

Taroom Shire Landcare Group would like to formally introduce themselves and explain our role in the community.

Taroom Shire Landcare represents the rate payers of the Wandoan and Taroom area (formerly the Taroom Shire). All rate payers in the Wandoan and Taroom area are automatically made members, making Landcare more freely accessible to landholders. However, we have an active member list of 150 people. As a result of such a large area, we cover 18654 square kilometers and about 1156 people. Landcare has a Committee which consists of 8 members of representatives from the Taroom and Wandoan area and a council representative from each division. This committee is the steering committee of Taroom Shire Landcare and has been operating since 1989. Over the years we have developed and accomplished many projects, established networks with other organizations and provided equipment and resources to the community. We hold meetings once a month in alternative locations of Wandoan and Taroom.

In an effort to make the Taroom Shire Landcare Office more affordable, Landcare shares the building with Dawson Catchment Coordinating Association (DCCA). DCCA is a community based organization having links to government, industry and other NRM groups. DCCA plays a major role in facilitating community, industry and government partnerships, prioritizing issues and promoting and implementing the adoption of catchment management strategies. This partnership has enabled Landcare to survive some times of financial difficulties with the increased competitiveness of funding grants.

Our aim is to foster Landcare within the Wandoan & Taroom region so as to achieve a balanced ecosystem in which soils and native fauna species are maintained, together with sustainable productivity of the land.

This aim is to be achieved by:

1. Identifying the problem
2. Tabulating solutions we already have
3. Establishing what resources are presently available
4. Determining what future solutions are required
5. Promoting land management measures in the community by education and dissemination of information
6. Making representations to the relevant local, State and Federal Government departments and elected representatives.

OBJECTS – The objects by which the aim will be achieved:

- a) Self help property management planning workshops
- b) Financial management planning
- c) Pasture establishment & renovating trails
- d) Conservation tillage

- e) Landcare education within Shire schools
- f) Woody weeds control trials
- g) Increasing Landcare awareness with the local community.

Taroom Shire Landcare services are:

- Every rate payer is a member in the Wandoan and Taroom area
- Assistance with funding applications to government schemes
- Property maps available from office – we provide assistance to complete property management plans i.e. soils, vegetation, area and length calculations & regional ecosystem maps to members.
- Weed plotting and help with funding applications for weed control
- Plant identification
- Extensive soil testing equipment and resources
- Water testing equipment and resources enabling landholders to test their stock and domestic water. Also used to monitor major creek/river flows in the region.
- A slip on spray until available for loan to Wandoan and Taroom landholders
- 1 ATV spot sprayer available for loan to Wandoan and Taroom Landholders
- Large quantity of books and internet available for research by Landcare officers and landholders
- Landcare officers are looking at ways to increase productivity in the Wandoan Taroom area and are currently working on soil biology, compost teas, and compost.
- Supporting Dr. Christine Jones research into carbon soils, with the view that landholders will be able to obtain funding from carbon trading
- To help Wandoan and Taroom residences with problems or direct them to people who can help.

Taroom Shire Landcare Group is a community based group who represents and voices the districts concerns and issues. We see our organization as a key aspect of the community, and feel obligated to represent their views and queries about the development and direction of the town in the future.