



Darkwood Community Meeting

Bellinger Landcare and Orama Rivercare Association are inviting residents to a community meeting on **Saturday 14th June 2 pm, at Orama school.**

The aim of the meeting is look back over the past two years of riverine restoration work in the valley and to celebrate the achievements made. Darkwood residents have the opportunity to discuss their concerns and future requirements for environmental work. We will also re-visit some of the important weed control methods that are needed to keep the work sites in good condition and bush regenerator Craig Stehn will be there on the day to demonstrate those and answer questions.

Pia Dollmann has been managing the project for Bellinger Landcare Inc and she is leaving her position at the end of June. She wants to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their enthusiasm, support and commitment.

This meeting will explore what the community's interest and capacity to continue this work under a possible further funding arrangement with the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority or other funding bodies.

Approximately 14 km of Bellinger River have been included in this reach plan and 13 landholders have been involved with restoration work. A further six landholders were part of the planning process but did not actively participate in any work for a variety of reasons. Much of the work completed so far has been in bush regeneration, as weeds are posing the greatest threat to this otherwise pristine riverine environment. Some sites were planted to repair flood damage and to prevent future bank erosion and fences and troughs were also part of the suite of works.

All participants have committed to maintain their works for a period of five years in the case of vegetation management and for ten years for infrastructure such as fences and troughs.

The Bellinger River Emydura turtle project showed very interesting research results which can also be discussed on the day.

The biggest challenge will be the future control of weeds and vine weeds in particular. This meeting will re-visit some of these challenges and pass on what we have learnt in these two years. Please call Bellinger Landcare Inc to register for the day on 66550588 for catering purposes.