



## What's Sprouting

November 2016

### 30 years of Landcare in Victoria



A celebration was held at the Euroa Butter Factory on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November with guest speaker Peter Kenyon from 'The Bank of Ideas'.

There will be a VLC celebration at Government house on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November.

Thank you to all landcarers for all of your passion and hard work!

### National Landcare Conference

The National Landcare Conference was held in September, with Landcarers travelling from across the country to celebrate and share their knowledge.

Some fascinating and inspiring speakers discussed many different topics including; Intrepid Landcare, Climate Impact and Responses, Rivers of Carbon, Rivers of Life, Future directions of Landcare and many more.

Emcee for the event was Costa Georgiadis from Gardening Australia.



### AROUND THE NETWORK IN BRIEF

**Yea Wetlands/Y Water Association;** Have working bees coming up and are preparing for the wasp season.

**Merton LG;** Have fenced and planted the Wetland at the Merton Recreation Reserve and with the GBCMA to continue works along Merton and Brankeet Creeks.

**Home Creek-Spring Creek LG;** Completed a planting on Frees Rd as part of the Ribbons of Remnant Roadsides program (RRR)

**Molesworth LG;** Are working with the CFA and Parks Vic to develop a Management plan for the Molesworth Nature Conservation Reserve.

**Cathedral LG;** Currently working on the restoration of Andrews Creek. Planting was also done on Cathedral Lane for the RRR program

**Friends of Marysville Walks;** Continuing efforts to control Holly and working with the Green Army.

**Yellow Creek-Dairy Creek;** Currently developing signage for Homewood Station and continuing development of picnic area.

**Kinglake LG;** Continuing fauna walks, monitoring and planting through the Threatened Species program and RRR.

**Yea River Catchment LG;** Will hold a Christmas dinner at the Yea Butter Factory with Guest speaker Richard Francis. A zoologist and botanist. Friday, 9 December 2016 @ 7pm.

**Yea High School Junior LG;** Nest boxes and work with Yea Wetlands.

**Strath Creek LG;** Work with the GBCMA on the restoration of King Parrot Creek will fund the continuation of the BAG.

**Flowerdale LG;** Have planted and had walks along Old Spring Valley and Spring Valley roads as part of the RRR program.

## Merton Recreation Reserve Wetlands

Merton Landcare launched its Wetland Project at the Merton Recreation Reserve on the 28th August at its AGM.

The Merton Recreation Reserve Wetlands project is a collaboration between Merton Landcare and the Merton Reserves' Committee of Management. It entails improving the area around the dam at the Recreation Reserve so that it is more inviting and safe for local fauna, especially water birds. During the past 12 months two areas around the dam have been fenced and nesting boxes for ducks and small marsupials have been erected. As well, on National Tree Day in July, the Merton and Home Creek-Spring Creek Landcare groups banded together and planted 200 trees, shrubs and rushes in the wetlands and remnant Red Gum stands at the reserve. The final component of project was the installation of a sign that shows some of the bird species that are likely to be seen at the dam.

Fencing works at the Wetlands were carried out by local fencing contractor Bernie Cummins and the Green Army, which was sponsored by the Upper Goulburn Landcare Network. Merton Landcare was fortunate to receive funding from the Mansfield Community Bank to assist with the purchase of the nesting boxes and for development of the sign. Merton Landcare and the Merton Reserves' Committee of Management are grateful to the Mansfield Community Bank and other supporters of this project. The Wetlands area will enhance the amenity of the Merton Recreation Reserve for the local community as well as visitors to the area. It will be exciting to watch the development of this site as the plants grow and provide a refuge for water birds and animals.



## Kids Teaching Kids

Kids Teaching Kids was again a fabulous day. Now in its 17<sup>th</sup> year nationally, more than 10,000 kids across Australia took part in an educational model that uses local environmental issues as a theme for learning. Here at the Yea Wetlands, ten local primary schools covered a diverse range of topics including;

- Yea PS – Our Human Footprint
- Alex PS –Animal Go - Put away your phones and look and listen to what's around you
- Sacred Heart PS –Helmeted Honey-eaters
- St Mary's PS – Endangered Animals
- Highlands PS – Platypus
- Buxton PS – Best beaks in Buxton
- Eildon PS – Planting Vegie seeds
- Middle Kinglake PS – Super bees
- Avenal PS – Reducing CO2 emissions in the wine industry
- Flowerdale PS – Creepy Crawley Creatures.

Lunchtime activities again kept the kids entertained with Roberto, Chris Humphries, Water watch, nest box inspections and badge making.



Thank you to the GBCMA, Kids Teaching Kids and Yea and District Community Bank for their support for this event.

## UGLN GREEN ARMY PROJECT

Our second Green Army project has commenced and over the next 5 months this group of local young people will again be working throughout the Upper Goulburn region on environmental restoration projects on public and private land.



The first month was busy planting at many sites including the rail trail at Kanumbra and Limestone, the Yea Wetlands and Perts Reserve in Yea and also on a farm in Glenburn.

They have also been working along the Stony Creek at Kinglake West planting the nationally threatened Round-leaf Pomaderris, monitoring wildlife with remote sensor cameras and removing woody weeds.



Planting along

Frees Rd

In Flowerdale a few days were spent along the King Parrot Creek eradicating broom, ivy and the exotic elderberry.

Over at Alexandra on the UT Creek the team put in a couple of days of mulching and also some weed control at McKenzie Reserve on the pine saplings and Cootamundra Wattle.

The team inspected nest boxes at Perts Reserve and found many Sugar Gliders occupying these artificial homes and also have been helping the Murrindindi Wildlife Shelter with fencing, maintenance of enclosures and collecting feed.

Over the next month the team will be back at Gobur to continue the control work on Briar Rose and Hawthorn in the goldfields site and to undertake flora surveys along Frees Road.

The project is a partnership between Murrindindi Shire and UGLN and has been supported by the GBCMA as well as many of the landcare groups from within our network.

## UGLN Lorax Project 2016



The Upper Goulburn Landcare Networks revegetation 'Lorax Project' has finished for another year after a very successful year of tree planting throughout the Murrindindi Shire.

This year 229 volunteers from NAB, ANZ, JBWere, St Michael's Grammar, Yea High School with the assistance of members of the Kinglake, Flowerdale and Strath Creek Landcare Groups we planted a total of 7710 indigenous plants.



Funding was provided by the State Governments Communities for Nature grant and we also had welcome support again from Fifteen Trees who were able to provide funds to purchase some plants for our project.

We re-vegetated over 30 hectares of farmland and waterways on 21 properties at Taggerty, Strath Creek, Buxton, Flowerdale, Kinglake, Glenburn, Limestone, Yea and Murrindindi.

Subject to funding we are hopeful the Lorax Project will continue in 2017.

Anyone interested in volunteering with our project in 2017 or landowners interested in getting assistance with revegetation on their properties contact Chris Cobern on 0413 855 490.

## National Tree Day



National Tree Day On Sunday the 31st July – National Tree Day, 80 community members representing 8 landcare groups and the Yea Wetlands CoM spent a lovely morning planting at 8 different locations across the network, including Merton, Terip Terip, Cheviot Tunnel, Taggerty, Kinglake, Strath Creek, Flowerdale and Homewood. We were very grateful the rain held off until Monday and then gave them all a good watering.

This event is celebrated every year as part of Planet Ark National Tree Day program and in partnership with Murrindindi Shire and is possible through funding from the State Government.

Coordinated by the Upper Goulburn Landcare Network, over 1200 plants were put into the ground as a continuation of plantings completed in previous years to assist with creating a beautiful habitat linkage along the rail trail. Four of the sites planted are part of a Threatened Species program which is focussing on local roadsides of high ecological vegetation value. Those are Deviation Rd in Kinglake, Spring Valley/Old Spring Valley Rd loop in Flowerdale, Cathedral Lane in Taggerty and Frees Rd in Terip Terip.

Merton Landcare Group planted at the Merton Recreation Reserve as part of their project to restore the Wetlands in the middle of the reserve. Yellow Creek-Dairy Creek and Yea River Catchment Landcare Groups continued their planting along the Great Victorian Rail Trail. Yea Wetlands Committee of Management enjoyed the company of the local Yea Scout Group and parents to plant in the back area of the Yea Wetlands (and then enjoyed a splash in the puddles!) and Strath Creek Landcare Group planted on private property as part of the King Parrot Creek project they are working on in partnership with the GBCMA.

The morning was completed with a lunch at the Molesworth Rail Reserve, with a barbecue using the UGLN landcare trailer and at various other sites.

## Property Assessment Field Day

On Saturday the 13th August, 25 people attended a field day co-ordinated by the Upper Goulburn Landcare Network. The day was designed to provide information to new and established landowners regarding what needs to be taken into consideration when planning activities for your property and demonstrate how to assess land capability.

The day was hosted by landowners Mark and Leonie who have had their property in the Highlands for 12 months. With a stunning view across the Highlands, Mark and Leonie gave an introduction to the day, discussing what brought them to the area, what they would like to do with their property and what challenges they are facing. Issues such as erosion, weeds, steep hills, soil type, land classing, stocking type and rates were discussed.

Following this our guest speaker Brad Costin, – Land Management Extension Officer, from Agriculture Victoria provided a map of the property and, using overlays, explained the many things that need to be considered when planning. Things such as where to build fences, where your water supply will come from, what percentage of the property is productive and where to build infrastructure. We then walked around the property, having a look at the pasture and the soil while discussing issues such how to assess soil quality and type, how to test the pH of your soil and where to find resources and information to assist.

Leonie and Mark commented; *“The field day for us, was extremely rewarding on a number of fronts. Both Brad and Judy were a wealth of knowledge on how to obtain resources and information available for landowners, with a particular focus on ‘Whole Farm Planning’.*

*A wonderful bi-product, for us, was meeting others from the area and tapping into their knowledge and community spirit.*

*This sort of forum is invaluable for new landowners like us, who are moving into the community and establishing working farms.”*



## Soil Workshop

As part of our Learning with Landcare Program, 13 people attended a soil workshop in the Highlands to better understand the importance of taking an accurate soil sample before sending it off to the laboratory.

Karen Brisbane-Bullock from the GBCMA Soil Health team presented the information on the day, providing equipment for attendees to take home and gather their own samples. These were then collected by the UGLN and GBCMA and all sent to the lab.



Demonstrations of how to take a soil sample and also how to test your soil pH were completed with many questions from the floor.



All attendees received their soil test results and the UGLN will host a soil test interpretation day early next year in partnership with the new 'Healthy Hectares' Program.

## Notes

- **The landcare trailer is available for groups to borrow for events. The trailer has a built-in bbq, trestle tables and chairs.**
- **An Indian myna trap is available to borrow**

**For enquiries please contact Jude;**  
**uglandcare@gbcma.vic.gov.au**  
**Or phone 57974405**

- **If you are interested in purchasing fruit fly traps, contact Zanni at Yea Community Garden.**

## Farmer Forum



On Friday evening of September 9th, community members from across the shire attended the Sustainable Farm Forum coordinated by Yea Community Health and the Upper Goulburn Landcare Network. Speakers included Richard Weston from Centrelink discussing the importance of succession planning, Maria Thompson discussing the effects of stress on your body, Ben Thomas from Meat and Livestock Australia spoke about market forecasts and Dale Grey from DEDJTR discussed seasonal weather forecasts. All of our speakers were very entertaining and informative, also answering questions from the attendees. To finish our evening Stan Alves spoke to the audience about how to manage in tough times and embrace change rather than fight it.



Comments from some of the attendees;

*"That information from Centrelink is really valuable, I didn't know you could get that type of service from them"*

*"Wow, what a great night! Really informative, the speakers were all very knowledgeable and entertaining and the food was great!"*

The message for the evening was to be prepared for change and what life brings, whether it be on the farm or in life. Stress affects everyone in the family but there are strategies to manage it. There are also resources available from the Upper Goulburn Landcare Network to assist with planning to prepare for stressful times such as drought or poor market conditions, and from Yea Community Health if you need support to manage stress in your life.

## Landcare Spring Wildflower Walk



Donkey Orchid

Recently 22 local landcarers attended the Upper Goulburn Landcare Networks (UGLN) Spring Wildflower Walk along Spring Valley Road in Flowerdale and got to see many of the wildflowers and orchids from the Flowerdale area.

It was a great opportunity to explore some of the lesser known sites in Flowerdale in search of orchids and other interesting flora of the foothills and we weren't disappointed as this spring has been one of the best wildflower seasons for quite a while.

Highlights included Tiger Orchids, Nodding Greenhood Orchids, Blue Grass Lily and the Purple Bearded Orchid. Also masses of Milkmaids, Chocolate and Bulbine Lilies were also starting to appear.

The event was part of UGLN's Ribbons of Remnant Roadsides Project and funded by the State Government's Threatened Species Protection Initiative.

Chris Cobern.

Upper Goulburn Landcare Network.



Buttercup

## National Landcare Conference

### Field trip

Participants at the recent National Landcare Conference held in Melbourne got to visit properties in Kinglake and Kilmore and see how the recovery and rebuilding is coming along and to see the effects of the Upper Goulburn Landcare Networks fire recovery works at the properties.

The group also visited Stony Creek and Wallaby Springs Reserves in Kinglake West to look at Green Army works taking place in these two significant bushland areas. The Stony Creek is home to very significant wildlife including Brush-tailed Phascogales and Long-nosed Bandicoots. It also contains the critically endangered Round-leaf Pomaderris.

The Green Army project has been rehabilitating degraded areas along the creek through control of woody weeds and revegetation.

Fauna surveying is also being carried out by our Green Army team and nest boxes are being installed for the Brush-tailed Phascogale.

Chris Cobern.

Upper Goulburn Landcare Network



**The Executive Committee Structure for 2016/17 is;**

**President – Bruce Marsh**

**Vice President and Executive Manager – Ian McKaskill**

**Treasurer – Rodney Ridd**

**Secretary – Ian McKaskill**

**Immediate past president – Terry Hubbard**

**General Committee - Robyn Rattray-Wood, Rick Wheeler, Richard Evans, John Stewart, Kate Hawkins**

## Calendar of Events

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Contact</b>
<b>Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December 5.30 – 8.30pm</b>	<b>Deer, kangaroo and pest animal forum Molesworth Hall, Goulburn Valley Highway, Molesworth</b>	<b>Judy Watts - 57974405 uglandcare@gbcma.vic.gov.au</b>
<b>Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December 9am – 12pm</b>	<b>Weed ID workshop Yea Council Chambers (next to the library)</b>	<b>Judy Watts - 57974405 uglandcare@gbcvma.vic.gov.au</b>

## Funding Opportunities

<b><u>Grantor</u></b>	<b><u>Grant name</u></b>	<b><u>Opening on</u></b>	<b><u>Closing on</u></b>	<b><u>Details</u></b>
<b>GBCMA</b>	Beyond Soil Care Project Grants	19/10/2016	30/11/2016	<a href="http://portal.enquire.net.au/portal/srp/dashboard.htm#round:ixd=hj3BMU&amp;id=1098">http://portal.enquire.net.au/portal/srp/dashboard.htm#round:ixd=hj3BMU&amp;id=1098</a>
<b>Australian Government's Department of Social Services</b>	2016 Volunteer Grants Funding available: grants of between \$1,000 and \$5,000	08 November 2016	2pm -20 December 2016	Funding for: community-based groups and networks to buy equipment (e.g. computers), training volunteers, fuel costs or undertaking background security checks etc. See guidelines to <a href="https://www.dss.gov.au/grants/grants/funding-open-for-application/volunteer-grants-2016">https://www.dss.gov.au/grants/grants/funding-open-for-application/volunteer-grants-2016</a>
<b>GBCMA</b>	Grants are available to help landholders with fencing, revegetation, and alternative watering points to protect wetlands, native vegetation, fauna and flora and water frontages. - See more at:	Open		<a href="http://www.gbcma.vic.gov.au/downloads/Grants_and_Incentives/Application_Form_for_On_Ground_Works.pdf">http://www.gbcma.vic.gov.au/downloads/Grants_and_Incentives/Application_Form_for_On_Ground_Works.pdf</a>
<b>The Norman Wettenhall Foundation</b>	Small Environmental Grant Scheme	20th December 2016	usually within a month to 6 weeks of opening.	<a href="http://nwf.org.au/">http://nwf.org.au/</a>
<b><u>The Norman Wettenhall Foundation</u></b>	Leadership Development Grants	20th December 2016	Usually within a month to 6 weeks of opening.	<a href="http://nwf.org.au/">http://nwf.org.au/</a>
For further information on grants go to: <a href="http://awardsgrantsproposals.com/insider-tips/list-of-australian-grantmakers/">http://awardsgrantsproposals.com/insider-tips/list-of-australian-grantmakers/</a>				