



## What's been happening?

The Monaro Landscape Connectivity Project has been very well received by land managers across the Monaro. Many have attended our workshops and participated in our site visits on their properties and are enthusiastic to implement actions available through the project.

Workshops have now been held in Bungendore/Captains Flat, Michelago and Cooma/Numeralla regions. Follow up site visits have been held following the workshops with up to three properties visited by our team on the one day where possible to keep things moving.

As there are many interested applicants we are in the process of having an independent assessment committee select which properties will be successful in receiving funding according to the project criterion.

The Traditional Land Management component of the project is opening many eyes and ears to past land management practices based on information Rod Mason, our Indigenous Land Management Facilitator, is imparting. A Traditional Land Management Practices feedback report is provided to each land manager after a visit.



*Rod Mason discussing traditional land management practices at a recent site visit*

## What's coming up?

### Land Manger Workshops

Come along to a land manager workshop, to learn about the MLC project and get an insight into our local native vegetation and how best to manage it on your property.

Upcoming workshops:

**Googong – Friday 26th October 2012**

**Adaminaby – Friday 9th November 2012**

**Nimmitabel – Date to be confirmed**

If you live in these areas and would be interested in attending, please contact Lauren van Dyke to register your interest: Ph: 0411 402 978 or [facilitator@k2c.org.au](mailto:facilitator@k2c.org.au)

### MLC Project property visits

If you live in the Monaro but cannot make it to any of the above workshops you can still be involved in the project - just contact Felicity Collins to register your interest:

Ph:(02) 64 524 150 or [felicity.collins@cma.nsw.gov.au](mailto:felicity.collins@cma.nsw.gov.au)

## Power of PlaceStories

Our first MLC PlaceStory is from Wendy Hodgman, a participating MLC project land manager from Captains Flat.

You can watch Wendy's PlaceStory by typing this link into your internet address bar: [ps3beta.com/story/23454](http://ps3beta.com/story/23454)

PlaceStories are digital stories, created using photos and voice recordings, to tell a short story about people and their property. PlaceStories is a very powerful visual tool and a great way to record on-ground efforts and landscape change.

If you are interesting in doing a PlaceStory please contact Sam Shannon on (02) 6933 1443 or email: [sshannon@murrumbidgeelandcare.asn.au](mailto:sshannon@murrumbidgeelandcare.asn.au)

## CAN COOL BURNS HELP CONTAIN TEA TREE THICKETS?

*The Traditional Land Management Practices Project is attempting to answer this question.*

A trial burn was recently performed across a small patch of native vegetation on a property in Carwoola where tea tree (*Kunzea ercoides*) also known as Burgan had spread consistently into a snow gum woodland patch.

Traditional Land Management Practices facilitator, Rod Mason, believes that the area requires a series of carefully planned cool burns to retrain the tea-tree growth back into a cluster or thicket habit and allow for other plants (particularly forbs such as the Yam Daisy) to proliferate. The process of burning Burgan will also allow nutrients locked within by the plants to be returned to benefit the soil

Prior to the burn Rainer Rehwinkel from the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage set up a transect in the patch to monitor the effects of the burn on vegetation over time. Baseline data was collected along the transect and photos taken from each end. Rainer explains that the Burgan tea tree is a known coloniser plant which can step in when areas have been impacted either by drought or overgrazing. It is also a plant enjoyed by small bush birds.



*RFS controlling burn around snow gums*

The landholder was agreeable to trial a series of burns and was interested to see what might lie under the Burgan canopy. The reduction in fuel load was another benefit in the lead up to what might be a hot summer.

The local Stony Creek Rural Fire Brigade provided essential support. There was a great deal of experience available with Tim Carroll, Lake George District Superintendent, along with other RFS crew on site. We greatly appreciate the effort put in by the RFS and look forward to working with them on the property for planned follow up burns.

## The MLC project

The MLC project aims to improve the condition, extent and connectivity of patches of native vegetation across the Monaro region, in the Murrumbidgee catchment. Interested land managers can:

- Come along to a land manager workshop, to learn about native vegetation and how best to manage it on your property,
- Receive a property management plan, with tips and suggestions specific to the management of native vegetation on your property,
- Be involved in the application of Indigenous land management practices on your property,
- Participate in recording details of your project using the digital PlaceStories program, and
- Apply for incentive funding, through an agreement with the Murrumbidgee CMA, to undertake activities such as fencing, strategic planting of native flora, and control of exotic plants.

For more information, including eligibility and other details, please contact the project team.

The MLC project is funded through the Australian Government's 'Caring For Our Country' program, and is being delivered through a partnership between Kosciuszko to Coast, Murrumbidgee Landcare Inc, and the Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority.

## Would you like more information?

If you have any questions about the MLC project, or would like to express your interest in becoming involved, please contact Felicity Collins - Catchment Officer, Murrumbidgee CMA:

Ph: (02) 64 524 150

Email: [felicity.collins@cma.nsw.gov.au](mailto:felicity.collins@cma.nsw.gov.au)