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.

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.

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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.
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 chain saws

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 (683) - Goulburn
Agriculture Certificate III (0797) - Goulburn, Moss Vale
Rural Production studies (946) – Goulburn, Moss Vale

Contact: Rob Lance 49231690 & Jillian Atkinson 49231678 Goulburn, Yass
Glen Whitbread 49080153 Moss Vale
Primary Industries & Natural Resources
2009 Courses
Goulburn, Moss Vale, Queanbeyan & Yass

Equine Studies
Contact: Jillian Atkinson 48231878 Goulburn, Queanbeyan, Moss Vale.
1) *Horse Industry Management Diploma (7300) Goulburn
2) *Horse Industry Practice Certificate III (7280) Goulburn
3) *Horse Industry Operations Certificate II (7278) 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 46660153
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
Yass TAFE Campus, Church St, 02 82261556
PSYCHOLOGY COUNSELLING FOR:

Grief & Loss – Personal / Marriage / Family issues
Mediation & Conflict Resolution
is now provided to the Windellama and neighbouring communities,
by local Psychology Counsellor,
Fayez Ramzy Nour, J.P.,
who will be available on Saturdays,
between 9am-12noon
at Roberts Road, Oallen

Appointments for private & confidential consultation/counselling
are made by prior arrangement with Fayez on 0414 616 960

This service may be provided at no cost to you

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Contact our office 4822 4400
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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Properties For Sale Around Windellama

Cullulla Rd, Tarago - 100 acres with weekender. $325,000
Sandy Point Rd, Tarago - 100 acres with house. $460,000
Sandy Point Rd, Windellama - 2000 acres subdivision. POA
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 is 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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Nerrimunga Creek Road, Windellama
Hello residents and ratepayers  
Since settling in with the new team of council- 
lores 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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