

Summer 2022/23

"Landcare for Everyone"

The Glider Gazette



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President : Dave Smurthwaite

Vice President: Regina Mudge

Secretary: Lisa Togni

Treasurer: Andrew Irvine



Our Staff

Lyndell Driscoll (Resource Centre)

Kate Leslie (Project Officer)

Geoff Rollinson (Coordinator)



Volunteers

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



Blue Skies for Planting Trees



Students and teachers from St Thomas Primary School on Lex and Rachael's Dixie property.

WILD OTWAYS Sherbrooke Plantings



At our successful Sherbrooke Community Tree Planting Day in September. We planted out 1,000 indigenous seedlings. It's a special site, surrounded on three sides by National Park. As the seedlings grow, we hope it will make new corridors for wildlife, including the orange-bellied parrot, southern brown bandicoot and swamp antechinus. All are threatened and endangered species.

Hello Landcarers,

At the time of writing the rains are continuing. So far we've largely avoided the dramatic flooding facing communities further north in Victoria, but the rains are delaying many farmers being able to get onto their paddocks to cut silage. Climate modelling shows South West Victoria could face more severe downpours and greater fire risks in the future.

Well known landholder and vet Chris Hibburt planted shelterbelts on his previously windswept farm near Port Campbell to protect stock from sun, wind and rain. Ten years later he's enjoying greater comfort too. Chris is one of 30 landholders around the Heytesbury District involved with our Regenerative Agriculture project called 'Climate Resilient Farmers'.

How would you like to hear their stories and experiences? You can hear directly from six landholders in the form of podcast, which you can find on the podcasts page of our website. Listen on your tractor or at your leisure. To generalise, we reckon a focus on shelterbelts and multi-species pastures including legumes and brassicas is a strong step towards more productive farming. Managing grazing rotations and stocking rates, having big rooted plants and more diverse pastures helps soil health and structure. There are still unanswered questions, particularly how to succeed at multi-species pastures on heavy clay soils.

Finally we are a not for profit, accountable to the community via a committee of local people. Funding for my position, as Landcare Facilitator, is secure for the next 2 years. Otherwise we maintain our operations by applying for project grants: the latest is Parks Victoria's Volunteer Innovation Fund to do fauna survey activities to help new volunteers find and support the local groups volunteering on Parks land.

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

Thankyou to all those who bought excess seedlings of late. Remember to return seedling trays and planters please. Propagation work is starting for the year in the nursery. Contact us if you would like to volunteer.





Regenerative Agriculture Projects update

A new podcast

A new series of six podcasts shows how farmers in the Heytesbury are doing things differently and cutting costs. With 30 farms in our Climate Resilient Farms Project, some want to tell other farmers about the amazing results they are achieving, including -

- * How to gain a 25 per cent increase in dry matter yield in only a year and with no artificial inputs
- * Why one farmer has gone from 10 to 50 worms in a shovelful of soil
- * How chooks could be a solution to Red-legged earth mite on clover
- * How one little dung beetle can bury a single cow pad in just 48 hours
- * Why planting shelter belts, chicory and plantain saves on vet bills
- * How to make the perfect pasture compost
- * What to put in your pasture mix to make paddocks more climate resilient, and how to make electric vehicles part of your farm.

Enjoy listening comfort of the tractor, the road or the lounge. Find them on the podcast page of our website.



Happy faces! Birdlife Australia's Wetlands Bird Program Manager Chris Purnell was taken to five local landholders by Kate.

Melbourne kids get hands dirty



Students once again visited from Gilson College in Melbourne in September for tree planting, pulling pittosporum and making tree guards. Their efforts are much appreciated.

Curdies River Fish Kills

We are watching this space carefully. A Deakin University study is expected in December, explaining how we got to this point, what's known, what's not and their recommendations.

The Corangamite CMA led a well attended Community Forum in Peterborough in October, partly so Deakin could present their research and hear community reaction. We heard there might not be quick and easy solutions to prevent future blue green algae outbreaks.

Curdies River and Catchment Alliance Inc is a newly incorporated community group organising to mobilise more attention and resources. We can put you in touch.



Local Groups Corner

With wetlands super full, and important birdlife around, **Elingamite-Cobrico** Landcare members are helping with bittern monitoring.

Curdies Valley Landcare Group led an outing to Glerums Road. We checked on past plantings from past years, handpulled the invasive pittosporum and prevented ivy from climbing up trees which stops them setting seed. *Notelaea ligustrina* (privet mock olive) is the most common understory and is looking healthy at the moment.



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