



Conservation of the Southern Toadlet

As many of you will have noticed this wet and warm weather has led to an abundance of frog activity. Unfortunately not all of our local species are doing so well. The Southern Toadlet was once widespread across south-west Victoria. Recent surveys that I conducted at historical known breeding sites have found that this species has undergone severe declines with it being present at only two of the 17 surveyed sites.

The decline appears to be caused by a combination of habitat loss and Chytrid fungus, a fatal frog infection which was detected at some of the sites. If you know of any southern toadlet populations or would like more information please contact me at info@heytesburylandcare.org.au. **Keep listening out for our froggy friends, Yonie**

New Coordinator at Heytesbury Landcare

Having missed the Spring edition, I'd like to say hello to the many readers who have a connection or interest in the Heytesbury and District Landcare Network (HDLN). Now 3 months into the role, I am impressed by the commitment of local people including our landholders on issues and opportunities relating to Landcare and the environment, community and education.

I had the good fortune of working with the previous Coordinator Ben Roberts for 3 weeks during a transition period in November. Ben has consolidated the position of HDLN as a leader in the community on environmental and Landcare matters, building on a solid base established by previous Coordinators, staff, executive committee and other Landcare and community groups. We wish Ben good luck in the "big smoke".

Now a little on my background: I come to the Network having "re-trained the brain" from media and marketing to natural resources management. For the past five years I have worked on several environmental projects following on from study at Deakin University and SW TAFE where I completed a Bachelor of Environmental Science and gained qualifications in Conservation and Land Management. My contact with the land commenced with growing up on farms in the Western District where I was fortunate enough to have a 5,000 acre (2,000 ha) backyard on a farm north of Heywood to work and play in. My father was a farm manager and to be working again with landholders in this region is closing the loop in some ways.

My media and marketing experience includes working with Fairfax (The Age and The Standard) for some years before setting up Impress Marketing at the Ace Radio offices in Warrnambool. Working in the media led to establishing contact with community groups in the Warrnambool area, including WDEA, Brophy Family and Youth Services and the Warrnambool Community Garden.

It is here that I learned the value of volunteer and community effort, where (if expressed in economic terms) it amounts to approximately \$40 billion per annum in Australia. In personal terms the benefits of volunteering are far greater; people connecting to others, the physical and emotional benefits of working outdoors...the list goes on. Already I have met a number of passionate and enthusiastic environmental volunteers in this district who show true leadership by energising and inspiring others to join them.

As I travel to Timboon each day for work it is fantastic to see some of the revegetation work carried out over many years and the results of schools and community groups being active. I hope I can add to that with a mix of life and work experiences.

'Till next time....

Geoff Rollinson

HDLN 2011

Office Bearers

President : Dave Smurthwaite

Vice President: Dean Drayton

Secretary: Dominic Gorringer

Treasurer: Linda White

Our Co-ordinator

Geoff Rollinson

Project Officers

Lyndell Driscoll (Resource Centre)

Yonie Tijak (Landcare Projects)

Anita Chivell (Accounts Officer)

Alex Gordon (Nursery Manager)

Volunteers

Conservation Volunteers Australia,
Local farmers, landholders, schools-
you and fellow community members!

New Staff

We would like to welcome Anita and Alex to the HDLN team. Anita has taken over the accounts from Linda and Alex is managing the current seedling propagation at the HDLN nursery till he goes back to uni in Feb.

Upcoming Events

Come see us at

the Heytesbury Show!

The HDLN will be setting up stall along with the home craft & cattle pavilion, horse jumping, side show alley, farm machinery displays, animal nursery and Grand Parade.

A great family day out!

Where: Simpson Football Oval

When: 5th March

Clean Up Australia Day

Sunday 6th March

Business clean up day 1st March

Get out your gloves and garbage bags and get ready to clean up the local area.



Register your site today and be involved in this nationwide event.

www.cleanupaustaliaday.org.au

Volunteer & Training Opportunities

Campbell's Creek water quality monitoring: Parks Victoria is seeking people interested in being involved in an ongoing water quality monitoring program on Campbell's Creek. Parks Victoria has recently purchased monitoring equipment for Campbell's Creek to assist with managing the Port Campbell harbor. Interested people should contact Meg at the Port Campbell Parks Victoria office.

Landscape Zone Asset Prioritization Document (LZAP): HDLN is currently reviewing a Corangamite CMA draft document that identifies the landscape assets, threats and priorities for funding within the Curdies and Gellibrand catchment areas. We are calling for community groups within the Purrumbete, Jancourt, Curdies River and Upper, Middle and Lower Gellibrand River areas to review and comment on this document. Please contact Geoff (55983755) to be involved.

Work in Progress

Whilst many organisations have been in wind-down mode through December and January, Heytesbury & District Landcare Network (HDLN) has been busy preparing for on-ground projects and activities for 2011. One of our major programs, the Craters to Coast BIOFUND, will see more than 20 landholders working with HDLN on important revegetation and remnant protection projects. We will also continue working with the Corangamite CMA on the Regional River Health project, with 5 landholders along priority river reaches identified for important works.

The Landcare Community Nursery has been a busy spot preparing for 2011 plantings. We felt the impact of inundation through high rainfall events in December...the space we affectionately call the dungeon (our storeroom) had a high tide mark of around 30cms, with some loss of seed and supplies.

Later in the year we plan to support the Schools Program and Public Land Enhancement Program as part of our promotion of environmental awareness and enhancement in this region. We will publish further details on how to apply for these funding rounds in future editions of the Glider Gazette, on our website www.heytesburylandcare.org.au and through direct mail to relevant organisations.

The budget for these and other programs run by HDLN is under constant threat through lack of funding, no doubt a regular cry from this organisation for a number of years. One of our challenges and I guess opportunities is to put plans in place to be more financially sustainable. As a result we are seeking to set up longer term partnerships with our corporate funding bodies and have aspirations to do the same with government funding. The latter is more difficult to achieve as government funding tends to be short term, connected to shifting priorities and a major task in terms of capacity to influence decisions.

A couple of other interesting projects are the Landscape Zone Asset Priority and Future Ready Dairy Systems projects...more to come in future editions of the *Glider Gazette*.

This season has been different from previous years, what has that meant for your dung beetles?

In 2008-09, the Dairy Action Program provided 67 dung beetle colonies to landholders for release across the district. We've put a map on our website showing what was released where, and now...

We'd like to hear from you how they're faring.

So please, kick over a few pats and give us a call to let us know what you find – Or even bring in a sample for identification.



Investing in our Future

The Craters to Coast Alliance (C2C) aims to protect and enhance our ecosystem services for the future. In the past 6 years the C2C Alliance has helped fund 143.7ha of revegetation, 273.2ha of remnant protection and 119ha of waterways protected across the district. The large extent of these on ground works is unique when compared with other environmental organisations, as the majority of funding goes directly to these works as opposed to project management.

Unfortunately the alliance has lost some of its members and we are now seeking businesses who would like to invest funds to keep this great work going. **Please call Geoff on 55983755 or visit our website www.heytesburylandcare.org.au for more information.**



Seeing and hearing lots of frogs on your property and want to know what species they are?

Local frog identification sheets and frog call CDs now available at the **Landcare Resource Centre**



A Lens on the Lakes

Photographic Competition and Exhibition

Photographers are invited to capture images of the Corangamite Shire's lakes, illustrating their great natural, aesthetic, cultural and scientific value.

Contact the Corangamite Shire for more information: 55937100

Funding Opportunities

Mazda Foundation

Awards grants to programs promoting environmental conservation.

Applications due 1/5/2011.

www.mazdafoundation.org.au

Farm Ready Reimbursement

Primary producers are able to claim up to \$1500 each financial year to attend approved training courses. Funding can cover excess travel, accommodation & child care expenses.

www.daff.gov.au/climatechange/australian-farming-future/farmready

Coastcare Victoria Community

Grants to protect the ecological integrity of Victoria's coastal ecosystems by funding on ground works undertaken by community groups.

www.dse.vic.gov.au/dse/nrencmnsl/Home+Page/DSE+Coasts+Home+Page?

Ian Potter Foundation Grants

Funding projects that improve Australian community's ability to respond creatively to environmental issues.

Applications close 30/5/2011.

www.foundation.ianpotter.org.au

For more funding opportunities check out Business Victoria

http://www.business.vic.gov.au/BUSVIC/STANDARD/PC_50731.html

Next HDLN Meeting

Tuesday 12th April