

NEWS



The Hovells Creek Landcare Group meet in the shadow of a distressed tree.



The Upper Lachlan Bushwalkers on their Newnes walk.

Plenty of winter walks ahead

THE monthly meeting of the bushwalkers was held last Tuesday night.

The previous months walks were discussed including the parks of Cowra and farewell to the Noelene and Gary Brunton. Future walks include:

June 16 - Wyangala Dam: Jan Nilsen is leader and departure at 9am is from Visitor's Centre. If interested contact Jan on 0437 136 398.

June 32 - Gooloogong to Croote Cottage: 7kms one way. Walkers can choose to walk both ways or drive part of the way and then walk. Lunch will be at the Gooloogong Hotel. Leader Peter Hollier. Departure 9am from Visitors Centre.

July 3 - Observatory at Darby's Falls: This night is the best night to see the dark moon. Walk will be from Peter Hollier's place at Darby's Falls at approx 5.30pm. Please contact Peter if interested. Cost of the Observatory will be \$12 if more than 10 people attend.

If these walks appeal to you, contact the leader. Potential members are entitled to three free walks before joining at \$20 per annum.

Workshops set to help farmers doing it tough

AGRICULTURE

THE Hovells Creek Landcare Group (HCLG) are set to run a number of workshops to assist local farmers, thanks to funding from the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal Tackling Tough Times Together grant.

The funding will allow HCLG to run six workshops on drought and land resource management with expert speakers throughout this year.

Hovells Creek Landcare Group Chair, Gordon Refshauge, said the workshops will be managed by a coordinator who'll work one day

a week, taking some of the pressure off volunteers in the existing group.

"The ongoing impact of the drought, which is entering its second year in this region, is beginning to take a toll on our volunteer committee members, as they juggle the demands of the drought on their own properties as well as the responsibilities of HCLG, so being able to employ a coordinator is fantastic," he said.

"The workshops will also provide an opportunity for community members to come together and share what they are going through.

"We will have a number of expert guest speakers teach us, for example how to navigate our way through managing mental health during the drought, while others will provide us with the latest research on decision-support tools that will help us with managing through the current drought and how to plan for future droughts.

"Together our program aims to reduce the stress that individuals and the community experience in these difficult times."

The HCLG, which numbers just under 90, consisting mainly of livestock produc-

ers, sheep for meat and wool, and beef cattle with some cropping mainly for livestock feed. Members also include part-time farmers with off-farm jobs, smaller block lifestyle and some retirees.

"The Hovells Creek catchment is steep, hilly country above the Wyangala Dam," Mr Refshauge said.

"We experience significant erosion problems when heavy rainfall events follow extended dries where minimal vegetation can be maintained.

"This results in soil washing into the river, which causes Lachlan river-bed

sediment problems downstream. So, there is a whole of catchment impact.

"Grants like this one from FRRR and its donor partner Stockland CARE Foundation will allow us to adapt to our changing climate and build resilience in our community," Refshauge says.

The Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) was established in 2000 to support the renewal of rural, regional and remote communities in Australia through partnerships with the private sector, philanthropy and governments.

FOCUS ON LIVING "Pluck, Grit and Guts"

IF you look up the word "courage" in a dictionary it describes it as bravery, will or fortitude, and the ability to confront fear, pain, risk, danger, uncertainty or intimidation. "Physical courage" is described as courage in the face of physical pain, hardship or threat of death.

There are many accounts of courage recorded in Australia's history. Although wartime produces situations which foster heroism, it was the wreck of a coastal steamer which brought about one of Australia's best-known stories of courage.

On 29 November 1876 the "Georgette" left Fremantle carrying 50 passengers and a cargo of jarrah timber, bound for Adelaide. In the early hours of 1st December the ship developed a major leak and at 6:00 am was drifting without power into the breakers. All three lifeboats were wrecked or swamped and the situation looked hopeless until an Aboriginal stockman, Sam Isaacs, saw

the stricken ship from the cliffs of Calgardup Bay. He rushed 20 kms to raise the alarm at the property of the Bussell family. Only the women of the household were home, and Grace, the Bussells' 16-year-old daughter, volunteered to go with him to try and rescue who they could.

They urged their horses through the boiling surf beyond the second line of breakers till they reached the boat. With as many women and children as possible clinging to the riders and their horses they swam them to the shore. It took four hours to land 50 people, although 12 others were drowned. Both rescuers received recognition for their bravery from the Royal Humane Society of England. The rock where the ship sank is now called Isaacs' Rock in honour of the man. Today near Margaret River two small towns, Gracetown and Lake Grace, bear the name of the heroine.

Most of us aren't required to demonstrate physical courage

like this even once during our lifetime, yet there is another type of challenge which faces us nearly every day. The dictionary describes "moral courage" as the courage to act rightly in the face of popular opposition, shame, scandal or discouragement. It can be difficult to go against other people's expectations of how we should behave. It takes bravery to defend a person or an idea when we're outnumbered and in danger of ridicule. It's often hard to stand apart from a general expectation to be lax. Throughout our week, in small ways and large, in the workplace, with our friends and associates, we have responses to make to influences and pressures.

We can be encouraged by the words the Lord God spoke to Joshua before he led the Israelites into Canaan, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9)

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The Cowra Church of Christ sponsors this article. The church meets on the second and last Sunday of the month at the Multifunction Room between the Library and the Art Gallery, Darling Street, Cowra. Starting times: Church Service 10:00am, Morning Tea 11:00am. Everyone is welcome. Enquiries phone: 0439 401 813, or e-mail: cowrachurchofchrist@gmail.com.