

Grassy Box Woodland Sites

Wallabadah Common

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Town Commons are part of our rural history and were an important part of many towns in country NSW. They provided a place to keep the milking cow, drought refuge and firewood.

Wallabadah Common, near Quirindi, today has a few horses roaming around. Its low use is typical of what has happened with many of the commons in NSW. But these sites are being rediscovered for a new community purpose -conservation.

The historical pattern of relatively light and varied grazing has allowed a high quality understorey to survive in many areas of the Wallabadah Common. Plant surveys by Suzanne Prober and Kevin Thiele have found 104 native plants to date on the Common, while bird surveys by local groups have found a large number of birds including some of our declining woodland birds.

A plan of management is currently being prepared as a joint initiative of the Quirindi Landcare, the Grassy Box Woodland Conservation Management Network, Quirindi Shire Council (who manage the adjoining high quality cemetery remnant) and the Department of Land and Water Conservation. This plan will look at how the conservation values of the site can be maintained and enhanced. A draft copy of this plan has been presented to the Wallabadah Common Trust for consideration.

Under the plan, the site will maintain a variety of landscapes, from open grassy areas, open woodlands to areas with thick timber. This variety allows for different habitats that suit different species.

Quirindi Landcare will soon begin work with a Green Corps Team to undertake management work on the site, including fencing, weed control and tree thinning.