

Winter-Spring 2021

"Landcare for Everyone"

The Glider Gazette



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HDLN Office Bearers

President : Dave Smurthwaite
Vice President: Regina Mudge
Secretary: Shayne Delaney
Treasurer: Andrew Irvine



Our Staff

Geoff Rollinson (Coordinator)
Kate Leslie (Project Officer)
Lyndell Driscoll (Resource Centre)



Volunteers

Students, local farmers,
landholders, schools- you and
fellow community members!



Regenerative Ag project *Increasing Soil Carbon*

Our flagship project is well underway showing how increasing soil carbon on 20 Heytesbury district farms can lead to food production and climate change benefits. Findings will be shared across the farming community. In the meanwhile for those on Facebook, the farmers have set up a new group 'Southwest Sustainable Farms'.



Around 70 people turned up in April to Bostocks Creek Hall in April to hear initial learnings.



A field trip to the trial site at the Davis farm followed.

Biofund Projects 2022

HDLN are currently calling for Expressions of Interest (EOIs) from landholders and community groups including newcomers to Landcare. Deadline for receipt of project EOIs is September 30, 2021, with assessments to be undertaken in October. Biofund is the Network's key project that has seen the revegetation of more than 240 hectares of land in the past 10 years in the Heytesbury District.

Contact Geoff on 5598 3755 for more information.



Eastern Snake Necked Turtle in Timboon
Jason Ashwell, Timboon Field Naturalists

Hello Landcarers,

The past year has been challenging for all of us responding to COVID –19. With an ounce of luck, a bit of flexibility and good planning we at the HDLN office have managed quite a few public events. Many of our projects continue with landholders who are keeping on with their farming activities and are relatively unaffected.

The Coast Wattle removal project at Crofts Bay project has now just about wrapped up. It has included baseline plant surveys with the community and working bees with Friends of the Bay of Islands to hand-pull Coast Wattle and replanting with indigenous seedlings. Contractors have spent many days cutting down large Coast Wattle as well as replanting into jute mesh.

Our fire recovery response continues. As a record and testament to these affected by St Patrick's day fires, we produced a booklet 'From Devastation to Restoration' and held a small gathering in July to launch it.

Finally we are thinking about ways to reinvigorate our local groups. Your ideas are very welcome.

Please don't hesitate to call me for more information on 0427 983 755 or send an email to geoff@heytesburylandcare.org.au.

'til next time,

Geoff

Community Nursery News

Plant orders are being made up and leaving the community nursery for projects. We may have excess seedlings available for purchase very soon.

For next season we are looking forward to new custom A frames made up for the farm gates that our seedlings sit on.





In May a 'Visual Soil Assessment and Cover Crops' Field Day was held at Bungador for Activating Soil Biology.

What's coming up -

Keep an eye out for more details. Subject to COVID requirements.

More Field Days

Activating Soil Biology is our project with six Heytesbury and Otway dairy farms following expert advice to activate soil biology to improve soil, plant and animal health. A year ago Kim Deans from Integrity Soils provided the landholders tailored advice, with input from our collaborative team covering cover crops, compost, biochar and more.

More workshops and field days will be held in Spring to check out any changes in building biology on their farms.

Waterwatch at Sherbrooke River

Near Port Campbell on the Sherbrooke River, learn to take and test water samples with Waterwatch. We want a baseline before revegetation works on a part of the river going through a paddock where next year we'll plant 6000 trees, shrubs or grasses. Spring is one of the best times to see water bugs!

Lake Cobrico Monitoring

We want to learn the lessons of how best to re-establish vegetation after peat fires. About 18 months ago we commissioned the reseeded of about 40 hectares of Lake Cobrico. This Spring, an ecologist will fly a drone again and work out the effect of that reseeded event. Ecologist, Warrnambool's Peter Austin says with high resolution images like the one below "various vegetation species can be quickly determined with adequate ground-truthing." Ain't technology marvellous?



Post with the Most



Heytesbury District Landcare Network

Published by Geoff Rollinson · 19 July at 15:55 ·

Some impressive before and after restoration pics in the Tesbury region, a partnership project with the Corangamite CMA, the Davis family and our Landcare network.

We're progressively removing Willow and replacing with native veg in the upper reaches of the Curdies River. We're also hoping to inspire other landholders to bring life back to the river and ameliorate the impacts of farming, including nutrient run-off.

#corangamitecma



1,026

People reached

211

Engagements

Boost post

32

4 comments 1 share

This was your favourite Facebook post recently and no wonder: It's a cracker.

Will you send us your best before and after shots?

Heard at our AGM

"Our strategy of engaging exemplar farms to undertake soil carbon and biology improvement (trials and monitoring), energy budgeting and nutrient recycling, as well as more traditional Landcare works (such as revegetation and habitat and waterway protection) has proven a popular model for those allocating funds. Together with our farmers we have inspired decision makers with a vision of the future and set about creating farms that help address some of our national environmental concerns."

Dave Smurthwaite, President HDLN - 11th May 2021

Local Groups Corner

Dean Drayton, long time member of **Curdies Valley**, sent us this extraordinary photo of a powerful owl that has just killed a magpie. And we welcome Chris Hibburt to **Newfield Valley**....new ideas are likely to accompany Chris's arrival.



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