

CASE STUDY

WRITTEN & RESEARCHED BY
Renae Riviere
Regional Manager
CVA's Illawarra and Shoalhaven

121 FOUNTAINDALE ROAD, JAMBEROO NSW

BACKGROUND

121 Fountaindale Road is a 36ha property situated in prime dairy country in Jamberoo, NSW. The property is owned by a lifestyle farmer who leases it to a local dairy farmer.

Bev lived on the farm for some years, but for various reasons has since moved into town, however she does realise the need for and value of having productive agricultural land in the region conjunction with having a sustainable natural ecosystem. The property has remnants of Dry Rainforest flanking the driveway up to the house, but the understorey is dominated by lantana and wild tobacco, which needed to be systematically removed and replaced with local native rainforest species.

Bev is balancing the two by leasing the land to a neighbouring dairy farmer who uses it to graze his herd, as well as undertaking a bush regeneration project in the rainforest with the help of funding from Southern Rivers CMA. The project will be carried out by an experienced bush regenerator and teams of volunteers from Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) who will assist at major planting events.

WHAT WAS DONE

In January 2013 a team of professional Bush Regenerators began primary weed removal at the site. They began by removing large stands of Lantana on the hillside to the left of the driveway using chainsaws, loppers and the application of herbicide. On January 31st they were joined by a team of 30 local and international volunteers and together they proved that many hands really do make light work. In one morning they removed approximately 800m² of weeds.

In the following months the Bush Regeneration Team have conducted follow up visits to the site to remove any weed seedlings and spray any lantana regrowth.

After this secondary weeding was completed a number of native plants were planted to increase canopy cover and shade out future weed growth.



Volunteers getting stuck into removing lantana

SHOWCASING REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS ACHIEVING GREAT OUTCOMES FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT.

EVERY TIME THE LANDHOLDER
DRIVES UP HER DRIVEWAY SHE'LL
BE REMINDED OF WHAT A POSITIVE
AND LASTING IMPACT SHE IS HAVING
ON THE BIODIVERSITY OF HER LOCAL
ENVIRONMENT!



Catchment Management
Authority
Southern Rivers



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY



VOLUNTEERS GET A TASTE OF LIFE ON THE FARM

The volunteers involved in this project were from a range of locations including China, America and the UK as well as some of our local volunteers from the Illawarra Region.

The volunteers from overseas travelled here especially to volunteer with CVA and get a unique insight into our wildlife and environments.

Most of our volunteers for this project came from big cities and had very little exposure to farming and agriculture, so we took them up to the dairy to watch the cows being milked and the calves being fed.

For most this was the first time they had seen a cow up close and was a highlight of the trip.

This visit to the dairy gave them a small insight into life on the farm as well as a better appreciation of where their milk comes from.



Volunteers in the dairy.

THE END RESULT

The end result of this project will be a more diverse understory in the Dry Rainforest flanking the driveway.

By planting a mix of fast growing pioneer species which will quickly shade out the weeds and slower growing natives we aim to have a multi layered ecosystem. The project area fronts the road, so will be a great example to other landholders in the area of how an environmental rehabilitation project and a working dairy farm can exist side by side. And every time the landholder drives up her driveway, she'll be reminded of what a positive and lasting impact she is having on the biodiversity of her local environment!



International volunteers at the end of a hard days work.

PARTNERSHIPS

This project is a partnership between Art4Agriculture's Young Eco Champions, the landholder and the Southern Rivers CMA, CVA and Landcare Illawarra and is supported by funding from the Australian Governments Caring for Our Country initiative.

It is a great example of how Community groups, Regional NRM bodies and Industry are working together to achieve positive, tangible results for our environment.

Ph: 02 4228 9246

Email: rriviere@conservationvolunteers.com.au

WATCH THE VIDEO

http://youtu.be/G90lp4ML_-g

CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS AUSTRALIA (CVA) IS A NATIONAL NOT FOR PROFIT ORGANISATION DEDICATED TO RECRUITING AND MANAGING TEAMS OF VOLUNTEERS TO PARTICIPATE IN PROJECTS THAT PROTECT OR ENHANCE OUR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE.

YOUNG ECO CHAMPION RENAE RIVIERE IS THE REGIONAL MANAGER OF CVA'S ILLAWARRA AND SHOALHAVEN OFFICE.

CONSERVATIONVOLUNTEERS.COM.AU



Catchment Management Authority Southern Rivers



CARING FOR OUR COUNTRY