



YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NEWS

Vol: 003 WINTER June 2011

An Awards Night to Remember

The 2011 Yarram Yarram Landcare Network Awards Night was held on Friday 29th April at the Club Hotel Yarram. The Awards Night is an important opportunity to recognise the efforts of the Landcare community and identify those individuals and groups who are making a significant contribution toward environmental sustainability in our region.

The evening was a tremendous success with over 90 people attending and the positive vibe throughout the night is a sign of the strong community support for Landcare in our region.

Special guests included: Darren Chester, Federal Member for Gippsland, Jo McCoy,



David McAninly, Chairman of the YYLN Board gives a heartwarming welcome speech on the Awards night.



From left to right: David McAninly (YYLN), Nick Dudley (Regional Landcare Facilitator), Gavin Egan, David MacAulay (Individual Landcare Award), Jill Vella and Dan Garlick (YYLN Coordinator)

Community Engagement and Landcare Manager (DSE) and Nick Dudley, Regional Landcare Facilitator. Each outlined their commitment to Landcare in the region and recognised the significant contribution and strength of the YYLN community.

Congratulations to all nominees and the following YYLN Award Winners:

- Elizabeth Balderstone*
Primary Producer Award
- David MacAulay*
Individual Landcare Award
- Leon Trembath*
Outstanding Contribution to Landcare
- Helga Binder*
Landcare Education Award

- Woodside Landcare Group*
Nature Conservation Award
- Binginwarri Landcare Group*
Community Group Award
- The Drought Pastures Project*
Special Network Award
- Norman Wettenhall Foundation*
Partnership Award

We would like to thank the following sponsors for their contributions

- ANZ Bank, NAB, Andrew Dunkley Machinery, Moore's Family Butchers, John Palmer Holden, HVP, Wellington Shire Council, West Gippsland CMA, Wildfish Restaurant, Brown Wigg, Murray Goulburn, Retravision, Sea Eagle Consulting, Toms Cap Winery,

Hedley Range Services, David and Joy McAninly and McAninly Financial Consultants. ■

...more photos on page 03

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EVENTS UPDATE

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

Newsletter Team

Newsletter production is done entirely by volunteer labour. If you would like to help with the writing, photography or even have your very own column, please contact us and join the team. Or else just send us contributions whenever you have something to show or tell that relates to landcare in our region.

We would love to publish some of your stories, hints or comments.

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Editorial Team:

Melissa Ainsworth, Helga Binder, Dan Garlick and Samantha Monks.

DEADLINES:

All contributions for the Spring edition must be received before 25 August, 2011.

Printing and distribution of this newsletter has been made possible through a WGCMA Small Landcare Grant.

Printed on 100% post consumer recycled paper, using non toxic inks and 100% solar power.



Sat 11th June 2011 @ 10am. Binginwarri Hall. Community Fireguard Phone Tree Set-up Day followed by BBQ. Meat, bread, tea and coffee supplied. Plus we'll be attaching our new award to the hall gate. You have to make your own fireguard-phone-tree, so you have to be there. Can't be done for you! BRING YOUR SUBSCRIPTIONS ALONG. RSVP's to Kaye Proudley on 5185 1398, IN EVERY CASE, one week before the event please, otherwise events will be cancelled because of an assumed lack of interest. Non-members are always welcome.

Sun 12th June 2011 @ 1pm at the Wonyip Hall - Wonyip Landcare Group AGM.

16th June 2011 – AGM - Albert River Landcare Group. Venue is at the home of David & Sue MacAulay's starting with the barbecue at 6.30pm and then the meeting at 8.00pm.

22nd June 2011 – Woodside Landcare Group Meeting – 8pm – Woodside Hall

26th June 2011 – AGM - Wonyip Landcare Group. Venue is the Wonyip Hall, starting with the barbecue at 12.30pm and then the meeting at 2.00pm.

2nd July 2011 – 25th Anniversary Celebration – Merriman Ck Landcare Group – 6.30pm at the Stradbroke Hall – RSVP by 24th June

10th July 2011 – AGM – Binginwarri Landcare Group @ 10.30 Binginwarri Hall. Despite what had earlier been decided, we need to formalize our group in order to have a decisive voice in Landcare matters. Morning tea provided. IF NOT ALREADY PAID, PLEASE BRING YOUR SUBS ALONG

Sun 7th Aug 2011 @ 9.30am on-site. Bird watching at White Woman's Waterhole in Won Wron State Forest, led by Kaye & Roy Proudley. Bring morning tea, (plus lunch if desiring to stay on) & drink, bird i.d. book and binoculars if you have them. Bird roll call at midday. Meet at W.W.W.H. Picnic Area accessed from Napier Rd (off Hyland Highway) or Won Wron-Woodside Rd (off Sth Gippsland Highway, north of Yarram.) Let's check if the birds have returned after the fires. RSVP's to Kaye Proudley on 5185 1398, IN EVERY CASE, one week before the event please, otherwise events will be cancelled because of an assumed lack of interest. Non-members are always welcome.

Sun 21st Aug 2011 @ 9.30am. Tree planting on Hedley Range road-side. Look for 'PARK HERE' sign, approx. 4.8 kms from Tap Tap Rd turn-off. BBQ lunch provided by adjoining property owner, Colleen. BYO plates, cutlery, drinks and chair.

Tree planting tools supplied. Help our C 4 W! RSVP to Kaye Proudley

28th August 2011 – AGM – Merriman Creek Landcare Group – 2pm Stradbroke Hall

Sun 3rd Sep 2011 @ 9.30am. Tree planting on HR Road-side. Same road and arrangements as before but slightly different location approx 4.6 kms further on from Tap Tap Rd. Look for sign. Adjoining property owner this time is Paul. Come help plant up our 'Corridors for Wildlife.' RSVP to Kaye Proudley

Sun 18th Sept 2011 meet @ 9.30am. Tree planting on HR Rd. Same road and arrangements as before. Finish the job! But who knows what location this time? Complete 'C 4 W!' Better keep looking for that sign! RSVP to Kaye Proudley ■

Yarram Yarram Landcare Network - AGM

Friday 26th of August 2011 at the Club Hotel in Yarram 6.30 pm for 7pm dinner with AGM beginning at 8pm.

Cost: \$25 each - set menu

All those interested in the progress of Landcare in the region are most welcome.

RSVP essential by August 12: dang@wgcma.vic.gov.au or 5182 5073.

YYLN AWARDS

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK



Congratulations to all YYLN Award Winners for 2011



Nick Dudley, Jill Vella, Elizabeth Balderstone (Primary Producer Award), Gavin Egan & Dan Garlick



Jo McCoy (DSE), Charles Meckiff (Chair Woodside LCG – Nature Conservation Award) & Trevor Colvin (Board Member MC)



Darren Chester



Leon Trembath (Outstanding Contribution to Landcare) & Cathy Trembath



Gippsland Plains Drought Tolerant Pastures Group - Special Network Award



Helga Binder (Landcare Education Award) & Dan Garlick (YYLN Coordinator)



Jo McCoy (DSE), Kaye Proudley (Binginwarri Landcare Group - Community Group Award) & Dan Garlick (YYLN Coordinator)



Jo McCoy (DSE), Beth Mellick, Executive Officer, Norman Wettenhall Foundation (Partnership Award)



FROM THE OFFICE

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK



Dan's Desk

It seems that I could start every update with 'it has been a hectic couple of months in the YYLN office and on-ground' and the last few months have been no exception.

AWARDS NIGHT

The biennial **YYLN Awards Night** was held on the 29th April at the Club Hotel. Over 90 people attended a terrific night. Congratulations to all nominations and winners. Thanks to Trevor Colvin and Samantha Monks for organizing the night and all other helpers leading up to and on the night.

TEA WITH DR KATE AUTY

In April, the YYLN hosted a **morning tea with Dr Kate Auty**, Victorian Commissioner Environmental Sustainability. The YYLN Board, staff and Landcare Group representatives had the opportunity to outline some current on-ground projects and issues facing the region. The forum was part of the Commissioner's role in developing the State of Environment Report and was an important opportunity for YYLN to provide input.

SMALL LANDCARE GRANTS

The **Small Landcare Grants** were announced recently, with **Merriman Creek** and

Woodside Landcare Groups receiving funding to undertake on-ground projects in their areas. The **YYLN** received 2 grants:

- to produce and print the quarterly Newsletter; and
- to provide landcare property signage to financial members.

STRONG PARTNERSHIPS

YYLN have developed and maintained strong partnerships with a wide range of organisations and community groups, which is fundamental for YYLN to support its members in delivering on-ground works. Currently, these partnerships enable significant on-ground work through the following projects:

- Blackberry Suppression in the Upper Albert River Catchment: partnership with the WGCMA, funded through the Caring for Our Country Initiative.
- Coastal Saltmarsh Protection: partnership with the WGCMA, funded through the Caring for Our Country Initiative.
- Drought Tolerant Pasture Project: funded through the Caring for Our Country Initiative
- Gorse Control: funded through the Victorian Gorse Task Force.
- Healthy Soils Field Days: partnership with WGCMA and funded through the Caring for Our Country initiative
- JARR Project: multi-sector community committee,

with funding support from the Norman Wettenhall Foundation.

- Mullungdung to Coast: partnership with the WGCMA, funded through the Caring for Our Country Initiative
- Recycling for Recovery: partnership with WGCMA, funded through the Department of Sustainability and Environment;
- Roadside Weeds and Rabbits: partnership and funding through the Wellington Shire Council
- Tarra Trail: partnership with Gippslandcare and the Tarra Trail Friend of Committee, funded from SP-Ausnet.

THANKS FOR WARM WELCOME

Thanks to the Board, Staff and wider YYLN Community for making me feel welcome and remaining patient as I settle in. I have been impressed with peoples commitment, passion and the enthusiasm for Landcare. I am enjoying meeting you all and look forward to building these relationships.

PROJECT UPDATES

Jack and Albert River Restoration Project:

The YYLN have been fortunate to receive another grant from the Norman Wettenhall Foundation. This funding will enable us to review the Biodiversity Blueprint and develop a strategic plan for on-ground works. This plan will

provide the basis of project applications that will hopefully attract funding to JARR area. The plan will take 12-months to develop.

A small grant has been submitted to enable YYLN to fund on-ground works in JARR area. We are awaiting the outcome of this funding application which will help fund landholders undertaking re-vegetation and/or fencing of remnant works.

Two wonderful brochures have been produced on the indigenous plants and birds of the Jack and Albert River Catchment Area. They are terrific resource in the field or at home – if you would like some please contact the YYLN Office – on 5182 5073.

Blackberry Suppression in the Upper Albert River Catchment:

YYLN in partnership with the WGCMA, have developed this project to specifically target and control Blackberry in the Jack and Albert River Catchments. Year 2 on-ground works were completed earlier this year, with large infestations of Blackberry being specifically targeted along the riparian areas of Golden and Billy Creeks. Nearly 40 landholders were involved, with on-ground treatment occurring across 3,500 Ha.

A community workshop is planned for later this year exploring Blackberry control. ■

LOCAL LANDCARE LEGENDS

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK



ROSEMARY & FERGUS IRVING

By Melissa Ainsworth

It was a very cold and damp day in May when I ventured over to Woodside to meet the owners of "Tramore". Fergus and Rosemary Irving are very well known across the district in their former professional capacities but also as the backbone of the Woodside Landcare Group.



Fergus and Rosemary Irving.

The Irving family bought "Tramore" in 1978 and they produce sheep and fine wool. Back then, apart from some pine trees, the property was vegetated with one sole remaining Sheoak tree, (*Allocasuarina stricta*) standing lonely in the landscape. Today the property has been transformed, from

years of dedication and persistence, to be strategically revegetated with approximately 20 kilometres of shelterbelts, revegetated creek banks and sand hills.

The western boundary of the farm is an example of the Irving's first shelterbelt project, undertaken in 1982. Back then the site was rotary

hoed and seeded with the then recommended indigenous seed, mixed with wood ash and scattered by hand. Seed used was not all endemic to the area, which is no longer a common nor favourable practice. From this point onwards Fergus would become part of the "Gippsland Tree Seeders Syndicate".

The group included locals Bob McLeod, Graeme MacLennan and Jim Bell and they designed and manufactured an early Direct Seeding Machine. (See photo next page). The machine was used in earnest and with remarkable results. Incidentally, the actual design of seeding machines made today has

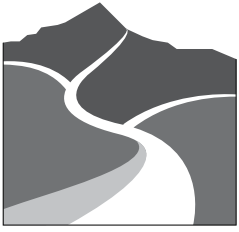
changed little.

Fergus grew up at "Woodlands" in Alberton, the pioneer homestead now owned by Gavin Egan. Having attended Alberton Primary School Fergus completed a couple of years at Yarram High then boarding school in Melbourne before

Before and after the revegetation of creek banks and sand hills.



...continued on next page



LOCAL LANDCARE LEGENDS

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

THE 'WHOLE FARM' PLAN

...continued from previous page

going on to University where he met Rosemary. Having both graduated as Veterinarians they practiced in the Western District before completing post graduate work in Canada. Returning to Gippsland they set up a successful practice in Yarram from which they retired in 1987 to return to the family farming business.

In 1990 Fergus was the first President of the Woodside Landcare Group and served in that position for five years. Rosemary and Fergus remain dedicated

members to this day and enjoy the social aspects the group provides. The group recently celebrated its 21st birthday and Rosemary marked the occasion by producing a wonderful booklet celebrating the group's history of achievements.

Today the revegetation works continue on "Tramore" to complete the Irving's Whole Farm Plan. The Yarram Yarram Landcare Network values the Irving's commitment and dedication and is proud to recognise them as "Local Landcare Legends". ■



The Direct Seeding Machine designed and used by the Gippsland Tree Seeders Syndicate

WHOLE FARM PLANNING

Whole Farm Planning is a desk top exercise whereby you carefully plan changes on the farm before implementing them. It is an ideal way to identify issues, set priorities and plan how you wish to address them.

Basically you are required to consider the "total" assets on the farm – the soil, water, stock, pastures, crops and wildlife for example. How do you make the best use of them on your property?

A holistic approach to planning your farm management and future developments include; paddock subdivision, access, remnant vegetation, fire protection, water supply, crops, land degradation, livestock needs, shelter to name just a few.

A Whole Farm Plan is a "living" document and may be regularly reviewed and updated. For more information about developing your own Whole Farm Plan contact your local Department of Primary Industries Office.

Merriman Creek Landcare Group Inc.

INVITATION

*2011 is the 25th Anniversary of Landcare in Victoria
You are cordially invited to help celebrate the Anniversary
of the inception of the Merriman Creek Landcare Group
(formally known as the Stradbroke-Woodside
Farm Trees Group)*

When: 2nd July 2011

Where: Stradbroke Hall

Time: 6.30pm

A two course meal will be served at \$20 per person

~ BYO Drinks ~

RSVP by 24th June 2011

Ann Coulson, President 51464201

Melissa Ainsworth, Secretary 51468328

PROJECT UPDATE

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK



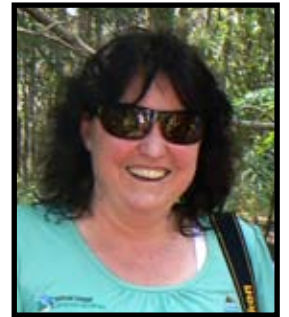
YYLN/Wellington Shire Council (WSC) /Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Invasive Plants & Animals (IPA) Program.

Yarram Landcare continues to work closely with these partnership agencies and local community in the control and educational awareness of invasive plants and animals. Unfortunately, a wet season after prolonged drought has

given our weeds and rabbits the perfect conditions to thrive and multiply.

Although scaled down this financial year, our **Roadside Weeds & Rabbit Program** has delivered large sections of on-ground works across our

Landcare network. Main target weeds include **Bridal Creeper, Blackberry, Broom, Gorse and African Love Grass**. Regular meetings are also held with the WSC and DPI. Darren Speirs, Land Projects Officer for WSC has also kindly offered



By Samantha Monks -
YYLN Project Officer

to contribute an article for our winter newsletter. (See Pg 12)

Follow up weed control for Year 2 of our WSC Fire Affected Roads Program is now complete. Over 50 fire affected roads have been treated with great results. YYLN has delivered almost \$50,000 of on-ground works through this program following the 2009 Black Saturday fires.

In a new program funded by **Caring for Our Country** (CfOC), YYLN is once again joining forces with the WGCMA, WSC, DPI, VicRoads and the DSE to combat and treat Serrated Tussock (ST) in the Seaspray area. Serrated Tussock (*Nassella trichotoma*) is listed as a Regionally

Controlled Weed under the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 in the West Gippsland Catchment Region. This means all landowners/managers have a legal requirement under this act to control serrated tussock on their property. As a Weed of National Significance it is also regarded as one of the worst weeds in Australia because of its invasiveness, potential for spread, economic and environmental impacts.

On a sadder note, I would like to fondly farewell Heather Cahill, the WSC Natural Resource Planner. Our highly successful 'Weeds for Trees' and 'Roadside Weeds & Rabbit' programs' would not have been possible without Heather. She has supported the Yarram Landcare staff, community and natural environment for more than 6 years. On behalf of the Yarram Yarram Landcare Network, I want to thank Heather for her tireless support, partnership and friendship. ■

Note: Please see, "Guide for Invasive Plant & Animal" on Pg 8




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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

Lisa Warn
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l.warn@unimelb.edu.au

COST

\$1200 (inc. GST)

You may be eligible to be reimbursed for some of the course costs through the FarmReady program.
Course code: FRTC0869

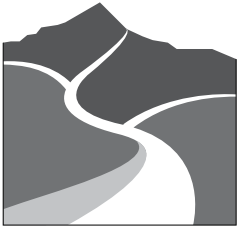


Supporting primary producers in a changing climate



Primary producers can receive up to \$1500 reimbursement to attend approved training courses
This is an approved FarmReady course
Phone 1800 087 870 to see if you are eligible

www.mackinnonproject.com.au



PROJECT UPDATE

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

Recycling for Recovery

Funding has been made available to help the recovery of native vegetation, wildlife corridors and shelterbelts in the 2009 fire affected areas of Devon North, Won Wron, Carrajung and Woodside.

Assistance has also been offered for weed control in these areas.

Project sites have been selected and inspected following an advertised 'Expression of Interest' from eligible applicants for Yarram Landcare's, "Recycling 4 Recovery Project". On-ground fencing works are well underway for this project, while 10,500 locally indigenous tubestock are growing at Tarra Wholesale Nursery.

For further information please contact: Samantha Monks, YYLN Project Officer - Ph. 0351 757895, Mob. 0419371497 or Email samantham@gwcma.vic.gov.au ■

A GUIDE FOR INVASIVE PLANT AND ANIMAL (IPA) CONTROL

Invasive Weed	When to Control	Control Methods
Blackberry (<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>)	Best time: Early summer to early autumn (November to April)	Brush Off, Brushkiller 600 plus wetter Grazon Extra
Boneseed (<i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera ssp. monilifera</i>)	Best time: Spring – summer All year round	Hand pull young plants Cut & paint larger plants with Glysophate e.g Round Up or Brush Off
Bridal Creeper (<i>Asparagus asparagoides</i>)	Best time: Regrowth stage after summer	Hand pull young plants Round Up or Brush Off
Broom – Cape (<i>Genista monspessulana</i>), English (<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>) & Flax-leaf (<i>Genista linifolia</i>)	Best time: Sept – Oct at flowering stage All year round	Hand pull young plants Grazon Extra
Gorse (<i>Ulex europaeus</i>)	Best time: When actively growing, usually following rain	Grazon Extra & Pulse penetrant
Paterson's Curse (<i>Echium lantagineum</i>)	Best time: Early spring at rosette stage	Brush Off
Ragwort (<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>)	Best time: Sept onwards, at seedling & rosette stage. Spray up until flowering, once seed is set remove head, bag up, spray plant	Brush Off etc Grazon Extra Tordon Granules
Serrated tussock (<i>Nasella trichotoma</i>)	Best time: March – Oct. When actively growing & before seed set	Integrated control: Slash or burn Spray or cultivate
Thistles: 1. Spear (<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>), Slender/Shore (<i>Carduus pycnocephalus</i>) 2. Variegated (<i>Silybum marianum</i>) 3. Californian (<i>Cirsium arvense</i>)	1. Best Time: At seedling/rosette stage. (Two main germination stages – late winter to spring and late summer to autumn) 2. Mature to flowering Dec to May 3. Nov – Dec at seedling or early stage	1. Amicide 625 2. Kamba M, Lontrel 3. Lontrel
Woody Weeds Eg. Boxthorn, Mirror Bush	Spring - summer	Hand pull young plants Cut & paint - Round Up Grazon Extra

Invasive Animal	When to Control	Control Methods
Foxes	Late winter/spring – Coordinated fox baiting program to target vixens & to protect young livestock Autumn - Coordinated fox baiting program to target young animals	Integrated community management program using multiple control methods. Including: Coordinated fox baiting programs (seasonal); harbour reduction eg. Boxthorn, Blackberry;
Rabbits	Late summer – Generally high density infestations occur	As above. Inc. harbour removal & warren destruction, coordinated baiting programs, ferreting and fumigation.

Gippsland Coastal Plains Gorse Control Program (GCPGCP)

Yarram Landcare Leading the Way

There are still funding opportunities available for the "Gippsland Coastal Plains Gorse Control Program".

Our priority focus areas are Yarram, Alberton,

Port Albert, Tarraville, Woodside, Darriman and Seaspray. New infestations are still being discovered so please contact me ASAP if you have Gorse or know of

any Gorse in our Landcare Network area, or would like assistance or advice in Gorse control.

Eligible participants can receive an incentive

grant of 50% towards the costs of physical and/or chemical removal of Gorse. In order to receive this grant, land owners/managers must sign a YYLN landholder

agreement to carry out subsequent spraying or removal of Gorse regrowth for a period of three years to avoid reinfestation. ■

PROJECT UPDATE

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK



Gippsland Plains Drought Tolerant Pastures Demonstration (GPDTPD)

Congratulations to the 'Drought Pastures Group' for being awarded the "Special Network Award" at the recent YYLN 2011 Landcare Awards. The 16 participating farmers deserve to be rewarded for all their time and hard effort they have put into this project. *Thankyou once again!*

Lisa Warn (Mackinnon Project, University of Melbourne) inspected Year 1 and Year 2 pastures in May. Despite the dry conditions in 2009 (Year 1 of project), the majority of the 15 paddocks sown had excellent establishment results and all pastures survived their first summer. Year 2 sowings in 2010 were all excellent and benefited from the summer and early autumn rains in 2011.

Year 3 sowings are currently underway. A range of perennial species have been sown by landholders including

lucerne, cocksfoot, phalaris fescue and kikuyu. The good results have given the producers confidence that if they use reliable techniques such as direct drilling, the right species, the right timing and the right follow up management, they can have success even in dry years.

The project has equipped the producers with better knowledge of suitable species/varieties for their area, sowing techniques and soil testing/fertiliser requirements. Producers have improved their level of skill in species identification, establishment and assessment. Producers have also adopted improved practices such as greater use of soil testing to make better fertiliser decisions, some changed from cultivation to direct drilling, and improved grazing management.

A Drought Pastures/Healthy Soils Field Day was held on June 9 at Woodside.

Guest presenters included: Lisa Warn – Agronomist, Mackinnon Project, Nick Dudley – WGCMA Regional Landcare Facilitator and Heather Adams – DPI Soils Extension Officer. A range of topics and discussions were covered including:

- Pastures species selection and

management

- Local soil types
- Soil structure, soil texture and soil pH
- Soil carbon and organic matter
- Soil profiles (onsite pits)
- Soil testing

The day began with a scrumptious morning tea in Wight's Woolshed, the group then moved outside to inspect Wight's lucerne/ cocksfoot paddock. Three soil pits were inspected in another lucerne paddock

where soil profiles were observed and soil tests discussed. Lunch and presentations followed at the Woodside Surf Lifesaving Club. In the afternoon, we visited the Hughes property and inspected the phalaris/fescue paddock. We also looked at the successful revegetation project along Freshwater Creek. This project was a shared YYLN, WGCMA, Greening Australia and landholder initiative. ■

On location at the Drought Pastures/Healthy Soils Field Day 9 June 2011



CfOC/WGCMA Protecting the Corner Inlet Coastal Hotspot Program - YYLN Coastal Saltmarsh Protection Project/YYLN Blackberry Suppression Program

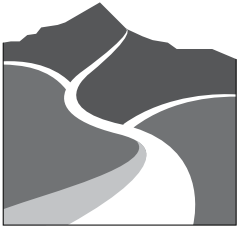
Year Two on-ground works are well underway in high priority areas of Corner Inlet near St. Margarets Island. Eight kilometres of fencing is being erected to protect several hundred hectares of coastal saltmarsh from stock while providing an important buffer

zone from nutrients entering Corner Inlet and Nooramunga Marine and Coastal Park. At a Year 1 project site near Reeves Beach, over 7000 locally indigenous tube stock have been recently planted and guarded. Expressions of interest for Year 3 of the coastal

saltmarsh project are currently being sought from interested landholders between the Albert River and Reeves Beach. Funding incentives are available for fencing and revegetation of coastal saltmarsh. Please contact me for further information.

The majority of Year Two on-ground works are complete for the Blackberry Suppression Program. Sites have been selected for the final stage of this program and are currently being prepared for the spring planting of 7000 locally indigenous

tubestock. A Blackberry Workshop will be held at the Binginwarri Hall later this year. This follows on from the highly successful and oversubscribed two year Blackberry control program. ■




PROJECT UPDATE

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

YARRAM SEEDBANK



By Bronwyn Johnson, Seedbank and Mullungdung to Coast Project Officer. 

I'm thinking the continuing wet is a good thing from the point of view of the direct seeding season. As for any planting exercise, one of the biggest factors influencing the success or failure of revegetation efforts is soil moisture. Although there is a point at which it can be too wet

and if we get an ordinary winter we could quickly reach that point. I'm sure some of you are at that point already and hoping for a less than ordinary winter, with maybe a good spring just to keep things ticking over until next Autumn...oh, if only.

I recently visited the headquarters of Seeding Victoria in Creswick and they have definitely seen their fair share of water in the last six months. Three flood events in this time have seen them lose stock, years of seed and planting data, relocate their seed storage facility, and forced a rethink of their future plans. Through all of this they

have maintained a clear focus on their goals and taken this challenging time to consider things from an entirely new perspective.

I found this visit to be both inspiring and a little frustrating. Their continuing efforts to develop and implement seed supply standards can only assist the industry in becoming more professional, accountable and reliable. They are currently tweaking a new live online seed supply system that allows customers to locate their project site via Google maps and then bring up a current listing

of all the provenance seed available to complete their project. They will then be able to order seed and make enquiries online, streamlining the whole process. It will also allow greater education about the importance of using local seed, as the quality control and ethical standards of Seeding Victoria are driven by their commitment to the best possible revegetation result for the environment.

My frustration comes from wanting to operate at similar standards but lacking the time and resources to do so. We implement improvements where practical.

However, our focus is on maintaining the services we already provide at their current standard. It feels a bit like holding your breath or waiting for it to rain. Maybe now that it has rained a bit we can get on with the job of putting some of this seed back in the ground and getting things growing again.

If anyone has ideas on what they would like to read about in future seedbank articles, feel free to drop me a line at bronwynj@wgcm.vic.gov.au or pop into the office and say hello. Friendly faces and enquiring minds are always welcome! ■

MULLUNGUNG TO COAST



Following a somewhat frenetic start to this project, a quiet sigh of relief was heard around the office after the official launch in March – finally things were under way.

We received a reasonable number of expressions of interest. Unfortunately, some of these were outside the official boundaries of the project area. However, that in itself is encouraging. To see that the enthusiasm for this kind of vegetation

protection and revegetation work hasn't been dented by years of drought is a strong sign of the resilience of our local community. I admire their willingness to hope and push boundaries.

I've spent the last couple of months conducting site visits across the project area. I'll admit to being happily surprised by the number of landholders who value their patches of bush and simply want to preserve them for the future. Maybe I was

expecting more practical reasons such as stock management, water quality etc, and these were present too, but an obvious appreciation of our local environment was a prominent feature.

These projects are currently before an assessment panel and we are hoping works will begin very soon. There should be much more to report on in the next newsletter as this project gets into full swing. ■

AROUND THE TRAPS

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK



Albert River

All members completing projects are struggling with the wet conditions underfoot at present. Our AGM is scheduled for the 16th of June at the home of David & Sue MacAulay. Commencing with a barbecue at 6.30pm the meeting will start at approximately 8.00pm. We look forward to a presentation and discussion regarding attempts to preserve a piece of forest for koala habitat in a gully within a Hancock plantation. All interested persons are most welcome to attend! ■

Woodside

The Woodside Landcare Group was very pleased that all our revegetation and remnant protection efforts over the years were recognised with a Nature Conservation Award at the recent YYLN Awards night. We also congratulate Libby Balderstone on her Primary Producer Award and the members of our group who are involved with the Drought Tolerant Pastures Demonstration for their award.

We are currently building on these efforts with members becoming involved with the Mullungdung to Coast Project and by developing the Balloong School Corner Reserve Project to protect a small remnant of roadside reserve at the corner of Balloong Road and Tetley's Lane.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday June 22nd, 8pm at the Woodside Hall. ■

Binginwarri

The Bingi Group has been in somewhat of a lull of late because of the ill-health of its leader but as that situation has finally improved, action is expected to start hotting up soon.

We have at least two roadside tree plantings envisaged for July and August, which will occur under Wellington Council's Weeds for Trees program and will take place on the Hedley Range Rd outside the three participating properties.

I am also currently setting up a yearly activities calendar and will soon be advising our members via our Bingi Babbler Newsletter. Please see details in the Events Calendar in the YYLN Newsletter also. These will include:

- A Winter BBQ at the Binginwarri Hall and attaching our prize winning plaque to

the gate of the hall.

- A late Winter Birdwatch at White Woman's Waterhole.
 - A Spring Walk, Talk & Gawk for plants & wildflowers.
 - An early Summer Beach Walk for the Birds.
 - A Summer BBQ at the Binginwarri Hall.
- and possibly.....
- Visiting members properties for a look (sticky beak?)

After all, now that the Bingi Group has received the Yarram Yarram Landcare Network's "Community Group Award" for 2011, we will have to do something to show we have really deserved it!

If you are in the Binginwarri area and would like to be a member of our group, our fees are \$20 per financial year for individuals and families (half goes to YYLN for insurance purposes, the rest we use for running costs.)

Please contact Kaye Proudley on 5185 1398 or email me at katbingi@harboursat.com.au for further information or to be put on (or taken off!) our mailing list. ■

Wonyip

Our group is focused on roadside weed eradication - mainly Pinus Radiata.

Unfortunately our group was unsuccessful applying for a Landcare Grant, but still we expect 1000 trees from the "Weeds for Trees" project in September, to plant out roadsides in the area. On the bright side, we are very proud of our member, Helga Binder, for winning the Landcare Education Award. Congratulations.

Our AGM was held Sunday 12 June, 2011. We'll let you know what happened. ■

Merriman Creek

Our meeting in March provided an opportunity for members to meet Network Co-ordinator Dan Garlick. With 2011 being the 25th anniversary of Landcare in Victoria, our group is celebrating our inception, all those years ago, on the 2nd of July at 6.30pm in the Stradbroke Hall. Our group was formally known as the Stradbroke-Woodside Farm Trees Group. We would love all of our current and former members to come along! BYO drinks and a spit roast dinner will be provided in our heated Stradbroke Hall.

See advertisement within this newsletter for more information.

We are also delighted to be informed that our nomination for a V.I.P. (Volunteer Involvement Program) Grant from Exxon Mobil Australia has been successful. Employees who volunteer in the community can nominate their community organisation for a \$1000 grant. Thank you to Justin for nominating us! Funds will be used for the purchase of equipment for upcoming projects.

Merriman Creek also applied for a Small Landcare Grant for a Community Revegetation Project in the Stradbroke area. We were thrilled to be informed that our application has been successful!

Our next meeting is on the 5th of June at 2pm in the Stradbroke Hall. With planning for our Anniversary celebration, Weeds for Trees Program and two successful grants, we will have lots to discuss! All welcome! ■



PARTNER ACTIVITY

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

WINNING THE WAR ON WEEDS

By Darren Speirs, Land Projects Officer,
Wellington Shire Council.

As another weed spraying season comes to an end, I have been looking back through the works that the Wellington Shire Council (WSC) has completed for the season.

In October 2010, we engaged several contractors to carry out work as required for the up and coming season. Part of the criteria for the engagement of the contractors was that they had completed a **Weed Stop course** run by the Department of Primary Industries (DPI). The course was a great success and I would recommend it to anyone who may have the potential to transport weeds around a district in their day to day work.

Weeds have been targeted and sprayed on 1,000 kilometres of roadsides under the pest plants and animal budget. We have also sprayed weeds that have dropped off the List of Important Weeds, such as African Love Grass (ALG), and Indian Pear. Several land holders have also been advised that they have weeds of significance on their property. With the help of DPI we have managed to encourage

some good work around the shire.

Staff of the WSC spent some time identifying ALG sites throughout the shire and putting signage up for the slasher drivers to avoid the infestations. This allows for spraying at a later date. We had some anomalies with the chemical that was used for ALG due to the chemical needing some very specific conditions; it appears that if the sprayed area receives in excess of 50 millimetres of rain within a specified period the effectiveness is lessened considerably. We

have met with a chemical supplier and have clarified the issue and have a much greater understanding of the requirements for its use

The 'Weeds for Trees' program is going along nicely as we have sprayed areas for planting and I have transported the tree guards and stakes to the YYLN Office for distribution in the near future. There is a total of 6,800 trees for the south of the shire and 800 for the north of the shire. With the season shaping up as it is, here's hoping it will be a good year for planting

with little loss of plants due to lack of moisture.

On a more auspicious note I would like to advise readers who know **Heather Cahill that she has announced her retirement** effective from the end of this financial year. Heather will pursue some of her other life interests and I am sure the environment will still rate highly on her agenda. Heather will be leaving some very big shoes to be filled and I am sure that management will have their work cut out for them in finding a suitable person to fill

these shoes. I am sure that those of you who know Heather will join with us in wishing her the very best for her future and hope that Heather won't become a stranger upon her retirement. Good luck Heather!

I will be embarking on a **weed mapping program for the whole of the shire throughout this winter** so we can program weed works more effectively in the coming three years.

I believe we have had a very successful 2010/11 season and look forward to being associated with you in the future. ■



ANNUAL BBQ

The Annual Landcare Network BBQ was held this year at the Bingenwarri Hall and what a great success it turned out to be. The Hall had just undergone a complete kitchen renovation and was a joy to work in. A healthy representation of Landcare Groups were in attendance, kids had plenty of room to have a bit of fun and there was only one sausage and a few pieces of bread left at the end of the day.

A special treat for all was the fine music from Wonyip Landcare members Peter Webb and Ruth Williams. Special thanks to them for their wonderful contribution on the day.



PARTNER ACTIVITY

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK



By Bruce Atkin

COASTAL ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP AT SANDY POINT



In early April nearly fifty volunteer Coastcarers from the Gippsland Lakes to Phillip Island participated in what has now become an annual event – the Coastal Management and Ecology workshop for volunteers.

These workshops are designed to enhance the skills and knowledge of the people who contribute so much voluntary time to the management of our coasts and are also way of saying thankyou for their hard work.

Workshop presentations included coastal geology, marine life, coastal saltmarsh, revegetation projects, beach-nesting birds, and fox and weed control. These topics are chosen for their relevance to the work of volunteers.

This year's workshop was held in the Surf Lifesaving Clubhouse at Sandy Point. Regular presenters included Parks Victoria's Mark Rodrigue who set the scene with a description of Victoria's marine

and coastal life and the factors that contribute to its uniqueness. Geomorphologist Neville Rosengren and wetlands and saltmarsh expert Paul Boon, provided fascinating information on their areas of expertise.

Additional presentations were delivered by DSE and Parks Victoria staff and by Venus Bay volunteer Janet Carey. Further local geological information was provided by volunteer and respected local geologist Gary Wallis, and a short impromptu presentation highlighting the work of the busy Sandy Point Foreshore Committee of Management was delivered by President Rob O'Sullivan.

Coastcare facilitator, Bruce Atkin's philosophy is that it is vital to acknowledge and reward the contribution that volunteers make to coastal management. "On both days we offered morning presentations followed by afternoon field trips, to

Walkerville (for geology and weeds) and to Shallow Inlet to learn about saltmarsh and seagrass. The excursions reinforce the information participants receive earlier." A number of Landcare members have attended

the coastal workshops already and Bruce encourages you all to consider joining in with next year's event – the date and venue to be advised later. For further information contact Bruce Atkin at DSE on 5183 9116. ■

Top: Participants dip netting for life in Shallow Inlet; **Below:** Workshop presenters Bruce Atkin and Denis Cox from Coastcare, Dr. Neville Rosengren, Dr. Paul Boon, Janet Carey (Friends of Venus Bay) and Parks Vic Rangers Jono Stevenson and David Farrar; **Bottom:** Participants learn about the geology of the coast at Walkerville





PROFILES

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

YYLN VICE PRESIDENT – BRIAN NICHOLLS



Brian and his wife Jenny at Warrawidgee

Brian is the Vice President of the Yarram Yarram Landcare Network. He has served on our Board for five years. Prior to this he served three years with the former Network Board structure as a representative from the Merriman Creek Landcare group.

Brian has lived in Stradbroke all of his life. After working for twelve years as a Motor Mechanic he returned to the family farm known as “Warrawidgee”. As a third generation Merino sheep farmer, he and wife Jenny farm 1100 acres producing prime lamb and super fine wool. Married for thirty two years they have three adult children, Julieanne, Melissa and Lindsay.

At present Brian is the Junior Vice President of the Sale and District Agricultural Society and is Chairman of the

Seedbank Committee of our Landcare Network. Having formally served as President of the Gippsland Sheep Breeders Association, Brian and Jenny are also active members of the Stradbroke CFA.

“Warrawidgee” is unique in that it contains dense and scattered stands of Forest Red Gum (*Eucalyptus tereticornis*). The Gippsland Red Gum Grassy Woodland ecological community (and associated native grassland) is a critically endangered vegetation community, listed in January 2009. This ecological community is now so disturbed and degraded only 3% remains today. Limited to the central Gippsland Plain between Morwell and Swan Reach it also extends from the foothills to the north to slightly south of the Latrobe River. Thankfully good quality remnants still

exist on public land and roadsides and in this case as a small fragmented patch on private property. Jenny and Brian have fenced some of this area to exclude stock, collect seed and annually measure the girths of the trees, estimated at approximately 400 years old. Interestingly, despite the recent drought they have observed some of the tree girths to have increased by 140mm in just four years!



In 2006 the Nicholls’ were recipients of the Landcare Primary Producer Award. They continue to experiment with shelter belt types and styles and generally add about one kilometre per annum to their 15 kilometres completed to date.

The Yarram Yarram Landcare Network is fortunate to have community minded people, such as Brian, serving on its Board. We certainly value the time he volunteers and this adds to enhance the diversity of experience needed to steer our Network into the future. ■

DAN GARLICK – NETWORK CO-ORDINATOR



Dan is made welcome by David McAninly, Board Chairman

Dan is really excited to be a part of our network and looks forward to building on the strong platform left by Paul Martin.

He will provide support, direction and advice to the Board, staff and member groups and do his best to ensure YYLN remains a leader in landcare.

He sees real opportunity for Network growth through the delivery of high quality landscape-scale projects, identification of strategic new directions and partnerships, and building greater community participation in landcare as a whole.

Married to Wil, they have four young children, Maya, Luella, Harrison and Caeleb. When not working for Landcare, Dan helps run a dairy farm just outside of Toora.

Dan comes to our Network with a wealth of experience. He has earned

a Masters Degree in Environmental Education, a Bachelor of Applied Science, Graduate Diploma of Education and Certificate Four in Horticulture and Bush Regeneration.

His experience extends to managing projects responding to both Climate Change and Sustainability. Dan was also the NSW Manager of Conservation Volunteers Australia. I’m sure you’ll agree that Dan is well equipped to steer our Landcare Network into the future!

On the rare occasion that Dan isn’t working on the farm or for our Network, he enjoys surfing, bush walking and fishing. Gippsland is the place to enjoy all of these pursuits and we’re sure Dan will love working within our rich landscape.

Please make yourself known to Dan, as we welcome him and his family to our Landcare community. ■

CONTACTS

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Bronwyn Johnson

Seedbank & Mullungdung to Coast Project Officer -

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Individual Active Groups

Albert River Landcare Group

Contact: Geoff Charman

Telephone: 5184 1117

Email: geoffc@wideband.net.au

Carrajang and Districts Landcare Group

Contact: Ross Lampre

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Woodside Landcare Group

Contact: Bronwyn Johnson

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Wonyip Landcare Group

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Merriman Creek Landcare Group

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Won Wron Devon North Landcare Group

Contact: Bill Bodman

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Email: bjbodman@wideband.net.au

You may find the following links useful:

<http://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.wgcm.vic.gov.au>

This link is to our key partner, the West Gippsland Management Authority. It has lots of information relating to waterway and catchment management activities throughout West Gippsland.

<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://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.



YARRAM YARRAM
LANDCARE NETWORK

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