



YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NEWS

Vol: 001 SPRING November 2010

Warmest of greetings to all Landcare members throughout the network and welcome to the very first edition of our newly revised YYLN Landcare News.

As we travel into a new era for Landcare in our district we look forward to using the Landcare News as a focal point for sharing information and recording the enormous progress made by Groups, sub-groups and individuals in the network.

Over the years much of the progress made has been left unrecorded or lost to those who are new to the area. We hope that this quarterly newsletter goes some way to recapture some of this information.

To that end we are including a number of pages that require your input. Do you have a story to tell? Perhaps you have hints on how to avoid 'reinventing the wheel' or a catalogue of achievements for your particular neck of the woods?

We would be delighted to include this information in the appropriate sections.

Please send your contributions to Melissa Ainsworth at ainsworths@activ8.net.au

To start the ball rolling we have a feature article in this edition on the achievements of our new Chair, David McAninly, on his property in Alberton West. ■

Contents

From the Office	2
Projects 09-10.....	3-7
Around the traps	8-9
Feature article	10
Contacts	11

Congratulations to Paul and Gemma Martin on the birth of their baby boy on October 31. Ollie William was born in good health at 2.43pm!!



FAREWELL TO PAUL, LEON & ROSS



Paul Martin

Paul's four years of employment as the YYLN Coordinator saw us become one of the most respected Networks in the region.

His talents helped groups rebuild and members implement many on-ground

projects. He was instrumental in the development of the Jack and Albert River Restoration (JARR) project and left us with an enviable Biodiversity Blueprint from which to launch landscape-wide change over the entire catchment area.

Paul and his Landcare team saw the building and maintaining of strong partnerships with government, business and landholders who live, work and have an interest in our region. Thanks to Paul we have a solid base on which to build our future Landcare initiatives.

With his wife Gemma and baby soon to be born he moved on to a pest and weed eradication position with the Eurobodalla

Shire up near Bateman's Bay.

We thank Paul for the wonderful legacy his hard work as left us with and wish him well in the next chapter of his life.

Leon Trembath

Leon has been a champion of Landcare for more years than most and contributed enormously to the development of Landcare in our region. From on-ground works on his own property, numerous projects undertaken with fellow members of the Madalya Landcare Group and his tireless efforts on the YYLN Board Leon has been a staunch advocate for a sustainable future.

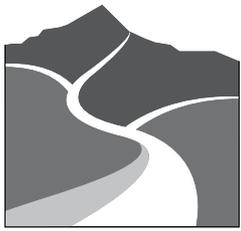
He was our representative on GippsLandcare and the Regional

Landcare Forum and has been consistent in his fight to have Landcare recognised and funded according to its critical position in our community.

Thank you Leon for your hard work and the strength you helped build for the Landcare Network in our area.

Ross Lampre

Thank you Ross for your many years as a general Board member and your contribution as Invasive Plants and Animals Committee Chair. Your wisdom and knowledge will be missed though we know your dedication to Landcare will stay. We wish you well on your new adventures. ■



FROM THE OFFICE

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

Staffing news

Although Paul Martin is a hard act to follow we hope to fill his position within the next month or so. Interviews with a number of talented applicants were held at the end of October and a notice will be sent when the new Coordinator is in place.

Until that time the ever dedicated Samantha Monks will take on higher duties for an extra day a week as well as maintaining her role in the management of projects. It is a heavy workload and I'm sure we will all be understanding when our calls take a little longer to be answered.

Seedbank Committee Members required!

Would you like to be a member of the Seedbank Committee? Meetings are generally held every two months at the Yarram Office. Meetings run only for an hour or two with the next scheduled meeting on the 17th of November at 12.30. If your interested give Brian Nicholls a call on 51468246.

We are pleased that Bronwyn Johnson continues on in her role

of Seedbank Officer and business continues as usual every Wednesday. ■

New Board

The new Board of the YYLN Network is working overtime to meet the challenges of staffing changes and development of strategies to carry the Network into the future.

It is capably led in its endeavours by David McAninly, Chair and Brian Nicholls, Vice Chair and the Chair of Seedbank Committee. Werner Lange continues in the role of Secretary and Damian Moore as Treasurer. Bob Wenger, Helga Binder, Trevor Colvin and Melissa Ainsworth make up the rest of the Board.

Trevor has taken on the specific roles of overseeing Invasive Plants and Animals projects and is our representative for Gippslandcare and the Regional Landcare Network. Melissa is on the Seedbank Committee and is focussing on publications and Helga is Chair of both the Employment Steering Committee (which includes Werner and Damian) and the JARR Committee (which includes representatives of Landcare Groups and our many partners in the area such as WGCMA, HVP and DSE).

They are all committed to growing Landcare and strengthening community ties. ■

Current Projects



JARR PROJECT

The 21st of October saw David McAninly and Helga Binder in Melbourne attending an information sharing workshop organised by the Norm Wettenhall Foundation for the five project groups it is funding in Victoria.

After presentations from each group (with David doing an excellent job with the JARR summary) vigorous discussions on successes, challenges and solutions were undertaken. It was great to see that our progress with JARR was up there with the best of them and that our Biodiversity Blueprint was seen as a great example of what can be achieved when a community works together.

We now have to **revisit the Blueprint** and all of the projects indicated by landholders and move to the next stage - project funding (if not already funded) and implementation. To that end the Foundation has approved additional funds to employ a project manager and Beth Mellick, from the Foundation, has offered to assist with funding applications for project work and any other support we may require.

A decision on employment of the project manager will be made after the appointment of a Landcare Coordinator and we should have the ball rolling again by January.

In the meantime much work has gone in to producing field guides on flora and fauna in our area. Kaye Proudley and Richard Appleton must be thanked a million times for their contribution. We anticipate finalisation and printing prior to Christmas.

We are also working on an introductory **bird watching** workshop to be run around the end of November early December - invitations for this event will be distributed once dates are settled.

The **JARR website** is now up and running at www.jarrproject.com and the Spatial Vision **interactive mapper** is ready to be used. Just follow the link from the Jarr website and it will take you directly there. For those who wish to have a workshop on its use we are planning one in the first quarter of next year (depending on numbers).

There has also been quite a lot of on-ground activity from our partners, the WGCMA, who have been very active in willow removal, fencing and revegetation along the Albert River.

SALTMARSH PROGRAM

On the 13th October we saw visiting scientists inspect the salinity areas of the SALT CAP trial sites around the Woodside/Darriman area.

Dr Nick Edwards (National Project Leader, Saltland Knowledge Exchange and keeper of the Saltland Genie) and Professor Edd Barrett-Lennard (Research Professor from the University of WA school of Plant Biology) undertook site assessments of the area.

OTHER PROJECTS

To see what individual landcare groups have been up to see the section 'Around the Traps'.

All other projects are awaiting the appointment of our new Landcare Coordinator. ■



PROJECTS 09-10

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

Seedbank Overview (Bronwyn Johnson)

It has been a peaceful year in the Yarram Seedbank. Nursery sales have been relatively steady, however direct seeding projects have been few and far between. *Stellaria* Native Vegetation Services has slightly increased sales through private landholder projects and is greatly assisting the Seedbank in expanding our knowledge of seed

collection costs and requirements. Early in May, I completed a Habitat Hectares training course. It has greatly expanded my appreciation of what healthy remnants can look like and what we can do to improve our revegetation techniques.

I and other Seedbank committee members have attended a number

of Regional Seed Supply Forums held at the WGCMA offices in Traralgon. These have been respectful discussions and have succeeded in raising some interesting questions. Further committee meetings revolving around these questions has been very constructive and helped to clarify the ongoing role of the Seedbank and its

future direction.

I'm in the midst of a full stock-take and stock health assessment and hope to have that completed before the next seed collection season begins. This should give us a better idea of successful seed storage techniques that would increase the longevity, viability and value of our seed stocks.

Into the future we are preparing to gear up for the massive amounts of seed that the Mullundung to the Coast project will require, this includes training all landholders in the use of the ANZ Burford Direct Seeding Machine, and coordinating all available seed collectors to enable YYLN to be able to sort and distribute this seed (~100kg). ■

Projects Overview

YYLN, working in partnership with the Victorian Gorse Taskforce (VGT), has developed the **Gippsland Coastal Plains Gorse Control Program (GCPGC)** to help the community specifically target this noxious weed. **This year over 400 hectares of Gorse has been treated** in priority areas from Port Albert through to Seaspray.

Through this program, participants were eligible to receive funding incentives of 50% towards the cost of physical and/or chemical removal of Gorse. Participants signed an agreement to carry out any subsequent spraying or removal of Gorse regrowth to

avoid reinfestation on treated areas. Photo-point monitoring was also conducted by YYLN staff to help gauge the effectiveness of on-ground works, while electronic mapping was used to help track the reduction of Gorse cover in the future.

We are hoping this project can be extended for another year to enable the community to continue Gorse control with a view to making it easier and less costly to manage in the future. Expressions of interest are currently being sought from the community. Please contact Yarram Landcare if you have Gorse in your area, or would like assistance or



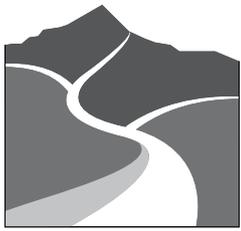
Neville Summerfield is dwarfed by Gorse

advice in Gorse removal. Note: Gorse / Furze (*Ulex europaeus*) is a Weed of National Significance (WoNS), that was first introduced to Australia by settlers during the early 1800's for hedging

and ornamental planting. Gorse is a dense spiny shrub that can grow 3 metres high. It has yellow pea-type flowers and usually flowers in spring and autumn. Seed pods explode open at

maturity and a mature bush can produce over 40,000 seeds. Gorse is a highly flammable plant, capable of invading native bushland, pastures and plantations. It can spread along roadsides,

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PROJECTS 09-10

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

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waterways and railways.

Targeting Invasive WoNS in West Gippsland with Community Action is a project funded by the Australian Government's, Caring for Our Country (CfOC) program. Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) pose a significant threat to agricultural production, environmental health and biodiversity.

Boneseed



This project delivered by the five Landcare Networks across the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (WGCMA), aims to raise community awareness of invasive WoNS and

target local infestations using best practice techniques and actions. A series of fact sheets have been developed for the following WoNS: Serrated Tussock, Chilean Needle Grass, Boneseed, Gorse, Salvinia, Alligator Weed and Cabomba.

Within the YYLN boundaries, this WoNS program has directly contributed \$10,000 towards Serrated Tussock

(ST) control at Seaspray treating 240 Ha, and \$7,000 for Boneseed removal and control at Port Albert (30Ha). Over 400 Landcare fact sheets have been distributed to the local community.

Serrated Tussock



Ongoing control of these weeds is a priority for us and we have treated several hectares over the past year. We are planning community barbecues at Seaspray and Port Albert to help raise weed awareness later on this year. Please contact YYLN for further information or advice if you have any weed concerns in your area. ■

Wellington Shire Council / VicRoads / YYLN Roadside Weeds & Rabbits / Weeds for Trees Program

Another successful year of cleaning up our roadside weeds and rabbits has been made possible thanks to the support of our partnership agencies – Wellington Shire Council (WSC), VicRoads and the Department of Primary Industries (DPI). It is a great pleasure to drive around our Network and see the forgotten roadsides of many years, being successfully managed against invasive weeds.

The Invasive Plants and Animals (IPA) program is an important component of YYLN's delivery of on-ground works to the local community, and the majority of the funding has been secured through our strong links with the above mentioned agencies.

The WSC has once again boosted our roadside program by contributing \$35,000 towards weed and rabbit control in the 2009-2010 financial year. VicRoads have contributed \$6,000 to target rabbits and Boxthorn in the Woodside area. Part of this treatment was an essential follow up to the 2009 program. A further \$25,000 has been made available through the DPI/WSC Fire Affected Roads program, where 45 roads were treated for weeds.

This funding has enabled YYLN to employ local contractors to treat roadside weeds and rabbits across our Network area, covering **more than 800kms** of roadsides. **A special thanks to our dedicated**

Landcare members for being part of the WSC volunteer roadside weed program.

Invasive weeds targeted in this year's program include:

African Love Grass (*Eragrotis curvula*), Blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus* Spp. Agg.), Blue Periwinkle (*Vinca major*), Boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*), Boneseed (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*), Bridal Creeper (*Asparagus asparagoides*), Broom – Cape/Montpelier (*Genista monpessulana*), Gorse / Furze (*Ulex europaeus*), Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*), Spanish Heath (*Erica lusitanica*), Sweet Briar Rose (*Rosa rubiginosa*) and *Watsonia* (*Watsonia meriana* var. *bulbillifera*). ■

Caring for our Country Blackberry Suppression Project

\$65,000 in on ground works investment was delivered by YYLN between January and April 2010.

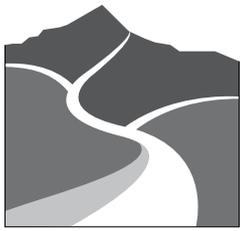
255.92ha of actual treatment area was achieved within the lower Billy Creek/Golden Creeks, the upper Albert River and the upper Little Albert River, with a small amount of periphery work occurring on the upper Jack and middle Albert Rivers.

Alignment was sought between high priority areas of warm temperate rainforest areas highlighted as having high connectivity through DSE's Native Vegetation Importance and Connectivity layer and JARR Project's Blueprint (essentially a willingness layer that illustrates

where landholders want to place on-ground works). This work also targeted difficult to reach social areas that are rated as being in poor condition on the Index of Stream Condition.

Herbicide treatment was principally used on the majority of sites with Grazon Extra and Brush Off utilised in all instances. Surfactants were added to the herbicide to increase its effectiveness. Organic treatment methods (manual treatment of infestations prior to stock inclusion) were utilised on one site.

YYLN have produced a full Photopoint monitoring and Biomass evaluation report for this project. Please see staff for a copy. ■



PROJECTS 09-10

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

Gippsland Plains Drought Tolerant Pasture Demonstration

Year 1 Report by Lisa Warn (Senior consultant, Mackinnon Project) & Samantha Monks (YYLN)

YYLN is responsible for the delivery of this three year \$270K project, funded through the Federal Government's "Caring for Our Country (CfOC)" program via the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF). YYLN with the support of Melbourne University is incorporating EverGraze principles in establishing trials of appropriate perennial pasture species and management practices suited to drought conditions.

Sixteen producers are involved in the project, each sowing 10Ha of perennial pastures for every year of the project. The majority of pastures are being sown by the direct drilling method and monitored using the EverGraze system. Properties are located around Woodside, Darriman, Seaspray and Stratford and have mainly light sandy clay loams. Average annual rainfall is 600mm but the district has experienced drought conditions for past 3-4 years.

Training and education is provided through a series of field days and regular workshops focusing on



Lisa Warn and Gavin Missen, Woodside – 15/10/09 – Pasture direct drilled in mid July to Flecha fescue, cocksfoot and PRG



Charles Meckiff, Darriman – 14/10/09 – Pasture direct drilled in mid August to Flecha fescue



Persistent Pastures Field Day at Warrigal Creek - 15/10/09, farm host Libby Balderstone – Flecha fescue direct drilled in late July

pasture monitoring and grazing management techniques. Most importantly, the project provides the farming community opportunities for discussion, learning and peer support.

Despite another very difficult year with a very late/ non-existent autumn break and poor spring rains, 15 of the 16 producers went ahead and sowed their paddocks and had moderate – good results. It was really tough and go all year whether they could sow paddocks, as low and patchy autumn rains meant weed control could not be achieved until mid-late winter for many.

Due to light soils, no stored subsoil moisture and risk of poor spring rains, the recommended cut-off for sowing pastures was mid August. A couple of the late sown paddocks had good germinations but young plants suffered when hit with the mid November heat wave. Two of these paddocks were inspected in mid February and fortunately still have adequate plants/m² surviving to become productive pastures.

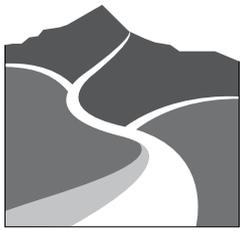
Total annual rainfall for 2009 was only 377 mm as recorded at nearby Sale.

Year 1 Paddock Results

A summary of what pasture mix each producer sowed and the establishment results is available from the Landcare Office for anyone who would like to see the breakdown.

To assess how well pastures established, plant counts were taken in from within the 9 permanent quadrants in each paddock in October 2009.

The full range of pasture monitoring activities started in March 2010. All producers have set up their nine permanent quadrants in their Control and Innovation paddocks. Overall, establishment results were very good despite such harsh seasonal conditions. ■



PROJECTS 09-10

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

Woodside Beach Rehabilitation Project

\$35,000 was awarded to YYLN to rehabilitate the dunes of Woodside Beach. To date we have planted over 2,000 native species, with another 3,000 to put in this year; run a comprehensive rabbit suppression program resulting in around a 95% reduction in numbers, and initiated a week long soft jaw fox trapping exercise that resulted in the demise of 4 foxes and 3 cats.

The project has seen the installation of chain and board on all beach access tracks, while 2 new viewing platforms are currently being constructed by Yarram Secondary College and will be installed in Spring 2010.

Signage will be installed at a later date. Our sincere thanks to Alan Austin, Joe Green and all the team members of the Westpac

Bank who have been instrumental in getting this project moving on the ground, the on ground component of this project would have been impossible without their assistance. Our appreciation goes to Nick Kuch from Yarram Secondary College for his willingness to, at the last minute, take on board the building and installation of the viewing platforms.

Also a round of applause must go to the Blokes and Banter Group who has helped out considerably on the project site, cutting and drilling timber, and levelling the chain and board sites, it's back breaking work and we thank you very much for helping out. ■

Left and below: Westpac volunteers getting stuck into it!



Caring for our Country Coastal Saltmarsh Protection Project

\$45,000 was spent in the protection of key Coastal Saltmarsh areas between Manns Beach and Reeves Beach. The investment was targeted to several properties to enhance connectivity and increase habitat for species such as the Orange Bellied Parrot which is sometimes sighted in this area. The project has also engaged Conservation Volunteers Australia to remove Boxthorn from adjoining Parks Victoria land which has the potential to spread into the fenced off Saltmarsh areas. ■

JARR Project incorporating the Biodiversity Blueprint

The JARR Project is now completely run by the community with Helga Binder (pictured at right with Beth Mellick, EO for the NWF) from Wonyip Landcare Group taking the helm and steering the ship towards the launch of the Biodiversity Blueprint at the Alberton West Recreation reserve in fine style on the 1st of April.

The day was very well attended, and we enjoyed

presentations from David McAninly, Beth Mellick, Leon Trembath and Paul Martin.

The Biodiversity Blueprint essentially provides YYLN with a "Willingness" layer, it contains future works that Landholders in the catchment want to do – a powerful tool when matched with appropriate investment. The NWF must be thanked sincerely for their

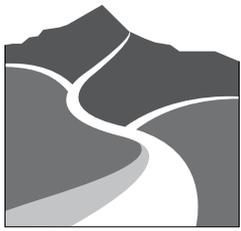
input on the project and the patience showed in waiting for deliverables to be achieved!

Next on the agenda for the JARR Committee is to produce a JARR / Biodiversity Blueprint webpage that incorporates the Spatial Vision Interactive Mapping Program, allowing anyone to add data to the map – this could include sightings of



Powerful Owls, a section of river that they have fenced off, or an event that the local Landcare Group is running. The committee will also be producing 2 x glossy

brochures that detail the JARR Project, the Biodiversity Blueprint and the most commonly encountered fauna and flora in the JARR Catchment. ■



PROJECTS 09-10

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

Tarra Trail Rail Trail

The Tarra Trail Walking / Cycle Track extends from Yarram to Alberton and has been the brainchild of members of the Friends of the Tarra Trail committee for a very long time. In late 2009, consensus was reached on the status of the Trail and what was to happen. Wellington Shire Council received a grant to harden the trail and install appropriate signage, road crossings and some gates for Landholders.

YYLN received a grant

from SP Ausnet via Landcare Australia for \$11,000 to revegetate the trail; this was bumped up by investment from the Shire's original grant to \$19,000 (\$8,000 from WSC). YYLN spent considerable time in planning the method of attack and planting plan, including the control of heavy Gorse infestations, Boxthorn, Briar Rose and Bathurst Burr.

Roughly 7,000 plants of the Gippsland Plains Grassland and Swamp

Scrub ecological vegetation classes are being planted back into the trail by members of the local community (particularly Apex and Rotary) and all the local schools.

DSE's Biodiversity Team, via Susan Taylor, have contributed \$2,000 to the revegetation efforts to secure rare and threatened species for inclusion into the planting program in the winter of 2011. ■



A very cold community planting day on 1st August 2010



Students from Yarram Secondary College planting on the Tarra Trail

Lower Tarra River Rehabilitation

Our State Victorian Young Landcare Leader and National Young Landcare Leader of the year nominee, Kayla Groombridge, has been trying to make things happen in her local patch - the lower Tarra River. Kayla held a revegetation day to help remediate a significantly degraded section of river, previously utilised as a camping and dumping ground by

visiting anglers. Funding was sourced through Bruce Atkin at Coastcare/ CoastAction and 150 locally indigenous species were planted back into the site on the 15th August. Kayla hopes to continue her great works with a fishing platform and further remediation works in another highly degraded site further up the river. ■



Kayla spot spraying in readiness for the planting on the 15th August 2010

World Wildlife Fund – TSN Highways for Quolls

The WWF / Wonyip Highways for Quolls Project was funded to \$33,440, which has enabled the group to reinstate roughly 10 hectares of damp forest EVC in the headwaters of the Little Albert River as a biodiversity corridor.

The group has also undertaken Hairtube monitoring to have a look at what animals are currently using the corridor, the results of which are shown below.

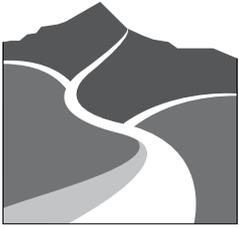
The project has been a wonderful success in the sense of revegetating a core section of riparian forest, galvanising the local community into action and enabling a

productive partnership between Landcare and HVP Plantations. Into the future, the project will capture data via infra red

cameras and Hairtubes, the results of which will be posted onto www.yyln.org.au ■



Paul Martin, Helga Binder and Fiona Capon setting Hairtubes



AROUND THE TRAPS

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

Albert River

The **Albert River Landcare Group**, of which there are 13 family memberships, held their Annual Meeting earlier in the year. A new President was elected in Geoff Charman and David MacAulay was re-elected as Secretary/Treasurer.

There have been two meetings since, with one held at the Alberton West Recreation Reserve on the night and prior to a Greening Australia information evening.

Included in the night they had a display of and talk about nesting boxes for Bats and various species of Possums, which was most interesting.

Several members have projects underway on their properties at the moment, where they are fencing off gullies, wetland areas and areas to be planted with indigenous species for shelter belts or wind breaks. They have been assisted with these projects with funding from the Albert River Group towards the purchase of fencing materials and/or indigenous plants for revegetation.

There will be another meeting come Christmas party prior to Christmas, members will be advised as to time, date and place shortly. ■

Binginwarri

Earlier in the year the **Binginwarri Landcare Group** hosted a meeting in which local roadsides were cleaned up. The event was very well attended with around 25 ~ 30 people participating. The group has also enjoyed several social barbecues. The newsletter known as the "Bingi Babbler" is written by Kaye Proudley and circulated to approximately 55 households. The fifth edition has just been produced and is an excellent example of simple but effective communication within a group.

Kaye is also collecting a list of local bird and animal sightings. Communicated through the newsletter, it is generating some interest with other members contributing their information to the list. In time the group would like to host a bird and animal identification day. ■

Woodside

In 1989 an empowered Frankie MacLennan came home from a meeting at Phillip Island and told her husband Graeme she was going to start a Farm Trees group in Woodside. On September 18th 2010, now known as the **Woodside Landcare Group**, we celebrated 21 years of dedication to the idea of creating sustainable farms that support our livelihoods whilst restoring and protecting the beautiful South Gippsland Plains that surround us.

A bus trip down memory lane was organized. We visited past experiments in shelter belt construction and roadside restoration. We reminisced about misadventures with home built seeders and questionable species choices. We shared lessons learnt from failures and spread the credit for our successes. We lamented the loss of knowledge and staff from the area as funding priorities shifted. We remembered, we reconnected and we laughed. We wandered on into the evening with a traditional country roast dinner at the Woodside Hall. Light music, fine local wine, a history lesson from Fergus Irving, our first President, and a couple of entertaining speeches from Rob Youl and Neville Penrose rounded out a most gracious day.

There were 26 people at that first meeting, 14 of them are still members today. They have been joined by another 30 member families and we all agree the secret to our longevity is the superb suppers provided at all our meetings by our Catering Officer, Kay Belcher! Apparently a passionfruit sponge (and a pragmatic sense of humour) can get you through anything. ■

Bingiwarri Fire Meeting

WILDFIRE - WILL YOU SURVIVE? ANOTHER FEBRUARY 7TH WILL HAPPEN ONE DAY.

If you do not know how to prepare, you probably will not survive.

If you do not know what to do, you probably will not survive.

SURVIVAL REQUIRES KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, TEAMWORK AND PLANNING.

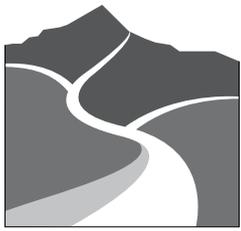
Fire Ready Victoria is an information campaign run by trained CFA presenters to give you the skills and resources for survival. John Henshaw from CFA Longford and our own Gus Hughes, Jack River Fire Captain will be at

STACEY'S BRIDGE HALL WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH FROM 7:30 PM TO 9:00 PM.

BETHERE OR REMAIN IGNORANT, AND TAKE YOUR CHANCES.

We will also be discussing how to set up successful Telephone Alert Trees





AROUND THE TRAPS

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

Merriman Creek

The **Merriman Creek Landcare Group** evolved some 21 years ago from the then Stradbroke Farm Tree Group. At a recent meeting, two member families were presented with Life Membership Certificates. Pat & Ed Brand and Norma & Peter Garlick both held positions from the farm tree days and remain active members of the group today. Congratulations!

Last month the group held a field day on African Love grass and Serrated Tussock. The day saw excellent attendance from both members and non members. Speakers included the DPI, Wellington Shire and our very own Sam Monks.

October also saw a field day in the Woodside - Stradbroke - Seaspray areas looking at results from the first year of the Perennial Pastures Project. The program is now in its second year. The day was guided by Lisa Warn (Mackinnon Project, Uni. Of Melb.) B.Agr.Sc., M.Agr.Sc., Dip.Wine Tech. and Simon Hunt (Stephen Pastures Seeds - Area



Life membership award



Life membership award

Manager) B.App.Sci.(Agr.)Grad. Dip. Agribusiness.

Progress of the various grasses was inspected by 26 attendees. It appeared that soil health was definitely improving and it will be interesting to see the final outcome of the studies, which conclude at the end of 2011.

The group is having its 21st birthday and Christmas meeting on November 21st at 4pm at Seaspray.

All welcome! ■



Landcare African Love grass Field Day - information sharing

Carrajung & District

The **Carrajung & Districts Landcare Group** held its Annual General Meeting in October with the existing committee being re-elected. Unfortunately membership numbers are the lowest for many years. The group however is determined to continue and is well placed financially.

Group members are working together and separately on weed control programs. We are meeting informally and involving non-member land owners to tackle local weed infestations. ■

Won Wron Devon Nth

The Won Wron Devon North Landcare Group will be holding their Annual General Meeting on the 30th of November at the Won Wron Hall at 8pm. Agenda items include the election of office bearers and discussion regarding the group becoming a sub-group of the YYLN. Of late, group members continue on individual weed control programs and completion of funded projects. ■

Wonyip

The Wonyip Landcare Group continues in its bid to find the elusive Quoll by using the rest of its funding to set up photo-point monitoring. In the meantime they are continuing their weed spraying projects and individual land improvements.

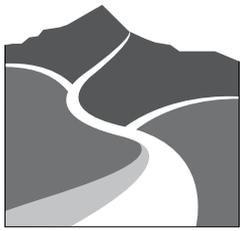
Trevor Colvin and Susie Folletta recently sold their property, on which they have a Trust for Nature covenant. The gap they leave in the Wonyip numbers is hoped to be filled by new residents to the area.

The group also had success in their bid for a CFA water tank to be installed on public ground so that the next fire season sees residents slightly better prepared. A 'Telephone Tree' is in place to ensure no one is caught unawares or unprepared. This initiative came out of a successful Fire Readiness meeting facilitated by Jack River Captain, Gus Hughes, and attended by representatives of all member families.

The group includes a number of musicians who provide excellent entertainment at our social gatherings, which we hope to have more of now that the warm weather is on its way. ■

SHARE THE JOY

If your group has news for the other members in the Network, photo's or upcoming celebrations we would love to include this in the next Newsletter (due in January). Please send your information to ainsworths@activ8.net.au



FEATURE

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

THE McANINLY INITIATIVES

Chair of the Landcare Board and local landholder David McAninly is a notable figure in our community. The McAninly family are involved in dairy farming in the region and their initiatives have included both short and long-term projects which have seen their properties become shining examples of how caring for the land can not only enhance the environment but improve farming sustainability and land value.



David and Joy McAninly with their children on their property.

The contribution of the McAninly family to Landcare began forty years ago up the gravel road on the Billy Creek Tap Tap connection.

In the late 60's and early 70's they cleared 70 acres of bushland on the 'Ryans Home block' leaving 40-50 metre wide stands of vegetation for shelter. A further 50 acres of existing bushland surrounds the pastured paddocks.

Since then **shade and shelter belts** have been planted in almost all areas of the 200ha farm to protect their high producing dairy herd and young stock from harsh wintery winds and summer warm temperatures.

Fencing of remnant bushland and further indigenous planting has also been done to protect existing vegetation from cattle damage and sporadic high winds.

The house track 'Coree' has been established since the 80's. It provides a continual **corridor of native vegetation** linking with existing growth to provide shelter, shade, aesthetics and wildlife habitat.

The Billy Creek meets the Albert River on the western boundary of the farm and much work has been done in conjunction with the CMA to minimise soil erosion caused by **severe flooding**.

Also with the CMA and in cooperation with

a neighbour across the Albert River, 750 metres of **willows were removed**, fenced and 2000 native trees planted on the riparian area.

Areas of **salinity affected pasture** have also been dealt with. Suitable selection of salt tolerant summer crops and annual rye grass species have proved successful temporary solutions and over **2.5 kilometres of 4,000 trees planted** through the Landcare Salinity Project in 2008. His was one of 7 properties who sunk **salinity bores** in the 1980's to monitor water table depth and salinity levels on a monthly basis. This monitoring is still ongoing.

A new dairy was built in 2007. Its features include emphasis on **recycling water**; a **high powered hydrant** and hose for washdown which takes 5-10 minutes and saves water; and **direct application of effluent** to the irrigation system.

Inspiration for all of this work has come from, David MacAulay, Gavin Egan, the late John Crew, Adrian Rathjen, Neville Penrose, Nick Dudley, Beth Mellick and last, but not least, Paul Martin (Landcare Coordinator 2006 till 2010).

The family also recognises that much of this work could not have been possible without the **support** of the Albert River Landcare Group;

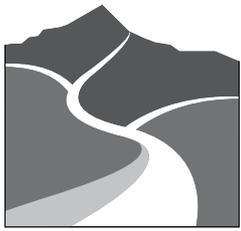
DSE; YYLN; EPA; Southern Rural Water; Waterwatch; Greening Australia; WGCMA; Gippslandcare; Dairy Australia; Gippsdairy; Vic. Govt. Eco Tender; Wellington Shire; former Alberton Shire; former Yarram Forest Commission; Norm Wettenhall Foundation; DPI and the Federal Government.

David is a firm believer in the sharing of knowledge through the Landcare Network. ■



*Above: an example of paddock surrounded by shelter belt.
Below: The 'Coree' housetrack.*





CONTACTS

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You may find the following links useful:

<http://yyln.org.au>

This link is the official YYLN website.

<http://westgippsland.landcarevic.net.au/vri/group-start-up-kit>

This link takes you to a Landcare Group start-up kit that supplies a wide range of information for new and existing groups. It includes things like information on Insurance, Committees of Management, Meetings, OH&S, Partnerships, Planning and more. This is a must read for all groups.

<http://westgippsland.landcarevic.net.au/yyln> or www.yyln.org.au

Here you will find an overview of Yarram Yarram Landcare Network Projects. It includes links to YYLN member groups with maps showing where they are in our local community.

<http://www.landcarevic.net.au/>

This page gives an overview of what is happening in Landcare around Victoria highlighting both news and events. It also includes the 2008-2009 Landcare Report Card displaying the achievements in Victoria over that financial year and a comprehensive list of 'How-tos' for creating a group website using this gateway.

<http://www.landcareonline.com/>

This page is the official online link to all activities relating to Landcare Australia. It has Quick links to a range of Landcare information including Grants and Funding, carbon sequestration and case studies.

<http://www.juniorlandcare.com/>

This is the gateway for Junior Landcarers

Caring for our Country

<http://www.nrm.gov.au/>

Department of the Environment Water Resources

<http://www.environment.gov.au/>

Landcare Australia is funded by this department through the Caring for our Country initiative.

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry

<http://www.daff.gov.au/natural-resources/landcare>

Provides administrative funding for Landcare Australia's activities.

Department of Sustainability and Environment

<http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/dse/index.htm>

Landcare Australia's Victorian operations are supported by this department and the Coast Action/Coastcare Program supports thousands of community volunteer groups. It employs a regionally based facilitator for our area.