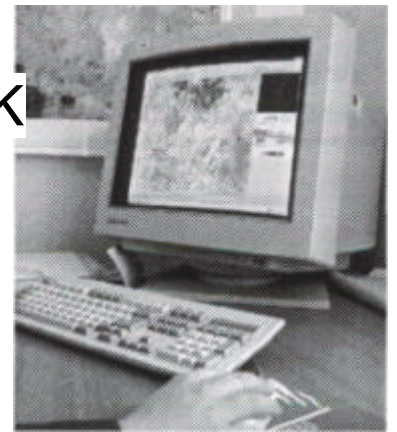




Woody Yaloak Technical Fact Sheet



GIS: The Woody's new tool for information exchange

The development of any successful Landcare project always involves some history of successes and failures. In the Woody Yaloak Catchment, the lessons learned from the failures have been just as important as those learned from the successes.

The positive outcome sought by the Woody committee is not always the on-ground success, but the successful transfer of knowledge between those involved in the demonstration or project site, and the wider catchment community.

Since its inception in 1993, the Woody group have tried many different methods of disseminating information. Some of these highlights have included field days, pasture walks and the formation of local neighbourhood groups.

Cam Nicholson has been with the Woody Yaloak from the earliest days, and said that with the development of the GIS, the group now has the tools to collate the information and have it readily accessible for individuals to learn from.

"The Woody Yaloak Project has supported over 600 projects since 1993"

"We've had some really good successes and some dismal failures over that time."

"The challenge for the Woody Yaloak committee has always been how to make the sharing of practical experiences stimulating so landholders want to learn from each other".

Searching for the answers

The GIS allows projects to be classified with the inclusion of a few key words so that a landholder can

search it for information on a particular topic.

"You can use the query function to find information on a certain topic such as direct seeding," Cam said.



The group identifies success as a transfer of knowledge between those involved in the demonstration or project site, and the wider catchment community.

"The query would highlight a number of locations throughout the catchment where other landholders had undertaken direct seeding as a means of revegetation."

Cam explained that by clicking on one of these locations the details of the project appear.

"For direct seeding sites, the sorts of issues listed could include the time of sowing, species used, seeding rates, pre and post-sowing weed control and more," he said.

Other information such as before and progressive photos linked to the project site could be added to the GIS.

The benefit of having the information on

the system is the ability for the landholder to select for very local and specific examples.

"Information can be filtered by just picking a certain year or using other GIS overlays to highlight sites in the same rainfall zone or with the same soil type," Cam said.

"Because the information is local, further details on the project can be obtained simply by making contact with the farmer or neighbourhood group involved."

The challenge has always been how to make the sharing of practical experiences stimulating

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The CIS allows photos to be linked with pinpoint accuracy to a location in the landscape. Above Knight's Hill, Pittong looking north-east. The same site nine years later (right).



Fact sheets

Cam explained that the group was developing a series of Fact Sheets' that were case studies of projects or issues that would also be available in a digital form on the GIS.

"The fact sheets have been a great success for use in tours and field days to explain projects in more detail."

"We intend on having these loaded into the system as well so that people can find out as much as possible with the simple click of the mouse."

Capturing time and progression on the GIS

The Woody Yaloak project also supports an ongoing photo record of projects.

"Photographs are a fantastic way to visually demonstrate the changes in our landscape."

"One of the problems with progressive

photography is that you often take a photo when the works are done and five years later can't remember where it was taken from," Cam said.

"The GIS allows photos to be linked with pinpoint accuracy to a location in the landscape this way we don't need to rely on the photographers memory to locate the site."

Cam said the capacity of the GIS is really only limited by imagination, and that they have plans to include video footage at sites to show panoramic views and to provide demonstrations of techniques.

GIS Project Supporters

The group has considerable on-going support in the GIS project. Partners that have made meaningful contributions include Alcoa World Alumina Australia, the Corangamite CMA, DNRE and the Golden Plains Shire.

The Woody group now has the capacity to exchange information between landholders quickly and efficiently.

"Osprey Computing have really done the development of the software at a fraction of the commercial costs associated with the project, enabling us to develop a tool that will drastically improve the groups ability to transfer knowledge," Cam said.

For more information contact:

**For more information about the GIS, contact:
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