



# YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NEWS

Vol: 23 WINTER 2016

## FEATURES

Local Landcare Profile - Werner & Turid Lange  
Farewell to Sam  
Mammal monitoring  
Call for volunteers  
National Landcare Conference

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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, and Warren the Wise.

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### Deadlines

August 19 2016 is the deadline for the SPRING issue contributions.

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### Cover photo

Newly shorn wool from the Nicholls farm

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### FUNGI FORAY

**When:** 9.30am - June 12  
**Where:** May's Bush  
**Contact:** Kaye - 51851398

### BIRD SURVEY

**When:** 8.30am - June 14  
**Where:** Alberton West State Forest  
**Contact:** Kaye - 51851398

### WOODSIDE LCG MEETING

**When:** 8pm - June 15  
**Where:** Woodside Hall  
**Contact:** Jane - 51871400

### BIRD SURVEY

**When:** 9am - June 19  
**Where:** Hedley  
**Contact:** Kaye - 51851398

### BINGI BIODIVERSITY PROJECT

**When:** 9am - July 8  
**Where:** Tap Tap Road  
**Contact:** Kaye - 51851398

### BINGINWARRI LCG ANNUAL MEETING & DINNER

**When:** 6.30pm - July 15  
**Where:** Binginwarri Hall  
**RSVP:** Kaye - 51851398 by Tuesday 12th

### MERRIMAN CREEK LCG MEETING

**When:** 7.30pm - August 15  
**Where:** Stradbroke Hall  
**Contact:** Melissa - 0437 640635

### WOODSIDE LCG MEETING

**When:** 8pm - August 24  
**Where:** Woodside Hall  
**Contact:** Jane - 51871400

### 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY - MERRIMAN CREEK LCG

**When:** 6.30pm - September 10  
**Where:** Stradbroke Hall  
**RSVP:** August 26 - Melissa - 0437 640635

### "ON THE BRINK" ART EXHIBITION

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRY  
Friday 7 October 2016  
DELIVERY OF ARTWORK  
Wednesday 26 October between 9 and 10am  
OFFICIAL OPENING  
Prizes to be announced & presented.  
Friday 28 October 2016 6.00-7.30pm

## Contacts for Individual Active Landcare Groups

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# FROM THE OFFICE

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By Sally-Ann Henderson



### Sally-Ann Says:

Hi everyone,

#### **CONSTITUTION UPDATE**

By now you will have received your new YYLN Constitution. Thanks to all those members who came along to our session in April to give their feedback and input.

This session saw healthy debate from the 23 members attending with contentious issues decided

by majority vote. This very democratic process was ably facilitated by Belinda Brennan from the FTLA & WGCMA.

We encourage you to come along to the Special Meeting on June 15 at 3pm to ratify the decisions are reflected in the new YYLN Constitution. Members attending the June meeting will vote on the proposal that the modifications to the constitution be accepted.

If you have any questions about the process or the suggested changes, please contact the office.

#### **ANNUAL BBQ**

We had a great day gathering for the annual YYLN barbecue in the brand new Yarram Recreation Reserve rooms at the Yarram Showgrounds.

The sun was shining and representatives from most of our

groups were able to make it.

An excellent spread of food appeared and stimulating conversation was topped off with a passionate and informative speaker.

Naturalist - Bob McDonald presented some fascinating ideas about how the bush and the creatures within it have adapted to both cope with and suppress fire.

Some of his ideas on how this occurs included the amount of biomass processed by koalas and the koala poo beetle that further processes that biomass, the scratching of the lyrebird and its role in keeping the leaf litter from building up.

There was a lot of food for thought.

#### **STAFF CHANGES**

Samantha's projects funding comes to an end in June. So

in March Samantha chose to take an early redundancy package from the Catchment Management Authority and hence YYLN. She leaves YYLN with a legacy of great project outcomes and we wish her all the best in the future. Please see her tribute page on page 6.

#### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

We will be announcing the date and venue for our upcoming Annual General Meeting very soon. With Board positions being declared vacant perhaps you would like to consider nominating for a position?

More details to come.

Stay warm and we look forward to seeing you at the Constitution meeting next Wednesday.

## Coming Soon

In the 2015/16 financial year we ran an expression of interest process to get ideas and suggestions of what projects our members were keen to undertake on their properties, as well as on public land.

We had a good response and have already had the opportunity to fund some of these projects when a new grant opportunity came along with matching objectives. I was also able to assist a couple of groups to apply directly for funds to accomplish their larger projects and we are waiting on the outcome of these bids.

This new financial year the five West Gippsland Landcare Networks are combining to conduct an Expression of Interest (EOI) process for the whole region. This will allow for combined promotion and advertising in media and give the opportunity for a bulk mail out of all landcare members. It will also give the CMA the opportunity to consider working with landholders to get the projects accomplished.

Members will receive their EOI form in July/August with submissions closing at the end of September. Start thinking now about what you might like to undertake in the next few years. This can range from sustainable ag. projects through to waterway protection, erosion control and habitat restoration. The form will only be mailed to members, however the EOI process will be open to anyone so talk with your neighbours and dream big.



# LOCAL LANDCARE PROFILES

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By Helga Binder

*In 1987 Werner and Turid Lange purchased a 16 hectare (40 acre) property along Woorrara Road in Wonyip.*

Werner was talked out of doing a forestry course in Creswick by his parents and became an engineer. He had a recurring dream of a forested property with a trail leading down to an open area and a distant view of hills. Turid was a teacher who wanted to find a place where the horses that her daughter loved could be kept in comfort.

The property in Wonyip was their answer.

It had been stripped of its native vegetation, was overgrown with bracken, blackberry and thistles with a small stand of tiny pines hidden amongst the weeds.

A lot of the ground was waterlogged and swampy.

To the normal eye it didn't have a hope in fulfilling their dreams but Turid and Werner are people with vision who are not afraid of hard work

Making do with the rundown cottage on the property for shelter they and their young children came down from Melbourne on weekends to begin the transformation.

Their immediate goal was to create sufficient grassed area so that horses could graze. The ultimate goal was to transform the property into a productive and beautiful natural environment.

Firstly, there were the weeds to slash and burn and pipes to install to drain the boggy, swampy paddocks.



TURID AND WERNER LANGE



ORIGINAL BLACKBERRY INFESTATIONS



RECLAIMED WETLANDS

Next a shed was built and a second dam put in so that the existing dam could be converted to a wetland.

In the following years a water tank for household consumption and fire protection was installed, a hen house and goose enclosure built and more weeds cleared to extend the grazing land. The shack was transformed into a cosy home and, once they retired and moved in on a more permanent basis in 2003, a huge range of edible gardens including all manner of berries and fruit, established.

Their dedication to restoring the land was integral to all of their work.

It seemed a natural progression to join the Wonyip Landcare Group when it was formed in 2006. Werner felt he could have a positive influence in assisting in the rehabilitation of more than just his own little

*Continued on page 05...*



# LOCAL LANDCARE PROFILES

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

...continued from page 04...



**BLUBERRY PLANTATIONS GROWING VERY WELL**

property. He had a vision for improvement in the whole catchment.

He also had a thirst for knowledge and believed that exposing himself to like-minded people would teach him more about the landscape around him. Due to his German heritage his natural inclination had been to plant exotics but with his newfound knowledge he planted over a 100 melaleuca on a still swampy section of his land and was astonished that they were a much better drainage system than the pipes he had installed originally.

He also discovered that Landcare was an invaluable system for connecting community – something he has always been passionate about.

“Working together with a community means the possibility of achieving results that an individual can’t really achieve. From a historical perspective this has always been the case – neighbours’ working together to assist each other in times of need, volunteers fighting fires, communities pitching in to build local halls and meeting places. These types of connections are what lead to communal wealth,” says Werner.

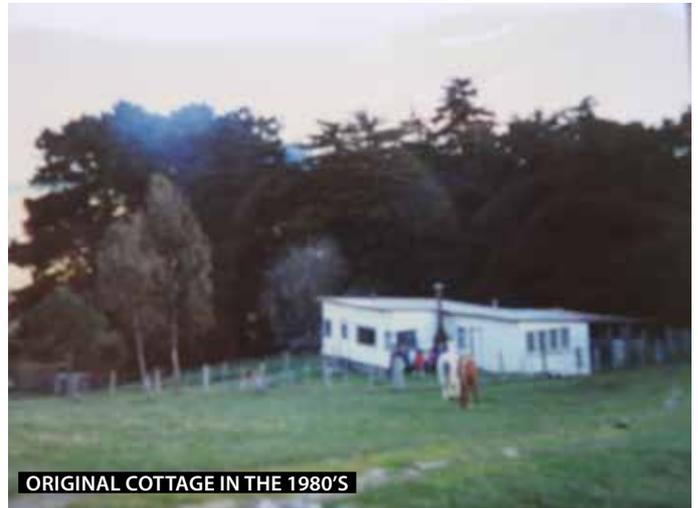
In 2007 Werner joined the YYLN Board and is now the Vice-Chair. He is also the spokesperson of the Wonyip Landcare Group, Treasurer of the Friends of Agnes Falls group, the YYLN representative on the Community Weeds Taskforce and the Treasurer of the Wonyip Excelsior Hall. His passion for building community has led him to being an invaluable contributor on many levels.

He has also planted 1,000’s of trees along roadsides, in wildlife corridors and along rivers and actively participates in all manner of community projects whether it is repairing the local community hall or planning new project submissions for government funding.

His message to potential participants in Landcare is, however, very simple.

“The more people that participate in community projects the more that community thrives and a thriving community is what a rosy future is made of.”

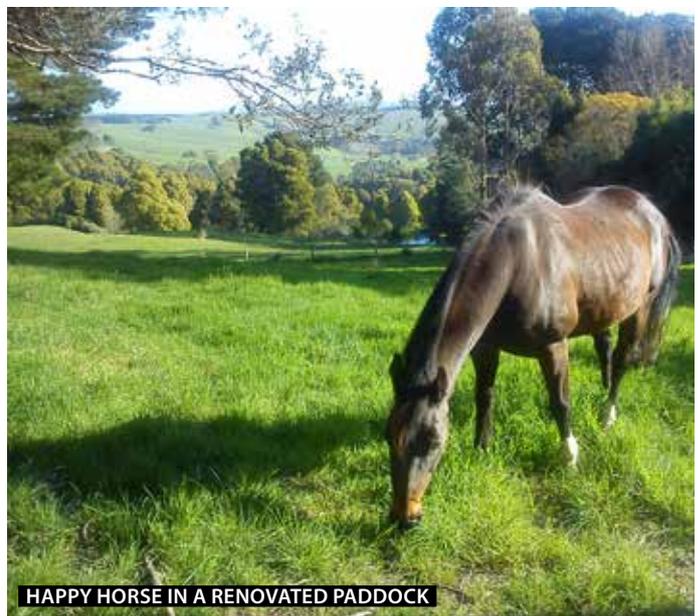
One can only imagine the impact he would have had on our environment if he had pursued his original plan to enter an environmental field rather than engineering. ■



**ORIGINAL COTTAGE IN THE 1980'S**



**REGROWTH IN ORIGINALLY EMPTY PADDOCK**



**HAPPY HORSE IN A RENOVATED PADDOCK**



# FAREWELL SAM

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By Helga Binder on behalf of the YYLN Board

*Many of you know of the difficulties faced by the Board over the years to secure funding for paid staff positions. Government support has never been steady and one of the greatest ongoing challenges the Board has grappled with is maintaining consistent paid support for the networks endeavours.*

In 2010 we lost our talented co-ordinator Paul Martin, who needed to find more security for his growing family. In 2012 the same happened with our enormously talented Dan Garlick. In 2014 we could not secure enough funding to keep our very valuable project officer Bronwyn Johnson and now we have lost the hard working and much loved Samantha Monks for the same reasons.

This has happened before and will, in all likelihood, happen again.

We have enough funding to guarantee our remaining staff member, Co-ordinator Sally-Ann Henderson only twelve months of secure employment.

It is heart-rending to be constantly in this position and we are hoping the government will listen to our ongoing arguments for a long-term commitment to staffing levels that will keep Landcare a vibrant and thriving grass-roots organisation. Project Officers are sadly funded through Project grants and the value of the grants we have been attracting falls far below previous years.

We urge you to become active in lobbying the government to improve their support of permanent Landcare network staff.

To Sam we say a sad goodbye.

Her support of landholders over the eight years of her employment was widely recognised and appreciated.

Her dedication to projects such as Healthy Soils, Invasive Plants and Animals and the JARR project has seen these projects flourish and be completed within the terms and time-frames required by the funding bodies for them.

YYLN's Coastal Saltmarsh Protection Project, one of the many projects under Samantha's care, garnered our network the

Natural Environment Award in the Victorian Coastal Awards for Excellence in 2014 and then went on to win the Victorian Government **Coastcare Award** at the State Landcare Awards in 2015.

We have no doubt that, as the Project Officers before her, she will find some new and exciting venture into which she can apply her talents and, on behalf of the Network we wish her every success in her new endeavours. ■

***Below are just a few photos of Sam in the field over the years.***





# AROUND THE TRAPS

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By our Landcare Groups

### Wonyip

*The Wonyip Landcare Group are making good progress with the Dingo creek restoration project made possible through the 25th Anniversary Grant.*

Blackberry has been sprayed along the creek system involving seven landholders and there are native seedlings on order to revegetate some of the creek banks. There is now significant blackberry reduction from the head of the Dingo Creek at Ryton Junction right down to the Agnes River at Wonyip and several kilometres down stream from there linking up with complimentary work done by CIBAG.

There is also a possibility that the WGGMA may fence further sections of the Agnes River for stock exclusion. This will extend to a corridor downstream that has fencing in place from previous works.

Ongoing JARR funded restoration work on the Webb property (WLG) has recently completed over a kilometre of stock exclusion fencing.

The strategic placement of fences has protected vulnerable creek beds and understorey while allowing agricultural activities to continue.

A large area that was previously grazing land has also been fenced in preparation for revegetation. This will form a substantial wildlife corridor between the Turton's track end of our World Wildlife Fund



MELISSA WEBB WALKING THE FENCE LINE



ALL NEW FENCING



RUTH AND MELISSA ON INSPECTION

"Quoll" corridor and the Cores & Links remnant and regrowth area on the northern side of the Webbs. ■

### Woodside

*Woodside members gathered for their bi-monthly meeting on April 20.*

General topics were discussed and we were also entertained by our very own Rosemary Irving who gave an informative talk about a tour that she attended with Fergus to England. It was run by "Natural England" which is our Landcare equivalent.

Participants travelled to local farms and explored the diversity in their farming techniques with a particular focus on the protection of flora, fauna and historical sites. Slide show accompanied the talk. **Many thanks Rosemary!**

Our next meeting is scheduled for June 15 followed by the Annual General Meeting on August 24 and a general meeting on October 19. ■

### Merriman

*Our recent week night meeting on May 9 was well attended with lots of group activity going on at the moment.*

The Seaspray Ratepayers Association have contacted our group wanting to participate in the RHDV1 K5 rabbit virus strain release in Seaspray. It is great to have community support as the



# AROUND THE TRAPS

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

...continued from page 07...



WILLOWS CLOGGING UP THE CREEK



A THOROUGH JOB CLEANING OUT THE WEEDS



THE CLEAN SITE READY FOR REVEGETATION

rabbit population has always been a hot topic/issue and it will be great to add Seaspray as a release site.

Planning of our upcoming **30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** celebration is well advanced. The celebration is set for **September 10** at the Stradbroke Hall and a bus tour of past and current projects available on the Sunday. Please put the dates in your diary!

After the success of our recent creek restoration project we are fortunate to receive funding from the WGCMA as part of the *Regional Riparian Action Plan*. The project will include fencing, weed control and revegetation along Merriman Creek.

Photo's show the removal of a dense stand of willow trees at Stradbroke West before and after removal. We look forward to re-vegetating the site later in the year.

Our next meeting is scheduled on **August 15<sup>th</sup>** at 7.30pm at the **Stradbroke Hall**. All welcome. ■

## Binginwarri

The Bingi group have had a very mixed year so far with 3 of

our activities cancelled and 1 postponed due to illness or a lack of interest and 5 activities, if short on people, completed.

Three of us had a lovely walk around But But Flora Reserve to watch birds, and saw attractive species like several male Mistletoebirds and several male Golden Whistlers - all very handsome chappies! I think we saw 23 different bird species that day. The bonus was finding a patch of type species of the little orchid Fischer's Greenhood, *Pterostylis fischii*, though only in bud, the reason the reserve was kept in the first place. (A type species is the first place it was noted and collected.)

The next best outing was a sudden 'call to arms' from Birds Australia to help out with an **ORANGE-BELLIED PARROT** count - but only two of us were around to answer the call. We went out with their new co-ordinator for this area with high hopes to survey an area that has not been surveyed before. Unfortunately we were not to be so lucky this time but we did see 11 Blue-winged Parrots which co-habit with OBP's, so maybe next time.

*Continued on page 09...*

### Merriman Creek Landcare group 30th Anniversary celebration

7pm - September 10, 2016

Stradbroke Hall, Sth Gippy Highway,  
Stradbroke

Save the date!

More details to come. All welcome.

Any submissions of former memorabilia would be appreciated.

Contact: Melissa - 0437 640635



# AROUND THE TRAPS

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

...continued from page 08...

For those who don't realise it, there are only about 50 Orange-bellied Parrots left in the wild anywhere in the world...and they may well occur in coastal saltmarsh country around here. They fly from Tasmania where they breed to feed through winter on the Victorian coast. A highly endangered species. There is a breeding program being run - let's hope it is successful.

Two more counts are coming up...one in July and the other in September. PLEASE if you are interested, contact Kaye 5185 1398 who will put you in touch with the co-ordinator.

We also have our Annual Meeting coming up on Friday **15<sup>th</sup> July**, 6.30pm. Speaker to be advised. An evening meeting for a change, at the Binginwarri Hall. The brief meeting will start at 6.30pm so please be punctual; to be followed by a mixed casserole tea served at approx. 7pm and lasting approx. ¾ hour. Our guest speaker will be giving an illustrated talk at approx. 7.45pm. BYO drinks, all food, tea and coffee supplied. A nice door prize will be offered on this evening. We invite all Landcarers, members and friends to this evening and to put forward any ideas/suggestions you have on what direction you'd like to see the Binginwarri Landcare Sub-group go, or just to have your say. If you have thought about helping to organise the running of this small but vital group, now might be the time to offer your help! New helpers would definitely be appreciated by John and Kaye. *Please call Kaye on 5185 1398 by Tues 12<sup>th</sup> July to let us know for catering purposes.* ■

**CHECK OUT THESE GORGEOUS FUNGI, DISCOVERED IN BINGINWARRI**



## Yarram Urban

Yarram Urban Landcare Group has had a busy season. Keeping up with the weeds at the Bicentenary Gardens is an ongoing challenge and despite the dry summer and autumn they have managed to out grow our ability to remove them again. Work is being done on trying to develop the gardens in such a way that mowing and keeping the weeds at bay is simpler for our small group. Several tasks that had been on the groups "to do" list for quite some time were achieved over the summer and early autumn.

The relocation of the Tarra Festival memorial seating and plaque that were given to us when the old Alberton Shire building was sold was completed. The seats, wagon wheel and plaque now make a lovely welcoming setting for the entrance of the park and a welcome resting place for weary volunteers hard at work on those weeds! In the pipeline is an idea about extending the existing Tarra Trail to the Gardens. It seems a great way to give the Tarra Trail bike path a destination. ■





# LANDCARE GATHERING

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By Kathleen Bracks

*If you close your eyes and imagine, what will Landcare look like in five years' time?*

Will your Landcare group look and act the same? Will more or less farmers in your area be interested in sustainable agriculture? Will the climate be the same?

All of these questions and more were discussed recently at the 2016 Landcare Gathering held at Wilson Promontory on the 13th and 14th of April 2016. The two day gathering, attended by 22 Landcare staff and network board members, provided an opportunity for leaders in the Landcare community to not only reflect on recent achievements, but also to look to and plan for the future.

Currently, Landcare in West Gippsland is very active with strong groups, dynamic Landcarers and great environmental projects. It comprises five Landcare Networks, 74 groups and 2,500 thousand members who actively care for the land via sustainable agriculture and biodiversity activities. Last year Landcarers planted more than 216,000 hectares of indigenous revegetation and undertook weed control on 3,120 hectares of land.

However, Landcare cannot rest on its achievements and in order to stay relevant to landholders must actively review and evolve its focus, how it operates and how it engages landholders. The gathering provided attendees with the opportunity to participate in a range of facilitated discussions



ATTENDEES AT THE 2016 REGIONAL LANDCARE GATHERING



SHARING IDEAS AND LISTENING TO INNOVATION FROM DIFFERENT NETWORKS

about these issues and find solutions on how to tackle them.

One issue discussed was the reduction in funding for long term landscape scale projects. The group discussed solutions and ideas on how to adapt and diversify how we attract our funding. All five Landcare Networks agreed a way to

overcome this is to work more closely together in the future in order to reduce admin burden and increase our attractiveness to funders.

Staff from the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, a key partner of Landcare, also attended the meeting. The WGCMA believes that Landcare remain the most

effective way to deliver NRM outcomes involving community ownership, connectivity, community participation and local relevance.

This gathering was funded by the Victorian Landcare Program.

■



# WORDS OF WISDOM

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

### Warren the Wise



Dear Warren,

*Can you please tell me what the muddy little bits are that I keep shaking out of my coat when I hang it outside? It is frustrating trying to get rid of the mess.*

*From The Young Ains,*

Dear Young Ains,

I think your problem might be solitary, nectar-eating, mud-daubing, spider-paralyzing wasps – yes, mud equals wasps...sounds crazy I know, but this is nature in all her magnificent beauty happening right under your noses...umm, I mean right under your coats!! They will also use anywhere

a suitable site can be found – often in holes in pipes or wood, under or on any two-sided structure, hollow garden tools or in the folds of clothes left outside.

The adult wasp, which do not form colonies to defend nests and is not aggressive unless extremely provoked and usually harmless to man if left alone, is a small black native wasp, about the size of a European Honey Bee but thinner, that feeds on nectar (helping to pollinate our flowers at the same time as it eats) which, in order to make more of them, then needs to make a nest, lay its eggs and ensure a feed for her babies. Spider Wasps range in size from about 3 and a half to 35mm long, the bigger ones mostly being coloured in orange or yellow banded with black but still non-aggressive to humans. Only the females carry a stinger.

To do this the female wasp gathers mud from a puddle or damp area, carrying small parcels back to her nest site between her front legs, and using a buzzing noise to 'stick' or settle the mud evenly, she slowly cements each mud parcel to the last, building a nest divided into chambers, one for each egg she'll lay.

She then searches out a spider; running along the ground or on bushes, sometimes jumping whilst flicking her wings and antennae, catching and paralysing it with her venom, she then deposits an egg into the abdomen of the spider and carries it back to her mud nest. She installs it in the first chamber and builds a dividing wall to enclose the spider. She repeats these steps, as many times as she feels is right. When she is finished you'd see a longish smattering of mud that may

*Continued on page 12...*



A WASP BUILDING HER NEST



# WORDS OF WISDOM

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

...continued from page 11...

contain 4 or 6 compartments or more. These mud nests will vary in shape according to the different species of the many mud-nesting wasps we have, some rough-finished some very smooth, some making bottle-shaped urns. Some wasps are very particular as to what spider it will hunt and others will take a variety of the same family or genus but a different species of spider for each egg it lays. It is known however that the size of the host influences whether the wasp's egg will develop as a male or female; larger prey yield the larger females, males being always smaller.

When the egg hatches the grub needs to feed inside the nest and will slowly devour the paralysed spider/s that mum prepared for it, eating the internal organs but leaving the vital ones that will keep the

spiders alive a bit longer until the grub spins its silken cocoon to pupate into its final stage to become a wasp. Gruesome eh?

Speaking of the cocoons, to get out of these is not always easy so there are different methods devised to enable that to happen. Some species spin a cocoon that have built-in lines of weakness which will tear easily from inside, other pupae will cut their way out, still others secrete what is known as cocoonase, a fluid the pupae can release to soften the cocoon, and others are made with a one-way hole which allows escape from within.

But whichever way it happens the circle is completed! Isn't nature wonderful?

Mud Daubers are great to have around your garden or outside your house, as they will help

NEST PROVISIONED WITH SPIDERS FOR THE LARVAE TO EAT



to control your spider and bug numbers. ■

*Warren the Wise*

LARVAE DISTURBED FROM THEIR COCOONS BEFORE TRANSITION TO WASP COMPLETED





# MAMMAL MONITORING

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By Brad Blake

*As a passionate conservationist I have been working with threatened species over the past 6 years. I currently manage ProCon Pest & Wildlife Management which specialises in feral cat control and fauna surveying.*

Currently in conjunction with the Yarram Yarram Landcare Network we are conducting studies into status, distribution and occurrence of the Spotted-tailed Quoll *Dasyurus maculatus* (also referred to as the tiger quoll) within the JARR catchment of the Strzelecki Ranges. Spotted-tailed Quoll (STQ) populations right across Victoria, excluding the North East of the state, are extremely fragmented and declining at a rapid rate. The last two STQ records from the Strzelecki's are from 1998 and 1999.

Our initial task comprised

of taking a number of environmental measurements in order to find suitable habitat. We looked for areas with good forest structure which comprised of hollow fallen logs, hollow bearing trees, wombat holes and anything else that could be used by STQ as a potential den site. Once we had our sites selected we started surveying for prey species density, where we conducted a number of spotlighting nights to gather information on arboreal and terrestrial mammals. We searched for large forest Owls such as the Powerful Owl (*Ninox strenua*), as they are good indicators for STQ prey species such as possums and gliders.

We also searched for signs of invasive predator species with the help of "Bidgi" - the cat/fox detection dog along with spotlighting nights. We have observed a strong population of foxes along with 3 feral cat sightings. It is rare for a fox or cat to predate on an adult STQ, however young quolls under 1 year of age are readily taken. We found that the riparian



BIDGI THE FERAL CAT/FOX DETECTION DOG.

zones of the JARR have dense forest structure with abundant potential den sites and prey species for STQ's to exist, however the lack of continual and connecting tracts of suitable habitat is of concern for STQ as they require large home ranges (male STQ can occupy territories of up to 3,000ha depending on prey densities females occupy around 600ha). STQ naturally occur at low densities, and in an area like the Strzelecki Ranges they will be hard to detect.

We remain hopeful that STQ

still exist, and in the meantime we may detect other rare and threatened species on our cameras and hair traps, such as the Long-nosed Bandicoot or Eastern Pygmy Possum.

We are deploying 11 motion sensor cameras and over 50 hair funnels within each suitable habitat site in the hope of finding STQ's and other threatened species.

We will continue to keep you all up to date with our progress over the next five months... ■

## ARE YOU ENJOYING READING THIS NEWSLETTER?

*If so please tell us.*

We put a lot of time and effort into bringing this newsletter to you and are concerned that since it has gone electronic it is not being used to the same level as a print copy.

Therefore we want to hear from you to gauge what level of readership there is at present. There is no judgement in this. We all know that emailed items don't get the readership of a hard copy.

We want to know how many people read our newsletter.

**Please email the office and let us know that you read it. [Sally-AnnH@wgcm.vic.gov.au](mailto:Sally-AnnH@wgcm.vic.gov.au)**

**A simple "Yes I read it" in the subject line is all we need.**

If we do not get enough responses we will consider dropping the electronic newsletter as a service we provide our members.



# PROJECT UPDATES

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By Sally-Ann Henderson

### Landcare 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Grants

**Wonyip Landcare group and the Corner Inlet Blackberry Action Group are both coming to the end of the delivery of their respective projects.**

Congratulations to both sub groups for the excellent leadership and enthusiasm by which you have conducted yourselves and delivered your projects.

#### **WONYIP LANDCARE GROUP**

Wonyipites (Wonyipians? What are they called?) are passionate about the tiger quoll and they have had a long term vision to provide as much habitat as they can for this shy threatened carnivore whilst creating a wildlife corridor for other species to travel from habitat to habitat. The quoll/wildlife corridor has been growing little by little as the group obtains funding through various sources to keep the momentum growing. It has now crossed multiple properties and connected a number of sections of regrowth forest. It is wonderful to see a group with a clear vision and a passion to keep building on their past

successes.

The group are preparing to plant 1000 overstorey species to extend their corridor. This will bring their project of weed control and revegetation to a close.

#### **CORNER INLET BLACKBERRY ACTION GROUP**

CIBAG, on the other hand, have focused on the coastal zone south of the South Gippsland Highway. Their objective was to eradicate blackberry. The blackberry thickets provide harbour for vermin. The migratory birds that feed on the Corner Inlet shoreline are greatly threatened by foxes, so the loss of their habitat is a win for the protection of these internationally important species. They have been removing blackberry infestations on both private and public land. This includes the Great Southern Rail Trail, waterways and coastal properties that back onto Corner Inlet. Landholders participate in the project with a 50:50 ratio of cost sharing. Another great project. ■



EARLY DAYS OF THE QUOLL CORRIDOR



EXCELLENT GROWTH OF REPLANTED CORRIDOR



BLACKBERRY SPRAYING ALONG THE AGNES RIVER SHOWS HIGH SIGNS OF SUCCESS

Continued on page 15...



# PROJECT UPDATES

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By Sally-Ann Henderson

...continued from page 14...

### Saltmarsh project

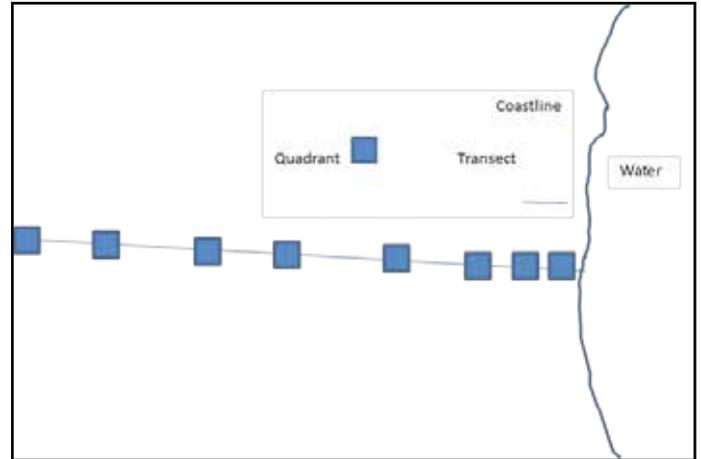
Continuing on with the great saltmarsh protection work of previous years, I am happy to report that there are two more areas that are being protected this season.

An area of saltmarsh on the Tarra River and a paddock at McLoughlin's Beach is being returned to swamp scrub and saltmarsh.

Part of the process of undertaking our saltmarsh work is to measure the quality of the vegetation so that we can see if there are changes over time. This work is an important component to understand what the impact of the exclusion of stock is having on the vegetation. Is it worth the investment? Are mangroves encroaching as the climate changes? How long does it take for the ecosystem to recover from grazing? What impact does protection have on biodiversity

and weed invasion? These are some of the questions that need answering.

A methodology we are using has been developed especially for us by Paul Boone from Victoria University. He is an expert in the field of saltmarsh and mangroves, particularly in southern waters. The saltmarsh assessment includes an inventory of the threats such as pollution, weeds, drainage controls and grazing. Transects are then selected across an area of varied representational vegetation. Transects are perpendicular to the water frontage. Metre square quadrants are then assessed along the transects at varying intervals. The species and the percentage of area that they cover are recorded. This includes native species, pasture and weed species. The number of mangrove plants



and seedlings are also recorded. This is because the extent of mangroves in our area is likely to increase as conditions warm. This will further decrease the area of the already threatened saltmarsh ecosystem.

With this data recorded as a baseline, we can go back in future years to see what changes have occurred. In much of what we do in Landcare projects, it is obvious what changes have occurred

over time as the trees grow. Saltmarsh plants may grow only a few centimetres high, so a more detailed analysis is needed. Along with photographs, there will be the data needed to truly see if our efforts are achieving our aims.

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



LEFT: JUVENILE WHITE MANGROVE; RIGHT: RECLAIMED SALTMARSH ON NOORAMUNGA



Continued on page 16...



# PROJECT UPDATES

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By Sally-Ann Henderson

...continued from page 15...

### Communities for Nature project

The Communities for Nature- Jack and Albert River Restoration Project has been an icon of the Network for the last four years.

It has had an unprecedented level of funding for blackberry control, allowing landholders to have a season of blackberry control with the aim that they would then continue to maintain the land into the future with follow up actions. Roadsides, some riparian zones and some public land has also

been sprayed as part of the works of our partners.

The project has protected many hectares of remnant vegetation ranging from Warm & Cool Temperate Rainforest in the top of catchment to Lowland Forest and Swampy Scrub in the valleys. It also achieved connection of patches of vegetation by building corridors and shelterbelts.

We have worked hand in glove in conjunction with our

JARR partners HVP, Wellington Shire, and the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority. By pooling our resources and having a shared focus for where we work in the catchment, YYLN has leveraged additional on-ground works. This includes the protection of waterways through fencing and willow removal followed by revegetation. Retarding erosion of riparian zones and steep slopes has occurred through revegetation and the exclusion

of stock by fencing of water courses.

These activities have contributed to water quality improvements downstream flowing into Nooramunga Marine Reserve as well as improved farm land and biodiversity.

Our annual report will have the final totals for the project as the on-ground works are being finished off this month. ■

### Seedbank

**The YYLN Seedbank is a valuable resource which has recently seen a major overhaul to ensure our seeds are viable and stored correctly.**

This has included a thorough audit to determine what species of seed is actually in storage and the quantity of each seed type.

Once this was established, viability testing of seed was undertaken which was an enormous task delivered by Kaye Proudly. The results of this testing has identified what seed is unlikely to be viable and those that have a few more years left in them.

The seed that is unlikely to be viable will be scattered appropriately in a location that would benefit from any seed that could germinate. This overhaul has helped determine what species of seed now needs replacing and by when.

The Seedbank is a vital resource for future local revegetation

projects and has the ability to generate limited income, if kept in working operation.

Ideally we would love it if the seedbank was more revolving- New seed coming in as the current seed is used up. Unfortunately since the finish of the Mullungdung to Coast project the seedbank has been underutilised. It is exciting that a new project with be doing some direct seeding of shelterbelts in the JARR.

Direct seeding is cost effective and greatly reduces the labour demands of revegetation efforts. It is particularly useful in creating shelterbelts in paddocks. If you are considering creating some new shelterbelts on your farm direct seeding may be the way to go.

Thank you to our volunteers; Kaye, John, Marcia and Anne who are commended for their efforts and time invested into this valuable facility. We would love some more volunteers to help out in keeping our



seedbank operational. There are a range of jobs that you can help with. Seed collection, fulfilling orders, doing the

seeding and even computer work are all jobs that will support this community facility. ■

Continued on page 17...



# PROJECT UPDATES

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By Sally-Ann Henderson

...continued from page 16...

### In the Pipeline

#### Healthy Soils

The Healthy Soils project continues to deliver work to improve agriculture production across the region. Farm management plans, pasture demonstration trials and workshops are all underway. A full report of the autumn/winter break pasture results will be available in the next edition of the newsletter as the late rains have delayed the assessments and results are not yet in for this season.

#### Back to the Future - JARR Biodiversity Blueprint version 2

Maps covered every table, as people gathered around each one to plot and colour and shade where they would like future works to be undertaken. That was a few years ago now, and what was supposed to be a 20 year vision for on-ground works in the JARR catchment was born under the name the Jack and Albert River Restoration Project's Biodiversity Blueprint.

With support from the Norman Wettenhall Foundation's Landscape Restoration Program and a more than 20 successfully delivered projects from a range of funding sources that list of projects is pretty much now all completed. In about a quarter of the time expected.

So it was a trip back to the future to start to come up with JARR Blueprint version 2. Again the tables were covered with maps and people dropped in throughout the day to compile their wish lists and link up with their neighbours and imagine

what could be done in the future.

This is the beginning of a new vision for the JARR and we will continue to build on the legacies of the past and shape the landscape of the future. It is definitely not too late to add in your project ideas and suggestions as the document will be an evolving one. Why not speak to Sally-Ann or our new and enthusiastic chair Kevin Heggen, or any of the JARR committee.

#### Connecting Calrossie Won Wron and Devon North

The six landholders participating in this project are at various stages of completion with their projects. We have one project site completed, a few of the landholders are currently working on their fences and trees are about to be planted at another site.

It is great to have one of our project sites being the direct seeding of three large shelter belts. On relatively flat dairy country. This is a great chance to try the seeder in an area it has not been well utilised and it taps into the valuable resource that is being held in our seedbank. It will be interesting to watch how the seeds grow and mature into a community over the coming seasons much the same way as many of the Mullungdung to Coast project corridors are now starting to mature.

#### Sustainable Agriculture

Our Recently confirmed project is a Sustainable Agriculture Project from the Federal Government. We will be given some funding to control erosion

on dairy properties. If you're a dairy farmer with an issue with erosion on steep slopes or stream sides please get in touch. You may be eligible for project activities in the coming year.

#### Victorian Landcare Grants (VLG) Program- Enhancing Biodiversity in Yarram and surrounds.

It was a lovely surprise to be able to ring many of our recently submitted Expression of Interest participants to say that we had a source of funds which might suit their desired project.

The VLG program allowed us to quickly arrange for and then conduct site assessments for many EOIs in the target area that indicated they were keen to protect remnants or fence out waterways. Ultimately it led to us being able to fund 5 projects that will be completed by the end of December. Works are yet to get underway but it is a powerful reminder to get your expression of interest into the network so that we can consider your project dreams for future funding opportunities.

#### Community Volunteer Action Grant- Threatened Species Community Participation.

This diverse project with many facets is well underway with some exciting outcomes already.

As you will see on page 18, the details for the "On the Brink" art exhibition on threatened species has been confirmed and we are working with our partners to recruit artists.

Members of the Yarram Urban Group led by a passionate Trevor Colvin have been brainstorming ways to tackle the Indian mynah problem with support being gathered from local members of parliament and surrounding shires to try to get a concerted approach across Gippsland.

Spotlight counts and camera footage has identified a range of species across our landscape including unfortunately far too many foxes and cats for anyone's liking. However a range of native mammals and birds have also been spotted including greater gliders and sugar gliders, owls and antechinus. This information can help shape future projects and funding bids.

Schools and scouts are gearing up to undertake tree planting activities as part of National Tree Day.

#### Volunteer support

You may have seen in the Yarram Standard recently that the Network is to be given a small grant to help support volunteers.

This federal government Volunteer Support Grant can be used for volunteer training and equipment to encourage greater volunteer participation.

Do you need to access training, to get a working with children card or something else so you are better able to volunteer with Landcare? Or does your group need of some new equipment? Please discuss your ideas with Sally-Ann or a member of the YYLN Board. We may be able to assist. ■



# THREATENED SPECIES

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By Helga Binder

Another exciting collaboration is underway between the Yarram Courthouse Gallery, Hedley Range Services and the Yarram Yarram Landcare Network.

After the resounding success of the Botanical Exhibition in 2014, artists are once again invited to participate in a new art competition to highlight Gippsland's threatened plants and animals.

Artists are invited to submit up to two entries that portray at least one plant or animal from supplied species lists.

Very generous prizes of \$500 for first prize, \$300 for second and \$200 for third will be sponsored by local environmental contractors, Hedley Range Services. The entries will be judged by well known Gippsland wildlife artists, Chris and Dawn Stubbs.

Entry forms are available from the Yarram Courthouse Gallery and available for download on their website: [www.yarramcourthousegallery.com](http://www.yarramcourthousegallery.com) ■



Monkey orchid (*Dracula simia*) is an orchid species, native to the rain forests of Ecuador. It can bloom year-round and has the scent of a ripe orange.

# On the Brink

South Gippsland's Threatened Plants and Animals

ART COMPETITION



Orange bellied parrot and Shrazeck gum by Helga Binder

Proudly Sponsored by Hedley Range Services



27TH OCTOBER - 29TH NOVEMBER 2016

OPENING NIGHT FRIDAY 28th OCTOBER 2016, 6.00-7.30pm

Yarram Courthouse Gallery, Cnr Rodgers St and Commercial Rd Yarram

Open every day except Wednesday 10am - 4pm



# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

***If you are someone that has the skills or are willing to learn a few new ones our Landcare Community would greatly benefit from your contribution.***

Our Board has done everything in their power to keep our network strong and thriving but, especially under the current funding climate and the loss of another valuable staff member, there are a range of jobs that could use additional help.

**We are looking for volunteers to assist with the following:**

Writing articles of interest for our quarterly newsletter

Assisting in our engagement with schools, especially going out with school groups to plant trees

Assisting in the organisation and running of events such as our Annual BBQ and AGM

Updating of our three websites:

[www.yarramlandcare.org](http://www.yarramlandcare.org)

[www.jarproject.org](http://www.jarproject.org)

[www.yylnreveg.org](http://www.yylnreveg.org)

Administration of our Facebook page

Updating membership database

Please contact Helga Binder on 0432 141 843 or [helga@peterhull.com.au](mailto:helga@peterhull.com.au) to discuss.

*“I used to think the top environmental problems were biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse and climate change.*

*I thought that with 30 years of good science we could address those problems.*

*But I was wrong.*

*The top environmental problems are selfishness, greed and apathy and to deal with those we need a spiritual and cultural transformation.*

*And we scientists don't know how to do that”.*

*Gus Speth, environmental lawyer and advocate*



# NATIONAL CONFERENCE

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

**Nominations are now open for the 2016 Bob Hawke Landcare Award, which celebrates a champion of the national Landcare movement. The award acknowledges the role that former Prime Minister, the Hon. Bob Hawke AC, played in elevating Landcare from a grass-roots community initiative to a national movement with strong government support.**

**Nominations for the 2016 Bob Hawke Landcare Award close on Sunday 10 July 2016, and the winner announced at the 2016 National Landcare Awards gala dinner on Thursday 22 September in Melbourne.**

**The winner will receive a prize of \$50,000 to develop their knowledge and skills in sustainable land management.**



**We encourage you to promote this to your networks or nominate someone deserving today.**

**For further information contact: Natalija Gajic, Event Manager | Landcare Australia Ltd**

**Phone : 02 8440 8812 Fax: 02 9412 1060**

**Address: Level 1, 6 Help Street Chatswood NSW 2067**

**Postal address: PO Box 5666 West Chatswood NSW 1515**

**OR**

**Visit [www.nationallandcareconference.org.au](http://www.nationallandcareconference.org.au) for further information or to register!**

