

GUNNIBLE LANDCARE GROUP

On 8th May 2024, as the new Liverpool Plains and Gunnedah Landcare Co-ordinator, I had the pleasure of meeting with Tony and Wendy Bernays and Margaret and Geoff Hood, stalwart members of Gunnible Landcare Group, and touring with Tony and Margaret around some of the country that this “little” group covers.

The area covered by the group is north of the Namoi River at Gunnedah, out to the Melville Ranges/Kelvin Hills – approximately 30,000 hectares. Orange Grove River Care, Nobbys Rock Landcare and Burburgate Landcare were melded to become Gunnible Landcare in the mid 1990’s.

Gunnible Landcare Inc has conducted environmentally focused projects in the Gunnedah area since 1997 and offers a collective viewpoint and a social community focus.

Specific activities have included maintenance and beautification of local reserves and travelling stock routes, noxious weed control, protecting ‘at risk’ tree avenues (replacing dead trees, installing tree guards etc) and revegetating private land to encourage biodiversity. Members of the group have a diverse range of skills that are of significant value for new revegetation and habitat restoration projects.



Tony Bernays Chair of Gunnible Landcare Group.

On our tour, I saw many examples of Gunnible plantings and areas that the group ‘cares’ for – with regular cleanups and weed control, eg the TSR site on the Namoi River opposite the Riverine Parklands. Lovely signs mark much of their work!



Tony and Margaret pointed out strategic and large corridor tree plantings along fencelines by landholders. Of particular significance are historic plantings of silky oaks on O’Keefe Avenue which Gunnible volunteers maintain.



A delicious and most appreciated morning tea in Wendy and Tonys garden, followed by a river walk – viewing the impacts of the last flood.



Recent flood damage to Namoi River banks.

Upcoming activities include a community survey to determine the direction of the next Gunnible Landcare Strategic Plan. Gunnible Landcare is also interested in river restoration and flood mitigation work and is in initial planning stages of a project with Ozfish River Repair.

Report Prepared by Nicky Chirlian, Liverpool Plains and Gunnedah Landcare Coordinator.