

THE MORE THE MERRIER

We all know ‘many hands make light work’ ... but how to get them all working together for the same cause in the most efficient and effective manner, within relatively short project timeframes?



This is the question the Tangalla Community asked themselves the moment they took on the challenge of Best Practice Riparian Management for Coastal Communities.

Most community engagement projects involve a wide range of participants with significantly different:

- background and experience
- skills and expertise
- professional authority and responsibility.

Ultimately, the motivating forces of each and every participant are unique. This, combined with an increased need for including a more diverse range of stakeholders to get the best possible outcomes, requires input from many stakeholders such as:

- the Landholder and their family,
- the Land Manager (if different to the Landholder),
- large companies (often multi-national),
- small private consultants and companies,
- universities and/or research agencies,
- federal, state, local government and NRM bodies,
- neighbouring farmers and residents,
- Landcare networks and ‘Green’ organisations,
- volunteer organisations, and critically
- the wider community representing the common good.



The Tangalla Community brought all these players together by providing the skills and opportunity to ‘own’ their respective part of the project delivery, which itself was drafted with all players in mind and/or contributing directly from the start.

The resulting images speak for themselves: people old, young, male, female and from very different walks of life all working shoulder to shoulder to achieve Best Practice Riparian Management for Coastal Communities.

Not only are greater outcomes achieved by strategic collaboration, project resources can be grown significantly as was achieved by a single dairy family’s original intention to farm sustainably.

Altogether the Tangalla Community created a project team of over a dozen organisations, involving more than 150 participants, creating fourfold added value!

C4oC Community Action Grant = \$21,875.00

Added cash & resources = \$154,000.00



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY



CHALLENGES

The “Tangalla Community Streams and Rainforest Inc” group, located on the NSW South Coast, is part of a rural residential subdivision of 12 blocks ranging from 0.4 to 40 ha with each block comprising mostly high conservation value rainforest.

Operating within the Tangalla Community is Clover Hill Dairies a highly productive dairy farm. The formation of the “Tangalla Community Streams and Rainforest Inc” group provides a mechanism for the dairy farm and rural residents to live cooperatively side by side, resolve potential conflicts and enhance their unique environment.

The Tangalla Community identified major riparian zone issues including:

- weed infestations,
- erosion hazards,
- fragmented native vegetation,
- disconnected remnant rainforest,
- low quality riparian habitat,
- risks to water quality from,
- sedimentation, and
- nitrification.

In response, the Tangalla Community and Clover Hill Dairies embarked on a challenge to achieve Best Practice Riparian Management by actively working together and engaging their local community.



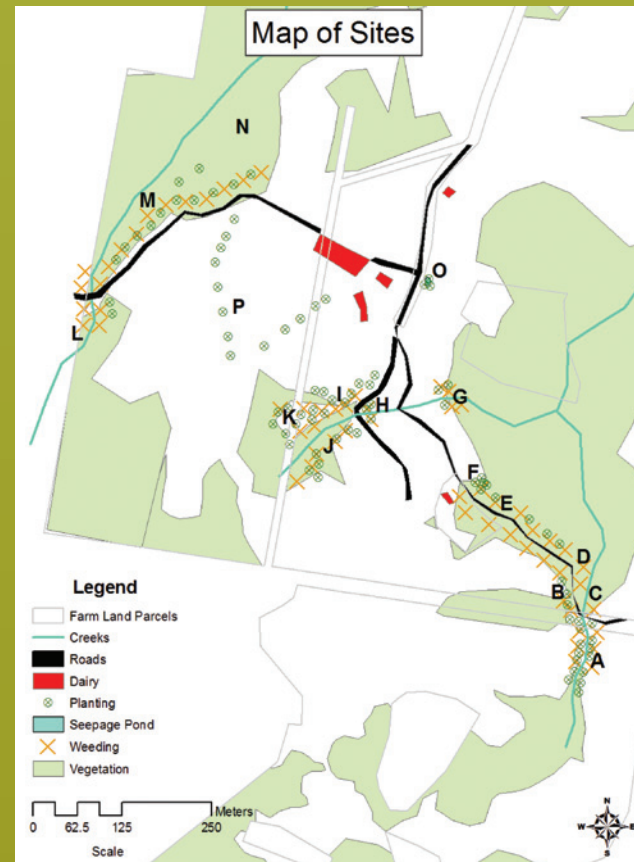
WIN WIN

The Tangalla Community area, dairy production zones and riparian biodiversity areas were mapped to a whole farm plan, including the commissioning of a scientific ecology report conducted by a qualified environmental scientist*.

Analysis of both dairy productivity and riparian biodiversity objectives led to 16 site-specific strategic actions, listed as A to P in the below Map of Sites.

Learning materials were developed to establish Best Practice benchmarks, train on-farm participants and residents, and to raise coastal community awareness regarding:

- Weed Fact Sheet: Madeira Vine
- Weed Fact Sheet: Lantana.



SUCCESSSES

Increasing the technical capacity of all project participants, and as community of Best Practice Riparian managers enabled this project to:

- rehabilitate and revegetate 10,000 sqm of sensitive riparian zones,
- remove 9,000 sqm of invasive weeds occurring within high conservation vegetation communities,
- plant natives species on 1,000 sqm,
- improve and increase native fauna habitat and corridors,
- identify and protect positively identified endangered plant species *Zieria granulata*,
- improve genetic diversity of fruiting indigenous rainforest species,
- implement nutrient buffers,
- implement sediment control, and
- fence off 500 metres of riparian zones to milking dairy cattle.

*Lake, E (2009) Restoration on Private Land: Management Practices and Motivations of Landowners, A Case Study of Jamberoo Valley, NSW, unpublished thesis, University of Wollongong, NSW.

