Events Update
Yarram Yarram Landcare Network

By Dan Garlick

Newsletter production and design is driven by volunteers on behalf of the Landcare Community. We look forward to your input.

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Melissa Ainsworth, Helga Binder, Dan Garlick, Samantha Monks and Warren the Wise.

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Deadlines
All contributions for the Summer edition must be received before 16th November, 2012

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Winter

YARRAM URBAN LCG METING
Where: 6pm Thurs 4 October
When: Meet at Trevor Colvin – 0417 307 098 - for details
Where: Contact Trevor Colvin – 0417 307 098 - for details

BIODIVERSITY MAPPING
When: 9am Wed 17 October
Where: Woodside Hall
Join the Woodside LCG for their General Meeting

WILDLIFE WANDER
Bingi & Hedley Landcare Groups
When: 10am Thursday 18th October
Where: Coastal heathlands of Gelliondale. Come look and learn with us. Meet at turn-off to Rosstiers Rd (park and wait in Rosstiers Rd) off 5th Gippsland Hwy between Pt Albert & Hedley. Bring plant books if you have them, boots, repellent, snack or lunch, drinks and a chair.
RSVP: Kaye on 51851398 by 2nd October

YARRAM AGM 2012
Yarram Yarram Landcare Network

by Dan Garlick

PLATINUM – MORE THAN 25 YEARS OF SERVICE
- Ed & Pat Brand
- Peter and Norma Garlick
- Gavin and Sue Egan
- David and Sue McAulay
- Mr and Mrs David and Joy McAninly

GOLD – 20 TO 25 YEARS SERVICE
- Libby Balderstone
- Don and Kay Belcher
- Rob and Jenny Davies
- Fergus and Rosemary Irving
- Graeme and Frankie McClennan
- Andrew and Alison Missen
- Gavin Missen
- Trevor Missen
- Steve Ronaldson
- David and Sally White

BRONZE 10 - 14 YEARS SERVICE
- Bev Beale
- Leon Trembath

As part of the State Government's, Palaeontology, Museum of Victoria. They both have extensive
experience and we look forward to drawing on this over the next couple of years.

At the AGM, the YYLN Board of Members. We would like to thank and wish
David McAulay to the YYLN Board. They both have extensive
experience and we look forward to drawing on this over the next couple of years.

Dr Tom Rich, internationally renowned Palaeontologist provided a fantastic finale to the great night. He provided insight into the prehistoric world of South Gippsland, highlighting the diversity of dinosaurs that once roamed these parts. Dr Rich is keen to explore/identify possible dig sites in the Strzelecki's, for further information please contact the YYLN Office.
HURRAH FOR LANDCARE!!

Over the past 30 years we have planted large corridors of indigenous trees and shrubs on our property in Madalya. The land was drastically cleared in the first half of the 20th century and covered in sawsot, thistles and blackberries, when we bought it in 1981. Many of our neighbours, who bought around the same time, also planted many trees and shrubs on their properties. 1995 saw the formation of our Landcare Group, which encouraged more of the community to create corridors for wildlife and eradicate feral pests. It was, therefore, very gratifying to witness, in January this year, a male and female koala performing vocally, with great gusto, in the trees near our house, and in May, this koala enjoying the fruits (or should I say leaves) of our labour, strolling through our, now very mature, plantation. We have also seen many more species of birds this year, enjoying all the neighbourhood corridors.

I can only say how wonderfully worthwhile all the hardwork of Landcarers is, throughout our community and all over the world. Thank you all.

Lyn Hughes, Madalya.

Do you feel so connected to your local area that it’s like you are ingrained within it? This edition’s “Local Landcare Legend” features Maree Avery who confesses, “it’s like my blood is in the soil and I think I have an understanding of what the Aboriginals must feel with regard to a sense of belonging”.

The Avery family have a very long history within the district dating back to 1851 at Port Albert. Some of Maree’s ancestors have left their stamp on the district having built infrastructure such as the Port Albert Museum and the Port Welshpool Museum.

Maree’s grand parents settled in the Hedley district in approx 1920 and held large land holdings which included three islands; Dog, Little Dog and Bullock Islands as a mixed farming enterprise. Maree’s parents then farmed on approximately 350 acres of which today, Maree lives on 93 acres and she is very grateful for having such supportive neighbours. Half of the property has been put under a Conservation Covenant with the Banksia Woodland vegetation, a sign of the fragile landscape, existing on a series of former dunes. The property overlooks the Nooramunga Marine and Coastal Park and is just over one kilometre from the shoreline.

Fond childhood memories of playing in the bush on the family farm and at nearby Gellion’s Run has left a lasting impression of the former landscape. Maree left the district as a young adult to study Nursing and it wasn’t until her return that she noticed a decline in the health of the vegetation. Comparing the roadside vegetation to that of the remnant vegetation amongst grazing land, with its ringbarked trees and trodden shrubs, instigated Maree’s decision to conserve half of the property with fencing and to only allow cattle to graze on the cleared grassed sections. In just ten short years signs of natural regeneration is evident.

A member of the Hedley Landcare Group, Maree was a key driver of its inception in 1999. The Group conducted its first community project in the year 2000 with the planting of 3000 trees at the Hedley Recreation Reserve. Plants endemic to the area were planted with the assistance of the Welshpool Primary School students. From the success of this event, farm walks and talks were hosted with another community project held in 2002. This project involved the revegetation of wetlands at Welshpool and was funded by the Agnus Landcare Group, again with the assistance of the school pupils. A DVD was produced in 2003 by the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority as a means of promoting Landcare in Victoria. Maree, along with other YYLN members, participated in the making of this DVD. It would be great to view this and use as a measure of Landcare today!

In 2005 the Hedley Landcare Group and the Welshpool Primary School students planted a further 1000 trees at the Hedley Recreation Reserve before Maree instigated a jarrah vegetation weed and erosion control works to be undertaken along the Nine Mile Creek. 2007 saw the group enter a recess period before it was again rejuvenated earlier this year. With former and new members presently in the group it is marvellous to see the enthusiasm return with proactive plans for the future, with Maree again, “in the front seat” driving the group.

We are fortunate to have a role model like Maree in our Landcare community. She has devoted over ten years to the Landcare cause, in roles which include serving on the former YYLN Board and as the key driver of the Hedley Landcare Group. It’s this passion and dedication to our environment and the on-going community leadership displayed that entitles Maree to the title of “Local Landcare Legend”.

...continued from previous page
**Around the Traps**

**YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK**

**By our Landcare Groups**

**Binginwarri**

The Binginwarri Group have some interesting activities coming up that you may like to participate in. All YLGN group members are invited and most welcome to attend. Please RSVP to Kaye on 5185 1398 or kbarbour@harbourcct.com.au by the date requested for each event which are itemised in the “Events” calendar of this Newsletter. We have also been hard at work eradicating our weeds while Paul Fayolle gets out and about with the camera won by him through the JARR competition held earlier in the year.

**Woodside**

The Woodside Landcare Group held its AGM on the 22nd of August. This was a well attended meeting with guest speaker David McNally chairing the election of Office Bearers. Gavin Missen was duly elected President, Ferguson living in Vice President, Jane Gordon as Secretary and Bryan Walpole retained the Treasurer’s position.

The meeting was followed by an entertaining presentation by group member Neil Collins on his recent trek of the Kokoda Trail. As usual an excellent supper by our Catering Officer, Kay Belcher, topped off the evening. Our next meeting is planned for Wednesday the 17th of October at 8pm in the Woodside Hall. All welcome.

**Albert River**

The Albert River Group has a sleepy time of it through the winter months. Nevertheless, a meeting at David & Sue MacAulay’s on August 1 saw renewed energy. First the ‘Landcare Group Health survey was completed’ and then ideas for the next twelve months were discussed and secured through a member by the date requested for each event which are itemised in the “Events” calendar of this Newsletter. We have also been hard at work eradicating our weeds while Paul Fayolle gets out and about with the camera won by him through the JARR competition held earlier in the year.

**Yarram Urban**

Landcare is generally considered a rural pursuit and most groups are focused on works outside towns and cities, but the new Yarram group has become one of a handful of Landcare groups with an urban focus. Yarram Urban Landcare Group formed in July and has its first formal meeting last month, to establish its charter and purpose.

The group should provide an outlet for urban residents to become involved in Landcare, who would otherwise have little understanding of Landcare and will help spread the message that Landcare activities are broader than ‘on farm’ alone.

Several members are experienced Landcarers and the rest are enthusiastic to learn and to become involved. The group has four broad aims which were ratified by the members:

To identify uniquely urban projects which are in need of Landcare input and to work on them. We have secured $2,000, which will go toward one or more projects.

To assist other groups in the network with labour and logistics for special events. YULG members will become a floating force available to other groups in the network for special events requiring extra help, providing there is a social aspect to it at the end of activities.

To eradicate Indian Mynahs from Yarram. Members have been in touch with other Landcare networks with a view to becoming involved in a district-wide Mynah trapping program.

To expand the Landcare conversation. The broadness of Landcare is very well known to those who are involved but not to the general public. As Landcare evolves beyond its 75th year, more diversity will develop and YULG hopes to play a role spreading that word.

The next meeting is set for 6pm October 4 and anyone interested is welcome. YULG is a sub group of the YYLN. Any enquiries can be directed to the office in Livingston Street, or contact Trevor Coxin: 0417 307 098.

**Hedley**

Hedley/Nine Mile Creek has been sleeping for the past few years but not anymore. The second meeting of the year was held on the 22nd of August with another great turn up of Hedley Landcarers. At this stage Hedley will remain as a sub-group of YYLN. It was really positive to see members share their future plans for the group and as individual landowners. I must at this point thank Dan for his guidance and direction in getting Hedley back on track. We have some upcoming planned events advertised in the “Events” calendar of this newsletter. On next General Meeting is planned for Tuesday the 13th of November. We plan to meet at 7pm at the Atkin farm (in Rosisters Road) to view the progress of a wetland project which was fenced off 6-7 years ago. A meeting will follow at the Hedley Hall.

**Wonyp**

Members of the Wonyp Group recently inspected the Dingo Creek Road and sections of Woorarra Road, which were treated for blackberry eradication, funded by the “Weeds for Trees” program. The result of this work has been hugely successful and has now inspired a new project to clean up and revegetate the Dingo / Agnes River system, from their headwaters at Ryton Junction to the Valley bridge at Devil’s Pinch Road. This project will complement the JARR Project in size and environmental effect. Wonyp sits on the Watershed of these two major river systems and at their headwaters, a most important site. Our President, John Kosta, will be driving this project with the enthusiastic group of land owners in the region. We will also engage with member groups of the South Gippsland Landcare Network who are focusing works on the Agnes River further downstream.

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Dear Warren,

I am struggling on a daily basis with collecting my (free range) chook eggs before they are devoured by a pair of resident crows! How can I stop them?

“Starring Chook Egg-lover”

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**Warren the Wise**

Dear Starving Chook Egg-lover

I sympathise with you!

An unusual secret I’ve heard is that I too, love eggs, the only wombat in Australia known to do so! Do you think that may be what makes me so wise?

There are six species of the Corvidae family (Crows and Ravens) recorded in Australia - Three crows - Little Crow, C. bennetti, Torresian Crow, C. orru and the ship-assisted colonizer, the House Crow, C. splendens occasionally arriving at our ports from S.E. Asia and usually remaining in urban areas. This crow has been eradicated from Australia now it is thought. But the only crow found in Victoria is the Little Crow, with its distribution just barely reaching the northern Mallee area.

Three raven species - Australian Raven C. carbooides, Forest Raven C. tasmancus and the Little Raven C. mellon, are all common to Victoria.

So…your culprit is unlikely to be a crow but, in my opinion, is a raven!

In fact… the Australian Raven. It is an extremely intelligent bird and plays a vital role in the rural environment. They eat pest insects such as the cockchafer beetle, larvae and grasshoppers that are responsible for widespread crop and pasture damage. They also reduce the spread of flies by eating rotten carrion. In fact… the Australian Raven. It is an extremely intelligent bird and plays a vital role in the rural environment. They eat pest insects such as the cockchafer beetle, larvae and grasshoppers that are responsible for widespread crop and pasture damage. They also reduce the spread of flies by eating rotten carrion.

They are largely undervalued!

The main differences between the three raven species are their behaviour, where they live and their calls.

I think your problem is with the Australian Raven because:

- They are not nomadic, nor found in flocks.
- They pair for life and occupy their territory all year round.
- Their intelligence allows them to recognise food items such as food scraps and chook eggs!
- Other bird eggs are a regular part of their diet.

So…what can you do to keep all your chook eggs for yourself?

Fence the chooks in - including a roof of chicken wire and you should be able to eat all the eggs your chooks lay and that your heart desires!

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**YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK**

**Around the Traps**

**YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK**
By Dan Garlick

**Dan’s Den**

I would like to take an opportunity to provide a short summary of some of the YYLN achievements over the last 12 months.

In 2011/12, the Yarram Yarram Landcare Network undertook 13 projects, delivering approximately $610,000: Approx. 50000 plants in the ground, 47ha of land revegetated, 30km of fencing erected; 60ha of weeds re-vegetated; 30km of fencing the ground; 47ha of land over the last 12 months.

YYLN have also been extremely active in other areas and in 2011/12 have delivered the following activities and events:

- Newsletter – production of a high quality quarterly colour newsletter; Welcome Pack – production of a professional folder; Website – update and relaunch of YYLN website;
- Educational trailer – building of a new specialised interactive educational trailer; Annual BBQ – over 60 people, 3 guest speakers; AGM – over 50 people, terrific night, Farm Plan 21 – delivery a 8 week whole farm planning course delivered.

Throughout the year, YYLN has worked hard to support the re-vegetation of the Gippsland Landcare Group and the Carrajung Landcare Group. Particularly in the case of the Gippsland, there has been a fantastic response and the future looks bright. In addition to these groups, YYLN’s newest group, the Yarram Urban Landcare Group was established and has 10 new members.

The State Landcare Awards were held in November and there was much excitement when Libby Balderstone was announced firstly the regional winner and then the Victorian State Primary Producer Award winner. This is terrific recognition for the many years of outstanding sustainable farming by Libby at Warragall Creek.

As many of you may know, I am moving on from YYLN into a role with the West Gippsland Sustainability Council.

The Board undertook a process to review where it is at and where it heading, culminating in a workshop in February 2012. The process highlighted that YYLN was doing a lot of things well, however, the process was a good opportunity to clearly define the key themes guiding the YYLN operation:

- Landcare Groups & Membership
- Sustainable Agriculture/Production
- Environmental Stewardship
- Education, Communication & Promotion
- Partnerships & Collaboration
- Funding
- Governance

2012/13 is shaping to be even bigger than last year: YYLN’s program over the next 12-months is summarized in the table on the next page.

**Communities for Nature Grant; Jack and Albert River Restoration Project (JARR)**

**Expressions of Interest for 2012-2013 (Round 1)**

The Yarram Yarram Landcare Network (YYLN) has funding opportunities available for environmental projects through the Victorian Government’s Communities for Nature Program in the Jack and Albert River Catchments areas. Landholders are invited to express interest in on-ground projects that will:

1. Protect, enhance and/or control remnant vegetation in priority ecological vegetation communities (SVCs) which include Warm & Cool Temperate Rainforest, Landford Forest and Dargo Forest.
2. Reduce the Impacts of Blackberry, a Weed of National Significance (WNS), on biodiversity within the JARR area.
3. Project, plants or support priority habitat for the South Gippsland Koala.

For more information please contact: Samantha Monks, Landcare 1300 365 555; 5179 7999 or 0413 277 907.

E: samantha@pagona.vic.gov.au

*Expressions of Interest close on Friday October 12.*

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**Catchment Management Authority.** I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone I have had the pleasure meeting and working with over the last couple of years. I have thoroughly enjoyed my short time with YYLN, particularly the people, projects and diverse environment. Apologies for not sticking around longer.

I would like to single out David McNinly (and Joy) for making me feel part of the local community and for your tireless efforts, enthusiasm and humour. You have left a lasting impression on me and I will miss having a beer in your dairy at the end of the day, whilst getting the cheques signed!

YYLN is well placed moving into the future, with a good Board, staff, enthusiastic landholders and groups. There are a good suite of projects which are well funded over the next few years. Good luck and I will see you around the traps.

Dan

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**2012/13 YYLN Project Summary**

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<td>Dept of Ag, Fisheries &amp; Forestry</td>
<td>Ongoing monitoring of GPOTP sites and including Soil Carbon testing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erosion Control</td>
<td>Corner Inlet Connections</td>
<td>9ha of Erosion Control; JARR area; fencing and tree planting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communities for Nature – JARR Project</td>
<td>DSE – Communities for Nature</td>
<td>75ha Blackberry Suppression; 10ha remnant protection/reveg</td>
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<td>Caring for our Country via WGCMA</td>
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<td>Wellington Shire Council</td>
<td>JARR Brochures</td>
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**New Technology: ECOBLADE**

Local ex-farmer, John Kosta, has been exploring new wet-blade technology which cuts and applies herbicide to gorse, blackberry, tussocks, bracken or unwanted grass species in one pass. He says it delivers a huge saving on herbicide and labour costs when used in conjunction with a 4wd tractor and linkage slasher. If you want further information see ‘ECOBlade’ on youtube or phone John on 56816286 or 0402390719.

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**From the Office**

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By Dan Garlick

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National Landcare Conference and Awards

The 2012 National Landcare Conference was held on September 3-5 in sparkling sunshine on the Darling Harbour, Sydney NSW. YYLN Board Chair David McInally, member Helga Binder and Dan Garlick attended on behalf of the network. It was a conference packed full with ideas, story-sharing, networking and learning.

There were sessions on Conserving our Biodiversity, Engaging our Communities, Sustainable Agriculture & Innovation and presentations from National Landcare Award finalists. Plenary sessions had excellent panels discussing Food Production and the future of Landcare, including an inspirational ‘telepresence’ with David Suzuki. An edited version of this will be on uTube so that you can all look and be inspired.

Social Media and its potential to spread the message of Landcare was a repeated theme throughout the conference. A few brave souls even started tweeting on #landcareconf12 but most of us were secretly thinking that tweeting should be left to the birds. We were all encouraged to get our Landcare websites up to scratch and connected with our Landcare facebook pages and our Instagram images so that we can encourage the rest of Australia to ‘like’ us. Good luck!

The National Landcare Awards, a focal point in the conference and were presented on the Tuesday night.

By Dan Garlick and Helga Binder

2012 National Landcare Awards

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2012 National Landcare Awards

By Dan Garlick and Helga Binder

Innovative Plants & Animals (IPA) Project

We continue to work closely with our partners and local community in controlling and education on invasive plants and animals. Over the winter months we have been targeting gorse regrowth along the ‘regular’ roadsides, public and private land. With the bright yellow Gorse flowers in full bloom, it is very easy to spot. We are hoping to secure our 4th year of consecutive funding from the Victorian Gorse Taskforce (VGT) for the Gippsland Coastal Plains Gorse Control Program. Since 2009, this community program has successfully treated over 700ha of Gorse on private land, significantly reducing the size and density of Gorse infestations from Yarram to Sealap.

New and old infestations are still being reported so please contact me ASAP for assistance or advice on Gorse control.

Note: Please see YYLN Advice Sheet “Guide for Invasive Plant & Animal Control.”

Coastal Saltmarsh Protection Project

YYLN’s 2011-12 saltmarsh project sites between Marnis Beach and Reeves Beach will be planted out this spring with 8000 locally indigenous tube stock. More than one hundred hectares of coastal saltmarsh has been protected from stock in the final year of this project. Since 2009, through the Corner Inlet Connections partnership, the WGCMA and YYLN have protected approximately 600ha of coastal saltmarsh on freehold farm land in the Nooramunga area.

Protection of National Significance (WoNS), funded by CfOC, aims to treat some of the plantings. Thankyou Community Connections Partnership, the WGCMA and YYLN have protected approximately 600ha of coastal saltmarsh on freehold farm land in the Nooramunga area.

Erosion Control Project

10,000 tubestock will be planted out in spring across the 2011-12 erosion control project sites on the steep slopes of Hedley Range. Existing Gorse and Dingoe, Landcare members have volunteered to help with some of the plantings. Thankyou team!

Note: Over 4km of fencing was recently completed forming vital bio-links across several properties covering more than 9 hectares of actively eroding gully areas in this landscape-scale project.

Serrated Tussock (Nassella trichotoma) in WGCMA

The WGCMA in partnership with YYLN and DPI, has established the “Seaspray ST Containment Zone”. Over the last 12 months, a community awareness survey has been conducted, a follow up door knock to all landholders living within the control zone and two well-attended ST Workshops at Sealap and Stratford. Representatives from the ST Working Party travelled to Gippsland to attend the workshops and inspect ST trial sites in Sealap and Stratford.

NOTE: This three year project funded by CiOC, aims to treat and control Serrated Tussock (ST) across West Gippsland. A Weed of National Significance (WoNS), ST is regarded as one of the worst weeds in Australia because of its invasiveness, potential for spread, economic and environmental impacts.

It was great to see the students so happy and excited about receiving a plant. Several adults commented that it brought back memories from their own childhood when they took a tree home and planted it in their garden.
Lamb Survival Workshop

By Craig Bush

The Lamb Survival workshop held on Friday August 31st at the Gifford West hall was well attended with 23 farmers and other landholders hearing the latest research from industry experts Jason Trompf and Anita Morant about optimising lamb survival.

District Veterinary Officer, Kit Button, performed lamb necropsies to identify the cause of death of some donated lambs, after weighing them to see if they fitted within the parameters of optimum birth weight. Surprisingly, of all possible causes of lamb deaths, primary predation by foxes, crows or other predators is generally no more than 5% of total deaths.

Presenter and co-founder of the Lifetime Ewe Project, Jason Trompf, reinforced the message that the optimum lamb birth weight is between 4.5kg and 6kg, and that the first 48 hours is critical for lamb survival.

Basically it all goes back to ewe nutrition, which dictates conception rates and lamb birth weights. Producers need to monitor ewe condition scores to track their progress towards target scores at joining and lambing.

Smaller lambing mobs, access to shelter from adverse weather, and identification of twin-bearing ewes to optimise twin lamb survival are key elements to improve overall lamb survival.

Anita Morant from DPI Hamilton and the Everglaze Project spoke of the research into the use of tall wheat grass or phalaris shelterbelts as protection for lambs. Provision of shelter has been proven to reduce lamb mortality by up to 50% in times of high wind chill and rain.

Grass shelterbelts have proven more effective than tree shelterbelts, as they are less permeable and provide better shelter at ground level than do trees.

Finally, a planning meeting was held for the BESTWOOL/BESTLAMB group with the assistance of John Bowman from DPI Leongatha, and topics of interest were raised including a genetics workshop, information about electronic ear tags, farm mapping programmes and financial planning.

The day was very successful, and Gifford/Woodside BESTWOOL/BESTLAMB co-ordinator Craig Bush thanked Samantha Monks for utilising the Yarram Yarram Landcare Network to contact sheep producers and said he looked forward to working with her again in the future.

For information on the activities of the Gifford/Woodside BESTWOOL/BESTLAMB group, please contact Craig Bush on 0427 943 155.

Mullungdung to Coast

Landholders are persevering with on-ground works for the second year of this project. I’m sure there will be a flurry of fencing and planting as soon as the ground dries out a bit.

In the meantime, Peter and Nicki Jennings generously offered the use of their shearing shed to host a workshop on Biodiversity and Fire in the Landscape.

Renee Koelwyn from Parks Victoria spoke about the methodology used by the DSE to create their Fire Operations Plans (or FOP). As Renee is a Fire and Environment Program Officer with Parks she provided a great deal of input into the FOP from the perspective of the individual species through to the whole ecosystems that will be affected by planned burning.

DSE combines this information with state priorities, burn histories and public input to create a three year operations plan. The current plans are available to view at DSE offices or online at www.dse.vic.gov.au/fire-and-other-emergencies/planned-burning-an-introduction/proposed-fire-operations-plans. The YELN area is covered by the Heyfield Map.

Mike McStephen is a Vegetation Management Officer with the CFA in Gippsland and discussed fire management on private property. He outlined his role in assessing vegetation and providing advice to landholders on the use of fire as a management tool to enhance or maintain biodiversity.

Some landholders may be apprehensive regarding the safety aspects of vegetation on their property. Fire Safety Officer Rachel Allen informed us of the free Home Bushfire Advice service offered by the CFA. She can be contacted on 0400 696 382 for more information or to book a property assessment.

Chris Lewis, also from the CFA, outlined the ways his organisations is building partnerships with DSE, VicRoads and the Wellington Shire to improve the capacity of all involved to manage the fire risk associated with living with the bush.

Expressions of interest for the third and final year of this project are now open. Landholders in the project area can apply for funding assistance to create revegetation corridors and protect and enhance remnant vegetation. The application period closes September 28th 2012.

This project is supported by the Yarram Yarram Landcare Network and the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, through funding from the Australian Government’s Caring for our Country.

Seedbank

The Direct Seeder Story continues…

Well, now that we had the direct seeder all spiffy, it seemed a shame to pop it in a shed and wait for the seeding season to begin, so the Seedbank ran a training day instead (and then popped it in a shed because it’s still too wet to seed!)

On an oddly clear morning in July, nine landholders, one curious contractor and a slightly stray child wandered into a shed at Woodside and had a good look at the seeder.

Brian Nicholls had not only serviced the machine, but also used it to create a number of shelterbelts on his property, so he was pretty familiar with its workings! We all mumbled through the calibration calculations, turned wheels and tweaked knobs until just the right amount of seed was spitting out the bottom.

Then we took a bumpy ride out to the site, trying not to get bogged on the way. I was glad everyone agreed that half the site was too wet to even attempt seeding. It gave me confidence that they wouldn’t try it on their own property and damage the seeder.

Almost everyone had a go at direct seeding a row or two and I think most were surprised at how easily the machine handled in the paddock. Hopefully some of them will feel inspired to plan and execute their own projects in the future (hint hint). Of course, I’m here to help with any aspect of that and we will be running another training day next year. Maybe it will have dried out a bit by then.

For further information on any of these projects please contact: Samantha Monks, YELN Project Officer - Ph. 0351 757895, Mob. 0419371497 or Email samantham@wgcmca.vic.gov.au

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Wonyip's 'Highways for Quolls' Project may extend to The Prom

It was a project that captured the imagination, a romantic idea to increase the gene pool of the endangered Tiger Quoll by providing corridors across steep terrain linking state forest to the west, with Binginwarri. Scientific evidence of the existence of these rare mammals prompted the Wonyip Landcare Group to seek funding from the World Wildlife Fund and tactical and financial support from HVP Plantations, across whose land the corridors would have to run. Five years on and the hard work and nature have provided several kilometres of gullies, planted out with thousands of eucalypts, winding through HVP pine plantations.

"Over a two-year period, we planted 10,000 trees," said then WLG President, Trevor Colvin and there is now a possibility of extending the corridors south, all the way to the entrance of Wilsons Promontory." Discussions between Trevor and Belinda Brennan of South Gippsland Landcare Network, led to the idea being floated at a public meeting last year, which was attended by seventy people who gave the concept the thumbs up.

The project is feasible, using existing creeks and rivers which pass through the territory of a number of Landcare Groups and the good news is that these same waterways had been earmarked for work by SGLN. Quolls require a very large home range, so they were never particularly numerous which is all the more reason to do what can be done to increase the gene pool to improve the health of the overall population. In a future edition we will bring you an update on the project and some images of the corridors five years since first plantings.

Partner Activity
Yarram Yarram Landcare Network

By Bronwyn Johnson

Coast Care Planting Day

A group of 20 volunteers joined a community planting day on August 29th at a site next to the Seabank Caravan Park at Port Albert. The result of a Coastcare funding grant to the Albert River Landcare Group, the day saw 2000 understorey grasses, lilies and pea plants placed in the ground in under three hours.

The morning started with dark clouds threatening but soon cleared to gorgeous sunshine making for very pleasant working conditions. The project was a partnership with the Wulgunggo Ngalu Learning Place who sent a mob of a dozen clients and leaders to get some hands-on experience. They provided the bulk of the labour and launched into the work with enthusiasm, assisted by members of the Albert River Landcare Group, Yarram Yarram Landcare Network, Coastcare and Parks Victoria.

The BBQ lunch cooked up by Keith Couper (Parks Victoria) provided much needed sustenance for the final push to get the last 500 plants planted. Seed for the project was supplied by the Yarram Seedbank and was locally collected. The indigenous species were chosen to increase the biodiversity of the site whilst competing with introduced species.

Many of the volunteers were eager to return in a few months to see the results of their work. Further work by Parks Victoria to control weeds and rabbits and to restrict vehicle access should see an improvement in the overall quality of the vegetation and help to protect this fragile coastal environment.
The CFA has a FREE Home Bushfire Advice Service available.
A Fire Safety Officer will come to your property/home and provide advice on property maintenance/improvements to better prepare for the possibility of Bushfire. Advice includes; vegetation management, planning for high risk fire days, personal capacity to deal with major fires and other potential hazards. Contact: Rachel Allen on 0400 696 382 or www.cfa.vic.gov.au/hbas

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