



# YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NEWS

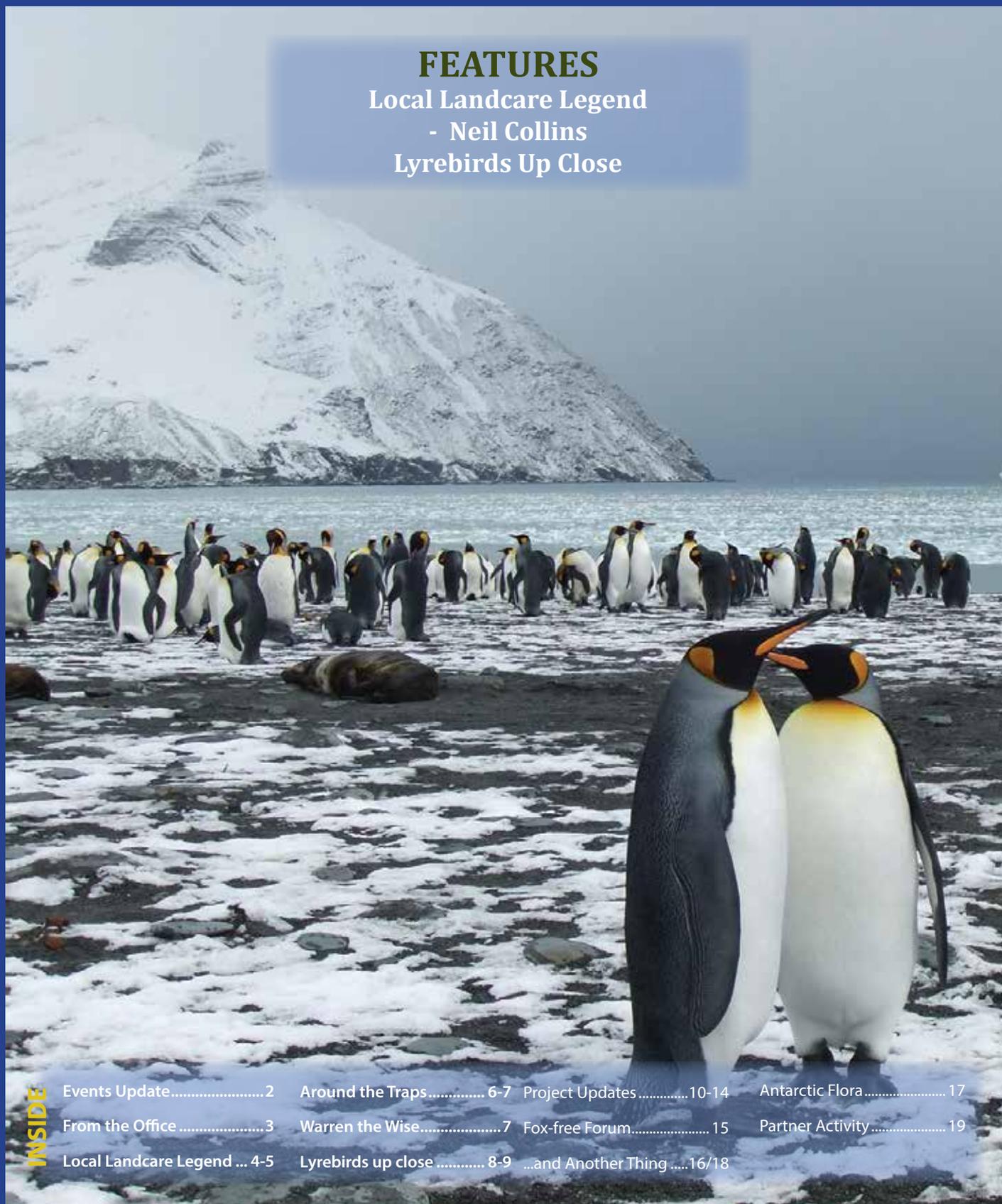
Vol: 015 WINTER 2014

## FEATURES

Local Landcare Legend

- Neil Collins

Lyrebirds Up Close



**INSIDE**

Events Update.....	2	Around the Traps.....	6-7	Project Updates.....	10-14	Antarctic Flora.....	17
From the Office.....	3	Warren the Wise.....	7	Fox-free Forum.....	15	Partner Activity.....	19
Local Landcare Legend ...	4-5	Lyrebirds up close.....	8-9	...and Another Thing ....	16/18		



# EVENTS UPDATE

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

# FROM THE OFFICE

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK



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

### Editorial Team

Melissa Ainsworth, Helga Binder, Sally-Ann Henderson, Samantha Monks, Dina Monks and Warren the Wise.

### Contributions

**Email:** ainsworths@activ8.net.au  
**Postal:** Livingston Rd Yarram 3971

### Deadlines

August 22, 2014 is the deadline for Spring issue contributions.

### Contacts

#### Yarram Yarram Landcare Network

Livingston Street Yarram Victoria 3971  
Tel: 1300 094 262  
Fax: 03 5182 6094  
Sally-AnnH@wgma.vic.gov.au  
[www.yyln.org.au](http://www.yyln.org.au)

#### Sally-Ann Henderson

0427 581 152 or 5175 7897  
Sally-AnnH@wgma.vic.gov.au

#### Samantha Monks

YYLN Projects Officer  
5175 7895 or 0419 371 497  
samantham@wgma.vic.gov.au

#### Bronwyn Johnson

Seedbank & Mullungdung to Coast Project Officer  
5175 7896 or 0429 808 130  
bronwynj@wgma.vic.gov.au

### Cover photo

*Penguins on ice*

Printed on recycled paper, using non toxic inks and 100% solar power by Black Rainbow environmentally responsible printers (03) 5155 0221.

©All material published in the Yarram Yarram Landcare News is copyright. It can be reproduced with acknowledgement of the author and publication.



#### MERRIMAN CREEK LCG MEETING

**When:** 1.30pm – June 15  
**Where:** Stradbroke Hall  
**All welcome!**

#### BINGINWARRI BIKE RIDE

**When:** 10.30am – June 15  
**Where:** Meet at park near the Toora Pub  
**RSVP:** Dallas - 56881030 by July 1 please

#### WOODSIDE LCG MEETING

**When:** 8pm – June 18  
**Where:** Woodside Hall  
**All welcome!**

#### ORGANIC CARBON SOIL FIELD DAY

**When:** June 19  
**Where:** Kevin Foat's Farm, Woodside  
**Details:** Contact Samantha 5175 7895

#### YARRAM URBAN LCG MEETING

**When:** 4.30pm - June 24  
**Where:** YYLN Office  
**All welcome!**

#### BINGINWARRI LCG AGM & LUNCH

**When:** 11am – July 6  
**Where:** Binginwarri Hall  
**RSVP:** Kaye 51851398 for catering purposes

#### "BRING YOUR LANDCARE MEETINGS TO LIFE"

(Dinner provided) Please see attached flyer for details

**When:** 6pm: July 15 at Sale, July 16 at Foster, July 17 at Warragul

**Where:** Venues as per attached flyer

#### BIRDWATCHING

**Bingi LCG & Woodside LCG**  
**When:** 10am – August 10  
**Where:** Meet at Woodside Pub. BYO Lunch & Chair  
**RSVP:** Dallas – 5688 1030

#### YYLN SOIL CARBON TRIALS USING POULTRY LITTER

**Where:** 1. Libby Balderstone - Darriman 2. Greg & Jenny Foats - Woodside  
**Contact:** Samantha Monks

## YYLN AGM

**When:** 7pm – Friday August 29

**Where:** Club Hotel, Yarram  
Everyone is invited to this main event on our Landcare calendar. It will be a big night with elections for new Board members and fond farewells to those retiring.

**Put the night on your calendar now!**

By Sally-Ann Henderson



## Sally-Ann Says:

I write this in the glow of the last of Autumn's unusually late sunny spell, which I suspect will be a distant memory by the time you read this. Winter is here and whilst it might not be the Antarctica weather conditions of the front cover, it is the time for planning and preparing. There are a range of field days

and events coming up. I hope you will be able to join us. One is our AGM on August 29 and we have a couple of vacancies on the Board. Please consider nominating. It is a commitment of a day every two months and I always try to make sure you are rewarded with a yummy lunch.

Another highlight to put in the diary is the National Landcare Conference. This year it will be in Melbourne. Consider going along to meet up with your fellow Landcarers and be inspired. Dates are 17-19 September at Crown.

Sadly as many of you know we are saying goodbye in this newsletter. Goodbye to Bronwyn Johnson. Unfortunately due to the finish of the Mullungdung to Coast Project and the absence of any

new substantial projects, we do not have the funds to continue her employment. Bronwyn has been a brilliant asset for the network since Feb. 2008 and we are very disappointed to have to say goodbye to her. We wish her well and are pleased that she will still be involved in Woodside LG so will not be a stranger.

It is also goodbye to the hard copy newsletter. Because of budget constraints, future newsletters will be delivered electronically (this will save YYLN about \$12,000 per year). Please be sure to return your form to the office so we have your correct email address. Do it right now so you don't forget...

Have you done it? Good, now you can keep reading.

I hope you all got a chance to visit our botanical exhibition

over March. It was fabulous and we hope to do something Landcare themed again this coming Easter. The peoples choice award went to Ivanhoe artist, Sally Armfield for her work: Kangaroo Apple.

AS well as your newsletter contact details form you will also find an insert for responding to the expression of interest for weed control and other opportunities we are offering. Please consider if any of them are right for you and send back the form ASAP so we can have all this finalised by spring.

Stay warm! ■

*Sally Ann*

## Annual Barbecue

It was Yarram's turn to host the annual BBQ this year and the guest speaker was flown in all the way from Antarctica or recruited from about 500m as the crow flies, depending on how you look at it. Considering we had a significant number of last minute cancellations because of illness we still had a good turnout of about 40 people who all pitched in to make the day a fun success. The Board decided this year that they would change the focus of the last couple of years, from information gathering to more social and relaxed. The sun shone and the music and conversation



flowed. It was lovely to watch the slide show of Landcare events and achievements over the past 12 months as we ate our dessert. Sally-Ann then gave a presentation about her experiences in Antarctica including the animals she

encountered, the current political situation in the Falkland Islands and some of the conservation challenges of the far south. She had many people inspired to visit for themselves even if only to put it on their bucket list. ■

## Yarram community takes ownership of Botanic Garden

The amazing thing about Yarram's Botanic Garden is that most people don't know it exists and most of those who do know about it, don't know where it is. Yet for many years the Nightingale Park Society has been keeping the garden from being completely overgrown.

Constructed in 1988 as part of Australia's Bi-Centennial, the garden is an asset which The Yarram Urban Landcare Group recognised as underutilized and with the agreement of the garden management, invited the public to have a say in what – if anything – should be done to make the garden more useful.

At a public meeting on April 29, individuals and organizations turned up and the process is now well under way.

Susan Taylor (DEPI) led the group through the garden and shared her extensive knowledge of what the gardens contain with the idea of stimulating thought on what could be done in the future.

Then over to the scout hall, where Sally-Ann conducted a brainstorming session, while Trevor kept the info flowing onto the whiteboards, Jeff Amos kept track of it all on paper, other group members joined the brainstorming tables and Don and Barbara Colbran helped the



Scouts to set up and cook for us. We had a terrific BBQ and it was a very effective exercise.

Lots of ideas flowed and these have been subsequently prioritised by the Urban Group

for further action.

In the next issue we will give you a detailed report and a five-year plan of how this asset will be developed and returned to the community. ■



# LOCAL LANDCARE LEGENDS

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By Melissa Ainsworth

*If you are wondering where Hunterston is, well it is south west of Woodside and south east of Yarram. This is the location of the property of Neil Collins who kindly allowed me to visit his farm and share his efforts with our Landcare community.*

A member of the Woodside Landcare group Neil is the 4<sup>th</sup> generation to farm at Hunterston. Together with his sons they produce prime lambs and super fine wool on 700 hectares. The property consists of a central laneway running from the west to the east. From here paddocks lay to the north and south of the laneway which make the movement of stock more efficient.

Over the past 22 years Neil has planted over 40 kilometres of shelterbelts across his farm. All were strategically planned to protect his stock from the fierce prevailing coastal winds. The network of plantations has created a multitude of paddocks all with at least one boundary of shelter. Each paddock offers protection from the weather as well as providing habitat for wildlife and keeps the water table in check.

Up until 2009 Neil has systematically planted approximately 10,000 trees and shrubs per year. Whether it be to establish a new shelterbelt or to "top up" an existing plantation Neil's effort and dedication are to be admired and applauded.



CENTRAL LANE WAY WITH SHELTER BELTS EITHER SIDE

The types of shelterbelts vary from Coastal Tea Tree and Eucalypt species in the wetter areas to the drier areas containing a selection of understorey and canopy trees. The health and success of each project is a testament to using the correct species - that is, those that are endemic to his local area. Neil also advocates hand planting and most project sites were ripped and the soil mounded pre-planting. Neil believes this has helped with drainage during the wetter months.

Fire arrived from the north in late 2009. On that day the weather was so bad Neil was very thankful that two aircraft were able to halt the further spread of the fire before it reached McLoughlins Beach. While he was lucky to be able to move most of his stock in time, he did however lose



REMNANT VEGETATION RECOVERING AFTER THE 2009 FIRE

approximately 200 young ewes and about 16 kilometres of fencing.

An area of approximately 80 hectares of remnant vegetation was also in the path of the wildfire. The intensity of the fire has seen many of the mature eucalypt trees not show

signs of recovery to date but succession is evident with many understorey shrubs and young eucalypts now flourishing. Neil has since fenced the site to assist with regeneration and he is monitoring the recovery and health of the site.

Neil was keen to show me

*Continued on next page...*

# LOCAL LANDCARE LEGENDS

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK



SEMI MATURE SHELTERBELT



"GENERAL GRANT"



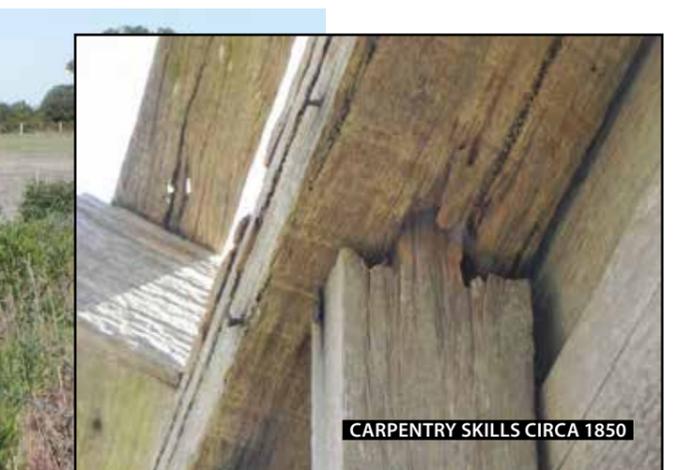
NEIL COLLINS WITH HIS LATEST PLANTATION PROJECT

*...continued from previous page*

his "General Grant" of which I confess I had no idea what he was talking about! Alas, he was referring to an old army tank, which I am told is a bigger version of the original Stewart tank. A post war remnant, Neil's father fitted the tank with a blade and used it to clear 400 hectares of tea-tree to develop

the site for farming.

On my departure I couldn't help but admire an old building near the existing house. Despite the absence of its shingle roof it houses an old antique wool press. Apparently the structure was built in the 1850's in Tasmania and was one of



CARPENTRY SKILLS CIRCA 1850

five buildings disassembled and brought to the mainland via Port Albert. From here it was transported by a bullock team and dray and became the family home to Neil's great grandparents and grandparents. The handmade nails and carpentry skills used in its construction are to be admired

and serves as proof that they were made to last.

It was lovely to visit a farm with so much history that is still visible today. I was able to observe farming methods used over many generations. From the days of settlement clearing to the revegetation methods used today which aim to balance both farming and biodiversity values.

The Collins' farm serves as a great example of modern farming practices delivered by a passionate land carer who is demonstrating his care for the land! ■



# AROUND THE TRAPS

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By our Landcare Groups

### Hedley/Nine Mile Creek

Members of the Hedley group have been working with their neighbours to bring together a critical mass of landholders who are keen to tackle the ongoing problem with foxes.

Maree Avery has done a great job of recruiting and is working with Bronwyn Johnson and the group to come up with some future actions. The Hedley coastline area is an important breeding and feeding ground particularly for birds, so efforts here will not only help solve the fox predation problem on the farm but also on the shoreline and off-shore islands.

**The group sends Get Well Wishes to our member Joan Wallis.** ■

### Woodside

Woodside members gathered on April 16 at the home of Graeme and Frankie McLennan for their most recent general meeting.

A small gathering was treated to a tour of Graeme and Frankie's home which was designed to be eco friendly and not requiring any heating or cooling. We certainly noticed how warm it was inside compared to outside and really enjoyed Graeme's very informative talk and his enthusiasm for the principles of eco friendly building.

There was a general consensus amongst those present that this was a very civilised way to hold our meetings and we could all come to get used to

it very quickly! Many thanks to the McLennans for making their lovely home available to us.

Our **Rabbit Buster Program is still underway** and open to Woodside members. This program will provide a small rebate towards members own rabbit eradication programs with the presentation of a receipt. A reminder to all that our members are individually undertaking their own fox control and would like to encourage neighbours to do the same.

**The next meeting is scheduled to be held on June 18 at the Woodside Hall.** All welcome. ■

### Binginwarri

**Bingi Landcare Group regrets the passing of the paper version of this newsletter** - one more link with members broken, but we do understand the belt-tightening reasons why.

BLG has two highlights coming up (apart from the other activities scheduled on our calendar for the year) - a bike ride, and given our concerns expressed in the last paragraph, our A.G.M. The **bike ride is on Sunday June 15 meeting at 10.30am at the park to the south of the pub in Toora. An easy bicycle track ride to Foster where we'll have lunch at own cost at a cafe and ride the bike track to return.** Take snacks & drinks. Contact Dallas by Fri June 13 on 5688 1030 if you want to pedal with us please. All are welcome to join us for a bit of fun.

Our **A.G.M. features a special speaker, Susan Taylor,**

**Sustainability Officer from D.E.P.I. wearing her birding hat** this time to tell us about the mighty pocket-rockets of the bird world, the migratory waders who have not long left our Corner Inlet (and other Aussie) shores to their breeding homes in the northern hemisphere, and about the Victorian Wader Study Group members who trap them...and why. **See you on Sunday July 6 at 11am at the Binginwarri Hall, just off Tap Tap Rd, with a free soups and bread lunch afterwards.** Please advise Kaye 5185 1398 for catering please if you'd like to attend.

**Our group is slowly falling down again and I, (Kaye) for one, do not know what to do about it.** We have tried valiantly to address concerns and cover all interests, but still not many members are engaging in our activities. It's even been hard to get people to come treeplanting! Everyone wants to be a member and get the newsletter, but that seems to be all...and to be honest, not enough reason to keep the group running. We'll have to rethink our position, it's simply no good having two or three members belting their heads against the proverbial brick wall! ■

### Merriman Creek

The extended autumn weather conditions of late have allowed lots of time for weed pulling and spraying this year. **Fleebane is again flourishing** quite widespread across the district and **capeweed got an early hold** after good rains in March.

The group is planning to host a **Weed Identification and Treatment Workshop pre Spring.** We will set the date on a weekend so hopefully we can attract owners of small properties to come along. We hope that the timing of the workshop will mean landholders can use the knowledge they have gained to tackle weeds on their properties. **Weed control is like rabbit and fox control in that it is more effective if we all participate.**

**Our next meeting is scheduled for Sunday June 15 at 1.30pm at the Stradbroke Hall.** All welcome! ■

### Albert River

Two great JARR focused events have recently been held in our patch. They came from as far away as Inverloch for the Fish and Chips and fascinating speakers who helped us better appreciate the wildlife of Corner Inlet and Nooramunga.

We are blessed to have one of the most important wader bird sites in the whole of Australia as part of our patch along the Port Albert coast. And the dreaded Blackberry is one step closer to destruction after a great field day at Stacey's Bridge and Jim MacAulay's.

Albert River LG now appreciates just how lucky Woodside members are after tucking into Kay B's cooking. ■

### Wonyip

Members of Wonyip LG recently attended a JARR workshop at Port Albert to see how their improved land management

# AROUND THE TRAPS

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK



By our Landcare Groups

### *Warren the Wise*



*Q: Please can you tell me Warren, why fungi are so prolific at the moment, and why the ones growing at my place are so large – larger than my not-so-small hand span? I am amazed at their variety. Why do some of them poison people whilst some critters eat them without effect? What is their life cycle?*

*Signed – Phascinated Phungiphile.*

**A:** Dear Phas, I am glad you raised these questions – these delightful inhabitants of the natural world fascinate me too. But where to start with *so many* questions?

Fungi have flowering seasons, just like plants, and the fungi season is upon us now - they need a little warmth in the soil as well as the moisture provided by the autumn rains. Yours that are large can be just that they're having a good year, or that you are not down on hands and knees looking hard for the small ones. Some are so small that unless you do that, you tall 'two-legs' just wouldn't see so many of them, whereas I, with my nose and eyes almost at



ground level, smell and see each and every one!

Variety is done to a tee with fungi with around 250,000 different species in Australia, and many possibly still to be discovered; minute to small to extremely large, shaggy caps to smooth, soft to hard texture, colourful to dull, odourless to stinky, lethal to eat to very tasty or benign, this kingdom has it all. Fungi are not strictly plants as they lack chlorophyll so cannot make their own food. They live as parasites on other living organisms or on dead and decaying matter. There are also many fungi that are not seen by two-legs eyes as fungi – such as the fungal diseases you get like ringworm and athlete's foot, the mould on your bread, and it's also where you source your penicillin and other antibiotics.

The fungal life cycle starts with its 'roots' or hyphae, which form

a mass called mycelium, which then absorb nutrients from the soil or wood and releases enzymes. With the right weather conditions, and at the right time of year, usually May to July in southern Australia, a fruiting body will appear through the soil, and you have what you two-legs would call a mushroom. When the mushroom releases its spores (or seed) from its gills, pores, spines or other fertile surfaces, new mushrooms will start to grow or sit until the next fruiting season and 'flower' then.

Some birds and many of my animal friends like potoroos, bandicoots, small wallabies, and my relatives and I, as well as insect larvae, snails, mites and slugs all eat fungi.

The poisonous question I can't answer with great knowledge but suppose that it's the same as with insects or plants – bright red, or yellow and black insects are warning their foes "don't eat me, I'm poisonous" as a way of surviving themselves, and perhaps using their poisons to obtain their own food. Not all fungi will kill you; some will just give you a bellyache or a high but beware the fine line between all three! Some animals can eat poisonous species of fungi or plants because they have different guts to you or me, or are immune to some poisons that would send me to the vet's and you to the hospital or morgue!

*So that's it in a nutshell – or should I say a Truffle shell!* ☺ ■

*Warren*



by John McClumpha

## The Superb Lyrebird (*Menura novaehollandiae*)

One of the many joys of living where I do is to wake up and hear the lyrebird(s) singing down in the gully on my place.

The Lyrebird, I think, rates as one of Australia's most unique birds. Not only because of the amazing tail plumage of the male bird but also its ability to mimic so many sounds.

The Lyrebird has been around for millions of years. Fossils of Lyrebirds have been found dating back 15 million years ago.

Lyrebirds live in dense forest areas and are more prevalent in damp or rainforest areas, which provide plenty of leaf and mulch from rotting vegetation which harbours their food source. It also provides them with good shelter from predators.

Although not an extremely large bodied bird when taking into consideration their long tail the male Superb Lyrebird is the third longest songbird in the world with lengths up to 980 mm being recorded. The female is slightly shorter, up to 840 mm overall length.



SUPERB LYREBIRD DISPLAY

Both the female and male bird look alike with exception of the tail feathers. The male does not develop his distinguishing tail until after he has reached the age of 2 years.

The male bird's magnificent tail consists of 16 feathers. The outer 2 feathers are dense, coloured creamy white with light and dark brown alternating stripes across the feather. The inner feathers are fine white and wispy. When the male displays he arches his tail over his back and spreads them outwards.

This forms a canopy over his

entire body extending well beyond his head. It is in this pose that his tail resembles the ancient Grecian musical instrument the lyre, which is how the Lyrebird got its name.

The male bird builds 10 to 15 mounds in his territory, which can have a radius of several kilometres. These are about 1 metre in diameter and about 150 mm high. These mounds are used as his performance area on which he displays his tail and performs his repertoire of mimic calls interspersed with his own natural call. The

longest performance I have witnessed is 25 minutes. It was a beautiful performance to watch even if it did not gain the bird a suitor on that occasion.

Many references state that the male display is to attract the female for mating purposes. Their breeding season is between June and September, however I have seen males display in all months of the year and generally not on mounds.

Following mating the male takes no further part in the procreation process. The

*Continued on next page...*

## Last call for Expressions of interest

**There will be a number of vacancies on the Board of the YYLN Network this year with elections being held in August at our Annual General Meeting.**

We look forward to the renewal of our Board with committed members from our Landcare network. If you would like to contribute please contact our Secretary, Melissa Ainsworth on 5146 8328 or 0437 640 635 or ainsworths@activ8.net.au for a nomination form.



## The Superb Lyrebird (*Menura novaehollandiae*)



LYREBIRD CHICK - EXCELLENT HEADGEAR!

*...continued from previous page*

female will build a nest low to the ground (up to 1 metre above ground). Located on a tree stump, log or even in a dense collection of vines. The nest is constructed of twigs, leaves, ferns, grasses and moss and lined with fibrous bark and feathers. The entrance is located on one side. Only one egg per hen is laid each year. The incubation period for the egg is 50 days and the chick will remain in the nest for 6 to 10 weeks.

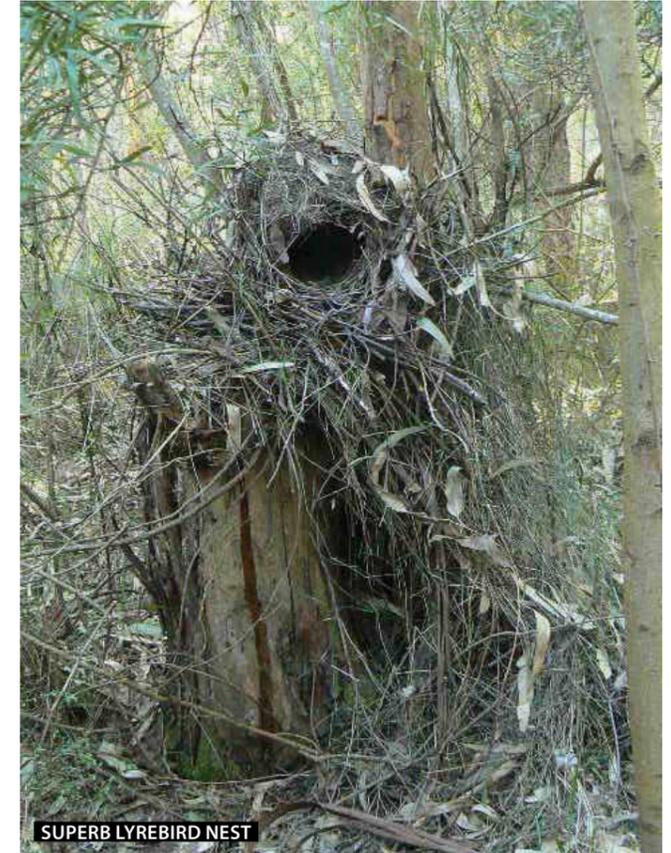
This fluffy ball with a head is a young lyrebird found in the above nest. A rare sighting indeed. Photographs by Kaye Proudley.

The lyrebird has very large toes with long claws, up to 50mm long, enabling them to quickly move large quantities of forest floor litter through which they scavenge to find food. Their diet consists of small insects, spiders, worms and will sometimes eat

some seeds. As you walk along forest tracks their diggings are often quite noticeable with loose dirt, sticks, etc. being spread across the track. This action is all part of the forest ecosystem in that it assists in the spreading and breaking down of the forest floor litter.

The Lyrebird is the world's best impersonator. It can mimic the sound and songs of other birds quite accurately as well as man made sounds; often fooling people into the misapprehension that they are hearing the actual bird being mimicked.

The conservation status of the Superb Lyrebird is currently secure. This status is however threatened by several predators most of which are unfortunately introduced. Goannas are known to eat their eggs. However as goannas are generally inactive during the winter breeding season they are probably a very



SUPERB LYREBIRD NEST

low threat. There have been recorded deaths from quolls and large birds such as eagles. Unfortunately the majority of deaths are human related via introduced animals such as cats, dogs and foxes and destruction of their forested areas.

The lyrebird is generally a ground dwelling bird as it is not a very good flyer. They are capable of flying only short distances and only gaining heights in small increments. At night they roost in trees usually quite high up. To get to the top of a tree they will fly onto a small tree or shrub adjacent to a tree from where they can launch themselves onto the

lower branches of the tree. From here they will fly up and around the tree reaching the next upper branch. They continue this process until they reach the top of the tree where they roost for the night. I have witnessed such ascensions taking up to 20 minutes. Next morning coming down is quite a bit easier as they glide from the top of a tree to a low shrub or tree before flying to ground level.

Even though they dig up our tracks and maybe our lawns and gardens I believe their beautiful displays and often heard calls far outweigh any such inconvenience. I hope you believe the same. ■



# PROJECT UPDATE

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By Samantha Monks

### Jack & Albert Rivers Discovery Days

Over 50 people attended two JARR Discovery Days during the unseasonal balmy month of May.

**Day 1 “Where the JARR Hits the Sea”**, took us on a journey along the tidal mud flats and wetlands of Nooramunga and ended up near the mouth of the Albert River.

**Day 2 – “Erosion Control / Waging War on Weeds”** began at Stacey’s Bridge and took us up the foothills of the Strzelecki Ranges at Hiawatha. The main focus of both days was to learn more about the Jack & Albert Rivers and the importance of protecting and maintaining a healthy water catchment from the mountains to the sea.

#### Day 1

Starting near the Port Albert jetty a good crowd armed with binoculars, coats and cameras met guest speakers Dr John Ford from University of Melbourne, Dan Weller, BirdLife Australia and Matt Khourey from the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (WGCMA). Dan brought his spotting scope along to give people a close up on the birds feeding at low tide on the intertidal mudflats.

Walking along the Port Albert trail, John, Dan and Matt highlighted the local and international importance of the Corner Inlet (CI) and Nooramunga Marine and Coastal Parks and how the productive coastal wetland



DAN WELLER, BIRDLIFE AUSTR.

habitats support a variety of fauna and flora species. These species include commercially important fish, invertebrates, birds of local and international significance and a diverse array of aquatic plants, some unique to our coastal ecosystem. Some of the issues currently threatening the health of the CI ecosystem were discussed and what was being done to address some of these problems. **Major issues included the detrimental effect of catchment runoff containing large quantities of nutrient and sediment, on the health of seagrass communities, fish nurseries and birds of local and international significance.** The degradation of surrounding saltmarsh habitat from trampling, drainage and its limited ability to migrate inland, as sea levels begin to rise was also discussed.

Matt Khoury introduced the Corner Inlet Water Quality Improvement Plan (WQIMP), and some of the programs, projects and works that have been completed in the Corner Inlet area to combat the issues

highlighted above and within the WQIMP. Matt focused on projects undertaken within the Yarram Yarram Landcare Network’s JARR area. Projects included fencing and revegetation of local waterways and terrestrial areas, saltmarsh protection, erosion control in steep gully areas to prevent stock access, waterway bed and bank stabilisation works, Waterwatch monitoring, removing fish barriers, plus much much more. This work has been completed by a variety of stakeholders, including the local community, Landcare,



ALBERT RIVER, PT ALBERT



Samantha Monks, YYLN Project Officer

WGCMA, DEPI and many other partnership agencies.

A relaxing lunch of fish and chips was shared along with plenty of discussion at the Wildfish Restaurant.

Note: Dr John Ford is a seagrass expert and is the lead investigator in a research collaboration between Corner Inlet fishers, Melbourne University and the WGCMA which is harnessing local knowledge for fisheries sustainability. “Fishermen are the natural stewards of these areas – they spend every working day out there observing what’s going on.... This research will help in targeting efforts to improve water quality and ensure the preservation of seagrass beds and fisheries productivity.”



# PROJECT UPDATE

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

#### Day 2

The next discovery tour commenced at Stacey’s Bridge Hall. The group set off to meet landowner Jim MacAulay to look at Jim’s erosion control project site at Hiawatha. A steep gully area (7 ha) containing a good patch of remnant Wet Forest was fenced off and protected from stock in 2012.

Nick Dudley and Les Kewming from Farm Services DEPI presented a detailed Soil Erosion Management Plan (SEMP) that had been developed for Jim’s property. Key objectives for the project site is to: reduce sediments and nutrients from

entering the Albert River; reduce the potential of soil erosion, either land slips or tunnel erosion from occurring. The notoriously ‘hard to kill’ Blackberry of the Hiawatha area, has been successfully treated on-site through the JARR Communities for Nature program.

**Erosion control projects such as this have also helped improve farm productivity by minimising stock losses in gully areas and improved biodiversity through the re-establishment of vital wildlife biolinks in the JARR Catchments.** (EVC 30:Wet Forest and EVC 16: Lowland Forest)



EROSION CONTROL SITE, HIAWATHA

Back at the hall, a delicious lunch of homemade soup and sausage rolls was enjoyed by all. The day was nicely rounded up with two highly informative

weed presentations by Gregg Baynon from Dow AgroSciences and Scott McArdle Biosecurity Area Manager Gippsland (DEPI). ■

### Shorebirds 2020 Report By Dan Weller

BirdLife Australia’s Shorebirds 2020 Project is a national shorebird conservation, research, and education program which aims to halt the massive population declines affecting many shorebird species, particularly the shorebirds that migrate to Australia every year.

Commencing in 2007, the foundations of the program date back to the early 1980s when the Australasian Wader Studies Group (AWSG) began shorebird population monitoring around the country with financial assistance from the federal government.

Shorebirds, like the Red-necked Stint, Bar-tailed Godwit and Eastern Curlew, are an incredible and diverse group of birds that face increasing threats both here in Australia and internationally, given their requirement to travel to far

northern Siberia and Alaska to breed each year. Population count data collected by AWSG and Shorebirds 2020 volunteers shows that a growing number of shorebird populations are in significant decline, with some species exhibiting losses of over 80 per cent since the 1980s. As home to large significant numbers of migratory species, Australia is well placed to uncover and track significant changes in populations by implementing a comprehensive monitoring program. Corner Inlet is arguably the most important site for shorebirds in Victoria, with a unique combination of expanses of suitable foraging and roosting habitats but also importantly relatively low human disturbance. More migratory shorebirds choose to over-winter here than anywhere else in Victoria, and the Inlet is of international conservation significance as a result.



ROYAL SPOONBILL (PLATALEA REGIA) - PORT ALBERT

Shorebirds 2020 volunteers survey over 320 important Shorebird Areas across the nation on at least a biannual basis, so no matter where you live, especially if it is near our coastline, chances are good that there is a Shorebird Area near you.

To get involved you can register with S2020 today and see how you can start supporting shorebird research

and conservation in your area. Even something as simple as forwarding Shorebirds 2020 emails to friends and family is a great way to help and spread the word.

To join Shorebirds 2020 and be updated on volunteer opportunities, training workshops and fieldwork contact: shorebirds@birdlife.org.au ■



# PROJECT UPDATE

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By Samantha Monks

### Communities for Nature Grant: Round 1 - Jack and Albert River Restoration (JARR) Project

Year 2 Blackberry Suppression Works were temporarily delayed following the February bushfires in the Jack River area. Several targeted sites were right on the fire front, so some areas will need to be followed up next summer.

Over 15 landholders from the upper Jack & Albert River catchment have been involved in this year's program, covering approximately 1500 ha of private property. Through the ongoing JARR partnership, the WGCMA has covered a 5km section along the Albert River near between Hiawatha and Stacey's Bridge while the Wellington Shire Council have treated Blackberry along the shire roadsides.

Year 2 wildlife corridors are nearing completion around the Jack River area. On-ground works include approx. 5 km of fencing used to connect koala corridors into remnant forest, protecting several hectares of land from stock, 13,000 tubestock will be planted out during winter this year.



### Year 9 YSC – Nest Boxes

Yarram Secondary College Year 9 students have made 12 duck nest boxes at school for their 2014 community program. Two wetland project sites were identified as perfect locations to place the breeding boxes, as part of the school's new JARR partnership with YYLN.

During the month of May, 20 students, teachers, YYLN staff and Wulgunggo Ngalu participants met up at Ken and Marina Dixon's Calrossie wetland and placed the nest boxes into the "dry" wetland

area. Jae Taylor, YSC Community Coordinator said, "the students got a positive vibe, learnt how to work in teams and how to communicate with others."

The second site was at Ray and Colleen Jenkins near Manns Beach at a saltmarsh project site. Ray took us on a tour of his amazing wetland area and explained the importance of protecting sensitive saltmarsh areas adjacent to Nooramunga. Students replaced two older style nest boxes with the new design boxes they had made. ■



### Corner Inlet Connections (CIC): YYLN/WGCMA Coastal Saltmarsh Protection Project 2012-2014

A huge area covering 160 ha of coastal saltmarsh has been fenced off and protected from stock in one of YYLN's largest cross property projects to date. Four individual landholders joined forces to complete this landscape scale project which has taken nearly 18 months to complete.

Approx. 10 km of plain wire fencing has been erected linking existing saltmarsh projects on neighbouring properties. Several hectares of Boxthorn and Gorse

have also been removed from the sensitive coastal landscape. A further 5,000 locally indigenous tubestock will be planted out in July/August, to top up the 10,000 planted out in winter 2103.

Funded through the WGCMA's 'Regional Growth Fund Flood Support Program' this latest project has helped complete a long term vision to protect and connect another large section of coastal saltmarsh adjoining Nooramunga. ■

### Action on the Ground (AotG) – Gippsland plains soil carbon trials – productivity & climate change responses

Soil carbon trials are well underway at 3 properties in Woodside, Darriman and Stradbroke. The trials investigate ways of increasing soil total organic carbon (TOC) and aim to see how quickly high rates of organic matter (either chicken litter or compost) can increase TOC.

The products are applied at very high rates - far above those

required to supply maintenance rates of nutrient typically applied as inorganic fertiliser.

We are holding a series of field days over the coming months to visit each trial site and present latest information and soil carbon results. A detailed update report on the overall progress of YYLN's AotG project will be in our next newsletter. ■

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](mailto:samantham@wgcm.vic.gov.au)

# TRANSFORMER WEEDS

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK



By Bronwyn Johnson



Bronwyn Johnson, Seedbank Officer.

*Invasive weeds are plant species that have been introduced to an area, survived, reproduced, then succeeded to produce fertile offspring in areas distant from the introduction site. Their impact is not always substantial, and some manage to co-exist with little disturbance to the ecological systems they inhabit.*

Transformer weeds are defined as **invasive weeds that change the character, condition, form or nature of a natural ecosystem over a substantial area.** Many form extensive monocultures. This can have a profound effect on the local biodiversity and clearly would require a large allocation of resources to restore that area to its natural state.

Transformers can alter an ecosystem in various ways. Some are excessive users of the available resources, such as water in wetlands or light in forests. Some increase the fuel loads and therefore fire regimes. Some promote erosion whilst others increase the rate of sedimentation in waterways. All of these actions can irreparably alter the intricate interactions that define an ecosystem.

Blackberries seem an obvious candidate. They are able to invade large areas forming dense thickets, smothering understorey plants, shading the ground and preventing germination of seed. They feed foxes which also prey on

small native mammals, further disturbing the natural processes these small mammals perform.

But there is another group of plants which seem very unlikely candidates, although their ability to transform large ecosystems has been exploited by man for thousands of years. Grasses! The feeders of civilisations. We have benefitted from their nutritional value; their ability to grow in various climates; their annual, often copious seed production and the speed at which hybrid varieties can be bred. However, all these qualities make them ideal invaders and transformers.

And this is where 'context' comes in. Introduced grass species in agricultural systems are perfectly legitimate. It's when they begin appearing in native ecosystems that problems arise. They can quickly take up any bare ground, removing germination opportunities. They can alter nutrient cycling and fuel loads. Many native animals that rely on indigenous grasses for food and shelter may not be able to utilise

the invaders. They place more pressure on their remaining food supply, eventually eating themselves out of house and home. Other animals may gain an advantage due to the altered food chain, further changing the composition of the local biodiversity. If there are few natural enemies and little competition, the invaders begin to establish a monoculture.

We often talk about the importance of a healthy, biodiverse understorey as being key to the long term sustainability of our native ecosystems. It follows then, that the loss of that biodiversity to an invasive monoculture will affect the long term health of the trees. Many of us go out of our way to protect trees and establish new vegetation. However, when we allow non-native grasses to invade the understorey and out compete all the other native grasses, herbs, shrubs and creepers, we are facilitating the transformation and eventual decline of our bush patch. ■



THISTLE ATTACK



INVASIVE?



BLACKBERRIES - AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF A TRANSFORMER WEED.



# SEEDBANK REPORT

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By Bronwyn Johnson

## A seed by any other name...

Our Network covers an area of approximately 118,000ha. It rises from sea level to 700m or so in altitude. Average rainfall varies from around 600mm along the coast to over 1000mm in the ranges. Soil types are anything from pure sand to sandy loams and clays, pure loams and even peat; shallow to deep, acidic to neutral, free-draining to waterlogged. Steep hills, deep valleys, rolling plains. All this adds up to a wide diversity of habitats.

Some plants have highly specific growing requirements and are therefore only found in some parts of our network. However, there are others that are adapted to grow in a wide range of conditions. These less 'fussy' plants are ideal choices for revegetation, especially in altered habitats such as paddocks.

One such plant is *Bursaria spinosa*, commonly known as Sweet Bursaria due to the highly fragrant cream flowers produced around late spring. 'Spinosa' refers to the spines

which give rise to many of the other common names such as blackthorn, prickly box, prickly pine, spiny box, thorn box and white thorn. Obviously, they want you to know it has thorns!

Once established, Bursaria are tough. They can grow almost anywhere in the landscape from 0m to 1300m, withstand frosts, establish under mature eucalypt canopies, resprout after bushfires, survive the average drought and grow in shallow soils on rocky cliff faces for upwards of 50 years.

Colonising so many different environments can lead to large variations in plant size and appearance. Younger plants tend to be spiner than more mature specimens and higher rainfall leads to larger leaves. Interestingly, the seed needs a couple of weeks chilling time in order to germinate, which it generally only does after the shortest day of the year.

Many species of beetles, wasps and butterflies are valuable pollinators, whilst the plant provides food for them and their larvae. Bursaria also host parasitic wasps and flies who target the larvae of destructive moths, butterflies, beetles and grasshoppers.

Their intricate architecture of thorns and twiggy foliage benefits many web-spinning spider species who feast on the insects attracted to the nectar. Small birds find shelter from



predators in the spiny branches, consume the insects and spiders and then use the webs to construct their delicate nests.

Bursaria provides light shade for the understory species found on the forest floor. It has also provided sun protection in another way. The drug aesculin can be extracted from the leaves and during World War II was used by the RAAF to provide sunscreen to fighter pilots.

The spines have made Bursaria less than popular with many

landholders, but I would argue that its resilience and wide tolerance of a number of environmental conditions makes it an ideal coloniser to have in a shelter belt. Its ability to establish under mature canopy trees and provide shelter for a number of birds and insects also makes it a valuable addition to degraded bush remnants and other revegetation projects. ■

The Seedbank is becoming a new project for the Yarram Urban Landcare Group. They will be trained by Bronwyn Johnson in collection, storage and supply of seed and are looking for others in the community who would be interested in joining them.

For further information on Seedbank please contact: Bronwyn Johnson, YYLN Project Officer - Ph. 03 5175 7895, Mob. 0429 808 130 or Email [bronwynj@wgama.vic.gov.au](mailto:bronwynj@wgama.vic.gov.au)



# FOX-FREE FORUM

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

by Kate Williams

On Monday, April 7, a diverse group of landholders convened at the Welshpool Hotel to reflect on the continuing issue of fox control in our region.

The event was co-hosted by the South Gippsland and Yarram Yarram Landcare Networks through the Corner Inlet Connections program and is part of a wider project aimed at protecting the shore birds and other wildlife of the Ramsar listed Corner Inlet and Nooramunga Reserves.

The guest speaker was Fraser Barry from Swifts Creek. Fraser has extensive personal experience with wild dog and fox predation on his 4,000ha property, as well as other properties he has owned in NSW and Queensland. He has served on the Gippsland Wild Dog Advisory Committee whilst grappling with his own pest animal issues.

Fraser prefers to think of the problem as a puzzle. You must first find all the pieces before you can put them together to see the whole picture. So he set about gathering information on the current best practice for wild dog control. He recognised that these pests don't see boundary fences the way we do, so he began working with his neighbours, both private landholders and government agencies, to bring the pieces together to develop a management plan.

This cooperative approach and willingness to alter current practices based on



new information has led to a dramatic decrease in dog and fox numbers and equally dramatic increase in lambing percentages. After the 2009 bushfires, increased predation reduced the lambing percentage to 20%. Today it is at 110%. He spotted his first lyrebird on the property recently and believes the ongoing control measures will ultimately benefit the wider landscape of the Tambo Valley.

The group also heard from Parks Victoria Ranger, David Farrar about their fox control program in and adjacent to the

Corner Inlet Ramsar site that has been running since 2010. Through consistent baiting and trapping, a fox free status has been achieved on Dream Island, Little Snake Island, Clonmel Island and a 95% reduction of foxes on St Margaret Island. David explained: "This is great news for the 30,000 resident and migratory wader birds that can be found in Corner Inlet. However at low tide, foxes can access St Margaret Island from the mainland. This illustrates the importance of a coordinated fox control program across all land tenure be it public or private land".



Above: The warning sign in Brazil shows that foxes are so special they should be protected from cars.

Left: this Patagonian Fox is exactly where it should be - in a National Park in southern Argentina.

Following the presentations, landholders were asked about their own experiences with the damage foxes cause to livestock and native animals. The answers were as diverse as the group and demonstrated the widespread impact these pests have throughout the landscape. Then the discussion moved on to what actions could be implemented in their local areas. It became clear that whilst many now had a greater understanding of what they could implement on their own properties, working with their neighbours and coordinating with the efforts of Parks Victoria and other agencies would have more far reaching effects.

To harness the potential for increased coordination, the Landcare Networks will be working with landholders in the area to establish action learning groups.

If you would like to be part of the action learning groups, contact Sally-Ann Henderson (Yarram Yarram Landcare Network) on 5175 7897 or Kate Williams (South Gippsland Landcare Network) on 5662 5759. ■



by Jenny Davies

## AND THAT'S YOUR BLOOMIN' LOT!

*We haven't heard a lot in the press about woodlots of late—but they really are a natty idea!*

A landholder simply plants some acreage in trees for future domestic wood provision - it might be for burning for wood heaters, selling as timber, using to make furniture, or perhaps for grandchildren to play in and make cubbies or swings.

It's amazing how quickly our native trees grow—when I look at some of ours we only planted ten years ago they would easily be good for wood already.



An example of timber collection in the Alberton West State forest.

### So why am I beating my breast?

Well, every time I walk in the Alberton West State forest I see more and trees which have been chain sawn for timber collection. Fair enough, it is wood collection season and I have seen notices displayed designating collection areas & guidelines - but one of them is to collect wood from the forest floor!

Here are some of the other "rules" on display.

- Only collect firewood from within a designated domestic firewood collection area and during a domestic firewood season.
- Only collect fallen or felled trees.
- Do not cut, break off or damage standing trees or shrubs (living or dead).
- Do not take away fallen or felled trees that are visibly hollow or growing moss or fungi with a coverage of >50%.
- Do not damage, disturb or destroy native flora and fauna.
- Do not collect more than 2m per person per day.

Clearly people disregard the rules and fell trees, I have seen trailers loaded well above the limit of 2m per person per day.

### Feeling frustrated like me?

So something positive that we can do, because clearly our State Forests aren't going to survive if this continues, is to plant a woodlot for the future - ours and the next generations.

Let's make it part of normal farming practice! ■

### An email from Jenny Davies, Yarram Courthouse Gallery

*"It was a pleasure for Kim Baggaley and myself to work with Bron Johnson,YYLN Seedbank, and Sally Ann to plan this joint botanical exhibition.*

*We wanted to draw attention to the value of our native species so invited world renowned botanical artist, Celia Rosser to co-judge along with Kaye Proudley, well known and respected field naturalist and artist & teacher, Andrea McCallum.*

*Even though each judge brought their own perspective & background to the works there was remarkably little disagreement about who should receive the awards.*

*I enjoyed hearing viewers comments as they appreciated the detail in the works, thus*

*inspiring awe of nature and its plant variety.*

*Our committee was thrilled that so many artists tried this style of work for the first time.*

*We also had requests from participating artists to hold future competitions and had interest from a botanical artist from the Newcastle area who flew down to catch the works and went on to Fish Creek to meet Celia Rosser.*

*The exhibition received good publicity & we were encouraged by Hon. Peter Ryan's visit.*

*Let's hope the public will have a new appreciation of our native plants and will be inspired to plant them with tube stock or direct seeding of locally gathered seed."*



*I-r Suzette Levette,artist , David McAninly - Chair YYLN, Peter Ryan - Leader of the National Party and Deputy Premier of Victoria, Jenny Davies - Yarram Courthouse Gallery, Kevin Hegglin - Hedley Range Services (sponsor)*

It was an honour for participating artists and organisers of the exhibition to stimulate the interest of the Hon. Peter Ryan.

His visit allowed us to further promote the good works of the YYLN, lament the current

funding situation for Landcare and get additional promotion for the exhibition.

The partnership with the Gallery over this event seems like one definitely pursuing in 2015. Artists, get those brushes ready! ■



By Sally-Ann Henderson

## But I thought there were no plants in Antarctica?

**Not an unreasonable reaction when you know that Antarctica is the highest, windiest, driest and coldest continent on the planet.**

However nature is an amazing adapter and where there is a bit of earth, there is an opportunity. In fact even where there isn't any earth. Algae grows inside icebergs turning them shades of red and green. Antarctica is in fact home to hundreds of flora species. The majority of these are lichens and mosses but there are also flowering plants. Not to mention the diversity of plants under the sea in Antarctica's ocean such as the giant kelp forests.

The most obvious plants in Antarctica are the bryophytes (mosses) - 111 species and (liverworts) -25 species. There are some ancient banks of moss as deep as a meter. Radio carbon dating suggests these

deep banks may be as old as 7000 years. Understandably we were given strict instructions to avoid stepping on moss as damage may take tens even hundreds of years to recover.

The two flowering plants, both of which I was fortunate enough to see, are quite unassuming. A grass and a cushion bush - Antarctic hair grass *Deschampsia antarctica*, and Antarctic pearlwort *Colobanthus quitensis*. They are both found on the relatively temperate Antarctic Peninsula and their distribution seems to be increasing as the area warms.

For those of you fortunate enough to have heard Simone Louwhoff speak about lichen, you will know that they are an algae and a fungi combining to grow as a lichen. Antarctica has 246 species currently identified and they are found colonising rock and soil,

manmade structures, drift wood and even old skeletons. There is a great range and diversity. They provide much of the other colours to this blue and white continent.

While I was there I was involved in a citizen science program to photograph and document as many lichen as I could. Scientists are trying to determine the distribution and variety of lichen on the continent with one of the aims being to see if the effects of climate change or tourism are having any impact. Lichen information has been gathered since 1843 by early explorers and this continues on to present day giving a long historical record for this part of the world. Information is logged into the Antarctic Lichen database and scientists can compare information in my photos with previous visits and historical collections.

It was a joy not to see any weeds. Imagine a weed free continent. Hygiene and biosecurity were closely adhered to on our boat with the travellers having to clean equipment and belongings such as vacuuming Velcro for seeds, pollen and spores and then crew conducting inspections before we were allowed to go on shore. Let's hope the world can learn from the lessons of the past and we can keep this new land just for its indigenous inhabitants.

Current indicators such as plant distribution, penguin numbers, ice cover etc. are that tourists are not having a significant impact on the biodiversity of Antarctica. However, the impact from climate change is already significant. ■



ANTARCTIC PEARL WORT



A VARIETY OF LICHENS



ROCK COVERED IN LICHENS



ANTARCTIC HAIR GRASS



WATER DROPLETS ON MOSS



ORANGE LICHEN ON WOOD



# ...AND ANOTHER THING

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

ADVENTURES ON PRIVATE LAND



NEW INCOME SOURCE FOR VICTORIAN LANDHOLDERS...

The idea of opening the front gate to visitors may seem crazy to many landholders but not to Samantha Chaffey and Eric Lemoussu of Gippsland who are earning another farm income from offering authentic camping sites. Their motivation is to have a diversified farm income so the health of their land isn't compromised. They are proud of their property and the good condition it is in.

Public camping grounds are restrictive and often full and not all travellers want to stay in van park camping suburbia or highway rest areas. Also, travellers want authentic experiences away from the well-trodden tourist track. Farmers and landholders are looking for new income streams that contribute to a property being managed sustainably. Youcamp.com meets both these needs.

Almost every property has a spot that travellers would like to visit – a river or creek frontage, a private fishing spot, a beautiful dam or even just a big shady tree that would be perfect to park a fully self-contained campervan under. Youcamp.com has recently listed a number of Victorian properties where the owners have been stunned at the interest from the public.

Shortly before Christmas

Samantha and Eric decided they would open their front gate and share their land with carefully chosen, responsible members of the public who wanted a more authentic camping experience.

They did not want to set up a commercial van park or a mass camping ground; just a low-key place for people to retreat, for families to bond and truly experience nature. They offer a number of camping sites in different locations so each group has privacy.

To their surprise the response was immediate and much of the Christmas/New Year period was quickly booked. They contacted the local council to check the rules for allowing visitors onto private land and asked each group who arrived to sign a waiver.

"It has been beautiful, so beautiful to have kids come here and enjoy the property."

"Private property is normally thought of as totally closed and private and having strangers arrive causes many landholders some apprehension," Samantha said. "But we have found that sharing the sunsets, the sounds and the sights, sharing this beautiful place and allowing people to have this experience here on our land has been wonderful". ■



www.youcamp.com • info@youcamp.com  
PO Box 588 Moruya NSW 2537 • PH: 0427 825 273



## Our Regional Landcare Facilitator

Hi, my name is Sam Shannon and I'm the Regional Landcare Facilitator for West Gippsland.

I'm based in the CMA office in Traralgon, and I've been in the role for about six months now.

The main focus of my diverse role is to support sustainable agriculture in the region by fostering partnerships between industry, farming groups, Landcare, government organisations and farmers.

One of my key projects is the Gippsland Sustainable Agriculture Network. We hold a forum every six months where people share information about what they are currently working on, with the aim of sharing knowledge across the region and increasing collaboration between organisations and groups delivering sustainable agriculture projects. The next forum will be held in October. If you are interested in attending please let me know.

**This July I am organising a series of workshops around the region facilitated by Viv McWaters, titled "Bring Your Landcare Meetings to Life". These workshops will inspire you to rethink the most regular and common Landcare activity – the humble meeting. The workshops will be an enjoyable and social evening with your fellow Landcarers and I encourage you all to attend this one-off opportunity. We will provide a minibus from Yarram to either**

**the Sale workshop on Tuesday July 15, or the Foster workshop on Wednesday July 16. Please phone Sally-Ann or myself to RSVP.**

A bit about myself - I grew up on a sheep and beef farm near Feilding, New Zealand. I worked as a Biodiversity Officer with the Canterbury Regional Council, based in Timaru, before moving to Australia with my wife Lisa in 2012. We lived in Wagga Wagga for 12 months where I worked as the Regional Landcare Facilitator for the Murrumbidgee catchment. We moved to Traralgon in November last year, Lisa went on maternity leave, and we welcomed our little boy Thomas in January. It's certainly been a full-on 6 months – new town, new job and a new baby!

Being a farm boy at heart, I'm always happy for an excuse to get out of the office and see what great work our farmers are doing. Let me know whenever there is something relevant happening in your patch and I'll try to come along. I'm much happier out in the paddock than behind a computer screen!

Follow me on Twitter to receive information relevant to Landcare and agriculture in Gippsland: @WestGippy\_RLF

Cheers,

Sam Shannon  
Regional Landcare Facilitator  
03 5613 5978  
0409 944 114 ■

# PARTNER ACTIVITY

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK



By Sally-Ann Henderson

## The Tarra Trail

*A healthy outdoor lifestyle just got a little easier to achieve thanks to the good work of our partner organisation, the Tarra Trail.*

Working alongside the local branch of the Freemasons, Wellington Shire and other donors they have helped establish an outdoor gym with equipment such as cross trainer, weights and rowing machine. The gym was the brainchild of Minnie Kee who had seen similar things elsewhere in her travels and thought it was the perfect partnership for the Tarra Trail Bike Path.

The bike path has been open since 2010 and Landcare and the Tarra Trail Committee have worked hand in hand to see the vision become a reality. The path stretches for 7 kms from the Yarram Showgrounds to Alberton. The dream is that one day it will link with its big brother the Great Southern Rail Trail which currently goes from Leongatha as far east



as Toora with the stretch to Welshpool being developed at the moment.

The trail crosses farmland and parkland to give some beautiful views of the local area. It winds through patches of remnant vegetation, open farmland and shelterbelts. There have been a number of tree plantings done along the trail over the years with groups such as schools and community groups. The most recent planting was done last spring by members of Binginwarri, Hedley and Yarram Urban Landcare groups topped off with one of Binginwarri's delightful BBQs. Maintenance of this community asset is an on-going issue, both in terms of cost and volunteer

hours. Fortunately the Yarram Apex Club has been doing an excellent job of maintaining the southern end of the trail and now that it is established the Wellington Shire will take over responsibility for the new gym.

The gym must have one of the loveliest settings in town, being situated beside the wetland behind the council offices. Watch the water birds and work out at the same time. Where else can you do that? ■





ANOTHER BEAUTIFUL PICTURE FROM SALLY-ANN HENDERSON

## Contacts for Individual Active Landcare Groups

### Albert River Landcare Group

Contact: David MacAulay  
Phone: 5185 1392  
Email: [macaulays@net-tech.com.au](mailto:macaulays@net-tech.com.au)

### Carrajung and District LG

Contact: YYLN Office  
Phone: 5182 6094  
Email: [Sally-AnnH@wgcma.vic.gov.au](mailto:Sally-AnnH@wgcma.vic.gov.au)

### Woodside Landcare Group

Contact: Jane Gordon  
Phone: 5187 1400  
Email: [janeo@aussiebroadband.com.au](mailto:janeo@aussiebroadband.com.au)

### Wonyip Landcare Group

Contact: Werner Lange  
Phone: 0418 302575  
Email: [longiewl@optusnet.com.au](mailto:longiewl@optusnet.com.au)

### Binginwarri Landcare Group

Contact: Kaye Proudley  
Phone: 5185 1398  
Email: [katbingi@harboursat.com.au](mailto:katbingi@harboursat.com.au)

### Merriman Creek Landcare Group

Contact: Melissa Ainsworth  
Phone: 5146 8328  
Email: [ainsworths@activ8.net.au](mailto:ainsworths@activ8.net.au)

### Won Wron Devon North LG

Contact: Bill Bodman  
Phone: 5189 1243  
Email: [Sally-AnnH@wgcma.vic.gov.au](mailto:Sally-AnnH@wgcma.vic.gov.au)

### Hedley/Nine Mile Creek LG

Contact: Maree Avery  
Phone: 0421 222 242  
Email: [maree@skymesh.com.au](mailto:maree@skymesh.com.au)

### Yarram Urban Landcare Group

Contact: Trevor Colvin  
Phone: 0417 307 098  
Email: [trevorcolvin91@gmail.com](mailto:trevorcolvin91@gmail.com)



YARRAM YARRAM  
LANDCARE NETWORK

Livingston St T: 1300 094 262  
Yarram F: 03 5182 6094  
Vic 3971 E: [Sally-AnnH@wgcma.vic.gov.au](mailto:Sally-AnnH@wgcma.vic.gov.au)  
W: [www.yyln.org.au](http://www.yyln.org.au)

POSTAGE  
PAID  
AUSTRALIA