

An overview of [Australian Association of Bush Regenerators \(AABR\)](#)

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WORKING WITH NATURAL PROCESSES

On 8 January 1994, extreme weather triggered a bushfire that burnt through the majority of Lane Cove National Park (LCNP) in Sydney. Years earlier, the Friends of LCNP had been created, and following the destruction of the fires, the group planned a regeneration

program to support the recovery of the bushland. They sought the help of the Australian Association of Bush Regenerators (AABR), which had been established eight years earlier in 1986. With the help of AABR's trained bush regenerators, the Friends of LCNP and teams of volunteers were equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to promote ecological restoration of the park.

Over 30 years later, Lane Cove National Park remains a popular destination to appreciate Australia's natural environment, and AABR is preparing to celebrate its 40-year milestone. This is just one example of the value AABR provides to the Australian community. AABR is a not-for-profit organisation that was established with the vision of healthy and sustainable native Australian ecosystems. It currently has a Victorian branch and NSW/ACT branch. The term 'bush regeneration' is at the heart of AABR's ecological restoration vision, which describes a specific kind of restoration that fosters the natural regeneration of native species. AABR has a wide range of objectives to achieve this vision, including engaging with communities and governments, promoting education around ecological restoration, and facilitating the training and upskilling of people and organisations involved in managing Australia's environment.



[From AABR's Facebook page](#)

AABR also offers industry accreditation in assisted natural regeneration, provides a Bush Jobs service and publishes lists of contractors, consultants, and accredited practitioners, presents seminars and field trips, publishes newsletters and e-bulletins, maintains a website full of high-quality resources about bush regeneration and current events, and advocates to government bodies regarding ecological restoration.

One of AABR's current ongoing projects is the Environmental Restoration Integrated Knowledge Learning System (ERIK), which aims to develop an online learning platform that provides ecological restoration knowledge to a variety of people, such as bushcarers, government staff, students, and academics. AABR has received funding from the NSW Environmental Trust for its development. The project was established to provide a trusted go-to resource for information on best practice environmental restoration, after finding that there is a lack of such a knowledge base.



[From AABR's Facebook page](#)

Recently, a panel of experts, including bush regenerators, assessed the quality of ecological restoration materials for threatened ecological sites in NSW, and recommended that expert panels be formed to help guide materials and research for the ERIK project. AABR encourages those interested in supporting the project to share and promote it, join the relevant Facebook group, donate, and, for those based in NSW, complete a survey. Thus far, \$3722 has been raised towards the project. You can read more about it [here](#).

In addition to ERIK, AABR currently provides a wealth of resources for supporting the restoration of bushland after bushfires, available on their website. These include a number of publications and presentations, case studies, guides and webinars. For example, information sheets on weeding techniques and steps to take following a fire in bushland, a First Aid for Burned Bushland video series, and this article on [assessing the resilience of a site](#). They also publish educational videos on regenTV, their video platform. These include presentations by a variety of experts, including bush regenerators, ecologists, biologists, experts in Aboriginal fire-burning practices, and more. AABR carries out its activities and projects through Working Groups, which also assist in developing proposals and seeking funding for projects.

2026 will mark AABR's 40th anniversary, and AABR is planning events and celebrations to showcase the bush regeneration community. Ideas include AABR's Walk, Talk & Gawk field days, industry symposiums, a short film festival, and an AABR podcast. To have a say in which activities are prioritised or to put forward your own suggestions, consider taking part in [AABR's anniversary survey](#). AABR also welcomes enthusiastic individuals to register interest in joining the 40th Anniversary Working Group to bring these ideas to life. Finally, AABR is running a 40th Anniversary Appeal to fundraise for these 2026 events and celebrations.

Visit AABR's website for more information or to access their [free newsletters](#), [contact points](#), and [membership details](#).