



# YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NEWS

Vol: 008 SPRING September 2012

## FEATURES

YYLN Annual General Meeting

National Landcare Conference

National Landcare Awards



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# EVENTS UPDATE

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

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

### Editorial Team

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

### Contributions

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### Deadlines

All contributions for the Summer edition must be received before 16th November, 2012

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### TREEPLANTING - WONYP

**When:** 10am Sat 22 Sept.  
**Where:** Meet at Wonyip Hall, Wonyip Hill Road.  
 A BBQ lunch will be provided. Bring chair, mozzie repellent, gloves and a drink.  
**RSVP: John Kosta 5681 6286**

### NETWORK GET-TOGETHER

**When:** 11am Sun 23 Sept  
**Where:** Alberton We Recreation Rese, Lanes Rd. Come along to farewell Dan Garlick, Damian Moore & Bob Wenger and, maybe, meet our new Network Coordinator.

### TREEPLANTING - BINGINWARRI

**When:** 9.30am Sun 30 Sept. AND Sun 14 October.  
**Where:** Approx 3.5kms up Hedley Range Rd off Tap Tap Rd. You'll see the cars when you get there. A BBQ lunch will be provided. Bring chair, mozzie repellent, gloves and a drink.  
**RSVP: Kaye on 51851398 by 25th September**

### PLANT IDENTIFICATION & MAPPING

(as part of the Binginwarri Biodiversity Project)  
 This one is set as a school holiday activity to include children so they can learn and use equipment. Bring repellent, boots, chair, snack or lunch and drink.  
**When:** 10am Thursday 4th October  
**Where:** 'Brinbeal' 824 Hedley Range Rd, approx 8kms from Tap Tap Rd  
**RSVP: Kaye on 51851398 by 1st of October**

### YARRAM URBAN LCG MEETING

**When:** 6pm Thurs 4 October.  
**Where:** Contact Trevor Colvin – 0417 307 098 - for details

### BINGI - WILDFLOWER WANDER

**When:** 10am Sunday 7th October  
**Where:** Wildflower Wander in the Won Wron State Forest, entering forest on Boodyarn Rd (right turn off the Highland Way coming from Yarram, a few kms past the township of Won Wron) and travel a few hundred metres to the far side of a small bridge where there is a clearing to park. We may carpool from here so you'll have to be on time! Bring hats, drinks, boots, a chair and picnic lunch. A flora field guide too, if you have one.  
**RSVP: Kaye on 51851398 by 2nd of October**

### WOODSIDE LCG MEETING

**When:** 8pm Wed 17th October  
**Where:** Woodside Hall  
 Join the Woodside LCG for their General Meeting.

### WILDFLOWER WANDER

Bingi & Hedley Landcare Groups  
**When:** 10am Thursday 18th October



**Where:** Coastal heathlands of Gelliondale. Come look and learn with us. Meet at turn-off to Rossiters Rd (park and wait in Rossiters Rd) off 5th Gippsland Hwy between Pt Albert & Hedley. Bring plant books if you have them, boots, repellent, snack or lunch, drinks and a chair.  
**RSVP: Kaye on 51851398 by 16th of October**

### BINGI LCG - TWITCH-A-THON

**When:** 9.30am Sunday 21st October  
**Where:** Travel between different areas in the district and see how many different bird species we can locate in the one trip. **Details of where to meet will be advised.** Car pooling may be an option from the meeting place.  
**RSVP: Kaye on 51851398 by 16th October**

### MERRIMAN CREEK CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

**When:** 11am Sunday 18th November  
**Where:** Tarra Bulga NP. Join the Merriman Creek LCG for a brief meeting, BYO lunch and short walk on the Grand Strzelecki Track

# YYLN AGM 2012

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK



By Dan Garlick



Yarram Yarram Landcare Network's AGM was held on Friday 31st August at the Club Hotel in Yarram. It was a terrific night with more than 70 people attending. A special presentation was held recognizing the contribution of many local Landcarers, as part of the State Government's, 25th Anniversary of Landcare Honour Roll. This year's guest speaker was Dr Tom Rich, Curator of Vertebrate Palaeontology, Museum Victoria.

At the AGM, David McAninly was returned as Chair of the YYLN Board for a further two year term. The new Vice Chair is Werner Lange, Secretary Melissa Ainsworth and Treasurer Brian Nicholls. Helga Binder and Trevor Colvin return as General Members. We would also like to welcome David Hill and David McAulay to the YYLN Board. They both have extensive experience and we look forward to drawing on this over the next couple of years.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank and wish well Board Members, Damian Moore and Bob Wenger, who stepped down from the Board. Damian has been a Board Member for over 10 years and has held the Treasurer role for the past 6 years. He has contributed enormously to Landcare over the years, including significant amounts of on-ground works at his property including the planting of thousands of trees, protecting of remnants and waterways. Bob has been the ESC Chair and has represented the Robertsons Beach community on the Board. He has also helped with projects along the Tarra River.

At the AGM, the YYLN Board also recognized those YYLN members included in the 2011 State Landcare Honor Roll. The following YYLN members were presented with a certificate and a photo will be included on YYLN's Honour Board in the YYLN Office:

### PLATINUM – MORE THAN 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

- o Ed & Pat Brand
- o Peter and Norma Garlick
- o Gavin and Sue Egan
- o David and Sue McAulay
- o Mr and Mrs David and Joy McAninly

### GOLD – 20 TO 25 YEARS SERVICE

- o Libby Balderstone
- o Don and Kay Belcher
- o Rob and Jenny Davies
- o Fergus and Rosemary Irving
- o Graeme and Frankie McClennan
- o Andrew and Alison Missen
- o Gavin Missen
- o Trevor Missen
- o Steve Ronaldson
- o George Triantafyllou
- o Bryan Walpole
- o Rob and Sally White

### BRONZE 10 - 14 YEARS SERVICE

- o Bev Beale
- o Leon Trembath



### DR TOM RICH

Dr Tom Rich, internationally renowned Palaeontologist provided a fantastic finale to the great night. He provided insight in to the prehistoric world of South Gippsland, highlighting the diversity of dinosaurs that once roamed these parts. Dr Rich is keen to explore/ identify possible dig sites in the Strzelecki's, for further information please contact the YYLN Office. ■



# LOCAL LANDCARE LEGENDS

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By Melissa Ainsworth

*Do you feel so connected to your local area that it's like you are ingrained within it? This edition's "Local Landcare Legend" features Maree Avery who confesses, "it's like my blood is in the soil and I think I have an understanding of what the Aboriginals must feel with regard to a sense of belonging".*

The Avery family have a very long history within the district dating back to 1851 at Port Albert. Some of Maree's ancestors have left their stamp on the district having built infrastructure such as the Port Albert Museum the Hedley Church and the Port Welshpool Museum.



Maree's grand parents settled in the Hedley district in approx 1920 and held large land holdings which included three islands; Dog, Little Dog and Bullock Islands as a mixed farming enterprise. Maree's parents then farmed on approximately 350 acres of which today, Maree lives on 93 acres and she is very grateful for having such supportive neighbours. Half of the property has been put under a

Conservation Covenant with the Banksia Woodland vegetation, a sign of the fragile landscape, existing on a series of former dunes. The property overlooks the Nooramunga Marine and Coastal Park and is just over one kilometre from the shoreline.

Fond childhood memories of playing in the bush on the family farm and at nearby Gellion's Run has left a lasting impression of the former landscape. Maree left the

district as a young adult to study Nursing and it wasn't until her return that she noticed a decline in the health of the vegetation. Comparing the roadside vegetation to that of the remnant vegetation amongst grazing land, with its ringbarked trees and trodden shrubs, instigated Maree's decision to conserve half of the property with fencing and to only allow cattle to graze on the cleared grassed sections. In just ten short years signs of natural regeneration is evident.

A member of the Hedley Landcare Group, Maree was a key driver of its inception in 1999. The Group conducted its first community project in the year 2000 with the planting of 3000 trees at the Hedley Recreation Reserve. Plants endemic to the area were planted with the assistance of the Welshpool Primary School students. From the success

...continued on next page

## HURRAH FOR LANDCARE!!

**Over the past 30 years we have planted large corridors of indigenous trees and shrubs on our property in Madalya.**

The land was drastically cleared in the first half of the 20th century and covered in ragwort, thistles and blackberries, when we bought it in 1981. Many of our neighbours, who bought around the same time, also planted many trees and shrubs on their properties. 1995 saw the formation of our Landcare Group, which encouraged more of the community to create corridors for wildlife and eradicate feral pests.

It was, therefore, very gratifying

to witness, in January this year, a male and female koala performing vocally, with great gusto, in the trees near our house, and in May, this koala enjoying the fruits (or should I say leaves) of our labour, strolling through our, now very mature, plantation. We have also seen many more species of birds this year, enjoying all the neighbourhood corridors.

**I can only say how wonderfully worthwhile all the hardwork of Landcarers is, throughout our community and all over the world. Thank you all. ■**

Lyn Hughes, Madalya.



A VERY HEALTHY KOALA ON THE HUGHES' PROPERTY

# LOCAL LANDCARE LEGENDS

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK



By Melissa Ainsworth

...continued from previous page



of this event, farm walks and talks were hosted with another community project held in 2002. This project involved the revegetation of wetlands at Welshpool and was funded by the Agnus Landcare Group, again with the assistance of the school pupils.

A DVD was produced in 2003 by the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority as a means of promoting Landcare in Victoria. Maree, along with other YYLN members, participated in the making of this DVD. It would be great to view this and use as a measure of Landcare today!

In 2005 the Hedley Landcare Group and the Welshpool Primary School students planted a further 1000 trees at the Hedley Recreation Reserve before Maree instigated riparian vegetation weed and erosion control works to be undertaken along the Nine Mile Creek. 2007 saw the group enter a recess period before it was again rejuvenated earlier this year. With former and new members presently in the group it is marvellous to see the enthusiasm return with proactive plans for the future, with Maree again, "in the front seat" driving the group.

We are fortunate to have a role model like Maree in our Landcare community. She has devoted over ten years to the Landcare cause, in roles which include serving on the former YYLN Board and as the key driver of the Hedley Landcare Group. It's this passion and dedication to our environment and the on-going community leadership displayed that entitles Maree to the title of "Local Landcare Legend". ■



# AROUND THE TRAPS

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By our Landcare Groups

## Binginwarri

The Binginwarri Group have some interesting activities coming up that you may like to participate in. All YYLN group members are invited and most welcome to attend. Please RSVP to Kaye on 5185 1398 or [katbingi@harboursat.com.au](mailto:katbingi@harboursat.com.au) by the date requested for each event which are itemised in the "Events" calendar of this Newsletter. We have also been hard at work eradicating our weeds while Paul Fayolle gets out and about with the camera won by him through the JARR competition held earlier in the year. ■

*Who said romance was dead? Libby receives a proposal from Kevin Heggen with ragwort in the rain.*



## Woodside

The Woodside Landcare Group held its AGM on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of August. This was a well attended meeting with guest David McAninly chairing the election of Office Bearers. Gavin Missen was duly elected President; Fergus Irving as Vice President; Jane Gordon as Secretary and Bryan Walpole retained the Treasurer's position.

The meeting was followed by an entertaining presentation by group member Neil Collins on his recent trek of the Kokoda Trail. As usual an excellent supper by our Catering Officer, Kay Belcher, topped off the

evening.

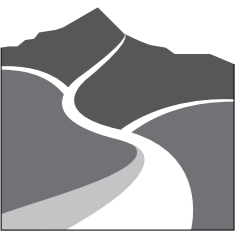
Our next meeting is planned for Wednesday the 17<sup>th</sup> of October at 8pm in the Woodside Hall. All welcome. ■

## Albert River

The Albert River Group has had a sleepy time of it through the winter months. Nevertheless, a meeting at David & Sue MacAulays' on August 1 saw renewed energy. First the 'Landcare Group Health survey was completed' and then ideas for the next twelve months were discussed. The proposed tree planting at Seabank also excited some interest.

# AROUND THE TRAPS

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK



It was agreed that further work on the Hiawatha walking track would be postponed until the leeches went into hibernation and that tracks into the Albert River waterfalls would be reconsidered in the summer. ■

## Yarram Urban

Landcare is generally considered a rural pursuit and most groups are focused on works outside towns and cities, but the new Yarram group has become one of a handful of Landcare groups with an urban focus.

Yarram Urban Landcare Group formed in July and had its first formal meeting late last month, to establish its charter and purpose.

The group should provide an outlet for urban residents to become involved in Landcare, who would otherwise have little understanding of Landcare and will help spread the message that Landcare activities are broader than 'on farm' alone.

Several members are experienced Landcarers and the rest are enthusiastic to learn and to become involved.

The group has four broad aims which were ratified by the members:

**To identify uniquely urban projects which are in need of Landcare input** and to work on them. We have secured \$2,000, which will go toward one or more projects.

**To assist other groups in the network with labour and logistics for special events.** YULG members will become a floating force available to

other groups in the network for special events requiring extra help, providing there is a social aspect to it at the end of activities.

**To eradicate Indian Mynahs from Yarram.** Members have been in touch with other Landcare networks with a view to becoming involved in a district-wide Mynah trapping program.

**To expand the Landcare conversation.** The broadness of Landcare is very well known to those who are involved but not to the general public. As Landcare evolves beyond its 25th year, more diversity will develop and YULG hopes to play a role spreading that word.

The next meeting is set for 6pm October 4 and anyone interested is welcome.

YULG is a sub group of the YYLN. Any enquiries can be directed to the office in Livingston Street, or contact Trevor Colvin: 0417 307 098

## Hedley

Hedley/Nine Mile Creek has been sleeping for the past few years but not anymore. The second meeting of the year was held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of August with another great turn up of Landcarers. At this stage Hedley will remain as a sub-group of YYLN. It was really positive to see members share their future plans for the group and as individual landowners. I must at this point thank Dan for his guidance and direction in getting Hedley back on track. We have some upcoming planned events advertised in the "Events" calendar of this newsletter. On next General

Meeting is planned for Tuesday the 13<sup>th</sup> of November. We plan to meet at 7pm at the Atkin farm (in Rossiters Road) to view the progress of a wetland project which was fenced off 6-7 years ago. A meeting will follow at the Hedley Hall. ■

## Merriman Creek

The Merriman Creek Landcare Sub Group held its AGM on the 18<sup>th</sup> of August. It was great to have David McAninly conduct the election and inform the group about current Network activities. The meeting was very well attended and we enjoyed the barbeque lunch that followed. Ann Coulson has retained her position as President as has Melissa Ainsworth as Secretary. We are excited to have two members in the Vice Presidents role, that being David Matthews and Paul Harrison.

Our next meeting will be our Christmas get-together which is planned for Sunday the 18th of November at 11am in the Tarra Bulga National Park. We will meet in the car park at the picnic facilities for a byo lunch. Following this we will have a

short walk along the Telecom Track section of the Grand Strzelecki Track. All welcome. ■

## Wonyip

Members of the Wonyip Group recently inspected the Dingo Creek Road and sections of Woorarra Road, which were treated for blackberry eradication, funded by the "Weeds for Trees" program. The result of this work has been hugely successful and has now inspired a new project to clean up and revegetate the Dingo / Agnes River system, from their headwaters at Ryton Junction to the Valley bridge at Devil's Pinch Road.

This project will complement the JARR Project in size and environmental effect. Wonyip sits on the Watershed of these two major river systems and at their headwaters, a most important site. Our President, John Kosta, will be driving this project with the enthusiastic group of land owners in the region. We will also engage with member groups of the South Gippsland Landcare Network who are focusing works on the Agnes River further downstream. ■

## Warren the Wise



ports from S.E. Asia and usually remaining in urban areas. This crow has been eradicated from Australia now it is thought. But the only crow found in Victoria is the Little Crow, with its distribution just barely reaching the northern Mallee area.

Three raven species - Australian Raven *C. coronoides*, Forest Raven *C. tasmanicus* and the Little Raven *C. mellori*, are all common to Victoria.

So... your culprit is unlikely to be a crow but, in my opinion, is a raven!

In fact... the Australian Raven. It is an extremely intelligent bird and plays a vital role in the rural environment. They eat pest insects such as the cockchafer beetle, larvae and grasshoppers that are responsible for widespread crop and pasture damage. They also reduce the spread of flies by eating rotten and diseased carcasses as well as maggots of the flies that breed in rotten material. They

are largely undervalued!

The main differences between the three raven species are their behaviour, where they live and their calls.

I think your problem is with the Australian Raven because -

- They are not nomadic, nor found in flocks.
- They pair for life and occupy their territory all year round.
- Their intelligence allows them to recognise food items such as food scraps and chook eggs!
- Other bird eggs are a regular part of their diet.

So... what can you do to keep all your chook eggs for yourself?

Fence the chooks in - including a roof of chicken wire and you should be able to eat all the eggs your chooks lay and that your heart desires! ■

Warren the Wise

Dear Warren,  
*I am struggling on a daily basis with collecting my (free range) chook eggs before they are devoured by a pair of resident crows! How can I stop them?*

"Starving Chook Egg-lover"

*Dear Starving Chook Egg-lover I sympathise with you! An unusual secret I harbour is that I too, love eggs, the only wombat in Australia known to do so!! Do you think that may be what makes me so wise?*

There are six species of the Corvidae family (Crows and Ravens) recorded in Australia -

Three crows - Little Crow, *C. bennetti*, Torresian Crow, *C. orru* and the ship-assisted coloniser, the House Crow, *C. splendens* occasionally arriving at our



PAUL FAYOLLE (JARR COMP. CAMERA WINNER)

By Dan Garlick



## Dan's Den

*I would like to take an opportunity to provide a short summary of some of the YYLN achievements over the last 12 months.*

In 2011/12, the Yarram Yarram Landcare Network undertook 13 projects, totalling approximately \$610,000 delivering:

Approx. 50000 plants in the ground; 47ha of land revegetated; 30km of fencing erected; 60ha of weeds

controlled; 14ha of remnant vegetation protected; 500ha of land under sustainable pasture/soil management; 16 information sessions/field days; 1 whole farm planning course delivered.

YYLN have also been extremely active in other areas and in 2011/12 have delivered the following activities and events:

**Newsletter** – production of a high quality quarterly colour newsletter; **Welcome Pack** – production of a professional folder; **Website** – update and relaunch of YYLN website; **Educational trailer** – building of a new specialised interactive educational trailer; **Annual BBQ** – over 60 people, 3 guest

speakers; **AGM** – over 50 people, terrific night; **Farm Plan 21** – delivery a 8 week whole farm planning course.

Throughout the year, YYLN has worked hard to support the re-invigoration of the Hedley Landcare Group and the Carrajung Landcare Group. Particularly in the case of Hedley, there has been a fantastic response and the future looks bright. In addition to these groups, YYLN's newest group, the Yarram Urban Landcare Group was established and has 10 new members.

The State Landcare Awards were held in November and there was much excitement when Libby Balderstone was announced firstly the regional winner and then the Victorian State Primary Producer Award winner. This is terrific recognition for the many years of outstanding sustainable farming by Libby at Warrigal Creek.

The Board undertook a process to review where it is at and where it heading, culminating in a workshop in February 2012. The process highlighted that YYLN was doing a lot of things well, however, the process was a good opportunity to clearly define the key themes guiding the YYLN operation:

- Landcare Groups & Membership
- Sustainable Agriculture/ Production
- Environmental Stewardship
- Education, Communication & Promotion
- Partnerships & Collaboration
- Funding
- Governance

2012/13 is shaping to be even bigger than last year. YYLN's program over the next 12-months is summarized in the table on the next page.

As many of you may know, I am moving on from YYLN into a role with the West Gippsland

By Dan Garlick

Catchment Management Authority. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone I have had the pleasure meeting and working with over the last couple of years. I have thoroughly enjoyed my short time with YYLN, particularly the people, projects and diverse environment. Apologies for not sticking around longer.

I would like to single out David McAninly (and Joy) for making me feel part of the local community and for your tireless efforts, enthusiasm and

humour. You have left a lasting impression on me and I will miss having a beer in your dairy at the end of the day, whilst getting the cheques signed!

YYLN is well placed moving into the future, with a good Board, staff, enthusiastic landholders and groups. There are a good suite of projects which are well funded over the next few years.

Good luck and I will see you around the traps. ■

Dan



BRUCE ATKIN, PHIL MCGARRY AND DAN WITH OUR NEW YYLN TRAILER

### 2012/13 YYLN Project Summary

PROJECT	FUNDING	INTENDED OUTCOMES
<b>Carbon Action on Ground</b>	Dept of Ag, Fisheries & Forestry	15 Landholders Ongoing monitoring of GPDP sites and including Soil Carbon testing Establishment of 3 new trials – increasing soil carbon 2 workshops 4 Technical Reference Committee meetings
<b>Erosion Control</b>	Corner Inlet Connections	9ha of Erosion Control; JARR area; fencing and tree planting
<b>Communities for Nature – JARR Project</b>	DSE – Communities for Nature	75ha Blackberry Suppression 10ha remnant protection/reveg 8 landholder agreements 2 Workshops 4 JARR Meetings JARR Brochures
<b>Healthy Soils</b>	Caring for our Country via WGCMA	2 Healthy Soils Field Days; Soil Testing; Case Studies
<b>JARR Project</b>	Norman Wettenhall Foundation	JARR Booklet; Case Study – Mentor
<b>Mullungdung to Coast</b>	Caring for our Country via WGCMA	30ha Remnant Veg Protection and/or enhancement; 19km Fencing; 10 Landholders; 3 workshops
<b>Serrated Tussock</b>	Caring for our Country via WGCMA	Education campaign; Treatment of isolated areas of Serrated Tussock
<b>VLG Project - 9 Mile Creek</b>	Victorian Investment Framework	3ha of revegetation 4km of fencing of waterways and/or remnant vegetation 3ha pest plants controlled 1 9-Mile Creek Community Strategic Plan 1 Public Workshop 1 Environmental Field Day
<b>WSC Roadside Weeds</b>	Wellington Shire Council	Identification of weed issues on roadsides and treated
<b>YYLN Events/Activities</b>	AGM; Annual BBQ; Spring Board Tour; Landcare Awards; Group support/admin; Newsletter	

### New Technology: ECOBLADE

Local ex-farmer, John Kosta, has been exploring new wet blade technology which cuts and applies herbicide to gorse, blackberry, tussocks, bracken or unwanted grass species in one pass. He says it delivers a huge saving on herbicide and labour costs when used in conjunction with a 4wd tractor and linkage slasher. If you want further information see 'EcoBlade' on youtube or phone John on 56816286 or 0402390719

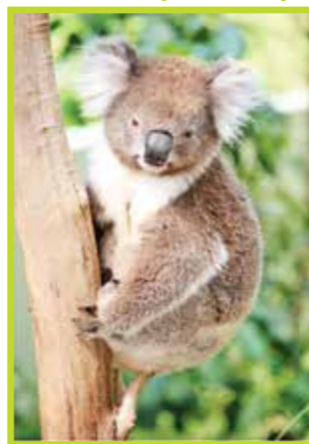


### Communities for Nature Grant: Jack and Albert River Restoration Project (JARR)

#### Expressions of Interest for 2012-2013 (Round 1)

The Yarram Yarram Landcare Network (YYLN) has funding opportunities available for environmental grants through the Victorian Government's Communities for Nature Program in the Jack and Albert River Catchments areas. Landholders are invited to express interest in on-ground projects that will:

1. Protect, enhance and/or connect remnant vegetation in priority Ecological Vegetation Communities (EVC's) which include Warm & Cool Temperate Rainforest, Lowland Forest and Damp Forest.
2. Reduce the impacts of Blackberry, a Weed of National Significance (WoNS), on biodiversity within the JARR area.
3. Protect, enhance or connect priority habitat for the South Gippsland Koala.



For more information please contact: Samantha Monks  
Livingston St, Yarram 3971  
5175 7895 or 0419 371 497  
E: [samantham@wgcm.vic.gov.au](mailto:samantham@wgcm.vic.gov.au)



\*Expressions of Interest close on Friday October 12.

By Dan Garlick and Helga Binder

## National Landcare Conference and Awards



The 2012 National Landcare Conference was held on September 3-5 in sparkling sunshine on the Darling Harbour, Sydney NSW.

YYLN Board Chair David McAninly, member Helga Binder and Dan Garlick attended on behalf of the network.

It was a conference packed full with ideas, story-sharing, networking and learning.

There were sessions on Conserving our Biodiversity, Engaging our Communities, Sustainable Agriculture & Innovation and presentations from National Landcare Award finalists. Plenary sessions had excellent panels discussing Food Production and the future of Landcare, including an inspirational 'telepresence' with



David Suzuki. An edited version of this will be on uTube so that you can all look and be inspired.

Social Media and its potential to spread the message of Landcare was a repeated theme throughout the conference. A few brave souls even started tweeting on #landcareconf12 but most of us were secretly thinking that tweeting should be left to the birds. We were all encouraged to get our Landcare websites up to scratch and connected with our Landcare facebook pages and our Instagram images so that we can encourage the rest of Australia to 'like' us. Good luck!

**The National Landcare Awards, a focal point in the conference and were presented on the Tuesday night.**

Flying the flag for our region were State Award winners, Libby Balderstone, Belinda Brennan and the WGCMA.

It was a great night, with approximately 1000 landcarers attending. Special guests included former Prime Minister, Bob Hawke, Minister Joe Ludwig, Landcare Ambassador Jack Thompson (Helga is still swooning having had her photo taken with him) and Catriona Rowntree who MC'd the night.

Congratulations to all the winners (none from Victoria), especially to Libby on being a finalist, but more importantly on your tremendous Landcare efforts and operation at Warrigal Creek. We are not biased in saying that you should have won!

### WINNERS

Individual Landcarer Award - Chris Scott NSW

Natural Resource Management Award (WGCMA was Vic finalist) - SEQ Catchments - QLD

Innovation in Sustainable Farm Practices -Running Creek Feed Test Station - QLD

Local Landcare Facilitator Award (Belinda Brennan was Vic Finalist) - Susie Chapman - QLD

Coastcare Award - South West Rocks Dune Care - NSW

Education Award - North Dandalup Primary School - WA

Young Landcare Leader - Megan Rowlett - NSW

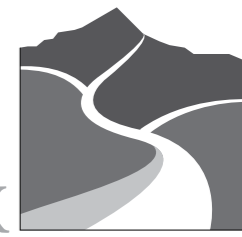
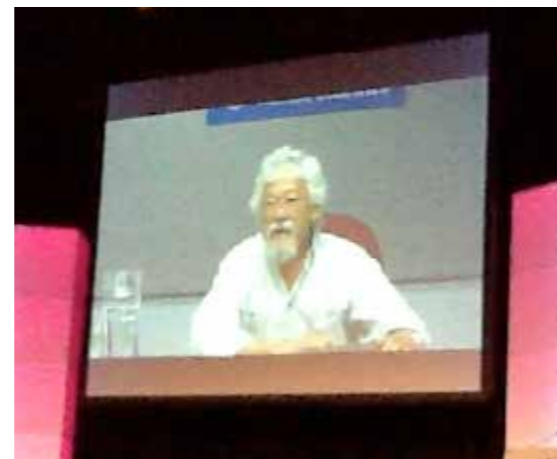
Indigenous Award - Bunya Mountains Elders Council - QLD

Primary Producer Award (Libby Balderstone from Yarram was the Vic Finalist) - Danny Flannery - NSW

Community Group Award - Ellen Brockman Integrated Catchment Group -WA

Urban Landcare Award - Georges River Combined Councils' Committee - NSW

Landcare Partnership Award - Byron and Tweed Shire Councils - NSW ■



By Samantha Monks



Samantha Monks, YYLN Project Officer

## Invasive Plants & Animals (IPA) Program

We continue to work closely with our partners and local community in controlling of and education on invasive plants and animals. Over the winter months we have been targeting gorse regrowth along the "regular" roadsides, public and private land. With the bright yellow Gorse flowers in full bloom, it is very easy to spot.

We are hoping to secure our 4th year of consecutive funding from the Victorian Gorse Taskforce (VGT) for the Gippsland Coastal Plains Gorse Control Program. Since 2009, this community program has successfully treated over 700ha of Gorse on private land, significantly reducing the size and density of Gorse infestations from Yarram to Seaspray.

New and old infestations are still being reported so please contact me ASAP for assistance or advice in Gorse control.

**Note:** Please see YYLN Advice Sheet: "Guide for Invasive Plant & Animal Control". ■

## Protecting the Corner Inlet Coastal Hotspot Program

The Corner Inlet and Nooramunga Marine and Coastal Parks are

internationally recognised as significant coastal wetlands, containing the most extensive areas of intertidal mudflats in Victoria. Nooramunga covers a complex area of approximately 30,000 Ha that includes the coast between Port Welshpool and McLoughlins Beach, adjoining the Ninety Mile Beach.

## Coastal Saltmarsh Protection Project

YYLN's 2011-'12 coastal saltmarsh project sites between Manns Beach and Reeves Beach will be planted out this spring with 8000 locally indigenous tube stock. More than one hundred hectares of coastal saltmarsh has been protected from stock in the final year of this project. Since 2009, through the Corner Inlet Connections partnership, the WGCMA and YYLN have protected approximately 600ha of coastal saltmarsh on freehold farm land in the Nooramunga area.

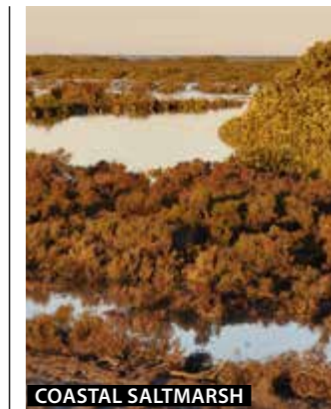
## Erosion Control Program

10,000 tubestock will be planted out in spring across the 2011-'12 erosion control project sites on the steep slopes of Hedley Range. Extremely keen Binginwarri Landcare members have volunteered to help with some of the plantings. Thankyou team!

**Note:** Over 4km of fencing was recently completed forming vital bio-links across several properties covering more than 9 hectares of actively eroding gully areas in this landscape-scale project.

## Serrated Tussock (Nassella trichotoma) in WGCMA

The WGCMA in partnership with YYLN and DPI, has established



COASTAL SALTMARSH

the "Seaspray ST Containment Zone". Over the last 12 months, a community awareness survey has been conducted, a follow up door knock to all landholders living within the control zone and two well-attended ST Workshops at Seaspray and Stratford. Representatives from the ST Working Party travelled to Gippsland to attend the workshops and inspect ST trial sites in Seaspray and Stratford.

**NOTE:** This three year project funded by CFOC, aims to treat and control Serrated Tussock (ST) across West Gippsland. A Weed of National Significance (WoNS), ST is regarded as one of the worst weeds in Australia because of its invasiveness, potential for spread, economic and environmental impacts. ■

## National Tree Day for Schools

Over 400 primary school children across the YYLN area celebrated National Tree Day for Schools on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> July. Each student from 6 primary schools, Alberton, Yarram, St Mary's, Devon North, Woodside and Seaspray PS was presented with their own tree, shrub or creeper. These were supplied by YYLN and grown at the local Tarra Wholesale Nursery. All plants species are locally indigenous to the YYLN area.

Each school also received a "Linking Landcare" kit and classroom activities from Planet Ark to help children learn about different Landcare practices and the importance of trees in the natural environment. Now in its 16<sup>th</sup> year, Planet Ark's Schools Tree Day, "provides support and care for the Australian environment."

It was great to see the students so happy and excited about receiving a plant. Several adults commented that it brought back memories from their own childhood when they took a tree home and planted it in their garden. ■



ALBERTON, DEVON NTH AND ST MARY'S STUDENTS WITH TREES!!!!



# PROJECT UPDATE

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By Samantha Monks

### Healthy Soils: Sustainable Farms - Building Carbon & Managing pH in West Gippsland

'Healthy Soils Field Day - Understanding your Soil' held at "Corree" Stacey's Bridge

\*By Tony Gardner, Project Coordinator, Healthy Soils - Sustainable Farms, WGCMA

If the North American Inuit have 20 odd words for snow, perhaps the South Gippsland farmer should have 20 words for different kinds of wet. The best I can do to describe the "Healthy Soils" field day David & Joy McAninly's dairy farm in June is "real wet". Despite that, about 20 people braved the conditions to hear Nick Dudley, Doug Crawford, Ivanah Oliver (DPI), Dan Garlick and myself, talk about different aspects of carbon in soils.

One of the most interesting parts of the day was watching Doug and Ivanah use the hydraulic soil corer to extract 1m cores from David's paddock. It was so wet that the soil below about 15cm depth was like a thick pea soup oozing out when trying to extract it from the tube. In real terms this means that root and biological activity at that depth is going to be severely limited and with that you may not expect as much soil carbon.

The key take home points are that improving soil carbon levels has a productivity benefit, and can improve the resilience of the pasture under stressful conditions. There are limiting factors though and soil type and "real wet" are two of them! Special thanks to our farm hosts, David and Joy, and to Ivanah, for travelling from Hamilton with the soil sampling rig. ■

## Lamb Survival Workshop

By Craig Bush

The **Lamb Survival** workshop held on **Friday August 31<sup>st</sup>** at the Giffard West hall was well attended with 23 farmers and other landholders hearing the latest research from industry experts **Jason Trompf** and **Anita Morant** about optimising lamb survival.

District Veterinary Officer, **Kit Button**, performed lamb necropsies to identify the cause of death of some donated lambs, after weighing them to see if they fitted within the parameters of optimum birth weight. Surprisingly, of all possible causes of lamb deaths, primary predation by foxes, crows or other predators is generally no more than 5% of total deaths.

Presenter and co-founder of the Lifetime Ewe Project, **Jason Trompf**, reinforced the message that the optimum lamb birth weight is between 4.5kg and 6 kg, and that the first 48 hours is critical for lamb survival.

Basically it all goes back to ewe nutrition, which dictates conception rates and lamb birth weights. Producers need to monitor ewe condition scores to track their progress towards target scores at joining and lambing.

Smaller lambing mobs, access to shelter from adverse weather, and identification of twin-bearing ewes to optimise twin lamb survival are key elements to improve overall lamb survival.

**Anita Morant** from DPI Hamilton and the Evergraze Project spoke of the research into the use of tall wheat grass or phalaris shelterbelts as protection for lambing ewes. Provision of shelter has been proven to reduce lamb mortality by up to 50% in times of high wind chill and rain.

Grass shelterbelts have proven more effective than tree shelterbelts, as they are less permeable and provide better

shelter at ground level than do trees.

Finally, a planning meeting was held for the BESTWOOL/BESTLAMB group, with the assistance of **John Bowman** from DPI Leongatha, and topics of interest were raised including a genetics workshop, information about electronic eartags, farm mapping programmes and financial planning.

The day was very successful, and Giffard/Woodside BESTWOOL/BESTLAMB co-ordinator Craig Bush thanked Samantha Monks for utilising the Yarram Yarram Landcare Network to contact sheep producers and said he looked forward to working with her again in the future.

For information on the activities of the **Giffard/Woodside BESTWOOL/BESTLAMB** group, please contact **Craig Bush** on **0427 943155**. ■



For further information on any of these projects please contact: Samantha Monks, YYLN Project Officer - Ph. 0351 757895, Mob. 0419371497 or Email samantham@wgcm.vic.gov.au

# PROJECT UPDATE

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK



By Bronwyn Johnson

## Mullungdung to Coast

Landholders are persevering with on-ground work for the second year of this project. I'm sure there will be a flurry of fencing and planting as soon as the ground dries out a bit.

In the meantime, Peter and Nicki Jennings generously offered the use of their shearing shed to host a workshop on Biodiversity and Fire in the Landscape.

Renee Koelewyn from Parks Victoria spoke about the methodology used by the DSE to create their Fire Operation Plans (or FOP). As Renee is a Fire and Environment Program Officer with Parks she provides a great deal of input into the FOP from the perspective of the individual species through to the whole ecologies that will be affected by planned burning. DSE combines this information with state priorities, burn histories and public input to create a three year operations plan. The current plans are available to view at DSE offices or online at:

[www.dse.vic.gov.au/fire-and-other-emergencies/planned-burning-an-introduction/proposed-fire-operations-plans](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/fire-and-other-emergencies/planned-burning-an-introduction/proposed-fire-operations-plans). The YYLN area is covered by the Heyfield Map.

Mike McStephen is a Vegetation Management Officer with the CFA in Gippsland and discussed fire management on private property. He outlined his role in assessing vegetation and providing advice to landholders on the use of fire as a management tool to enhance or maintain their biodiversity. Some landholders may be apprehensive regarding the safety aspects of vegetation on their property. Fire Safety Officer Rachel Allen informed us of the free Home Bushfire Advice service offered by the CFA. She can be contacted on 0400 696 382 for more information or to book a property assessment.

Chris Lewis, also from the CFA, outlined the ways his organisations is building partnerships with DSE, VicRoads and



Bronwyn Johnson, Seedbank and Mullungdung to Coast Project Officer.

the Wellington Shire to improve the capacity of all involved to manage the fire risk associated with living with the bush.

Expressions of Interest for the third and final year of this project are now open. Landholders in the project area can apply for funding assistance to create revegetation corridors and protect and enhance remnant vegetation. The expression period closes September 28<sup>th</sup> 2012.

This project is supported by the Yarram Yarram Landcare Network and the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, through funding from the Australian Government's Caring for our Country. ■



## Seedbank

The Direct Seeder Story continues.....

Well, now that we had the direct seeder all spiffy, it seemed a shame to pop it in a shed and wait for the seeding season to begin, so the Seedbank ran a training day instead (and then popped it in a shed because it's still too wet to seed!)

On an oddly clear morning in July; nine landholders, one curious contractor and a slightly stray child wandered into a shed at Woodside and had a good look at the seeder. Brian Nicholls had not only serviced the machine, but also used it to create a number of shelterbelts on his property, so he was pretty familiar with its workings. We all mumbled through the calibration calculations, turned wheels and tweaked knobs until just the right amount of seed was spitting out the bottom.

Then we took a bumpy ride out to the site, trying not to get bogged on the way. I was glad



SEEDING, THE EASY WAY

everyone agreed that half the site was too wet to even attempt seeding. It gave me confidence that they wouldn't try it on their own property and damage the seeder. The other half of the site was okay, so we set about preparing the machine for some actual work.

Almost everyone had a go at direct seeding a row or two and I think most were surprised at how easily the machine handled in the paddock. Hopefully some of them will feel inspired to plan and execute their own projects in the future (hint hint). Of course, I'm here to help with any aspect of that and we will be running another training day next year. Maybe it will have dried out a bit by then. ■





# PROFILE

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK



### Board Profile: Melissa Ainsworth

Child number three of four, I was born to an English mother and Dutch father who immigrated to "the promised land" independently. My father's dad was a Carpenter and talented artist and my mother's dad was the Village Squire, Farmer and Race Horse Trainer in Stratford On Avon in England. Perhaps that's where my joy in horses and art come from.

Like many new Australians my parents settled in Morwell because of the industrial boom from coal mining. My father owned a small concreting company and my mother was an organ teacher – of the musical kind!

My childhood was spent on horseback. I was a member of the Morwell Pony Club and competed regularly in Shows and Gymkhanas across

Gippsland. The highlight was riding in the Royal Melbourne Show at age 14, though I held my first Gymkhana at a very young age. I made ribbons with felt and "Hobby Tex", assembled a very agricultural First Aid Kit, made food to sell and waited in anticipation for the local horsey kids to arrive! A grand total of \$16.40 was raised, which I donated to the "Riding for the Disabled" group at "Cooinda Hill" in Traralgon.

My horsey activities were paid for by a part-time job at Target and work experience was at a Dairy Farm. The outdoor life was the life for me so I tossed up between studying agriculture or joining the Mounted Police. In the end I took a short term Administrative job at a large Japanese Pilot Plant and found myself in a PA position until the Company closed several years later.

At that point I took a part-time Government admin job whilst I completed my Associate Diploma of Applied Science in Natural Resource Management. This and further study saw me eventually working as a Park Ranger for DSE & Parks Victoria in Alpine, Coastal and regional parks within Gippsland. I particularly relished the Burn Planning, Fire Ecology and

Threatened Species components of my role. During my twenty years of service I was involved in some very large fires. The Great Divide Alpine Fires saw me working very hot 16 hour days for 21 days straight with a young baby at home with Justin, my husband. To reflect on the sheer size of the fire, the sector I was managing and all of the personnel, aircraft and machines amazes me today.

Justin and I were married in Sale in 1997. Our son Cameron was born in 1999 and our daughter Brooke in 2001.

In 2005 we moved to Stradbroke West from Longford. We run a cow and calf operation on 500 acres (250 of which is leased). Our aim is to mesh sustainable agricultural with protection and enhancement of natural assets. Attracted to the location because of its remnant vegetation and frontage onto Merriman Creek we had a "Trust for Nature" covenant placed on a large section of the property. We protected these assets with fencing and planted over 20,000 trees across

the farm to create corridors. In 2009 we joined Landcare and won the regional "Sustainable Farming Award".

Since retiring as a Park Ranger in 2011 I manage our Angus herd whilst studying for a Diploma of Agriculture. When not running the children around I hold honorary secretarial roles for the Giffard CWA, Merriman Creek Landcare Group, the Yarram Yarram Landcare Network and a Steering Committee role for the Regional Landcare Facilitator position. Chairing the Publications Committee for the YYLN has been a learning curve, not having any formal journalism training. Thankfully I am surrounded by talent and supported by Landcare members who willingly share their experiences. ■



MELISSA WITH JUSTIN, BROOKE AND CAMERON

### Wonyip's 'Highways for Quolls' Project may extend to The Prom

It was a project that captured the imagination; a romantic idea to increase the gene pool of the endangered Tiger Quoll by providing corridors across steep terrain linking state forest to the west, with Binginwarri. Scientific evidence of the existence of these rare mammals prompted the Wonyip Landcare Group to seek

funding from the World Wildlife Fund and tactical and financial support from HVP Plantations, across whose land the corridors would have to run. Five years on and the hard work and nature have provided several kilometers of gullies, planted out with thousands of eucalypts, winding through HVP pine plantations.

"Over a two-year period, we planted 10,000 trees" said then WLG President, Trevor Colvin and there is now a possibility of extending the corridors south, all the way to the entrance of Wilsons Promontory." Discussions between Trevor and Belinda Brennan of South Gippsland Landcare Network, led to the idea being floated

at a public meeting last year, which was attended by seventy people who gave the concept the thumbs up. The project is feasible, using existing creeks and rivers which pass through the territory of a number of Landcare Groups and the good news is that these same waterways had been earmarked for work by SGLN.

# PARTNER ACTIVITY

## YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK



By Bronwyn Johnson



### Coast Care Planting Day

A group of 20 volunteers joined a community planting day on August 29th at a site next to the Seabank Caravan Park in Port Albert. The result of a Coastcare funding grant to the Albert River Landcare Group, the day saw 2000 understory grasses, lilies and pea plants placed in the ground in under three hours.

The morning started with dark clouds threatening but soon cleared to gorgeous sunshine making for very pleasant working conditions. The project was a partnership with the Wulgunggo Ngalu Learning Place who sent a mob of a dozen clients and leaders to get some hands-on experience. They provided the bulk of the labour and launched into the work with enthusiasm, assisted by members of the Albert River Landcare Group, Yarram Yarram Landcare Network, Coastcare and Parks Victoria.

The BBQ lunch cooked up by Keith Couper (Parks Victoria) provided much needed sustenance for the final push to get the last 500 plants planted. Seed for the project was supplied by the Yarram



2000 PLANTS GO IN THE GROUND

Seedbank and was locally collected. The indigenous species were chosen to increase the biodiversity of the site whilst competing with introduced species.

Many of the volunteers were eager to return in a few months to see the results of their work. Further work by Parks Victoria to control weeds and rabbits and to restrict vehicle access should see an improvement in the overall quality of the vegetation and help to protect this fragile coastal environment. ■



THE HEAD OF THE FIRST OF MANY GULLIES PLANTED IN 2007

The Prom has been a national park since 1859 and while no Tiger Quolls have been scientifically recorded it is reasonable to assume they would be present. Cats, dogs and man are their greatest enemies and The Prom has been protected from dogs and cats for more than 150 years and man's impact has been minimal.

Quolls require a very large home range, so they were never particularly numerous which is all the more reason to do what can be done to increase the gene pool to improve the health of the overall population. In a future edition we will bring you an update on the project and some images of the corridors five years since first plantings.





# The CFA has a FREE Home Bushfire Advice Service available.

A Fire Safety Officer will come to your property/home and provide advice on property maintenance/improvements to better prepare for the possibility of Bushfire. Advice includes; vegetation management, planning for high risk fire days, personal capacity to deal with major fires and other potential hazards. Contact: Rachel Allen on 0400 696 382 or [www.cfa.vic.gov.au/hbas](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/hbas)



## Contacts for Individual Active Landcare Groups

### Albert River Landcare Group

Contact: Geoff Charman  
Phone: 5184 1117  
Email: [geoffc@wideband.net.au](mailto:geoffc@wideband.net.au)

### Carrajung and District LG

Contact: YYLN Office  
Phone: 5182 6094  
Email: [dang@wgcma.vic.gov.au](mailto:dang@wgcma.vic.gov.au)

### Woodside Landcare Group

Contact: Jane Gordon  
Phone: 5187 1400  
Email: [janeo@aussiebroadband.com.au](mailto:janeo@aussiebroadband.com.au)

### Wonyip Landcare Group

Contact: Werner Lange  
Phone: 0418 302575  
Email: [longiewl@optusnet.com.au](mailto:longiewl@optusnet.com.au)

### Binginwarri Landcare Group

Contact: Kaye Proudley  
Phone: 5185 1398  
Email: [katbingi@harboursat.com.au](mailto:katbingi@harboursat.com.au)

### Merriman Creek Landcare Group

Contact: Melissa Ainsworth  
Phone: 5146 8328  
Email: [ainsworths@activ8.net.au](mailto:ainsworths@activ8.net.au)

### Won Wron Devon North LG

Contact: Bill Bodman  
Phone: 5189 1243  
Email: [bjbodman@wideband.net.au](mailto:bjbodman@wideband.net.au)

### Hedley/Nine Mile Creek LG

Contact: Maree Avery  
Phone: 0421 222 242  
Email: [maree@skymesh.com.au](mailto:maree@skymesh.com.au)

### Yarram Urban Landcare Group

Contact: Trevor Colvin  
Phone: 0417 307 098  
Email: [trevorcolvin91@gmail.com](mailto:trevorcolvin91@gmail.com)



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POSTAGE  
PAID  
AUSTRALIA