Landcare-led Landscape Resilience

Tools and data for restoration decisions

Hay Plains Landcare Nursery & Demonstration Site

OBJECTIVE

Environmental challenges such as drought and overgrazing have had a direct negative effect on diminishing native plant and bird species in the Hay landscape. Hay Plains Landcare Nursery's objective was to collect local endemic seed and propagate for plantings within the Hay landscape.

WHAT IS SUCCESS?

The Hay Plains Landcare Nursery & Demonstration Site serves as a community hub for native vegetation restoration. It offers training, knowledge, and resources to support successful establishment of Indigenous plants. The site's strategy involves collecting seeds from local native trees and shrubs for propagation within the nursery. These seedlings, being genetically adapted to the local environment, are ideal for landscape rehabilitation. By focusing on endemic species, the project aims to restore native plant populations and, consequently, support the recovery of local bird species. This approach aligns with best practices in ecological restoration, emphasising the use of locally-sourced, genetically appropriate plant material for revegetation efforts.



Hay Plains Landcare Nursery & Demonstration Site



Landcare volunteers participating in a Propagation Workshop

KEY STEPS

- A suitable location close to the historic Hay Gaol which is easily accessed by the public and has a reliable water source.
- A small propagation green house and watering system were erected, with benches for working and growing of plants
- Hay Plains Landcare visited Narrandera Landcare community nursery for a workshop and learnt all about how to propagate plants on a small scale.
- Local seed was collected sustainably by landholders and group members and will now be propagated at the nursery for future projects.

RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

- Identify key priorities and develop a plan of action
- Understand shared goals and what success will look like
- Recognise the importance of using local provenance native seed
- Appreciate the inconsistencies with seed collection and propagation
- Teach the importance of seasonal revegetation site preparation, planting and maintenance
- Support volunteers to sustain their enthusiasm
- Good record keeping is vital
- Try, try again
- Commend all rehabilitation efforts
- Learn from mistakes and reflect & celebrate achievements



Seedlings propagated within the Hay Plains Landcare Nursery

KEY LEARNINGS FROM EXPERIENCE

- Local provenace native seed is integral to rehabilitating the Hay landscape
- Sustainable seed collection is opportunistic and not guaranteed each season
- Native seed propagation is varied and seasonal. What works one season may not work in the next.
- A paid position to oversee activities in the Nursery & Demonstration Site is integral to its continued success, as volunteer fatigue is recognised
- With appropriate management, thousands of healthy seedlings can be produced each season

COST CONSIDERATIONS

Initial setup expenses are substantial and may require grant funding support. Once operational, the ongoing management and production costs can be kept relatively low, assuming there is a paid position to oversee the Nursery & Demonstration Site operations.

The best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago. The second best time is now...

PROJECT OFFICER



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Future Drought Fund