

The World's Rarest Eucalypt

Windellama is home to many plants that are rare in nature and amongst these is the rarest Eucalypt species on earth, *Eucalyptus recurva*.

Only discovered as recently as the late 1980's and also known as the Ice Age Gum or Mongarlowe Mallee it is believed to be a survivor from the last Ice Age.



Photo P. Alessi

Eucalyptus recurva

The largest of these plants which is in Windellama may be as old as 13,000 years which would make it the oldest known plant on earth. This species is a true Mallee, meaning it has many stems originating from an underground lignotuber (root ball) and is only a few metres high, the larger of the two Windellama specimens is about the size of an average room in your house and the other is a mere few stems that would be easy to walk right past without noticing.

There are only 5 known (3 plants in Braidwood and 2 in Windellama) and it is thought that those growing in the same stands are genetically identical, which lowers the genetic base for this species to 3, as we all know it takes two of anything to make viable offspring so *Eucalyptus recurva* is considered to be in great danger of extinction.

To reduce visitation pressure which causes trampling around them or the possibility of them being damaged by people taking cuttings their exact location is a closely guarded secret.

Around 10 years ago two community representatives from Windellama were chosen to be on the NPWS species recovery team for this plant and I was fortunate enough to be selected and so over the years we have visited the Windellama specimens on a number of occasions to check their health, discuss management issues and draft the now completed Species Recovery Plan.

Because of private property issues and NPWS wanting to keep the locations secret we did not visit the 3 Braidwood plants.

Before they were discovered there had been quite a few negative impacts caused to the Windellama plants as they appeared to have been struck by earthmoving equipment and then later on an inconsiderate Development Approval by Council allowed further serious damage to the area a few metres away from them.

Attempts to cross pollinate, grow from cuttings, seed or tissue culture have met with mixed results and the 5 wild specimens are still the key to survival of this species.

All known specimens of *Eucalyptus recurva* are on private property so please respect the rights of the land owners and the fragile existence of the World's Rarest Eucalypt and do not try and find them.

Eucalyptus recurva is also at the highest level of protection under Government legislation.



Photo C. Clarke

Eucalyptus recurva



Certificate III in Agriculture Distance Study through Goulburn Campus

This course will give you the practical skills and the underpinning knowledge to become a competent farm worker capable of working with minimum supervision on rural properties. The Certificate III in Agriculture is ideal for rural trainees and can be delivered flexibly with a mixture of TAFE based vocational training and concurrent workplace learning.

When and Where

To study the CIII Agriculture flexibly you will be required to have access to an agriculture workplace and attend six, three day block sessions, per year. You will be provided with theory notes and worksheets at the beginning of the term to be completed leading up to the block workshops. These workshops will be held at Goulburn Campus and a facilitator will be available at regional TAFE campuses at various times for student support and assessment.

Course structure can be modified to suit individual student circumstances. You must complete one compulsory and fifteen elective units of competency. The elective units can be chosen from a wide range of subject areas.

Compulsory Unit

Carry out workplace OH&S procedures

Elective Units may include

- | | |
|---|--|
| Maintain financial records* | Maintain livestock water supplies |
| Plan and construct conventional fencing | Identify and draft livestock |
| Plan and construct an electric fence | Implement livestock husbandry practices |
| Control weeds | Implement animal health control programs |
| Prepare and apply chemicals | Administer medication to animals |
| Transport handle & store chemicals | Provide feed for livestock |
| Establish pastures & crops | Operate tractors |
| Sample soils and analyse results | Operate ride on vehicles |
| Operate and maintain chainsaws | |

Background Studies

To successfully complete these modules you will also undertake background studies and practical projects in the following areas: Livestock Husbandry, Animal Nutrition, Soil Management, Plant Nutrition, Weed Recognition, Chemical User Accreditation.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

You can apply for recognition of your past and current experience/competence in the industry. You will be required to provide evidence of your industry experience and competence to be assessed for RPL.

Other Agriculture Courses available Full & Part Time

- Agriculture Diploma (2195) - Goulburn
- Organic Farming Diploma - Goulburn
- Wool Classing Certificate IV (1011) - Goulburn, Yass
- Organic Farming Certificate IV (653) - Goulburn
- Agriculture Certificate III (0797) - Goulburn, Moss Vale
- Rural Production studies (946) - Goulburn, Moss Vale

Contact: Rob Lance 48231890 & Jillian Atkinson 48231878 Goulburn, Yass
Glen Whitbread 48680153 Moss Vale

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Goulburn, Moss Vale, Queanbeyan & Yass

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- 2) *Horse Industry Practice Certificate III (7280) Goulburn
- 3) *Horse Industry Operations Certificate II (7276) Goulburn
- 4) Horse Industry Studies (7270) Goulburn, Queanbeyan, Moss Vale
- 4) *Racing Industry Studies - Harness (260) Goulburn

Conservation & Land Management

Contact: Rob Lance 48231890 Goulburn,
Glen Whitbread 48680153 Moss Vale

- 1) *Conservation and Land Management Diploma (8990) Goulburn
- 2) *Conservation & Land Management (Natural Area Restoration and Management) Certificate III (3496) Goulburn
- 3) Conservation and Land Management (General) 8770 Goulburn
- 4) Conservation and Land Management Studies (6414) Moss Vale

Agriculture

Contact: Rob Lance 48231890 Goulburn, Yass
Glen Whitbread Moss Vale 48680153

- 1) Agriculture Diploma (2195) Goulburn
- 2) Organic Farming Diploma (900) Goulburn
- 3) Wool Classing Certificate IV (1011) Goulburn, Yass
- 4) Organic Farming Certificate IV (884) Goulburn
- 5) *Agriculture Certificate III (0797) Goulburn, Moss Vale
- 6) Permaculture Certificate III (9371) Goulburn
- 7) Rural Production Studies – Sustainable Land Use (946) Moss Vale

Animal Studies

Contact: Jillian Atkinson 48231878 Goulburn, Moss Vale

- 1) *Companion Animal Services Certificate III (4289) Goulburn
- 2) *Animal Studies Certificate II (1045) Goulburn, Moss Vale

Horticulture

Contact: Rob Lance 48231890, Brian Faulkner 48231851

- 1) Horticulture Certificate III (1586) Goulburn
- 2) Horticulture Certificate II (1514) Goulburn, Moss Vale

*These courses can be studied flexibly.

Enrolments: Enrolling from January 30th 2009

Goulburn TAFE Campus, Cnr Verner & View St, 02 48231800

Moss Vale TAFE Campus, Kirkham St, 02 48680111

Queanbeyan TAFE Campus, Cnr Macquoid & Buttle St, 02 62991377

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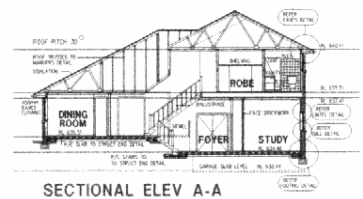
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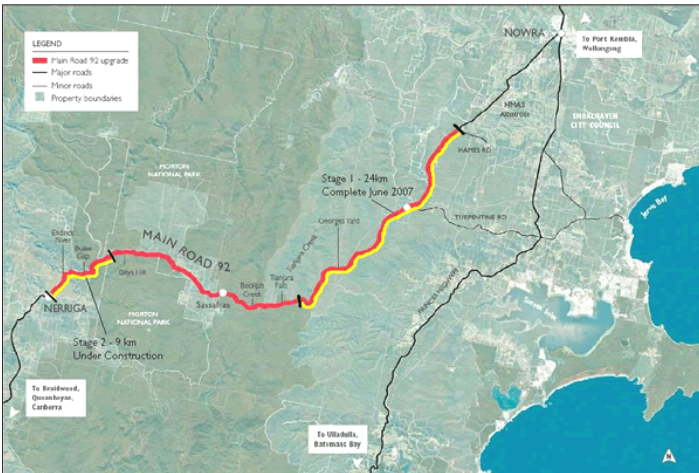
Contact our office 4822 4400

Road 92 Update

Nowra to Nerriga November 2008

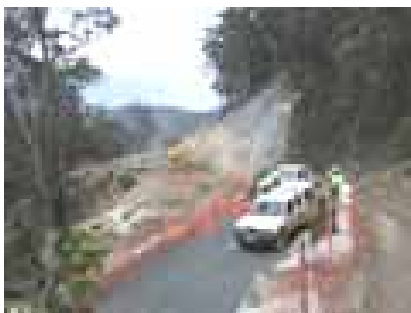
Stage one construction

The first stage of the \$80 million upgrade of Main Road 92, comprising the 24 kilometre section from Hames Road westerly to Morton National Park, has been open to traffic since May 2007 and the final bitumen seal of this section was completed in March this year.



Stage two construction

A \$22.5 million contract for the second stage of the upgrade, comprising the nine kilometre section from 44 kilometres west of Hames Road (near the Touga Road junction just east of the Bulee mountain area at Billy's Hill) to the village of Nerriga, was awarded to Nace Civil Engineering Pty Ltd in July 2007.



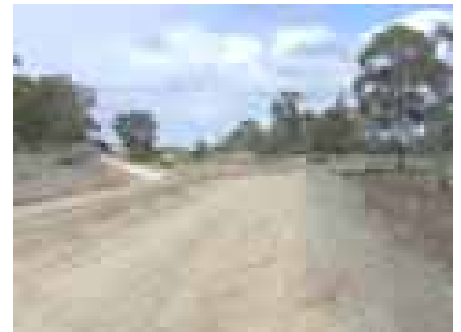
This stage includes major improvements, widening, realigning and sealing to the existing steep and narrow section from Bulee Gap to the Endrick River. The major earthworks and drainage structures are progressing well and traffic has been switched to the new alignment at Billy's Hill. The fauna underpass east of Endrick River Bridge and several of the retaining walls are now complete.

Construction of the new 60 metre, four span concrete Bulee Bridge is well advanced and

the first span of the concrete bridge deck was poured this month.



On the western side of the Endrick River the 5 km section towards Nerriga village is being reconstructed under traffic. Bitumen sealing of pavement works is anticipated to commence in this section by the end of this month, weather permitting.



Construction of Stage 2 is expected to be completed in mid 2009.

For all enquiries concerning operational matters relating to construction activities for this stage, please call the NACE Civil Engineering Pty Ltd site engineer, Clinton Woods on 0412 490 602, or the project supervisor, Bob Meins on 0412 464 866.

Stage three construction tendering

Tenders for upgrading and sealing the remaining 20 kilometre section from Tianjara to Billy's Hill closed on 27 August and are presently being assessed.

Changes to road conditions

Motorists are advised to drive carefully throughout the construction area and also on the remaining section of gravel road as the road conditions are variable. Particular care should be taken in wet weather as the unsealed sections of the road can be slippery and suitable only for 4WD vehicles.

For current road conditions visit www.rta.nsw.gov.au/trafficreports

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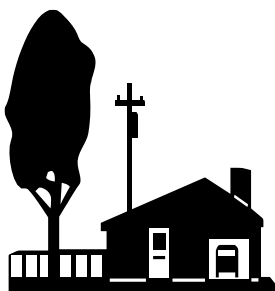
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Sandy Point Rd, Tarago - 100 acres with house. \$460,000
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Williams Drive, Tarago - 100 acres with house. \$349,000
Curra Lane, Tarago - 120 acres with weekender. \$550,000
Curra Lane, Tarago - 102 acres with house. \$405,000
Blakes Boulevarde, Bungonia - 25 acres with weekender. \$250,000
Claypitt Rd, Windellama - 100 acres with house. \$380,000
Coghill Rd, Tarago - 100 acres with weekender. \$325,000
Williams Drive, Tarago - 50 acres with weekender. \$198,000
Jerralong Rd, Windellama - 100 acres land only. \$165,000
Oallen Ford Rd, Windellama - 1800 acres with house. \$850,000
Wolgon Rd, Windellama - 100 acres with house. \$320,000
Oallen Ford Rd, Windellama - 100 acres with house. \$375,000
Parkwood Lane, Windellama - 100 acres land. \$145,000
Oallen Ford Rd, Windellama - 100 acres with house. \$350,000
Banksia Place, Bungonia - 25 acres with house. \$285,000
Wattle Place, Bungonia Heights - 25 acres land. \$139,000

*For more information
on any of the above properties
please contact me.*

FARM FORESTRY

USE OF DIRECT SEEDING FOR PLANTATION ESTABLISHMENT

One of the biggest problems facing landholders who wish to establish a farm forestry plantation is the upfront establishment costs. For a pine plantation, this can be in the region of \$1,200 to \$1,500 per hectare, and \$1,500 to \$1,800 per hectare for a hardwood plantation. The cost increase for a hardwood plantation is because the seedlings are more expensive.

A lower cost alternative for plantation establishment is to use direct seeding, that is the seed is sown directly into the ground rather than using established seedlings planted into rip lines. The advantages of direct seeding are:

- It is a lot cheaper, about \$500 per hectare.
- It is a lot quicker, a good planter will plant 1 to 1.5 hectares per day, and an operator undertaking direct seeding can establish 5 to 6 hectares per day.
- It is a two pass operation, the first pass is for weed control, the second pass to undertake the seeding. Planting seedlings requires three passes, site preparation, weed control and planting.
- A mixture of species can easily be planted, including understory species. A wide variety of seed mixes can be tailored to suit landholder's preferences.
- Direct seeding can be undertaken by the landholder, especially if they have a piece of apparatus such as the Hyles Hand Seeder.
- If the conditions are unsuitable, direct seeding can be delayed to another year. Using seedlings, the seedlings have to be sown in a nursery 8 to 9 months before planting.

The disadvantages of direct seeding are:

- Germination can be very variable, and can occur over three or more years depending on species.

- There is no guaranteed spacing between trees. Trees can germinate as close as 15 cms. from their nearest neighbour, or if germination is poor, gaps between trees can be quite wide.
- Because of variable germination, growth rates for direct seeded plantations are usually lower than plantations established using seedlings.
- There is more ongoing maintenance required with a direct seeded plantation to have a well managed plantation. An early thinning to remove excessive tree numbers will be required.
- Tree form in direct seeded plantations is usually poorer than plantations established using seedlings.

However, direct seeding should not be discounted as an establishment method for landholders on a limited budget who are willing to undertake ongoing maintenance, such as thinning, themselves. Some products, such as firewood and fence posts, may be available from early thinning of direct seeded plantations.

For further information, contact the Southern Tablelands Farm Forestry Network, stffn@bigpond.com.



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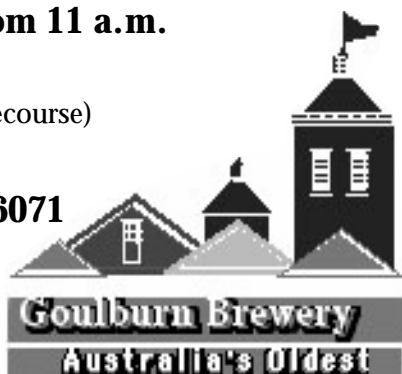
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Hello residents and ratepayers

Since settling in with the new team of councillors I have been to Broken Hill for the Local Government Conference. I went with Mayor Carol James, Deputy Mayor Bob Kirk and Cr Margaret O'Neil. Next year this conference will be held in Albury.

I have also attended the usual run of training and planning meetings necessary to bring a new council up to speed. Council meetings seem to be turning into marathon sessions of up to 5 and 6 hours or more with sometimes dubious outcomes.

However it was pleasant to attend a recent Southern Tablelands and South Coast Noxious Weeds Advisory Committee meeting in Queanbeyan and realise what a challenge it is controlling weeds and how fortunate we are to have many clever young people working in this field.

Alyssa Schembri, a NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) communications officer has been working on a weed awareness campaign No Space 4 Weeds which is to run for three years. This work can probably be accessed via www.dpi.nsw.gov.au

Our own Malcom Ross has been overseeing a Weed Warriors Program at Mulwaree High School and it has been so well received that the school wishes to continue it through 2009. There is also a strong move currently for a Serrated Tussock Executive Officer to be appointed for NSW by the NSW DPI as this weed now covers more than 1.1 million ha of South Eastern Australia and is estimated to have cost more than \$40 million in lost production. Serrated tussock has now adapted to a wide range of climates and soil types and is fast spreading into metropolitan areas.

By the time you read this Malcolm Ross and I will have attended the national launch of The Serrated Tussock Best Practice Management Manual so please contact me for information as to how to access this manual if it interests you. I believe it should be of special interest to everyone who has responsibility for land and weed management and I am also happy to

note that, at last, there may be some landholders finally being brought to account through the courts for failing to control their weeds.

On a happier note, I would like to thank all who supported my return to Council and I will continue to try to serve your interests over the next few years although I have to say that is becoming increasingly difficult to make sure the rural voice is heard among the "city-centric team"! To help me speak on your behalf, please keep me up to date with what is affecting you and keep inviting me to all your local gatherings and I will do my best to attend.

I wish you all a happy and safe Christmas with your families and I hope we all see improvements in 2009 across whatever issues and events affect our daily lives.

You can contact me on phone/fax 02 48494605 or email me at dasturgi@activ8.net.au

or post to 173 Willandra Lane, Tarago. 2580.

Cr Denzil Sturgiss

Weather Watch

16th Oct to 15th Nov



Adrook, Oallen Ford Road, Windellama

26.25ml / 6 days

Timberlight, Oallen Ford Road, Oallen

25.8ml / 9 days

Amaroo, Roberts Road, Windellama

23 ml / 4 days

Gar-den, Oallen Ford Rd, Windellama

23ml / 6 days

Johnno's Store, Oallen Ford Rd, Bungonia

16ml / 2 days

Tarkierelea, Fernleigh Close, Windellama

15 ml / 4 days

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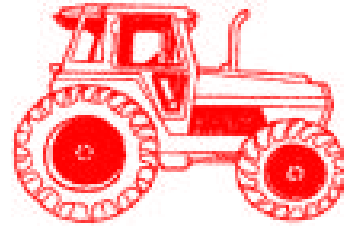
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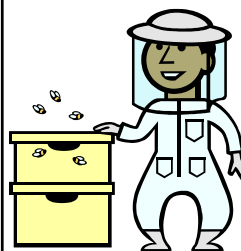
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