

Spring 2022

"Landcare for Everyone"

# The Glider Gazette



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## HDLN Office Bearers

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!



## Heytesbury Master Tree Growers



This eight day course with Otway Agroforestry Network was a resounding success. There were 28 graduates. A report is available on request.

## ENVIRONMENT SUPPORT GRANT Seedlings 4 Landholders



Free seedlings were offered to our local Landcare groups this year thanks to a Council grant. The groups distributed them as they saw fit. We so enjoyed seeing photos from where our seedlings ended up, like this one from the Bostocks Creek Landcare Group. Photo D Boyd.

Hello Landcarers,

This is the first Gazette since Summer and you'll soon see why. We've been busy.

First, plants are leaving the nursery now for Biofund 2022 projects. Applications are open for 2023 projects, closing at the end of September. So if you've got a shelterbelt or another project in mind, please get in touch.

In addition to the successful Heytesbury Master Tree Grower course, we've also been working closely with 30 landholders on their choice of best practices under the Climate Resilient Farms projects. In particular, there's a lot of energy around multispecies pastures. We've hosted talks by Colin Seis and Dr Christine Jones (more overleaf), released a video on YouTube and a 'Cultivation calculator' to help landholders have success from the outset when moving to multispecies pastures.

Like you, we were saddened by the Curdies Fish Kill in the Peterborough Estuary in April. HDLN has joined a multi-agency response led by the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority. We welcome the formation of a community group presently called 'Curdies River Catchment Alliance' to advocate for resources to address the issue.

Finally, we are governed by a community elected committee. Some changes occurred at our AGM on 12 April. We welcome new members Doug Trigg and Jason Ashwell. Farewell and thankyou to Neil Everett and Shayne Delaney.

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

We clean and reuse these seedling trays. Please contact us if you've got a stash to return or donate.





Colin Seis chatting in a paddock in Kariah north of Camperdown in July.

## Regenerative Agriculture Projects update

### A message of diversity is coming through.

**From the Scientist** - More than 80 people gathered in June 2022 in Irrewillipe to hear some results from the Activating Soil Biology Project.

Dr Christine Jones, the internationally renowned soil biologist led discussions on factors affecting soil, pasture and human health. She emphasised the need for microbial diversity from multispecies pastures comprising at least four families of plants. Dr Jones starts off her presentation with the idea that seeds have a microbiome, like humans. Hence she advocates using seed that is not treated with chemicals (insecticides and fungicides).

In the afternoon we moved to Simon Scott's paddock. With three years of growing multispecies pastures, Simon is a happy dairy farmer.

**From the Farmer** - In July NSW regenerative farmer Colin Seis visited for us in Camperdown. Colin's main message was to allow the farm and soil to function as an ecosystem: he says to grow more plants, and more variety of plants; move away from ploughing and don't over-fertilise.

Left: Workshop held in Coorimungle in April on dung beetles and multispecies pastures.



## Cultivation Calculator



A cultivation calculator, believed to be an Australian first, has been developed to help farmers optimize tillage methods to establish better pastures, with an emphasis on using multispecies.

Initiated by project team members Jade Killoran and Tony Evans, the calculator has emerged as one of the positive outcomes from our Increasing Soil Carbon and Climate Resilient Farms projects.

The calculator can be accessed by clicking on the link on the front page of our website (see address below).

## Nursery Volunteers



The community nursery offers volunteering opportunities from around October to April. We were grateful for their significant contribution last year. Let us know if you've got a couple of hours to spare and this appeals to you.

## Local Groups Corner



In May, with funding from Environment Support grant 2021 from Corangamite Shire, volunteers installed signage both sides of the Glenfyne-Brucknell Road advising the community of their need to address the serious ragwort weed.

A 2022 grant will assist with the printing of a 'Garden for Wildlife' booklet for the Heytesbury.



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