



YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NEWS

Vol: 009 SUMMER December 2012

FEATURES

Welcome to our new Coordinator

Quoll Corridor Project

Myna trapping

Norman Wettenhall Foundation



Inside

Events Update..... 2	Local Landcare Legends4-5	Warren the Wise..... 9	Of Interest..... 14
Hello and Goodbye 3	Around the Traps.....6-7	Board Profile..... 9	Partner Activity..... 15
	Quoll Corridor..... 8	Project updates 10-13	



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, Sally-Ann Henderson, Samantha Monks and Warren the Wise.

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Deadlines

All contributions for the Autumn edition must be received before 15th February, 2013

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CHRISTMAS GET-TOGETHER

Woodside Landcare Group
When - 7th December, 6.30pm
Where - Wildfish, Port Albert
Contact - Kay 51871270

GENERAL MEETING

Merriman Creek LCG
When - 17th February, 2pm
Where - Stradbroke Hall

Very best Season's Greetings from all of us to all of you.

The Editorial Team

Mr & Mrs Thrush Reside at "Wonga Park", Woodside

Written by Kay Belcher

In August 2007, a pair of Grey Shrike-thrush (Colluricincla harmonica) made the decision to move to Woodside to raise a family. Just how big the family would be, I don't think anyone could have imagined!

The thrushes found a black plastic plant pot on the bathroom window sill, at the home of Don & Kay Belcher at Woodside. They spent several months working tirelessly to make a perfect nest, being very particular with the interior design.

In late September, Mrs Thrush laid three eggs a day apart. She stayed on the eggs day and night, with Mr Thrush doing a shift when she went to find food. At first Mrs Thrush would fly away when Don and I came out the back door, or when Don sat down to put on his boots, but we would talk to her quietly and after a while she became used to us.

Once the eggs hatched, the parents were so busy fetching worms, and as the chicks grew



bigger they fed them a whole worm each! One by one they disappeared from the nest, but stayed in our garden where the parents still fed them.

The whole process took approximately five weeks, 21 days for the eggs to hatch, and



then 14 days until the chicks flew from the nest. In late November the ritual began again, with Mrs Thrush doing more renovations and the chicks flying away in January.

Since 2007, the thrushes have repeated this process hatching out six chicks every year, apart from one year when only two chicks hatched, rearing a total of 35 baby thrushes! After the Black Saturday bush fires, the birds used burnt pieces of bark to thread through the nest.

As the thrushes grow bigger, the nest is so crowded that Mrs Thrush sits on the edge of the pot during the night. The birds are extremely quiet and trusting of Don and I, particularly the female. They sit on the porch rail and sing to us and will also come to the back door and look inside. When we are weeding in the garden they come to our feet looking for worms and they talk to us when we are cooking on the barbeque.

We feel very privileged that these beautiful birds have chosen to raise their family for so long at our home.

HELLO & GOODBYE

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK



A sad goodbye to Dan Garlick, Damian Moore and Bob Wenger

Not only is Dan Garlick a great bloke, but in his 18 months as our Landcare Coordinator he assisted us in making enormous progress as a Network. We were very sad to see him take on a new role as Partnership Engagement Officer for the WGCMA but happy that he will continue to be a part of our broader Landcare community.

Goodbye also to Damian Moore and Bob Wenger who served diligently on our Landcare Board for many years. We thank you for your long service.

...and a warm hello to Sally-Ann Henderson, David Hill and David MacAulay

A big welcome to our new coordinator, Sally-Ann and two new Board members, David Hill and David MacAulay.

It is reassuring to know that, although we have lost such great talent in Dan, Damian and Bob we have such high caliber replacements willing to take on the responsibilities of leadership in Landcare.

We thank our two new Davids for stepping up to the plate and, together with Sally-Ann, look forward to a bright future for our Network.



How many Board members can you fit into an Educational trailer? From Left: David MacAulay, David McAninly, Sally-Ann Henderson, David Hill, Helga Binder, Brian Nicholls and Trevor Colvin in the centre bottom.



Sally-Ann Says:

Hello everyone,

I have only had a few weeks in my new role as Yarram Yarram Landcare Network Coordinator and already I can see that it is going to be a busy and interesting job. Dan has pretty much completed the hand over process now and I am starting to get a handle on the various projects we have in our Network. It is quite impressive.

I am sure you are keen to know a little about me. I was born and raised in Melbourne and have a degree in Environmental

Management. (Incidentally my first Uni. work experience was at Tarra Bulga National Park. I'm looking forward to seeing it again soon and how much I remember of it. I certainly remember the Leaches.)

I have spent the last 15 years living in the north of the State. I spent a short time in Swan Hill and then settled in Mildura. So as you can imagine the green hills and forests of Gippsland are a delightful change of scenery and I am certainly looking forward to Summer with the beach so handy.

In my previous role, I was working for the Victorian Government agency Sustainability Victoria (SV). I travelled across the Wimmera and Mallee assisting communities to tackle sustainability issues such as climate change and wise use of resources. The job highlighted to me the power and passion that people have for making their communities a better place to be and is part of what

attracted me to take up this new Landcare role. I knew in Landcare I would find people, not only concerned about making a difference, but getting stuck in and doing it.

Prior to SV, I worked for many years for the Department of Primary Industries (DPI). I worked in Horticulture, mainly with vegetable farmers. This ranged from developing export production of carrots to organising the International Symposium for melons and cucurbits, to irrigation trials for asparagus and helping Grape Growers adapt to the changing climate. A rich and varied job that changed often as farmer and government priorities waxed and waned.

A hockey player for many years, I am looking for the next sport I can take up as I hear Yarram has no Hockey team. I also enjoy creating; anything from my new veggie garden, to a decadent dessert, to a stuffed toy lizard I'm making for my two week old nephew in QLD.

As part of Dan's handover notes to me, he commissioned me with a seemingly impossible mission, "should I choose to take up his challenge. **The Mission: Track down the Networks missing tree planters and other equipment.** Can anyone help me in my mission? Does it jog your memory about a forgotten piece of equipment you have somewhere in your shed? Please drop it into the office. If you are currently using something, it would be good to know where it is so I can do an inventory for our records. My thanks to Bron, Sam, the Board and all of you I have chatted to so far, for making me feel welcome.

Looking forward to meeting the rest of you soon.

Sally-Ann

Sally-Ann Henderson



LOCAL LANDCARE LEGENDS

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By Melissa Ainsworth

It was a warm and sunny morning the day I ventured down to Alberton West to visit “Woodlands”, the picturesque property owned by Sue and Gavin Egan.

Initially I thought how neat the property looked with its strategically planted windbreaks zig zagging across the plain. Bounded by the Albert River to the north I admired the weed free pastures and the sounds of small birds scurrying amongst the tree lined driveway.

On approaching the residence I entered a large garden. It was cool, dark and dense as I drove through beautiful stands of Oak and other European trees. Ahead in the sunlight was a quaint stone wall lined with flowering Roses. The awaiting stone cottage gave me the feeling of having arrived on the set of the “All Creatures Great and Small” television show. (But no, James Herriot was not to greet me!)

For the past one hundred and fifty odd years “Woodlands” has been under the ownership of just four families. The original owner was Mr Gellion followed by the Irvings (yes, that’s Fergus’ father), the Davis family and for the past 25 years, the Egan family.

The cottage was constructed in 1860 with materials sourced from the local area. Consisting of 1200 acres in total, Sue and Gavin run Hereford cattle on 500 acres, whilst son Richie and wife Linda manage the other 700 acres as a partially irrigated Dairy farm.

Sue and Gavin became involved with Landcare over 25 years ago. Back then former Landcare



GAVIN EGAN

groups were involved with visiting local farms every few months. Members would share their on-farm challenges and discuss how they dealt with them. They enjoyed the social aspect and how other members were happy to share their experiences and learn from each other. Gavin has formerly served as President of the Albert River Landcare Group and was the inaugural President of the Yarram Yarram Landcare Network.

Never have I visited a property with such a massive amount of tree planting projects upon it. Each plantation has not only been strategically planned and planted but it has all been completed by hand, from collecting and propagating the

seed to hand planting. After I counted over 20 kilometres in total length of corridors I was pleasantly surprised by their width and health. Varying from 8 ~ 20 metres I was also gob smacked at the thought that what I was looking at was achieved within a small time frame and not by the work of hoards of willing volunteers, just Sue and Gavin.

Frontage to 6.5 kilometres of the Albert River has many challenges, as any neighbour to a waterway will understand. Long before there was any financial incentives to fence waterways from stock access, Gavin had fenced his frontage to eliminate erosion. After spot spraying and planting trees along the river the Egan’s



were satisfied with their results after subsequent floods tested Gavin’s theory. They continued to revegetate the river banks and approximately ten years ago were delighted to have the CMA remove Willows along the banks opposite their property and replant them with indigenous species.

Inspired by the benefits of their successful shelterbelts the individual projects expanded to include a railway reserve, which intersects the property and adjoining roadside reserves. To imagine the landscape without the shelterbelts would see a windswept and barren landscape today. And who knows what route the Albert River would have taken after so many floods of late.

Sue and Gavin have witnessed the benefits of excluding cattle from the river and seeing their cattle utilise the shelter to either escape the howling winds or the scorching sun. They have observed first hand how moisture has been retained within their soil from minimising evaporation from the effects of their windswept coastal location.

Over the past 25 years the Egan’s have experimented with

LOCAL LANDCARE LEGENDS

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK



By Melissa Ainsworth

...continued from previous page



EGAN FAMILY COTTAGE WITH STONE WALL ENTRANCE

the design of their revegetation projects and the species they have used. After their initial direct seeding project failed they resorted to hand planting Swamp Paperbark (*Melaleuca ericifolia*) Southern Mahogany (*Eucalyptus botryoides*) and Swamp Gum (*Eucalyptus ovata*), which were planted alternatively. Over time Gavin saw this method as unsuccessful due to the Eucalypts shading out the Paperbark. Later designs included Paperbark on one side and Eucalypts on the other, intermingled with Blackwood, (*Acacia melanoxylon*), River Sheoak (*Allocasuarina cunninghamiana*) and Silver Wattle (*Acacia dealbata*). Over time additional Eucalypt species were added to include Apple Box (*E. bridgesiana*), Manna Gum (*E. viminalis*), Spotted Gum (*E. maculata*) and Coast Grey Gum (*E. bosistoana*). The Egan’s made a conscious decision early not to plant indigenous species endemic to their area. Whilst the principal species, Paperbark, may be local they dared to experiment and after lots of trial and error, have settled on the species that are more adaptable



THE EGANS’ GARDEN

to the changing climate.

As any experienced tree planter knows, your project is never really complete. Gavin estimates he would spend at least two weeks per year managing the weeds – specifically Boxthorn – from within all of the plantations.

After a pleasant morning driving around the property we returned to the cottage where Gavin points out a Gallipoli Pine (see photo page 4). Standing proudly at the entrance to the garden, it is thought that this tree was planted by the Gellion family, who had a son that fought at Gallipoli.

Anyone who knows Gavin,



PROPERTY EDGING THE ALBERT RIVER

knows him as a modest man but I can tell you that in 2005 the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority deservedly awarded the Egans with the “Lyrebird Award” in recognition of their outstanding individual contribution to natural resource management.

My visit has left me totally inspired by the Egan’s’

dedication to enhancing, not only their farm, but the local environment. Gavin was practicing innovative methods long before Landcare formalised. How lucky are we that he remains active within our Network, to motivate and share his knowledge and experience with us all? ■



ONE OF MANY SHELTER BELTS ON “WOODLANDS”



AROUND THE TRAPS

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By our Landcare Groups

Albert River

Albert River Group, in conjunction with YYLN, DSE, Parks Vic and Wulgunggo Ngalu recently had a successful planting day on the Coastcare Project site at Seabank. Approximately 20 people attended and we planted 2000 native grasses and ground cover plants in a bit over 3 hours.

We have some good news regarding the Christies Rd Koala Habitat Project. Thanks to the hard work of Samantha Monks and Richard Appleton, HVP have agreed to leave an area of plantation that will create a wildlife corridor and habitat for the Koalas. They will also do some enhancement planting to improve the biodiversity of the area. Thanks HVP.

Woodside

The Woodside Landcare Group's recent meeting included guest speaker, Dallas Wyatt. Dallas is from the Hedley group and is a keen bird watcher. He spoke on his bird monitoring activities, where he measures the bird population of a given area in order to assess the health of that environment. Dallas has completed survey work for local Councils and is keen to assist local landholders. The evening was topped off with another sumptuous supper provided by Kay Belcher. This year our Christmas Dinner is scheduled for the 7 December at 6.30pm at Wildfish in Port Albert. All welcome. Please ring Kay Belcher on 51871270 to book your seat. ■

Merriman Creek

Our next general meeting is scheduled for February the 21st at the Stradbroke Hall at 2pm. Our new Co-ordinator, Sally-Ann, will be attending. All welcome. ■

Wonyip

The Wonyip group has had a productive Spring period with the planting of over 4500 seedlings. As part of the Wonyip Quoll Corridor Project, Wellington Shire provided 3000 mixed Eucalypt and understory plants and HVP kindly provided 1500 Mountain Ash seedlings. It was great to see a good roll up of enthusiastic members. For a small group we are kicking big goals with our projects.

The Dingo Creek Restoration Project is starting this Summer in which we plan to spray



Above: Is that a Quoll in the rafters? Below: Weary Wonyip workers enjoy a quiet lunch in the recently finished Webb barn.



Blackberries on the Dingo Creek from Ryton Junction at Cameron Stones' property and continuing on for several kms down to the Agnes River. If anyone requires leaches for medicinal purposes, please contact our group! ■

Hedley/9 Mile Creek

It was a glorious day to wander through the Hedley Recreation Reserve on the 18th of October, which revealed a very healthy group of indigenous trees planted in 2000. There was also evidence of ground covers and middle storey trees planted in 2005. Afterwards it was a quick visit to Gellion's Run for some wildflower spotting. Our next event is on Tuesday November 27th for a farm walk at the Atkin farm in Rossiters Road, then a Landcare meeting to follow, at the Hedley Hall at 8pm. ■

AROUND THE TRAPS

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK



Binginwarri

Over the past few months the Bingi group has remained ever active. They have been caught ticking off birds, charming snakes and covering nude hills... see their report below and become inspired [editor]

Three or four of our members are taking bird census records of the area. As a result we have held three Birdwatching trips.

The most recent one ran for 24 hours and culminated in ticking off 84 different species in 3 separate habitat types. All records are submitted to the official Birdlife Australia database.

We have also completed treeplanting on a member's property (part of a larger planting of 10,000 plants) where we planted 3,000 plants to stop gully erosion. (See photograph)

Another 3 days were spent on the Bingi Biodiversity Project (BBP) where we recorded and mapped plant species within the Hedley Range. This data will enable us to know what endemic species to plant when we revegetate our blocks.

We have also been busy placing motion sensor cameras within our local area to record what moves at night. So far we have 'captured' all the usual suspects but no Black Panther nor anything unusual. *We'll keep trying!*

We also enjoyed two Wildflower Wanders within the Won Wron



Top: Kaye Proudley recording plants for Bingi Biodiversity Project, and John McClumpha showing the Cashmore boys how to set up a motion-sensor camera for recording lyrebirds hopefully. Top Right: from L, John McClumpha, Steve Derby (our snake expert,) and myself Kaye on a Reptile Ramble at Gellion's Run. Below: Jude and Dallas Wyatt planting a gully for erosion prevention, on a members' property using plants obtained with grants and showing fencing using same grants. Bottom: John McClumpha, Shellie Cashmore and two of her boys with some of the 3,000 plants BLG put in on the above Gully Erosion Prevention Grant. Photographer: Marg Ferguson



State Forest and at Gellion's Run. The latter was in the company of members of the Hedley group and it was a most enjoyable shared experience.

All the participants of the Reptile Ramble had a great day with snake expert Steve Derby. We found two different species of Skink to observe at close quarters and he set a trap, that we all fell into, where he fooled us with a 'planted' snake!

Conducted from within our own groups' knowledge base we also hosted a workshop on indigenous seed collection. With eleven members attending it was another great event! ■



By Peter Webb and Phillip Jackson

In the early 2000's, field work carried out by the Condely/McQueen family and the Wonyip Landcare Group uncovered evidence of the Tiger Quoll in our area. The Tiger Quoll is listed by the IUCN on the Red List of Threatened Species with the status "vulnerable".

Also known as the Spot-tailed Quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus*), this carnivorous marsupial requires large areas to range, reproduce and hunt. The group's aim was to create a suitable habitat by linking together areas of native forest which are currently separated by pine plantations, private cleared land, farms and a substantial mountain ridge.

The Wonyip Landcare Group's then President, Trevor Colvin, was able to secure funding through a generous World Wildlife Fund/Threatened Species Network grant to create a wildlife corridor. The group also sought the assistance and co-operation of HVP Plantations, as some of the work required involves areas within their properties. HVP have been extremely generous with their assistance, support and understanding of what the project involves.

Commenced in October 2007, the first stage included the planting of 3,000 native trees in a steep gully recently harvested by HVP, to create a 40 metre wide corridor which will eventually link Golden Creek,



Billy Creek and Dingo Creeks and the Little Albert River.

In early 2008, another planting was undertaken, consisting of understory species and another 4,000 benchmark canopy trees, in an area along the Little Albert River headwaters, recently harvested by HVP.

One of the original Wonyip planters, Philip Jackson, and myself carried out an inspection in September this year on the site, which has its high point about 1.6 km along Turton's Track and descends following gullies all the way to the Woorarra Road. Five year old Eucalypts from the first planting have reached heights of around eight metres and do not appear stressed or diseased. Underlying sandstone helps maintain water flow in the creeks year round and this has possibly allowed the Eucalypts to stay ahead of the fast growing plantation pines.

The abundant understory plants such as Snowy Daisy-bush, Dogwood, and Rough Tree Fern are a combination of self-sown from the seed bank, revegetation planting, and some older existing tree ferns. Silver Wattles are also growing quickly and should create more

shade in the gullies. In some of the creek areas and verges in the open, blackberries are still well established and should probably be controlled at some point - though they may eventually be shaded out.

It will be some time before the WLG / WWF corridor has grown into a continuous protected environment for the Tiger Quoll and other native animals, but it is well on the way. Meanwhile the Wonyip group has controlled blackberry and revegetated a strip of land adjoining the original corridor at the intersection of Turton's Track and the Woorarra Rd. It is on private land and extends a further 1.5 km north along the Woorarra Rd., reaching a large area of Cores and Links. ■



Left: View from near the Woorarra Rd. looking South-East, lines indicate the corridor. Below: Philip Jackson, standing in the corridor next to a Eucalypt that he claims to have planted!



Above: The elusive Tiger Quoll (Spot-tailed Quoll) Below: From within the corridor looking South-East up the hill towards a large pine on Turton's Track.



Welcome to new Board member, David Hill.

David grew up on a small property adjacent to Dromore, a miniscule railway town on the Canterbury Plains of New Zealand. It was a hamlet that disappeared when trains no longer needed to stop for a top up before they could continue on their way.

Home was a very small mixed farming enterprise that included some small seed cropping, strong woolled sheep and a variety of poultry. The whole was supported by income from a portable two-stand shearing plant.

David's university education included Agriculture in Christchurch followed by Veterinary Science in Sydney. After graduation he worked for 10 years for the Bay of



ABOVE AND RIGHT: DAVID HILL AND HIS LIGHT AIRCRAFT



Islands Co-Operative Dairy Company in a partly farm-advisory but mostly veterinary role. Agricultural conditions in Northland are not dissimilar to the Yarram district.

The family moved to East Benteigh where he owned and operated a primarily small animal veterinary

surgery. Running in parallel with the surgery was a small livestock consultancy, aimed at the International aid and development sector as well the livestock export market. The latter led to several short term assignments in China, the USSR, the Sultanate of Oman, Sth Korea, Samoa and Fiji

Upon retirement David and Susan moved to Yarram where they are both members of the Rotary Club of Yarram.

Susan is active in the Garden Club, Book Club and she has started a Bridge Club in Yarram.

David's varied community involvement includes Chair of the Yarram and District Health Service Board, is a founding member of Yarram Urban Landcare group and is looking forward to making a positive contribution to the Landcare Network over whose landscape his small aircraft is regularly cruising.

Warren the Wise



Dear Warren,
Hey Warren, I hope my question doesn't cause you too much personal distress but how can I get my husband to stop boasting about his roadkill points?

From Worried Animal Lover.

Dear Worried Animal Lover,
My, oh my! I am so-o-o-o tempted to say "send him for a walk along Turtons Track or some other busy logging truck-carrying road" but that wouldn't be very ethical of me would it? And I'm sure you'd miss him despite his horrible bragging skills. (It is deliciously tit-for-tat though!)

The problem of road-kill in our

area is particularly bad as such good habitat carries a lot of wildlife. I have lost so many of my own relatives alone that I am alarmed - I wonder whether my own species is in decline, there are so many of my relatives - Aunts Ally and Ollie, Uncle Wally and my brother Willy, my sister Sally, my friends Billy, Mollie and Tilly, and neighbours from up the road Jelly, Dolly and Craig that have been hit by speeding cars over the years. And that's not to even mention those muddle-headed kangaroos that love playing tag with cars, or all the other species we see mangled on the roads.

What about appealing to his sense of family? All animals and birds killed on roads usually have young they are looking after and when a parent is killed it leaves just one parent to try to bring up the young alone, some-times not successfully. And if the road-killed parent is the female, then often the young die of starvation, as she is often the sole carer of young.

That should hopefully pull on his heartstrings enough to persuade him to slow down and give us animals a fighting chance of staying out of his (and other drivers) way!



PROJECT UPDATE

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By Samantha Monks



Samantha Monks, YYLN Project Officer

2012 could almost be declared the 'Year of Invasive Plants & Animals' following our wet winter.

Conditions are perfect for weeds, rabbits and foxes to thrive and multiply across our Network area. Yarram Landcare is maintaining our strong partnerships with government agencies and the local community in IPA control and educational awareness.

Members of the Victorian Gorse Taskforce (VGT) are visiting our area over summer to inspect sites treated under the "Gippsland Coastal Plains Gorse Control Program – Yarram Landcare leading the way". There is still funding available for Gorse control through this program, so please contact me for assistance or advice in Gorse control.

YYLN Staff & Landcare community members attended the 130th Yarram Show on 24th November. Once again we set up our increasingly popular Yarram Landcare display in the Woolshed with information brochures, local weeds and indigenous plants.

Invasive Plants & Animals Program

The YYLN Annual Weed Competition was run with entrants having to correctly identify 10 local weeds to go in the draw to win one of three \$50 prize vouchers kindly donated by our local sponsors: Tarra Wholesale Nursery, Murray Goulburn and Brown Wigg.

Congratulations to the following winners:

- 1st Place:**
Jenny Wolswinkel (Devon Nth)
- 2nd Place:**
Suzette Levette (Yarram)
- 3rd Place:**
Eden McMillan (Blackwarry)



L to R: Emma, Mason, Coby and David identify local weeds at the YYLN stand.

Carbon Action on the Ground

Gippsland Plains soil carbon trials – productivity and climate change responses

Yarram Landcare's New Partnership with Western Port Catchment Landcare Network

During November, you might have seen a ute driving round your area with a strange yellow contraption hanging off the back & "Western Port Catchment Landcare Network" written on the side of the ute!! The contraption hanging off the

back is a Christies Hydraulic Soil Corer. This corer belongs to the Western Port Catchment Landcare Network (WPCLN).

It is being used to collect soil cores to a depth of 1 metre to benchmark and monitor soil carbon levels for the new CAOG project. Yarram Landcare has contracted WPCLN to collect soil across 14 properties involved in

the "Gippsland Plains Drought Tolerant Pasture Demonstration (GPDPD)".

Peter Ronalds is the Network Coordinator of the WPCLN and is in charge of operating the soil corer. Peter has been working with 110 landholders situated throughout the Westernport Catchment in a specific soil

...continued on page 12



NICK DUDLEY (DPI), PETER RONALDS (WPCLN) AND YYLN PROJECT OFFICER SAMANTHA MONKS



PROJECT UPDATE

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By Samantha Monks

A Suggested Guide for Invasive Plant & Animal (IPA) Control

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

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

For further information on Invasive Plants & Animals or Carbon Action on the Ground 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

...continued from page 10



Libby Balderston from "Warrigal Creek" examines soil cores

carbon/acidification project for the past 3 years. The aim of that project is to increase soil carbon levels and reduce soil acidification levels on each of the 110 farms.

Each farmer has had their soil carbon and pH levels tested, participated in field days and training courses. As a result many of the landowners have made significant practice changes. These include trialling alternative fertilisers with high organic or biological content such as compost, chook or pig manure, biochar etc, increasing the use of rotational grazing, direct drilling/over sowing into pasture with deep rooted perennials /herbs and liming to an acid /alkaline budget.

Peter is enjoying working with Yarram Landcare staff, Nick Dudley (DPI) and the farmers involved in the project. He has been impressed by the farms in the Yarram to Seaspray area. He has also enjoyed working on the drier soils which he says is a big change from the Western Port Catchment at the moment!



Bronwyn Johnson, Seedbank and Mullungdung to Coast Project Officer.

There has been a flurry of activity around this project over Spring. Thousands of plants have gone in the ground and I've been conducting site visits for completed projects as well as proposals for the 2012/13 program.

In the meantime, Yarram Landcare and WGCMA hosted workshops on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and Grassland Conservation in Darriman.

The morning session was on 'Working together to preserve Aboriginal Cultural Heritage'.

The guest speaker Lloyd Hood is a Board member of the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC). GLaWAC is a Registered Aboriginal Party and Native Title holders in Gippsland. This means they have responsibility for

Mullungdung to Coast

preservation of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage for Gunaikurnai Communities of Gippsland. Lloyd spoke to the group on his history and the reasons why Aboriginal Cultural Heritage is so important to the Gunaikurnai people. He outlined the process for when objects and sites are found on farms and properties and explained that if people have artefacts such as spear heads, axe heads and grinding stones, a visit is organised, the objects are recorded on a register and left with the people who found them. The only stipulation is that they cannot be sold. Some people choose to hand them back to GLaWAC and many of these precious items can be seen in the Krowathunkooloong Keeping Place in Bairnsdale. Students involved in a project on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage from Woolum Bellum College in Morwell also attended. The stories that Lloyd shared with the group were very informative and a great deal was learnt by all. More of these sessions will be held across West Gippsland.

After a hearty BBQ at the 'Warrigal Creek' shearer's quarters we headed up the road to the Darriman Grasslands Reserve where we were joined by Vanessa Craigie and Susan Taylor from DSE. This was the site of the Darriman School and is now managed by Parks Victoria with assistance from DSE. It is the last known example of Plains Grassy

Woodland in the area. Vanessa and Susan impressed with their wealth of information on grassland management and outlined some of the strategies used around the state to preserve species diversity in these ecosystems. They discussed how the timing of controlled burns or grazing could be used to promote natives and reduce non-native species.

Nicki Jennings from Darriman noted, 'There were many orchids and wildflowers in bloom and we learnt about many small species that may otherwise go unnoticed. Also, the personal significance of the old school and hall site to some of those present was acknowledged.'

Mike McStephen from CFA brought along two large flags illustrating that introduced grasses produce flames nearly twice the height of native grasses due to their higher carbohydrate content. In a bushland setting this can increase the intensity of a fire. For this project officer it graphically reinforced the need to control non-native grasses in remnants and revegetation projects.

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.

If you have found any artefacts that you would like to register or sites on your property or any questions on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage please contact GLaWAC at Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation, 197 Macleod Street, Bairnsdale VIC 3875 • PO Box 1699, Bairnsdale VIC 3875 • T 03 5152 5100 • F 03 5152 1666 • E admin@glawac.com.au

PROJECT UPDATE

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK



By Bronwyn Johnson

"It was especially rewarding to have Lloyd Hood speak at the recent Workshop about his life story, and the story of his family, and the enormous challenges faced by indigenous people in Australia in general, and Gippsland in particular. Lloyd has been involved in such a variety of programs over many years, and we were inspired by his positiveness, openness and the extensive contributions to his community he has obviously made.

He reminded us of our responsibilities as landholders to be mindful of the rich cultural history of our area and landscape, going back many thousands of years, and the importance of respecting and understanding this in our current roles as custodians and managers of the land."

Libby Balderstone



JACKY EXAMINING SOME ABORIGINAL ARTEFACTS FOUND ON WARRIGAL CREEK.

VANESSA CRAIGIE EXPLAINING GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT AT DARRIMAN GRASSLAND RESERVE.



Seedbank

I wandered down the back of my place recently, camera slung around my neck, to check out the direct seeding that was carried out during the field day (see previous newsletter). Fortunately, I was rather magnificently distracted by all the wildflowers I found along the way.

It has been a brilliant year for flowering plants. From the wattles to the tiniest native violet, everything has been on show. I get a great deal of pleasure from the mere existence of flowers. In amongst the blue-green scrub and thousands of shades of brown on the ground it's the splashes of yellow, pink, purple, red and white that grab your attention. And here I'll have to confess to a special obsession with our native orchids.

It's not because they are amazing plants that can withstand bushfires and droughts with their edible underground tubers. It's not because of their remarkable diversity of flower shapes and colours. Not their use of mimicry to attract pollinators or the fact that so many species are now

endangered. It's because most of them are small, ephemeral and unexpected.

That flash of purple to your left that slows you down. The spot of red that stops your foot in the air, making you carefully put it down so as not to crush this tiny amazement you've stumbled across. The intricacy that demands you get in closer to see the details properly. The fact that you walked here last week but there were no flowers then and may be none tomorrow. They are truly engaging little wonders, drawing you into your surroundings and waking up your senses.

All native orchids are protected and seed cannot be collected without permits, so they're not a very practical fascination from the Seedbank point of view. But I can always rely on a spot of orchid hunting to enliven my spirits. I did manage to find some very little Eucalypt and Allocasuarina wonders in the direct seeding but they were too small to photograph, so I took some orchid shots instead. Hope you all have a great Summer.



Spider Orchid (*Caladenia tentaculata*)



...AND ANOTHER THING

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By Trevor Colvin

Myna trapping comes to Yarram

Like many pests in this country, the Indian Myna (or Common Myna) was introduced in the 1860's to fix a problem and then became a much bigger problem and is in company of rabbits, foxes and cane toads; seemingly good ideas at the time which subsequently got out of hand.

Like foxes, rabbits and cane toads, the Indian Myna is a threat to native species.

Many people just don't like the bird and are happy to see them go, but there are sounder ecological reasons to remove them. They are a very successful species and given a little time will destroy populations of smaller birds and can impact on the numbers of native species larger than themselves. They are



Harry Hof showing the finer points of an Indian Myna trap. Note the water container (top left) behind the shade cloth. The comfort of the birds is critical as is their humane handling.

fiercely territorial and aggressive and will oust even small mammals, such as sugar gliders, from their nests. Indian Myna's will often set up nests in more than one hollow, but use only one, but other species won't use a nest an Indian Myna has occupied so it is easy to see how they dominate nesting sites. In

a very short time, other species are without nesting options. Action groups across Australia have been working on eliminating Myna's for some years with great success. In Canberra 40,000 birds have been removed and the Indian Myna has gone from 3rd most common bird to 13th as a result of that effort. In East Gippsland many hundreds have been removed.

Harry Hof from Stratford (Avon Landcare Group) is the local champion of Myna removal and has modified a trap over a number of years. The traps are made at the Sale Prison and cost \$30 each.

Harry travelled to Yarram recently, to a Yarram Urban Landcare Group meeting bringing some traps and a wealth of knowledge about how to go about trapping the birds and disposing of them humanely. Humane disposal is critical, as is making sure the

birds have adequate, food water and shelter while in the trap.

I don't like killing anything, but if we don't take a stand against these birds, we will have few smaller birds to enjoy. I was talking to a Landcarer from Rosedale who was after some traps because she said "there are hundreds of Indian Myna's here and the smaller native species have disappeared from our garden".

My wife Susie and I are building our new garden on one acre in farmland and we are going to a lot of trouble to grow plants to attract small birds. Our time effort and money could be wasted if we don't do our best to eliminate the Myna's.

Knowing nothing about trapping Myna's I was concerned about catching other species, but the native Myna is a nectar eater and not interested in dry dog food. Bigger birds that might be attracted to the dog food can't get into the trap because Harry Hof has made sure it is designed so only birds of Myna size can get in. Our little dog, Finn, has been similarly thwarted, circling the cage looking for access and crying pitifully.

I caught one Indian Myna the first day I put out a trap and I expect to catch dozens over the summer months, which is their breeding season. Other members of Yarram Urban Landcare Group have taken traps and we will keep you informed on our progress.

If anyone is interested in knowing more, call the good people at YYLN on 5182 5073.



PARTNER ACTIVITY

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

By Elizabeth Mellick

JARR Partner - the Norman Wettenhall Foundation

The Norman Wettenhall Foundation is an environmental group and philanthropic trust that was formed in 1997 by keen bird lover, Norman Wettenhall.

Norman died in 2000, and his oldest son, Gib now Chairs the Foundation. We have two funding streams – the Small Environmental Grant Scheme which supports biodiversity conservation projects Australia wide; and the landscape restoration funding stream which supports a portfolio of community-driven landscape restoration projects in the south. We have six projects under the landscape restoration portfolio, as well as three landscape restoration fellows.

One of the six projects in the portfolio is the JARR Project which was brought to my attention by Leon Trembath from Madalya in 2008. So far we have made grants totalling

\$90,000 to the Yarram Yarram Landcare Network for wages, the production of a range of educational materials and the biodiversity blueprint map. I have made half a dozen trips out to Yarram since beginning the relationship with the project and have made some good friends. I have always been well looked after, particularly when my family was able to camp on the river on David and Sue MacAulay's farm. That was a memorable trip for us.

The Norman Wettenhall Foundation is committed to supporting JARR as part of the Yarram Yarram Landcare Network's major projects.

We hope to make another grant and to employ a trained consultant to help produce a range of fully costed projects ready for submission to government funding streams. I have made a website (which I tend to do for all our supported projects) which will help with community engagement and the sharing of information. I am



happy to help with use of the community web mapping portal and any other issues you have. I will see you all in 2013.

Beth Mellick, Executive Director, The Norman Wettenhall Foundation

LANDCARE NUMBER PLATES ARE NOW AVAILABLE

0 - LC

No.s 11 and above \$330 (inc GST), lower numbers from \$1,100.

Available in Slimline or Standard size.

Numbers are going fast so contact Belinda Brennan on 5662 5759 to see if the one you would like is still available.

A great Christmas gift



Friends of the Darriman Reserve

Friends of the Darriman Reserve is a small group of Darriman and Giffard residents who want to help care and protect the Darriman Reserve. The sub group was formed through a motion at the Woodside Landcare Group and plans to meet a couple of times a year at the Reserve.

Our first activity was an afternoon searching out and removing young volunteer pine trees. This resulted from a desire

by locals to retain two large old pines that mark the spot near where the old hall and school once stood. The Friends group has offered to control any new pines that may grow.

Other activities will include things such as weed and litter control and input into decisions regarding the future of the reserve. Amongst the members of the Friends group are past students and parents of the Darriman School and people



From left: Dan Boland, Nicki Jennings, Peter Jennings, Jacky Stump

who share fond memories of the hall. We hope we can work together with DSE to help

protect this special grassland reserve and to keep locals connected with their local history.



"JUST THOUGHT EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT ONE OF THE JOYS OF ATTENDING LANDCARE WORKSHOPS, MEETINGS AND OTHER FUNCTIONS"

Bronwyn Johnson, Seedbank and Mullung to Coast Project Officer

Contacts for Individual Active Landcare Groups

Albert River Landcare Group

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

Carrajung and District LG

Contact: YYLN Office
Phone: 5182 6094
Email: Sally-AnnH@wgcm.vic.gov.au

Woodside Landcare Group

Contact: Jane Gordon
Phone: 5187 1400
Email: janeo@aussiebroadband.com.au

Wonyip Landcare Group

Contact: Werner Lange
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Binginwarri Landcare Group

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Merriman Creek Landcare Group

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Won Wron Devon North LG

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Hedley/Nine Mile Creek LG

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Yarram Urban Landcare Group

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YARRAM YARRAM
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