



WORKSHOP: Indigenous land management practices

Chair: Andrew Zelnik. *Speaker:* Lauren Van Dyke

Theme: What can we learn from Aboriginal people about traditional land management practices? How relevant are these practices to grassy landscape management? How may we partner with traditional land managers to advance understanding and adoption of such practices?

Kosciuszko to Coast's experience in sharing knowledge of traditional Aboriginal land management practices with landholders on the Monaro

Lauren Van Dyke

In her role as Kosciuszko to Coast (K2C) Facilitator, Lauren facilitated three projects with Rodney Mason, Ngarigo elder and expert in Traditional (Aboriginal) Land Management Practices (TLMP). These three projects were:

- Monaro Landscape Connectivity,
- Traditional Land Management Practices on the Monaro, and
- Adopting Traditional Values in the Community.

They followed on from an earlier FOG project. In all, up to 100 landowners participated in the K2C projects.

Lauren's presentation, called 'Grasslands & Indigenous cool patch burning with Rod Mason' (slides below) showed how those projects unfolded, and the lessons to be learnt from attempting to incorporate traditional Indigenous practices into grassy ecosystem conservation management.

Indigenous land management practices

- Use of cool burns in grasslands:
 - Used to unlock seed stores in the soil.
 - Enrich soil through an injection of charcoal and nutrients.
 - Establish fresh growth of vegetation and to bring in the animals – kangaroos, butterflies, moths, possums, lizards, pigeons, emus etc.
 - Native animals are the key landscape managers.**
 - Remove dead wood from ground, shrubs and trees to reduce fuel load and protect from wildfire.
 - Used to manage herb gardens and native fruit / seed orchards



Landholder engagement



Rod brings land managers with him and builds confidence. Keeping fires small and controllable.





'Grass half full or grass half empty? Valuing native grassy landscapes'

Friends of Grasslands' forum 30 October – 1 November 2014

Friends of Grasslands Inc. (www.fog.org.au) supporting native grassy landscapes



Patch burn of Yellow Box



Reduced fuel around tree



Grasslands can be safely burnt in small patches with good containment lines in place and under suitable weather conditions.

Lauren Van Dyke has a social science degree and is the former Kosciuszko to Coast Facilitator. She lives and works on a farm near Bredbo.