

Upper Hunter

RIVER REHABILITATION INITIATIVE

Timeline of UHRRI/ARC linkage key dates and events

This timeline lists key events since the inception of the Upper Hunter River Rehabilitation Initiative, and the associated research, funded by the Australian Research Council and Industry supporters (Bengalla Mining Company, Macquarie Generation, and Mt Arthur Coal).

Last updated 23 August 2006.

2001

Hunter River Rehabilitation Steering Committee: Investigates the potential for extending the Large Woody Debris work carried out on the Williams River by Andrew Brooks (Mac Uni), HCMT, DLWC & NSW Fisheries. The project would seek implement, monitor and evaluate best practice (whole ecosystem) management techniques for riparian rehabilitation.

HCMT receives \$179,700 in funding from NHT to develop innovative riparian revegetation techniques.

September 27, 2001. *Sydney Morning Herald*, runs Insight feature article on the proposed Hunter project: "A river runs through it".

2002

Jan 1st: Macquarie University External Collaborative Research Grants Scheme (MUECRGS) funding agreement between Mac Uni, WAMC, and HCMT is activated

Jan 29th: Craig Miller commences as Project Manager to set up UHRRI and apply for further funding.

July: ARC application submitted.

July 17th: Tenders sought for the production of longstems for the project.

August 15th: UHRRI masthead adopted.

October: ARC application successful.

November 21st: Project Launched by Cr John Colvin, Mayor of Muswellbrook at Key's Bridge. Representatives from each of the partner agencies made a short speech and planted a tree.

November 2002 – November 2003: 38,600 trees planted at 11 sites along UHRRI project site, by Green Corps, contractors, CVA, UHRRI staff, & volunteers.

2003

March 5th: Funding Agreement for "Hunter River Rehabilitation Research Project" MU, DIPNR, Bengalla, MAC & MacGen is signed.

March 28th: Daniel Keating commences as Research Officer.

May 15th: Green Corps 1 commences.

June 4th: Green Corps 1 Launch at Muswellbrook Showground.

June: The Hunter Catchment Management Authority wins the National Theiss Riverprize for its support of UHRRI and several other projects.

July 27th: National Tree Day. 500 Longstems planted by community participants and the Edinglassie RFS at White's Creek 1.

July 30th. Kerry Hickey, Minister of Mineral Resources, speaking on ABC Stateline, cites UHRRI as example of good environmental practice by Bengalla and Mt Arthur.

August 27th: Tony Kelly, Minister for Lands, comments on UHRRI in Muswellbrook Chronicle.

September 25th: Green Corps 2 commences.

October 24th: Green Corps 1 Graduation. Robert Tickner (ex-Minister for Aboriginal Affairs) is guest speaker.

November 7th: UHRRI wins the Hunter Coal Industry Environmental Management Award.

November 24th: Memorandum of Understanding between Macquarie University, DIPNR & HCMT signed.

December 4th: Community Rivers Forum I. Seminar and field tour of River Styles in the Upper Hunter catchment. Coordinated by Craig Miller, Gary Brierley & Kirstie Fryirs. Around 40 people attended.

December 5th: Community Rivers Forum II. Focus on the UHRRI site with Gary Brierley, Kirstie Fryirs and James Lander.

2004

January 2004: The Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority (HCRCMA) is formed, picking up many of the functions of the dis-established Hunter Catchment Management Trust.

March 26th – 27th: UHRRI presents display at the annual *Bursting with Energy* Upper Hunter Show and Expo.

March 19th: Green Corps 2 graduates at Murrurrundi. Hon. John Anderson is guest speaker.

April: UHRRI makes the cover of 2004 Singleton/Muswellbrook/Scone White Pages.

May: UHRRI Strategic Plan produced.

June 1st: Industry Partner workshop.

June 8th: Green Corps 3 Launch at Edinglassie site.

June 24th: Installation of fish habitat structures begins.

August 3rd: Mark Sanders commences as Project Manager.

August 2004 – May 2005: A further 6600 trees planted on UHRRI project site.

August 27th: Installation of fish habitat structures is completed.

September-October Installation of large woody debris.

October 19th-22nd: 4th AGSM Conference in Launceston Tasmania. ARC linkage team delivers five papers at a special session on research associated with the UHRRI.

October 20th: UHRRI/Muswellbrook Council wins NSW Tidy Towns Award in Waterways/Foreshores category.

October 22nd: Green Corps 3 Graduates at Muswellbrook QE2.

November 15th: Green Corps 4 commences.

November 26th: Industry Partner workshop.

December: ARC linkage research receives a special commendation at the Macquarie University Innovation Awards.

December 16th: Green Corps 4 launch at Key's Bridge.

December 17th: Upper Hunter Catchment Crawl School Groups visit UHRRI site to test water and examine other aspects of river condition..

2005

February 14th: The first *UHRRI Update* newsletter is produced and distributed.

March 11th – 12th: UHRRI presents display at the annual *Bursting with Energy* Upper Hunter Show and Expo.

March 15 - 18: International Geographic Union workshop held at Muswellbrook, with a session devoted to the Upper Hunter River Rehabilitation Initiative.

April 7th: Phd Candidate, Jo Hoyle, and UHRRI Project Manager, Mark Sanders run two workshops for Year 7-9 students at the annual *Enviro Youth Forum*, hosted by the Muswellbrook Shire Council.

May 6th: Green Corps 4 graduation.

June 11th: Mark Sanders and Andrew Boulton appear on ABC National Science Show, in an interview with National Living Treasure, Robyn Williams.

June 24th: Industry Partner Workshop.

August 13th: Mark Sanders presents overview of UHRRI at Rio Tinto Australasian Water Workshop, at Bengalla Mine.

October: Monitoring of revegetation done since project inception reveals 20% survival (approx 9000 of 46000 trees) – a better-than-expected survival given drought conditions.

November 29 – December 2: ARC-Linkage research results reported at the annual meeting of the Ecological Society of Australia.

2006

February 8th: Industry Partner workshop.

March 31st – April 1st: UHRRI presents a display at the annual *Bursting with Energy* Upper Hunter Show and Expo.

April 6th: UHRRI Project Manager and Research Officer run two workshops for Year 7-9 students at the annual *Enviro Youth Forum*, hosted by the Muswellbrook Shire Council.

May 9th – June 9th: 3223 trees and shrubs are planted by Dept. Lands staff on the UHRRI project site at Michael Chudyk's.

June 8th: 1200 trees and shrubs are planted within a stand of remnant floodplain yellow box on the UHRRI project site by students from Muswellbrook Public School and UHRRI and Bengalla Mine Staff.

June 22nd Industry Partner Workshop.

July 17th: Daniel Keating commences as Project Manager.

July 18th: Darren Ryder and 20 students visit White's Ck site to monitor plant survival and collect soils data.