



PO Box 215
WILLUNGA SA 5172

Regreen T Range
17 properties
106 hectares
70+ additional ha. (70ha on John Thomas)

The Green Challenger

*An Official Newsletter of the Willunga Hillsface Landcare Group Inc.
18 High St. Willunga S.A. 5172*

Postal Address: PO. Box 215, Willunga S.A.

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Willunga Hillsface Landcare Group Inc.

13th Annual General Meeting

Wed 30th November 2005 7.30 p.m.

At the Willunga Environment Centre

18 High St. Willunga

Guest speaker

Peter Bulman

Topic: Sustainable Energy, Livelihoods & Healthy Soils all growing in our Forests

A valuable presentation for all landowners in the Willunga Basin.

Light Super will be provided

R.S.V.P to the Willunga Environment Centre, ph: 8556 4188

Sustainable Energy, Livelihoods & Healthy Soils all growing in our Forests

This topic is to be presented by Peter Bulman, Fellow of the Institute of Foresters, a renowned national speaker on this subject. Peter is at the cutting edge of research into the cropping of trees for livelihood in the production of furniture, structural timbers and firewood, and in the interaction of trees in sustainable agricultural systems.

Peter has had a wealth of opportunities to 'play around with trees'. In the late 1970s he managed the Monarto Tree Planting Project and began tinkering with chemical weed control as an alternative to plastic mulch for native plants and direct seeding investigations.

Peter's publications include *Farm Revegetation Design*, *Farmtree\$ for the Mount Lofty Ranges* and

Growing broombush Peter has nurtured a farm tree improvement program and forest industry development on KI and the Mount Lofty Ranges and an urban community forest in Adelaide.

Peter is currently enjoying being able to work on a range of projects including a comparative economic analyses, information kits, developing revegetation guidelines, a national agroforestry R&D review, developing regional self-sufficiency in firewood and providing executive support for Mt Lofty Ranges Private Forestry.

HIS PRESENTATION IS NOT TO BE MISSED and is timely in these uncertain times of future energy supplies, local livelihoods and biodiversity issues.

This subject also relates to greenhouse issues, carbon credits and sustainable agriculture.

It will be particularly valuable to all landowners and residents of the Willunga basin as it relates to our local livelihoods.

Willunga Hillsface Landcare Group National Landcare Program for Sustainable Agriculture Project 2005 Capacity Building program

As part of this project, a well-attended field day was held in September this year. Management options for Hillsface land were presented, with a theme of managing erosion on steep country. We learnt about appropriate techniques for property planning, fencing, pasture management, watering points, dam management, and revegetation. Many thanks to the Tregloan family and farm manager Ray Patchett for showing us how much they have achieved. Thank you also to farm management adviser Simon Ellis and revegetation adviser Phil Barron for their comprehensive presentations. There was a lot of positive feedback from participants. This will be used to plan future field days. Many of us would like to revisit the Tregloan's property in the future to see the results of their ongoing revegetation program. This is being designed to reduce gully erosion, protect the dams and give shelter to the livestock. Current proposed topics for future field days are: weed control (especially feral olives), revegetation techniques including native grasses. If you would like to propose any other topics for field days, ring Andrew Scott on 0428 562450 or the Willunga Environment Centre on 8556 4188.

105 On-ground Works report for the Willunga Hillsface Landcare Group (Regreen the Range)

To date this year we have completed and assisted landholders with at least 106 hectares of revegetation with local native species on 17 properties, with some likely late additions to be confirmed with this lovely wet spring we are having. This included 70 hectares on the Thomas property alone (south of the end of Range Rd West).

The majority of the area was implemented using a combination of spot spraying with knockdown herbicide and a blend of hand direct seeding and seedling planting mainly (supplied in cells). A small area 2ha, was machine direct seeded, apart from that it was all by hand (Figure 1). As usual, we have tried to match species selection with the anticipated vegetation associations for each site.

Early germination of the direct seeding has been

excellent with one site observed to have 99% of seeded scraps with germinated seedlings within 4 weeks of seeding, which is exceptional, due again to the wet spring.

We have also assisted landholders with about 15km of fencing (water courses and other revegetation and remnant vegetation), 20ha of perennial pasture improvement, 150ha+ threat abatement (mainly woody weed control), 2 stock crossings and alternative watering points.

Our funding and support sources this year have been the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resource Management Board, National Landcare Program, Onkaparinga Catchment Water Management Board and the Urban Forest Biodiversity Program.

FROM THE PRESIDENT John Campbell

The 14th AGM of the Willunga Hillsface Landcare Group (WHLG) will be of special interest not only because of Peter Bulman's fascinating and timely presentation but also because of a unique and 'ground-breaking' partnership between our Landcare group and the Willunga Farmers Market to form the Willunga-McLaren District 'Office of Sustainable Agriculture'.

This is an exciting time for our Landcare group and will have significant positive implications for the region. In this early stage of planning the partners are the WHLG, Regreen the Range and the Willunga Farmers Market.

The Landcare group gains much of its funding for 'on-ground sustainable agriculture works' through the Federal National Landcare Program (NLP) and along with the group's community links, community capacity building strengths, local experience and active committee it has much to share with the Farmers Market strong community farmer and consumer liaisons. Part of the Willunga Farmers Market vision and charter is also based around concepts of sustainable agriculture.

The City of Onkaparinga is supportive of the formation of this 'Sustainable Agricultural Office' and is eager to assist us.

Exciting and fruitful times are ahead and as is often said 'Watch This Space' and hear more at our AGM on Wednesday November 30th.

P.S. We require people to assist us in these ventures, so please think about joining us and come onto our committee.

The More Things Change the More They Remain the Same

Ever since human beings developed agriculture and created stored food surpluses, therefore allowing the building of cities, these cities have been depleting the natural resources that surround them. Previous great civilizations collapsed when they over exploited the natural world around them, or climate change destroyed their sources of food, or some neighbouring civilization overran them to steal their land, food, water or energy supplies. As it becomes more obvious that the whole world is under threat because of human actions, there are now more than just a few lone voices crying out about these problems. Growing numbers of people worldwide are becoming committed to the principles of sustainable living and to following the ideals expressed in the words "think globally and act locally"

The Willunga Community Landcare Centre has been operating in the Willunga High Street for ten years now. It was the first of what has recently become a network of six community based Natural Resource Management centres that now exists in the Mt Lofty Ranges. The Willunga Hillsface Landcare Group has nurtured the Centre through its pioneering years, accessing the tiny amounts of funding that have been available, managing the Centre on behalf of the local community. About three years ago the WHLG set the goal that the Centre have its own committee to

manage it on behalf of the local community and called public meetings to seek support for this idea.

From the 1st October 2005 the Centre began to operate under its new name: the *Willunga Environment Centre*. The new committee, formed to specialize on managing the Centre, is continuing with the original vision: to provide a community based information and liaison service to support local groups and landowners with environmental management and sustainable agriculture projects. The new management committee are: John Crowe, Paul Brouwer, John Edmeades, Shirley Worsfold and Andrew Scott. The Centre continues to operate at 18 High Street, Willunga. Also from 1st October, funding to the Willunga Centre has become more reliable and has increased to a more realistic level. This allows Shirley to continue as Centre Manager with Andrew as Project Officer. The Alliance of Community Natural Resource Centres (the Willunga Environment Centre is a member) has been officially accepted as a major part of the Community Capacity Building program of the Adelaide and Mt. Lofty Ranges Natural Resource Management Region. Our shop front is not wide enough to hold all these words, so we chose our new shorter new name instead.

The Willunga Environment Centre and the Willunga Hillsface Landcare Group together are planning a public celebration event for early next year to commemorate this new phase for the Centre and to thank the WHLG for guiding the Centre through its early years.

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