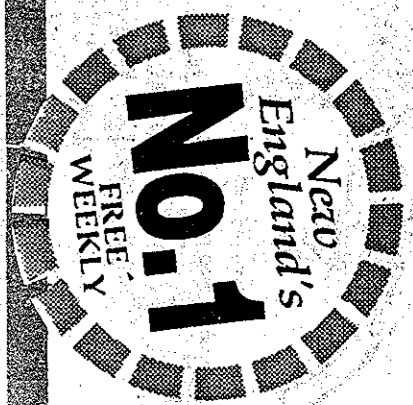


# The New Englander



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Circulating to 11,635 homes in Armidale, Uralla, Guyra, Glen Innes & Walcha

## Creeklands top priority for Landcare - and others

By SIOBHAN QUINN

LANDCARE is an organisation people usually associate with rural areas - you would not expect to find them in a city.

However, Armidale had its own Landcare group known as the Armidale/Dumaresq Landcare Group. Members of the group, Bronwen Jones and Kim Harris said the group was established one-and-a-half years ago for the purpose of beautifying the Dumaresq creek.

"We are mainly interested in the Dumaresq Creek from Dumaresq Dam to Commissioners Waters," Ms Harris said.

"The creek is part of the environment of Armidale and like everyone else we are looking to enhance it and beautify it," Ms Jones said.

Other parties interested in the creek include the University of New England, the Dumaresq Shire Council and the Armidale City Council, organisations which the Armidale/Dumaresq group are trying to liaise with.

"The UNE, the shires and the Armidale City Council have a committee which looks after the creek and we are trying to work in with that," Ms Harris said.

Part of the Armidale/Dumaresq group's plan for the creek is extensive planting of native trees.

"We have got around \$15,000 to spend and around 20,000 trees growing (ready) to plant down the creek," Ms Harris said.

She said they had three sites to plant along the creek in spring and planting had already occurred near the swing bridge at the back of the Armidale Swimming Pool.

Ms Harris said one of the problems faced by the creek was the rate of leaf drop from the deciduous trees.

"Autumn trees are the thing in Armidale but they have more place in the street than near a creek," she said.

"They don't fit in with the natural environment - a balanced ecosystem starts with the vegetation."

Ms Jones said the leaf fall with native plants was not as great as with deciduous ones.

Ms Harris said this year would be the group's first big year of planting.

Another environmental area addressed by the group is the erosion of the creek's banks.

"We are putting in groynes which are structures which avert the flow from the eroding banks," Ms Harris said.

The women said they were hoping involve the community with their plans to beautify the creek.

"We are hoping it will be taken up by schools and by the university, we are applying for grants," Ms Harris said.

Anyone interested in the revegetation of Dumaresq Creek can ring Kim Harris on 72 9006.



ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN ... Members of the Armidale/Dumaresq Landcare group which is revegetating the Dumaresq Creek. Bronwen Jones and Kim Harris

☆ **Armidale**  
High students have taken on a serious task - mediating playground disputes, including incidences of bullying and testing - See P.3

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