

Can We Save Our Rural Roadsides?

Lessons from the Newham Landcare Experience

Some history in the Macedon Ranges

1990's Shire Draft Roadside Management Plan does not progress

2002 MRSC first Natural Environment Strategy *includes RMP as high and immediate priority*

2004 NDLG started, with major focus on:

“protection and enhancement of remnant vegetation and revegetating areas that will provide links between remnants.” (Biolinks)

2005-17 NDLG sub-group (The Weedies), *works regularly and consistently on weeds & mapping, with MRSC Enviro Officers.*

2015 Paper presented to Councillors **“Rural Roadsides: Death by a Thousand Cuts”**; Budget submission to MRSC for funding for Roadside Management Plan; **Rural Roadsides “Conserving Shared Treasures” educational evening**; RCOG (Ranges Citizen for Open Government) and FDR (Forum for Democratic Renewal) community deliberations and campaign for a more enviro friendly and consultative Council!

<http://www.newhamlandcare.info/roadsides.htm>

2016 – 17 More local govt and political action - *Federal & State MPs invited for roadsides tour and talks, displays, handouts at public meeting*; **New Council elected Nov 2016 – more enviro friendly**; *letters to all new councillors*; NDLG newsletter articles; **more meetings and tours with ShireEnvironment and Operations officers**; workshops and ecology reports commissioned; **Roadside Management plan underway**; joint plan of action with MRSC for more sensitive protocols for RMP for clearing road edges on significant roadsides > NDLG working bee.

MIDLAND Express

Vital habitat links need protection, say landcarers

Feb. 4, 2016



Photo: Sandy Scheltema

Ecologist Karl Just explains to Federal MP Lisa Chesters, Landcare member Alice Aird and State MP Mary Anne Thomas how areas of remnant roadside vegetation in Newham area contain endangered vegetation communities and threatened species, some protected under federal legislation. Landcare groups are concerned that it is not receiving adequate protection.



This



or this?