

The Glider Gazette



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HDLN Office Bearers

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



Our Staff

Geoff Rollinson (Coordinator)
Lyndell Driscoll (Resource Centre)
Paul Hartrick (Project Officer)



Volunteers

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



Bombs Away - Cobrico Lake Reseeding

Cobrico Lake 2018 St Patrick's Day Fire Recovery - April just gone saw Cobrico Lake reseeded with Native Seed through the use of Drones in the first of it's kind project. Some 32Kg of native seed was spread over the fire impacted area from the air with HDLN, DELWP and XAG Australia partnering together to assist the vegetation in the lake in its recovery.



Above is one of the drones full of Native Seed mix ready to fly across the fire-impacted area.



XAG Staff preparing equipment for flight. First Ladies Productions were also onsite doing a documentary of the project.

Biofund Projects 2021

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 6, 2020, with assessments to be undertaken later in September. Biofund is the Network's flagship 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.



Hello Landcarers,

Our dedicated team has been working hard over the past few months with projects such as the Cobrico Lake Drone Seeding Project being completed with 32 kilograms of native seed spread over the burnt area. A special thanks to the adjoining landowners for their patience and involvement.

Other projects underway include Keeping Carbon on the Farm, Coast Wattle Removal at Crofts Bay, Activating Soil Biology, Increasing Soil Carbon and we're also in the midst of Autumn/Winter Plantings.

The past few months have been somewhat challenging with COVID -19, however we have managed to continue with many of our projects as most of them relate to landholders who are keeping on with their farming activities.

Covid-19 has however had a big impact on volunteering; HDLN encourages organisers within the Network area to follow approved guidelines if undertaking group volunteer work.

if you'd like further information contact Geoff Rollinson on 0427 983 755 or send an email to geoff@heytesburylandcare.org.au.

Till next time,

Geoff

HDLN Nursery

Our tree orders are well underway for 2020 Spring projects. Kate and Lyndell have worked like honey bee's to get them ready with around 30,000 individual plants propagated.





Activating Soil Biology team members Andy Gray, Geoff Rollinson and Karen O'Keefe

A joint project on six Heytesbury and Otway dairy farms called Activating Soil Biology is currently underway and includes leading soil specialists providing advice to help farmers improve their soil, plant and animal health.

The project is identifying soil and animal health constraints associated with a lack of soil health and developing strategies to improve ecosystem function. The work is building on the success of HDLN's Keeping Carbon on the Farm project and COLN's Gellibrand River Sustainable Dairies Program to improve run-off efficiencies and develop an ecological check list for farmers.

HDLN Landcare Coordinator Geoff Rollinson said the project is also supporting farmers to use regenerative farming techniques such as applying biological stimulants, adaptive grazing management and revegetating paddocks to improve soil health.

Tests have been taken to quantify soil and pasture improvements over the next 18 months of the project. Kim and Angus Deans from Integrity Soils have provided reports on the status of soils on the 6 project farms and are now working with the farmers on how to improve their soil health and farm productivity by activating soil biology and applying bio-stimulants.

COLN Landcare Coordinator Andy Gray said "Other grazing enterprises have come up with regenerative farming programs to improve the mineral density of their soil by using natural biological inputs as opposed to synthetic fertilisers. We aim to get dairy farmers understanding the role of soil biology, so they no longer need to use synthetic fertilisers."

HDLN's Geoff Rollinson added "There is a consumer-driven desire for food to be produced with less or no chemicals, herbicides, pesticides and synthetic fertilisers. What happens at the point of production flows through the whole food supply chain. Improving soil health will improve root depth of pastures, nutrient uptake by plants and pasture growth. This will help farmers to cut back on costly inputs which will be good for the soil and for their budget."

The project is in conjunction with Corangamite CMA and Agriculture Victoria.



A major new project is underway showing how increasing soil carbon on 20 Heytesbury district farms can lead to food production and climate change benefits.

Heytesbury District Landcare Network is leading the project, funded by the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation. Twenty farms across the Heytesbury region are being recruited to take part in the two-year project and the findings will be shared across the farming community.

DEER MONITORING PROJECT

HDLN has been approached by DELWP and Arthur Rylah Institute (ARI) to collect samples from Local Deer for research monitoring. If you can assist or know someone who could assist, please contact Paul Hartrick at the HDLN office for further information 5598 3755.



Crofts Bay Coast Wattle Project

Removal of Coast Wattle (*Acacia longifolia ssp. longifolia*) within the Crofts Bay near Peterborough has begun in an effort to reduce its impact on the indigenous vegetation.

The map below indicates where removal works have been undertaken during the 2019/20 control works.



The local carnivorous plant

The Tall Sundew, *Drosera auriculata*, is a carnivorous plant that consumes insects with their sticky residue on modified leaves. These plants are perennial and are currently found in damp areas such as bogs, swamps and wetlands.



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