

Spring 2023

"Landcare for Everyone"

The Glider Gazette



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HDLN Office Bearers

President : Dave Smurthwaite

Vice President: Andrew Irvine

Secretary: Regina Mudge

Treasurer: Adam Nash



Our Staff

Michelle Leech (Coordinator)

Lyndell Driscoll (Resource Centre)

Kate Leslie (Project Officer)



Volunteers

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



wellbeing matters

connect to your land

connect to yourself

• talk on mental health • try Wayapa practice • bird walk • chat and connect



Sunday 19 November

10am start, Timboon meet near Senior Citizens club, more details coming...

Groups out planting!

Landcare groups and community members have been out and about planting hundreds of native seedlings on both public and private land around the region.

To mention a few:

Friends of Bay of Islands Coastal Park planted hardy coastal plants as part of their Spring Project Day.

Curdies Valley Landcare Group helped neighbour Mike plant an acre with native seedlings on his place.



Bostocks Creek Landcare Group planted around 450 native seedlings at the South Purrumbete Recreation Reserve.

Many hands make light work and it doesn't take long before an entire area is planted up.

Hello Landcarers,

Spring is here and the warmer weather is bringing with it a flurry of activity. It's wonderful to see the community heading outdoors to enjoy our beautiful region.

To get the season off to a great start, we've got an exciting wellness event coming to the region on Sunday 19 November. With a focus on mental and physical health and wellbeing, presenters will be sharing strategies we can all use to look out for each other and feel better every day. This will include time spent in nature (weather permitting) and an exploration of how connection with nature can provide a simple but powerful way to feel calmer and more grounded. Remember to save the date and come down and join us!

All the seedlings from our 2022/23 Biofund grant program have left the HDLN community nursery and are starting to establish in their new spots. Landholders who planted earlier in the year have already reported noticeable growth on their seedlings, which is a great sign that their roots have started to extend into the surrounding soil.

Any time now, a panel will be assessing the Expressions of Interest we received for our 2023/24 Biofund program and the nursery will be ramping up to start growing next year's seedlings. Keep an eye on our Facebook page to find out when we're running volunteer days. We love it when community members come down for a yarn and some propagating.

Finally, if you aren't already a Landcare member, I encourage you to come along to one of our events or call in at the office to say hi. We have activities and opportunities for everyone, whether you're a landholder or a resident in town, young or old, new to the area or been here forever!

See you around the region, Michelle Leech

Heytesbury District Landcare News

Farmers Emission Reduction Toolkit update

Our sustainable agriculture project team have been conducting research into promising strategies that could help farmers reduce their on-farm emissions – and realise a number of additional benefits along the way.

Depending on the strategy selected, these benefits could include:

- ⇒ reduced fertiliser expenses
- ⇒ protection of valuable topsoil
- ⇒ reduced energy costs
- ⇒ increased biodiversity on farm
- ⇒ attraction of beneficial insects
- ⇒ healthier water points on farm
- ⇒ healthier waterways off farm for our children and grandchildren to enjoy.

Key areas the project team are focussing on include:

- Energy management
- Dung beetles
- Optimising grazing rotations
- Multispecies forage crops
- Water management
- Revegetation and shelter belts

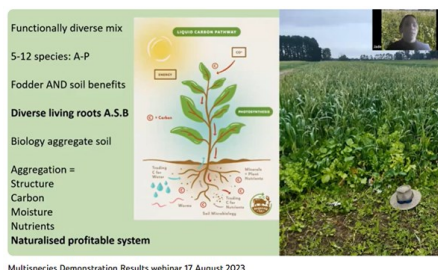
The project, supported by AgriFutures Australia, seeks to create a series of decision-making pathways and tools to help farmers evaluate the available options and which ones would be most suitable on their property.

A small working group of local farmers will soon get together to provide feedback on the initial work and later to test a range of tools.

Multispecies Demonstration Results Zoom

In August, our Sustainable Ag team agronomist Jade Killoran shared the results of her multispecies demonstration site – a challenging heavy soil site in south west Victoria, in an online presentation. This was followed by questions and a lively discussion which included local farmers at various stages of their sustainable ag journey.

If you're curious about whether multispecies were able to establish successfully and how, you can visit bit.ly/HDLN1 to watch the replay.



Multispecies Demonstration Results webinar 17 August 2023

Gilson College students lend a hand

In September, we were visited by four groups of students from Gilson College in Melbourne, who spent time with various local businesses learning about different ways to be of service to a community.

Accompanied by members of the Camperdown-Timboon Rail Trail Committee of Management, we took the first group of students down to the Rail Trail to learn how to remove ivy. A later count by the committee showed that the team cut ivy from approximately 55 trees, with some of those trees being quite significant in size. Another group added to this massive effort a couple of days later.

The second group to visit us helped local landholders Claire and Rick Clark plant around 800 seedlings provided to them as part of HDLN's Biofund program.



Claire shared her thoughts on the experience, 'We were very fortunate to have the help of Heytesbury Landcare and students from Gilson College to plant up a new shelter belt on our property. It was great to see the kids interested in the area and the different plants we were using. All in all a great experience.'

The final group to visit us spent the afternoon at the HDLN office assembling around 1300 tree guards.

Spending time with young people from a city background provided everyone with an opportunity to share different insights and life experiences, while doing something positive for the local environment.

Thanks to all involved for making the visits an enjoyable success!



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Or check out our website: www.heytesburylandcare.org.au