



# The Glider Gazette

"Landcare for Everyone"

Winter 2009

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**LANDCARE NETWORK**

## Coordinators Report

Greetings to all Landcarers, winter has certainly proven to be a busy season once again for the HDLN. From revegetation projects to nutrient mapping programs, Dung Beetle workshops, International Student Volunteers and Landcare Awards; these are just some of the things that have been keeping the HDLN staff busy over the winter months.

With most of our tree orders already delivered to our Community Nursery in Timboon, many of the trees have been leaving just as quickly to be planted in a range of Landholder projects. Of an estimated 60,000 seedlings to be planted this year, around half this amount are already in the ground thanks to several keen landholders along with the help of two crews of International Student Volunteers from the USA and Canada. Whilst the ISV crews have been kept busy providing a helping hand to several landholders with their Landcare projects, their assistance has been more than acknowledged by receiving some of the kind hospitality that farmers in the south west are well known for. When describing the hospitality they had been shown, one of the volunteers from the USA mentioned she "had never before been offered so many cups of tea and cake".

Well done to all staff and volunteers associated with the HDLN along with Alex Gordon and Emma Drake who were recipients of the Landcare Network and Young Landcare Leader Recognition Awards respectively, at last month's Corangamite Landcare Awards Night.

With lots of new exciting programs and presentations occurring in the near future, be sure to check out the rest of the newsletter for more information.

### **HDLN 2009**

#### **Office Bearers**

**President:** Richard Gloyne

**Vice President:** Dave Smurthwaite

**Secretary:** VACANT

**Treasurer:** Linda White

#### **Our Co-ordinator**

Ben Roberts

#### **Project Officers**

Lyndell Driscoll (Resource Centre)

Yonie Tiljak (Landcare Projects)

Dean Suckling (FOCUS Project)

Becky McCann (Threatened Species)

#### **Volunteers**

Conservation Volunteers Australia

Local farmers, landholders-you and fellow community members!

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **Dung Beetle and Soil Health Presentations**

**Guest Speaker:** John Feehan and the DPI Soil Health Team

**Where and When:** See below

## INCREASE SOIL HEALTH AND FERTILITY WITH DUNG BEETLES

Many of you will have noticed that each summer there is increased dung beetle activity across the region. At some times of the year activity is so frantic that dung disappears in a day. Dung beetles reduce flies, improve soil and water penetration.

Over the past 18 months, the Heytesbury and District Landcare Network have coordinated the release of over 50,000 dung beetles across the district. The release included introducing several winter and autumn active species that were previously not present in the district.

As a result of such strong interest in the dung beetle program, HDLN in conjunction with the DPI are running a series of informative presentations on Dung Beetles and Soil Health. The presentations will focus on how dung beetles can work for your soils and what you need to do to introduce and maintain beetle populations on your farm.

John Feehan, who spent 26 years working on the CSIRO's dung beetle program will present at each of the sessions. He has spent the past 15 years coordinating the collection and redistribution of dung beetles across Australia. DPI's Soil Health team will also be present to provide some independent, up-to-date information on soil biology and carbon.

#### **Where and When:**

**Weds 12 August, 11 am to 2 pm**

**Timboon Bowls Club**

(Barbecue lunch provided)

**Thurs 13 August, 10 am to 12 pm**

**Cobden Recreation Reserve**

(Light lunch and refreshments provided)

**Thurs 13 August, 2 pm to 4 pm**

**Simpson Recreation Reserve**

## New HDLN Website

The HDLN will proudly launch its new website next week. The new website will create a much more user friendly way for people to access information about what the Network does and what it has to offer. The new website has been set up as a Self Management System, this will allow HDLN staff to keep the site up to date with any new program and funding opportunities available, along with any up and coming events which the HDLN and other groups may be running. The new website will also feature a photos gallery of all recent events for people to check out. To visit the new HDLN website go to <http://www.heytesburylandcare.org.au/>

## Funding opportunities

Corangamite Shire Environment Support Fund offers up to \$2,000 of matching funding to groups and individuals within the Corangamite Shire to implement projects that benefit the local environment. This year council has \$30,000 available for projects to be completed by October 2010. Program applications and guidelines are available on the Corangamite Shire's website at <http://www.corangamite.vic.gov.au/> or for more information contact Environment Officer Belinda Bennett on 55 937 100.

2010 Landcare Projects-Expressions of Interests (EOIs) HDLN is currently calling for EOI's for Landcare projects to be undertaken in 2010. In 2010 the HDLN will be undertaking several programs on behalf of the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority including a River Health program focusing on the lower stretches of the Curdies and Gellibrand Rivers along with a biodiversity program across the southern half of the HDLN region. If you are interesting in undertaking any projects in 2010 we encourage you to express your interest by completing an EOI form which will be followed by a site visit to determine which program may best suit your project. To obtain an EOI or membership form contact the Landcare Resource Centre on 55 983 755 or visit our website [www.heytesburylandcare.org.au](http://www.heytesburylandcare.org.au). Closing date for EOI's is **30th September 2009**.

## Project Report

### Ecklin Direct Seeding field day

As part of a coordinated direct seeding program to be held in the Ecklin region this spring, the group have decided to hold a direct seeding field day in August. The day will provide the opportunity to look at past and recent examples of direct seeded shelterbelts with discussion on the benefits of using particular species and different belt widths to achieve the best result. A live demonstration will also provide the opportunity to see what site preparation is required. If you would like to participate in the program or would like directions to the field day, contact Ben Roberts on 55 983 755.

**Where:** Ecklin

**When:** Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September, 11:00- 1:00pm (BBQ Lunch and refreshments provided)

### Swamp Scrub Project Update: by Beck McCann, Project Officer

The Swamp Scrub Project has continued to kick significant goals for local threatened species whilst helping farmers make their land more profitable, through smarter farm management and activities such as fencing off wet, unproductive areas, creating corridors for shelter and habitat and weed control works.

Heaps of on ground works have been completed thanks mainly to the hard work of two crews of International Student Volunteers. In the past 6 weeks, 23 volunteers from North America have put in an amazing 1,450 volunteer hours and the equivalent of 207 volunteer days planting 18,000 seedlings and undertaking just over 15ha of weed control works across 19 sites. Phew! Without their assistance these projects just wouldn't get done.

Laura, volunteers and myself also collected flora data from six more sites with botanist Geoff Carr in early June, with every Swamp Scrub patch surveyed containing rare, endemic (found nowhere else) and undescribed plants. This included an undescribed *Leucopogon* species (similar to Coastal Beard Heath), an undescribed native violet (*Viola sp*) and a rare form of a eucalyptus tree (*E. ovata*).

Another two new populations of the nationally threatened Swamp Greenhood (*Pterostylis tenuissimum*) were found at Princetown and Peterborough. Who knew we had such treasures in our own backyard?

Watch this space as we're planning on having a Swamp Scrub community workshop and field day in September. Don't forget to contact Becky or Laura if you would like to be involved, have any queries or any information on Swamp Scrub sites near you. Laura and Becky will still be floating around after September but not working on Swamp Scrub.

## Upcoming Events

### **Soil Carbon Sequestration Forum**

A panel of well know speakers will give presentations and lead discussion on both sides of carbon sequestration in soil and vegetation.

**When:** 14<sup>th</sup> August 8:30- 2:00pm

**Where:** Geelong City Hall

Places are limited, RSVP 10<sup>th</sup> August.

### **Integrating trees into the landscape**

Otway Agroforestry Network will be hosting Andrew Campbell former CEO of Land & Water Australia to talk on, integrating trees and native vegetation into the farming landscape- a key to coping with climate change. OAN agm 11am, followed by farm tour at 1pm. Enquires and RSVP to Andrew Steward 52 363 277.

**The weed society of Victoria presents the forth Victorian Weed Conference**

### **'Plants behaving badly in agriculture and the environment'**

The event will feature several key note speakers including John Thorp, John Thorp Australia; Geoff Carr, Ecology Australia along with many DPI and DSE guest speakers.

**When:** 7-8 October 2009

**Where:** Mercure Hotel Geelong

### **Chemical Disposal Service**

The 'Chemclear' Program provides a collection and disposal service to rural and urban users for old and unwanted Ag and Vet chemicals. Call 'Chemclear' on 1800 008 182 to register for the next collection day in Corangamite. Or visit <http://www.chemclear.com.au/>

### **HDLN Meetings**

Venue: Landcare Resource Centre

Time: **Second Tuesday of every 2<sup>nd</sup> month, Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> August 8:00 pm**

**~ALL WELCOME~**

Minutes can be mailed on request