



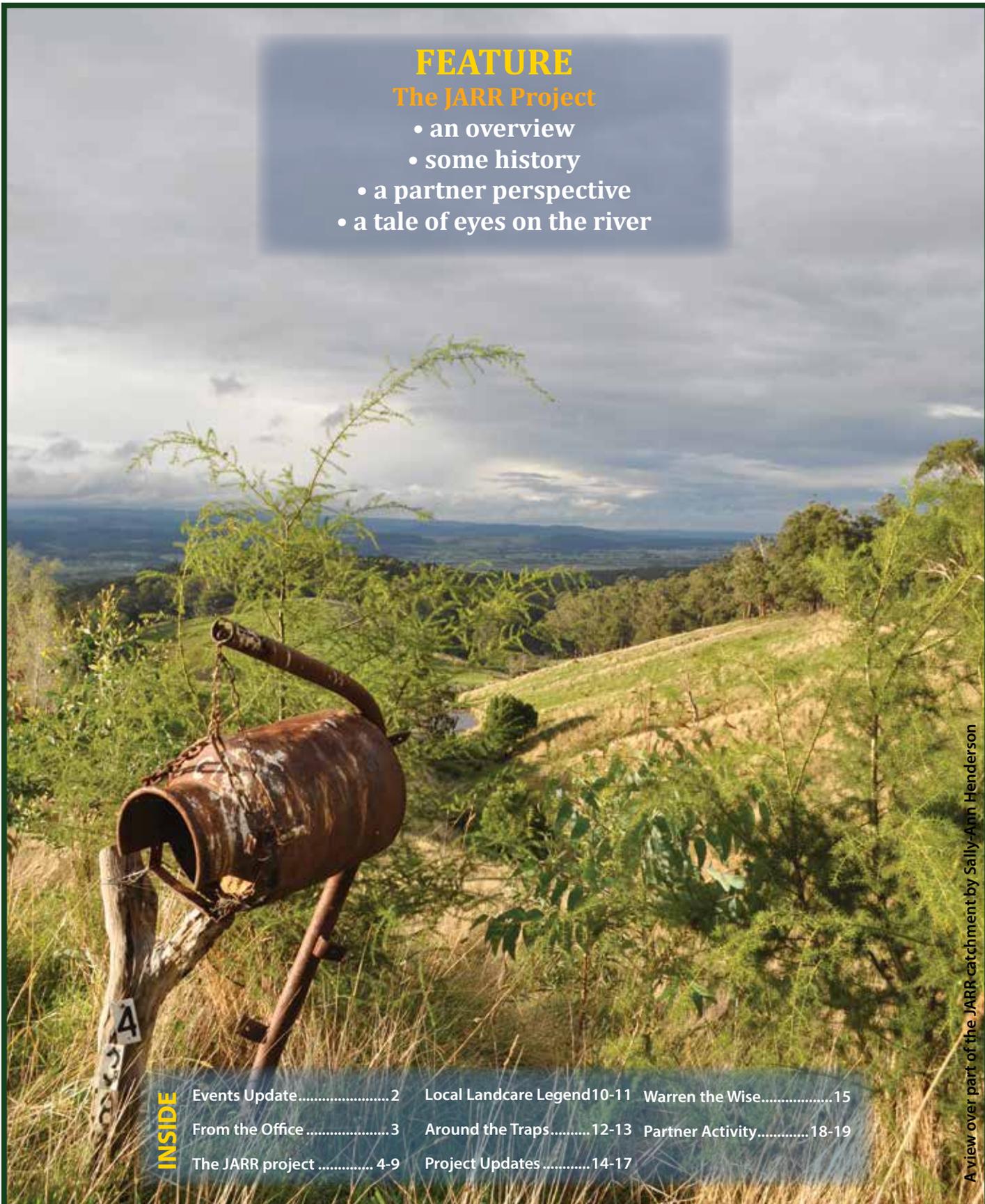
YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NEWS

Vol: 011 WINTER June 2013

FEATURE

The JARR Project

- an overview
- some history
- a partner perspective
- a tale of eyes on the river



INSIDE

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A view over part of the JARR catchment by Sally-Ann Henderson



EVENTS UPDATE

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

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, Sally-Ann Henderson, Samantha Monks, Dina Monks and Warren the Wise.

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Deadlines

All contributions for the Spring edition must be received before 19th July, 2013

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Thanks Dave Smith for this wonderful fungi photo. Known as "Lawyers wigs" or "Shaggy Ink caps", they are edible but will turn your food black

SOILS, CARBON AND COMPOST FIELD DAY

Where: Brian & Jenny Nicholls Woolshed; 423 Seaspray-Stradbroke Rd East, Stradbroke (VicRoads Map 99-B6)

When: Wednesday 5th June 11am – 2:30pm

RSVP: Samantha Monks by 3rd June. Ph: 0419371497 or Email: samantham@wgma.vic

YARRAM URBAN LANDCARE GROUP MEETING

Where: YYLN Office, Livingston St, Yarram

When: 11th June at 5pm

Contact: Trevor Colvin – 0417 307 098

WOODSIDE LANDCARE GROUP MEETING

Where: Woodside Hall

When: 19th June at 8pm

Contact: Jane – 51871400

JARR WORKSHOP – BIODIVERSITY BLUEPRINT

Where: Alberton West Recreation Reserve

When: Thursday 20th June 11am - 2:30pm

RSVP: Samantha Monks by 17th June. Ph: 0419371497 or Email: samantham@wgma.vic

"WALK, TALK & GAWK" WITH THE BINGI GROUP

Where: Wetlands in the Sale area

When: 23rd June

Contact: Margaret – 5185 1358

BIRDWATCHING WITH THE BINGINWARRI LCG

Where: Gelliondale

When: 14th July

Contact: Kaye – 5185 1398

BINGINWARRI LCG AGM & BBO

Where: Contact Kaye for the venue

When: 23rd July

RSVP: Kaye – 5185 1398 by 22nd July

FARM PLAN21 COURSE

Where: Flynn Hall

When: 21 August for 6 Wednesdays (pm)

Contact: Joan Wallis – DPI - 0429 007 240

BINGINWARRI BIODIVERSITY PROJECT

Where: Contact John for venue

When: 25th August

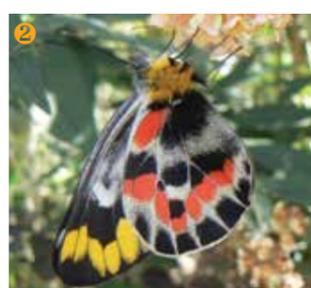
Contact: John – 5185 1455

Do you need to call the Yarram Landcare office? You can now call "1300 0 WGCMA" (1300 094 262) for the cost of a local call from land lines. Just ask to be put through to the Yarram Landcare office.

READER RESPONSE TO BUTTERFLY IDENTIFICATION

Thank you Kaye Proudley for sending in the following comments:

1. Looks like a Cabbage White, *Pieris rapae* - introduced species. But a little hard to see from this photo, send me the original and I'll say for sure.
2. The Mistletoe Butterfly, *Delias harpalycce*. Indigenous. Lays its eggs on that plant.
3. A Skipper, indigenous, species unknown - you need the wings open for an upper view and positive i.d.
4. Varied Sword-grass Brown, *Tisiphone abeona albifascia*, indigenous. ■



FROM THE OFFICE

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By Sally-Ann Henderson



Sally-Ann Says:

Hi Everyone,

As you sit down to read this, the days are drawing to a close early and our smokey skies have hopefully been replaced by sunny days and rainy nights. Snuggle up by the heater, cosy with a cuppa and enjoy reading our Winter edition Newsletter.

This month's edition has a special focus on JARR. For those of you unfamiliar with JARR, it stands for Jack and Albert River Restoration and is an acronym used both to denote a region and projects. Read all about the good work of the many groups that work within the JARR. But for those of you not connected with JARR, don't fear, you will find plenty of other things of interest, for example our local Landcare Legends for this edition are not from the JARR area. We are saving that for next time!

It was so good to see everyone having a fun time at our annual Network BBQ in late April. We were very fortunate to have a great venue (Alberton West Recreation Reserve) where over 80 people could fit comfortably, as the day was wet despite the days either side being bathed in sunshine.

Our Coal Seam Gas speakers stimulated much discussion and many people came up to me afterwards commenting on how much they appreciated the change to hear about the topic. Paul Bilson and Doug Irvine spoke from Ignite Energy and Jo McCubbin and Gavin Mudd spoke on behalf of the Wellington Awareness Group.

Our "Myna" celebrity for the event was Harry Hof. If Harry has inspired you to tackle the Indian Myna problem in your area, let me know and we will try to arrange a bulk order of the traps.

I am sure everyone will agree they did not go home hungry. We had a busy band of volunteer workers in the kitchen keeping the food flowing and the dishes washed. Binginwarri Landcare Group topped off the BBQ with an irresistible array of desserts. Thanks to everyone who helped make it such a success.

News hot off the press - we were successful in receiving a grant from the Wellington Shire to compile the EVC (ecological vegetation class) planting guides for each area! We will be in touch with your group in the coming months to get your input into the guides.

Are you a current financial member? If not you will no longer receive this wonderful Newsletter. We are updating our membership database, which will mean that only financial members will be included in our mail outs. I am sure you will appreciate the costs of producing this magazine and the postage costs. To stay up to date with all things Landcare it would be appreciated if



A GREAT CROWD ASSEMBLED TO HEAR THE SPEAKERS



ANDY DOYLE, BBQ KING



DAVID MACINILNY



THE NEW LANDCARE UTE WITH LANDCARE NUMBER PLATES



you could please pay your membership fees.

Have you seen the new Landcare Ute driving around? After a few tries at different

suggestions we have ended up with Landcare number plate "071 - LC" Why 071? You will find the answer elsewhere in the newsletter. Read on and enjoy...

Sally-Ann

Sally-Ann Henderson ■



THE JARR PROJECT

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By Helga Binder

THE JARR PROJECT

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK



The JARR Project is an initiative of the Yarram Yarram Landcare Network (YYLN) and the Norman Wettenhall Foundation.

The project is looking at landscape-scale change for the entire Jack and Albert Rivers catchment: from the headwaters of the Strzelecki Ranges rainforest down to the internationally significant RAMSAR wetlands of Corner Inlet and Nooramunga Marine

and Coastal Park, south of Yarram.

JARR is supported by the partners that form the JARR Committee. They include representatives from Yarram Yarram Landcare Network Board and staff, Coastcare, HVP Plantations, West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, Waterwatch, Corner Inlet Connections, and the Albert River, Binginwarri, Wonyip and Yarram Urban Landcare groups.

On-ground projects are looked after by Samantha Monks

and Sally-Ann Henderson attends to overall coordination. The committee is open to representatives of any group in the JARR area interested in participating in the project.

Most recently it is developing a new partnership with the Yarram Secondary College with the view to having students actively participating in a variety of on-ground activities.

By July 2011 the JARR project had brought around \$400,000 worth of funding to the catchment for works as varied as salinity remediation, fencing

off remnants, blackberry control, erosion control, planting of biodiversity corridors and Waterwatch monitoring equipment. It also saw the development of a biodiversity blueprint, a number of educational workshops and the publication of bird, plant and fungi identification brochures.

Based on its success, the project secured a further \$600,000 in 2012 for continuation of its on-ground work. On top of this, the Norman Wettenhall Foundation continues to be our closest partner with both financial and general support.

Plans for the 2013-2014 roll-out of initiatives are now underway. They include continuation of the on-ground works undertaken since 2006, the publication of two further educational brochures, a range of information workshops, an updating of the Biodiversity Blueprint and the development and implementation of local monitoring and data collection programs.

Participants in the JARR project have a lot to be proud of. ■



From left: Kevin Heggen, Richard Appleton, Werner Lange, Jenny Davies, Bruce Atkin, Sally-Ann Henderson, Allan Hill, Kaye Proudley, Dave Smith, Samantha Monks and seated, Helga Binder (Chair) and David MacAulay.

ALONG THE ALBERT

by David MacAulay

The current generation understands little of the toil and struggle of the early settlers who ventured into the Strzelecki Ranges.

Roads were mostly clearings through the forest that became mud baths in the winter, while streams were crossed wherever access and a firm stream bed permitted.

Perishable produce such as cream had to be carted to the Creamery despite such difficulties. In the early 1930's a "proper road" was built beside the Albert River, for the last few miles into the Hiawatha area – it had gravel on it.

This roadwork involved the construction of many bridges. Because of the rock bottom



in the river bed many of these bridges were supported by overhead structures. One such structure is the "A-framed bridge" over the Little Albert River, which was in use until

recent years when the pine harvest contractors required stronger bridges. I have been unable to verify it as yet, but folklore tells me that this bridge was built by one of the Irving

brothers from Warrigul Creek. Sadly the quickest way for this unique structure to disappear is through its lack of use and maintenance. ■

Workshop and brochure launch

You will soon have your chance to have a say on what we achieve next in the JARR region.

The Alberton West Recreation Reserve will be our venue for a big celebration of what has been achieved so far in the JARR. Landholders who have made a difference in the last few years will be invited to come along and add their

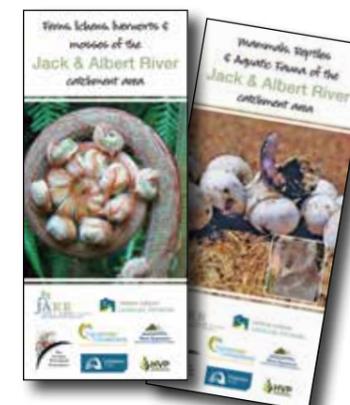
accomplishments to our biodiversity blueprint. It will be a wonderful chance to look back on what we set out to accomplish, what we have all delivered and what is coming up in the next few years.

Two new additions to the JARR brochure collection will also be launched. Be amongst the first to get your hands on the

Animals and the Ferns, Mosses and Lichens brochures.

As part of the celebrations we will also be looking to the future and doing some mapping and planning for future project ideas and on-ground works.

Watch out for the official invitations and make sure you have your say on the 20th of June. ■



The JARR region is not just precious to people. It is home to the Lace Monitor (goanna) which has just been added to Victoria's endangered species list.

Though there is nothing endangered about Harry, the goanna who lives in Kevin Heggen's hayshed and Bluey, who hates to be left out!





THE JARR PROJECT

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By Jenny Davies

EYES ON THE RIVER

Albert River Landcare group came into being over 25 years ago, its name reflecting the nature of the landholders' focus being the river.

The group of landholders living in its vicinity realised its environmental importance as well as its physical link. People understood the importance of maintaining or re-establishing riparian vegetation as vital habitat. This group's work was a fore-runner of the JARR project, which really is a catchment view - the eagle's view of these two rivers!

Some of the projects developed through those years under the leadership of the late John Crew were:

- the fencing off of banks along the Albert River Reserve on the South Gippsland Highway;
- the establishment of a gas barbeque to prevent people destroying vegetation for BBQ fires, and
- with DSE funding & Green Corps assistance erecting a viewing platform encouraging people to enter the river bank at one spot, thus avoiding multiple tracks which again destroyed vegetation.

The group also fenced off the

eastern most section, re-vegetating with plants grown at the Alberton Primary School.

Individual landholders took up the challenge of protecting and restoring remnant vegetation along the Albert River. Willows were removed and local species planted.

Sue & Gavin Egan, Jenny & Stuart Bland, Will & Jeanette McGauran, Dianne & Ross Robinson and the late Greenpeace activist, **Christopher Robinson** worked in the Alberton area whilst further upstream **David and Susan MacAulay, David and Joy McAninly & Rob and Jenny Davies** all worked to

assist increasing habitat and improving water quality.

The Landcare group Rail Trail project of about five or six kilometres worked on in the early 1980's is another important corridor leading to the river.

About 15-20 years ago the township of Alberton was transformed by the work of the Alberton Landcare group under the leadership of **Bob Ziebell**. Many trees were planted beautifying the area and giving wind protection. The people of Alberton now had somewhere to walk whilst enjoying the benefits of the plantings.

Landholders in the area have also planted extensively, **Bernie Brinker, David Finlay and Andy and Val McMeikan** at the Old Port making important changes to the degraded landscapes & benefiting their farming properties.

Since then the planting on the rail trail has begun and is slowly linking and extending these corridors.

This selection of photos shows river restoration work done by Gavin and Sue Egan and Jenny & Stuart Bland who are neighbours on either side of the Albert River, with assistance from the West Gippsland CMA. The old railway trestle bridge can be seen. These works stand testament to the difference we can all make with some vision for a better future and now this is being achieved consistently throughout the wider canvas of the JARR project area.



Jenny & Stuart Bland (& trestle bridge) looking at growth after approx. 2 years re-planting of banks on their property. (2007)

THE JARR PROJECT

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK



By Jenny Davies



Photo 1 is a great reminder of the power of water! It is an aerial shot over Alberton looking south. *Photo 2* shows the Albert River Landcare group looking at river requiring fencing & reveg. (2004). *Photo 3* shows how it

was before planting & once again Egans' fenced out & re-vegetated bank in contrast. (2004). *Photo 4* is The Albert with Egans' on one side showing their re-vegetated banks and Blands on the other side after willows have



been removed & spot sprayed ready for planting. (2004). *Photo 5* is at the 2004 Opening of viewing platform at Albert River Reserve John Crew Picnic Area with Leon Trembath Pres. YYLCN, Jenny Davies & David

MacAulay, Albert River LC group and Bruce Atkin DSE CoastCare. The final *photo (6)* is of the upper reaches of the Albert River. Everyone should take the time to go see our beautiful remnants. ■





THE JARR PROJECT

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By Richard Appleton

HVP PLANTATIONS AS A MEMBER OF JARR

HVP Plantations manages approximately 5,500 hectares of plantation and 3,300 hectares of native forest in the upper Jack and Albert River catchments. This includes 2,600 hectares, or 33%, of the 8,000 hectares of plantation and native forest gradually being returned to State ownership to form a biodiversity corridor linking Tarra-Bulga National Park and the Gunyah Rainforest Reserve under the 2009 "Cores and Links" Agreement.



The 1,285 hectares of this proposed reserve within the headwaters of Jack River itself includes what is considered an important 'core' area of Cool Temperate Rainforest and a stepping-stone in the continuum of rainforest along the spine of the Strzeleckis.

An additional 2,200 hectares of HVP's native forest in the Jack and Albert catchments received permanent legal protection in 2009 through a Land Management Cooperative Agreement (LMCA) with DSE, while all of HVP's native forest is managed for conservation purposes, with this management overseen through Forest Stewardship Council

(FSC) certification and audits. These areas include some of the best remaining patches of Strzelecki Warm Temperate Rainforest, endangered Damp Forest of mixed Eucalypts which is also preferred by Koalas and a number of threatened species including a 2 hectare concentration of vulnerable Skirted Tree-ferns within a Jack River Mountain Ash plantation which has been retained to protect them.

The photo above shows a fairly typical example of a eucalypt plantation harvest area. Often the harvesting is just in fingers along the ridge tops because the terrain is so dissected with creeks that a high proportion

of the area is left as buffers, and in fact if the ridge is less than 60 metres wide it won't be harvested at all because the buffers come 20 m up the slopes at each side leaving just a narrow strip in the middle which isn't worth getting. This is voluntary by HVP; under the Code they are allowed to harvest plantation right up to the creeks as long as they don't take machinery within 5 m of the stream bed. On the left you can see some new plantation (shining gum) with much older mountain ash from the previous crop retained along the main creek.

HVP's direct contribution as a member of the JARR

Project include installation of 3 biodiversity monitoring sites intensively surveyed over 12 months in 2008-09 as a baseline for measuring changes in biodiversity, the Wonyip Quoll Corridors Project (originally in partnership with Wonyip Landcare Group) which now forms an important link between high conservation value areas and projects on private properties in the Wonyip area, facilitating access to waterways for Willow and Blackberry removal and contributing time and information to help compile the flora/fauna brochures under Helga's expert guidance. Areas of weed removal and Eucalypt

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THE JARR PROJECT

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

THE ULTIMATE GOAL

The ultimate goal of the JARR project is to improve the quality of habitat for migratory wading bird populations, sea grass and marine life within the RAMSAR Wetlands of Corner Inlet and Nooramunga Marine and Coastal Parks while enhancing biodiversity within the Corner Inlet Catchment ecosystem. The photo below shows how the Jack/Albert catchment flows into this coastal hotspot.



...continued from previous page
planting within road reserves have also taken place.

Indirectly, HVP's normal plantation forestry practices make a major contribution towards the goals of the JARR in the long term. Plantations of endemic Eucalypts (predominantly Mountain Ash) are voluntarily retained within 20 metres of all permanent streams to protect soil and water and provide wildlife corridors. This amounts to around 20% of the Eucalypt plantation retained for environmental protection purposes across the Strzeleckis. In sensitive and high risk areas, including very steep terrain,

pine plantation removed within 20 metres of streams is normally replaced with native species or allowed to regenerate naturally to protect stream banks and avoid any future disturbance.

Often the short-term impact of pine harvesting near streams is unsightly, but all harvesting is compliant with the Code of Forest Practices with random audits undertaken in conjunction with Wellington Shire and the long term benefits of removing pine trees and excluding future harvesting activity from these streams are far greater. Additional buffers are applied to both types of rainforest, with maximum protection applied to remnants

of highest quality.

Some of the single species Ash plantations within the Cores & Links are being removed and regenerated using supplementary planting of mixed species Eucalypt endemic to the site, which will provide much better habitat for Koalas and greater biodiversity in general. These and other stewardship practices all contribute to protection of biodiversity, soil and water quality within the JARR area. ■

7 and 1 are the last two numbers in Yarram's postcode.

Communities for Nature Grant: JARR Project

Update by Samantha Monks, YYLN Project Officer

Blackberry suppression works for Year 1 are complete as part of the State Government's, "Communities for Nature Grant: Jack and Albert Rivers Restoration (JARR) Project".

Blackberry is being treated on private property across the Binginwarri/Albert River and Wonyip areas. Year two suppression works will commence next summer. All participating landholders sign an agreement which commits them to ongoing responsibility in Blackberry control.

A JARR Biodiversity Blueprint Mapping Workshop will be run on Thursday 20th June at the Alberton West Recreation Reserve. This workshop aims to update environmental projects across the JARR area and prioritise future project areas. Agency staff will be available to assist with the mapping updates. We will also officially launch our latest JARR brochures. **Please join us and be part of the future of JARR area. All welcome.**

For further information on any of these projects or IPA matters please contact:

Samantha Monks YYLN Project Officer Ph. 51 757895, Mob. 0419371497

or Email samantham@wgcm.vic.gov.au



LOCAL LANDCARE LEGENDS

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By Melissa Ainsworth

Corner Inlet and the Nooramunga Marine and Coastal Park have immeasurable environmental values. Containing the largest stands of White Mangrove and Saltmarsh in Victoria, it serves as a feeding ground to thousands of migratory wading birds that arrive annually from their northern hemisphere breeding grounds.

Within this precious location lies a farm aptly named "Nooramunga" owned by Joan and Gary Wallis.

Purchased in 2001 the farm consists of 181 acres of the mainland farm and 414 acres of "Dog Island", previously known as "Dingo Island". Standing on a banksia and eucalypt vegetated dune facing the intertidal area you overlook the picturesque Corner Inlet. Snake Island lies in the foreground and views of Mount Latrobe and Mount Singapore within the Wilsons Promontory National Park form the backdrop.

Joan and Gary appreciate the importance of the site. Gary studied the geology of the area years earlier when completing his Master of Science and both have a science background and understand the fragility and environmental importance of the area. **Recognised internationally for its waterbird habitat, the area is protected under the Ramsar convention.** Thirty-two species

GARY WALLIS IS PLEASED WITH THE FOX CONTROL PROGRAM IN HIS COASTAL AREAS



of migratory waders feed in the intertidal mud and sand flats and the saltmarsh shoreline that surrounds the Wallis' property.

A "Trust for Nature" covenant was placed on 173 acres of the most sensitive areas of the farm. A plantation was also completed to create both protection for cattle as well as to create a corridor for fauna to traverse between the saltmarsh and woodland areas. Species endemic to the area were used include; Swamp Paperbark, (*M. ericifolia*), Sunshine Wattle (*A. terminalis*) and Rough-barked Manna Gum (*E. viminalis* ssp. *pryoriana*) to name a few.

Given that Joan delivers FarmPlan21 courses (on behalf of the DEPI) **the property demonstrates whole farm planning principles.** Within the "farmed" section of the property 220 dairy cows graze on crops

such as millett and modern pasture varieties of rye and clover. Joan and Gary invested significantly to construct a raised laneway to allow cattle to travel to and from the dairy and paddocks with minimal soil disturbance. **The farm is also divided into 44 smaller paddocks according to soil types and topography,** with the saltmarsh and woodland areas fenced to exclude stock. Effluent from the dairy is seasonally pumped onto pastures, which are fringed by the fenced out grasslands to prevent nutrients from entering the surrounding waterway.

Removal of grazing along the shoreline has seen regeneration of both Swamp Paperbark and saline wetlands particularly near Smoke House Point, at the tip of the tear shaped island. Incidentally, this site is believed to be the location where in the

mid 1800's Chinese immigrants would fish for Snapper, King George Whiting, Flathead and Salmon. These would be dried or smoked for the purpose of selling to the many men who passed through on their way to Walhalla to try their hand at gold mining.

With so much wildlife in the area, **fox control is necessary** particularly for the ground nesting birds such as the "Vulnerable" listed Hooded Plover (*Thinornis rubricollis rubricollis*). For the past few years the Wallis' and their neighbours have been supported by an integrated fox baiting program conducted by Parks Victoria. This has been an annual scientific baiting and trapping program throughout the coastal area with funding from the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority. With so much birdlife

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LOCAL LANDCARE LEGENDS

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK



By Melissa Ainsworth

...continued from previous page

AN AERIAL VIEW ON THE WALLIS PROPERTY



comes Boxthorn, which is another introduced species that also requires regular treatment.

The Wallis' are members of both the South Gippsland and Yarram Yarram Landcare Networks. Gary has served for five years as President of the Fish Creek Landcare Group and both Joan and Gary are active members of local community,

environmental and farm production groups.

We are very fortunate to have such dedicated and knowledgeable members not only doing "their bit" for the local environment but with a broader understanding and respect of this precious landscape and all that depends upon it. ■

DISTANT VIEWS OF TOORA



BIRDLIFE FEED BEHIND THE MANGROVES



REGENERATING SWAMP PAPERBARKS





AROUND THE TRAPS

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By our Landcare Groups

Hedley/Nine Mile Creek

Our meeting held on the 21st of March was well attended. Two of our members are involved in the Hedley/Nine Mile Creek Restoration Project. One landholder located in the foothills of Hedley will be fencing either side of the Nine Mile Creek to exclude stock and will revegetate with 4000 trees and shrubs. The project also includes a property on the coastal plain of Hedley where remnant bush will also be fenced to exclude stock.

Our group is also involved in a Bird Monitoring program. This will occur over the next two years with selected sites on each property having seasonal bird surveys completed. We will also survey some benchmark and control sites.

This is a very exciting project and we congratulate these landowners for undertaking such projects.

Our next activity scheduled for Spring will be a farm walk on Joan and Gary Wallis' property. Date to be announced soon. ■

Binginwarri

The Binginwarri Group recently held a very successful and interesting field day on Dairy-sludge removal and re-use and Soil Carbon with about 20 people attending. They learnt, talked about their own ideas on the solutions and we all had an enjoyable day.

We also held a successful "Fungi Foray" where we went looking for Toadstools. We found over 2 dozen species in a short 1km return walk, despite the dryish weather of late. Purple, white, red, yellow and brown - they came in all sorts of colours - but some were very shrivelled because of the dry. We also "people-measured" a big Mountain Grey Gum (3 and a half people around!) and had a very enjoyable BYO lunch afterwards.

We have also recently launched our new website! Updated regularly you can also view our future activities - <http://www.bingilcg.org> or ring John McClumpha on 5185 1455. ■

Woodside

The Woodside Landcare Group recently held its April meeting with a healthy attendance and 3 new members.

Plans are underway to implement our "Woodside Rabbit Buster Program". This initiative undertaken in conjunction with the Yarram Yarram Landcare Network will provide subsidies for our members in a designated area towards rabbit control costs. Enquiries can be directed to Bryan Walpole 0427871412 or Don Belcher 0427343672.

Our next meeting is scheduled to be held on the 19th of June at 8pm at the Woodside Hall. ■

Merriman Creek

It was great to see a good roll of members who came to meet Sally-Ann at our February meeting.

Several of our members are currently involved with trapping Indian Myna's, with terrific success! Some results show that as soon as a flock is trapped and removed it only takes a week before another moves in to fill the void. Densities appear to be the highest where old Cypress trees are present and the use of dry red cat biscuits or layer pellets are proving to be the best bait. ■

Albert River

Albert River Landcare Group has not had any formal activity of late but Samantha and her crews have been working on the erosion control program

AROUND THE TRAPS

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK



By our Landcare Groups

on a number of properties in the area. These will make a significant contribution to the overall JARR Project.

Our President Geoff Charman has been unwell but it is good to see that he is making a steady recovery. We wish both he and Pam well as Geoff returns to good health. ■

Yarram Urban

Yarram Urban celebrated its inaugural year by entering the TarraFestival Parade. The YYLN trailer was decorated under this year's parade theme of heroes and villains.

Of course everyone involved in Landcare are heroes and it does not take much imagination to see we are constantly battling the villains of weeds, erosion, rabbits and other pests. We were able to secure a start-up grant of \$500 some of which helped pay for our participation in the festival.

We have also had two working bees at the YYLN office, pruning and planting. Thanks to Kaye Proudley who grew all the plants for us. Out next project will be to help plant out another section of the TarraTrail. ■



OUR VERY OWN SALLY-ANN FLYING THE YARRAM URBAN AND YYLN FLAG AT THE TARRA FESTIVAL



YARRAM URBAN MEMBERS DON COLBRAN AND LEON TREMBATH HAND OUT STICKERS, TATTOOS AND OTHER GOODIES.

LIFE AND DEATH IN BINGINWARRI by Kaye Proudley

Death it was for some. No, not Roy, nor me (fortunately or otherwise - depending on how you feel about either of us!) but several small prey species. Life it was for another; Southern Boobook Owl (*Ninox novaeseelandiae*) - not at a distance, which is how most wildlife encounters take place, but up really close and personal...

Talking on the phone one night, outside in the cold (having a ciggie as well), I caught a movement out of the corner of my eye. Someone else had spotted that movement,



Southern Boobook Owl

swooped silently down and grabbed the mouse, four feet from my feet! It was only the second mouse I've ever seen here and it didn't last long - with a few panicked and final loud squeaks it became Boobook entree in seconds. I

assumed (and hoped) that it was just a house mouse and not New Holland Mouse or some other rare or elusive native species - not that *that* wouldn't be right, but that I'd want to know if we had such a species here. After entrée, the Boobook contented itself with picking off, one by one, the large, fat and juicy moths that were attracted to the kitchen window, lit up like Myer's windows at Christmas time. The window that is, not the moths! The little owl must have dined on at least eight of these Bogong moths. As an aside, a long time ago, the aboriginal peoples used to go

up into the Snowy Mountains to feast on these high-protein moths every year. And yes, these are the same moths that were covering our Parliament House in Canberra a few years ago in plague proportions.

The next night a similar setting (me outside with the ciggie and phone), owl visible at head height about twelve feet off, just above the pond. The silly frog knew enough not to call - but someone should have told him/her not to move, but move it did...for the last time. Owl swooped on silenced wings again, caught froggie

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who started to squeal like I've never heard a frog squeal before. Within 10 seconds it was silenced forever and became another tasty morsel for our garden-roosting Ninox. And so would I squeal if an owl had me by sharp and pointy beak or claw, with the intention of ripping me asunder.

The Boobook is Australia's smallest owl and probably it's most common - being a resident in many different habitats almost Australia-wide and taking a large variety of prey such as crickets, lizards, small birds, mantids and those



Powerful Owl

species mentioned above.

A few nights later I was outside again (thank heavens I smoke

- without that anti-social habit I probably wouldn't go out at night and would miss *so much*!!) when I was fortunate enough to hear the mighty Powerful Owl (*Ninox strenua*) calling, quite a scarce bird these days and on the Endangered Species List. I heard them at this time last year (winter) and the year before when it is breeding time for the largest of Australia's owls. It is suspected that they roost and breed in the forest next door to us but search as I might, I have not yet discovered where. The main prey of *N. strenua* is, I think, the Ringtail Possum, *Pseudocheirus peregrinus*

and that would explain their disappearance from our garden - they were here the last two years but I've not seen any lately. A shame because they were a lovely bronze-red in colour, quite different looking to the Melbourne species, enough that I christened them all, Meggys, after the Ginger Meggs character!

So - we have the smallest and largest of Aussie owls hanging around our place. Some people have all the luck.

Ah, but someone has to have it! ■



PROJECT UPDATE

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By Samantha Monks

Invasive Plants & Animals (IPA) Program

Prickly Exotic Invaders from the North???

On my travels across the district I am constantly on the lookout for new weed infestations.



When I first took up my combined role as an IPA/ Landcare Projects Officer, Mark Jago (who had just left Landcare to work for Murray Goulburn) told me looking for weeds would become a lifelong habit!!! Of course Mark was right! Wherever I go now, I'm searching for weeds!

An important part of my IPA role is to provide advice to the local community and extension education and management programs to help tackle outbreaks of invasive weed species. YYLN is also fortunate to have funding incentives available for some weed species in different project areas e.g. Gorse, Boxthorn, Blackberry and Serrated Tussock. These species are all high priority weeds and are classed Weeds of National Significance (WoNS).

Recently I noticed some weeds which are uncommon in our area but do occur in small patches in our region. No one really knows how or when they got here. Two of these weed species are the Thornapple (common) – *Datura stramonium* and the Bathurst Burr – *Xanthium spinosum*.

Common Thornapple, Jimson Weed, *Datura stramonium*

Family: Solanaceae (nightshade)
Origin: Native of North America
Plant Description: Erect or bushy annual herb to 2m high
Leaves: Deeply lobed leaves
Flowers: Summer to autumn. White/pale lavender, trumpet-

shaped, 5-lobed, 6-8cm long
Fruit: Spiny erect capsule, ovoid, numerous spines, 2-4.5 cm long.
Seeds: Black/grey

Dispersal: Spread by seed, particularly along waterways. Invader of disturbed agricultural land, creek banks.

Notes: All parts of the plant are extremely toxic to humans and animals, are considered the most poisonous of the *Datura* species. Seeds may remain dormant for many years, with each plant producing up to 30,000 seeds. Suggested control methods: Manual control - Hand pull with protective gloves
Chemical control - Foliar spray with herbicide -Tordon 75-D or Amine 625. (Refer to label for rates)

Bathurst Burr – *Xanthium spinosum*

Family: Asteraceae
Origin: Native of South America
Plant Description: Annual herb to 1m high
Leaves: Dark green upper surface, paler green underside, up to 7cm long, three lobed. Branched stems with 1-2 three-pronged yellow spines at base of each leaf.
Flowers: Creamy green. Unisexual - male flowers in terminal spikes, female flowers in leaf axils. Flowers all year, mostly summer /autumn.
Fruit: Straw colored burrs with hooked spines, 8-15mm long
Dispersal: Spread by seed in burrs. Burrs attach to animals, clothing and bags. Burrs float in water.



Samantha Monks, YYLN Project Officer

Notes: Common in pastures in northern Victoria. Major problem to sheep and impedes shearing. Seedlings toxic to stock, particularly horses/pigs. Suggested control methods: Long term management required. Manual control - Hand pull young seedlings and plants, hoe/slash before burrs form. Chemical control – Foliar spray with herbicide - Starane Advanced, Amine 625, Tordon 75-D. (Refer to label for rates)

Common Thornapple and Bathurst Burr are both declared noxious weeds in Victoria and are classified under the Catchment and land Protection Act (CALP) 1994 as Regionally Controlled Weeds (RCW's) in the West Gippsland catchment. Property owners are responsible for preventing the growth and spread of RCW's. A Land Management Notice can be issued by Department Environment Primary Industry (DEPI) compliance officers requiring specific control work. Failure to comply may result in an infringement notice.

If you see any other weeds of particular interest or have any IPA concerns please give me a call!

For further information on any of these projects or Invasive Plants & Animals matters please contact: Samantha Monks, YYLN Project Officer - Ph. 03 5175 7895, Mob. 0419 371 497 or Email samantham@wgcm.vic.gov.au



PROJECT UPDATE

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By Samantha Monks

Serrated Tussock (ST) – Seaspray Containment Zone

As part of our three year Serrated Tussock (ST) program, we have conducted two surveys to establish a comparative analysis of community awareness of this highly invasive grass species. SeaEagle Consulting was contracted to conduct the surveys on behalf of YYLN. Over 100 surveys were sent out across the Seaspray area.

A \$500 Rodwell's voucher was offered to encourage landholders to respond to the survey, recognising people are often over surveyed! I am pleased to announce the lucky winner of this survey is Gayle



Hall from Stradbroke. A special thankyou to everyone who participated in the surveys.

Expressions of Interest remain open for the Gorse, Boxthorn and JARR Blackberry programs.

Please contact me for further information or advice with any IPA matters. ■

Warren the Wise



Dear Warren,

I have been a carer of the land for at least 20 years and have done my best to safeguard the waterways on my land by removing weeds, revegetating and fencing so that cattle can't wreck the banks of the river. My neighbour, however, refuses to play ball. What can I do to convince him that my way is the best way?

Signed: Ethical Dilemma.

Dear Ethical,

I am glad you are doing all you can for my animal and fish friends and my own environment. Did you also know that you are doing it for your environment and your own health too? Because without a healthy environment for us all, we will not all survive or survive well – but I guess that's why you care.

Now to your neighbour – hmmm, it is always difficult to

persuade someone with set ideas to change but I suggest you start by **showing him what you've got that he hasn't**. In my limited experience with the human race, it seems people lust after what they haven't got.

If you have fish in your part of the river that don't like travelling downstream into his cow-muddied waters, show him. (Better still; **invite him to tea using fish caught in your part of the river!**)

Show him the flowering plants in your revegetation efforts and how they attract the beneficial insects that keep your land free of pests and diseases.

Point out to him the difference in appearance between his weedy land and your pretty piece of the countryside that looks so good (I know because I visited – and noticed!)

Talk to him, gently and persuasively, about what he could do, little by little (it doesn't all have to be done NOW... just as Rome wasn't built in a day!)

Does he have rug-rats? **Children are the best persuaders** of parents I can think of, maybe work on them?

Failing all that, I will call a 'digging bee' with my family - there are still a few of us left – Dillie, Relly, Tollie, Kellie, Sully, Gillie, Collie, Elly, Skinny and Fatso, and commence work about 20 metres uphill of the creek on the neighbour's property, making lots of holes his cows won't want to walk through for fear of breaking legs!

And if that doesn't work, can I un-ethically suggest a piece of 2 b'4 around the back of the neighbour's head?

That'll teach him how to play ball...with his head!

Only joking of course ...I never condone violence. ■

Warren
The Wise



PROJECT UPDATE

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By Bronwyn Johnson



Bronwyn Johnson, Seedbank and Mullungdung to Coast Project Officer.

Seedbank

CASUARINAS AT WOODSIDE

We all know there are some well established guidelines for successful revegetation.

Timing, good soil moisture, reduced competition for available light and nutrients, yada, yada. Sometimes we think we've done everything right and yet little grows. Well, here's a letter from a fellow conscientious revegetator reminding us that we are not alone and that they really are only just a set of guidelines.

Every planting is slightly different and provides an opportunity to learn. I'd love to hear from anyone else with their stories, the good, the bad and the delightfully unexpected. There is a lot of revegetation experience out there in our Network. It may be one small observation or years of trial and error. You may not value yours very highly, but collectively this knowledge is a meaningful resource we could share to improve all our attempts at enhancing our landscape.



From Clara Mandaletti

Just thought I'd share our experience with planting Casuarinas (Bottle Brush) in Woodside. Ten years ago when we planted our 5 ha mixed species plantation in the Woodside floodplain we decided to plant a band of Casuarinas along a strip of land particularly prone to flooding. As it turned out that level of rainfall was to be wishful thinking for many years, nearly a decade. The band of Casuarinas was about 6 trees wide along about 100 rows. The trees were a little under grown when they went in, but it was planting time, we had a week off work and so in they went. In those early years, before we became parents, we weed controlled regularly and diligently and our Casuarinas with their cleared area around them mostly disappeared into the local Wallabies tummies. A few survived and grew slowly in the dry conditions, but most seemed to have disappeared.

Enter 3 children over the next 5 years. Exit weed control with the lack of time that followed, and magically as the paddock got grassier and weedier, up to 5 years after planting, the Casuarinas began to reappear and then to thrive! We couldn't believe it! In some patches we had replaced them with some hybrid Eucalypts and now they are competing for space. What a waste that was! We now have a healthy scattering of Casuarinas, probably about 30% of what was initially planted and some have now been pruned up and seem to be growing well, just with a few years delay. I did wonder if they were just waiting for wetter conditions and I think the improved rainfall did help give them a real growing boost, but the emergence of the little trees seemed to correspond with the thriving of the weeds, creating cover which I guess hid them from the Wallabies.

If I planted Casuarinas again I would definitely just do it into the weeds, mad as that sounds. I guess tree guards might help too.

Mullungdung to Coast

The past couple of months has seen lots of fencing carried out in preparation for the final plantings and direct seeding of this project.

The drier summer has made conditions challenging for not only getting fence posts in the ground but for seedling survival. However, some of those seedlings are proving as determined as the landholders, resolutely persisting when conditions get tough!

As this project concludes at the end of June, the Network has decided to cover it in more detail in the next Newsletter. I'm sure there will be facts and figures and photos galore.

By then there will have been about 15,000 plants put in the ground and lots of native seed sown. The workshop program will have concluded, I will have tidied up my desk and the participants will have found they have a bit of spare brain power to contemplate their next project.

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

PROJECT UPDATE

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK



By Bronwyn Johnson and Susan Taylor (DEPI)

Tree Health Decline

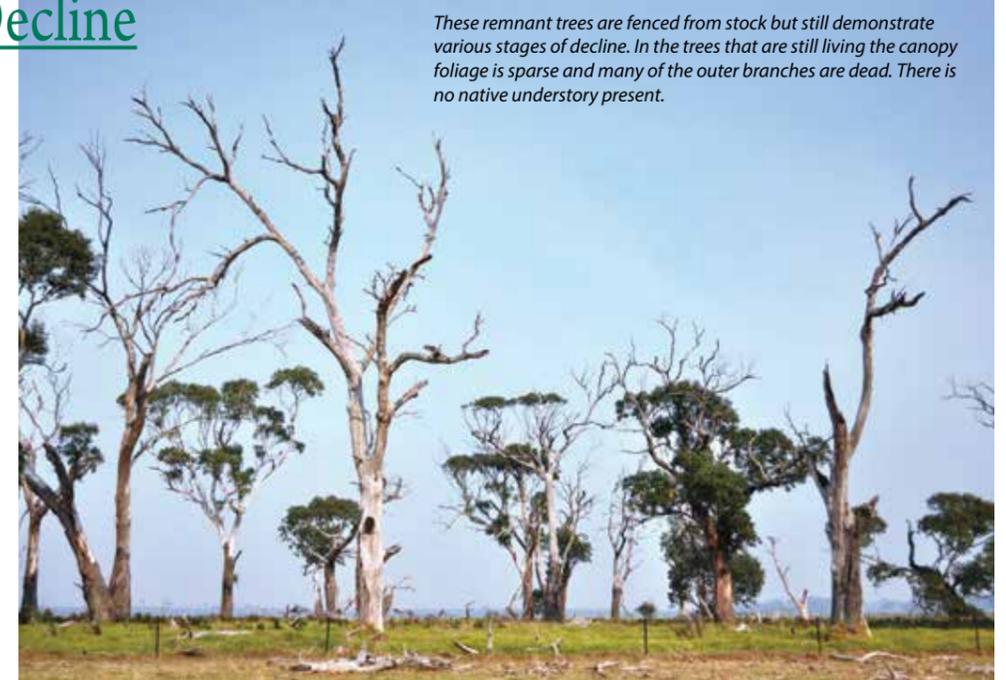
"Dieback" is the term used to describe the premature, sometimes rapid death of stands of native vegetation. It becomes particularly obvious when it affects trees.

Dieback sometimes occurs following droughts or fires and floods. However, the rate of dieback has increased over the last century, particularly in agricultural areas.

In Eucalypts suffering from dieback, defoliation of the canopy usually begins in the outermost branches and extends inwards. Trees may fight back by putting out epicormic growth several times before death eventually occurs.

There are many known causes of dieback in south-eastern Australia. The most well-known non-biological agent is increased salinity. Known biological agents are insect infestations (eg. Scarab beetles, Sawfly and skeletonising Caterpillars), fungal disease (eg. Phytophthora), and over-browsing by arboreal mammals (eg. Koalas). All of these agents are part of our natural ecosystems. The fact that they are now associated with frequent dieback events is increasingly linked to deforestation, and fragmentation and loss of biological complexity within remnant vegetation.

In other words, the increase of dieback is symptomatic of a widespread decline in the health



These remnant trees are fenced from stock but still demonstrate various stages of decline. In the trees that are still living the canopy foliage is sparse and many of the outer branches are dead. There is no native understorey present.

of our natural ecosystems.

Other factors can also include damage to the bark of trees by livestock rubbing. This damage can expose the heartwood and sapwood (the protective layers of bark) which has the function of passing water and mineral salts up the tree from the soil via the roots to the leaves. Damage to the bark can leave the tree exposed to potential fungi and insect attack.

In Gippsland, increasing levels of salinity in freshwater coastal lakes is causing the dieback of fringing vegetation. Salt can also be in the air. The clearing of coastal scrub and heaths allows salt-laden winds to travel inland and kill previously protected woodlands and forests.

Over recent decades, large scale infestations of Christmas Beetles have stripped foliage and killed Forest Red Gums on the Gippsland Plains.

In the 1990s, repeated over-

browsing by Koalas caused the premature death of a mature stand of Manna gums and Apple Box at the Darriman Grassland Reserve, Giffard.

All of these above incidents illustrate how widespread clearing of native vegetation (which encourages salinity), loss of complexity (loss of insect-eating animals), and fragmentation (loss of corridors for animals to move around) can have important implications for local land managers. In our next Newsletter edition we will continue this topic by looking at management actions that we can undertake to counteract dieback.

Yarram Yarram Landcare Network has a strong focus on assisting landowners to improve the health of the native vegetation of our region and restore its resilience to the causes of "dieback". We do this by providing incentives for fencing of remnants and

plantings to enhance their biological complexity. We also provide assistance for tackling invasive pest plant and animals. Our Landcare community also has an ambitious plan to restore a network of native corridors across our region. ■

This tree is producing epicormic growth following defoliation. This growth is under attack from insects further weakening the tree.



For further information on Mullungdung to Coast or Seedbank please contact: Bronwyn Johnson, YYLN Project Officer - Ph. 03 5175 7895, Mob. 0429 808 130 or Email bronwynj@wgma.vic.gov.au



PARTNER ACTIVITY

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By Phillip McGarry - WGCMA Landcare Team Leader

By Bruce Atkin

Tigers Roar Support for Landcare!

Partnerships are how Landcare gets its best work done. Richmond Football Club (RFC) and Landcare have developed an innovative partnership, started by the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (WGCMA) in 2010.

In 2012, the partnership grew to include the Department of Environment & Primary Industries (DEPI), and in 2013 the partnership has grown again to include support from the Corangamite, Goulburn Broken and North East Catchment Management Authority regions.

The RFC Landcare Partnership is a truly state-wide initiative which promotes awareness of, and appreciation for, the work of Landcare.

Richmond's Landcare partnership aims to increase participation in Landcare, and highlights the link between local Landcare groups and local football clubs as foundations

of local communities, and the basis of key community natural resource management and development activities.

Richmond not only promotes awareness of Landcare through a Landcare branded AFL game, but actively encourages on-ground action through its RFC Landcare Grant. **The club has also nominated Nathan Foley to be its Landcare Ambassador.**

WGCMA's Landcare Team Leader, Phil McGarry, said, "It's about raising the profile of Landcare, and highlighting the great work that volunteer Landcarers do in our communities."

The hallmark of this year's Richmond Landcare Partnership in 2013 was the match-day sponsorship of the Tigers' recent Round 6 AFL game against Geelong at the MCG on Saturday May 4, 2013. On the night 50 Landcare Volunteers walked on to MCG and handed out 1200 "mini-footies" branded with

both the RFC & Landcare logos and the landcare gateway's URL. The Richmond players "run-through banner" had one side covered in huge letters... **"Tigers Roar for Landcare" ... Get Involved Today!** This was the third Landcare branded AFL game since 2010.

After this year's AFL Landcare Branded Game, Richmond announced the guidelines for the **2013 RFC Landcare Grant worth \$5,000.** Landcare Groups from across the state are eligible to apply. For details go to: richmondfc.com.au or landcarevic.net.au

Applications must be uploaded to the RFC website using the approved application form or emailed to Natalie Zaibak - Sponsorship Account Executive; nzaibak@richmondfc.com.au ■

Applications close at: 4pm on Friday 28th June 2013



Coastcare

Coastcare held its annual volunteers weekend in Lakes Entrance this year. It was the first time it had been held in East Gippsland and for many it was their first time experiencing the joys of coming together to explore and learn and get a pat on the back for a job well done.

The weekend featured clear sunny weather, cruising on the lake and exploring the coastline. Park Victoria's Marine Ranger Jono introduced us to a range of species below the waves exploring the reefs, sandy coast and rock pools.

Beyond the breakers, geologist Neville, led us on a journey through time, helping us understand the clues in the rocks, hunting out fossils and giving insight into how this part of the world was formed.

See Sally-Ann Henderson's inspired report below

*I am a wave
A wave crossing the ocean
Crossing the ocean, passing over sponge gardens.
Passing over anemones and seaweeds, swaying as if in a gentle breeze,
but passing unnoticed by the Sea-star or Perch.*

*I am a wave
A wave heading for shore
Heading for shore, passing high above the ancient rock.
The ancient rock land-bridge that helped shaped the hills and valleys,
and united Victoria and Tasmania as one.*

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PARTNER ACTIVITY

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK



By Peter Newgreen, Gippsland Landcare Facilitator

What does Carbon Farming look like on the ground?

Recently a two day field trip to Western Victoria looked at some of the pioneering work in Carbon Farming being undertaken in that part of the world. The tour consisted of farm visits and a dinner with the newly formed Environmental Farmers Network. The aim of the tour was to increase awareness and understanding of the Carbon Farming Initiative (CFI) among key Landcare leaders so that they can be sources of information within their local communities.

Western Victoria was chosen for the tour because of a number of innovative practices happening there and, in particular, the State's first project using the mixed species environmental planting methodology. There were three sites visited, Jigsaw Farms, an Action on the Ground project demonstrating pasture management for soil Carbon enhancement and a CFI sequestration project.

Jigsaw Farms are an

amalgamation of sheep and cattle grazing properties near Hamilton. Some of the properties were previously Potter Foundation demonstration farms and epitomise the whole farm planning concept. About 25% of the farms have been planted to trees and shrubs in about equal proportions of farm forestry and environmental planting. Wetlands are a key feature of the farms. Biodiversity outcomes are monitored with bird species and abundance being a particular indicator.

The planting is ongoing but most predate the CFI and haven't been registered as CFI projects however they did provide the opportunity to discuss the role of both farm forestry and unharvested environmental planting in the CFI. A methodology is already available for the latter while the former has been added to the positive list.

The first CFI project in Victoria (near Ararat) is using the

mixed species environmental planting methodology. Peter Forster showed us two project areas, one taking the form of a traditional shelter belt while the other was a more open woodland project at the whole paddock scale. Both projects used direct seeded locally indigenous species. They also showed us a site where they had very successfully created "human induced natural regeneration" of red gum through fencing and stock control. Peter has registered as a Carbon Farming entity and was able to speak about the processes of registering and of having projects accepted under the CFI.

A Carbon Action On The Ground (AOTG) project run by Graeme Hand is looking at managing pastures to ensure better incorporation of plant material into soil carbon. He is studying the fungal decomposition process at the plant litter/soil interface and the conditions that most favour incorporation

of carbon into the soil. Graeme spoke about grazing practices designed to provide the best conditions for incorporation of both above ground and below ground plant material.

YYLN is also undertaking an AOTG project (Gippsland Plain soil carbon trials-productivity and climate change responses) looking at increasing soil carbon through soil conditioners such as compost and chook poo. Stay tuned for our results! ■

"The field trip was beneficial for those involved in revegetation services and it was a good chance to network with others from around the State. The methodology to establish carbon sinks has a way to go but the industry is in its infancy and no doubt it will evolve. It did not seem to be an easy process and there seemed to be a lot of record keeping and administration involved in being accredited."
Kevin Heggen, Binginwarri LC

...continued from previous page

*I am a wave
A wave pounding the beach
Pounding the beach, exposing the secrets
Exposing the secrets of what lies beneath and what lies beyond.
Carving out rocks and washing up treasures.*



*I am a wave
A wave swirling through feet
Swirling through feet, gathered to explore
Gathered for laughter and learning, to celebrate all that Coastcare achieves.
Squealing as they are caught unawares, and go home with wet socks. ■*





This lovely work of art is by Kaylin Tara Doyle aka Poppet. It is a picture of her mother, Bronwyn Johnson, YYLN project officer, at work.

Contacts for Individual Active Landcare Groups

Albert River Landcare Group

Contact: Geoff Charman
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Carrajung and District LG

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Woodside Landcare Group

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Wonyip Landcare Group

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Binginwarri Landcare Group

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Merriman Creek Landcare Group

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Won Wron Devon North LG

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Hedley/Nine Mile Creek LG

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Yarram Urban Landcare Group

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