



# YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NEWS

Vol: 20 SPRING 2015

## A proud moment for our fearless leader



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# 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.

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### Deadlines

November 20 is the deadline for the Summer issue contributions.

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### Cover photo

A proud David McAninly accepts his award from Environment Minister, Lisa Neville and Victoria's Governor, Linda Dessau.

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#### ORCHID ORGY & WILDFLOWER WANDER WITH FAMED TERRY ALLEN

**When:** 9am – September 27  
**Where:** Call Kaye for location  
**RSVP:** Kaye by Wed 23 on 51851398

#### YARRAM URBAN COMMUNITY GARDEN WORKING BEE

**When:** 4.30pm - October 8  
**Where:** Behind Anglican Church  
**Call:** Sally-Ann – 0427 581152

#### YARRAM URBAN LCG MEETING

**When:** 4.30pm - October 13  
**Where:** YYLN Offices  
**Call:** Sally-Ann – 0427 581152

#### MERRIMAN CREEK LCG AGM

**When:** 1.30pm – October 18  
**Where:** Stradbroke Hall  
**Call:** Melissa – 0437 640635

#### WOODSIDE LCG MEETING

**When:** 8pm – October 21  
**Where:** Woodside Hall  
**Call:** Jane – 51871400

#### SGLN/YYLN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE FIELD DAY

**When:** Wednesday 21st - October 2015.  
**Time:** 10am to 2:30pm  
**What:** "What is limiting production" & "Dealing with challenging seasons"  
**Where:** Warrigal Creek, Darriman  
RSVP: Samantha Monks (YYLN) 0419 371497 or Jenny O'Sullivan (SGLN) 0419 153377

#### FARM FINANCIAL/SUCCESSION PLANNING WORKSHOP WITH PRESENTER ISOBEL KNIGHT

**When:** November 11  
**Where:** Traralgon  
RSVP is essential! See workshop flyer on page 20 in this newsletter

### Special websites just for you:

Assistance with revegetation projects: [www.yylnreveg.org](http://www.yylnreveg.org)

Information, history and action in JARR: [www.jarrproject.org](http://www.jarrproject.org)

### Contacts for Individual Active Landcare Groups

#### ALBERT RIVER LANDCARE GROUP

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# FROM THE OFFICE

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By Sally-Ann Henderson



### Sally-Ann Says:

The Board has been going through a process of review over the last few months, first the strategic plan and action plan and then the constitution. Whilst most things are tracking well with

our original plans, it is always timely to ensure the evolving nature of Landcare is reflected in our documentation. Similarly the changes in legislation and external influences also mean that the constitution needs to be updated to reflect the current framework we need to operate in, to ensure good governance.

Some of these constitutional changes include things such as the removal of the reference to a Common Seal as YYLN does not have one, as well as linking the secretary and public officer roles as they are now one and the same under legislation. Other suggested changes include updating the subgroup section, so that it better reflects the rules we need to comply

with, in order to get insurance coverage from FTLA. Removal of permission for subgroups to have their own bank accounts is one such example, as that is expressly forbidden by the FTLA rules.

The Board is currently working through these changes and will present them to the membership to approve via a vote. This will be done as soon as it is convenient to everyone. It was decided that the AGM was not the appropriate occasion for this discussion to happen as we did not want to bog down a fun night if the discussion went on for a while.

If you have any questions or concerns about the proposed changes, or you have any

suggestions you would like to see included in the new action plan, I urge you to speak with me or a board member.

On a final note I would like to offer my thanks to Samantha Monks for her work on the saltmarsh protection project and my congratulations to David McAninly on being chosen as the Individual Landcarer at the Victorian Landcare Awards. His many years of dedicated service to Landcare continue in his leadership of YYLN. We are lucky to have him at the helm. ■

## AGM

Our 2015 Annual General Meeting had a real buzz about it. Forty seven Landcarers gathered at the Club Hotel in Yarram for a lovely meal with delicious mains and desserts, beautiful banksia table decorations; courtesy of Mirridong, and an impressive guest speaker. There was no need for elections this year and the business part for the evening was dealt with quite quickly, with Treasurer's report, Chair's report and previous Minutes all passed.

Our guest speaker was Mitch Smith from Maffra. Mitch is a keen amateur photographer



and naturalist. He is passionate about orchid pollinators and has contributed to books on the topic. Running a nursery has given him opportunity to observe the native bees in his environment and he shared a bit of his knowledge with us.

Native bees in Victoria tend to live solitary lives rather than

the communal hive habits of the introduced honey bee. They don't make honeycomb and are not a good source of honey. The bees make honey but in such tiny quantities, it is not feasible to collect it.

There are more than 15,000 species of bees in Australia. They range from larger than honey bees to tiny wasp like bees. Teddy bear bees, reed bees, cuckoo bees, leaf cutter bees and blue banded bees indicate the range of habits of local bees. Holes in leaves on your rose bushes may be an indication of happy bees not just caterpillars.

Holes in the ground, hollow tree holes, reeds, tunnels from wood borers and cracks and crevices can all make suitable houses for bees. Mitch also brought with him a native bee house. The house was a collection of bamboo, reeds and

blocks of wood with holes of different diameters drilled into it. It provides artificial habitat for situations where there are plenty of flowers to feed on but not the holes to nest in. They are a perfect complement for Landcare planting that have been in the ground for a while but not yet a mature ecosystem.

We always like to provide an interesting speaker at our AGM so we hope you enjoyed this year's topic. ■

Please let us know if there is a particular topic you would like covered for future AGM's. Perhaps you can recommend a speaker who has good knowledge on an environmental theme? We would appreciate your suggestions.



# STATE AWARDS

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By Sally-Ann Henderson



2015 VICTORIAN LANDCARE AWARDS WINNERS

*The 2015 Victorian Landcare Awards were cause for great celebration for Yarram Yarram Landcare Network.*

The awards were held at Government House on August 30 in front of a crowd of people involved with Landcare across the state, including the Governor of Victoria, Her Excellency, the Hon. Linda Dessau and Environment Minister Hon. Lisa Neville.

YYLN was announced winner of the Victorian Government **Coastcare Award** for the Saltmarsh protection work. To double the festivities, David McAninly, won the Australian Government **Individual Landcarer Award**.

It was an impressive showing



WEST GIPPSLAND WINNERS FROM LEFT: KATE WILLIAMS, SALLY-ANN HENDERSON, GRAEME NICHOLL, SAMANTHA MONKS, ASHLEY WALPOLE, DAVID MCANINLY, GILLIAN HAYMAN

for Gippsland this year with 38% of all awards being given to Gippslanders! Other notable local-ish winners include Kate

Williams (project officer for South Gippsland Landcare Network) being recognised as Young Landcare Leader and

Gillian Hayman and Graeme Nicholl winning Sustainable Farm Practices Award - West Gippsland.

*Continued on page 05...*



# STATE AWARDS

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

...continued from page 04...



COASTCARE AWARD WINNERS FROM LEFT: MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE & WATER, LISA NEVILLE, YYLN LANDHOLDER ASHLEY WALPOLE, YYLN PROJECT OFFICER SAMANTHA MONKS AND THE GOVERNOR HER EXCELLENCY LINDA DESSAU.

### The Coastcare Award

*A vital area of saltmarsh is now protected and a biolink is in place after several years of great work by Yarram Yarram Landcare Network.*

The YYLN's Coastal Saltmarsh Protection Project was begun when Woodside farmer Ashley Walpole approached former YYLN coordinator Paul Martin about the possibility of developing a project to protect and enhance some of the coastal saltmarsh areas on his property. From small beginnings, the project has grown and is still going strong with the work set to continue this year.

Since 2009, the project has protected more than 700 hectares of saltmarsh on freehold land between Port Albert and Reeves Beach, adjoining the Ramsar listed Corner Inlet and Nooramunga Marine and Coastal Park.

Project officer Samantha Monks has worked closely with landowners resulting in



protection and enhancement of high priority areas of coastal vegetation (saltmarsh and mangrove communities). Project activities have included fencing to exclude livestock from sensitive areas and allowing for natural regeneration as well as revegetation with 40,000 coastal plants. Weed infestations have also been removed.

This landscape scale project has enabled an ecological buffer zone between farmland and the Ramsar-listed wetlands. It provides a continuous biolink to protect the Nooramunga wetlands and improve water quality entering Corner Inlet.

The project has the ongoing support of the Corner Inlet Connections partnership, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program and West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority.

### Australian Government Individual Landcarer Award

*David McAninly has been a Landcare leader for more than 30 years. A dairy farmer from South Gippsland, David was early to recognise the benefits of farm trees. Keen to encourage his neighbours to get planting he helped to found the Albert River Farm Trees Group, later to become the Albert River Landcare Group.*

Continued on page 06...



# STATE AWARDS

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

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David has led by example. He has planted 50,000 trees on his farm, protected 16 hectares of remnant vegetation, as well as tackling willow removal, riparian restoration and making numerous other improvements in nutrient and water management.

He has modelled his farm on best practice in the dairy industry and is eager to share his knowledge at every opportunity. Willow removal and the revegetation of riparian areas are his two great interests.

David has been a tireless advocate for Landcare in the community. He worked with the local high school to develop an agriculture course for local students. The course helped them to appreciate the farming heritage of the area, the role of farming in conservation and career possibilities.

After completing a training qualification, David took a bus load of students out to farms each week to explore different aspects of the farm from a practical and academic perspective.

He also helped to establish a plant nursery at the school and

has taken hundreds of children out on tree planting excursions.

In 1990 David worked with 11 local families and the community to revegetate and develop a 7km trail between Hedley and Gelliondale – one of the first rail trails to be established in Victoria. With David at the helm this three year project was completed in one year. He went on to steer the establishment of the Alberton Reserve and revegetation of the Tarra River and the Albert River Reserve.

David's leadership of the Yarram Yarram Landcare Network has forged many strong partnerships in the region, which have attracted major funding for a number of large-scale environmental projects. David's advice to other people working in Landcare is to be flexible.

"There are lots of creative ways to see projects delivered. I've switched my focus from private land to public land and community assets. In this area we started out as a farm tree group but quickly made the change to Landcare, so we could take up the many opportunities that offered.



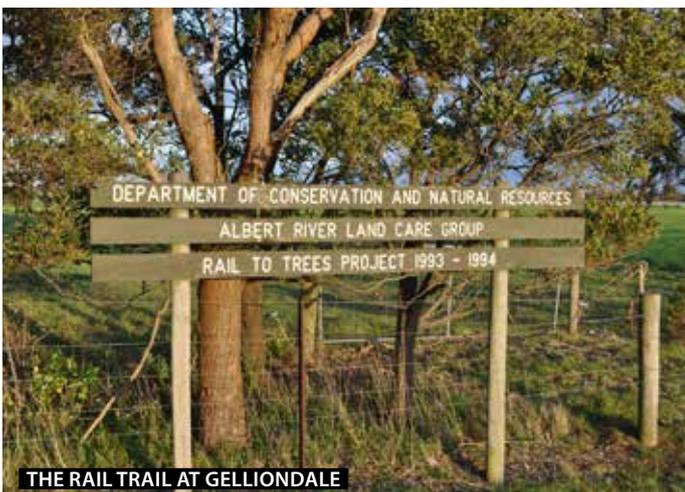
DAVID AND JOY MCANINLY

Campaigning so staff are secure and on grounds works continue, is part of the territory.

Encouraging shared funding relationships and linking with philanthropic groups can be

worth the effort.

The main thing is to keep sharing the Landcare message – it's so positive it's difficult for people to resist!" said David. ■



THE RAIL TRAIL AT GELLIONDALE



MCANINLY FARM: RESULTS OF REVEGETATION OF BILLY CREEK AFTER WILLOW REMOVAL BY THE WGCM



# WHY LANDCARE?

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By Anne Hill

*Joining and participating in Landcare has always been an interest of mine. But initially I incorrectly considered it to be the exclusive domain of farmers, primary producers. I misunderstood the priorities and reason d'être of the group, believing it only related to rural landowners.*

I was a past member of the Tarra Trail Steering Committee and shared in the glory when our hopes were recognised with the completion of the trail between Yarram and Alberton.

As a current member of the Friends of Tarra Trail I planted trees and weeded verges and came to understand that perhaps there might be an opportunity for the formation of an urban Landcare group. There were certainly projects within the township of Yarram that could become the interest base for the establishment of such a group.

But there weren't any primary producers living within the township that could be approached; did there need to be?

Could "townies" interested in forming an urban group fit into the philosophies of Landcare?

Of course they could!

So with the help of similarly like-minded people the Yarram Urban Landcare was established. Our initial project is the restoration and ongoing

maintenance of what was formerly known as Yarram's Botanical Gardens and now the Bicentennial Garden, settled in the back yard of the now moved Nightingale House. Assisted by a grant from the Wellington Council, our efforts of pruning, planting and tidying continue.

The principles of Landcare can also be expressed within an urban household environment. The concerns of energy and water usage easily translate as does vegetation and land usage. I don't run cattle or sheep but I maintain a veggie garden, which supplies all, and more than we need. My feathery friends keep the invasive weeds at bay and I am never without eggs and fertiliser. Water tanks, photovoltaic solar panels and solar HWS complete our small footprint.

As I join fellow members of the Landcare Network visiting rural properties witnessing how landowners are implementing sustainable visions for their properties, I find myself having a lot in common.

We are all very much concerned in the relationship between land usage, watercourses and sustainability. We also consider our connection to our environment as being its stewards and possess a genuine desire to embrace best practice to live in, preserve and develop it. ■

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**Why is Landcare important to you? We are researching the many individual approaches to landcare in our Network. Drop us a line and let us know your story.**

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ANNE HILL IN HER VEGETABLE GARDEN



THE HILLS' FEATHERY GARDEN HELPERS



# HOT TOPICS

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By Benita Kelsall

### Water Planning for a dry summer

With El Niño predictions forecast for Spring, understanding your farm water situation can help provide you with information to support informed decision making. El Niño which is measured by the warming of sea temperatures of the Pacific Ocean, is often associated with below-average rainfall over winter and spring and above average daytime temperatures resulting in a hot summer. How this prediction runs its course is not known. In the past, drier conditions have contributed to less runoff and reduce the reliability of springs, creeks and ground water. Having a good idea of your farm's water usage and what's on hand can help with being able to manage the season as it unfolds.

A web-based Farm Water Online Calculator developed by the Department of Economic Development (formerly DEPI) exists to help calculate on-farm water requirements and can provide answers to the following questions;

- How much rainfall does the shed roof collect?
- How much water do the livestock drink?
- How big is the dam?
- Will I run out of water if it stops raining?

A bucket and stop watch is used to measure flow rates, dams and tanks measured and the details are added into an online website which will calculate a farm's need for stock drinking water, dairy shed wash-down, household and garden needs. The calculator also calculates dam volumes, water available from catchment runoff as well as the amount of water that can be harvested from rooftops. A variety of rainfall scenarios can be added into the calculator to assess farm water security.

The Farm Water Solutions project was prompted by the series of droughts and the predictions for more variable and drier weather patterns. The calculator can be viewed at: <http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/farm-management/soil-and-water/water/farm-water-solutions>.

For more information please contact Dairy Extension Officer Benita Kelsall on 56242218 based at Ellinbank.



#### Farm Water Planning Resources

##### Farm Water Solutions Information Notes

A range of information notes relating to water use efficiency, managing farm water supplies including the Farm Water Solutions Calculator are available at:

<http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/agriculture-and-food/farm-management/soil-and-water/water/farm-water-solutions>

##### Planning a reticulated water supply

Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water has developed an on-farm reticulation guide, which is a

useful resource for planning a supply relying on troughs and pipe. Piping it - On farm reticulation guide. Available at:

<http://www.gwmwater.org.au/services/wimmera-mallee-pipeline/on-farm-water-reticulation-guide>

Licensing of water when considering alternative supplies - Southern Rural Water is responsible for licensing of water and has a groundwater atlas available at;

[www.srw.com.au](http://www.srw.com.au) search 'Gippsland groundwater atlas'





# WORDS OF WISDOM

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

### Warren the Wise



MOTHER WOMBAT LETTING HER POUCH DOWN - AN UNUSUAL VIEW. STRATHEWAN WILDLIFE SHELTER

Dear Warren,

*I'd like to know all about wombat breeding habits please. Do they lay eggs? Do they have a pouch? How many babies do they have at once? How often do they have babies? What do wombats eat?*

From "Miss Interested in Wombats."

My, my, "Miss Interested" ... so many questions you have asked! Let me see how many I can answer for you –

Wombats are usually born one at a time but on rare occasions twins have been born. There are only two teats so if any more were born they would be doomed to die. Wombats are marsupials so like all marsupials, we are pouched animals and our babies are born, not as eggs like the monotremes such as the echidna and platypus - but much like possum, bandicoot, wallaby, koala or kangaroo babies are born - as little jellybean-sized, fairly undeveloped animals that crawl from the birth canal through the mothers fur to the pouch where they latch onto a teat to suckle milk and where they will stay permanently attached for about the next five months. A

baby will stay with the mother for around 12 to 15 months after leaving the pouch, sometimes going back to suckle or hide from danger but will be weaned and independent by about the age of 18 months. It will not begin its own breeding cycle until it reaches the age of at least two, more often 3 years of age.

Wombats breed at any time of the year if the food supply is good – and we usually only have one baby in about a year and a half to three because it takes about that long for our young to grow big enough to leave home – a time we parents often long for! Gestation is only one month long so at least that's lucky for the missus!

A mother's pouch faces backwards so when she digs, the dirt doesn't cover the baby

in the pouch. Sometimes it's a bit funny to see the rear end of a larger wombat with the face of a baby wombat peering out from what appears to be her bottom!

Now to our diet – we have very long and tough teeth and need to eat plenty of grasses, rough sedges, bulbs, tree roots and a bit of bark to keep our teeth in good condition. We prefer it to be from native species, but we are getting used to the introduced grasses that farmers grow for their big black and white, or red-brown and white animals that moo! We manage to eat a fair bit of dirt while we're at it.

Which leads to the second thing I've got to tell you – a thing so rarely seen in the wild, it is not commonly known.... our lovemaking process is wild and rough; figure-of-eight dances by the missus before she lets me roll her to mate and a quick bite on her bum from me, then mate again, another dance and so on, up to seven times.

Only trouble is, if I don't roll her quickly she'll claw me with her long sharp claws and go off dancing again so I have to be quite fast off the mark. So .... maybe I should be held up as the new symbol of Aussie male virility!! ■

P.S. Two things you didn't ask but I'll tell you because I know you are interested – the scats (poo) you see placed on top of logs and stones are not put there to show off but are laid by females to advertise to the boyfriends that they're ready to mate!



WILSON THE WOMBAT AFTER A FEED, WITH MICHELLE THOMAS BY ALISON KUITER



# AROUND THE TRAPS

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By our Landcare Groups

### Merriman Creek

What a busy year we are having! On July 29 we were blessed with perfect weather for our tree planting day near Seaspray. As part of the delivery of our "Communities for Nature" project, we were assisted by; Gippsland Water staff, Seaspray Primary School students, G.J. Gardner Homes staff and Landcare group members. Together we planted over 700 plants along a section of Merriman Creek – all before lunch! We then enjoyed a barbecue lunch socialising in the warm winter sun. *See partner article on pp 18 for more.*

On August 4 we hosted a workshop about interpreting soil test results. Presented by independent soil specialist, Chris Alenson, the day was well attended by eighteen local farmers.

Our group recently met with a representative from "Keep Australia Beautiful" regarding the "Adopt a Highway" program. Five members were



SEASPRAY PRIMARY SCHOOL: LOOK HOW MANY POTS WE PLANTED.

given induction training and we will discuss if the group is willing to be involved with the program at our next meeting.

It was disappointing to have to postpone our recent meeting, which was to be a barbecue lunch hosted by Jacque and

Paul Harrison. Unfortunately rsvp's came in after the cut off date, which was set for catering purposes.

Our next meeting is scheduled for October 18 at 1.30pm at the Stradbroke Hall. We will need to elect group leaders at this

meeting and to discuss two of our current projects, which are nearing completion as well as "Adopt a Highway" and other local issues.

**Please note that subs are now due! ■**



MERRIMAN CK LG CHEFS: PAUL HARRISON, PAT BRAND, NORMA GARLICK, JACQUE HARRISON



TWO ENTHUSIASTIC FUTURE LANDCARE LEADERS FROM SEASPRAY PRIMARY.

Photo courtesy Peter Hill from the Gippsland Times

Continued on page 11...



# AROUND THE TRAPS

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

...continued from page 10...

### Binginwarri

On Sunday September 27 we will be having an Orchid Orgy and Wildflower Wander with famous local experts Terri Allen and Susan Taylor leading us. Book early with Kaye on 5185 1398 as places will be limited. This is really one not to miss!

The Binginwarri group is hanging in there at present with not a lot of members attending our functions this year, but the dedicated core members do keep on coming so we keep on trying.

Please let us know what YOU want to see us doing - it's hard being the brains as well as the brawn! YOUR INPUT IS DESIRED and REQUIRED.

Email John McClumpha at: [jd@incitegraphics.com.au](mailto:jd@incitegraphics.com.au) or Kaye Proudley at [kayeatbingi@gmail.com.au](mailto:kayeatbingi@gmail.com.au) ■

### Albert River

The Albert River Landcare Group is still on sabbatical. There is plenty happening in the area but it seems that the effort is on an individual rather than a group basis.

Since the passing of Geoff Charman in 2013 it seems that no-one is ready to take up the reigns. If any members feel like a meeting please contact David MacAulay on 5185 1392 and we'll set the ball rolling.

### Woodside

Woodside members gathered for their regular meeting and AGM on August 26th. All positions were filled with the same members that filled them last year. Fergus Irving is the President, Gavin Missen is Vice President, Jane Gordon is Secretary, Bryan Walpole is Treasurer and Kay Belcher is our catering officer. We have other members responsible for storing our equipment, for example the tree planters and the whole system works very well.

Our group remains active with very healthy attendances at all meetings and interesting guest speakers. We were very fortunate to have Eric Leburn attend our August meeting to speak about his recent trip to Ireland and show some very impressive photos.

Two members of our group travelled to Government House to attend the State Landcare Awards. Whilst we were not successful winning our category we were very proud to see others within our Network gain awards and recognition for their hard work and dedication.

Woodside members interested in obtaining trees through the Victorian Landcare Grants project are asked to register their interest to Jane by the September 21.

Our next meeting is at 8pm on October 21 at the Woodside Hall. All welcome. ■

### Yarram Urban

Activities undertaken by the Yarram Urban Landcare Group over autumn and winter include:

- Investigate and support the talks about developing a community garden near Crossley House
- Continue to develop a happy working relationship with Nightingale Trust with whom we have signed a memorandum of understanding.
- We have had many working bees at the Bicentennial Gardens -removed tree guards, refurbished the original post and rail fence and found the path through the gardens
- Moved the Tarra Festival memorial wagon wheel, commemorative stone and seats to the Bicentennial Gardens ready for re-assembly of these landmarks in their new home
- Several members participated in the Yarram Courthouse Gallery sea rubbish awareness competition "Washed Up" with one of our members winning the group section with their sea rubbish fish creation
- Attending the Green Carpet event
- Organised signage for Landcare members, the gardens and are working on signs for the roadside near the Bicentennial Gardens

Looking to continue planting in the gardens over the next 12 months to thicken up any sparse patches

Our small but enthusiastic group continues to have a growing membership. ■

### CIBAG

The CIBAG committee recently toured a major blackberry infestation area, which was treated last year in the Dingo and Agnes area. It was great to inspect the completed works and it gave the committee members a chance to get out together and see the results of our efforts.

Members also noticed that while we were fighting the good fight, it was being done in a very adhoc way.

The target area was tackled because our project officer lived nearby and picked the low hanging fruit.

Since then, we have employed a new project officer, who lived in a different area, who also focused on an area close to their location.

While this is perfectly logical from a personnel and personal point of view, it is not the best strategic way to tackle the blackberry problem. What was needed was a strategic approach!

Over the winter months CIBAG has been chipping away at writing a strategic plan with a more logical sequence of tackling the "big picture".

The new treatment season is all but on us now and we are all keen and well prepared to tackle the Strzelecki Ranges in the most efficient manner possible. ■



# PROJECT UPDATE

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By Samantha Monks

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

We have nearly completed the fourth and final year of YYLN's largest and most scientific sustainable agriculture project to date. YYLN has been responsible for the delivery of the project which has trialled and demonstrated farm practices/technologies to increase sequestration of carbon in soil. Commencing in June 2012 this project received \$473,000 (GST Inc.) of funding through the Federal Government's Action on the Ground (AotG) program via the Department of Agriculture.

Our project has importantly provided ongoing support and motivation to the local farming community and the group of producers involved in the Gippsland Plains Drought Tolerant Pastures Demonstration (2008-2011). This group of farmers successfully established perennial pastures on 40+ paddocks representing more than 500 ha across the Giffard Plain. For seven years these pastures have been regularly monitored and have all demonstrated improved pasture growth, persistence and ground cover/litter.

From March onwards the long process began of collating all data and findings for final project reporting & the scientific technical report.

This project is supported by Yarram Yarram Landcare Network, through funding from the Australia Government's National Landcare Programme and West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority.



DIFFERENT TYPE OF COUNTRY AT MOONEY'S GAP

### Western & Central Districts Pasture Tour

During the last week of May Landcare farmers from Woodside to Stradbroke along with partnership agency staff toured across western & central Victoria visiting a variety of farms. This pasture study tour was the major education and training component for the project and a real highlight of our project. The pasture tour provided a unique opportunity for local farmers to meet other farmers and see first hand a range of pasture trials in other districts with similar rainfall to us.

The first two days were spent with members of the Perennial Pasture Systems (PPS) group led by Project Manager Rob Shea and the group also met up with members of the Central Branch of the Grasslands Society from the Kyneton area. Over four days



JALUKAR PARK INSPECTION

nine properties were visited and we inspected several trial sites containing a range of pasture and fodder systems including Lucerne, Arrowleaf Clover, Phalaris, Fescue, Cocksfoot and short-term Ryegrass.

Overall, this project has seen a large increase in awareness and knowledge around soil carbon; increased knowledge around actions to improve pasture and grazing management; and most importantly has provided

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For further information on any of these projects 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)



# PROJECT UPDATE

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

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community support, social interaction and group discussion which were vital in the delivery of project outcomes.

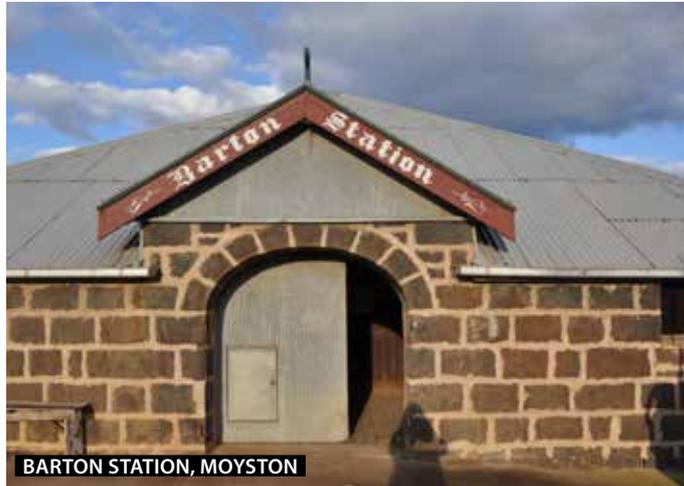
We will be holding a final presentation of all results and findings at a special Landcare event at a date to be announced when our final reports are approved by the Australian Government. Once again thank you to everyone involved.

### Pasture Tour report from Jenny & Brian Nicholls, Stradbroke:

**Day 1:** First stop was "Jallukar Park" at Jallukar on the eastern plains of the Grampians where innovator Simon Brady spoke of how he has used Arrowleaf clover as a nitrogen rotation crop within his cropping and pasture improvement program and how he destocks the paddocks into a containment paddock to help prevent soil erosion.

**Day 2:** On bus at 7.45am to meet up with PPS Group and Grassland Society members. We travelled to Hassad Australia's "Barton Station" at Moyston, where Manager Rob Cooper opened our eyes to corporate farming and the rules and guidelines a manager needs to enforce: OH&S, animal welfare, maintenance or machinery misuse by contractors or employees which can be a dismissible offence.

We looked at large scale lucerne paddocks and containment paddocks and also learnt how financially accountable a manager is to the company, sometimes where he needs to prove scientifically any decision



BARTON STATION, MOYSTON



THE CREW AT JIGSAW FARMS, HENSLEY PARK



WETLAND AT JIGSAW FARMS, HENSLEY PARK

made about livestock, pasture or infrastructure.

We then dropped in on Rod Vearing at Mooney's Gap, Ararat where he showed us a six-year-old Lucerne paddock which needed over sowing to fill gaps. He spoke of how he was now fencing to soil types, discussed Phalaris paddocks and the improvement of finishing lamb weight at 6.25kg.

Next property was Paul and Denis Harrington's "Tirrana" near Mount Cole where we inspected Lucerne, Arrowleaf Clover, short term Ryegrass and Phalaris paddocks and also how they now are using Arrowleaf Clover to improve crops and permanent pastures. Denis showed us his new toy, a Drone, which he hopes to use to inspect crops and livestock.

We then visited a PPS trial and Greenfields project and discussed comparison in pasture species.

At "Millbanks", Elmhurst Ben Greene discussed stocking rates on pasture, fescue and phalaris. He enlightened us on his Bull Beef enterprises and water infrastructure. Looked at a new type of Kangaroo fencing consisting of plastic droppers, 2.8 wire and hot wire with which he is having some success.

**Day 3:** On bus at 7.45am and off to "Hensley Park" Jigsaw Farms west of the Grampians where we met with Mark Wootten and Eve Kantor. This is an amazing farm with shelterbelts, agro forestry, wetlands, wildlife habitat. The trees were planted by companies for carbon offset footprint, some trials by

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# PROJECT UPDATE

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

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THE CREW AT CHARINGA STUD



ED BRAND CHECKING THE SHEEP AT CHARINGA STUD

departments, with different tree species and soil types and, of course, their own plantings. They explained their water systems using air wells for pressure, driven by compressors from the shearing shed.

Mark showed us many pastures at different stages. Merino wether lambs are put in a feedlot to finish for the Middle Eastern and North America markets. He spoke of improving sheep genetics to produce a dual purpose "super" ewe with good micron and fat score. The cattle enterprise is moving towards a full Angus herd. They also monitor the bird species with surveys and had success moving the Growling Frog to wetlands.

**Day 4:** On the bus at 7.50am and travelled to "Charinga Stud" at Berrimal near St Arnaud where Roger Polkinghorne and Jo welcomed us warmly with a lovely morning tea and eaten as Roger told us about his family enterprise.

Then off to the paddocks to see Roger's son Tim spraying out paddocks ready for cropping.



ED, DON AND GAVIN AT BEST'S CELLARS AT GREAT WESTERN

Roger and Tim explained their management of weeds and erosion, showing us where they have filled in deep scars in the earth with great success, and also how easy erosion can start with only an inch and a half of rain, at top of a rise.

We were taken to a paddock where Dave the contractor was sowing wheat. He stopped the machine so Roger and Tim could explain the operation of the air seeder etc, and how crop and pasture is used for their livestock operation. We returned to the shearing shed to look at sheep genetics for ewes and rams.

I would like to thank all the amazing motivated farmers we encountered, their enthusiasm as they spoke, the knowledge exchanged was wonderful.

Thankyou to Brad, Rob, Rod, Paul, Denis, Ben, Mark, Eva, Roger, Jo, Tim and their workers. Also thank you to our Landcare Project Officer Samantha Monks and Rob Shea for organising an amazing tour and the like minded people from the other two groups and Rob Woods our great bus driver who kept us safe.

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# PROJECT UPDATE

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

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

Expressions of Interest (Eoi) for Year 4 (2015-2016) are now open (see page 19). This will be the final year of this landscape scale biodiversity project funded by the State Government. As in past years future projects sites will be 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 South Gippsland Koala.

Funding is available for fencing and revegetation of remnants, wildlife corridors and blackberry suppression. All project sites must 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". Priority is also given to projects mapped on the JARR Biodiversity Blue Print.



C4N JARR PLANTING AT ALBERT RIVER

#### YYLN's Blackberry Suppression Works for the JARR Catchment

The Year 4 target area for our Blackberry program will continue on private property adjoining the lower reaches of the Jack & Albert Rivers from Alberton across to Gellions Run. Areas not treated in Year 3 of our program will be visited. Once again there will be a focus on riparian links to existing remnant vegetation and shelterbelts.

All Year 3 (2014-2015) on-ground project deliverables have been successfully met and have once again exceeded set targets. Annual reporting was approved by Department of Environment (DELWP) in August. 8,500 locally indigenous tubestock have been recently planted in project sites across the JARR area. A further 1,500 tubestock will be planted by Yarram Secondary College students as part of the Year 9 Community Program in partnership with YYLN.

#### SUMMARY OF PROJECT OUTCOMES: JARR 2014-2015

##### **Landscape Scale Biolinks:**

6 wildlife corridors created, connecting high quality remnant vegetation / primary koala habitat areas.

**Locations:** Albert River catchment area. Biolinks across private land connecting the Albert River and Alberton West State Forest at Hedley Range

**Wildlife Corridors & Remnant Vegetation:** 28.5 Ha

**Fencing:** 5km fencing – plain wire, no barb wire

**Vegetation:** 20,000 locally indigenous tube stock planted in JARR area

**Weed Control:** 2 km of willow removal along Billy Creek (medium infestation)

**2014/15 Total Area of Protection:** 28.5 Ha

**Blackberry Suppression Works - JARR Catchment - Year 3**

**Target Area:** Blackberry treated

across 25 private properties downstream from Billy Creek and Albert River at Stacey's Bridge. Main focus on riparian areas linkages to remnant vegetation to allow "koala movement", along Jack & Albert River catchments.

2014/15 Total Area of Blackberry Treated: 2211.65 Ha

**WGCM/WSC/YYLN: Year 3 Target Area – Albert River, Stacey's Bridge to Alberton**

**West:** Blackberry control efforts have again been coordinated in an inter-agency approach through the JARR partnership. The WGCM has treated approximately 10km of blackberry along the Albert River & Deep Creek frontages from Billy Creek to the Sloping Bridge; while the Wellington Shire Council have treated Blackberry along shire roadsides in the Stacey's Bridge and Jack River areas.

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# PROJECT UPDATE

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

...continued from page 15...

### Corner Inlet Connections: YYLN/ WGCMA Coastal Saltmarsh Protection Project

Fantastic news !!!! YYLN's Coastal Saltmarsh Protection Project is the winner of the Coastcare Award at the 2015 Victorian Landcare Awards. It was a great honour to accept this award on behalf of YYLN and all farmers and project partners involved since 2009. Ashley Walpole, inaugural project participant, was at Government House to accept the award with me from the Governor Her Excellency the Honourable Linda Dessau. The Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water, The Honourable Lisa Neville MP also congratulated YYLN for delivering such an important coastal project.

As project manager of the saltmarsh program since 2010, I want to congratulate all the farmers, landholders, contractors and agency staff for their hard work and long hours put into this project and for the long term commitment needed to protect this fragile coastal environment for the benefit of future generations.

A special thankyou to Bruce Atkin (Coastcare Facilitator) for nominating us and to Paul Martin (former YYLN Coordinator) and Michelle Dixon (formerly of the WGCMA) for getting this program off the ground in 2009. We are all looking forward to attending the National Landcare Awards next year.

### Saltmarsh Project Outcomes: 2014-2015

**2014/15 Total Saltmarsh/  
Mangrove Protection Area =  
9.63ha**

**Fencing:** 3km fencing – plain wire, no barb wire

**Vegetation:** 4,000 locally indigenous tube stock planted in saltmarsh area

**Weed control area:** Tall Wheat Grass (TWG) = 4.38ha , Boxthorn = 4.88ha

Field based training with Dr Paul Boon – 2 days: Manns Beach & Gellions Run

Project Officer/Landholder engagement in target area, EOI, site visits, individual management plans

Site selection of 3 project sites based on site condition & landholder capacity

YYLN/SGLN Discover Corner Inlet Field Day – Feb.2015 at Port Welshpool – Paul Boon, Dan Weller, John Ford + 45 attendees

SGLN/YYLN Farmer Fisher Day at Port Franklin

*This project is supported by Yarram Yarram Landcare Network, through funding from the Australia Government's National Landcare Programme and West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority.*

### **WGCMA Healthy Soils: Sustainable Farms**

In 2014/15 the WGCMA Healthy Soils Sustainable Farms project has continued the partnership with YYLN's AotG project through a series of field days and the further development of pasture demonstration sites. The Healthy Soils program provides an important linkage between YYLN, agencies and landholders across the region. This project is funded by the Australian

Government and involves the five Landcare Networks in West Gippsland.

During May, a group of local farmers from the Woodside area attended the Nutrient Management Plan Workshop - "Planning a cost-effective fertiliser program". The half day course was run by Lisa Warn from University of Melbourne's Mackinnon Project. Farmers were asked to bring along recent soil tests, farm plans and fertiliser records. Topics included: What nutrients are needed; How much are needed; Fertiliser/Product options and Soil amendments – lime, gypsum.

### **Yarram Secondary College- Community Program with YYLN**

Report to come in the Summer edition of this newsletter..

### **Richmond Football Club Landcare Grant**

Southern Suns Junior Football Club members were very excited to receive \$1000 towards the purchase of sports equipment through this grant. ■



YSC YR 9 COMMUNITY GROUP AT LANDCARE PLANTING PT ALBERT



SOUTHERN SUNS RFC LANDCARE AWARD RECIPIENTS

**For further information on any of these projects 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)**



# PEACOCK SPIDERS

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By Kaye Proudley

### A spider everyone could love

*Australia's fairly recently discovered 29 species of Peacock or Jumping Spiders.*

From the genus *Maratus* (of more than 5,000 species worldwide) our Peacock Spiders are minute little critters that measure on average just 4 mm and have a venomous bite like most spiders do, though because they're so tiny and their jaws so small they cannot even break the skin of humans, so pose no risk to us.

They live on the ground or in low bushes and do not build webs to ensnare their prey but instead stalk it much like a lion would stalk and pounce upon his prey and can kill prey three to four times their size.

The males have a superb display of finery that they show off to the females in a dance that needs to be seen to be believed! For anywhere between 10 seconds and two hours he waves his legs in sensual ways, jumps around, shakes his rear

end, drums on the ground - and her head - and erects a brightly coloured iridescent fan over his body - all to impress her to mate with him. Trouble looms if he doesn't impress her though, as she will just as likely eat him if his dancing isn't up to scratch... females don't seem to eat the good dancers!

Each male species in the genus of *Maratus* has a differently embroidered and coloured fan and a different dance. The drumming is like a song he serenades her with but because they don't have ears such as ours, she 'feels' his drumming through her legs.

How's that for an impressive spider?

For those of you who have the ability to view video content on the internet here are a couple of links to watch *Maratus* species in all their superb action - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E-nmeYirsvA> and [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d\\_yYC5r8xMI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d_yYC5r8xMI) ■

*Many thanks to the photographer of these beauties sourced from the net*





# PARTNER ACTIVITY

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By Melissa Ainsworth

### Welcome to a new partner

Yarram Yarram Landcare Network's newest partner is a carbon off-setting enterprise called Fifteen Trees.

Their name hails from the fact that it takes fifteen trees to reduce the carbon emissions of one vehicle - for one year. Fifteen Trees support community groups, such as Landcare, by providing trees for planting - at no charge.

Trees are paid for by individuals and companies who wish to make a contribution to greening our natural environment and therefore voluntarily offsetting their personal or company's environmental footprint.

An example is local building company G.J. Gardner Homes. They make an annual contribution to Fifteen Trees which equates to the purchase of just over 400 trees - the amount to offset their company's use of timber in house frame construction. Other companies may offset

their business's air travel or fleet emissions in this way. These environmentally conscious individuals and companies cannot claim carbon credits and are an example of being good corporate citizens.

Fifteen Trees has been operating since 2009 by Colleen Filippa and Chrissy Gartlan. They act as a conduit between donors and community tree planting groups.

The Merriman Creek Landcare group recently held a community tree planting day near Seaspray. A portion of planted trees were paid for by Fifteen Trees, funded through G.J. Gardner Homes in Sale. Not only did they provide over four hundred trees, but they also closed their office for the morning so 4 of their staff members could assist with planting the trees along Merriman Creek.

YYLN and the Merriman Creek Landcare group are thankful



for the support of G.J. Gardner Homes and for their annual contribution to Fifteen Trees. It's great to see companies and individuals trying to make their businesses and lifestyles sustainable!

Fifteen Trees regularly update their website with stories and photos of completed tree

planting projects across the state. You can visit them at; [www.15trees.com.au](http://www.15trees.com.au)

Below is a photo of the recent tree planting day supported by Fifteen Trees, the G.J. Gardner Homes staff, students from the Seaspray Primary School with Merriman Creek Landcare group members. ■



Please see a post on the day by Colleen Filippa from 15 Trees by clicking on the following link:  
<http://www.15trees.com.au/2015/gjgsale/>



# MONEY AVAILABLE

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK



### YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

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

### Expression of Interest for 2015–2016 (Year 4)

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

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



## Connecting Calrossie, Won Wron & Devon North

### Expression of Interest for 2015–2016

The Yarram Yarram Landcare Network (YYLN) has funding opportunities available for environmental grants through the National Landcare Programme in the Calrossie, Won Wron and Devon North areas. All landholders are invited to express interest in projects that will:

1. Protect, enhance and/or connect remnant vegetation in the Strzelecki Ranges Landscape Priority Area.
2. Reduce the impacts of invasive weeds including Blackberry, Boxthorn, Gorse, Broom, Bridal Creeper & Ragwort.
3. Focus on the protection and recovery of the Strzelecki Gum (*Eucalyptus strzeleckii*).

Incentive grants are available for the following on-ground activities: fencing (\$5/meter), weed control and revegetation. Landholders receiving funds are required to enter into a 10 year management plan.

## Coastal Saltmarsh Protection Project

Expressions of interest for the "Coastal Saltmarsh Protection Project" are being sought from interested landholders. Funding incentives are available for fencing and revegetation of coastal saltmarsh/mangrove areas.

**For further information please contact: Samantha Monks, Livingston St, Yarram | 5175 7895 or 0419 371 497**  
**Email: [samantham@wgcm.vic.gov.au](mailto:samantham@wgcm.vic.gov.au) \*Expressions of Interest close September 30 2015**



Everyone is aware of the importance of planning for the future, but it can often be a difficult and confusing experience. Isobel Knight from Proagtive is coming to West Gippsland for a one-day workshop on farm financial/succession planning. If you cannot attend this session there will be a similar session in Bairnsdale on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November. **BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL**

## "SUCCESSION PLANNING FOR YOUR FAMILY BUSINESS"

### THE WORKSHOP WILL COVER THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

1. How to start preparing your family business for the future.
2. How to set clear goals.
3. Developing a clear business purpose and aligned strategy.
4. **WHY HAVING A FINANCIAL PLAN FOR YOUR BUSINESS IS VITAL. KNOW YOUR PROFIT DRIVERS AND BE PROFITABLE.**
5. Understanding generational difference and family dynamics.
6. Developing a formal communication strategy.
7. Formalizing roles, responsibilities and decision making processes which are aligned with pay and reward.
8. The importance of having and communicating business policies.
9. Understanding your ownership and trading structures and the legal and tax implications of your plan.
10. Understanding the role of business advisors in business and succession planning and learn how Proagtive supports farming families.

**BOOK  
NOW!**

...PLEASE  
BRING AS  
MANY FAMILY  
MEMBERS AS  
POSSIBLE

**DATE: Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November**

**LOCATION:** Quality Inn Latrobe Convention Centre, 5601 Princes Hwy, Traralgon

**RSVP (Please click on the link for registration):** <http://bit.ly/1JX58eS>

**CONTACT:** Sam Shannon (03) 5613 5978 Email: [sams@wgcm.vic.gov.au](mailto:sams@wgcm.vic.gov.au)

**COST: Free.** Morning tea and lunch provided.



*This project is supported by the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme.*



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FAMILY FARM BUSINESSES  
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