



YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NEWS

Vol: 17 SUMMER 2014

FEATURES

Local Landcare Profile - Kathleen Bartlett

Fire in the Landscape

A volunteer Adventure - Roydon Island

Hedley Orchids

It is maintained by the Yarram Botanic Gardens
Committee of Management Ph.(051) 851314

INSIDE

Events Update	2	Around the traps	5-6	A Volunteer Adventure.....	9	Warren the Wise.....	15
From the Office	3	Hedley Orchids.....	7	Fire in the Landscape.....	10	Obituary - Russel Gunn	16
Local Landcare Profile.....	4	Botanic Gardens.....	8	Project Updates.....	11-14	Partner Activity.....	17



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.

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

15 February 2015 is the deadline for Autumn issue contributions.

Contacts

Yarram Yarram Landcare Network

Livingston Street Yarram
Victoria 3971
Tel: 1300 094 262
Fax: 03 5182 6094

Sally-AnnH@wgcm.vic.gov.au
www.yyln.org.au

Sally-Ann Henderson

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

Samantha Monks

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

Cover photo

Lucia and Michela Savage celebrating the final plants going in the ground at the Bicentennial Gardens.

Photograph courtesy of Sally-Ann Henderson.

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

WOODSIDE LCG INC. CHRISTMAS DINNER

When: November 30th
Where: Commercial Hotel, Yarram
RSVP: Kay - 51871270 or Jane - 51871400

BINGINWARRI LCG CHRISTMAS BBQ

When: December 7th

Where: Binginwarri Hall
RSVP: Kaye - 51851398

WOODSIDE LCG MEETING

When: 8 pm February 26, 2015
Where: Woodside Hall

YYLN AWARDS DINNER

When: March 21st
Where: Yarram Golf Club

RSVP: TBA

ART EXHIBITION

When: April 2-28, 2015
Where: Courthouse Gallery, Yarram

For artists interested in entering work into this exhibition, the Gallery will issue invites soon.

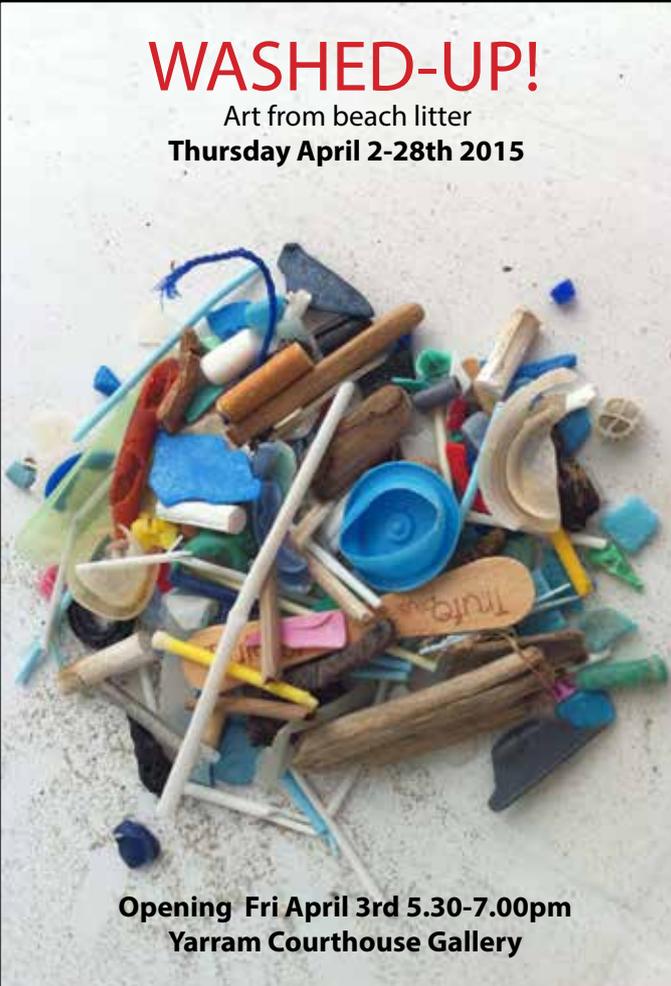
New Landcare/Courthouse Gallery Exhibition

It is a sad fact that our beloved oceans have become receptacles for vast amounts of waste that wash down our waterways, are borne on the wind or are dumped from vessels. Plastic waste

in particular is having devastating effects on wildlife.

The Courthouse Gallery in Yarram is challenging artists to reuse some of

these materials to create works of art that help alert us all to this enormous problem. It is hoped this will also stimulate local action to help reduce the environmental impact. ■



WASHED-UP!
Art from beach litter
Thursday April 2-28th 2015

Opening Fri April 3rd 5.30-7.00pm
Yarram Courthouse Gallery

Proudly brought to you by the Courthouse Gallery in partnership with Yarram Yarram Landcare Network and Coastcare Victoria



Prizes sponsored by Hedley Range Services





FROM THE OFFICE

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By Sally-Ann Henderson



Sally-Ann Says:

Last time I wrote "From The Office" we were in the throes of a flurry of funding applications being prepared by the Network and various groups, and now as it comes time to write it again, it is pleasing to see that the hard work paid off.

We have a range of new projects being established at

the moment and it is great to see the enthusiasm of all those involved.

Perhaps one of the best outcomes of these new projects is some new partnerships we are forging in order to reach our common goals. One of them is working with Gippsland Water on the new Merriman Creek Project. They are really keen to be involved and although they don't have cash to contribute to the project they have already proved their worth by supporting us through assistance with monitoring and community education. It is a win for them too as it helps them to engage with landholders and consumers in their catchment. Our other new partnership is with the Port Albert Yacht Club. You can read about the new projects below.

Our Network Landcare Awards are to be held early next year with nominations now open. Please consider nominating yourself or others in one or more categories as there is so much brilliant work happening out there in our region. There is a category to cover just about every good work.

We are all saddened by the recent passing of YYLN members Joan Wallis and Greg Foat and our sympathies are with their families and friends.

Your new board is settling in well and contributing a range of skills to help make YYLN the great organisation that it is.

One area that had been lacking was our website and John McClumpha has already been working hard to get it up to scratch. I am sure he would welcome photos and news that

he can upload to tell the world what is happening. Send them via the office and I will pass them on.

Have you been using the www.yylnreveg.org website as you consider your potential plantings for next season? Feedback has been very positive and we continue to welcome suggestions for improvement. The brand new JARR website is looking wonderful thanks to Helga Binder and her team. Look out soon for the announcement of when it will be live.

Enjoy the lovely long evenings and may I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a smokeless summer. ■

New Projects Summary

Three new "Communities for Nature" funded projects

Binginwarri was successful in getting \$50K to deliver the Billy Creek Wetlands Revival project. It aims to restore and protect valuable wetland areas covering seven hectares adjacent to Billy Creek, a small tributary of the Jack and Albert River Catchment. Remnant vegetation will be protected through fencing to exclude stock, removal of Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) and wetland revegetation.

The proposed project will partner with the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority who will do complimentary works along Billy Creek, particularly willow

removal. It will help achieve the JARR Biodiversity Blueprint goal of connectivity between the Hedley Range and the Strzelecki Ranges.

Merriman Creek Landcare Group in the east of the Network will use \$40K to eradicate high threat weed species to enable regeneration of desirable riparian species along the Merriman Creek. They will spray out weeds along Merriman Creek and then undertake revegetation activities to supplement natural regeneration. The creek has previously been fenced off to exclude cattle.

Because Merriman Creek is the primary water source for the township of Seaspray it seemed

like an obvious choice to partner with Gippsland Water to deliver the project. They will undertake monitoring of the weed sites and water quality, and provide community and school workshops with the aim to give the community ownership of their waterway.

The third Communities for Nature project (\$50k) will be delivered in the far west of the Network by the **Corner Inlet Blackberry Action Group**. Similar to the Merriman project it will take a cross boundary approach to the control of Blackberry. The project will encourage private landholders to control blackberry and will work with contractors to spray banks of selected waterways to control weeds in riparian

areas and public reserves. In addition there will be access to training, peer-learning, support and some incentives for landholders who have signed up to undertake their own control. The work will be complemented by the project below.

Victorian Blackberry Taskforce

The Victorian Blackberry Taskforce (VBT) has once again granted the Corner Inlet Blackberry Action Group \$11,000 to engage private landholders in blackberry control. The way they achieve this is to build relationships with landholders and encourage them to sign up to a landholder agreement, pledging to control blackberry for at least the

Continued on page 08...



LOCAL LANDCARE PROFILES

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By Kathleen Bartlett

Hello, my name is Kathleen Bartlett and I am the new Regional Landcare Program Officer for the West Gippsland Region.

Although the title may seem puzzling, the basis of the role is to support all five Landcare Networks across West Gippsland to continue to be strong, effective and successful. The position is funded by the Victorian Government to support Landcare in our region.

Kicking this off will be a series of workshops starting in December and running in February and March on strengthening and improving your Landcare

network or group, which will be run across the region. Topics will include Board Member Bootcamp: Responsibilities, self-assessment, Leadership, how to get the most from memberships and how to write a winning Landcare Grant in 2015. Keep an eye out for further information.

Another important task will be the monitoring and evaluation of Landcare in West Gippsland. All groups in the region have recently received a Landcare survey, which will give us a really good insight into how Landcare in the region is travelling. I hope your group filled out their survey, as this data is a fantastic way of seeing where we can improve and funding opportunities.

I'm also really excited to start

promoting and celebrating Landcare in the region further and seeking for new ways on how we can extend our engagement, with a special focus on youth and social media.

My role also involves overseeing the Victorian Landcare Grants in the region, representing Landcare in the region at a state level and being a 'go-between' Landcare in the region and the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority.

Preceding this role I have been travelling and working overseas for the Soil Association in the United Kingdom on a community garden program at HIAM Health, a community garden malnutrition rehabilitation program in Timor Leste. I also have a great

understanding of Landcare in West Gippsland, as prior to travelling overseas I worked for several years as a Project Officer for the South Gippsland Landcare Network.

I am so excited to get stuck into this role and start visiting and supporting all five brilliant Landcare Networks across West Gippsland. Although my knowledge of the Yarram region so far is limited to being beaten by Yarram on the netball court (go Sharks!), I can't wait to get to know the region and Network further.

I'd love to come along to group events or hear any ideas you have about Landcare. Contact me on kathleenb@wgcm.vic.gov.au or 0400 746828. ■



KATHLEEN BARTLETT AT WORK IN A GARDEN IN TIMOR LESTE



AROUND THE TRAPS

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By our Landcare Groups

Merriman Creek

Our group is thrilled to be successful in applying for a "Communities for Nature" grant for works along a large section of Merriman Creek. The creek originates at the headwaters near Balook and exits into Bass Strait at Seaspray. This creek is imperative to the township of Seaspray as it is their primary water source.

Like any waterway it needs regular maintenance to protect biodiversity and address issues such as weed invasion and erosion. Weed species to be treated include Blackberry, Willow and Boxthorn to name just a few.

We are happy to have Gippsland Water as our project partner. Our project will include engaging with the Seaspray Primary School to participate in water quality monitoring activities. We will also undertake revegetation works and visit the water treatment plant at Seaspray as part of our education workshops.

This year our group will enjoy a Christmas break up with the Woodside group who have kindly invited us along. ■

Binginwarri

The Binginwarri Group is having their last hurrah for the year - our annual break-up BBQ on Sunday 7th December at the Bingi Hall. You are all cordially invited to help us celebrate another successful year. Meat, bread and a cuppa are provided but please BYO drinks, if required. A salad or dessert

would be appreciated - as would a phone call to Kaye on 5185 1398 for catering purposes.

Our new Activities Calendar for 2015 will hit your in-boxes sometime over the holiday break or early in the new year, so keep an eye out for it and mark up your calendars for another exciting year of outings and working bee's. We'd love to have the extra company of other groups members. ■

Woodside

Our group is saddened by the sudden passing of our long term member, Greg Foat. We extend our sincere sympathies to Jenny and family.

Greg was a valued community

member who often held field days at his property where he demonstrated Landcare principles which he had adopted.

The Woodside Landcare Group continues to meet every second month at the Woodside Hall. Our very own Sally-Ann Henderson came along and spoke on her trip to Antarctica, which made us all very envious, if not very cold.

Some members were lucky enough to receive trees through the "1 Million Trees" program and are all now praying for some follow up rain.

Our Christmas function will be held on the 30th November at The Commercial in Yarram at

6.30. This always proves to be the social event of the year and I am sure that this year will not disappoint with some members travelling from as far afield as Merriman Creek.

Our next meeting is schedule to be held on 26th February 2015 and we are sure that this use will come around quick enough! ■

Hedley

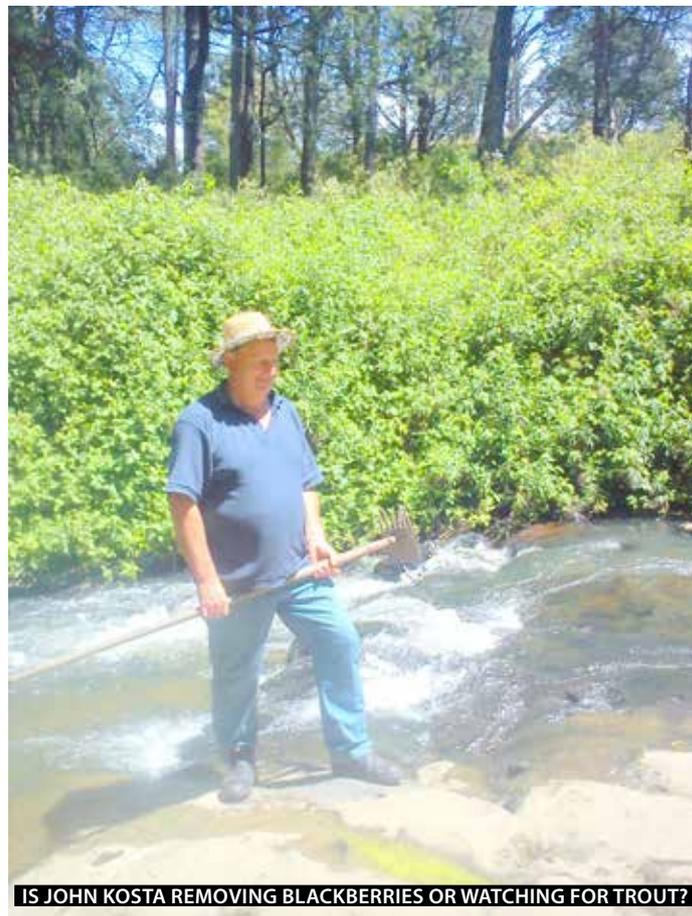
Hedley Landcarers were saddened to learn the passing of our member Joan Wallis. Joan along with her husband Gary are passionate about Landcare, truly embracing the values of Landcare and applying them to their farmland. Joan was always encouraging and thanking those members who put in extra hours to 'make it happen'. Our sympathies are extended to Gary and his family.

Hedley Landcarer, Kevin Opray is about to commence a project of revegetation. The project aim is to make 'sterile farm dams' more wildlife friendly by selecting suitable species of plants that will encourage frogs, birds and invertebrates. By selecting a dam close in proximity to a wider corridor of vegetation, it will encourage healthy ecosystems, with wildlife sharing of the valuable resource of water. ■

Wonyip

The Wonyip Group have recently planted 400 trees and preparations are being made to do blackberry spraying along the Dingo Creek and Agnes River, funded by a Communities for Nature grant.

The Lange family have been



IS JOHN KOSTA REMOVING BLACKBERRIES OR WATCHING FOR TROUT?

Continued on page 6...



AROUND THE TRAPS

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By our Landcare Groups

...continued from page 5

busy spot spraying over their whole property and recording animal presence with the newly acquired game camera. No Quolls yet! Lyre birds, a cat, wombats, wallabies, rabbits, a fox and deer have been seen to name a few. They would welcome a flora and a bird survey with a BBQ as an incentive and reward. ■

Corner Inlet Blackberry Action Group

The Corner inlet Blackberry Action Group (CIBAG, last year known as Corner Inlet Blackberry Task Force) is now gearing up to tackle its second blackberry season. Those canes are starting to revive and sprout new leaves. Blackberry will soon be actively spreading.

Blackberry suppresses native vegetation, reduces the area available to wildlife, hides rabbits, foxes and other unwanted species, blocks access to waterways, reduces pasture land and is a blight on our otherwise very scenic environment.

The CIBAG is looking to build on the successful blackberry reduction progress of last season. The group acknowledges the generous support provided by local businesses and local government departments, which helped make 2013 such a successful year.

In 2013 a total of 27 landholders signed a three year blackberry control agreement and have started the blitz on blackberry on their properties. A dynamic and engaging information day was held at Mt. Best Hall and several river restoration projects got under way, specifically

Dingo Creek, Franklin River and Nine Mile Creek. Look out for activities on offer this year.

For 2014 CIBAG has been successful in obtaining a \$50,000 Communities for Nature grant. The grant money is to be used to control blackberries along the Woomara and Dingo river systems. The group aims to engage the cooperation of landowners who abut these areas so both public and private land are tackled in a unified approach.

With the blackberry season fast approaching all landholders are reminded to be vigilant and are encouraged to formulate a blackberry control plan. The CIBAG is here to help. For advice and assistance regarding blackberry control please contact us.

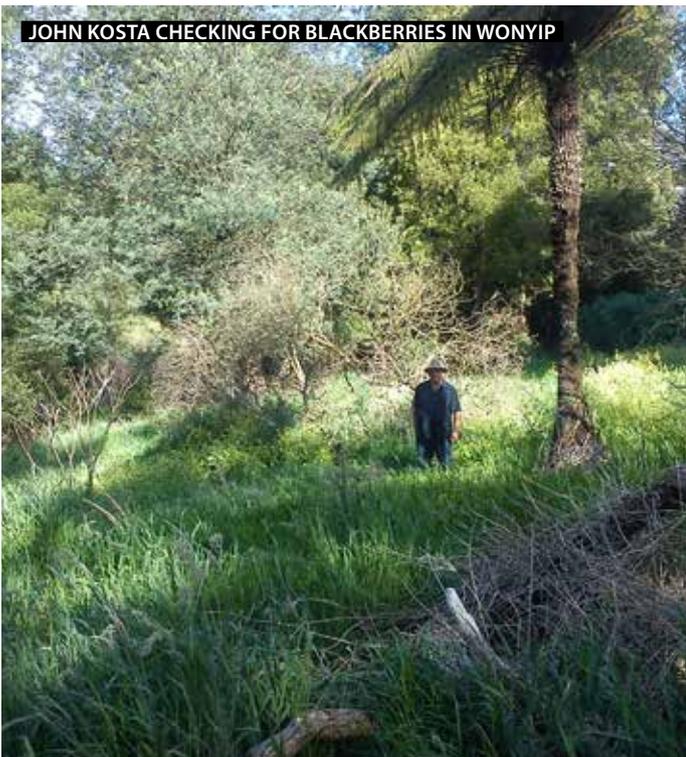
As a community based group the CIBAG is made up of local volunteers who are passionate about ridding Corner Inlet of blackberry. The committee

would love to hear from other willing and enthusiastic community members who could bring new ideas and enthusiasm to the fight against blackberry. The committee meets 4 times a year. For more information please contact Raelene Bond, 0410 479 254. ■

Yarram Urban

This year Yarram Urban formed their own little green army and helped YYLN run the stand at the Yarram Show. This year's theme was raising awareness of the Yarram Bicentennial Gardens, with a "pin the tail on the donkey" style game called "Pin the park on the town" It was also a great opportunity to promote the new Courthouse art collaboration "Washed Up-art from beach litter" and tell people about the Northern Pacific Garbage Patch. Both themes generated lots of discussion and interest and everyone had fun. ■

JOHN KOSTA CHECKING FOR BLACKBERRIES IN WONYIP



ACTIVITY AT THE YYLN STAND AT THE YARRAM SHOW





HEDLEY ORCHIDS

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By Maree Avery

The following quotes are from the book of the same name. It was written by Terri Gitsham Allen. Terri's mother was Elese Rossiter and it was Elese's parents (Hilda and Norton Rossiter) who settled in Hedley 1898. Elese was inspired by her mother's (Hilda nee Hodgson) love of Botany. In fact the whole family were involved.

Inspired by this love, Hilda was to convey her regard for plants, particularly orchids, to her children, Lanie, Elese, Nea and Norrie. The whole family took great delight in locating plants, observing the changes in the seasons, participating in excursions to nearby paddocks and bush, by boat to the islands and the Promontory or on horseback to the hills or the Run. They loved cultivating plants, drawing or collecting specimens for the authorities and communicating to others about their finds. All enjoyed the outings, with each specialised; Norton observed, Hilda identified, Lanie and Nea drew specimens, Elese identified and collected samples and

communicated with orchidists and Norrie drew, grew and wrote about his finds.

Hedley was well known among the orchidists. Many leading orchidists referred to lists of orchid species from the area: in 1930 Tadgell noted 90 species, Pescott mentioned nearly 100 in 1933 as did Ros Garnet, while in a letter dated 17th December 1958 J.H. Willis wrote: "I have come across several specimens and communications from Elese Rossiter (of Hedley) who was obviously a person with an intense interest in South Gippsland flora, especially the orchids - 99 species for Hedley district was an amazing tally!"

What was so special about Hedley and its orchids?

Somnolent in the warm spring sunshine, Hedley lies clasped like a pearl in a magnificent setting flanked by the deep sapphire of Wilson's Promontory and the emerald lushness of the Hedley range. Sweeping flatlands of intense green are dissected by shelter belts, pockets of heathland, paperbark swamps and the Nine Mile Creek, before plunging into the timbered foothills of the coastal woodland of Gellion's Run.

Elese in her seventy-five years of orchiding gained enormous satisfaction. Apart from realising



Spotted Sun Orchid - *Thelymitra* species - seen close up and on spike (below)

the botanic significance of orchids and their genetic diversity she had been able to communicate with many fellow enthusiasts over the decades, pass her knowledge on to younger generations and maintain a love of the bush and its plants, surely a most beneficial and rejuvenating pastime.

Much has changed over the years with the introduction of grazing domestic animals. But the satisfaction remains, once you get your "orchid eyes in" and discover the hidden gems, it brings joy to share with your friends. ■



Purplish Beard Orchid
Calochilus robertsonii



Hyacinth Orchid
Dipodium roseum



Cobra Greenhood
Pterostylis grandiflora



Nodding Greenhood
Pterostylis nutans



Donkey Orchid
Diuris orientis



Large Duck Orchid
Caleana major



BOTANIC GARDENS

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By Trevor Colvin

Traces of ancient gardens found beneath heavy undergrowth

The Yarram Botanic Gardens are as well known in Yarram as the Hanging Gardens of Babylon are in modern day Iraq; most people are vaguely aware they existed but not much else.

So, with sensible shoes, a crumpled old map and a couple of kero lanterns the intrepid Yarram Urban Landcare Brigade set out to find them and lo; they did.

The site of approximately three acres shaped like an inverted 'L' is very close to the hospital, the medical centre and Yarram District Health. It is also right next door to the Nightingale Park old folks accommodation and Mirridong, so there are plenty of people in that end of town who could use them.

Built in 1988 as a bicentennial project the gardens faded into memory for whatever reason with half the townspeople never having heard of them and those who have, not knowing where they are.

Armed with enthusiasm, heavy gloves and a \$5,000 community grant from Wellington Shire Council, members of the Yarram Urban Group have scraped and burnt, slashed and raked and planted hundreds of (appropriate) trees and plants after unearthing the original pathways through the gardens. All of this activity occurred after professionals felled dead or dangerous trees and the Mirridong Green Thumbs Team



HARD WORK MAKES FOR HUNGRY YARRAM URBANITES.

cleaned it all up with a couple of bonfires.

It really was tiger snake country due to the long dry grass, but that has been killed or whipped off and piles of undergrowth await removal.

The water diviners successfully located a water meter lost in the dense ti-tree in one corner and found that two out of three water lines are operating. So, we have new plants in their hundreds and taps at either end of the gardens to help them through what is expected to be a very dry summer.

After a few more working bees in November and December the gardens will be in suitable condition to be used by the public and we will be putting on events over the summer period to re-introduce the gardens to the town. Plans are for sausage sizzles, unplugged music events, family picnics and occasional mysterious moonlight festivals, the latter being a nonsense, because we have agreed that the gardens will not be used after dark, due to their proximity

to the Nightingale Residential Centre.

The gardens were a good idea in the first place and Yarram should be grateful to The Nightingale Trust Society for saving them from completely disappearing. We are certainly pleased the society is happy to work with us to bring them back to life.

In something of a coup, we have been given the commemorative benches and wagon wheel which currently sit outside the herd-testing building in Commercial Road which having been sold, necessitate finding a new home. They will be placed just inside the entrance which is a magnificent old post and rail fence.

The gardens will be an ongoing project for Yarram Urban and it will be years before we can say the gardens are complete, but that won't stop us enjoying them during the process.

So please, keep an eye on your inbox, this newsletter and the local paper and come and have a look when we have our first event. ■



SERENA SAVAGE GUARDING NEW TREES

...continued from page 3

next 3 years. Last year they concentrated on the Mt Best and Toora North areas, getting 27 landholders signed up. This year the focus will be on filling in some of the gaps and working with landholders along Dingo Creek, Woomera Creek and Nine Mile Creek. Unlike the Communities for Nature program, the VBT does not fund on-ground works so having both projects allows for a two pronged approach to tackle blackberry.

Wellington Shire Council

The Port Albert Yacht Club has been successful in receiving a \$5K Wellington Community Assistance Grant in conjunction with YYLN. The aim of the grant is to remove mirror bush and boxthorn on the Port Albert foreshore and replant the area with native species. The Alberton Primary School is also keen to be involved and will do an education session with Coastcare as well as assist with some of the revegetation efforts. ■



A VOLUNTEER ADVENTURE

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By Helga Binder

The Furneaux Group of Islands in Bass Strait are locally known as the 'Aegean of the South' due to the climatic similarities with Mediterranean latitudes. They include 78 islands of which Flinders, Cape Barren and Clarke Islands are the largest.

African Boxthorn was introduced as sturdy fencing during early settlement on the islands. It quickly spread throughout the Furneaux group until some islands, such as the tiny Roydon, were impossible to explore due to infestation. Imagine the worst blackberry invasion you've ever seen, spread it over 37 hectares of rough terrain (the size of the island), add 10cm thorns and the ability of a single shrub to grow to 3m in diameter and you may have some idea of what I'm talking about.

Native flora and fauna on Roydon was just about gone before the Friends of Bass Strait Islands (FOBSI) began their attack on boxthorn in 2005. Breeding pairs of mutton-birds were down to seven and little else seemed capable of flourishing except for the fairy penguins who had no problem making their breeding burrows under the boxthorn.

Since 2005 FOBSI have been running annual volunteer trips to systematically eradicate this nasty weed from the islands. Since that time the changes have been remarkable. On Roydon alone, three quarters of the Island has been cut,



rolled, bashed and burned into submission. Only one small section to go and then it is on to a twice-yearly maintenance schedule. The program will continue until 2020, at which point Boxthorn should be no more.

So what is it like to be a volunteer?

To begin with, no one told me that 'reasonably fit' meant more than being able to get out of bed in the morning without groaning.

They certainly didn't let me know that there were thigh-high bushes with hidden rocks, sand dunes and craggy hills to navigate... I discovered this on arrival when we did a short tour around the island and up over the saddle of its jagged high point. My heart was pounding by the time we returned to base camp whereas the rock-climbers in the group just took it in their stride.

Next morning, pale from lack of sleep due to a five-hour sneezing fit and some nocturnal penguin mating songs I stumbled from my tent at dawn with a queasy stomach and a sense of doom. A spectacular sunrise lifted my spirits and the

surprisingly warm temperature had me tackle breakfast with a smile on my face.

After breakfast we received our Boxthorn Eradication instructions. The windrows left behind from a previous expedition were to be pulled apart and thrown into burn piles. If we encountered live plants we were to use our loppers to cut them off at the base and, within 10 seconds of cutting, drench them in poison with our squirt-bottles. Anything too big for the lopper was to be left for the chainsaw volunteers to deal with. The slashed bushes were then to be dragged or rolled to a designated burn pile.

Sure.

No problem.

I was up for that.

Or so I thought until I was faced with my first 2 x 5 metre mound of brittle thorns, bound with a mass of native regrowth and interspersed with new Boxthorn plants whose gargantuan spikes were resisting their demise with every ounce of their being.

By morning tea I was sporting a range of scratches and was more than thankful for the

damper and the 20-minute break. By lunchtime I was an exhausted pincushion and wondering what on earth I'd been thinking volunteering for this assignment. By mid afternoon my queasiness had turned into something more severe and I headed back to base camp with fingers crossed that I would make it to the freshly dug hole in the ground.

Only 12 days to go.

The next few days were a horrible blur. If there had been a boat to take me off the Island I would have jumped on it and gone home.

But there wasn't.

By day four I began to feel a bit better.

With loppers and chemical spray at the ready I hiked out to the killing fields and set to work. It was still an effort to keep up with the other 'reasonably fit' members of the crew but I no longer had to hang my head in shame.

By the end of the trip we had completed our mission. Another few hectares of Boxthorn were annihilated with previous clearings checked and new growth zapped.

All in all it was a challenging adventure with excellent compensations like brilliant full moons, plenty of terrific food and interesting company.

For those of you who are interested I would advise starting your fitness regime now for next year's trips and make sure that your sense of humour is at its finest.

Two weeks is a long time if things don't work to plan. ■



FIRE IN THE LANDSCAPE

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By Bronwyn Johnson

Bring up 'planned burning' in conversation and the resulting discussions can be as heated as the fires themselves. Our landscape has evolved with fire. In many areas it is vital to maintain the health and diversity of the vegetation.

We build in these landscapes and so of course we wish to protect our assets from the destructive effects of fire. In this situation our best defence is knowledge. Knowing how and why fire behaves as it does gives us tools to reduce the risk of damage whilst maintaining a healthy landscape.

The FireScope pilot project is designed to bring this knowledge to communities living in fire prone areas. The CFA is responsible for the fire management of 70% of the state's land. This includes council land, roadsides and reserves, but most of it is privately owned and much of it contains remnant patches of bush which often act as wildlife corridors and whose health should not be ignored.

Over two days of workshops, participants are taken through the basics of fire behaviour and the factors that influence it; such as weather, topography and fuel loads. **We can't control the weather or really change the topography, but can influence the fuel levels.** The first step is to understand the different types of fuel and how they affect fire behaviour.

KEV OPRAY, MAREE AVERY, LYNETTE MISSEN, GARY ARNOLD AND MIKE MCSTEPHEN DISCUSSING BIODIVERSITY MONITORING



Practical exercises in learning to assess the fuel hazard are covered using the 'Overall Fuel Hazard Assessment Guide' (available from DEPI offices) during a short bush walk.

Mapping your property to understand the landscape as well as the assets to protect is an integral part of developing a fire management plan. All project participants spend time locating fences, buildings, dams, stockyards and sheds in their aerial maps, whilst also considering the native vegetation areas and how they may be broken up into manageable 'burn units'.

This planning comes into focus during the second workshop when participants walk through an area designated for a burn. Existing tracks or mineral earth breaks can be viewed as fire breaks. Water points, escape routes and the specific topography of the site are all

MIKE EXPLAINING HOW TO DEVELOP A BURN PLAN TO JUSTIN FOAT AND ROSEMARY IRVING



considered from the safety angle. Ultimately, weather conditions on the day will influence the techniques used for ignition, suppression and mopping up but suggestions are made according to the site particulars.

The biodiversity of the area is also investigated and brought into the plan, allowing for breeding times and important habitat, such as trees with hollows. **A series of simplified ecology monitoring protocols have been developed by the CFA for landholders to use.**

These allow you to observe and record the effects of the planned burn and to record the regeneration that occurs.

Once the Fire Management Plans are developed and approved, local CFA brigades will be able to conduct the burn in appropriate conditions. **It is hoped that this pilot program will become part of the CFAs normal operations.** Driven by demand from the local community, we can all work together to find a balance between fire safety and fire ecology. ■



PROJECT UPDATE

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By Samantha Monks

Gippsland plains soil carbon trials

Action on the Ground (AotG) – productivity & climate change responses

There has been plenty of 'action on the ground' across the Giffard Plain from Woodside to Seaspray over the past few weeks. Long days have been spent monitoring pastures and collecting soil core samples from the 14 participating properties involved in this landscape scale sustainable farming project.

During October, I set off with senior agronomist Lisa Warn from the Mackinnon Project - Melbourne University, and visited each farm. At every farm, pasture composition was measured on the three paddocks sown during the Drought Pastures project, in total 42 paddocks x 10 ha (420 ha).

Using EverGraze methodology, a 1m x 1m grid is randomly placed across 9 transects. Plant species are counted and the total area of plant establishment per square meter is calculated. This has occurred annually on all project sites since 2009. ■

2014 Soil Carbon Testing

During November, all farms were revisited for the second round of deep soil coring to measure soil carbon levels (the 1st round occurred at the end of 2012). Samples are collected using a Christie Hydraulic Soil Sampler which is owned by project partner Westernport Catchment



EDDIE BRAND

Landcare Network (WPCLN) and skilfully operated by Peter Ronalds, Sustainable Agriculture Manager. Nick Dudley (DEPI) also plays a vital role in the on-ground project team.

On each of the 14 farms two paddocks were tested i.e. Year 1 (2008) and Control paddocks.

Using a 25m x 25m grid with 5m intersects, 10 random core samples were collected. The 10 cores are then divided into 0-10cm, 10-20 cm and 20-30cm sections, bulked together to form 3 stratified samples per site.

At each of the 3 carbon trial sites using either compost or poultry litter treatments, both the treatment and control paddocks are tested along a set line transect where 10 cores are taken using random sampling. The 10 cores are then divided into 0-10cm and 10-30cm sections.

Over several days, a total of 420 soil cores were collected using Pete's soil corer with a further 180 cores taken from the 3 trial sites for standard soil analysis. Soil cores were refrigerated before being sent off to the DEPI laboratory at McLeod for testing.



NICK DUDLEY, BRIAN NICHOLLS & PETER RONALDS

Western Port Catchment Landcare Network back in the area! **By Peter Ronalds**

You may have recently seen a ute driving around your area with a strange yellow contraption hanging off the back! The strange contraption hanging off the back is a hydraulic soil corer. The corer belongs to the Western Port Catchment Landcare Network (WPCLN) where I am the Sustainable Agriculture Manager (Coordinator) and we are partnering with the Yarram Yarram Landcare Network in their Carbon Action on the Ground Project to monitor soil carbon levels. The corer can collect soil cores to a depth of 1 metre.

Over the past two weeks we have been coring on 14 farms in the Woodside region ably assisted by Nick Dudley and Samantha. The purpose of the coring is to monitor any changes that have taken place since the cores were first taken in 2012.

We have noticed that the soil is a lot drier than when we originally sampled. Some of the paddocks that we sampled are doing quite well and still have good levels of lucerne and cocksfoot in them, which look really good.

It is always great to come to Yarram and support the great job Sam does in her work with the farmers. I have really enjoyed meeting the farmers again and experiencing some of the things that we don't see in the Western Port area. This includes seeing the shearing in Rob White's shed. Thanks Rob for showing us how it is done! Everyone's sheep and cattle are looking great at the moment. Thanks to all the farmers for their hospitality and friendliness.

Let's hope for some good summer rains and an early autumn break! Keep up the great work. ■

'till next time – Peter Ronalds

Continued on page 12...



PROJECT UPDATE

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By Samantha Monks



SAMANTHA MONKS, RYAN FOAT & PETER RONALDS



ROB WIGHT & LISA WARN

...continued from page 11

Required tests for each paddock sample (at each depth) include: Total Carbon (C) %, Organic matter %, Mass received g (I.E. weight of whole sample for that depth – need this for bulk density calc.), Moisture loss at 40deg.C, Mass (dried at 40deg.C., Mass of gravel (more than 2mm), Mass of organic material (more than 2mm), Mass of remaining soil (less than 2mm), Moisture loss at 105deg.C and Mass of a Sub sample dried to 105degC (you need this to work out bulk density).

From this information, Lisa Warn will calculate the bulk density and the carbon stocks and compare them with 2012 data. This will then determine: % Total Carbon at each level; tonnes of Carbon per Ha at each level and Total tonnes of carbon per ha to 30 cm. ■

Ed stars at Caulfield Cup Day

Soil Carbon project participant, Ed Brand, was a special guest at this year's Caulfield Cup. Now 83, Ed has attended the Cup for 65 years. When the Cup promoters heard of this, they sent him four Members' tickets and this year he was able to take with him to



EDDIE BRAND & SPOT

the Cup his daughters, Cheryl and Rhonda, and son Patrick.

I was lucky enough to catch Ed's interview on Channel 7's race day coverage and there's no doubt he outshone the celebrities who spoke for seconds only while Ed was interviewed by Neil Kearney for several minutes! Ed was dressed to kill in a flash grey suit and colourful tie!

Ed recalled how in the old days he drove his '34 Plymouth from Pakenham to the Cup – "there were no seatbelts or booze buses in those days," he told me with a chuckle. "Times have changed – then there were no fashion parades, big bands and security guards." ■

Woolly winners

Congratulations to fine wool prime lamb producers Brian and Jenny Nicholls, who are also involved in YYLN's soil carbon trials using compost.

In the 2014 Sale Show Fleece Competition, Brian and Jenny were successful, winning the following categories:

- Champion Ribbons for Fleece of Show in the following sections :
Unhoused Fleece of Show, Merino Fine Fleece, Merino Medium Fleece.
- Best sample of Merino Lambs Wool.
- Most valuable Hogget Fleece of Show.
- Most valuable Fleece – Ewe or Wether.
- Special Aggregate Trophy - Merino Section Non Stud Breeder.
- Special Aggregate Trophy – Merino Section. ■



BRIAN & JENNY NICHOLLS

Healthy Soils Workshop: Understanding how soils affect your production

During November a diverse group of farmers and landholders from three Landcare Networks met at Narkoojee Winery to learn more about soils and the importance of good soil structure for production.

The two day course was presented by Chris Alenson and was funded through the Australian Government's Regional Landcare Facilitator and Healthy Soils Sustainable Farms projects.

Chris is a soil expert who lectures at Swinburne University and has long been involved in organic farming in Australia. He used a mixture of lecturing and hands-on demonstrations during the day, including demonstrations of practical tests which farmers could easily use to assess soil health on their own properties.

Sam Shannon, West Gippsland's Regional Landcare Facilitator,

Continued on page 13...



PROJECT UPDATE

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By Samantha Monks

...continued from page 12

said the information provided by Chris will be of great benefit to the farmers who attended. "Understanding the relationship between soil structure, organisms that live within the soil, and plant nutrition is vital knowledge for all farmers," said Sam. "Managing the habitat for soil biology can improve production and reduce your fertiliser bill."

"I thought Day 1 of the soils course was very informative and Chris' presentation was easy to understand. The hands-on workshop demonstrated the wide range soils and we measured the pH levels of several compounds. These included: superphosphate, compost, guano, urea gypsum and worm castings. We touched and smelt the differences between fertile and poor soils. It was good to see the younger farmers participating from the Yarram area and to talk to people from other Landcare groups." – Jenny Nicholls, Stradbroke.

The workshop was supported in partnership with Yarram Yarram, Maffra and Latrobe Catchment Landcare Networks' and the Regional Landcare Facilitator programme. It was a great example of Network's pooling their resources together to host an event. ■



CHRIS ALENSON



WORKSHOP GROUP

Jack and Albert River Restoration (JARR) Project

Communities for Nature Grant: Round 1

The majority of project sites have been scoped for the Year 3 on-ground works program.

All successful project sites occur within areas of high priority for protecting remaining habitat under the, "JARR Area EVC Bioregional Conservation Status" and are also part of the "Strzelecki Koala Linkage Strategy – South-East Strzelecki Corridor, Albert River Link".

As in previous years, future project sites were prioritised in order of importance according to the following funding deed criteria:

- Protect, enhance and/or connect remnant vegetation in priority Ecological Vegetation Communities (EVC's), which include Warm and Cool Temperate Rainforest, Lowland Forest and Damp Forest.
- Reduce the impacts of Blackberry, a Weed of National Significance (WoNS) on biodiversity within the JARR area.
- Protect, enhance or connect priority habitat for the West Gippsland Koala.

Year 3 Blackberry Suppression Works - JARR Catchment

Blackberry will be treated across properties around Billy Creek to the Alberton West area. Once again focusing on riparian areas linked to remnant forest to allow "koala movement" along the Jack & Albert River catchments. ■

Coastal Saltmarsh Protection Project 2014/15

Corner Inlet Connections: WGCMA/YLNL/SGLN – Australian Government

During November staff from YLNL, South Gippsland Landcare Network (SGLN) and the WGCMA attended an inaugural 2 day training course designed by coastal saltmarsh expert, Dr Paul Boon from Dodo Environmental.

Paul has developed a protocol that can be used by Landcare and other community groups to assess the ecological condition of mangroves and coastal saltmarsh in the Corner Inlet-Nooramunga area. The assessment methods will assist Landcare project staff in the prioritisation and selection

Continued on page 14...



PROJECT UPDATE

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By Samantha Monks



PAUL BOON

...continued from page 13

of future sites for saltmarsh protection projects and will also enable us to monitor environmental change over time across the project sites.

Over the two days we visited 3 saltmarsh sites at Manns Beach, the mouth of the Albert River in Gellions Run and along the Toora foreshore. Line transects were set up and a series of 1 metre quadrats were used to count and measure the distribution of plant species.

It was a great experience being out in the field with our own saltmarsh guru. There will be an update from Paul in our next newsletter. ■

Invasive Plants & Animals Program (IPA)

YYLN continues to work closely with the Wellington Shire Council (WSC), Department of Primary Industries (DEPI) and the West Gippsland CMA



KATE WILLIAMS FROM SGLN ALSO PARTICIPATED IN THE TRAINING

to assist the local community in controlling and educational awareness of invasive plants and animals. For the 2014/15 financial year we are focussing on Blackberry in the lower Jack and Albert River areas below Billy Creek as part of the JARR project partnership.

Over the last few years YYLN has delivered a large number of IPA projects both large and small. As Landcare funding opportunities for IPA programs are highly variable it is also important to remember the need for an integrated approach to tackling IPA issues and the importance of ongoing follow up and long term control.

When I first started at YYLN, Pest Plants and Animals Officer Mark Jago had implemented a Boxthorn removal program around the JARR area through 2nd Generation Landcare funding. When Mark left to become the Environmental Officer at Murray Goulburn I took over the new integrated 'Boxthorn, Gorse, Rabbits and Foxes Project'. This saw the removal of large weed infestations and the ripping of burrows across the network area. In this newsletter Boxthorn

is our focus weed.

African Boxthorn - (*Lyceum ferocissimum*)

African Boxthorn is a highly invasive and widespread weed that thrives in the Australian environment. It was brought to Australia by the early settlers as it made effective boundary fences (hedges) and shelter belts for stock. By 1904 it was declared a noxious weed in parts of Victoria. Today it is a declared noxious weed in all states and territories except Western Australia. It's a weed of National Significance (WoNS) and is regionally controlled in West Gippsland meaning all land owners are responsible to take all reasonable steps to prevent the growth and spread of Boxthorn on their land.

Family: Solanaceae

Origin: Southern Africa

Plant Description: Large shrub



BOXTHORN

or bush to 5m high. Rounded, woody and densely branched. Light brown to grey, erect and much branched. Large spines up to 15cm long occur on the main stems with smaller spines on sides and ends of branches.

Roots: Extensive deep, branched taproot.

Leaves: Fleshy and smooth up to 3.5 cm long and 2 cm wide, ovate to elliptical with short stalks, formed in clusters at the numerous nodes.

Flowers: Small, scented, white flowers with purple markings, occur singly or in pairs. October to March, but can flower at other times.

Fruit: Orange-red, shiny berry containing numerous tiny seeds. Berry approx. 1cm in diameter.

Seeds: Light brown to yellow, ovoid or irregular shape, flattened, smooth with small raised dots, 2.5 mm long, 1.5 mm wide.

Dispersal: Spread mainly by birds and other animals. Common under trees and in shelterbelts.

Control: Best time- Spring/ Summer. Hand pull or foliar spray young plants (below 1 metre). Cut and paint larger plants using Roundup/Grazon Extra. Excavate or pull out large plants. ■

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



FLYING ANTS

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By Warren the Wise

Warren the Wise



Everyone is asking me "What are these flying insects that swarm around this time each year?"

I know how annoying these flying insects can be as they get in my fur, my ears, nose and eyes and even my mouth when I want to 'talk' or eat! I spend a lot of time grooming to remove them...if only they were edible I would not mind so much but I do prefer my vegetarian food! They are as annoying to us animals as they are to you humans. The only creatures to enjoy these swarms are the birds that feast on them and other ants that take them back to their own nests as food.

My answer is that it's mostly what you 'two legs' call Flying Ants on their synchronized nuptial flights. They all fly at more or less the same time so as to prevent inbreeding of colonies. This happens every Spring when the weather warms (making flying easier) and after good soaking rains (making it easier for the Queens to dig burrows in the soft earth) making it humid.

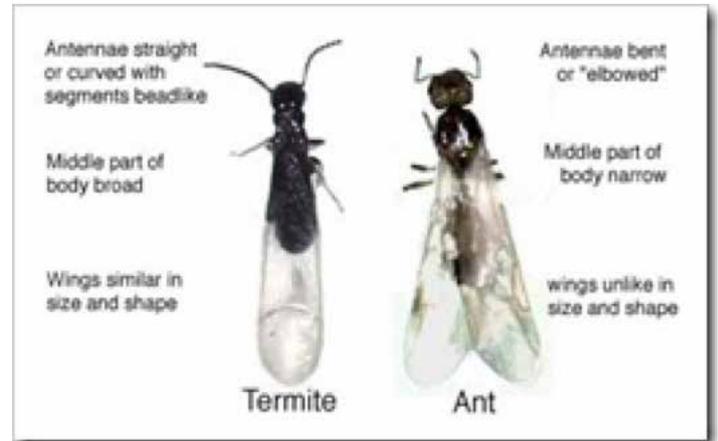
The Queen is fertilised by the males as she flies and she stores enough sperm to last her for the

next 20 or 30 years of egg-laying underground. She lands, bites off her wings ready for digging, and creates her small initial burrow. All of the males then die and it's incumbent on the Queen to raise her first brood of eggs alone until they mature and take over nest duties to set up the new colony.

Three easy ways to tell the difference is to look at their wings firstly – ants having wings of different lengths (the first and second wings being unequal) whilst termites have even-length wings. Then secondly, look at their antennae – ants have bent or 'elbowed' antennae whilst termites have straight ones, and lastly, look at their bodies – ants have thin waists to their bodies (oh how I wish I had a waist like them!) whilst termites have straighter bodies.

A good point is that where we live in South Gippsland is a moderate termite attack area for houses, not a high attack area.

They may just be ants, and they may annoy us all greatly, but ants play a really special role



INTERESTING ANT-FACTS

- The largest ant colony ever found was over 6,000km wide in Europe.
- There are over 15,000 ant species in the world – with new species still being found.
- Ants are found on every continent except Antarctica.
- In 2009 flying ants disrupted a cricket match between Australia and England, being played in South Africa.
- For every human there are about 1 million ants.
- Some ants can support 100 times their own weight upside down on a glass.
- Ants have two stomachs – one to hold food for themselves and the other to hold food to feed other ants, like the workers who have to stay to defend the nest and can't gather their own food. Feeding of others is called trophallaxis.
- All worker, soldier and Queen ants are female – male ants don't work in the colony, don't look like ants and only live a short while during the nuptial flight season in order to fertilise the Queen.
- One ant in the USA has a sting equivalent to the sting of 12 bees and is rated as the most venomous insect worldwide.
- An ant owns the "fastest movement record" in the animal world with its jaw snapping shut at speeds of 230 km/hour, can exert a pressure 300 times its own weight with its jaws and can travel over 20 times their body length in a single jaw-propelled leap! That's equivalent to a human throwing one's body 13 metres high or 40 metres along. So glad it doesn't live in Australia!

in our world: they improve soil quality, feed on pests, pollinate plants and provide their own bodies as food for many other creatures. And their total

weight on the planet is equal to the entire human load on the planet. Imagine that!! ■

Warren the Wise



SNIPPETS

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

YYLN Awards

Every four years the Network hosts a Landcare Awards dinner where we celebrate all of the good work that our members achieve.

Nominations for the **2015 Landcare Awards** open on December 6th closing on February 6th.

Categories include;

- Individual Landcarer Award
- Sustainable Farming Award
- Sustainable Environment Award
- Innovative Community Group Award

Nomination forms are available from your group contact officer or can be downloaded from the Network's webpage; www.yyln.org.au

Go ahead and nominate yourself or a member who should be acknowledged for their excellent Landcare work.

Judges are sourced from outside of the Network and the Awards will be presented at a dinner on Friday March 20, 2015 at the Yarram Golf Club. To add some extra fun to the night members are asked to wear something green!

Come along to socialise with your Landcare community and celebrate the efforts of our members who each enhance our community and our environment!

Put Friday 20 March 2015 in your diaries now!

■

Obituary – Russell Gunn By Jenny Wolswinkle

People remember Russell Gunn for his cheerfulness, his ability to work hard and perhaps for his friendliness and charm.

I met Russell a little over four years ago. A few years prior to that, he had made the move from Melbourne, after a love of horses led him to caretaking a property at Won Wron. Many people would have noticed Russell's impact on that property as they drove past on the highway. Junk disappeared, weatherboards were painted, roofs replaced, decks and verandahs built, post and rail fences and rose bushes appeared...

By the time I started dropping in, most of the renovation work was done, and he was spending his time slashing grass, spraying weeds, mowing an increasingly large lawn area and starting on a picket fence. He was quite fond of the fat, lazy black snakes that he encountered while working.

He was conscientious in looking after the WGCMA planting along Bodmans creek, slashing around trees and keeping the weeds in check, and was suitably proud of its success. We worked together



on planting a few things along the boundary, around the dam and along the highway embankment.

Russell was respected for his encyclopaedic knowledge of anything old – its use, value and significance. A highlight of his career was having a shop, "Alto Interiors", in Greville Street Prahran, from the mid eighties to the mid nineties. Around this time, he also immersed himself in partying and raves, and was pleased to have witnessed the emergence of house music.

Before he moved to Devon North, he got to work on the house – tidying, fixing, painting and building. He was rarely still during the day, didn't have any speed other than "flat-out", and needed to be working on a few projects at once to keep himself

interested. When the renovation started slowing down, he started doing some work for others, including at the nursery in Alberton – you may have encountered him when picking up plants.

When Russell's persistent sore throat was diagnosed as cancer late last year, he used the frequent trips to Melbourne as an excuse to enjoy the op shops en route, and kept working as hard as he was able, during and after treatment. Unfortunately, the disease caught up with him, and he passed away in hospital in August, after a rapid decline during his last few weeks.

He has left behind him many solid signs of his hard work, as well as memories, a spoilt cat and a couple of retired thoroughbreds. ■

As part of our Healthy Soils project we can offer the opportunity for you to work with a consultant on a management plan for your farm.

The range of plans available include erosion, grazing, pasture, nutrient, effluent, water or salinity management plans. Taking up this offer would be ideal for those of you considering a change to your farm management but require technical assistance, or for those of you who have a particular problem or limiting factor to your production and you are wondering how best to tackle to the problem. The number of plans funded are limited.

We would also like to run a whole farm planning course for those of you interested in getting a whole of enterprise perspective.

Send an expression of interest email to Samantha Monks or Sally-Ann Henderson with the type of plan you are interested in. We can then contact you to go through the criteria. ■



PARTNER ACTIVITY

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By Sally-Ann Henderson

A partner organisation of the YYLN is the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLAWAC). GLAWAC represent the interests of Gunaikurnai people, who are Native title holders over much of Gippsland.

Gunaikurnai people are the Traditional Owners of Gippsland. There are approximately 3,000 Gunaikurnai people and their territory includes the coastal and inland areas to the southern slopes of the Victorian Alps. Gunaikurnai people are made up of five major clans.

The Gunaikurnai people are the native title holders over Gippsland's crown land (as far west as Corner Inlet) and are also the Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) for the area. Gunaikurnai is not the name of the tribe. It is a compromise between the various spelling (and possibly clan dialect differences) of Gunai or Kurnai. There are 5 clans that make up the Gunaikurnai people. The Brataualung are the clan that cover the whole of the YYLN region. For more information on the clans of the Gunaikurnai go to <http://www.Gunaikurnai.com.au/about/clans>

Mandy Leggett is the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Officer for the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (WGCMA). Her role is to liaise between GLAWAC and the CMA and also Landcare. This has included helping us run field days on cultural heritage

and deliver some excellent cultural heritage training for the landcare staff. We have plans to run additional cultural heritage days like the one at White Women's Waterhole, as it was very popular.

As part of the Corner Inlet Connections project, YYLN staff were given the opportunity to spend a sunny morning down at McLoughlins Beach learning about how GLAWAC conduct a cultural heritage survey. DEPI had found evidence of a midden beside the walking track to the beach. Mandy and GLAWAC Cultural Heritage Officer Mark Kenny went to have a look at it. This was to record where it was for the cultural heritage database and to learn what they could from the site. What is exposed in the midden layers can shed light on diet, trade and the length of time it was used. The sighting of the midden and if there were any other artefacts around also provides useful insights of local culture for Gunaikurnai people. This midden formed part of a high sand hill with a good view to look out over the estuary for approaching prey and enemies.

If you find any signs of cultural heritage on your property, GLAWAC are very keen to know about it so they can further develop their knowledge of their history, this might include scar trees, middens, artefacts etc.

Please contact them on 51525100 or contact the YYLN office. If you would like further information on GLAWAC refer to <http://www.gunaikurnai.com.au/> ■



Above: Mark Kenny and Mandy Leggett beside the midden at McLoughlins Beach Below: Shells found on the track at the site.



This powerful excerpt from Wikipedia helps us remember the importance of assisting indigenous Australians develop their knowledge of their history.

In 1846 Gippsland squatter Henry Meyrick wrote in a letter home to his relatives in England:

"The blacks are very quiet here now, poor wretches. No wild beast of the forest was ever hunted down with such unsparing perseverance as they are. Men, women and children are shot whenever they can be met with ... I have protested against it at every station I have been in Gippsland, in the strongest language, but these things are kept very secret as the penalty would certainly be hanging ... For myself, if I caught a black actually killing my sheep, I would shoot him with as little remorse as I would a wild dog, but no consideration on earth would induce me to ride into a camp and fire on them indiscriminately, as is the custom whenever the smoke is seen. They [the Aborigines] will very shortly be extinct. It is impossible to say how many have been shot, but I am convinced that not less than 500 have been murdered altogether." ■



NOT MUCH GAP BETWEEN ROYDON ISLAND AND ITS NEIGHBOUR

Contacts for Individual Active Landcare Groups

ALBERT RIVER LANDCARE GROUP

Contact: David MacAulay
Phone: 5185 1392
Email: macaulays@net-tech.com.au

WONYIP LANDCARE GROUP

Contact: Werner Lange
Phone: 0418 302575
Email: longjewl@optusnet.com.au

WON WRON DEVON NORTH LG

Contact: Bill Bodman
Phone: 5189 1243
Email: Sally-AnnH@wgcm.vic.gov.au

CORNER INLET BLACKBERRY ACTION GROUP

Contact: Dave Smith
Phone: 0409 512 416
Email: David.Smith@hvp.com.au

BINGINWARRI LANDCARE GROUP

Contact: Kaye Proudley
Phone: 5185 1398
Email: katbingi@harboursat.com.au

HEDLEY/NINE MILE CREEK LG

Contact: Maree Avery
Phone: 0421 222 242
Email: maree@skymesh.com.au

WOODSIDE LANDCARE GROUP

Contact: Jane Gordon
Phone: 5187 1400
Email: janeo@aussiebroadband.com.au

MERRIMAN CREEK LANDCARE GROUP

Contact: Melissa Ainsworth
Phone: 5146 8328
Email: ainsworths@activ8.net.au

YARRAM URBAN LANDCARE GROUP

Contact: Trevor Colvin
Phone: 0417 307 098
Email: trevorcolvin91@gmail.com



BOXTHORN GROWING AMIDST THE BOULDERS ON ROYDON ISLAND