



Save Our Macleay River Inc.

Committee and members represent a broad range of people and businesses concerned with water quality of our catchment.

We endeavour to achieve clean and safe water quality to protect and enhance our economic & recreational activities, health and environment of The Macleay.



Oyster Farming



Canoeing & swimming



Environment

Images: 1, 2 & 3 R Milne Home

Current Activities & Events .

Organising 2017's Paddle on the Macleay for 9th September, from Bellbrook bridge to Nook Creek.

Advancing the effective re-formation of the Macleay Contamination Working Group, assisting Derelict Mines and Council activities, to support further research funding applications to resolve and manage contamination in the Macleay.

Researching and monitoring some 'interesting activities' by various mines with regard to their exploration, ownership, management, money trails, reports and activities.

Assisting sampling and analysis of Southern Cross University's and others' heavy metal and nutrient test results in the Macleay at Bellbrook.

Coordinating with Hillgrove Mines for further meetings for site visits and support for funds for remediation of historic sources of pollution there.

For more current information, participate and support Save Our Macleay River Inc. please go to our web site: www.saveourmacleayriver.com or our [Save Our Macleay River](#) Facebook site.

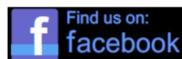


Paddle on the Macleay 2014, R Milne Home

We invite you to be informed and involved with...

Save Our Macleay River Inc.

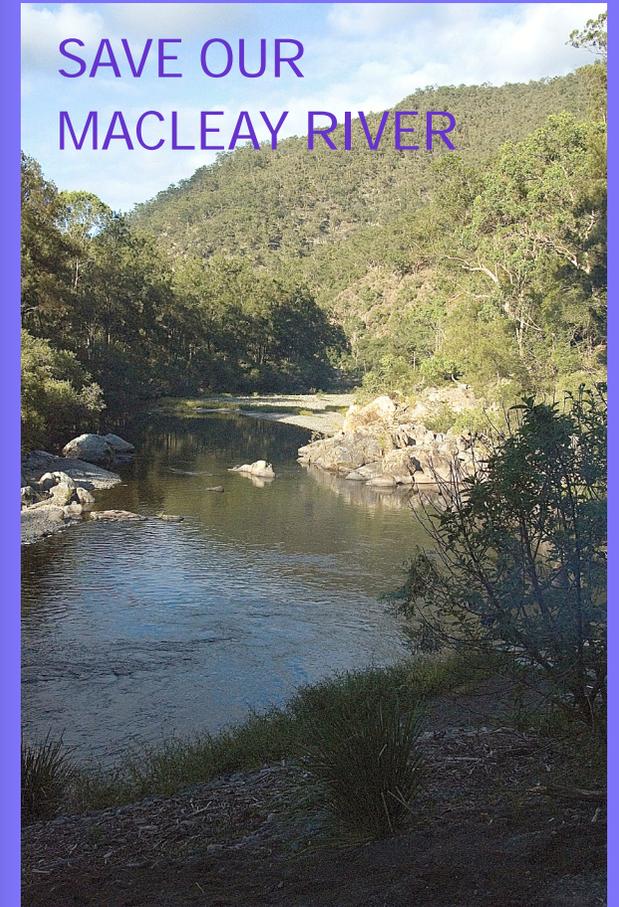
Post. C/- Bellbrook General Store,
29 Main Street, Bellbrook, NSW 2440
Website: www.saveourmacleayriver.com
Email: saveourmacleayriver@gmail.com



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SAVE OUR MACLEAY RIVER



If you drink the water, fish, canoe, swim or water your stock from our River and streams

... We invite you to be informed and involved.

Who are SOMR?

Save Our Macleay River Inc. is a Community-based organisation, established to raise awareness of and for The Community endeavour to...

Ensure Clean water throughout the Macleay River Catchment.

Many of our community and tourists rely on the Macleay River as a water supply or for recreation - including you?

SOMR, established in 2013, out of our economic and community concern and passion to prevent extreme pollutants (*antimony, arsenic and other 'heavy metals'*) which were then proposed to be taken from Urunga to Hillgrove at the top of the Macleay to flow down our River!

This proposal was thankfully shelved, in part through SOMR and community lobbying. The group still focuses on broader issues of contamination from past and present mining as well as other impacts on the economic, health and recreational lives of communities downstream.

In pursuing this focus, SOMR still forges links with various Government, research, legislative and industry bodies to become a reasoned voice of the community to achieve a clean Macleay River and catchment.



Cover Image: J Cruickshanks



The Macleay River Catchment.

The Macleay River catchment is large, 11,450 square kilometres, an area between north of Guyra, south of Walcha and South West Rocks now covered by 3 Local Government Areas. The River is one of the fastest flowing in NSW over a 300 km length from the source near Armidale to the mouth at South West Rocks.

Approximate land types and areas are: Upper catchment on The Tablelands, mainly sheep grazing (6400 Km²). Mid-catchment, mainly deep gorges and forest (2800Km²). Lower catchment mostly undulating grazing & forest (2100Km²) Estuary floodplain (200 Km²).

The Mid-catchment is often falsely referred to as the re-oxygenating 'lungs' of the catchment.

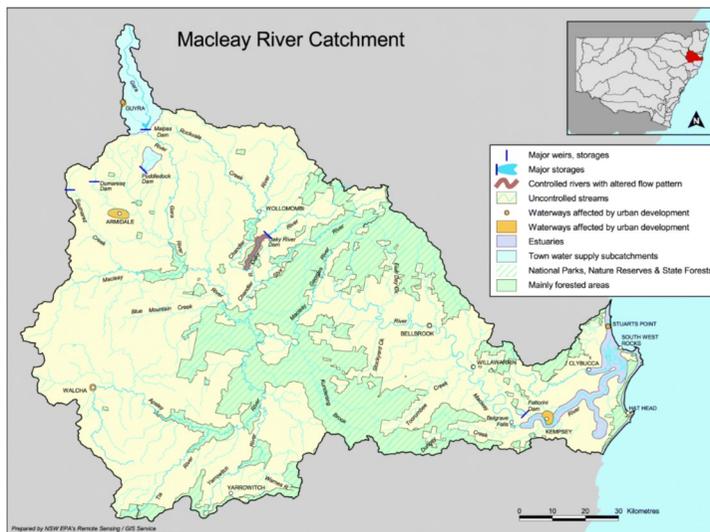


Image: NSW EPA's Remote Sensing / GIS Service.

and what do we do?

What has SOMR done?

In the last 12 months, SOMR has....

- ▶ Continued to focus attention and pressure to resolve past & derelict mine pollution of the Macleay River and some tributaries.
- ▶ Further coordinated with scientists and government bodies, including Local Land Services (LLS), 'Water Contamination Working Group' and Derelict Mines for solutions to issues affecting our Community.
- ▶ Continued communication with Hillgrove Mines. Even while being in 'care and maintenance' mode and moving to gold production, we liaise to protect the Macleay from pollution in extreme rainfall events.
- ▶ Lodged a Submission objecting to Hillgrove Mines' DA for the proposed Clarks Gully mine. An appeal of Council's Approval was considered. Due to the cost and Conditions of Consent imposed, no appeal was made. SOMR monitors compliance to Conditions.
- ▶ Made representations to Councils to ensure liaison regarding development and Proposals that may impact downstream communities.
- ▶ Submitted reasoned responses to various draft legislative changes, to help protect and improve the Macleay's quality. Including Coastal Management Reforms, EP&A Act and Biodiversity Conservation Act draft changes.
- ▶ Hosted a public meeting for LLS to present a progress update of the Clybucca Wetlands Rehabilitation project. SOMR supported the successful Fish Habitat Rehabilitation Grant application for planning and modelling.
- ▶ Brought findings of the Macleay's 'Ecohealth' assessment to the attention of the public and Councils to act on solutions to issues.