



YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NEWS

Vol: 006 AUTUMN March 2012

Lyrebird Award Winner, Richard Appleton

RECIPIENTS of the 2011 West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority Lyrebird Awards were announced at a special lunchtime presentation in December 2011 and went to three Gippslanders in recognition of their outstanding individual contributions to natural resource management in the region.

Recipients included former WGCMA Board Chair Liz Clay, South Gippsland resident Bronwyn Teasdale and our very own sown and grown Richard Appleton.

Awardees were chosen by a Board-nominated selection panel that considered nominations from the Board, Community Engagement Advisory Groups and WGCMA staff and were based on:

- their contribution to NRM at a local or regional level
- influence to NRM practice in a positive and practical way
- linking their NRM practice and outcomes with others in their area
- how they shared the learnings and outcomes from their particular practice, skill-set or knowledge area, and
- interaction with the WGCMA in strengthening NRM partnerships and outcomes for the region.

We congratulate the winners and are especially pleased for Richard. ■



Inside

Events Update..... 2

Richard Appleton 3

Local Landcare Legends 4-5

Landcare Action..... 6

Around the Traps..... 7

Partner Activity..... 8

From the Office 9

Project Updates 10-13

Board Profile..... 14

Warren the Wise..... 15

Cover photo by Melissa Ainsworth



Newsletter production and design is driven by volunteers. If you would like to help with writing, photography or even have your very own column, please contact us. Alternatively, send contributions whenever the whimsy inspires you.

Editorial Team

Melissa Ainsworth, Helga Binder, Dan Garlick, Samantha Monks and Warren the Wise.

Contributions

Email:
dang@wgcm.vic.gov.au
Postal:
Livingston St Yarram 3971

Deadlines

All contributions for the Winter edition must be received before 18th May, 2012.

Contacts

Yarram Yarram Landcare Network

Livingston Street Yarram Victoria 3971
Tel: 03 5182 5073
Fax: 03 5182 6094
dang@wgcm.vic.gov.au
www.yyn.org.au

Dan Garlick

Network Coordinator
0400 175 085 or 5165 5893
dang@wgcm.vic.gov.au

Samantha Monks

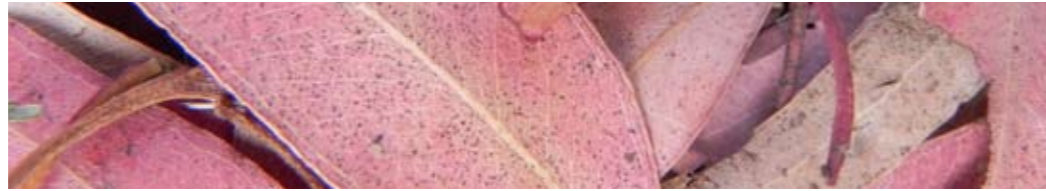
YYLN Projects Officer
5175 7895 or 0419 371 497
samantham@wgcm.vic.gov.au

Bronwyn Johnson

Seedbank & Mullungdung to Coast Project Officer - 5175 7896 or 0429 808 130
bronwynj@wgcm.vic.gov.au

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

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



Walk, Talk and Gawk hosted by the Binginwarri LCG

When: Sun. 18 March,
What & Where: walk part of the new Strzelecki Trail to learn how to bird watch and identify what we see followed by a picnic lunch OR maybe a free barbie lunch put on by the Tarra Jazz Festival followed by our bi-monthly meeting. All welcome.

YYLN ANNUAL BBQ and Carbon Farming Initiative Presentation

When: Sunday 15th April, 11am – 2pm
Where: Woodside Location TBC
What: YYLN Annual BBQ – free BBQ and soft drinks. **Carbon Farming Initiative Presentation** by David Griffin, Policy Manager, DPI Climate Change Branch. Relaxed day to catch up with other Landcare people and find out more about the Carbon Farming Initiative.

RSVP: Dan Garlick - dang@wgcm.vic.gov.au; 0400 175 085

Walk, Talk and Gawk hosted by the Binginwarri LCG

When: Sun. 22 April
What & Where: visit one of our members property in Devon Nth. to see revegetation efforts

Coastcare Coastal Ecology Workshop

When: 28/29th April
Where: Inverloch TBC
What: - Free Workshop for volunteers
For full details contact:
bruceatkin@dse.vic.gov.au

WHOLE FARM PLANNING WORKSHOP :

When: 6 sessions, starting Wednesday 9th May, 16th, 23rd, 30th May, 6th and 13th June. Night sessions approximately 6.30pm start.
Where: Pelican Room, Yarram
What: - Aerial mapping and digital imagery of your farm; Advice and information on best farming practice; plan, prioritise and identify to move your farm forward

Cost: Non-landcare members \$350; Landcare Members \$250
Enrolments: Close April 20th
Contact: Dan Garlick - dang@wgcm.vic.gov.au; 0400 175 085

Merriman Creek Landcare Sub Group General Meeting

When: 1.30 on the 12th May
Where: at the Stradbroke Hall.
Walk, Talk and Gawk hosted by the Binginwarri LCG

When: Sun. 20 May

What & Where: discover what plant life occurs in the little-known or visited Binginwarri State Forest which is almost landlocked by private property
HEALTHY SOILS FIELD DAY

When: June – date to be confirmed
Where: Albert River catchment somewhere – location TBC
What: Focus on soil carbon and pH balance.

RSVP: Samantha Monks - samantham@wgcm.vic.gov.au

KOALA INFORMATION NIGHT

When: Monday June 11th – 7pm
Where: Alberton West Recreation Reserve
What: Guest Speakers include: Peter Menkhorst; Colleen Wood; Wendy Wright and Richard Appleton

RSVP: Dan Garlick - dang@wgcm.vic.gov.au; 0400 175 085

CONGRATULATIONS
TO DAVID AND JOY MCANINLY -
PROUD NEW GRANDPARENTS OF
DUSTIN MCANINLY BORN MONDAY
13th FEBRUARY.

CONGRATULATIONS
TO BRIAN AND JENNY NICHOLLS -
PROUD NEW GRANDPARENTS OF
BRIDIE NICHOLLS TUESDAY
31st JANUARY



By Helga Binder

A tree-hugger amongst the Foresters

A behind-the-scenes look at the man who won a Lyrebird Award

Over the last forty years Richard Appleton has proven to be one of the more exceptional carers of our environment.

Born in Yarram and raised in Balook he developed his love for nature whilst on long jaunts through giant trees and the fern gullies of his youth. His parents had emigrated from England in 1952 and settled in Balook because they liked the high rainfall environment.

"I had a natural affinity for the bush and from a very early age would disappear into it all day, much to the concern of my parents who gave up trying to contain me and made me carry a whistle in case I got lost."

Richard went straight from school to APM Forests as a Technical Assistant in the Research section because it was an outdoor job. Thirty years later he was running the Research section.

These days he is the Stewardship Forester for HVP. His job includes vegetation mapping, biodiversity monitoring, fauna surveys, monitoring rainforest health, maintaining environmental databases and identifying/managing restoration projects. He also manages internal coupe auditing (harvesting and site preparation) to gauge compliance with the Code of Practice and Company policy.

This year Richard won a WGCMA "Lyrebird Award" in recognition of his many years of dedication

to the environment. Examples of some of the projects in which he involves himself are the Grand Strzelecki Walking Track, his research into Koala populations in the Strzelecki's and active duty on a number of different community committees including the JARR flora/fauna brochure development committee.

The Grand Strzelecki Track, one of his larger commitments, is a \$0.5 million bushfire recovery project funded by the Victorian Government and Bendigo Bank. It is now estimated to be 110 km long (including the ups and downs). It connects Tarra-Bulga National Park with Morwell National Park and incorporates 3 loops (Tarra Valley, Macks Creek and Mt. Tassie) centered around Tarra-Bulga and Balook. The track can be enjoyed as day walks or as part of a complete 3-4 day circuit. The Grand Strzelecki Track Committee Richard is part of, is now looking for support in a 'Friends of the Track' group to assist with the ongoing maintenance and management of the track.

Another major project has been the construction of a Koala Atlas for the area and a koala management plan for HVP, with the assistance of the Southern Ash Wildlife Centre at Rawson and training conducted for HVP staff and contractors to ensure management plan measures are implemented.

Last year a Koala Census pilot project was completed and Richard hopes to raise enough funds to take the information and experience from this pilot



Richard with one of the many trees he has planted on his property.

work to start a census in earnest. The only problem with the plan is it will cost \$260,000 to complete and with his budget of \$20,000 per year he expects it will take thirteen years.

In true "Appleton style" he is optimistic that finance for the project will pop up from somewhere. Perhaps that is to be expected from someone whose favorite colour is blue, favorite music anything at all depending on his mood and his greatest love, above all else, trees.

"I want to have every tree species in my arboretum (as long as it's not invasive) which is an unrealistic expectation, but I'm working on it!" he says with a typically cheeky chuckle.

As well as his arboretum, Richard is slowly but steadily replanting sections of his 42-hectare property with the Myrtle Beech lost to fire or abuse. The property is in one of the wettest places in Victoria (1530mm of rain per year) and forms a link between Tarra-Bulga NP and the Merriman Creek Rainforest. A Trust for Nature conservation covenant was applied in 2003, covering both 'protected' and 'modified' areas. This means that Richard's legacy will be here for future generations of tree-huggers. ■

Congratulations Richard on your Award and thank you for your commitment to the environment.



By Melissa Ainsworth

It was with great pleasure that I recently met an innovative local Landcare member. His achievements make him worthy as this edition's "Local Landcare Legend". That member is Bill Bodman Snr.

Margaret and Bill are generational farmers having spent their lives farming in Won Wron. They farmed a portion of the once large Bodman "squatter's rights" area which was originally settled in about 1841 or soon after. They have raised four children, Bill Jnr., Sally, Jane and Tony and also have nine grand children. Bill Jnr., is a dairy farmer and Landcare member (known to many), now owns the largest part of the Bodman property and homestead. Bill Snr. runs beef cattle on the remainder.

Bill Snr. developed his love and appreciation of trees from his father. Evidence of his father's plantings are dotted around the Bodman homestead. For nearly forty years Bill Snr. has beautified the landscape with shelter belts of various styles and sizes. I was amazed when Bill explained that the homestead was originally north facing before a bullock team was used to turn it around 90 degrees! With a busy road now passing it's front Bill thinks the idea was one he would like to correct!

Long before the benefits of tree planting was known and appreciated Bill dared to be different by experimenting with their design and purpose.

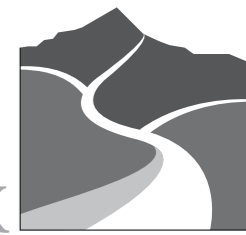
THE BODMAN DYNASTY FROM WON WRON



Above: The Bodman homestead. Below Bill Bodman senior on the left and Bill Jnr on the right.



...continued on next page



By Melissa Ainsworth

...continued from previous page

He has not only collected his own seed but experimented with separating the middle and upper storey tree species. This is quite noticeable on the undulating side of the farm. At the top end of several sites he has planted species such Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*), Blackwood (*Acacia*

melanoxydon), Coastal Grey Box (*Eucalyptus bosistoana*) and Spotted Gum (*Eucalyptus maculata*). At the lower end he has chosen to plant Grey She-oak (*Allocasuarina glauca*), Lightwood (*Acacia implexa*), Swamp Paperbark (*Melaleuca ericifolia*) and Bottlebrush (*Callistemon citrinus*). At other

sites this combination of species varies as part of an experiment to find the best shelter belt to provide weather protection to his dairy and beef cattle and/or to help lower the water table.

The nearby Greigs Creek interestingly is higher than that of some of the surrounding

land. A small flat section of the farm has faced a rise in the water table. To manage this problem Fescue grass pasture species, tolerant to wet and saltier conditions, were planted. Surrounding this paddock the shelter belts were modified to include deeper rooted species, tolerant to the conditions including River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*), Boobialla (*Myoporum insulare*), Manna Gum (*Eucalyptus viminalis*) and Swamp Paperbark (*Melaleuca ericifolia*).

Bill has always been involved in one form of agricultural research or another. His knowledge of tree species is admirable and his continued willingness to revegetate his farm, inspiring. Quite humbly Bill admits that in 1991 he was awarded an Order of Australia Medal for his contribution to primary industry, particularly livestock. Whilst not liking to "blow his own trumpet" Bill's revegetation works are commendable.

Thank you for sharing your projects with us Bill. We value your dedication to enhancing our environment and as you suggest "being prepared to make mistakes"! ■



Above: Shelterbelt separating upper and middle storey trees. Below: Sheltered lane way



The value of Black Wattle

The Black Wattle (*Acacia mearnsii*) is a common and widely recognised tree which is sadly often bypassed in replanting projects.

Wattles are able to produce and fix nitrogen in the soil. This important plant nutrient is perfect for revegetation projects and an important coloniser species. Their shallow roots are

ideal for stabilising sites affected by erosion.

Being one of the top species for ease of seed collection and propagation, it is also fast growing and has an excellent survival rate.

Its dense dark green foliage makes a great for shelter and is an ideal habitat for Sugar Gliders as its gum is an important food source in winter when other food sources are limited.

Black Wattle is scented annually with pale yellow flowers and its seeds are eaten by many bird species including the Crimson Rosella, Emu, Superb Fairy-wren, Gang Gang, Brush Bronzewing, Red Wattlebirds, Parrots and Honeyeaters.

During flowering a sugary fluid is produced which attracts Thornbills, Silvereyes and several species of Honeyeater. These sugars also attract Ants,

native bees and wasps on which Cuckoos and Thornbills forage. Wattle trees are known to be vital food plants for Butterflies.

So next time you replant, consider planting Black Wattle. ■



By Dan Garlick

YYLN Strategic Planning Workshop

Over the past 12-months, the YYLN Board has been undertaking a review of its purpose, that is, who we are, what we do and how we do it. The aim was to develop a Strategic Plan for the next three years, to help define its key themes and priority actions.

The major part of this review was a Strategic Planning Workshop, held recently at the Pelican Room, Yarram.

Board Members, staff and YYLN Landcare Group representatives, seventeen in total, participated in an intensive interactive session, expertly facilitated by Gillian Hayman.

The aim of the workshop was to:

- review the YYLN Statement of Purpose;
- identify the key themes

that make up the Network's charter;

- set priorities for action over the next 3 years.

The workshop was the culmination of 12-months work by the YYLN Board which has involved the development of a Strategic Plan Summary Paper and subsequent Discussion Paper involving a review of its current Statement of Purpose.

Each Board Member then provided feedback on the Statement of Purpose and this feedback was used to plan the recent workshop.

Participants at the Strategic Planning Workshop were guided through a process which involved visioning, group work, discussion and debate.

Specifically the workshop developed a vision for the future, confirmation of what the YYLN does well and could do better, review of its current Statement of Purpose, development of key themes for work, identification of key actions and the prioritisation of

those actions.

The major outcome of the workshop was the development of the following major themes, which will be used to define YYLN and guide its actions over the next three years:

- Landcare Group Support and Management
- Sustainable Agriculture and Productivity
- Environmental Stewardship
- Education, communication and promotion
- Partnerships and collaboration
- Funding
- Governance

The workshop outcomes are currently being captured in a report that the Board will review at their next meeting.

Actions will be prioritised and the Strategic Plan will be endorsed. The Strategic Plan will be reviewed annually to help maintain direction and evaluate success.

Dan will also, visit each Landcare Group over the coming months



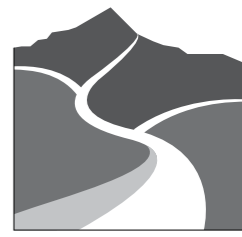
Gillian Hayman outlines her method of tackling the day's work.

to provide an overview and summary of the YYLN direction.

Thank you to everyone who participated. It is an important process and the outcomes provide a solid well-defined framework for action.

Feedback from participants at the workshop was extremely positive, which is great because Strategic Planning can be a hard slog. ■

The group hard at work.



Albert River Woodside

Members of the Albert River Group have been active completing projects on their properties.

Rob and Jenny Davies have fenced off their gully, Marion MacDonald has fenced off and revegetated her wetland and Elinor Hannay has also fenced off and revegetated an area around her dam. The Group will arrange a formal meeting shortly.

Binginwarri

Bingi has been very active over the last few months and has plenty lined up to do in the next few too!

We have been tackling Ragwort (on a temporarily incapacitated member's property) completing three working bees to date.

We have also run two "Walk, Talk & Gawk's" on member's properties looking at their revegetation efforts and talking about EVC's (Ecological Vegetation Classes – or plant communities), Nature Covenants and Rainforest Buffer Projects.

Be sure to read the Events page to see what we have planned and feel free to join us in our upcoming activities.

Details are available from Kaye Proudley, 5185 1398 or katbingi@harboursat.com.au

In early December the Woodside Landcare Group enjoyed a relaxing Christmas break up in the tranquil surrounds of the Tarra Bulga Guest House and Café, now owned by group members Steve Ronaldson and Nicki Harvey. We thank them for their generous hospitality and great coffee, and would highly recommend an afternoon spent in the hills to all in the Network!

We were subsequently shocked by the sudden illness of our President, Charles Meckiff and wish him all the best for a speedy recovery.

Our first meeting for 2012 was held on Wednesday, February 29th at the Woodside Hall. Topics for discussion were rabbit numbers, and what to do about them, and the future direction of the group.

Merriman Creek

Our recent meeting on February 19th was well attended with our Regional Landcare Coordinator, Phil McGarry, guest speaker.

Currently our group is completing projects from last year including the purchase of equipment and weed spraying in our Arboretum.

We have also sponsored

Bingi Walk, Talk and Gawk at Richard Appleton's place

FROM LEFT: GUS, RICHARD, LYN, JOHN, KATH, DALLAS AND MARGARET



A wonderful morning was had on Richard's property on the 19th of February.

A small but happy group saw giant mountain ash tree-stumps from

a bygone era, twisted blackwood trees and even uncovered a tiger snake!

an Interpretive sign within the Merriman Creek catchment of the Grand Strzelecki Track. The group is looking forward to a field trip to visit the site after the sign has been installed in May.

Our next meeting is on the 12th of May at 1.30pm in the Stradbroke Hall. Our Network Coordinator, Dan Garlick, will be attending and we will plan our future actions as well as enjoying afternoon tea and a walk in our Arboretum.

Wonyip

Wonyip Landcare Group was fortunate to receive a grant of \$5000.00 dollars from the Landcare 25th Anniversary Fund to continue our wildlife corridor program. This has enabled us to spray a large area of blackberry infested land in readiness

Barn Owl tragedy



This beautiful young Barn Owl was recently found hanging in a barbed wire fence. Unfortunately the damage to his wing was irreparable and he had to be euthanased.

This picture serves as a good example as to why we should not use barbed wire in our fencing.

Should you find any injured wildlife you should contact the DSE on 136 186 and they will direct you to a Wildlife Carer in your area.

It should be noted that all native wildlife is protected and therefore can only be treated by a Licenced Wildlife Carers. ■

for revegetation next spring. The long narrow strip of land belong to the Webb family and is also bordering the Spittle family property. This will link up with our existing

Quoll corridor with high quality cool temperate rain forest to the north of Wonyip. Thanks also to the Shire of Wellington for a grant to provide native seedlings for the project.



PARTNER ACTIVITY

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

COASTCARE NEWS

By Bruce Atkin, Coastcare Victoria's South Gippsland Facilitator



Community groups that received funding from CoastCare Victoria grants program are now getting started on their projects. Further grant rounds will occur in March and July.

The annual CoastCare "Summer by the Sea" program ran during the first three weeks of January with 2200 people taking part in over 50 activities in South Gippsland.

Mark this one in your diaries: the weekend of April 28th and 29th has been set for the next Coastal Management and Ecology workshop for volunteers. This popular course will include lectures and field trips with a range of wonderful presenters including the always fascinating and entertaining Coastal Geomorphologist, Neville

Rosengren. Further presenters and the venue (likely to be Inverloch) are yet to be finalised – more details later.

Coastal Landcarers, or other interested persons may be interested in the recently published Coastal Vegetation Management Handbook, prepared by CoastCare Facilitator Denis Cox. The handbook covers lots of topics including naming and classification of plants, influences on plant growth, planning your revegetation project, managing vegetation, and more. Copies can be obtained free of charge from Bruce Atkin - email: bruceatkin@dse.vic.gov.au and Bruce will post one to your mailing address. ■

Victoria's bird emblem

The Helmeted Honeyeater is the only bird species to be endemic to Victoria and so became Victoria's bird emblem in 1971.



Within Australia there are approximately 170 species of Honeyeater. Most are nectar feeding birds, however this is only a small proportion of the Honeyeaters diet, which consists of mainly Manna. Manna is a sap-like substance produced through the bark of trees. They also feed on berries from the Prickly Currant bush, Insects, Spiders and Lerps.

In 1990 there were only fifty of this species remaining and in 2006 the Helmeted Honeyeater was listed as "Critically Endangered".

From tail to tip the Helmeted Honeyeater is approximately 20 centimetres in length. Their colour ranges from black to olive-brown to yellow. What sets them apart from other

Victoria's marine emblem

The Weedy Seadragon (*Phyllopteryx taeniolatus*) is Victoria's official marine emblem having been nominated by the public and proclaimed in October 2002.



Weedy Seadragon

Found in southern Australian waters – living in coastal waters from Newcastle (NSW) to Tasmania to Geraldton (WA) their range is centered around Victoria.

They belong to the *Syngnathidae* family which includes seahorses, pipehorses and pipefish. They are also related to the Leafy Seadragon which is the official marine emblem of South Australia.

Beautifully coloured and dainty, the Weedy Seadragon are timid animals that swim slowly and gracefully. They can grow up to 46 cm in length living up to 10 years. They are perfectly camouflaged with long leaf-shaped flaps of skin protruding from stalk-like bony projections on their body.

Favouring shallow waters the

survives in forests of brown kelp and seagrass meadows. They also live in deeper waters amongst offshore reefs containing brown kelp and sponge gardens.

Weedy Seadragons use their thin long tubular snouts to suck up their food. Their diet consists of shrimp and crawling crustaceans.

Annual breeding occurs in late Spring when Seadragons pair up. The female can lay up to 300 eggs underneath the male's tail where they are brooded. The eggs are bright pink when fresh and darken as they develop before hatching after two months. The hatchlings are approximately 25mm long but can grow rapidly to 7cm in just three weeks and full size by two years of age! ■

Honeyeaters is their yellow crest.

Breeding occurs from August to February. With the gestation period of just two weeks, they can produce 2 – 3 young.

In the wild they inhabit a very small range between Ferntree Gully and Yellingbo. A captive release colony can also be found in the Bunyip State Park.

Threats to their existence

include habitat degradation (including removal of swamp and stream-side vegetation), swamp drainage, weed invasion, predation by introduced predators and competition from other species with similar habitat requirements, including native species such as the Bell Miner.

Whilst numbers are now steadily increasing they still remain on the "Critically Endangered" list.

FROM THE OFFICE

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK



By Dan Garlick

Dan's Den



The start of 2012 has been a busy period for the YYLN office and staff.

Late last year a number of large funding opportunities were announced and they closed at tricky times just before Christmas and early in 2012. YYLN have been busy ensuring quality submissions have been made to enable the development of large scale multi-year environmental stewardship and sustainable agriculture projects.

To help guide the YYLN Board and Staff, a Strategic Planning Workshop was held recently. The workshop aimed to review the YYLN Statement of Purpose; to identify the key themes that make up the Network's charter and to set priorities for action over the next three years. See article on page 6.

You may have noticed the new Landcare farm gate signs popping up. The logo is a bit trendy and the green more lime, but what better

way to promote Landcare to the wider community.

If you are a financial Landcare member and don't have a sign please contact your Landcare Group Chair to receive one.

Check out the photo at the bottom of the page.

YYLN have also produced a new Welcome Pack – shown in the photo below. The Welcome Pack will contain important YYLN information for new members and the wider community. These will go into local spots to



help more people get involved with Landcare. If you would like to receive a copy just let me know.

What else.... YYLN in

ABC Radio comes to town



Out on location with Gerard Callinan. From left: John McClumpha, Kevin Heggen, Gerard Callinan and Dan Garlick

partnership with CoastCare and WGCMA are purchasing an Educational Trailer built to help promote Landcare messages and will be helpful at any upcoming events. Talking of events, YYLN had a display at the Corner Inlet Sea Days Festival, which was very well attended and have run several events including a "Saltmarsh Uncovered" information session, "Cross-Property Biodiversity Planning Workshop" and supported an "Energy Efficiency in Dairies" field day.

Oh, and I have seen some fantastic projects recently, including the Wonyip Landcare Group who are undertaking weed control and revegetation work to link the Quoll Corridor to the Dingo Creek Thanks to the Wellington Shire Council who are supporting this project.

The ABC Gippsland have been taking an interest in the activities of the YYLN and local Landcare Groups. Gerard Callinan spent a day interviewing and finding out more about YYLN and what Binginwarri Landcare group have been up to. Stay tuned to the ABC and check out www.abc.net.au/gippsland

There are lots of on-ground projects underway. If you have an idea or would like to do something on your property please get in touch with us. We may or may not have funding but regardless it is important that we are aware of it, so we can work out how we can support you to achieve the best possible environmental outcomes.

Until next time, see you around the traps! ■

Cheers,

Dan





PROJECT UPDATE

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By Samantha Monks

YYLN Invasive Plants and Animals (IPA) Program

Gippsland Coastal Plains Gorse Control Program

Landcare leading the way

Funding opportunities are **still** available for the management of Gorse around Yarram, Alberton, Port Albert, Tarraville, Woodside, Darriman and Seaspray. If you have Gorse or know of Gorse in our area please contact: Samantha Monks, YYLN Project Officer on 0419 371497 or 0351 757895

Rust, Rust Everywhere!!! (and not a car body in sight...)

Following a very moist and humid summer, conditions have been perfect for a wide variety of fungal diseases, often referred to as "rust", to flourish.

These fungal diseases or rusts can easily be confused between plant species. Rusts are plant diseases caused by pathogenic **fungi** of the order Pucciniales, of which approximately 7800 species are known.

Rusts can affect a variety of plants; leaves, stems, fruits and seeds. Rust is most commonly seen as coloured powder that forms on the lower surfaces of leaves. During late spring or early summer, yellow, orange or brown, hairlike structures called **telia** grow on the leaves or emerge from bark of woody plant hosts. These telia produce spores which germinate, become air born or are spread by birds and insects causing further infection.

Blackberry Leaf Rust Fungus *Phragmidium violaceum*

Across the Strzelecki region, the Blackberry leaf rust fungus (*Phragmidium violaceum*) has caused significant defoliation in susceptible blackberry species due to the favourable



climatic conditions. Eight new blackberry rust strains were recently released to target the more resistant blackberry species. (*These rust species are considered "good" rusts!)

Blackberry rust can be a useful control method in some situations where there is high rainfall and cool summer temperatures, especially where manual or chemical control methods are difficult. Over five to ten years, it can help reduce

the vegetative spread of dense blackberry thickets.

Cypress Rust or Cypress Canker *Seiridium cardinal*

This summer another type of rust has affected cypress trees across the Yarram region. This is the cypress rust or cypress canker. It is caused by the fungus *Seiridium cardinal* and is very common in Victoria. The disease usually affects trees stressed by prolonged drought,



Samantha Monks, YYLN Project Officer

in poorly drained areas where root damage has occurred. In severe cases it can kill trees but usually it results in unsightly, patchy dieback that causes slow decline. (*Some people think Cypress canker is a "good" rust and others think it is "bad"!)

There is no scientifically validated treatment for this disease but some people are claiming success with spraying or trunk-injecting with phosphonic acid based fungicides. These treatments are extremely costly and not always effective. Keeping trees healthy seems to be the best defence.

If severely affected, large cypress trees and plantations may need to be removed and replaced. This may be a good opportunity to consider planting locally indigenous plant species to form new shelterbelts and wildlife corridors. ■



PROJECT UPDATE

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By Samantha Monks

And finally, here is a rust that none of us want!

Myrtle Rust *Uredo rangelii*

First detection of myrtle rust in Victoria - DPI Media Release:

The destructive plant disease **myrtle rust** (*Uredo rangelii*) has been found in Victoria for the first time, at a retail nursery on the Mornington Peninsula. The disease poses a threat to Victoria's nursery and forestry industries, as well as to public parks, gardens and native forests.

Department of Primary Industries' (DPI) Incident Controller, Gordon Berg, said a report of suspected myrtle rust was made by nursery staff and later confirmed by DPI diagnostic tests. "Because myrtle rust is very easily spread, it is not surprising that it has reached Victoria," said Mr Berg.

"Since the first Australian detection in New South Wales in early 2010, it has spread to far north Queensland and has been found on over 150 different plant species. The tiny spores of myrtle rust are easily spread on contaminated plant material, equipment, vehicles, clothing and shoes, as well as by animals, wind and water."

"The first signs of myrtle rust infection are tiny raised



MYRTLE RUST ON MELALEUCA *COPYRIGHT DPI

spots that are brown to grey, often with red-purple haloes. Up to 14 days after infection, the spots produce masses of distinctive yellow or orange spores."

Mr Berg said myrtle rust posed a threat to the nursery industry mainly through trade restrictions, but its effects on plant health could also impact the forestry industry, public parks and gardens and native forests.

"Under the right conditions, it could slow regeneration of the Victoria's native forests after harvesting or bushfire and even change forest biodiversity," he said.

"DPI should be notified immediately of any plants in Victoria suspected of being infected with myrtle rust.

All members of the Myrtaceae plant family are potential hosts of myrtle rust. It attacks young, soft, actively growing leaves, shoot tips and young stems, as well as the fruits and flowers of susceptible plants. Plants at risk include: eucalypts, bottlebrush, tea tree, lilly pilly, paperbark, myrtle, guava, midyim, rose apple, brush box and New Zealand Christmas bush.

Plants not in the Myrtaceae family and therefore not

affected by myrtle rust include roses, fruit trees, vegetables, camellias, grevilleas, crepe myrtle and wattles.

Reports of suspected myrtle rust can be made by calling DPI on 1800 084 881, or by emailing photos of the suspect material, together with a contact phone number and the plant's location, to plant.protection@dpi.vic.gov.au

To avoid spreading the disease, do not touch, move or collect samples of the suspect plant. *Further information about myrtle rust can be found on the [DPI website](http://dpi.vic.gov.au)



In response to many requests from community groups the VBT has put together an excellent resource called the, "Community Blackberry Action Group Start - Up Kit". The kit outlines a range of integrated

and long-term approaches to Blackberry control across public and private land. Kits have been recently distributed to Landcare and other community groups in the Jack and Albert River (JARR) catchment area. If individual

landholders or other groups are interested in obtaining kits or information or advice please contact:

Samantha Monks, YYLN Project Officer on 0419 371497 or 0351 757895



By Samantha Monks

SALTMARSHES UNCOVERED

A "Saltmarshes Uncovered" information day was held on Saturday 18th February at McLoughlins Beach.

WaterWatch Facilitator Nicole Russell together with Yarram Yarram Landcare Network's Dan Garlick and Samantha Monks, invited Professor Paul Boon from Victoria University and Susan Taylor (Department of Sustainability and Environment) to talk about Saltmarshes and other coastal wetlands.

Representatives from other organisations included Michelle Dickson (West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority), Bruce Atkin (Coastcare Facilitator) and Gerard Delaney (Parks Victoria).

Professor Paul Boon started the day discussing the importance of protecting Victoria's coastal Saltmarsh and Mangrove areas. Paul has just finished leading a 3-year multidisciplinary project into the extent and condition of wetlands along the Victorian coast. Paul spoke about the diversity of coastal wetlands and how the project team had recommended to DSE that the current Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC) for coastal saltmarsh (EVC 9 Coastal Saltmarsh Aggregate) needed to be divided into seven new and separate EVCs that better reflected the floristic and structural diversity of the wetland communities.

Paul then described the mapping activities that were undertaken in order to prepare



Professor (Dr.) Paul Boon at McLoughlin's Beach

the first accurate State-wide inventory of coastal wetlands. As part of the mapping work, the project team assessed the intensity of threats to coastal wetlands along 32 sectors of the Victorian coast. He spoke about changes that had occurred to coastal wetlands since the European colonization of Victoria: at a State-wide level, only about 15% of saltmarsh-mangrove-estuarine wetland had been lost since the mid-1800s, but such an average figure disguised the scale of losses along some parts of the coast.

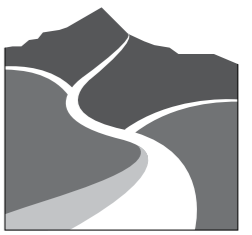
The entire mangrove fringe along Shallow Inlet, for example, had been cleared for barilla ash

production, and similarly there had been extensive losses along Port Phillip Bay and Western Port, including French Island. The situation with the Gippsland Lakes was very complex and, at this stage, impossible to decipher accurately. The entire report can be downloaded, as a series of smallish (1-2 MB) PDFs, from the webpage of Victoria University: <http://www.vu.edu.au/institute-for-sustainability-and-innovation-isi/publications>

Before lunch, the gathering headed off along the McLoughlins Beach boardwalk to view the wetlands at first-hand and identify saltmarsh plant species. Susan Taylor then spoke about the importance of

the Corner Inlet Ramsar sites and their connection to a wide range of resident and migratory bird species that inhabit the area. As the group strolled through the coastal vegetation, Parks Victoria Ranger In Charge, Gerard Delaney, explained how coastal erosion was affecting beach access.

Michelle Dickson finished the day with a talk about the collaborative projects in the area that were protecting the local saltmarsh ecosystems on private land. She emphasised the importance of inter-agency partnerships in the Corner Inlet Connections project which help strengthen environmental protection and awareness. ■



By Bronwyn Johnson

Mullungdung to Coast Project

The second year of the project is progressing well.

The site selection process has run smoothly and ten landholders are now engaged to complete on-ground works over the coming months. Hopefully they won't encounter quite the same soggy conditions as last year's participants.

This year's projects will include over 20ha of revegetation and remnant enhancement works on ten properties at eighteen sites. Works involve fencing, direct seeding and planting over 13,000 seedlings.

Our workshop program began with an introduction to Cross Property Biodiversity Conservation Planning at Giffard West Hall on February 23rd. The aim

of the workshop was to get neighbours working together to improve the conservation outcomes of their revegetation and remnant protection efforts. By planning at the landscape scale, beyond property boundaries, it is easier to see how revegetation can benefit not only your property, but the wider natural landscape. This idea will be further developed in a future workshop after it has had some time to compost in our collective conscience.

Other workshops will be held throughout the year revolving around the theme of Biodiversity Conservation. They will explore the significance of biodiversity in the landscape and ways to protect it from the various threats posed by invasive plants and animals, inappropriate



Bron and Don Belcher discussing the enhancement of remnants on his property.

Photo resolution too small for me to make any larger than this. If we have a higher resolution I can slot it into this space, otherwise I will use a filler.



Bronwyn Johnson, Seedbank and Mullungdung to Coast Project Officer.

land management practices and other human activities. These workshops are open to the entire community and will be advertised in the local paper and this newsletter, so please feel free to come along.

This project is being delivered by the Yarram Yarram Landcare Network with support from the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority through funding from the Australian Government's Caring for our Country. ■

Seedbank Report

Well, summer's been and gone... I think. Not sure it even arrived actually... but back to revegetation.

At the Nicholls' property the sites for this year revegetation projects were sprayed over summer and then deep ripped when the grasses had died down. The ground was then levelled off before the autumn spray. Timing for this depends on the autumn break but usually occurs in April/May. Follow up is in August two weeks before sowing. Brian found the deep ripping greatly improved the germination and survival rates in a previous seeding and is keen to continue with the experiment, and success.

The mild moist weather has really encouraged the summer active weeds to grow quite vigorously. I'm thinking mostly of Kikuyu. I'm sure you've spotted a few others, but this one is particularly troublesome in revegetation sites. Whilst it looks pretty harmless in winter/spring when we carry out the seeding, it is hard work for the direct seeder to cut through the thick root mat. Come summer when the seedlings are kicking on, it can quickly take over, smothering

the little darlings and out competing them for light, moisture, root space and nutrients. By then, it's too late to spray. You really need to have sprayed in summer before seeding, two summers before would be even better, two sprays per summer better still. It's pretty persistent stuff.

If you have Kikuyu or any other similar grass on a site you'd like to revegetate this year and haven't already sprayed, start your autumn spray now but don't seed this year. Save your efforts and precious seed for after you've conquered the grass, or pick a different site.

The only good thing about having a problem like this is that by the time you've eliminated the issue, you can pretty much guarantee you've also eliminated all other competition on site and carried out a text book ground preparation for a revegetation site. ■

Would we have a picture of some kikuyu grass?



Board member



Helga Binder

Helga was born in Austria but grew up in the Latrobe Valley, after her family immigrated to Australia when she was just two years old. From High School in Morwell, she went on to complete a Diploma of Teaching and then taught in Melbourne before heading overseas to live in Italy. On her return she settled into further education and a career in Graphic Design.

Helga has been associated with both design and the community since 1971. On her return from Italy she spent time working with unemployed at the Brunswick Unemployment Group, assisting in the setting up of the CERES project and a workers' cooperative which became Red Letter Press. Her interest in Graphic Design came from this involvement. After her course at RMIT she ended up working for Publicity Works, a design firm set up specifically to work in the Trade Union sector. From there she went on to establish and run her own business, "Creative Times". From its beginnings in the Melbourne Times Newspaper offices in 1989 until 2004 the business grew to be a medium sized studio employing eleven people and undertaking projects for Government, Corporate, Small business and Community



Autumn outside Helga and Peter's front door

organisations. The focus was essentially print media, though marketing, advertising and web-based projects were also undertaken.

These days Helga lives in semi-retirement in the depths of the Strzelecki Ranges and is a member of the Wonyip Landcare Group. Helga is very active within the Landcare movement. She has shared her skills and experience as a network board member for 2 years. During this time she has been Chair of the JARR (Jack & Albert River Restoration) Project and was a key driver behind the production of the magnificent JARR brochures. She also heads the Employment Steering Committee within the Network and provides important staff support. We can all thank Helga for her brilliant talent in designing our wonderful Newsletter and all the artwork on our Network stationery. Helga works on freelance design

projects and has a web site that showcases her illustration work, the main area of her current interest. The link is www.rednibdesign.com

The network is extremely fortunate to have such a talented, dedicated and experienced Board Member in Helga. Her energy and enthusiasm are inspiring. Helga has great ideas and skills that she has been able to put good use to the greater benefit of the YYLN. There is no question because of her design skills YYLN has become more professional and strategic in getting its messages out to the wider community. In the last 12-months alone, she has created the designs for the Newsletter, Welcome Pack, Annual Report, JARR Brochures and updated the website.

The Board, staff and wider community thank Helga immensely for her hard work. ■

MUSHROOM 'MAGGIES'

A Salutory story by Kaye Proudley from Bingenwarri

Not for us the white, tasteless, cultivated, shop-bought imitations but brown-topped, rich-tasting, free-for-the-taking, forest mushrooms (*Agaricus augustus*) growing in the forests and alongside the dirt roads of Bingenwarri. Each year we eat them for brekky with bacon and toast, stewed as a veggie with our steak at tea, dried for later use, frozen ditto, and then, one time, we tried soup. We spent a morning collecting, cleaning and chopping, stewed them in a little butter and garlic, then added some water and boiled them for a minute or two ready to thicken, top with parsley and enjoy with crusty bread.

But no, hang on, what was that little white sausage shape, spotted in the bottom of the pan? And that one? And another – and another. Oh no! MAGGOTS...oh yuk...oh pool! "I'm not eating that!" "Nor am I!"

Our Western ideas prevented us from eating the 'maggies' but of course, they had only partaken of mushroom themselves and were sterilized by the boiling they'd had. And think about all the indigenous peoples who gladly eat all manner of insects as part of their normal diet. So the compost was enriched by what could have been the loveliest mushroom soup on the planet - but now we'll never know. The compost, however, looked lovely a few weeks later – almost good enough to eat! .

Moral of this story?

Always VERY CAREFULLY check for entry holes before cooking. Unless you need the extra protein! ■



Spatial Vision Database

COMPETITION

Record your sightings in the Spatial Vision Database and be in the running to win a Panasonic Lumix Digital Camera, 8 optical zoom and 28mm wide angle lens valued at



\$243 for yourself or an Etrex Garmin Venture HC GPS unit valued at \$192 for your Landcare Group.



To encourage database use the NWF has offered these two very generous prizes for those who look, join and start recording. The individual prize will go to the lucky person who has used the database a minimum of 3 times and who's name is drawn from the hat of all names. The group prize will go the Landcare Group who has the most members registering and recording on the site. Competition closes at

DEADLINE EXTENDED

of the YYLN News. For more information, please contact the YYLN Office on 5182 5073 or dang@wgama.vic.gov.au

Due to a number of reports that the Database site was 'down' just before the deadline, we have extended the competition until the 18th of May 2012, to coincide with the closing date for articles for the Winter issue of the YYLN Landcare News.

Results will be published

To use the mapper go to www.jarrproject.com and follow the links.

in the Winter Edition of our Landcare News.

Due to this extension you need to have a minimum of three separate entries to qualify for the individual prize.

IF YOU HAVE TROUBLE USING THE DATABASE PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL TO DAN AND HE WILL PASS IT ON TO NWF for fixing.

Dear Warren,

I'm sending two photos and wonder if you can tell me what this plant is please? Is it a weed? It's growing in my creek-edges, gullies and other damp places. My stock won't eat it.

Angie from Garden Farm

Dear Angie,

Regards your pictured plant - no wonder the animals won't eat it! Take a teensy-weensy piece of fresh leaf, a quarter leaf and chew it, (guaranteed not to kill or otherwise harm you in any way).

It's slightly bitter at first, developing an almost anaesthetic pungency then a biting, prickling heat, which lasts a while, similar to Sichuan Pepper, Jalapeno Peppers or Cilantro. An oral uproar!

It is *Persicaria* (syn. *Polygonum*) *hydropiper* or Waterpepper.

In fact, our forebears called it 'Smartarse' because it stung your bum if you reached for this plant to wipe with!

A cosmopolitan plant found in many places around the world, it's not known if it was introduced to Australia, so no, it is not considered a weed. Related to the buckwheat family, one of its constituent parts is Polygodial, which is also found in our Tasmanian Pepper in small quantities.

Aboriginals roasted the peeled stems for food AND used the leaves to

Warren the Wise



poison fish! I reckon the fish were just paralysed with the heat of the pepper and couldn't swim!!

Now, it would be interesting if there are many reports of fish kills locally - I've heard of one so far, but have no proof

that it was 'Smartarse' that got them!

For sensitive people it may cause inflammation either to touch or taste. ■

Warren the Wise.

APPLICATIONS FOR 2012-13 COMMUNITY ACTION GRANTS: NOW OPEN

The Australian Government is seeking applications for 2012-13 Community Action Grants from local community groups to help them take action to conserve and protect their local environment.

As in previous rounds, local community, farming and Indigenous groups can apply for a grant between \$5,000 and \$20,000 (GST exclusive) to fund projects that encourage active participation and build the skills and knowledge of the community to protect and restore our environment and natural resources. Projects may include hosting a local field day, developing natural resource management plans, educating land owners in sustainable agriculture techniques and on-ground works.

APPLICATIONS CLOSE AT 5PM (AEDT), ON TUESDAY 27 MARCH 2012

For more information on eligibility and to submit a Community Action Grants application, visit the Caring for our Country website (<http://www.nrm.gov.au/funding/cag/index.html>) or telephone 1800 552 008. For FTLA Member Groups who are incorporated in their own right, the supply of your incorporation details should be sufficient. For other FTLA Member Groups please contact us as soon as possible so that we complete the first part of the application as the sponsor organisation before you start filling it in!

Contacts for Individual Active Landcare Groups

Albert River Landcare Group

Contact: Geoff Charman
Telephone: 5184 1117
Email: geoffc@wideband.net.au

Carrajug and Districts Landcare Group

Contact: Dan Garlick
Telephone: 0400 175 085 or 5165 5893
Email: dang@wgcm.vic.gov.au

Woodside Landcare Group

Contact: Bronwyn Johnston
Telephone: 5187 1087
Email: ajdoyle@keypoint.com.au

Wonyip Landcare Group

Contact: Werner Lange
Telephone: 0418 302575
Email: longiewl@optusnet.com.au

Binginwarri Landcare Group

Contact: Kaye Proudley
Telephone: 5185 1398
Email: katbingi@harboursat.com.au

Merriman Creek Landcare Group

Contact: Melissa Ainsworth
Telephone: 5146 8328
Email: ainsworths@activ8.net.au

Won Wron Devon North Landcare Group

Contact: Bill Bodman
Telephone: 5189 1243
Email: bjbodman@wideband.net.au

Hedley/Nine Mile Creek Landcare Group

Contact: Dan Garlick
Telephone: 0400 175 085 or 5165 5893
Email: dang@wgcm.vic.gov.au



Livingston St Yarram Vic 3971
T: 03 5182 5073
F: 03 5182 6094
E: yarram@wgcm.vic.gov.au
W: www.yyln.org.au

POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA