

THE CHANGING STRUCTURE OF THE LRO



The Landcare Resource Office (LRO) is heading towards a minor restructure that will see the entire operations area supported directly by the Lake Macquarie City Council (LMCC). Currently LMCC supports the Lake Macquarie Landcare Network (LMLN) and Landcare works across the Local Government Area through the LRO. The Council has achieved this by employing the Landcare Coordinator and an administration staff member, by funding the LRO's operations and by contracting the LMLN to supply support services such as the Green Team, the bush regeneration team and the publication of this fine periodical. Right now a process is underway which will see the LMLN relinquish these services to the Council. This should not bring about any deterioration in the services provided by the LRO. We will still be working to deliver all the same resources you have come to expect from us, and maybe a few more besides. The change will simply formalise the existing roles within the LRC and these positions will become Council employed positions rather than LMLN employed. This will free up the LMLN to focus on new ways to engage with and support Landcare groups in the Lake Macquarie LGA.

The development of this change-over has been under the direction of John Hughson who has now taken on the role of the Landcare Special Projects Officer. Within this role, John identified the duties our various staff members carried out and formalised how these will be developed into future positions. Currently this plan is being put to the Council Executive for approval and it is hoped that the entire process will be completed by September 2011. In the mean time, it is business as usual, until September when we expect... business as usual.

So if you are thinking Landcare in Lake Macquarie remember to think LRO. Same name, same place, same service, just funded a little bit differently.

Jason Harvey,

Landcare Coordinator