPE TO ACHIEVE?

Short Term Products

- list of resource management issues in each of 20 sub-catchments
- list of resource management actions as proposed by sub-catchments residents via a 1800 number, mail survey and public meeting consultation process
- provide communities with contacts on who is doing what
- provide an opportunity for neighbours to come together and where appropriate form local organisations to solve local problems

Long Term Objectives

- Macleay CMC better able to attract and direct resources to local problems because it has a better understanding of the context of those problems based on evidence elicited from landholders and interest groups, and therefore more community support for the solutions
- subcatchment communities have the opportunity to come together, organise and develop suitable management plans that provide local solutions to local problems
- agencies work plans more closely attuned to local issues
- local communities better understand their natural resources and the respective roles of government natural resource management agencies, and develop organisational skills.

HOW WILL WE DO IT?

- obtain local and state government agency commitment by initial consultation at regional and local level
- list and describe:
 1. all the programs operating in the catchment with names and contacts
 2. all the policies/plans affecting natural resource management in the catchment
- determine subcatchment boundaries, and
- design a public consultation process to facilitate local input (see Short Term Products)
- compile list of natural resource management actions & insert into organisations workplans
- establish a process for review and evaluation within the CMC.

WHY DO IT THIS WAY?

The process attempts to combine current thinking in 3 areas:

- community development
- adult learning, and
- agricultural extension.

The process is also informed by certain political theories about the nature of power in society (Anderton 1991), particularly rural communities.

Contact David Anderton for a Bibliography – (02) 6563 1212.

Shellharbour Rural Strategy: TCM and ESD in Action

Jane Caldwell, Coordinator, Illawarra CMC

Shellharbour local government area is located in the Illawarra, between Wollongong and Kiama. It has a long history as an agricultural area, with forests cleared and wetlands drained to provide suitable land. Dairying and beef cattle are the main activities, with mineral resource extraction (hard rock and sand) being the other significant industry on rural lands.

Shellharbour City Council initiated a review of its rural planning regulation in 1995. This came in response to calls by rural residents for a new management and planning framework - one that would address the potential conflicts between an expanding urban footprint and sustainable land use practices, including agriculture and mineral extraction.

During 1996, the Rural Lands Working Party was established and environmental information on rural lands was released. The Illawarra CMC was invited to join the Working Party and the committee's deputy chair at the time, a rural resident from Stockyard Mountain, took up this opportunity. Decisions on policy and the important components of the Strategy were thrashed out during 1996, with a workshop held early 1997 to draw together and produce a vision, key goals and objectives for the Rural Strategy.

It was at this point that the key principles of TCM, ESD and community involvement were adopted as the basis for decision making around land use planning. For the Illawarra CMC, this step was a crucial one as it has now laid the foundations for the more difficult stage of preparing a Local Environmental Plan and associated Development Control Plans. If we didn't get TCM incorporated at this level, it would be impossible to incorporate as we moved into more difficult planning.

The Rural Strategy was adopted by Council in June 1998 and work is progressing on the organisation of workshops to focus on rural settlement options, aboriginal and cultural heritage, mineral resources, natural hazards and catchment carrying capacities. This latter workshop is a joint project of the Illawarra CMC and council and will attempt to come to grips with setting limits to protect catchment health. Council's intent is to be able to assess development proposals in the context of their cumulative impact on catchment health, and if an appropriate measure is developed, the catchment carrying capacity.

Another key component of the strategy includes preparing "State of the Environment" reports for each catchment and linking this with criteria under which further population growth within the catchment will be permitted.

One of the upshots from the TCM Review was a call for CMCs to be more strategic in the way they respond to the myriad of tools and opportunities available to implement TCM. In urban and urbanising catchments like the Illawarra, getting TCM principles and some of the harder "practicalities" into regional or local environmental plans is surely one of the most strategic routes.

This is instalment one of the Shellharbour Rural Lands Strategy - by the next Grassroots Landcare/TCM Forum, I will be able to report on just how well we did with those "practicalities".

Wollondilly Phosphorus Action Campaign

Alice Gardiner, Wollondilly Catchment Management Committee, Goulburn

Alice provided a very informative presentation, with good tips on how to successfully conduct an awareness campaign:

WHO'S INVOLVED

Wollondilly Catchment Management Committee, Goulburn City Council, Mulwaree Shire Council, Wingecarribee Shire Council, Sydney Water Corporation, Department of Land and Water Conservation, Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Trust, Community.

AIMS

The success of the program can be attributed in a large part to the following:

- understood by all partners
- agreed to by all partners
- all partners need to be involved in formulating aims
- all partners to have actions
- achievable
- feedback
- referred to at all time
- clear and directly relate to outcomes

MARKETING

- themes - promotional material (see under activities)
- planning
- logo
- coordination
- delegation

ACTIVITIES

- calendar competition
- Scum School
- advertorials
- "Wolly" the platypus
- banners
- brochures
- main brochure
- posters
- rural booklet
- pens, badges, magnets

BENEFITS

- Rivercare 2000 award
- networks
- Landcare awards
- improvement to the environment
- knowledge gain.

Catchment Planning in the North West - An Overview

Michelle Holmes, North West Catchment Management Committee, Tamworth

The North West Catchment Management Committee (NWCRC) covers the catchments of the Namoi, Gwydir and Border Rivers (NSW side of the Macintyre) - an area of approximately 100 000 km².

It is a rich and diverse region which includes the fertile Liverpool Plains, cotton growing centred around the towns of Moree and Narrabri (and expanding), the vast Pilliga forest, the biggest poultry growing area outside of metropolitan Sydney, fine wool and fat lamb production on the Tablelands and areas for habitat and nature conservation including the Gingham wetlands west of Moree and National Parks.

As well as its natural wealth, however, the region has its share of natural resource management problems. This is basically what has driven the NWCRC's planning work.

The committee started planning in 1995 with the aim of preparing three catchment plans in three years! Almost four years on we're *close* to finishing two. What started out at a "frenetic" pace has been side tracked by many factors - some that we had accounted for, others we hadn't.

Regardless of this, the NWCRC are still seen by many as "leading the way" in planning on such a large scale; the Namoi is almost 42 000 km² and the Gwydir 26 000 km².

The questions that we have grappled with probably aren't that different to others involved in planning:

- Who to involve, how to involve them and when?
- What is strategic?
- What are the links between our plan and other "top down" ones?
- How to come up with a plan that reflects the diversity of land use, natural resource problems and social and economic constraints from the top to the bottom of a catchment?

After much thought and debate we think we've found the answers to some of these questions. Others are more difficult to solve. It has been a long process that, at times, has been incredibly frustrating. But it has also been tremendously rewarding.

We believe that one of our main future challenges is to ensure that our planning isn't overtaken by government driven processes like those related to vegetation and water. The strength in what we have done clearly comes from the fact that it is driven by the people who manage and know the land best - or to use jargon, "community consultation". The value of this cannot be underestimated.

However, we also see other committees set up with a similar purpose to ours as an opportunity. They can help to promote our cause and achieve things that, as a CMC, are beyond our reach.

When complete our three catchment plans will be the foundations for our Regional Investment Strategy. They will also be a reference point for other groups involved in planning, whether they be a River Management or Regional Vegetation Committee or a Landcare Group or Groups.

Given a commitment from government they will influence the allocation of time, money and people power to direct resources towards the geographic areas and problems that need it most.

At the end of the day we hope that our plans will be a means to ensure that the natural resources of the Macintyre, Gwydir and Namoi Rivers are managed and protected in a way that meets the economic, environmental and social needs of all living in the north west.

Lithgow Olympic Landcare Project

Sarah Shelley, Landcare Coordinator, Lithgow Oberon Landcare Association,

THE PROJECT

Part of an Australia wide project that will run for three years, with a 'Day of Action' in each state annually:

- Community 'Day of Action' and a separate Schools Day tree planting at Lake Lyell
- over 20,000 native trees and shrubs with up to 15,000 more planted by Green Corps teams along Farmers Creek to Lake Lyell
- over 1600 volunteers (as well as 700 school children on the schools Day of Action)
- national media coverage - assisted by Landcare Australia Ltd
- special 'Green Train' sponsored by State Rail bringing 700 volunteers from Sydney
- free lunch and entertainment by 'Mental as Anything'
- a celebration of Landcare for Lithgow Oberon Landcare Association, NSW, nationally
- local, State and Federal support

THE PROBLEMS

- funding from Olympic sponsors delayed
- Council owned land
- who's responsible?
- too much to do and not enough people to do it
- need much in-kind support

SOME SOLUTIONS to getting Council and other support

- Council representative on steering committee
- Give Council some ownership - financial managers, employ Coordinator
- Communication - presentations at Council meetings
- outline the benefits to them

COUNCIL'S COMMITMENTS

- approve site plan
- rip ground - preparation for planting
- provide machinery, chairs, trestles and equipment and assist with transport of items
- continual maintenance - water trees every 5 weeks
- close reserve for one day
- full support of the project

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

The steering committee comes from a diverse representation from the community and Landcare groups, Coxs River CMC, DLWC, Council and Landcare Australia Ltd. A detailed planning phase produced a comprehensive project timetable, with all tasks/areas identified against timelines, funds and performance indicators. This project management, together with the employment of a Coordinator has been critical to the success of the project. The task sheets and program/timetable are available to anyone who wishes to undertake a similar (large) project.

Western Catchment Regional Strategy

Jenny McLellan, Chair Western Catchment Management Committee

The Vision for the Western Catchment:

"Dynamic, viable communities and pastoral enterprises with a wide range of resource uses which support and sustain diverse natural and cultural values".

Statistics of the Western Catchment were given:

- 170 000 square kilometre which covers 20% of the Murray-Darling Basin
- 60 000 plus population
- main land uses grazing, grain, cotton, horticulture, mining, nature conservation and tourism
- varying land types in the soils
- high summer temperatures, winters varying from mild to extremely cold
- local economy is highly variable as productivity highly dependent on weather.

The development of the strategy commenced through 1996-97 with a review of Government Programs and projects through agencies and the TCM Needs Study undertaken by the Centre for Integrated Catchment Management - University of Western Sydney - Hawkesbury, for the Western and Lower Murray-Darling Catchment Committees. The Western CMC then undertook an Issues Audit where 15 priority issues were identified which were by no means exhaustive of issues in the region. These were then taken out to the community in workshops conducted by AACM International Pty Ltd - Adelaide through a Survey of Community Responses to Natural Resource Management Issues in the Western Catchment. Workshops were conducted at seven centres plus two additional aboriginal workshops to ensure a diverse cultural range of opinions were collated. This ensured the community endorsed the 15 Western CMC priority issues and added others. Then the Western Catchment Strategy planning began in earnest and was finally launched at Wilcannia on 31 October 1997. This site was chosen because it incorporated land, water and aboriginal culture.

From the Regional Strategy there has been a Land and Vegetation Action Plan, Water Action Plan and Community Awareness and Involvement Action Plan developed. Local people were involved from the start, and comprehensive community consultation confirmed support for the Strategy. It was based on recent research and strategic planning which will coordinate activities which effect present and future sustainability of the catchment. It will coordinate the activities of landholders, government and the broader community which affect natural resources based on communication and co-operation.

The Strategy will show how, by co-operating beyond property and town boundaries, people can manage total grazing pressure, restore native pastures and improve water quality and quantity both in surface water and ground water through opportunities to adapt and respond to change. It will also encourage resource and fund investment by landholders, residents, and Local, State and Commonwealth Governments through the Natural Heritage Trust and other programs or projects leading to sustainable resource management at this time of declining productivity and income and ecosystem change.

The Committee will use the Strategy when advising on investment in policies, programs and projects in the catchment that integrate sound and profitable property management and policies to improve the local environment. Also when determining funding recommendations through the Natural Heritage Trust, MD2001 and similar programs.

It will guide and assist to coordinate the West 2000, Rivercare, Landcare, Commonwealth and State programs such as the Great Artesian Basin program, NSW Water and Vegetation Reforms and Council of Australian Government (COAG) Reforms. It is a flexible, working dynamic document which will be reviewed from time to time and changed as necessary.

Schools From Southern Highlands And Landcare - Landcare Education Kit

Jan Howe TV Producer and Educationalist, Bowral

In this session the aims were to clarify:-

- A. Valid reasons for Landcare/TCM groups/individuals to make a video.
 - B. What is involved in making a video.
 - C. The reasons for the success of the joint Schools / Community / Council / Landcare environmental video project in the Southern Highlands (Wingecarribee Shire).
 - D. The ways communities can use the Landcare Education Kit, 'How To Record A Video On Landcare Issues' and the steps involved in making a video.
-
- A. It is important that video is the right medium for your message and that you are guaranteed of an audience. For example, a video that contains a history of the area will sell well, or a Landcare video showing the latest technique in dairy waste management will be screened at farmers' meetings or events, an information video for residents will be screened in the Council foyer.
 - B. Most community video projects don't succeed because groups:
 - have no appropriate audience to screen it,
 - don't do enough research and preparation,
 - don't have the skills to know how to put their message across on video,
 - underestimate the time, money and expertise required,
 - record too much footage and don't know how to edit it,
 - use unpaid workers who run out of energy,
 - record information on the video that is easily out dated,
 - get actors that are too inexperienced to sound natural.
 - C. The Southern Highlands videos were initiated by an environmental community group - Active Residence and Ratepayers Of Wingecarribee (ARROW), to raise the environmental awareness of the community in an area where farming and quality of life is threatened by the encroaching suburbia of Sydney. Council, government bodies, local community groups, individuals, businesses, Channel 10 and Channel 7 helped with the funding.
 - D. The Southern Highlands Videos were successful because the environmental community group (ARROW) used youth which gave them the following benefits:
 - Completion of research was guaranteed by the school administering student crews.
 - Youth were able to speak freely about local issues, whereas adults in small towns run into "politics".
 - Council wasn't threatened by youth criticism.
 - Youth attitudes changed as a result of their local research.
 - Local attitudes changed as a result of the student's questioning.
 - Youth and the locals featured in the videos, thus providing a captive audience.
 - Youth attracted funding. Council and other organisations were happy to fund a project that promoted rural youth and their potential media career opportunities.
 - One of the videos was used in a court case as an aid to a mining objection.
 - As a professional producer I was able to guide the students through the process.
 - E. The Landcare Education Kit was used to illustrate the process of 'How To Record A Video On Local Landcare Issues'. Each step was introduced with overheads and video excerpts. The Kit is full of cartoons and artwork by youth involved in the project and is divided into four easy to follow sections.

One hundred copies of the kit are to be distributed in the Wingecarribee Shire and surrounding area. We are currently seeking funding for 1,000 copies of the workbook to meet the demands for copies from schools and Landcare groups out of the region.

Cooperative Implementation of TCM by Hastings Council and the Hastings Camden Haven Catchment Management Committee

Roger Stanley, Coordinator Hastings Camden Haven Catchment Management Committee

Hastings Council and Hastings Camden Haven CMC are cooperating in the implementation of the TCM program in the catchment through a range of activities including:

- cross-membership with all 3 Council coastal/estuary/floodplain committees
- joint projects in the areas of water quality and vegetation management
- regular meeting between the Mayor, CMC Chair and Coordinator
- input to Council's Management Plan in respect of natural resource management issues
- allocation of part of Council's Environmental Levy to Landcare, Streamwatch and community awareness activities

Macquarie 2100

Helen Russ, Macquarie 2100 Planner, Trangie

Macquarie 2100 – A community environmental & economic plan for 100 years. A plan to change the landscape around us..... MUST change the internal landscape first !

Plans can be a great wad of paper that sits on a shelf and gets dusted off when a high school student needs some background material for a geography project; OR –

Planning can be Opportunity:

- **An empowerment tool**
- **Learning opportunity**

Planning can be an opportunity to learn a new way of operating, to learn how to learn, and to gain the confidence and competence to benefit from change. IF

- It is facilitated in a supportive environment where each **individual is valued for the wonderful talents & resources** they bring (even if you can't see what they are)
- We have an attitude of '**YES AND**' instead of 'yes but' ! (We build on ideas rather than arguing & discrediting something we don't entirely agree with)
- New ideas and directions are allowed to emerge from the participants
- The **process** of planning is the tool for change (not the plan itself)
- The plan is based on **values and principles** rather than strategies and actions
- **Go with the positive** (don't waste your time, energy & resources on fighting).

In environmental and community development we are moving towards making **fundamental changes** across the entire community, across the **entire landscape**.

Involvement - Any group of people who are looking to change, plan, improve ... anything, will succeed if they involve those who will be affected by the change in the planning process; in the design the development and the implementation. "Tell me & I'll forget, show me & I might remember, involve me & I'll understand" Unknown.

We must involve each person in the **process of planning**, so they gain the learning and development provided through the planning process.

We must see each person. Not as a group, or a collective, but as the individual with many facets and many roles. We must see them as valuable people: mother, painter, mechanic, farmer, and friend

Principles & Values A plan based on principles & values has the 'blueprint' which guides and directs participants when they come up against a new situation

Prioritising must come from the group. If no one who wants to work on an action – Leave it.

Culture - The final essential element is **shared experience**.

If Macquarie 2100 makes any difference, it will be because there are more local people empowered with confidence, competence and networks to enable them to create a better quality of life personally, environmentally, professionally and economically.

Take the **opportunity of the planning** process to create an **entity with spirit**, vision & a **culture based on values & principles** which support learning in the individual thus benefiting the whole. This entity can respond to the changes life will bring.

Nova anglica - the web of our endeavours

Leah McKinnon, Southern New England Landcare Coordinating Committee

This interactive session was presented by *Leah McKinnon*, the creator of the Nova anglica event. Nova anglica was an educational event that crossed many mediums and community groups - its achievements and successes have been widely recognised. To best demonstrate the impact of this event we have used, as a summary, one of the many stories/articles that have been written about it.

Community art a celebration of growing achievement

How can a community bridge the gap between rural landholders, academics, youth and urban dwellers, to demonstrate the common need to conserve and preserve native vegetation?

According to former regional Landcare facilitator, Kate Wright, you hold an art festival that celebrates the natural resource management achievements of community groups and attracts the interest of the broader local population.

Last year in Armidale, on the Northern Tablelands of NSW, town, gown and rural renown came together to attend a host of events, representing the importance of native vegetation conservation through the arts.

The project revolved around a major art exhibition at the New England Regional Art Museum (NERAM). Titled *Nova anglica - web of our endeavours*, the exhibition included works of art from school children through to graziers' personal writings, a giant map of wildlife corridors in the New England area, a Great Dinner Debate, Landcare tours, a school-targeted education program and a lecture evening featuring prominent author and scientist, Mary White.

Responsible for the creation of the event were local artists, Landcare groups, Greening Australia, Armidale Tree Group, Citizens Wildlife Corridors Project, local schools, the Department of Land and Water Conservation and the University of New England.

Kate explained the string of artful episodes which took place in March 1998 aimed to use art as an education tool. "Art gave us access to a much wider cross-section of society than traditional methods would," she said, adding that the title *Nova anglica* was chosen as it means New England - the name first used by the European settlers. It is also the Latin name assigned to three local endemic plant species.

According to Kate, *Nova anglica* managed to take out many "firsts" and was declared a great success.

"The event pulled the biggest crowd at an opening of an exhibition at NERAM, highest number of school students through an education program associated with a specific exhibition at NERAM, highest visitation at NERAM over a three week period for a specific art exhibition and full houses at the Great Dinner Debate and Mary White Supper Lecture," she reported.

Kate attributed the success of the art show to the participants' diverse backgrounds and interests, combined with the common goal of native vegetation management.

"*Nova anglica* was interactive and involved practical rehabilitation work on the creek behind NERAM as well as beautiful art works, the involvement of school children and performance art. But most importantly, it was fun, entertaining and educational," she concluded.

Article prepared by Kate Wright, State Landcare Coordinator, Department of Land and Water Conservation

Never Never Landcare Group - The Planning Process - A Community Experience

Julie Woodruffe, Never Never Landcare Group

The Never Never Catchment Group was formed in January 1995 as a result of a public meeting on the issue of river bank erosion on farms and rural residential holdings in the local area. Like many other community groups, the initial formation of this group was the direct result of a perceived need to find a specific solution to a specific problem.

After the initial community group establishment phase was complete, the 8 (then) landowner members engaged in a series of information gathering and mapping exercises with a Rivercare technical extension officer (Department of Land and Water Conservation). This informal series of riverwalks, workshops, field surveys etc over a period of 8 months led to the development of a basic riverplan for the group where all available information on subjects such as river geomorphology, hydrological processes and river ecology was noted.

From this information a strategy for restoring river bed and bank stability was developed - once again together with Rivercare technical extension advice. This strategy soon developed into a multifaceted project design including revegetation for erosion control, woody weed removal, river realignment works, in-stream structures (log walls, log sills and log groins), fencing of riparian zones from stock and associated alternative stock watering points, the development of a wildlife corridor in the revegetated sections of the riparian zones etc...etc..

This expansion from a single concern to the development of an integrated river ecology protection strategy required a further investment in the planning process. The larger property owners undertook a series of whole farm planning workshops through Farming for the Future and additional single issue workshops. As a result of this farm level planning, many farm and household practices which influence river ecology dynamics were examined and changes made. These changes include some specific targets, for example, effluent disposal (human and dairy) methods and generalised improvements such as vegetated buffer strips established along creek lines.

The group currently has 15 members who are responsible for 6 kilometres of Never Never River and over 1,000 hectares of land including voluntary stewardship for adjacent public land areas under State Forests and Bellingen Shire Council. This has meant that planning, once again, needed to be expanded. The Never Never Group is currently undertaking some catchment level planning on vegetation assessment. We are specifically looking at riparian wildlife corridor development within our own area and its relation to the vegetation of the whole Never Never catchment.

This planning has enabled us to see the relative importance of each vegetated remnant or regrowth area on our own individual properties and reconnect these remnant areas at a landscape scale, in our case by the development of riparian corridors. It has led to a more strategic approach to revegetation priorities and identified our need to better understand specific target fauna needs. Once again we need more information. In the interim we have designed, crafted and placed over 30 wildlife boxes within the vegetated areas of our riparian zone - and this has generated enormous interest from both within and outside the group - so I look forward to sharing the results of this experiment with you at the next opportunity!!