



# YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NEWS

Vol: 28 Spring/Summer 2018

## FEATURES

Bug Blitz Days  
JARR short film festival  
National Landcare Conference  
Victorian Drought Support



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# EVENTS CALENDAR

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

**Newsletter design and production is driven by volunteers on behalf of the Landcare Community. If you have any stories, questions or great photos we look forward to hearing from you.**

### Editorial Team

Melissa Ainsworth, Helga Binder and Wally the Wombat.

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### Deadlines

17 May 2019 is the deadline for the Autumn/Winter 2019 contributions.

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### Cover photo

Local children participating in the Bug Blitz day.

*Photo courtesy: Peter Hill*

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### **YARRAM URBAN WORKING BEE**

*When:* Wednesday 14 Nov 2018 from 4 pm

*Where:* Yarram Bicentennial Gardens

### **SEED COLLECTION TRAINING**

*When:* Friday 16 Nov 2018 10am - 3pm

*Where:* 1091 Tarra Valley Rd, Tarra Valley

*Contact:* Scott 0467 000 935

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

### **JARR SHORT FILM FESTIVAL**

*When:* Friday 23 Nov 2018 6.30 pm

*Where:* Regent Theatre

*Contact:* Scott 0467 000 935

**TICKETS REQUIRED**

The Jack and Albert Rivers Restoration project  
presents

# The JARR Project SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

Featuring short films made by  
Alberton Primary and  
Yarram Secondary College students,  
exploring the Jack and Albert Rivers

Friday 23rd November  
Regent Theatre, Yarram 6.30pm

★ Free entry ★

Supper provided  
Drinks at bar prices

Tickets available [www.eventbrite.com.au/e/jarr-short-film-festival-tickets-51501218531](http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/jarr-short-film-festival-tickets-51501218531)

# FROM THE OFFICE

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK



*The YYLN office has been a hive of activity in recent times with Board members jumping into the fray to make sense of a mountain of archived material and resources accumulated since the office first opened.*

We now have clear, workable systems in place for all who use the office. Archives are catalogued so that finding historical information should be easy. The plethora of resource material available to our members has also been catalogued so, if you need a bit of information regarding weed control, indigenous matters or planting guides please call the office and you will have it.

The other thing that has been accomplished is policies and procedures that we hope will lead to greater consistency with how things are handled.

A big thank you needs to go to the WGCMA for their support over the last six months and in particular for their funding of a temporary project officer. Jill Vella brought a wealth of Landcare experience with her and she went above and beyond the call of duty to help us out. Our heartfelt thanks go to her.

We are delighted to finally welcome Scott Elliott as our new coordinator (2.5 days per week) and Caitlin Jackson as our new Project Officer (1 day per week). Here are their responses to a few of the questions we know some of our members would like answers to.

### Scott Elliott



#### **What was your role prior to joining Landcare?**

I worked with Jacobs Australia as an environmental management consultant and communication and engagement advisor. I did this for infrastructure and community projects all across Victoria. Prior to consulting I was a journalist with The Australian Financial Review.

#### **What are you planning for your property at Devon North?**

I have 30 acres at Devon North that I'm already running a handful of steers on. In the future I hope to run sheep and establish an awesome vegetable garden. I'm focusing on controlling ragwort, blackberries and Scotch thistle this spring/summer and have been trialing a number of native plant species on the place, including Austral Mulberries down by the spring.

#### **You attended the National Landcare Conference, any highlights?**

During a field trip to the Sunshine Coast hinterland I met with members of the Burung Landcare Group near Maleny. They have a number of

initiatives underway including a bird box program where they are repurposing wheelie bins for powerful owl habitat and a 'roving restorers' program whereby landowners band together to deliver projects on neighbouring properties.

#### **What most excites you about this role?**

The opportunity to work alongside amazing Landcarers who are passionate about the environment, their region and the future. In a similar vein, the Mentoring program we have underway is an excellent opportunity to encourage new Landcarers to join our network and for our experienced members to share their knowledge with them.

### Caitlin Jackson



#### **Where did you come from?**

I grew up in Wheelers Hill in suburban Melbourne and spent summer holidays in Gippsland, in particular in the far east of Victorian coast. I gained a degree in Agricultural Science after secondary school and landed a job with the Department of Primary Industries in Bairnsdale where I was a pest management officer

for 18 months before relocating back to Melbourne. For the last 6 years, I lived in Esperance Western Australia where I worked for environmental not-for-profit organisations and was a drone operator for a couple years for a survey company, before returning to Victoria in August this year.

#### **What was your role prior to joining landcare?**

Before this role with Yarram Yarram Landcare Network, I was the youth education project officer at South Coast Natural Resource Management for four and a half years. I worked closely with schools in Esperance running excursions and in-class activities that focussed on teaching the kids about why the local environment, including the Ramsar listed Lake Warden Wetland System, are significant as a refuge for migratory shorebirds. It was a great experience!

#### **Can you tell us about your experience with 'mashing passion'?**

Haha yes, for those who don't know, 'mashing passion' is about mashing two passions or hobbies together to create a new passion/hobby. In my case, it was mixing bike riding and bird watching as part of an event I delivered through one of my projects at South Coast NRM. I was inspired by 70+ year old Esperance Bird Observers' Group member, Mike Gibbs who not only has a passion for birds but also enjoys getting around Esperance on his deadly treadly every day. I reckon bird-biking will take off! ■



# NATIONAL CONFERENCE

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By Helga Binder

*The 2018 National Landcare Conference was informative, inspiring and very exciting when Kathleen Brack our Regional Landcare Coordinator won the national Young Landcare Leader Award.*

Up against a fierce team of passionate young Landcarers from around the nation, Kathleen's work with Intrepid Landcare changed the landscape for young people in Landcare in Victoria and was obviously seen as extremely innovative by the judges.

Hosted by Pip Courtney, ABC Landline, the conference got off to a great start with a keynote address on Landcare strategy for climate change by Professor Mark Howden, Director of the Climate Change Institute, Australian National University.

It was chilling to note that current predictions for increases in temperature are even worse than expected 12 months ago, and that we need to get emissions down to zero by 2050 if we wish to contain the increase to below 1.5 degrees. This was the information we didn't really want to hear.

Thankfully, the rest of the conference focussed on inspiring us to bigger and better things. The conference theme **'Building a Better Tomorrow'** was supported by strong presentations in the four key areas - sustainable agriculture, community in action, partnerships and environment.

A recurrent theme in many



THE GIPPSLAND CONTINGENT HELPING KATHLEEN BRACK CELEBRATE HER BIG WIN

presentations was that of the lack of government commitment to the funding of staff to enable the volunteers to concentrate on the on ground work. The most inspiring presentation came from Landcare NSW who actually decided to prove once and for all the value of Landcare work in terms that governments understood. They commissioned an infrastructure company, Aurecon Australia Ltd to develop a framework to analyse the economic, social and environmental benefits delivered through Landcare networks in NSW.

**The results of the study indicated that the worth of the Landcare work to the NSW economy was \$500 million per year and the return on investment for supporting landcare is more than \$6 for every \$1 invested.**

On the strength of this, Landcare NSW secured \$15 million from the state government to go towards a local landcare coordinator initiative.

The other exciting thing about

this work is that a framework now exists for measuring the benefit of Landcare to the economy and it would be available to all states to use to do a similar accounting. This could change the landscape of funding in the future and I fervently hope that Landcare Victoria does the same for us.

Landcare Australia also gave a very interesting presentation on the trends in Corporate Social Responsibility and how Landcare could benefit from a growing awareness by the corporate sector of their need to take their share of responsibility for how our planet is travelling. This awakening of conscience may well help us when we begin to go hunting for corporate sponsorship for some of our projects.

Another fascinating session was a panel discussion on Women in Landcare. It was found that women who had spent their lives in rural areas and on farms were the quiet achievers when it came to landcare but were very reluctant to take on decision-making roles such as representing their communities

on Landcare boards or other organisational committees. They generally were quite happy for their husbands to take on those roles while they worked on quietly in the background.

Women from urban areas who came from different life experiences, however, felt much more equal to the task of contributing to decision-making discussions and roles when they moved to rural environments.

There was so much information packed into the three days of the conference that it was impossible to hear it all. Luckily there were five of us who were sponsored by the WGCMA to attend and so we can compare and share the information we gathered.

Attending the conference together also gave us the chance to strengthen our ties across our region. We all share similar goals and face similar basic issues in our networks. To have the opportunity to connect with each other strengthens not only our knowledge base but also our Landcare goals for the region. I am very grateful I was chosen to attend. ■

# AGM REPORT

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK



By Melissa Ainsworth

*This years AGM saw several highlights for what was another pleasurable, well attended and entertaining night out.*

One of the highlights included a preview of the upcoming JARR (Jack and Albert River Restoration) project – the *Short Film Festival* to be held at the Regent Theatre on November 23.

The JARR Committee have run a program which has included students from the Alberton Primary and Yarram Secondary schools. Along with the support of Mike Green from Drift Media, the project has involved the students learning about the environment within the JARR area by making 5 minute films.

Temporary Project Officer, Jill Vella, produced an excellent short film which showcased the project and the works that have been undertaken over the past decade, displaying drone footage of parts of the catchment. The footage included a birds' eye view down through the Albert River from

further up the catchment, down gentle waterfalls, and out to the saltmarsh towards Corner Inlet. This perspective showed the importance of riparian vegetation and the interaction from one end of the catchment to the other. Going by what was presented, I am really looking forward to seeing what the kids have learned and produce. *Make sure you come along to the Short Film Festival! See page 2.*

The formal part of the meeting included a brief overview of the Chairs report delivered by our Chair Helga Binder. Our Treasurer, John McClumpha also delivered his Treasurers Report. Following these two reports, Cathy Trembath then ably explained the reasons behind the suggested constitutional changes, which were all adopted by the members present.

With the Board positions declared vacant, Cathy, who was acting Returning Officer, ran through the nominations for all the positions. With the same amount of nominations received, as vacant positions, we saw the following persons elected for a two year term.



### Executive Members -

Chair – Helga Binder

Vice Chair – David McAninly

Treasurer – John McClumpha

Secretary – Vacant

Ordinary Members –

Melissa Ainsworth

Michael Hobson

David McAulay

Libby Balderstone

Jason Pickering

The board will now fill the vacant Secretary position.

We warmly welcome back a returning former board member, David McAulay, and our two new board members, Libby from the Woodside group and Jason from the Albert River group.

A presentation was made to our outgoing board members, Anne Hill, Cathy Trembath, Trevor Colvin and Andrew Missen. Helga and David presented each with a small gift and thanked them for their service to the Network over the past two

years.

A big thank you was extended to the WGCMA who have been outstanding in their support of the Network during the transition period between staff leaving and commencing employment. We were fortunate to have Jill Vella on secondment from the WGCMA as our Project Officer and we thank Jill for all the work she did in delivering our projects.

Thanks were also given to Sue MacAulay and the Mirradong crew who produced our lovely floral arrangements displayed on our tables.

And finally, a big thank you to the Yarram Scouts who served our meals and cleared our tables, and all the Football Club members who worked in the kitchen and in the Bar.

Our guest speaker of the night was David Latter, who presented information on the control of European Wasps. This introduced wasp is a big threat to our environment, potentially causing catastrophic damage to biodiversity, not to mention livestock and humans. David's presentation showed the life cycle of the European Wasp, their nest types and different recommended control methods. [For further information there is a closed Facebook page available for more information – European Wasp Control Project](#)

Instructions for making bait stations can also be found at – [http://winetasmania.com.au/resoures.downloads/European\\_Wasp\\_baiting\\_instructions\\_2016.pdf](http://winetasmania.com.au/resoures.downloads/European_Wasp_baiting_instructions_2016.pdf)

*The night wound up as it started, with lots of social interaction and goodwill. ■*





# JARR SHORT FILMS

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By Michael Hobson & Alberton Primary school students

*One of the most exciting projects to have been developed in our network for some time has been the JARR short film festival.*

*With funding from the Wettenhall Environment Trust and the State Government, and guided by Mick Green from Drift Media, local school children were engaged in a film making process. This included gathering their own environmental information, interviewing local landholders and Landcare members, taking photos and videos and then putting it all together into short films.*

*These films will be shown to the public on Friday November 23 at the Regent Theatre, Yarram. Make sure you grab a ticket and come and check out these aspiring cinematographers, directors and writers.*

**Here are some of the student reflections on this project.**

### **Daniel**

I learnt how to do a project on iMovie and I learnt to put a video over someone talking.

My favorite thing was to put the project together and video people. The challenges were to get videos and photos. My growth was making a project on iMovie.

### **Callum**

I learnt what the water cycle is. It is when rain falls into dams, rivers, oceans and tanks and when the sun is really hot, then the water disappears and this is called evaporation.

### **Natasha**

When I was making my water cycle poster, I learnt what the water cycle is and I also learnt how to edit a movie or short film on iMovie. I edited the time lapses and helped with the voice over. In the water cycle I learnt the 4 steps of the water cycle and how it works (evaporation, condensation, precipitation and collection).

### **Thomas**

In our documentary project, I learned a lot about plants like how willows are bad for the river and why. Another thing I learned was how to make a basic movie maker project on the computer. I enjoyed piecing together videos and photos on the computer because I got to practice a new skill. One challenge was trying to make a script that was short enough to go in the video, but still contain all the information. I made growth in my computer skills and my ability to edit videos.

### **Hector**

I really enjoyed making the documentary. The hardest part was trying to get the documentary to make sense and flow because some of the recordings we couldn't use because they were too



SECRET FILMING BUSINESS BEING SHARED WITH STUDENTS

quiet and there was lots of background noise. My favorite part was when we were recording and I was recording William. I learnt that food webs are a real thing. I also learnt when and where they take place.

### **Katilyn**

I learnt how to use Movie Maker and to work with a partner that I don't usually work with. At the start I knew nothing about the water ways, but now I know that willows de-oxygenate the water and a lot of other stuff. I enjoyed getting the footage of the Jack River.

### **Will**

Doing the JARR project was

quiet a lot of fun. Some of the challenges were finding information and getting enough footage. I learnt a lot about using Movie Maker and how to piece together a video. I learnt a bit about fish and a "tonne" about the health of rivers and how to find a healthy one. I quite liked getting footage even though it was hard and I also loved piecing it together.

### **Moni**

I learned a lot of things at the high school like you should check your volume on the iPad so you can hear it. I enjoyed spending time at the high school and working with them. I learned that there are different

...continued on page 07

# JARR SHORT FILMS

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK



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ways to make a documentary and how to work Movie Maker. My favorite part is putting the documentary together which I found challenging as we had to change it a lot.

### **William**

In the Drift Media sessions I learned how to record properly, how to make a movie and how to use iMovie and green screens. I enjoyed going to the river and collecting samples and later looking at them. I was challenged by putting a movie together and making it not good, but great. My all time favorite thing was having amazing people come to help and my growth was from making stuff from good to great!

### **Nic**

When Mick and I started this project we had no idea what we were doing. We ended up understanding what we were doing. We started a project and then we had a big problem. The computer kept freezing. Mrs Ireland got Mick Green to come in and help us all. Then we started again, except on iMovie and had it done in a day.

### **Charlie**

At the start of the whole project I thought it would be easy. But oh boy I was wrong. There's been points that I've wanted to just give up and go and do a poster on the water cycle but I thought "no that's not fair to my partner Ashton" who has been so patient waiting for me to fight with the computer, but in the end I enjoyed the project.

### **Brandon**

While doing this project I learnt to use iMovie and make silly movies. I also learnt that if the water cycle was not real



ALBERTON PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS INTERVIEWED LOCAL LANDCARERS TO MAKE THEIR FILMS

everything would dry up. I also learnt that a drop of water can actually stay in the water cycle for nearly 10-12 year. What I found challenging was to get the facts down. My favorite thing was to learn to make an iMovie.

### **Katelyn**

I really enjoyed making this documentary, but it was very hard to find all of the information because there was nothing on the internet about storm damage on the rivers. Another of the challenges was that Gavin, one of the landholders, had just had surgery so he wasn't allowed to go in the rain so the interview had heaps of background noise. It really helped Chloe and I that the interviewers came and we got to take photos. I learned a lot from Mick Green about how to use iMovie.

### **Josh**

I found it fun learning how to use movie maker and iMovie. I also did lots of research which was the hardest part because I didn't have any information. I also had lots of grand ambitions. It was lots of fun learning about photography from an expert who works for National Geographic.

### **Mick**

During the JARR project I learned how to make a movie and put videos and sounds over a slide. I enjoyed watching the documentary when we had finished. It was challenging interviewing Mick in the rain. My favorite things would be making the movie. My growth was using iMovie because I now know how to make an awesome movie.

### **Travis**

On Thursday we had Drift Media come to our school and

I learned things about iMovie. We learnt that the water cycle has more than evaporation and rain.

### **Jack**

I learnt a lot when I was doing this documentary. I didn't know half of the stuff I know now. I didn't know how unhealthy the willows made the river. Somethings I enjoyed were catching the bug Will and I caught at the Albert River. Another thing I enjoyed was getting Mick Green from Drift Media in to the school.

### **Chloe O**

I learned how to use iMovie on the iPad. I enjoyed nearly having our film finished in one day. My challenge was trying to research stuff about the river. My favorite thing was learning to put talking over the photos. I made growth with being able to use Movie Maker. ■



# BUG BLITZ DAYS

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By Peter Hill

Yarram Urban Landcare group delivered two exciting days of activity for the district's primary school students at White Woman's waterhole, Won Wron on Thursday August 16 for Yarram and Gormandale primary schools. The planned session on Wednesday August 15 was postponed because of a rare day of rain but Alberton, Woodside and St Mary's Yarram Primary Schools had their activities on Friday October 12.

Thanks to grant funding sourced by Urban volunteer member Sally-Ann Henderson. The Urban group was able to employ Bug Blitz Inc to deliver the two full days of activities at White Woman's Waterhole and transport all the students with their teachers and assistants there with the use of two local bus lines.

Under the guidance of Dr John Caldwell students from Yarram, Gormandale, Woodside, Alberton primary schools and St Mary's Yarram were introduced to the variety of biodiversity to be found in our environment.

Many students had the chance to handle spiders and unusual insects as well as identifying local scorpions and multiple insects found within the immediate location, before setting out on a discovery walk



GLAD TO SEE THEY DON'T HAVE TO SIT ON BUGS

with sweeping nets and beating trays to discover the biodiversity of invertebrates in the bush around the waterhole.

The students were enthralled by Johns' demonstrations of how different spiders react to threats of danger and how many insects can appear to be something they are not. One of the students wrote about this session:

*After recess we went to John to study spiders and insects. First John got out his spider called Precious so she could climb on our arm. Precious crawled on my arm and it felt so weird. Then we went down to the waterhole path to find some bugs and insects.*

### Krista

Ester Lloyd introduced the students to birds of prey and how to spot them using field guides and binoculars. Because the activities were taking place during the middle of the day, when birds are least active, a trail of lifelike birds of prey were hidden in the bush and students were shown how to spot the likely habitat of the various species of birds.

Naturalist Mitch Smith explained



UH OH... THAT MAY BE ONE SPIDER TOO MANY FOR SOME OF US

how native trees germinate and provided the students with a take home, or back to school, experiment on the role fire plays in the germination of a variety of indigenous trees. The students then went for walks to identify some of the local trees that had sprung up around the waterhole since the last controlled burn in the area. The issues around fuel reduction burning were also outlined.

On August 15 Erin Nowak and on October 12 Dr Diedre Marshall introduced the students to a range of macroinvertebrates that can be found in our waterways. Students used nets, sorting trays, digital microscopes, pH and salinity meters to work out

which water bugs live where and make an assessment of the quality of water.

Because the waterhole is currently dry, water from the Flooding Creek near Sale was used. One of the students who enjoyed the activity wrote:

*We had a bucket of water and emptied it into the tray. We found a water termite it was really fast so it took about 5 minutes to catch it. We scooped it up into the ice-cube tray since we didn't want it to die, we put some water into its cell. After that we found some baby water termites they looked really cute. We used a pipette to catch them. We decided to put it into*

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# BUG BLITZ DAYS

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK



...continued from page 08



IT'S A STICKY-LEAFY THING AND... IT... TICKLES...

*one of the water bug containers and take it to the microscope, it looked really cool! Sadly the activity ended I was a bit sad that we had to stop.*

### Vanessa

An introduction to the indigenous history of the region was provided by Electra McLellan in a Gwanee Cultural workshop. Electra took the students on a journey around the waterhole and shared her perspective on what written history may suggest happened there and what the oral history of the first custodians of the area may suggest. One of the students wrote about this activity:

*Electra talked about Aboriginal culture. She talked about how she thought it became White*

*Women's Waterhole. She whispered the ancestor's women and children got slaughtered and that she took a moment to think about them. A big gust of wind came through. That's how she thought White Woman's Waterhole came up. With Electra we went down to the waterhole and she talked about how they wove baskets, they wove them with bush plants.*

### Emma

The feed-back from students and teachers was overwhelmingly positive, and while the Yarram Urban group may not end up recruiting many Landcarers immediately, we are confident the appreciation of the environment the students gained will prove a great benefit to the community in the future.



TEACHING ABOUT BUGS IS BETTER THAN HOLDING THEM

Here are insights from some Woodside Primary School students.

*The white people got the military to kill the aboriginals, so they can have the land to live on. Then we did water health and macroinvertebrates. After that we had recess.*

*We did a botanical fire seed experiment we got given seeds to plant in plastic containers. Then we did birds of prey. We played a game and we went looking for fake eagles and birds. We went back to school. I had a good day and it was awesome.*

### Harvey

*A long time ago the Dream Time story was told of the first people from Gunaikurnai. The man was Borun (a pelican). Borun came a long long way from the hills, he was looking for a place to live. He found this bark canoe so he picked it up. But all of a sudden he kept hearing tapping noise but he looked and he couldn't see anything. So he kept on walking but then he heard it again tap-tap-tap, he still couldn't see anything. So he put*

*the bark canoe down and saw a musk duck named Tuk. Borun likes Tuk and they lived together that's how they created the Gunaikurnai people.*

### Borun and Tuk by Grace

*One stormy night at sea was a ship that had sunk near Ninety Mile Beach shores. There was only one survivor and it was a woman. When she reached the shores she was captured by indigenous people they instantly took her to their tribe. Weeks later Angus McMillian found a deserted Gunaikurnai tribe with items including female clothes and a dead baby. Years past and they couldn't find the woman's body so they stopped looking. People had forgotten the legend over time but some people haven't forgotten.*

### Legend of White Woman Waterhole by Koupah



# LOCAL LANDCARE PROFILES

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

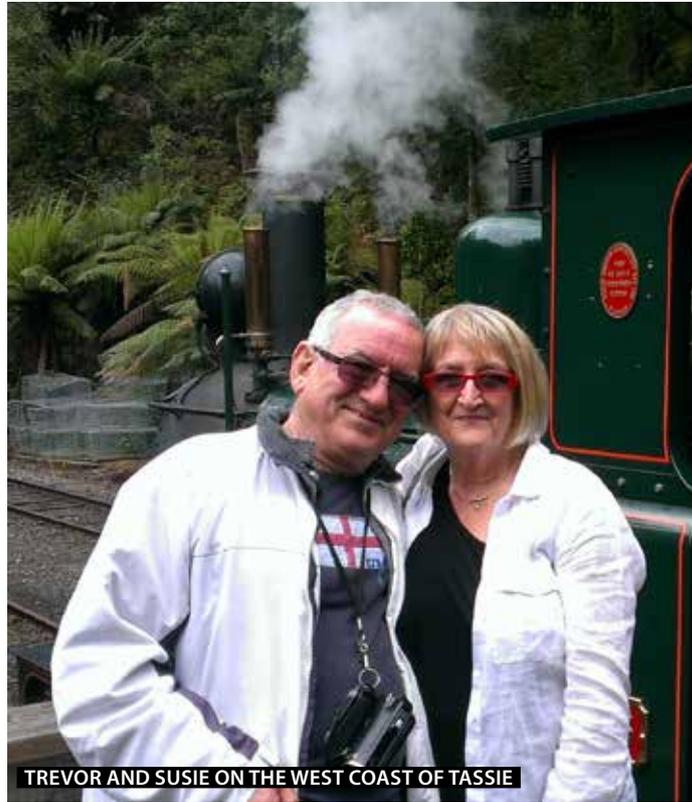
By Melissa Ainsworth

*Traditionally our “Local Landcare profile” articles have been written on property owners who are hands-on at delivering projects within our network. This time we focus on one member who has not only delivered on-ground projects but has formed Landcare groups, promoted the Landcare brand and is a true visionary for improving our environment. You may know him as the “MC bloke at the AGM”, he is Trevor Colvin.*

Born in Trentham in 1943 to a working class family, Trevor was raised as a country kid but, due to limited opportunities in the country, moved to Melbourne chasing a career.

After completing a four year advertising/marketing/communications diploma at RMIT, Trevor worked in the photographic and advertising industries before joining “The Age” newspaper. From here he spent a long on and off career with The Age, including a five year stint publishing magazines in South East Asia based in Hong Kong. He also worked directly with the Chinese Government in Beijing and played a key role in helping set up China’s first ever English-language national daily newspaper. It is still going strong today.

Eventually Trevor left the



TREVOR AND SUSIE ON THE WEST COAST OF TASSIE

corporate world with wife Susie Foletta to start a newspaper software business. The products they developed are still running in some of the biggest (and smallest) newspapers in the US, Canada, South America, and Australasia.

In 2000 Susie and Trevor moved to an 85 acre property in the Strzelecki ranges at Wonyip. They heard about the rare and elusive spot-tailed Tiger Quoll, evidence of which had been found in the Dingo Creek on their property some years earlier. They became excited about the possibility of creating a wildlife sanctuary for the quolls by joining the Cores and Links protected forest to the west of Wonyip with remnant forest in Binginwarri.

Trevor confessed that he knew nothing about Landcare but “let his fingers do the walking”

and found ‘Gippslandcare’ in the Yellow Pages and Phil McGarry (former Regional Coordinator) answered the call. Phil was incredibly helpful and in 2006 the Wonyip Landcare group was formed with local farmer, John Kosta and eight or ten others. Knowing nothing about Landcare, Trevor said “we hooked up with, learnt from and modelled ourselves on the then thriving Madalya Landcare group”.

The planned “quoll corridor” needed to run through Hancock Victorian Plantations (HVP) land so Trevor contacted the then general manager – Owen Trumper. Owen was incredibly supportive and helped the group identify suitable gullies which, due to HVP harvesting methods, would leave native vegetation suitable for quolls in place. Trevor then applied

to the World Wildlife Fund for \$34,000 under the title ‘Highways For Tiger Quolls’. The WWF loved the idea and gave the group money to fund the project.

Post HVP harvesting and over a 3 day weekend in tough terrain, the very steep gullies were planted with thousands of trees. The following year more trees went into the ground and a contractor was funded to continue the work. The ‘highways’ are now beautiful examples of nearly twenty metre tall indigenous triple storey growth corridors. Sadly, the quolls have yet to be sighted.

In 2008 Trevor attended the three day Landcare State Conference and suggested that city people needed to know about Landcare. He proposed that an expo was needed in Melbourne and after much support and pushing from State Government employees, approval was given and a working party formed to plan the event.

The Caulfield Racecourse was the chosen venue and in October 2009 more than 55 Landcare groups and friends of Landcare groups exhibited to promote Landcare. Free bacon and eggs breakfasts were on offer and the public were invited. “It was a big day and it gave the city folk an idea of what Landcare is”, said Trevor. From there Landcare went on to have a presence at the Sustainable Living Expo at Federation Square each year for some time.

Trevor served on the YYLN Board for several years before

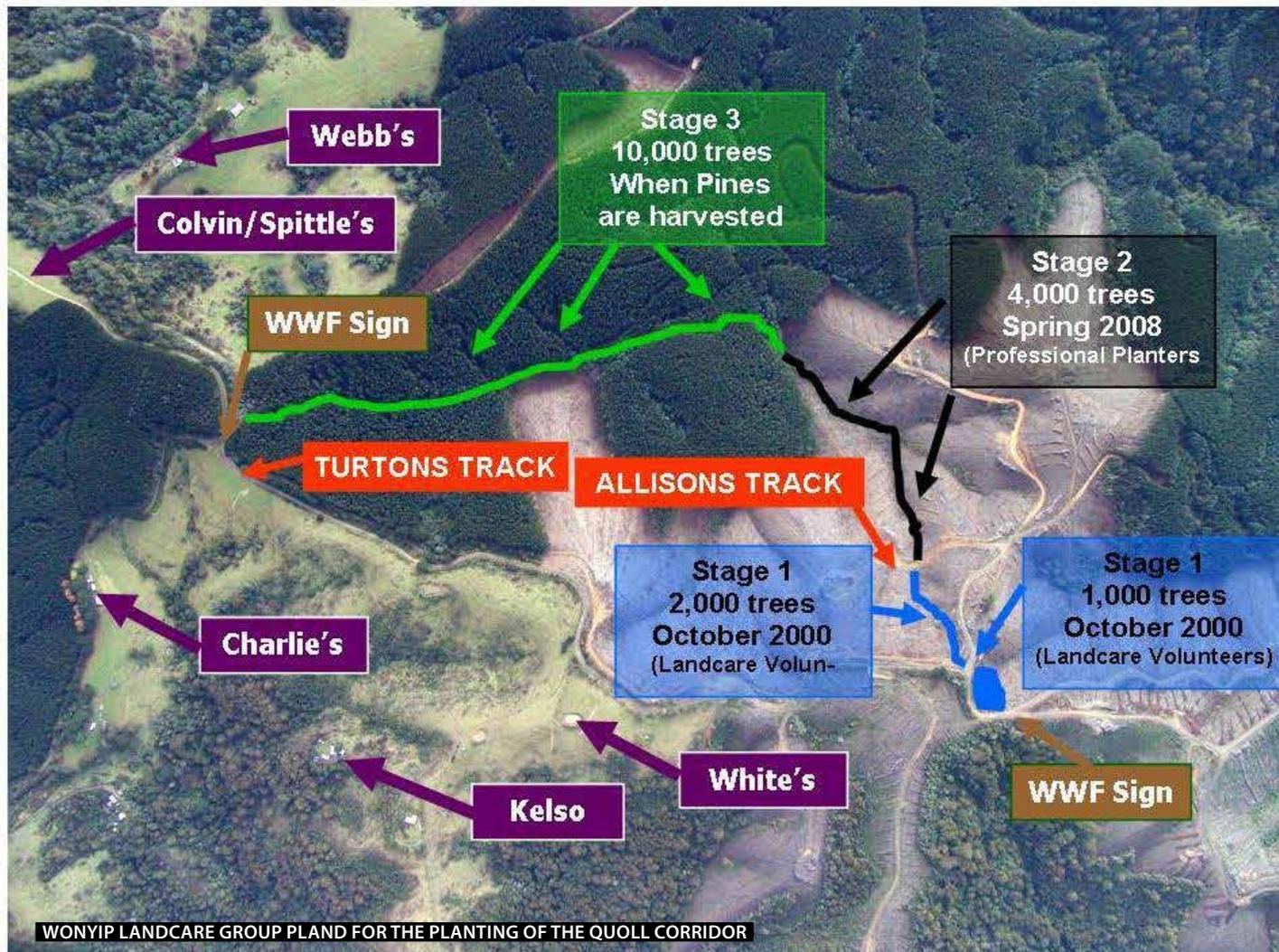
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# LOCAL LANDCARE PROFILES

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK



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returning for an additional term after taking a break to pursue another project.

After selling his Wonyip property and moving to the 'flat lands' he started the Yarram Urban Landcare group. His goal was to show that Landcare isn't just about farms and rural properties. The group has since gone on to have promoted Landcare at the Tarra Festival as well as running a Gorse control project and Bug Blitz days with local schools. The group is also doing a fantastic job of renovating the neglected Yarram Bi-Centennial Gardens. This four year project is getting

close to being ready for return to the public as a community asset.

Trevor now has his eye back on the corporate sector. He is particularly keen to put on the collar and tie and go talk to private sector funders with a view to raising money to help fund coordinator and project officer staff for the YYLN.

*"One of our biggest problems is the uncertainty of funding for staff, which makes keeping the right people difficult and not having quite enough funding to do the job, because we are relying on governments to fund us. We have people working part-time*

*who should be full-time and this is endemic across Landcare. It is time we secured some serious long-term corporate money. It costs a lot of money to find and train staff and if we lose them because their future is uncertain, everyone loses",* said Trevor.

How lucky we are that someone of Trevor's calibre is working within our Network. His passion and his dedication are a credit to him and we have our fingers crossed that he is as successful at raising funds for the Network as he has been in his other projects. ■





# DROUGHT CHECKLIST

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By John Bowman, Agriculture Victoria

### MANAGING THROUGH A DRY SEASON

*This season has been challenging for many farmers, particularly those in the east of the state. Rainfall that has been received, although welcome, arrived too late in the season to produce any substantial spring pasture growth.*

#### **When managing livestock through a dry spring season, try breaking the problem down into manageable components.**

These may include:

- Livestock feeding and health
- Setting priorities for stock to keep and stock to sell
- Protecting water resources
- Developing a backup plan for your stock water
- Maintaining ground cover and protecting top soil
- Making the most of any rainfall or pasture growth when it arrives
- Looking after others involved in the farm business, such as family, employees and neighbours
- Looking after your own health and wellbeing.

#### **What is your strategy for livestock, numbers and class of stock?**

Identify and cull the lower priority, less productive animals. Start by going through the calving cattle herd and pick out the cows not rearing calves, any older cows or poor performers and consider selling them off now. Also consider selling late calving livestock with sore feet, big bad udders or poor temperament.

After pregnancy testing, consider selling any cows tested empty. If you have not weaned autumn calves, then you could save feed by separating the calves and yard weaning onto a mixed ration of hay and pellets or grain. The dry cows can be put out on paddocks with dry roughage. Look after any future breeders, including heifers or young cows, to ensure they will be productive later in the season.

Although a high number of livestock are going through regional saleyards and prices have dropped slightly, prices have not dropped to the extent of many previous droughts, so strategic marketing is still an option. Speak to your stock agent for advice on the best marketing options for your lower priority stock.

Similarly, with sheep, consider culling the older and dry ewes,

wethers and those with sore feet, hard udders, broken mouth. Consider selling these shorn, a few weeks after lambs are weaned.

Think about early weaning of lambs around 12 weeks of age onto a grain and/or hay supplement. If the season doesn't improve you may consider marketing lambs as store lambs.

#### **What are your priority stock, ewes, lambs, cows, steers?**

- Cows with calves at foot.
- Spring calving cows re-joining
- Lamb or calf weaners
- Replacement heifers
- Young ewes (maidens).

#### **What is your feeding strategy?**

##### **Hay, silage, grain, agistment or reduce stock numbers?**

- Aim to fill your silos with best value quality grain that you can access.
- If you get rainfall early and have green feed, apply nitrogen.
- Look for agistment, ideally locally if available or lease blocks.
- Ideally feed whole grain or larger sheep pellets on a trail (in dry weather) to ewes and lambs to get the lambs accustomed to grain and ready for weaning.

- If feeding cattle, ensure there is adequate fibre in the diet.
- Consider using a Stock Containment Area for dry cows or dry ewes.

For more information on drought feeding and management for sheep and cattle, resources are available online at <http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/farm-management/drought>.

#### **Tips for agistment**

Consider exploring options for agistment, as it is possible there is feed available further afield. Normally in a dry year the season cuts out early and the pastures are mainly annuals and native grasses, which can still be adequate feed for dry cattle or dry sheep, if not stocked too heavy.

Early feed usually drops in quality once it dries off and has low protein after the bottom is eaten out of the paddock, around February or March. If you are paying good money for agistment, make sure quality pasture is available. In some areas there will be a green pick but there may not be enough quantity to satisfy the animals requirements. Try to personally inspect the feed availability, to assess the quality and quantity, as the description by the owner or agent could be quite different.

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# DROUGHT CHECKLIST

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK



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Ideally send stock on agistment that are destined not to return home, to help keep transport costs down. For example, steers that can be finished on agistment then sold in local saleyards or direct to processors.

If you can, find local agistment to reduce transport costs. It will also make it easier to inspect the stock. There is no value in paying agistment if the stock is only surviving on a maintenance ration so make sure there is enough feed for the animals to grow.

Be conscious of any biosecurity risks for your stock whilst on agistment, particularly if your animals are running with other stock. For example, you could agist 30 steers in a 500-acre block only to find another 300 cows are added, from another client.

### **What is my stock water strategy, do I have enough stock water?**

Do a quick assessment of your water supplies and storages to see where the strengths and weaknesses are in the stock water system. Repair any leaking pipes, troughs and check supplies regularly.

It's good to consider a backup plan, like purchasing a pump for the creek, sinking a bore or constructing a new dam. Talk to your neighbours too - it

may be possible to share the cost of pumps and pipes to top up dams from the spring flows in local creeks or rivers. If pumping long distances or to high elevation dams, consider an inline pump to boost the flow along the pipe line. Always consult your local water or Catchment Management authority to seek relevant approvals.

If you have a paddock with poor water supply, consider grazing if off early while the pasture still has some moisture in it and the demands on the water supply are lower. Your backup water supply plan should also factor in if water supplies are consumed faster than expected or are subject to a blue green algae bloom during summer months.

### **What is my strategy to protect my pastures from overgrazing?**

Be particularly careful not to overgraze any new pasture varieties, try to give them a rest occasionally and use a longer grazing rotation. Native pasture species also need a rest from time to time, which can be done by rotating the paddocks, rather than set stocking (having all the gates open).

If you need a sacrifice paddock, ideally find a rough paddock, bent grass paddock or Kikuyu paddock. You can't do much

harm to these paddocks and they can be re-sown with a better pasture variety next season.

Stock containment areas are a useful tool to protect soil and pastures by maintaining groundcover and to hold stock until the pasture has recovered once the rain arrives.

<http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/emergencies/recovery/livestock-after-an-emergency/stock-containment-areas>.

### **What is my financial budget? Is it on track and robust enough?**

Prepare a financial budget and look at some 'what if scenarios.' You can do a partial budget with costs, expenses, expected income and costs saved. Cost out feed rations on a cents per kilogram or cents per megajoule of energy basis, to compare the most economical ration for stock. Be sure to also keep your bank manager informed and involved. If you need additional assistance, contact the Rural Financial counselling service on 1300 045 747.

The Drought Feed Calculator app, developed by NSW DPI is a very useful free tool and is available from the App Store or Google Play.

### **What other assistance is available?**

You and your family and employees wellbeing should be a highest priority. Discussing your options with others and seeking advice can be helpful for formulating strategies to manage what can be a stressful time. Farmer discussion groups and sessions, run by Agriculture Victoria or others, can provide great support in working through options. Further information on health support services [www.farmerhealth.org.au/](http://www.farmerhealth.org.au/), [www.beyondblue.org.au](http://www.beyondblue.org.au) phone 1300 224 636, or contact your local GP.

### **On-Farm Drought Infrastructure Support Grants**

On farm Drought Infrastructure Support Grants are available for farmers located in the East Gippsland and Wellington Shires, for improved water infrastructure, stock containment areas, feeding infrastructure, hay and grain storage facilities refer to [www.ruralfinance.com.au](http://www.ruralfinance.com.au) or phone 1800 260 425.

### **Further information on dry seasonal conditions:**

Information is available online at <http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons> or by phoning the Customer Service Centre on 136 186. ■



# DROUGHT SUPPORT

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

AGRICULTURE VICTORIA

## Victorian Drought Support

OCTOBER 2018 ANNOUNCEMENT

The Victorian Government has announced an additional \$24.69 million package to provide further drought support to those in Central and East Gippsland and preparedness support to those in Northern and North West Victoria who are experiencing dry conditions.

This builds on the \$5 million announced by the Victorian Government in September 2018 for farmers in Central and East Gippsland affected by drought conditions and targeted support for preparedness in Northern and North West Victoria.

### FUNDING AVAILABLE

All four regions (East, Central Gippsland, North and North West Victoria) will together receive \$14.87 million of funding.

- \$1 million to help boost wildlife animal control;
- \$1,890,000 for mental health support;
- \$180,000 for the National Centre for Farmer Health to deliver health checks to farmers and community wellbeing support; and
- \$11.8 million additional funding for On-Farm Drought Infrastructure Support Grants.

East and Central Gippsland will together receive a dedicated \$8.82 million package. This includes \$8.45 million in education support plus \$370,000 of funding for Small Business programs. The education support includes:

- \$2.2 million in Back to School Support to help families with the cost of uniforms, shoes and other school items;
- \$5 million to extend the Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund to all students in drought affected areas to ensure children can participate in learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom; and
- \$1.25 million for a Drought Kindergarten Fee Subsidy for all children in the year before school attending kindergarten or residing in one of the two identified drought affected areas, and a one-off grant of \$10,000 for kindergartens to support their continued operation.

Northern and North West Victoria will receive \$1 million for technical and decision-making support for farm businesses.

### ELIGIBLE AREAS

The Local Government Areas in Gippsland are Wellington and East Gippsland LGAs.

The Local Government Areas in Northern and North West Victoria eligible for support are:

- |                      |                      |                |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| • Alpine             | • Hindmarsh          | • Strathbogrie |
| • Benalla            | • Horsham            | • Swan Hill    |
| • Buloke             | • Indigo             | • Towong       |
| • Campaspe           | • Loddon             | • Wangaratta   |
| • Gannawarra         | • Mildura            | • Wodonga      |
| • Greater Bendigo    | • Moira              | • Yarriambiack |
| • Greater Shepparton | • Northern Grampians |                |

# DROUGHT SUPPORT

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK



Program	Information	Target
<b>On-Farm Drought Infrastructure Support Grants</b> \$11.8 million	A grant of up to \$5,000 (ex-GST) per farm business, with matching co-contribution, is available to assist eligible farm businesses implement on-farm drought preparedness infrastructure improvements.	Central and East Gippsland Northern Victoria North West
<b>Technical and decision-making support for farm businesses</b> \$1.0 million	Delivers additional information and advisory services to support farmers during drought and dry conditions. This includes increased technical advice, information and resources focusing on drought preparedness, farm business planning, and other information on livestock and land management.	Northern Victoria North West
<b>Managing Wildlife Program</b> \$1.0 million	Supports the control of wildlife through increased state-wide processing resources and a streamlined application process for drought affected areas under the Authority To Control Wildlife (ATCW) permit system.	Central and East Gippsland Northern Victoria North West
<b>Small Business Financial Counselling and Bus</b> \$0.37 million	A dedicated Small Business Financial Counsellor in the Central and East Gippsland region to support non-agricultural small businesses impacted by drought conditions.  The Small Business Bus will provide business information and free on-board mentoring to small businesses in affected areas.	Central and East Gippsland
<b>Back to School Support</b> \$2.2 million	Families attending Victorian Government Schools can seek assistance for school costs such as school uniforms, books, other essential student learning items and services that are offered by the school in addition to the curriculum.	Central and East Gippsland
<b>Camps, Sport and Excursion Fund</b> \$5.0 million	Provides a school payment for the student to attend school activities like camps; swimming and school-organised sport programs; and excursions.	Central and East Gippsland
<b>Kindergarten Support</b> \$1.25 million	Drought Kindergarten Fee Subsidy - All children attending kindergarten in their year before school can access a free 15 hour per week funded kindergarten program in 2019.  Financial hardship grant for kindergarten services - Community-based kindergarten services can apply for a one-off grant of up to \$10,000 to support their continued operation.	Central and East Gippsland
<b>Mental Health and Wellbeing Support Program</b> \$1.89 million	Includes psychological first aid training, funding to support the health and wellbeing of farmers through counselling or other support programs, and grants for affected communities so they are better supported to look out for each other.	Central and East Gippsland Northern Victoria North West
<b>AgriSafe, Health and Lifestyle Checks, and Community Well-being Program</b> \$0.18 million	The National Centre for Farmer Health will implement activities to support farmers in drought impacted areas, which include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AgriSafe Drought Service</li> <li>• Health and Lifestyle Assessments</li> <li>• Community Presentations</li> </ul>	Central and East Gippsland Northern Victoria North West

**MORE INFORMATION** about support is available from Agriculture Victoria's Customer Service Centre on 136 186 or at [www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/dry-seasons-support](http://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/dry-seasons-support).



# WORDS OF WISDOM

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

### Cousin Wally



#### What happens to our native species during drought?

We are all aware of the effect drought has on farmers and the resulting effects on the human population, but what effects does it have on other species?

Lack of water puts plants into stress mode. Under stress the concentration level of nitrogen increases in their foliage, the temperature of the plant rises (due to lack of water and cooling by expiration), higher concentrations of plant sugars and minerals occur within the plant and their defence systems are weakened. These plants provide a more favourable environment for plant eating insects. The higher temperatures and concentrated food source results in faster and larger growth, higher survival rates and increased egg production. Additionally, the plant has a much lower uptake of insecticides due to diminished water flow in the plant. So, provided the air temperature does not get too hot for the insects to survive, plant eating insects can generally benefit from drought.

For nectar eating insects such as bees, butterflies, ants, wasps, mosquitoes, due to the low production and quality of flowers available to feed on, a

drought is quite detrimental. This has a flow on effect such that when the plants do recover the pollen spreading insects are significantly reduced in number and hence the plant breeding cycle is limited.

Most birds can benefit from the increase in insect population provided there is adequate water available for them. Even nectar eating birds, such as honeyeaters and spinebills will eat insects when there is a lack of nectar. Seed eating birds on the other hand are known to decrease in areas during droughts due to the limited seed supply. They often relocate to other areas where seed is available. This however often interrupts or limits their breeding season.

Water birds are usually the worst effected due to the change in availability of wetlands. Where reduced wetlands persist bird feed stocks within the water are greatly reduced due to the decreased area of water, water



temperature and increased salinity. Many water birds relocate to healthier areas. But of those that stay, many perish due to overcrowding resulting in increased diseases and lack of food. Many fail to breed during periods of drought.

Frogs are vulnerable to relocation and hence lack of water bodies for breeding can quickly decrease their breeding rate. Many birds and reptiles feed on frogs hence their populations can be adversely affected due to lack of frogs.

Many native animals have their own response to drought conditions. Small mammals like antechinus, bandicoots and bush rats produce smaller litters, so their population is appropriate to the level of food available. There is evidence that many increase their period of torpor (a state of physical or mental inactivity) hence decreasing their energy and food requirement.

Kangaroos and wallabies limit their breeding by pausing embryo development until conditions improve.

Many animals will eat foods they would not normally eat, such as dry leaves, small twigs and bark from trees. Koalas find less nutrients in the gum leaves and hence spend more time travelling between trees, which makes them more vulnerable to predators as they are spending more time on the ground.

Many animals will venture closer

to human occupied areas in search of food or water making them vulnerable to domestic pets or vehicles.

This all sounds rather gloomy but it's nature's way of giving and taking, providing spells of good rains and good growth to help biodiversity of all varieties build up and strengthen their populations and then conversely, times of drought where only the strongest are allowed to survive.

This period of hardship is particularly important for the environment as a time of "cleansing," where the bush can help itself to get rid of weaker genes. Diminishing food sources, scarcity of water and proliferation of disease all take their toll on the biotic elements in the area. Stronger genes mean healthier animals and plants that are more resistant to drought and disease that can give their offspring the greatest chance of survival, not only from the elements but from predation as well. This thinning out of populations also helps the land to recover by lessening the load on grazers and browsers.

It is always important to remember that the struggles of life on earth are not always easy to watch but it is a system that has functioned for millions of years, more perfectly than anything man could come up with.

#### Its Nature's cycle.

Email ([mel.ainsworth@me.com](mailto:mel.ainsworth@me.com)) your questions and I will try to answer them for you. ■



# AROUND THE TRAPS

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK



By our Landcare Groups

### Albert River

In August a good roll up of members attended a working bee to plant three hundred trees on the banks of Jeffrey Creek as this meets the Albert River below the picnic/camping area. Many thanks to the Wellington Shire for spraying the site and providing the trees.

The two community projects we commenced in 2017, the Hiawatha Minnie Ha Ha Falls project and the Albert River Reserve project at Alberton, have created much more work and encouraged more people in the area to become part of the renovations of both sites. Once again Craig Moore has been driving the activities around the waterfalls and costing materials for protective bollards, as well as spraying of some willows.

The last week of October was very busy. On October 30 we invited the WGCMA, Vic Roads, Coastcare and YYLN staff, plus a few local identities who have worked quietly on maintaining general tidiness at the John Crew Memorial Park. Leader Craig Moore has constructed a strong picnic table and seating under cover, with the

Heyfield Signwriting company erecting information signs on the western wall of the picnic building, as well as another sign on the toilet wall. There are more information signs to go up in the near future. Vic Roads have painted the toilets and employed an arborist to remove some dangerous trees.

On October 31 a group will meet Tim Rowe, Wellington Shire Council Environmental Officer, to discuss further our recently drawn up 5 year Strategic Plan Agreement for Hiawatha. ■

### Woodside

Woodside Landcare group has continued actively over the dry winter months. In June some of our members attended the YYLN planning day, which was ably facilitated by Woodside Landcare member Frankie MacLennan. Also in June West Gippsland CMA team leader Matt Bowler gave a very interesting talk at our meeting. He has worked extensively first with Greening Australia and then for the last 15 years with the CMA in Gippsland. Matt explained the role of the CMA in protecting our waterways, wetlands, lakes and inlets.

Since a restructure in 2012 the CMA uses contractors to do on-ground work, such as spraying weeds, willow removal and erosion control. Matt's slide show of maps and photos illustrated the extensive co-ordinated work by the CMA fencing and revegetating rivers such as the Latrobe, Franklin and Bruthen. Landholders have been overwhelmingly supportive of fencing out and protecting the rivers. Mullungdung to the Coast is one of their many priority areas as are the seagrass beds of Corner Inlet. The rock chute on Reedy Creek has revegetated well and is working. The CMA will help co-ordinate the release of the carp herpes virus if it is approved by the Federal Government.

July brought the good news that Woodside had been successful in gaining a grant of \$17,800 through the CMA for work including revegetation over three properties.

In August our guest speaker was Woodside Landcare member Jenny Wolswinkel. Jenny operates a native seed collection and distribution business called *Seeds of Gippsland*. She is also the author of an excellent eucalypt identification guide

called *Eucalypts of the Strzelecki Ranges and Gippsland Plains*: An Identification Kit. Jenny spoke about the demands and techniques of collecting local native seed for revegetation works and nurseries. Jenny is very conscious of the need for genetic diversity in the seed she collects especially in regard to producing plants that will be resilient in times of changing climate. Jenny spoke of Yellow Box as an example of a species that has been fragmented into small and isolated gene pools across Gippsland and how revegetation works can enhance genetic diversity to such isolated plants. Jenny supported her talk with photos of seed collection. Many farms and reserves across Gippsland have benefited from Jenny's work and knowledge. ■

### Perennial Pastures Systems Field Day

Over the winter Woodside Landcare members discussed the continuing dry season and its impact on pasture growth and soil cover. At the end of July ten Woodside Landcare members joined a large group of farmers from Ararat on a tour of three properties at Woodside, Darriman and Giffard West. The Ararat farmers belonged to the



THE PLANTING CREW AT ALBERT RIVER



LIBBY BALDERSTONE TALKS PASTURE WITH THE GROUP



# AROUND THE TRAPS

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By our Landcare Groups



ASHLEY WALPOLE'S PROTECTED SALT MARSH

Perennial Pastures System (PPS) group. This well established and active group conducts field days, trials and research to help farmers grow and maintain good pasture in varying seasons.

The day began at Woodside Landcare member Ashley Walpole's cattle property in a paddock of annual rye grass where Ashley gave an overview of the family enterprise. He supplies Coles Supermarkets with grass fed beef which need to meet stringent guidelines.

Ashley is very conscious of always trying to maintain good grass cover in dry times to avoid wind erosion and the distressing sight of top soil blowing away.

We visited a second paddock of Ashley's near the Ninety Mile beach, which contained a 2km stretch of saline estuary and salt marsh that Ashley fenced and revegetated in 2010 with the help of the CMA. What had been a muddy black drain pugged

by cattle is now a significant wetland area.

Next the group drove to the Darriman property Warrigal Creek owned by Woodside Landcare member Elizabeth Balderstone. Elizabeth has done extensive Landcare works on her farm, which in 2011 won her the State Primary Producer Landcare Award. Elizabeth operates a fine wool and cattle enterprise. Over years much work has been done on the farm developing good pasture. This has also included reducing the average paddock size down to make grazing more even and effective. Elizabeth has been involved in several different pasture trials.

We then enjoyed a hearty lunch provided by Woodside Landcare member Kay Belcher at the historic Warrigal Creek homestead.

The third farm was the Giffard West farm of Steve and Lisa Harrison. They run a sheep

and cattle enterprise including the Bindawarra Merino Stud. We began the farm tour in a paddock with high clover content despite the dry weather. Steve talked about the varying pasture types across the farm and then the group moved to the stud section of the enterprise, which is in a bio secure part separated from the rest of the farm. Bindawarra Stud rams have an excellent reputation across the State. ■

## Yarram Urban

During the past dry winter the Urban group has delivered an exciting two days of activity for the district's primary school students. You can read about this on page 8 and 9.

Our MOU with the Nightingale Trust, to work on the Bicentennial Gardens behind the Nightingale accommodation

units, has resulted in members spending a great deal of time keeping weeds under control and debating the expenditure of funds to completely mulch areas of the gardens or continue the labour-intensive work of keeping rampant weeds under control. We have at last managed to have erected a blue sign pointing to the gardens next to the footpath between the Nightingale units and Nightingale St (the water tower street).

Our Indian Mynah reduction activities have not been particularly fruitful this year, but one member has managed to reduce the pest birds' numbers by some hundreds, with other members efforts looking insignificant in comparison. The Indian Mynah displaces native hollow dwelling marsupials and birds and breeds quickly resulting in a significant stress on the indigenous animals.

Our efforts to extend a walking-riding path from the rail trail to the gardens has yet to progress further than receiving acknowledgement from the shire.

The group has attempted to recruit new members with a letterbox drop and may have been successful in attracting at least two new members.

Long-time group contact person Clara Mandeletti has stepped aside from the role to concentrate on increasingly demanding family commitments, but has along with husband, Paul Savage continued to be valued members of our group. Our appreciation for her efforts over past years must be noted.

We plan an afternoon working

# AROUND THE TRAPS

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK



By our Landcare Groups

bee at the Bicentennial Gardens on November 14 from 4pm to try to get on top of the spring growth and plan for longer term projects. *If you have any time free come and join us.* Other Landcare groups planning activities that may benefit from labour from the Urban group members are invited to let contact person, Peter Hill know on [hilly52@gmail.com](mailto:hilly52@gmail.com) as we are willing to assist, work commitments permitting. ■

## Merriman Creek

Our meeting in July was well attended and after much discussion it was decided that, given the amount of our group activity we were no longer a sub group and therefore have become a group, as recommended by Landcare Victoria Inc. Our former Network Coordinator, Sally-Ann attended our meeting and she was given a gift in appreciation for the support she has given our group over the past 6 years.

Four of our members were fortunate to be successful with their application for Victorian Landcare grants. All four projects included fencing for stock exclusion, protection of remnant vegetation and/or waterways, erosion control and revegetation. Unfortunately the trees planted look unlikely to survive given the current and forecast weather conditions for the months ahead. Hopefully the stock exclusion will allow for natural regeneration when favourable weather returns.

Four of our members attended the recent Network AGM. The

presentation on European Wasp control was very interesting and a great social evening.

Our Christmas break up will be held on Sunday December 9 from 5pm at Greg & Lyn Avery's home in Seaspray. All welcome! Please bring along either a salad or dessert to share. Please RSVP Melissa on 51468328 if you think you can make it. ■

## Wonyip

Grateful for the assistance they have received to date, Wonyip group members Werner and Turid Lange undertook a large project in 2017. It involved the removal of huge pine trees yielding some 1,000 tonnes of timber sent to China.

A deer exclusion fence was then erected to protect the intended planting of indigenous trees. Approximately 2,000 plants were planted last November, thanks to HVP surplus tubestock, which has been very successful. Unfortunately storms recently caused the fence to break and consequently they had an invasion of deer within the enclosure.

Since the fence was repaired a further 3,000 plants have been ordered to complete the planting at "Valley View". ■



THE OLD PINE FOREST



REMNANT OF REMAINING BUSH AUGMENTED BY NEW PLANTINGS



GONE ARE THE PINES AND HERE COME THE INDIGENOUS TREES



# PROJECT UPDATES

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

by Jill Vella

### 15 trees project and Yarram Secondary College planting at the Reedy Creek phase 2 site

On Friday August 31, on a day when rain was not forecast but none the less very welcome, the staff of GJ Gardner Homes helped plant their contribution of 375 plants in a Carrajung South revegetation site.

This year has been quite trying weather wise to plan planting projects. Rainfall has been erratic and well below average. On this site, where willow removal, stock exclusion fencing and weed control have allowed revegetation of over 2 km of Reedy Creek, the contribution of both planting power and trees was most welcome.

The landholders and crew have been planting since mid-August and each precious plant has been watered in by hand. On the community planting day, the GJ Gardner crew were joined by 40 secondary college students from Yarram. If plants do respond to emotions, the tube-stock put in the ground will have a great start, with all the high spirits and joy of being

out and in the environment being shared by the students. After planting and watering trees allocated to them the students were taken on a walk in the surrounding bush to get an understanding of what they were trying to protect and enhance. After inhaling 100 sausages, salad and fruit, the students returned to the classroom.

### Training Grants

**We are offering training to Landcare members in First Aid and Mental First Aid.** These courses will run late in the year, or early next year depending on need. Please contact the Network Coordinator Scott if you would like to take part.

Mental First Aid training gives the participant;

- Skills in how to recognise the signs and symptoms of mental health problems
- Knowledge of the possible risk factors for these mental health problems
- Awareness of the evidenced based medical, psychological and alternative treatments available
- Skills in how to give appropriate initial help

and support someone experiencing a mental health problem

- Skills in how to take appropriate action if a crisis situation arises involving suicidal behaviour, panic attack, stress reaction to trauma, overdose or threatening psychotic behaviour.

Some of the other training we are offering includes:

#### • **Seed collection and storage.**

This training day will take place on Friday November 16 at *Seeds of Gippsland*, 1091 Tarra Valley Rd, Tarra Valley. By the end of the workshop participants will have a basic understanding of safe and responsible seed collection, cleaning and storage methods, the role and underlying principles of provenance seed collection and the implications of climate change and genetic diversity. The course will give participants information to assist with obtaining permits and permissions, finding groups and support to begin seed collection and getting plants identified. Please contact Scott if you would like to take part in this workshop.

• **Governance training.** This training will be delivered to interested Landcare members to add to their skills as volunteers running Landcare Networks (board members) or their local group. Anyone who would like to gain an understanding of group governance in a Landcare setting is welcome to come along.

• **Social media training.** We will be offering this popular training in using social media to promote your Landcare activities in the new year.

• **Digital photography training.** Your Landcare stories and reporting can be greatly enhanced by awesome photographs. This training will help refine your skills, whether using a camera or your phone.

• **GIS/mapping.** Many of us use iFarm mapping but lots of us do not. How do we establish project and farm planning especially for submission as an expression of interest for a project? This short course will help you master this essential tool, and the use of easily available online programs.

### The student JARR short film festival will be screened at Regent Theatre on November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The kids at the Alberton Primary are well on their way with their films. They interviewed and filmed some stalwart JARR farmers and are working with Mick Green from Drift Media to edit and refine their filming techniques. They have a keen interest and a



INDUSTRIOUS TREE PLANTERS WORKING HARD TO BRING THE ENVIRONMENT BACK INTO SHAPE

# PROJECT UPDATES

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK



good understanding of the topics they are exploring. We look forward to some great short films. Tickets available [www.eventbrite.com.au/e/jarr-short-film-festival-tickets-51501218531](http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/jarr-short-film-festival-tickets-51501218531)

### JARR projects

**Seagrass restoration.** Dr John Ford and the JARR team have applied for a Parks Vic research permit to allow this project to proceed. We will be collecting sprouting and planting seagrass seeds with the help of volunteer Corner Inlet and Nooramunga fishers. Our target for revegetation will be the sea urchin barrens where the pesky echinoderms have munched through all the broadleaf seagrass. We are gearing up for a busy summer with a seeding event expected this season.

**Golden Creek willow removal and creek vegetation restoration.** We are excited to have this chance to remove the willows in a long section of Golden Creek and get some native vegetation back on the banks. There are a few sentinel remnant trees and it will be great to plant them some friends, as our native trees love company.

**JARR weed control project.** 50 landholders in the Jack, Albert and Tarra catchments will be offered a herbicide incentive to develop weed control plans on their properties. Get in quickly to develop your plan and receive some herbicide before blackberry season is upon us! Contact the office to participate in this program.

### Mentoring project

We were funded to develop a pilot project partnering 'mentors' (experienced



Landcarers) with new Landholders (or people who wanted some help with property management) - 'mentees'. We are currently looking for people who would like to be partnered with an experienced Landcarers to expand their property management skills. Please contact Jenny O'Sullivan at [osullivan@dcsi.net.au](mailto:osullivan@dcsi.net.au) to participate.

### WGCMA Landcare Support Grants

The Albert River Landcare Group In partnership with Vicroads, WGCMA, and a heap of truly committed locals they have transformed the Alberton boatramp reserve on South Gippsland Hwy from a run down and neglected roadside stop to something that everyone can be proud of. A new picnic table, educational signage, a freshly painted toilet block and regular mowing by Vicroads have transformed the site.

The Albert River Landcare Group received a \$2,000 WGCMA Landcare Support Grant in 2017 to revitalise the group. The funding paid for the signs

and the new picnic table but the work in kind from Vicroads and the local volunteers who dedicated themselves to looking after the area, mowing, coordinating the work and bringing it all together has to amount to more than 4-5 times the initial grant amount.

At a small gathering to celebrate the placement of the signs, Craig Moore, contact officer for the Albert River Landcare Group said " Projects like this don't just happen, they exist because we all work in partnership with everyone doing their bit. Together we achieve great things" ■





# KIDS PAGE

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

### Bugs and creatures at waterholes

- |               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| ANTS          | KOOKABURRA   |
| BETLES        | LEAF INSECTS |
| BUTTERFLY     | MACROPODS    |
| CORMORANT     | MOSQUITO     |
| DUCKS         | PLATYPUS     |
| ECHIDNA       | POSSUMS      |
| EELS          | SCORPIONS    |
| EMUS          | SNAKES       |
| FISH          | SPIDERS      |
| FROGS         | WALLABY      |
| INVERTEBRATES | WOMBAT       |
| KOALA         | YABBIES      |

Puzzle by Anne Hill

P	Q	U	B	R	T	M	O	S	Q	U	I	T	O	Z
A	D	C	E	F	C	O	R	M	O	R	A	N	T	I
K	L	N	E	C	H	I	D	N	A	P	O	X	Z	N
P	L	A	T	Y	P	U	S	T	V	W	S	Y	A	V
C	B	L	L	E	A	F	I	N	S	E	C	T	S	E
K	K	O	E	M	P	I	X	Y	N	E	O	R	P	R
P	O	S	S	U	M	S	N	M	P	L	R	S	I	T
L	O	W	L	S	C	H	O	W	K	S	P	E	D	E
D	K	O	L	W	O	M	B	A	T	P	I	I	E	B
U	A	U	V	T	P	R	S	L	A	Y	O	N	R	R
E	B	U	T	T	E	R	F	L	Y	Q	N	R	S	A
K	U	L	T	O	P	S	N	A	K	E	S	A	C	T
S	R	K	O	A	L	A	C	B	H	E	J	F	N	E
P	R	I	F	R	O	G	S	Y	A	B	B	I	E	S
M	A	C	R	O	P	O	D	S	H	M	A	N	T	S



# PARTNER ACTIVITY

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK



By Danny McDonald

*Gippsland Water is more than a provider of essential water and wastewater services - it's also a natural resource management agency focussed on waterway health and biodiversity. Gippsland Water has established a number of conservation projects at its Dutson Downs property to enhance biodiversity and protect threatened species.*

The initiatives planned for delivery over the next three

years are focused on managing high threat weeds and pests such as rabbits and foxes at Dutson Downs.

Gippsland Water Senior Environmental Scientist Dr Deb Archer said the works would protect conservation values at Dutson Downs and also benefit the surrounding area.

"Along with the adjoining Gippsland Lakes Coastal Park, Dutson Downs has long been recognised as a haven for rare and threatened flora and fauna. Reducing pests such as rabbits and foxes will benefit both our property and the region, including national parks and local farms.

"Rather than targeting individual threatened species, we will be focussing on reducing

threats to biodiversity on a landscape scale to protect the biological and environmental significance of the local area," Dr Archer said.

Located east of Sale, Dutson Downs spans 8,300 hectares and is home to rare species such as the New Holland Mouse, Metallic Sun Orchid and the Green and Golden Bell Frog. Approximately half of the property is comprised of native vegetation with high conservation significance including woodlands, heathlands, scrubs, wetlands and grasslands.

In addition to maintaining existing conservation values in the area, Gippsland Water is also planning to improve the environmental value of the

Dutson Downs site through a carbon sequestration program. As part of the carbon sequestration work, Gippsland Water will revegetate an additional 180 hectares of agricultural land, creating habitat for threatened species while reducing the organisation's carbon footprint.

'We're fortunate to have opportunities to secure multiple positive environmental outcomes through landscape scale land management. These projects also create opportunities for our traditional owners to work on country, and we are proud to partner with Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Corporation on some of these projects,' Dr Archer concluded.



SOME OF THE REPLANTING HAPPENING AT DUTSON DOWNS



THE DROUGHT CYCLE IS SOMETHING WE NEED TO BECOME BETTER EQUIPPED AT HANDLING

## Your local contacts within the Yarram Yarram Landcare Network

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