

## Developing practical weed control skills in Lake Macquarie

### The challenge:

Lake Macquarie Landcare Network needs to regularly train new Landcare team leaders and volunteers in effective weed removal techniques to tackle common weeds, such as Lantana, in the area.

### Work undertaken:

With funding from a Hunter Local Land Services grant, Lake Macquarie Landcare Network trialed a practical 'weeding skills workshop' component as part of its team leader training.

Three two-hour sessions were held between February and May 2016, delivered by Lake Macquarie City Council's Landcare Support Officer Daniel Oldfield who is qualified and experienced in bush regeneration.

### Benefits:

- 16 participants from 11 local Landcare groups trained in weed identification and removal skills
- The increased skills in weed identification and removal techniques developed by these Landcarers will result in improved environmental outcomes at 11 Landcare sites where volunteers will apply these skills
- Environmental outcomes were also achieved at the site of the training where several weeds were removed including Lantana, honeysuckle and privet

### Overview:

The project delivered practical training on weed removal techniques to new Landcare team leaders and volunteers.

The weeding skills workshops involved trips to sites in the Marmong Wetlands area.

Techniques such as 'cut and paint', 'scrape and paint', and 'drill and fill' were demonstrated on a variety of common weeds including Lantana, honeysuckle and privet. Participants were taught about weed identification and what techniques to use on specific weeds.

Handouts on technical aspects were utilised from the Australian Association of Bush Regenerators as well as weed identification materials from the Lake Macquarie Landcare Resource Centre.

Lake Macquarie Landcare Network has received positive feedback from the sessions and now plans to run similar workshops regularly to meet the requirements of new Landcarers.

### Grant program:

Community Education Grant

"The weeding workshop has everything that someone who cares for the bush needs to know." - participant, Practical Weeding Skills Workshop, February 2016

