



ugln

What's Sprouting

December 2014



Green Cleaning – Training Workshop for Murrindindi Shire Council

By Sue McNair

As part of MCN's Green Business Program free assessments at over 40 locations were conducted over the last three years. Interested parties could also ask for an assessment of their cleaning chemicals and procedures.

Such a free audit of cleaning chemicals and procedures was conducted by MCN for the Murrindindi Shire Council at the Alexandra Office in March this year. The results of this audit indicated considerable room for improvement as it revealed duplication of many products present on site that perform the same task (rather than one product performing numerous tasks). More importantly, the audit also found that many of the products used in the office contained toxic chemicals known to be detrimental to health, particularly if exposed to over the long term.

Following on from these results, on October 28, 2014 a training workshop on sustainable cleaning products and procedures, involving 16 staff and cleaning contractors of Murrindindi Shire Council, was conducted with financial support from Murrindindi Climate Network.

The training workshop was delivered by Bridget Gardner, founding director of the consulting company Fresh Green Clean. Bridget is Australia's leading sustainable cleaning expert and is also a regular writer for industry journals, a presenter at conferences and a trainer of local government departments and corporate institutions.

The half-day session saw commitments from representatives across various Council departments and throughout the organisation. The training introduced a Risk Management Framework covering factors such as Low Harm, Clean Air, Green Hygiene, Minimal Materials, Energy Efficient and Waste Wise. In each of these areas, benchmark parameters can be applied when developing guidelines to assist in the procurement of cleaning products.

Following on from this training workshop, MCN is pleased to see that seven council staffers put their hands up to form a Steering Committee in order to establish guidelines for the procurement of environmentally sustainable cleaning products at Murrindindi Shire Council.

To learn more about green cleaning products and processes at home and at your workplace, you might find the following websites helpful:

Fresh Green Clean, Australia's leading independent green cleaning educator

<http://www.freshgreenclean.com.au>

Good Environmental Choice Australia (GECA), environmental product categories

<http://www.geca.org.au/products/categories/>

Learn more about how to assess a product yourself and how to do your cleaning the environmentally friendly way.

Follow the link:

<http://www.murrindindiclimatenetwork.org.au/32/mcn-green-business-assessment/>



What's happening at the Wetlands! By Glenda Woods

Our wonderful Y Water Discovery Centre and Tourist Information is up and running and a big thank you to all our Friends who have also become volunteers at the centre, keeping it open 7 days a weeks from 9 – 5, a huge undertaking. If you are not yet a volunteer I urge you to consider becoming one or perhaps you might like to be a tour guide. Please contact either Pauline Roberts or Julie Blyth if interested and you will receive training.

You will have noticed a number of changes in the wetlands during the past year. The most obvious is the clearing work we have undertaken between the YWDC and the suspension bridge. We employed a contractor and you can see the results of his two long days. All the dead organic material has been mulched, plus a huge section of honeysuckle between the path and the highway has been destroyed. This area will be closely monitored to deal with the weed growth and in winter 2015, this area will be the focus for revegetation work. Volunteers will be in demand then! We are planning a platypus hide by the river. Some short term pain will lead to a vastly improved entrance to the wetlands whilst still providing valuable habitat. No mulching is proposed elsewhere in the wetlands.

We have almost completed our spraying of honeysuckle as part of the 3rd year of our Community for Nature grant. Richard Cudmore, a licensed contractor has covered the entire north section of the wetlands in the last fortnight and you should notice a difference in the next couple of weeks. We have used approved chemicals that act only on honeysuckle. Richard will do a follow up day or two in January and the committee are very pleased with the outcomes so far from this spraying program. The grant is making a huge difference and has allowed us to improve and protect the habitat of the wetlands.



An area of Honeysuckle still to be removed



An area that has been treated.

*Please consider entering the **Upper Goulburn Landcare Network photographic competition** (Wetlands and NNE are sponsoring it) as part of the Arts Carnivale and look out for a special event on World Wetlands Day on Monday Feb 2nd 2015.*

Follow both Yea Wetlands and Y Water Discovery Centre on Facebook with a new website under development.

Focus on Fauna



*One of the most exquisitely crafted bird nests would surely be that of the Grey Fantail. The nest shown at left was discovered, still under construction, in a tangle of Swamp Paperbarks (*Melaleuca ericifolia*). This nest is quite well camouflaged, unlike some Grey Fantail nests we have seen located on a bare branch in full view of any observer (or predator).*



Grey Fantail

Both the male and female birds share nest construction and incubation and were seen nearby collecting material, including carpet underfelt. One of them is shown at right.

After some recent heavy downpours, the nest is looking slightly bedraggled and soggy (see below), but now holds a single egg. The usual clutch is 2 to 3 eggs, so we will keep discreetly monitoring activity at the nest.



Fox Control Workshop

On Saturday 22nd November 21 people attended the UGLN Fox Control Workshop.



Attendees at the free workshop learnt about the different techniques available to implement a fox control program on their properties.



Experts Richard Francis and Andrew Douglas from ABZECO demonstrated and discussed these techniques that included assessment/monitoring, timing, trapping, baiting, fumigation and shooting.

On Saturday 21st February 2015 UGLN will be running a free 1080 baiting course for those people that have already completed a farm chemical users course.

To register email Chris Cobern ugrecovery@gbcma.vic.gov.au or phone 0413 855 490.

Landcare and NRM groups supported by the UGLN

- *Eildon landcare group*
- *Flowerdale Junior Landcare group*
- *Friends of Marysville Walks*
- *Home Creek-Spring Creek Landcare group*
- *Kinglake Landcare group*
- *Kinglake Scouts Junior Landcare group*
- *King Parrot Creek Environment group*
- *Merton Landcare Inc.*
- *Molesworth Landcare group*
- *Murrindindi Climate Network*
- *South Cathedral Landcare group*
- *Strath Creek Landcare group*
- *UT Creek-Maintongoon Landcare group*
- *Yea High School Junior Landcare group*
- *Yea River Catchment Landcare Inc.*
- *Yea Wetlands Committee of Management*
- *Yellow Creek-Dairy Creek Landcare group*

Your UGLN Executive Committee

President: Terry Hubbard

Vice President: Ian McKaskill

Treasurer: Rodney Ridd

General Committee:

Judy Brookes

Bruce Marsh

Robyn Ratray-Wood

Coordinators/Facilitators

Judy Watts; uglandcare@gbcma.vic.gov.au

Telephone; 57974405

Chris Cobern; ugrecovery@gbcma.vic.gov.au

Telephone; 57974404

Cath Olive; uglandcare@gbcma.vic.gov.au

Telephone; 0429127399

Helen Gough; helengough400@gmail.com

Jobs to Do

Pest Control/Weed Control for Spring/Summer

- Bridal creeper
- Paterson's Curse
- Cape Broom
- Chilean Needle Grass
- Blackberry

Walk down waterways and check for new woody weeds. Cut and paint weeds before they get too big and set seed. Spray Chilean needle grass before it seeds. The best way to distinguish it from other native *Astrostipa* species is the presence of a collar of short hairs at the point where the awn attaches to the seed. For more information contact Sue McNair at Murrindindi Shire.

-Broom

As we move into spring Montpellier Broom finishes flowering and English Broom becomes more obvious. English Broom has strappy foliage with large yellow pea flowers. Native peas are also flowering now and some can be mistaken for this weed.

- Remember there is a 50% subsidy for chemical when spraying weeds listed on the Weeds of National Significance data base. Refer to www.depi.gov.au

In the Veggie Garden

PLANT: Asparagus, basil, beans, beetroot, broccoli, capsicum, carrot, cucumber, leek, lettuce, parsnip, peas, pumpkin, potato, spring onions, sweet corn, tomatoes and zucchini, just to name a few!!!



Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Contact
Sat 21 st February 2015	Free 1080 baiting course for those people that have already completed a farm chemical users course.	Chris Cobern ugrecovery@gbcma.vic.gov.au or phone 0413 855 490.
Sat. 28 th February 2015 9am – 2pm	Free Indian Myna Trap building workshop Yea Men's Shed	Judy Watts uglandcare@gbcma.vic.gov.au

Funding Opportunities

<u>Grantor</u>	<u>Grant name</u>	<u>Opening on</u>	<u>Closing on</u>	<u>Details</u>
<u>GBCMA</u>	Expressions of Interest for Natural Resource Management Projects		23 rd January 2015	For a copy of the priorities and guidelines document go to www.gbcma.vic.gov.au
<u>Goulburn Murray Water</u>	If your community group, club or school has an activity or event that is related to rural water sustainability then we would be interested in hearing from you.	open	open	http://www.gmwater.com.au/about/community/sponsorship
<u>FRRR</u>	FRRR has a number of grants that open at different times of the year. As most of their grants are recurrent they are generally provided during the same periods each year.			https://www.frrr.org.au/calendar_of_grants.php

For further information on grants go to:

<http://awardsgrantsproposals.com/insider-tips/list-of-australian-grantmakers/>

The Upper Goulburn Landcare Network Executive Committee and Staff would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

We would also like to thank you for all of your support and the incredible work you continue to do to support your local environment.

