

# YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NEWS

Vol: 27 Autum/Winter 2018

## FEATURES

Network Tour  
Inspirational Story  
New Horizons

## INSIDE

Board Profile..... 02	Myna Problem..... 07	Around the Traps..... 14-15	Wally's Wisdom ..... 21
From the Office ..... 03	Farmer/Fisher day ..... 08	Inspiring Story ..... 16-17	Kids Page ..... 22
Annual BBQ ..... 004-05	Landcare Profile..... 10-11	Projects Update ..... 18-19	New Horizons..... 23
Network Tour..... 06	A success story..... 12-13	Goodbye CIBAG ..... 20	



# BOARD PROFILE

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By David McAninly

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

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Melissa Ainsworth, Helga Binder, Sally-Ann Henderson, Peter Hill, David McAninly and Wally the Wombat.

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### Cover photo

The view across the watershed of JARR to Corner Inlet.

Photo courtesy: Sally-Ann Henderson

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**Andrew Missen, Landcare member of Woodside and member of the YYLN Board since 2016**

*Andrew and Alison Missen arrived in the district in 1996 after relocating from the Gormandale area where Alison, a Traralgon girl, commenced their farming career. They then purchased an uncle's property (Max Burdett) at Hunterston between Yarram and Woodside and have since bought up a lot more land to take their holding up to 800 hectares, where they run 5,500 sheep and 300 beef cattle.*

The couple have three children, Daniel, a builder living locally, Nicole and Rowan who are both studying at University.

One of the first organisations Andrew joined once he settled

in to his new surrounds was the Woodside Landcare Group after much encouragement from Don Belcher in 1996.

Then next was the Woodside CFA enrolment.

Like all families there was much running around distributing children to local sports venues etc. There was basketball, netball and football. Their children commenced playing with the Allies in junior ranks and then transferred to the Wildcats on their establishment, where Andrew is heavily involved, especially on game day.

In an area where the average rainfall is 625ml, tree planting by direct seeding or tube stock does establish very quickly. Andrew considered that direct seeding was a success on his property, whereas tube stock was tough work for he and Alison with 700 trees per day a big effort.

To their credit they have established 14 x 10 metre wide extensive plantations of shelterbelts in their time on the farm with indigenous species like swamp gum - *Eucalyptus ovata*, manna gum, a variety of wattles, and tea trees have been the preferred choices.

Andrew was elected to the YYLN Board in October 2016 and immediately grasped the role and responsibilities. Andrew volunteered to be a member of the Seedbank sub committee.

Perhaps the most significant involvement and rewarding project that Andrew and Alison have experienced on their property was the Samantha Monks co-ordinated project, with the Lisa Warn

delivery of the 'Soil Health & Nutrition Management', over approximately a two year period.

Andrew had the property soil tested in certain paddocks and then under Lisa's advice chose to expand his rotational sowing methods and selected new vibrant rye grass species not trialled before.

Andrew regularly sprayed paddocks with round-up to renovate pastures with the known species like Vic rye and annuals like Tetila to create more bulk growth for silage and heavier grazing paddocks.

The Missen success story is repeated in the Woodside and Merriman Creek areas as to what has occurred in the past decade with landcare personnel growing more grasses than ever before, through the projects of best practice for sustainable agriculture with the assistance of grants and subsequently well qualified instructors like Lisa Warne.

Andrew and Alison's future plans for the farm are to continue to use the information gained in their pasture experiments plus using their own long time experience and continue to plant summer crops.

We thank Andrew for his commitment to Landcare and his participation on the Board.

■

# FROM THE OFFICE

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK



By Sally-Ann Henderson



### Sally-Ann Says:

The Landcare project landscape has been changing over the last few years. There is a move away from large centralised projects and projects delivered by networks to smaller projects delivered by individuals and groups.

The other change is that projects now need to be finalised before the application is written. This includes sites being mapped and letters in

place granting permission for works to be carried out. It is no longer possible for a group to apply for money and then find sites where the works can be done.

This change in philosophy and funding models is going to put more focus on our members, groups and sub-groups. A recent example is the need for groups to complete their own group health survey applications online straight to DELWP, and the Victorian Landcare Grants no longer being distributed to networks for delivery.

If Landcare works are going to continue to a similar level, it will be up to members to develop projects and apply directly. This will require a change in skills, attitude and effort.

Our recent project development day on June 3 was a great example of this new way of

working. The network trying to get as many projects ready for funding as possible. Another example is our new prospectus that has been put together to seek funding from a range of possible sources.

The general change in the landscape has led to fluctuations in staffing over the life of the network. As you know, reduced funding has led to the coordinator position being reduced in April. This means the network will not have the staff availability to provide the same level of service it has in the past. The board has set the priorities to be service to the board, members, groups and projects. It will be a transition period to see how this will work in practice.

As many of you know I have started full time study. After 20 years in natural resource management and agriculture,

the continued uncertainty around job security and funding has prompted a new career direction. I am undertaking a Masters of Primary Teaching. This will be my final newsletter. I will be leaving YYLN at the end of July. I will remain involved in Landcare through the Yarram Urban sub group and its projects.

I know the board will continue to ensure a vibrant and active Landcare community well into the future. They need and deserve the support of all members to keep that vision alive. How can you do your bit to help your local group or the wider network?

I look back proudly on the work that has been achieved and I wish everyone well in their Landcare efforts into the future.

■ *Sally Ann*

## A FOND FAREWELL

It is with deep regret that we have been informed that our YYLN co-ordinator of the past five and a half years, Sally-Ann Henderson has chosen to leave her position as network coordinator.

This decision has been brought about by the continuing reduction in recent years of the funding for Landcare across the nation. The funding for staff and the loss of major on-ground projects has reduced the YYLN budget from over one million dollars some 7 years ago, to approximately one quarter of that amount per annum.

Subsequently this has reduced Sally-Ann's employment from full time [5 days a week] to 2.5 days, like the other 4 regional Landcare Networks in our West Gippsland Catchment Management area.

Sally Ann has been appreciated and valued in her time with YYLN and equally how she has embraced our town and its districts and joined in so many local organisations, as well as getting to quickly know the landholders involved in Landcare from Wonyip to Hedley, to Woodside to Merriman Creek and Seaspray.

Sally Ann has built so many friendships through her various activities; the Yarram Urban Landcare group [member], the Port Albert Yacht Club, the local Badminton Association [a winner this year], Neighbourhood House, the Uniting Church and the Yarram Choir. Likewise the town and district have embraced Sally-Ann with much fondness.

Our YYLN board members thank Sally-Ann so much for her dedicated commitment to our local environment, to our landholders, to the various organisations she has dealt with

in our interests, like the schools the kindergarten, Coastcare, the Wellington Shire, HVP and the Yarram Show Society, to name a few.

On behalf of all who have shared time with Sally-Ann, I do hope that we keep in regular contact and sincerely wish her all the very best in her new career.

Kind Regards,

David McAninly

YYLN Vice Chair





# ANNUAL BBQ

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By Peter Hill



THE CROWD IS RIVETED BY A FASCINATING PRESENTATION ON DRONES

*Yarram Yarram Landcare Network's annual barbecue and get together on March 25 attracted a large crowd to the May Pavilion at the Yarram Recreation Reserve.*

While socialising and enjoying a shared meal was an important part of the day, an enlightening presentation by **Victorian Unmanned Aerial Systems** controller and instructor Jesse Sago on the current and potential uses of drones proved the highlight.

Proceedings began with a welcome from network chair Helga Binder, with the gathering then enjoying the extensive selection of barbecued meats, sausages, vegetarian options accompanied by salads and later desserts, contributed by Landcare members.

Conversations ranged from descriptions of successful projects to social chat before Jesse began his illustrated presentation.

He quickly outlined the background of VUAS and the range of its capabilities, particularly its training of unmanned aerial vehicle pilots and the reasons for regulation of aerial drones.

Among the company's many clients and trainees are pilots who are focussed on a range of service applications from real estate photography, hazard identification and agricultural and silvicultural services.

Jesse outlined the training regime and the regulations covering the use of aerial vehicles, emphasising that while piloting could be challenging and involved significant responsibilities, it was also a great deal of fun.

The range of vehicles available was also outlined, with over the counter hobby vehicles ranging in cost from about one hundred through to a few thousand dollars, through to custom designed and constructed vehicles capable of carrying significant payloads costing many thousands of dollars.

Regulation of low cost aerial

drones of less than 100gms is minimal, with users expected to be careful with their use, aerial vehicles of more than 100gms through to 25kg are regulated by CASA and subject to significant restrictions relating to their use around populated areas, and restricted airspace such as military and civil aviation aerodrome approaches, helicopter landing areas and emergency service areas.

Jesse had a number of drones on hand to illustrate the variety of vehicles and their use, including fixed wing drones which have extended flight times and better payload capability but less manoeuvrability than the multi-rotor drones which have far less flight time. He suggested the vertical take off and landing fixed wing drone would eventually prove the most cost effective for agricultural and silvicultural use.

One example he highlighted was a drone capable of carrying out visual inspections and risk assessment of the flare towers at Esso's Longford gas plant at significantly less cost and

disruption to the production process. Other uses included inspection of powerlines, and inspection of buildings and facilities that would pose a risk to people who would previously have carried out routine visual inspections.

The range of autonomous vehicles currently being used and in development that really qualify as drones was also highlighted. With everything from robot vacuum cleaners to unmanned submersibles, unmanned programmable vehicles which could deliver herbicides or fertilisers in a horticultural setting, aerial survey using spectrometry to carry out crop analysis, drones to check on stock location, fencing or water tanks and bores in broad acre grazing operations among the applications drones may become more commonly used for.

Already Agriculture Department staff have been trained in the use of drones to the advantage of farmers.

Jesse concluded by conducting a series of hands on flights of a micro-drone inside the building,

# ANNUAL BBQ

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK



JESSE SAGO SHINES WITH ENTHUSIASM

with many of the audience enthusiastically trying their hands at controlling the hobby style craft. Jesse then joined a Bass Coast Landcare Network representative in demonstrating the capabilities of the full sized unmanned aircraft over the football oval. Jesse had previously gained shire council and CASA permission to carry out the demonstrations as

the oval is used for helicopter medical transport.

The afternoon concluded with Helga thanking all who had contributed to the meal, assisted with the washing and cleaning up and the guest presenter. ■



EGON BRINKER SHOWS HIS STYLE WITH THE INDOOR DRONE

## MEMBERSHIPS RENEWAL - A KEY TO SUCCESS

As we approach the end of the financial year it is time for membership renewal. Membership ensures you are kept in the link for grant opportunities, covered by insurance and get a heap of information on events and breakthroughs in our region.

Membership fees have again been set at \$30 per membership. This membership covers a whole family and entitles you to one vote at the AGM.

If you require membership forms they are located on our web site or contact [yyln@wgcm.org.au](mailto:yyln@wgcm.org.au) and we will get one to you. Payment can be made electronically or by cheque made out to the YYLN. Please be sure to put your surname and subgroup code into the banking reference (you will find your group code on the membership form).

We look forward to having you as a valued member again next year





# NETWORK TOUR

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By Paul Spiers - Archies Creek Landcare sub group (Bass Coast Landcare Network)

*The Regional Landcare Forum, hosted by the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, is a quarterly convocation of the five Landcare Networks in West Gippsland; Maffra & District, LaTrobe, South Gippsland, Yarram Yarram and Bass Coast.*

Representatives of each Network trek to Traralgon to exchange information and report on our local activities and the WGCMA presents the regional perspective, opportunities for grants, co-operative projects, what Governments may or may not be thinking about regarding natural resource management issues, etc.

For this Landcarer however, the gathering affirms that we are a part of a geographically diverse, yet culturally similar Landcare community. We even have a brand, "GippsLandcare".

Every couple of years we gather for the residential strategic planning "love in". Good neighbours and friends visit and reciprocate. So, (in a great idea from the forum) let us get on a bus and spend a day touring each of our Landcare Networks, visiting local Landcare legends and their projects. We in the Bass Coast Landcare Network regularly go on far-flung Landcare tours and frequently host similar, so in May 2017 we opened with a Powlett Project catchment tour.

**On Friday November 10, 2017 the Yarram Yarram Landcare Network offered up the iconic Jack & Albert River Restoration Project for scrutiny.**

As we gathered at the Yarram office it was obvious that there were twice as many attendees as RSVP's! After a cup of tea and cake, a chat and introduction, a good look at the J.A.R.R. map with explanations, we then bussed en-convoy across the lower catchment.

The key to a good Landcare tour is to visit the best sites you can, which demonstrate the "best practice" of your project. The essence of a good tour is to visit passionate Landcarers, on their patch, as they explain their agricultural and environmental practices and their view of paradise.

We visited dairy farms and willow relieved revegetated gullies. We saw where the weeds once were and protected remnants and connective windbreaks. Upstream, as far as the Minnehá'ha Falls, where the wild weeds begin. All along with discourse explanation and conversation.

When you need a good overview of "landscape scale change" allow Sally-Ann to guide you up to "Bunnies-Boggle" in the Hedley Range. Do not be distracted by the splendid view to the south, across Corner Inlet to Wamoon. Turn around and look north across to the Strzelecki's and down into the Jack River valley and celebrate what Landcare has already achieved!

But that's not all! My favourite site was the final visit to the lower Albert River. A succulent



**VISITING THE BEAUTY OF HIAWATHA**



**BOARDWALK ON RAY AND COLLEEN'S SALTMARSH PROPERTY**



**THE GROUP WERE WOWED BY THE VIEW FROM BUNNIES BOGGLE**

and colourful saltmarsh garden, representing YYLN's Nooramunga coastal protection work.

It is often said that Landcare needs to tell its own stories. This tour was an excellent example of just that. If we Landcarer's can see and learn so much on a day out with good

people, imagine the benefit to a Shire Councillor, or a Legislative Councillor, a corporate CEO or even the Federal Minister for Landcare.

Thank you to Sally-Ann and all at the YYLN, from all we attendees, for such an interesting and tasty tour. ■

# MYNA PROBLEM?

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK



By Trevor Colvin

### ***We are barking mad if we don't take heed of the Indian Myna threat!***

The 'Barking Owl' is a rare bird and its numbers are in serious decline. The owl doesn't build a nest, but breeds in tree hollows - which can take one hundred years and more to form - and land clearing and logging remove the nest sites far faster than nature can replace them.

It was estimated there were only fifty breeding pairs in Victoria in 1997 and each pair needs a 1400+ hectare territory. A study in south-western Australia of one hundred known Barking Owl nesting sites, found no owls.

If the Barking Owl, like so many other native birds and little animals that rely on tree hollows for nesting, are not under sufficient threat from the clearing of native vegetation, add in another even more damaging threat; the Indian Myna. Vegetable growers in Melbourne brought the myna to Australia and the results have been disastrous and will only get worse.

Why, because the myna will outbreed most other bird species and it is an aggressive pack breed which will prevent other birds from using hollows even though it may not use those hollows itself. It will foul nests and remove and kill other species fledglings from nests.

The Indian Myna is a very

### Potential Breeding Rates

**Note: these figures are optimum in all cases and don't take into account attrition rates which always occur in nature. The chart is designed to demonstrate the potential of the Indian Myna against native breeds. (sources: various)**

Species	Broods per year	Max per brood	Total Chicks
Barking Owl	1	2	2
Black Cockatoo	2	2	4
Galah	1	5	5
Indian Myna	3	6	18
King Parrot	1	5	5



successful species. It is intelligent, it is a prolific breeder (see chart above) and a ruthless competitor. Furthermore, it is not treated as a major pest threat by relative departments, not because it isn't a threat, but because they don't have an answer for how to get rid of it.

You may be forgiven for thinking that large birds like owls and cockatoos and galahs

and such cannot be threatened by the much smaller myna, but they can and they are, along with pygmy possums, sugar gliders and other furry little critters that breed in hollows. Then of course, **the myna is a very aggressive bird**, so if it moves into the territory of smaller nesting 'garden;' birds it will get rid of them also.

The threat from Indian Mynas is not an exaggerated myth. I often visit family in Northcote and I never hear anything but Indian mynas. Every year I see their numbers increasing on the roadsides around Yarram and - like many other people - I work at keeping them out of our garden. A handful of us with traps have removed hundreds and more importantly, prevented the birth of thousands.

Can they be beaten? Yes and The Canberra Indian Myna Action group has shown us the way by removing tens of thousands and reduced its incidence from the third most common bird in Canberra to the eighteenth.

Until Government works out how to handle this pest it won't really acknowledge it, so it is going to be up to people power for a while and that of course is you and me. If you want your grandchildren or perhaps great grandchildren to ever have the chance of hearing a Barking Owl, or seeing a Yellow Tailed Black Cockatoo - or even a Galah, you need to be concerned.

Contact the writer or YYLN for more information. ■

*Trevor Colvin is a member of the YYLN Board, has started two Landcare groups and is keen to spread the word about Indian Mynas before they reach critical mass and become impossible to eradicate.*





# FARMER/FISHER DAY

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By Michael Hobson

*In summer the Jack and Albert River Restoration Committee (JARR) in conjunction with Corner Inlet Connections, held a Fisher / Farmer day at the Port Albert Yacht Club.*

The theme of the day was 'Protect your catch by protecting our catchment'.

In the past fisher/farmer days had focused on commercial operators in Corner Inlet, however this occasion was designed to involve a broader audience. We were blessed with fine weather and some great speakers who kept everyone engaged and entertained. There was a great mix of participants from Landcare members, recreational fishers, industry and government representatives as well as some curious members of the public.

After a fish and chip lunch, we were addressed by our guest speaker for the day Dr. John Ford. Those Landcare members who attended our most recent AGM would be familiar with John, who has been studying seagrass decline in Corner Inlet for a number of years now. John has been instrumental in raising awareness of the importance of sea grass in an ecological context, as a key species that many other plants and animals are reliant upon. He has also spent a considerable amount of time with stakeholders and governments working on solutions to not only halt the decline of seagrass but to also restore seagrass meadows. We very much thank John



JOHN FORD EXPLAINS THE ECOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF SEAGRASS

for making the time to spend with us, as he was meant to be attending his own surprise birthday party (to which he eventually arrived!)

Some of our wonderful partners also spoke to the gathering notably Simon Heislars, Stewardship Forester from HVP, who was able to give context to a key message regarding how activities in the top of the catchment relate to bottom. Many thanks go to our own Network Coordinator Sally-Ann Henderson, who delivered a presentation on behalf of Parks Victoria regarding the control of Purple Sea Urchins in Nooramunga Marine Reserve. An issue getting attention more recently, as many of our JARR partners work toward practical solutions to these kinds of ecological issues.

There was plenty of opportunity for everyone present to ask questions and discuss the work of different groups in the JARR catchment; it truly is amazing when we consider how much has been achieved over the years and how much is continuing to be done.

Later in the day we car pooled



ONE OF MANY SHELTERBELTS ON THE EGAN FARM

to Gavin and Sue Egan's property on the Albert River, where they hosted the group for a tour to showcase some fantastic restoration work done over many years. How lucky we are to be able draw on the knowledge of such dedicated members of the Landcare family. What an inspiring experience for all who attended as we were able to share valuable insights from the Egan's pioneering work, which now benefits the entire community.

At the end of the day many new connections were made and a huge amount of information

was shared. Thanks again to the YYLN events committee for organising the day, our guest speakers and tour guides and of course all the attendees.

The day was supported by the Yarram Yarram Landcare Network and the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority through the Australian Government National Landcare Program. ■



# SOCIAL MEDIA

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK



By Ebony Loveland - Volunteer Social Media Administrator

**The YYLN board are very aware that we are lacking representation from our youth and younger adults within our Network area. In an effort to address this, we have engaged with an active Intrepid Landcare leader by the name of Ebony Loveland. Ebony kindly gave us some advice as to how we can reach out to the younger generation. In doing so the Network has created Social Media policies and Ebony has kindly volunteered to manage our social media presence by the creation of platforms such as Instagram and Facebook. Ebony will be regularly uploading content to these platforms and we would love you to follow us to stay up to date with the Networks activities.**

Hi, my name is Ebony Loveland. I'm 25 years old and currently studying Environmental and Conservation Science at Federation University in Berwick. I live in Warragul, where I have grown up my whole life. I enjoy the outdoors and love going on adventures in my campervan to explore all the beautiful places in Victoria (I'm not yet brave enough to take my old van outside of Victoria on a long road trip).

As part of my volunteer work for University, I got involved with a group called Gippsland Intrepid Landcare. Intrepid is a volunteer group for passionate, creative and energetic 18-35-year old's. It is designed to connect young people to their region through environmental projects. I attended their tree planting day in the middle of 2017 held on a local farm in Woolamai. It was here that I met like-minded people and joined their

committee for the group.

From there, I got involved with the Yarram Yarram Landcare Network who were looking at ways of connecting with younger people. I went along to your network tour and really enjoyed looking at the variety of landscapes and ecosystems within your network area. I met lots of people who came along but sadly the lack of younger people was obvious.

**My voluntary role involves updating your social media platforms. I created an Instagram account and regularly upload information to it and your Facebook page. With today's generation being so technology based, the importance of social media has never been more important. Unfortunately gone are the days of newspapers and emails, which means to connect to young people and get them involved with their local Landcare groups, you must be able to reach them on their level. This younger generation are well-educated, highly mobile, technologically savvy, busy and well-connected but their engagement in local Landcare groups does not come naturally. I have a passion to help get young people more involved in Landcare and hope to make a difference into the future. ■**

**[Please follow us on Instagram at yarramyarramlandcare and/or on Facebook - Yarram Yarram Landcare Network.](#)**



EBONY OUT GETTING MORE LIFE EXPERIENCES UNDER HER BELT



HEADING OFF ON ANOTHER VICTORIAN ADVENTURE





# LOCAL LANDCARE PROFILES

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By Trevor Colvin

### Getting on top of blackberry in steep hill country

*"There was so much blackberry when we first came here as weekend hobby farmers twelve years ago" says Russell Bond, "that it was almost easier to look the other way. We didn't know how to handle them or when to handle them and we didn't have the time anyway, so the romantic dream of the idyllic lifestyle escape suddenly had a dark side - or several dark sides - blackberry, ragwort, thistle and fences under constant damage, decay and threat."*

Of those people lucky enough to make the transition from city to rural lifestyle, few, if any, have any idea what is involved in land husbandry. Raelene and Russell Bond were not unfamiliar with country living, having owned a cottage and fourteen acres at Broadford for his Clydesdale and her horses, but they hadn't encountered blackberry, ragwort and thistle.

Broadford had its own set of challenges. While it is flat and relatively easy to work, compared to the steep hills and gullies in parts of Gippsland, the soils are not particularly productive, the rainfall minimal and in summer

it is heartbreaking to watch a well cared for garden die and paddocks reduced to dust. The Bonds wanted a change.

*"So, out came the rainfall maps and after suitable study, Southern Victoria or Tassie seemed like the place to be."* said Raelene.

Next came a weekend tour on the motorbikes and there - in a real estate agents window - was this particular property in the beautiful Foster Hills. And soon it was theirs.

*"It took a further five years before we could move here permanently,"* said Raelene, *"but we are now so content with life and our lifestyle"*.

The couple live in a rambling farmhouse, suitably furnished and share their property with all the necessary extras such as geese, goats, chooks and 'Annie' the Kelpie-cross farm dog. It is a picture-book paradise.

The views from anywhere in the garden are of stunning green hills and valleys looking across to Toora and Mt. Best; a far cry from the flat dry parched landscape that is Broadford.

*"So let's talk weeds." I said "because you have put in a lot of work to get on top of them and your lessons may help others."*

*"And we are only on top of them."* chimed in Russell, *"We certainly haven't got rid of them totally, but they are under control!"*

We discussed pernicious weeds like blackberry that seem to have multiple revival mechanisms, so it is a constant job to stay on top, with



RAELENE AND RUSSELL BOND WITH THE FAITHFUL 'ANNIE'



complete removal a long-term objective. Ragwort is also particularly tough to eliminate, but can be managed.

The Bonds readily acknowledge

that they knew nothing about how to handle the problems when they first arrived, so they joined the Corner Inlet

...continued on page 11

# LOCAL LANDCARE PROFILES

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK



...continued from page 10



**BLACKBERRY, RAGWORT AND THISTLE WELL UNDER CONTROL**

Blackberry Action Group (CIBAG) which was a terrific help.

Gradually they picked up knowledge and real and practical help and realised they weren't alone. Having others looking at and helping and sharing the problem made the task easier.

*"They were an enthusiastic bunch of people," said Raelene, "and their enthusiasm rubbed off on us, to the point that we became involved at committee level as well as the practical side of blackberry management. It was a very strong group which was known outside Landcare circles because of its engagement with local landholders."*

So, armed with knowledge, a

decent capacity spray tanker, a very long hose and a powerful pump, Russell was able to get into the steep gullies and work away at the edges of the large blackberry patches and gradually - season by season - year by year - whittle them down.

Every year the patches were smaller. Now, management requires less time and Russell and Raelene have learned that with weeds there are certain times they must be tackled and that takes priority in the diary. If they are not tackled when they should be, they will get away again.

As we looked out over the farm gate to the deeply wooded

gullies and clean green sloping hillsides, no blackberry, thistle or ragwort could be seen. *"We have very little blackberry and no thistle or ragwort,"* said Russell.

At the time of writing, the Corner Inlet Blackberry Action Group was in the process of disbanding due in part to funding uncertainty and the demands on time such groups require.

However, if you have a blackberry problem, or other weed infestation needing attention, advice is available through the YYLN office. ■







# A SUCCESS STORY

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By Kristy O'Brien

### **Feral cat impact on native animal populations leads to construction of world's largest fence**



*It's described as the largest feral cat eradication project in the world that will eventually span 100,000 hectares. At Newhaven Wildlife Sanctuary, northwest of Alice Springs, an attempt is underway to create a feral animal free zone, by building a fence.*

A fence has been built in order to protect the endangered species of central Australia where mammal extinction is said to be the worst worldwide.

In the red centre of Australia there's a silent and extremely effective killer lurking... feral cats.

Far from the innocent domestic variety, there are estimated to be millions of feral predators wreaking havoc on central Australia's native mammal populations.

**Feral cats are carnivores and love to devour small mammals and birds.**

Their natural instinct to hunt means they also kill hundreds of animals needlessly.

**The region now boasts the shameful statistic of having the worst extinction rate anywhere in the world — 30**

**mammals to be exact.**

*"There are then 10 other threatened mammals," CEO of the Australian Wildlife Conservancy, Atticus Fleming, said.*

*"Some of them have been extinct in central Australia for nearly a century, others have disappeared in recent decades so central Australia really is a global epicentre for mammal extinctions," he said.*

*"To put that in a global context — a country like the US since it's European settlement has had one mammal extinction, so Australia is really off the charts in terms of our mammal extinction rate," Mr Fleming said.*

Far from giving in, Birds Australia transferred Newhaven Station to the Australian Wildlife Conservancy, to try tackle the crisis.

The former cattle property was purchased more than a decade ago and has a vast and varied ecosystem situated 350 kilometres from Alice Springs. It sits right on the edge of the Great Sandy Desert and at the heart of the problem area.

**A 'new haven' for native life**

*"The one thing we know that works is creating these very large feral-free cat areas. So we've created already a number around Australia, but Newhaven is where*

# A SUCCESS STORY

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK



**CHRISTINE ELLIS (LEFT) AND JOSEF SCHOFIELD (RIGHT) READING THE LANDSCAPE FOR ANIMAL ACTIVITY.**

*we are building the largest feral cat free area on the continent and it's going to be a great project for some of Australia's most endangered mammals,"* Mr Fleming said.

The final result will be the world's largest cat fence.

It's one of Australia's

most significant pieces of conservation infrastructure and will eventually restore the vast landscape to what it was 200 years prior, before feral cats and foxes arrived.

The next phase will see the fence stretch more than 185 kilometres protecting 70,000

hectares of land.

But for the fence to be successful all the cats must be caught and removed.

A cat-free zone for vulnerable species.

Station manager Josef Schofield believes that's where local knowledge is paramount.

*"The Indigenous rangers [and] their ability to read the landscape and read through signs on the ground — what animals are where and how their behaving — is fairly unparalleled throughout the world really,"* Mr Schofield said.

When the cats are gone, 11 vulnerable species will be introduced.

The Mala (Rufous Hare-wallaby) is the first of 10 threatened mammals to be reintroduced at Newhaven.

*"There are 400 odd Mala left on mainland Australia. When we finish this project there'll*

*be 18,000 Mala just here at Newhaven,"* Mr Fleming said.

But accurate data is required to back up the merits of the fence and the Australian Wildlife Conservancy's team based at Newhaven are busy collecting the baseline data before the feral animals are removed.

Field ecologist Dymrna Cullen said the survey is also one of Australia's biggest science projects. *"Half the traps are in the fenced area and half of them are outside, so we can really compare how things change. Once we've removed all the feral animals we can see how those species go,"* Ms Cullen said.

Results will take time, but Ms Cullen said it is already abundantly clear that the mammals' decline has consequences for the entire landscape.

*"Burrowing Bettongs, they're sort of you know 1 and a half kilo's and they can turnover six to seven tonnes a year in soil, so you start to think about the scale of the number of animals we are putting in here and this is a pretty huge change in the landscape."*

The cats are expected to all be removed by Christmas 2018.

Mr Fleming said after the feral cats are gone it will be a matter of sitting back and letting Mother Nature do her thing.

*"If you get people on the ground, if you get the science right, and the feral animal control right, you can actually turn back the tide of extinctions in Australia,"* he said. ■



**THE MALA (RUFIOUS HARE-WALLABY)**





# AROUND THE TRAPS

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By our Landcare Subgroups

### CIBAG

The Corner Inlet Blackberry Action Group will be closing its doors after 5 years of extremely productive work. See the article on page 20 for the story of their journey through the challenges of blackberry control in their area.

### Yarram Urban

Over the summer period our focus has been on mulching our patch at the **Yarram Bicentennial Gardens** to try and beat the ever present weed problem. Despite some good rain events in December, the summer and autumn ended up being extremely dry and required us to do some watering to save some of the smaller plants. The dry conditions really showed up the difficulty of establishing an understorey under an established stand of trees. The mulching has proved very successful in suppressing weeds and showed us that any further planting should only be done into pre-prepared mulch beds.

With the increasing visitor numbers at the gardens we have started a **produce swap group** to meet once per month. It proved popular amongst the existing group members but only attracted one new attendee who really wasn't interested in the groups Landcare activities. To keep this going, and not make our meeting schedule too onerous, the group has changed its monthly meeting to the third Saturday of the month at 9am.

This will allow members to meet, swap produce, do some work at the gardens and then continue onto their weekend activities. All welcome. ■

### Albert River

A pleasing report about the activities of our re-invigorated group in past 12 months. Known as "**Annie Greenaway Reserve**" or the Hiawatha Minneha'ha Falls, there have been two successful working bees conducted, especially the clearing of the walking track above the falls, which requires constant weed control and removal of branches. Many thanks to our new enthusiastic leader Craig Moore and others who have made the task almost complete up the top end. Just some more work on little bridge crossings.

The WGCMA and Wellington Shire have contributed funds for weed spraying and removal of previously injected willows at the lower level and our group

has also employed a contractor to spray above the falls. Grass control and mowing has been another improvement.

Recently we met with Wellington Shire Council personnel, Alan Hill and Tim Rowe to formulate a management plan over the next 5 years. Very promising response from them in their commitment to enhance the surrounds in regards to fencing, bollard protection from swimming areas, erection of information boards and additional tables & seating for the growing number of campers and day visitors to the beautiful falls & surrounds.

There have also been a number of working bees held at the **John Crew Memorial Park** (VicRoads' Albert River Reserve) with a number of community groups and locals taking notice and willing to be part of the project. So far has been a real success story. Once again our leader, Craig Moore, has been busy organising, pricing

materials and has already built steel table and chairs. YYLN Chair Helga Binder, Jenny Davies and Jason Pickering are working on information boards and photo points. Fencing, painting of toilets and mowing is VicRoads commitment.

WGCMA have gratefully contributed to the weed spraying and are planning on planting special native trees around the reserve. The 600 metre long park is looking appealing with the more regular mowing. Amazing how much traffic utilise the facilities per day and night. Work on the observation decks is about to happen. Hopefully a small playground and a cement boat launching ramp will be part of the future plans.

Our Albert River Landcare Group wish to extend a warm welcome to our district's new residents, Scott Elliott & partner April who have purchased land in the North Devon area. Scott has already participated in a working bee and were both present at our YYLN annual barbecue and drone day. ■

### Alberton Junior

The Alberton Junior Landcare Subgroup is working with the Yarram Secondary College, local primary schools and Michael Green of Drift Media, to develop a series of mini documentaries about our local catchments.

The students will develop strategies to answer research questions and film the outcomes. This project will culminate in a film festival at the Regent Theatre later in the



SITE OF SOME OF THE AREA IN HIAWATHA WHERE ALBERT RIVER LANDCARE HAS BEEN WORKING



# AROUND THE TRAPS

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK



By our Landcare Subgroups



RECOVERED WOODSIDE PLAQUE WITH JENNY WOLSWINKEL, SALLY-ANN HENDERSON, ANDREW MISSEN, GRAEME MACLENNAN, PETER JENNINGS, GAVIN MISSEN

year. ■

## Merriman Creek

Our group submitted a Smart Farm project application for soil moisture probes totaling \$100K. We are yet to hear if our application is successful.

Four projects have also been submitted under various grants opportunities for fencing remnant vegetation and revegetation works.

At our recent meeting members discussed the noticeable increase in the rabbit population, particularly in Seaspray.

Our annual group maintenance funds used to purchase trees for members, have been collected

and planting has commenced after some very long overdue rainfall. We hope there will be much more to follow.

Our **next meeting** is scheduled for 7.30pm on **July 16**. All welcome. Please contact Melissa on 51468328 for the venue and/or if you would like to car pool. ■

## Woodside

The Woodside and Giffard areas have experienced a very dry autumn and many people are feeding stock.

The Landcare group has continued to meet regularly with some excellent speakers. In February the Wellington Shire Environmental Planner, Andrew Wolstenholme, spoke to the group about his position and the state vegetation regulations

he helps to administer and enforce. This topic created many questions and an excellent discussion.

In April, Fisheries Officers Kerry O'Shea and Tom Crosby gave an excellent talk and slide show of issues they face on our spectacular and busy coastline. Their job involves education, enforcement and monitoring the coastal environment for both commercial and recreational fishers. They also work in our fresh water rivers and lakes.

Three group members recently gave interviews to Kathleen Brack from WGCMA regarding the Drought Tolerant Pasture Program they have been involved in. The WGCMA has information about this and many other programs on its website. The interviews with

our members can be heard via podcasts on the website.

Woodside member David Rottenberry attended the Climate Change Workshop in Yarram and reported that **by 2040 there will be a 1 to 1.6 degree rise in temperatures** producing more extreme weather conditions. More shelter will be needed for stock and there will be at least a **4% drop in rainfall** in our area. These are worrying statistics.

Earlier this year the group had an anniversary plaque returned after being lost for nearly 10 years. The plaque had been crafted by the Yarram Men's Shed and celebrated twenty one years of the group. Next year Woodside Landcare will be thirty years old. ■



# INSPIRING STORY

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

by Brian O'Connell

### Never too old to care for the land

*The Friends of Land & Water Landcare group (FLW) was established by residents of the Lifestyle Village in Warragul. Our members ages range from 65- 86 years.*

The group formed in 2010 after VicRoads arranged for a contractor to cut a five-metre firebreak along a 300m stretch of land between the M1 freeway and the northern boundary of the Lifestyle Village.

During the contracting works established green trees and shrubs were destroyed and there was damage to a once thriving and healthy wildlife habitat.

**Instead of just lamenting the mess or living with the**

**damage some of the Village residents set out to get permission from VicRoads to clean it up.**

After six months of negotiation the residents received approval with certain conditions. One stipulation was that the working group had to be overseen by Landcare, so the Friends of Land and Water Landcare group (FLW) was set up as a sub-group under the Latrobe Catchment Landcare Network in July 2010.

By May the following year, the land had been cleared of rubbish, metre-high thistles and dead trees. The group got underway with planting the first of over 700 native trees and shrubs during 2011.

FLW has worked extremely hard over the last 7 years but the contrast between before and after, kept the team enthused

and going hard.

Since 2011, there has been considerable growth, which includes grass that needs to be cut regularly. Now the land component of the work is largely made up of maintenance work and control of fallen trees and branches, as well as some smaller decorative plantings. Many people from inside and outside the village now enjoy walking in what they see as a pleasant park like area.

#### **So, what about Water?**

Through the Lifestyle Village meanders a little waterway known as Spring Creek. It collects water from west and south of the village, takes it via decorative ponds into Hazel Creek outside the village, and on to the Moe River. To the benefit of the village, the FLW Landcare group help keep a section of Spring Creek free of

the Parrot's Feather weed, which is a widespread and serious local problem, and they also control riparian growth. Additionally, the group have been actively involved in waterway revegetation activities in other nearby areas.

There's also another water element. Quite soon after the group's formation they could see measurements being taken regularly at a water tests site nearby, and it made sense that some of the enthusiasts who did the land work put their hands up to do regular water testing. Now the group have half a dozen people who take a water measurement every fortnight, working with the local Waterwatch Coordinator.

#### **Giant Earthworm Encounter**

When finishing off their major planting in 2011, with about 20-30 metres to go, one of



THE MANICURED CORRIDOR



DECORATIVE PLANTING



# INSPIRING STORY

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK



THE MOWING SQUAD

Van Praagh were notified and they were keen to see some pictures, then after a photo opportunity the 1.3 metre specimen was quickly returned intact to the earth. *Unexpected and exciting!*

FLW is doing small-scale Landcare projects with members keeping themselves actively involved by tending to plants and walking paths and helping to keep their small waterway clean and attractive. It is important to the group to keep revegetation and visual amenity in focus.



WATER MONITORING CREW

the workers put his spade into the ground ... and was completely amazed at what he found. It seemed to be an enormous worm! It was in fact a Giant Gippsland Earthworm (*Megascolides australis*). As it happened, one of the members had attended a seminar a few weeks earlier given by Dr Beverley van Praagh, an Australian who is a world authority on the worm. Both the Landcare coordinator and Dr

The Lifestyle Village local management enjoys and strongly supports the Landcare and Waterwatch work. The home owners also take great pleasure in its results. So too does the management chain, from Village managers right up to the Managing Director of the sizeable company. They regard it as a definite "win-win" situation. ■



GIANT EARTHWORM - A WHOPPING 1300CM





# PROJECT UPDATES

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

by Sally-Ann Henderson

### Corner Inlet Connections

We are now at the end of the Corner Inlet Connections (CIC) project. Over the past four years this project has worked with landholders to enhance the Ramsar wetlands of Nooramunga and Corner Inlet and the adjacent threatened saltmarsh community. This has been done through protection of saltmarsh, weed control, community education, revegetation and reduction in fox numbers.

In that time the Saltmarsh Protection project and its predecessors has won the Victorian Seafood Industry Award for Environmental Protection, the Coastcare Award at the Victorian Landcare Awards and the Victorian Coast Council Award. It is a remarkable achievement for many years of hard work by staff and the community.

The highlight of the final stage of the project was the Farmer Fisher Day held at Port Albert in December. Please see the Farmer Fisher Day report on page 8.

Dallas Wyatt, our resident ornithological expert, has undertaken a bird monitoring project which gathered baseline data on the species and abundance of birds using the areas that we have protected. Hopefully this monitoring can be repeated in future to see if the changes in the landscape have resulted in changes to bird populations. Recently YYLN undertook a survey of the area between Port Albert and Welshpool to assess the remaining saltmarsh that is



under threat from farming and climate change. Hopefully this information will lead to opportunities to protect more saltmarsh though future projects.

### Gorse Control

The Victorian Gorse Taskforce has provided 50:50 cost sharing for the removal of Gorse in our area. The Yarram Urban group has administered this project. Despite their best efforts at promotion and education, including a display at the Yarram Show, media reports, newsletter articles and promotion at other Landcare meetings, they have struggled to be able to spend all the money that was available. This was most disappointing, however there are now at least 7 properties that are clear of Gorse because of the project, which is an outcome to be celebrated. Well done to Yarram Urban group for stretching themselves to deliver a project that had no direct benefit to the

members of the group, but was seen as an important project for environmental protection.

### Reedy Creek phase 2

Property owners Alison Livermore and John Murphy are ably managing this project. The second stage of this project is to remove the final stretch of willows and revegetate Reedy Creek. The willows were removed over summer and the area is currently being fenced ready for planting later in the year.

### Recently the Yarram Scouts and Cubs held a spotlight walk

in the adjacent Mullungdung State Forest to get a better understanding of why these sorts of projects are so important. The keen eyes of our monitoring expert Brad Blake helped the group to find a population of threatened Greater Gliders, which enthralled everyone. The gliders were well behaved enough to

allow everyone a good look, posing in the spotlight for everyone to marvel at their surprisingly large size.

When this project is completed the bio-link created by the restored Reedy Creek will link the two sides of Mullungdung State Forest, as well as providing habitat along the waterway for the Martin's Toadlet and the Greater Glider. Well done to John and Alison on their commitment of time and money to see this project completed.

Although planting trees will ultimately lead to an increase in hollows, nooks and crannies, it may be a hundred years or more before some are of suitable size or quality for many of our arboreal creatures. Therefore, the provision of nest boxes can be a welcome addition to a landscape and is an important inclusion in many projects.

At Reedy Creek, habitat for micro bats will be provided via

# PROJECT UPDATES

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK



SCOUTS AND CUBS ON SPOTLIGHT WALK



ESTER HINKLEY HELPING WITH A CLEAN UP AT ALBERTON



BAT BOXES FOR REEDY CREEK 2 PROJECT

a collection of very artistic nest boxes that have been created by the students of Foster Secondary College. The teacher (Scott Bindloss) and school were so delighted with the project that they have agreed to insert it into the curriculum as an ongoing activity each year. If you are interested in installing some boxes on your property contact the office. As you can see from the picture, the artistic flare shown is sure

to be appreciated by any new residents.

### Helping Farmers to Help Fishermen

The federal government project "Helping Farmers to Help Fishermen": erosion control measures for the protection of Corner Inlet" is now complete. It is a great result to be able to say we were able to protect an eroding watercourse on Stoney

Creek and two steep gullies, to reduce further erosion and sediment from entering the waterways of the Corner Inlet catchment.

Outcomes from this project include 9.59 hectares of land protected and 203 individuals involved in the project, which included 9 different groups.

There are a few more activities that will be occurring to supplement this work, with funding from West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (WGCMCA) allowing for the GunaiKurnai Lands and Waters Corporation (GLaWC) works crew to plant out two of the sites as work on country. This is an important partnership that YYLN and WGCMCA are continuing to strive to include in as many projects as possible.

### Community Skills Development Grants

YYLN has received \$15,000 to fund some training

opportunities for members across West Gippsland. This will include first aid, seed collection, strategic planning and IT skills. If anyone is interested in undertaking training please let the office know and we can notify you of the details as they are finalised.

### Landcare Support Grants

The West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority has allocated \$20,000 shared between five groups to deliver a range of projects this year. The groups delivering the projects include CIBAG, Albert River, Alberton Junior Landcare group, Yarram Urban and the Publications Committee of the YYLN Board. The committee has used these funds to develop a prospectus to be used to solicit funding for a range of future projects and are planning to develop a recruitment brochure. More details on these projects in our next newsletter. ■





# GOODBYE CIBAG

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

by Dave Smith

## A sad farewell to the Corner Inlet Blackberry Action group

*It has come time for our group to lay down our tools and take a break, quite likely a permanent one.*

Personal situations have changed and many in the group find we have insufficient time to devote to the cause. Our personal battles with blackberry will continue but sadly the group will fold. Thank you to the Network for your support over the 5 years of our operations.

### **Our Story**

In February 2013 a group of enthusiastic volunteers met with the Victorian Blackberry Taskforce (VBT) at the Wonyip Hall. We discussed the formation of a local environmental project committee. The purpose of the committee was to pool knowledge, expertise, energy and enthusiasm to tackle the large and increasing problem of blackberry in the Corner Inlet environs, by recruiting landholders to manage blackberry infestations on their properties.

Funding was provided by the VBT following a grant application submission from the committee (for a maximum period of 3 years) and from any other grant source available. A chairperson and project officer were elected and a committee of 11 members was formed. The committee adopted the name "Corner Inlet Blackberry Action group" aka CIBAG.

During its 5 years of activity the committee has achieved



blackberry control to the value of over \$100,000 through grants from various funding sources, including the State Government's "Communities for Nature", "25<sup>th</sup> Landcare Anniversary" grant, Landcare Support Grant and the VBT.

The committee were able to offer a 50:50 funding arrangement to landholders, 50% of work funded by the landholder and 50% funded by the CIBAG. Following this, another \$30,000 worth of work by landowners was undertaken. This achieved control of a large area of blackberry infestation.

The works undertaken by landholders was a result of the knowledge and interest stimulated by the volunteer committee.

Community education events, invasive species forums and regular articles published in local newspapers were facilitated. Links with local farm supply businesses were forged

and donations of blackberry eradication products as incentives, were well received.

Over the last 5 years the CIBAG, as a committee, has learned a lot. Having a good project officer is worth gold! The challenges associated with a group of individuals from varied and diverse backgrounds, working together for a common cause, not always harmoniously, needs to be managed. Affording respect to fellow committee members, funding bodies, landholders, spraying contractors, other environmental groups and local businesses is essential.

Unfortunately natural attrition has seen the committee reduce to four members. The increasing work commitments of committee members has further eroded availability, so the difficult, but inevitable decision was taken to close the CIBAG down at the end of this current season.

It took some time and lots of thinking to come to and enact this decision.

The committee has worked hard to make the progress it has. It regrets not being able to build on past progress and feels it might be letting some folk down. It mulls on future landholders who will not have the benefit of the expertise and support and whose properties, and surrounding areas, might become a trial to themselves, and neighbouring private and public landholders.

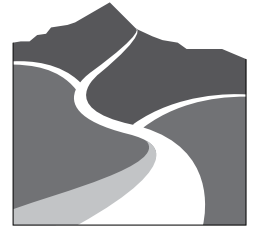
However, the committee does recognise a difference has been made over the past 5 years.

It knows landholders who have started the journey and seen the difference will continue to work at eradicating blackberry. Those landholders may influence neighbours to tackle their own weeds, in the interest of good neighbourly relations, as well as a cleaner environment.

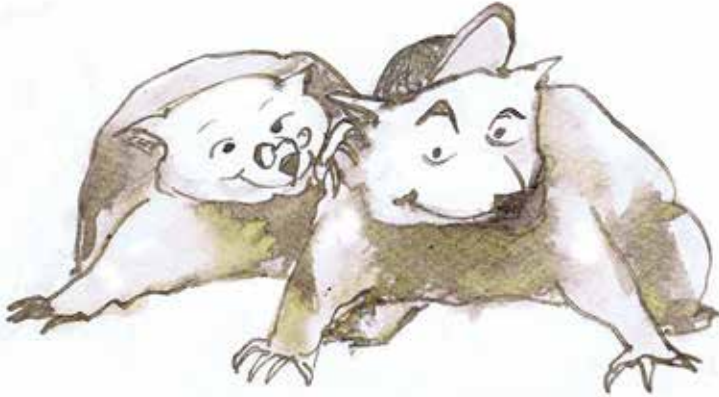
*The fight will continue.* ■

# WORDS OF WISDOM

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK



## Cousin Wally



### "Why do some leaves on gum trees have lumps on them?"

Imagine if you were able to find someone to irritate, and in order to overcome the irritation they started building around you, until you were completely

surrounded by walls and a roof, giving you somewhere to live! Well that's what some insects do. They select where they would like a new home on a plant, cause it some form of irritation, possibly by secreting some form of chemical, and in response the plant is stimulated to increase cell growth in the area of irritation. This cell growth eventually surrounds the insect giving it a new home - without having to lift a saw or a hammer!

These new homes are known as galls and that is what the lumps on the gum tree leaves are.



Galls take on many shapes, sizes and colours, and appear on many plants. Any species of insect which cause galls usually only does so on a certain species of plant and the shape of the galls created are similar for that species of insect. By determining the plant species and observing the shape and size of the gall, one can often determine what species of insect caused it, but beware there are some insects which live in other insect's galls. So, if you see an insect emerging from a gall it may not be the one that caused it.

Some galls look like a dead patch on a leaf. These are often caused by lerps, a small sap sucking insect. Some grow on leaves as a cup shape or look like tiny apples. Others grow on stems and look like swellings. Some gall producing insects colonise gum nuts, resulting in very odd shaped fruit.

Not all insects use galls as homes. Some use them to lay their eggs in. When the larvae hatch the often sugary and nutritious inside of the gall

provides them with food until they are ready to venture into the outside world. Some wasps lay their eggs in homes of other insects, and those insects become the food source for the larvae when they hatch.

Organisms, such as fungi or bacteria, can also cause galls.

Most galls are not damaging to native plants. In the case of exotic plants, particularly those grown as food crops, there are some galls, which can decrease the productivity of a crop considerably.

So, if someone has the gall to ask you "What are the lumps on the leaf" you will be able to tell them.

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

Wally

## Dung Beetles – Pooetry in motions

by Melissa Ainsworth

There are about 7000 species of dung beetles worldwide and between them they clean up the mess left behind by the rest of the animal kingdom. By burying dung, these beetles recycle the nutrients, aerate the soil and reduce fly numbers.

Australia's 400 species of native dung beetles are efficient at cleaning up the small, dry dung pellets produce by native animals. Cowpats, however, are a different story!

When cows were introduced to Australia, our native dung beetles could not cope with their huge, wet cowpats. Soon grazing land became fouled and fly numbers rocketed to plague proportions.

To solve the problem, 56 species of dung beetle were introduced from around the world. Of these, 20 species are still happily eating and burying cowpats today.

Australia now has approximately 30 million cows, which drop about 12 million cowpats every hour. So, without dung beetles, we would be up to our ears in it!







# KIDS PAGE

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

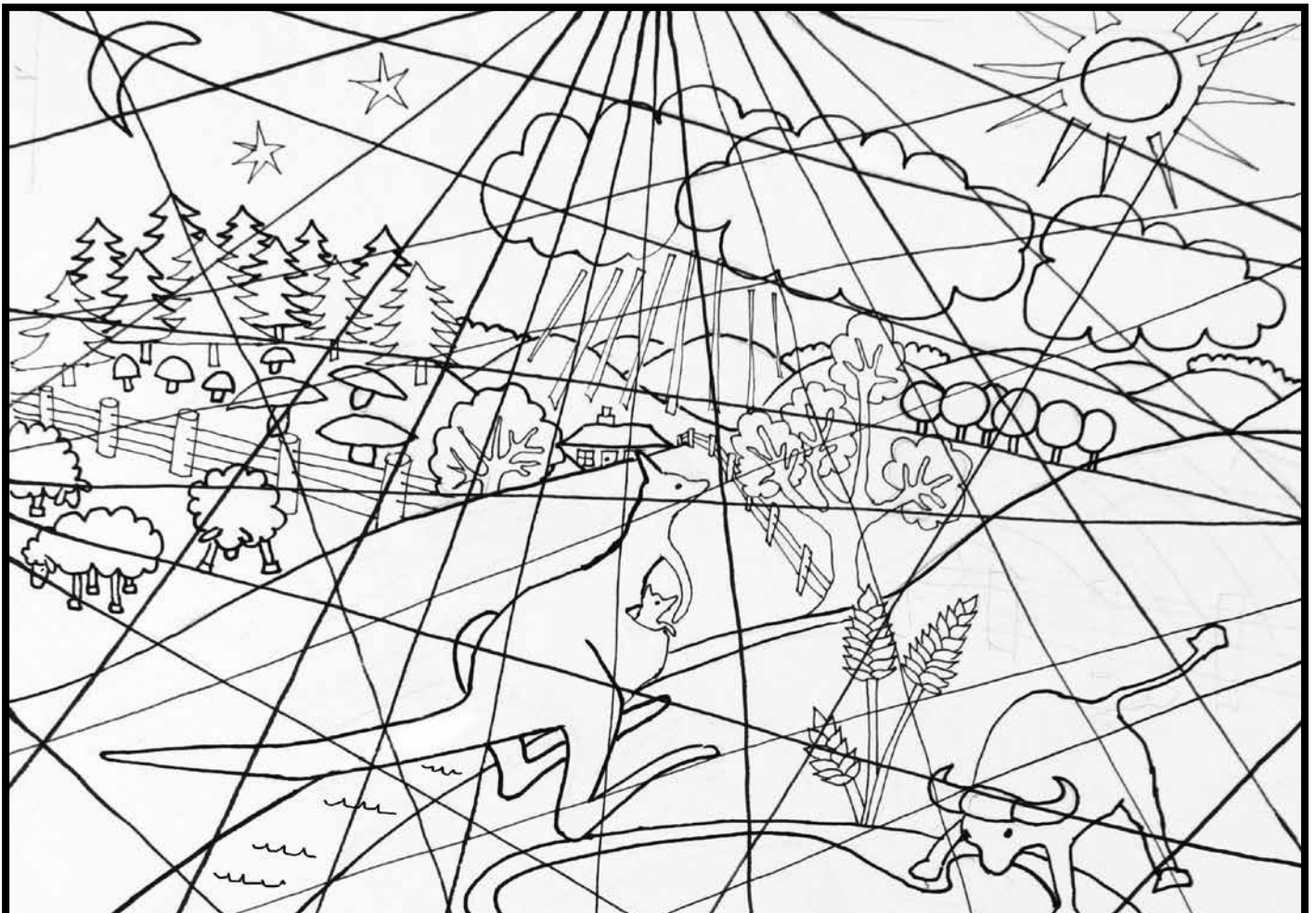
### Common Weeds of Gippsland

- |              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| AGAPANTHUS   | BROOM       |
| HEMLOCK      | PINE        |
| ANGLED ONION | CAPE IVY    |
| HOLLY        | PITTOSPORUM |
| ARUM LILY    | CAPE WEED   |
| KIKUYU       | RAGWORT     |
| BLACKBERRY   | FENNEL      |
| MIRROR BUSH  | SPURGE      |
| BONESEED     | GORSE       |
| MULLEIN      | THISTLE     |
| BOXTHORN     | HAWTHORN    |
| PAMPAS       | WILLOWS     |

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

Puzzle by Anne Hill, typed by Serena Savage

### Colour in this mosaic landscape



# NEW HORIZONS

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK



By Helga Binder

*In the words of one attendee at the YYLN 'New Horizons' workshop, held June 3, 2018: "Good to share the day with you today, it's always inspiring in a room full of Landcarers!"*

It was wonderful to hear the buzz of activity as the 28 representatives from our sub-groups and presenters got down to the business of developing new projects for the network.

Innovative ideas were stimulated by terrific presentations on a range of pertinent topics.

Belinda Brennan (WGCMA) spoke on how young people are organising themselves to participate in Landcare.

Beth Mellick from the Wettenhall Environmental Trust videoed in to give a presentation on good partnerships and what funding is available in the philanthropic arena.

Frankie MacLennan gave us an insight into climate change ideas and working with indigenous groups.

Jenny O'Sullivan gave a highly praised talk on future possibilities in the sustainable agriculture arena.

Smoothly facilitated by Frankie MacLennan, the day moved from presentations into action.

Innovative project ideas were discussed, itemised and then the most popular ones were shaped into cohesive projects

by smaller groups using a prepared pro forma sheet.

Project topics that got people excited were:

- Sustainable Pasture Management on the Coastal Plains in a changing climate.
- Extending the Mullungdung to Coast project.
- Looking at alternative sources of funding to provide for both staff and projects.
- Setting up a mentoring service for new arrivals to Landcare in our region.
- Exploring new ways of supporting landholders with projects.
- Education program for non-indigenous people on culture and natural resources from the indigenous perspective.
- Leadership training and support for group contact officers.
- Using technology to reach the younger generations and spreading our story in more modern ways.
- Motivating absentee neighbours and bringing enthusiasm back to the area.
- Teaching children to plant a seed that grows later.

Participants were well fed throughout the day with delicious food prepared by the Uniting Church catering group.

The workshop also saw the launch of the brand new YYLN Prospectus. This document will be used to approach non government organisations for funding of specific projects.

A very big thank you to all of the members, presenters, Dan Garlick for his IT support and Frankie MacLennan for being



FRANKIE MACLENNAN  
INSPIRING US ALL



OUR YOUNGEST LANDCARER -  
THOMAS STONE



EXCELLENT IDEAS FROM KAYE PROUDLEY, JENNY DAVIES, BARBARA JACOBS, MELISSA AINSWORTH, WERNER LANGE AND LYN HUGHES



WORKING ON MENTORING AND NEW TECHNOLOGY ARE SCOTT ELLIOTT, JENNY O'SULLIVAN (PRESENTER) AND MICK GREEN



'YEP, WE HAD IDEAS TOO' - ANNE HILL, ANGIE GUTOWSKI, MICHAEL HOBSON AND BERNIE BRINKER

so giving of her time to help organise and facilitate the workshop. We also thank the

WGCMA for providing funding to pay for expenses on the day.



SALTMARSH PROTECTION IS VITAL TO THE HEALTH OF OUR COASTAL ECOSYSTEM

## Your local contacts within the Yarram Yarram Landcare Network

### ALBERT RIVER LANDCARE GROUP

Contact: Craig Moore  
Phone: 0437 357 121  
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### WOODSIDE LANDCARE GROUP

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### WONYIP LANDCARE GROUP

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### BINGINWARRI LANDCARE GROUP

Contact: John McClumpha  
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Email: jd@incitegraphics.com.au

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