

South Gippy Landcare News

Congratulations to
our State Award

Winner Arie Bos and
Highly Commended
Vicki and Warren
Kenney!

We have moved!
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CMA offices,
cnr of Bair and
Young Streets,
Leongatha

Make sure you are
a financial member
of your group or the
Network to receive
your new membership
card at the end of the
year. Only financial
members can benefit
from the partner offers
on pages 8 and 9.
Don't miss out!

Issue 2 Volume 13
Spring 2009

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1,000,000 Trees Project Launched.

On a gorgeous South Gippsland morning over 100 people turned up to celebrate Landcare in South Gippsland and launch a project that is going to make a huge difference to our environment.

Russell Broadbent joined members of our local Landcare groups and supporters to launch the One Million Trees for South Gippsland at Mossvale park on Saturday 12th September.

The morning started with everyone manning shovels to plant shrubs as part of an Australian Showcase garden. With shovels at the ready and buckets of mulch it was all hands on deck and in less than an hour 70 gorgeous Australian native plants were in the ground.

The Showcase Garden was planned in conjunction with the Mossvale Park Advisory Committee to showcase that our beautiful native plants can be grown in harmony with the gorgeous English trees at Mossvale park. All the shrubs were chosen for their flowers and to attract native birds.

Russell Broadbent joined the Landcare community to officially launch the One Million Trees for South Gippsland. Russell has been a supporter of Landcare over time and this support continues with him raising our project in Parliament on Friday. A minor slip has the Hansard recording we are planting a billion trees - we have always liked a challenge so we will see what we can do.

The outcome of the project will be the protection of our valuable remnant vegetation by increasing the extent of vegetation across the area and improving the resilience of high value ecosystems to the ever changing environment we live in.

The project was officially launched when Russell handed Phil Piper – Chair of the Mardan Mirboo North Landcare Group, his propagation kit.

With funding from the State Landcare Program, 100 propagation kits will be distributed within the month with another round being organised based on community demand. With each kit propagating 500 trees and shrubs, 50,000 plants will be growing up over summer ready for planting next autumn. A great start to our target of one million trees.

Noel Maud, Director South Gippsland Water announced their founding partnership for the project with the handover of a \$20,000 cheque. The \$20,000 will be issued to supply trees and shrubs to our local Landcare members. "South Gippsland Water is a long time supporter of the Network and is proud to be associated with this wonderful project" said Noel.

The West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority is the other founding partner for the Project. Their support in funding the Landcare Network Coordinators across West Gippsland is just one way their support helps project like this come to fruition. "It is great to see Landcare Networks taking the initiative and moving forward with projects like this" said Geoff Hocking. involvement of corporates in Landcare

Russell, Noel and Geoff all demonstrated their personal commitment to Landcare

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Subscription

\$33 inc GST per family per year (Network Membership), or membership of a South Gippsland Landcare Group.

South Gippy Landcare News is a joint publication between all Landcare groups in the South Gippsland Landcare Network.

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The South Gippsland Landcare Network does not necessarily endorse the content of this publication. It is by no means a complete reference to the topics contained in it.

At the SGLN AGM held on Monday 10th August, 4 vacancies were filled, with 3 members returning and 1 new Board member – welcome to Stephen Hoole from Allambee Community Landcare Group.

Jean Carnell stepped down as Chair (as required by the constitution). The Network thanked Jean for her two years as Chair – great effort in time of real change. Thanks also go to Pat Spinks our retiring Board Member.

Positions as elected:

Chair : Mark Uren
Mardan/ Mirboo North Landcare Group

Vice Chairman: Robert Vickers
Loch Nyora Landcare Group

Secretary/ Treasurer: Jean Carnell
Hallston Landcare Group

General members:

Val O' Loughlin, Tarwin Lower Landcare Group
Syd Whyte, Arawata Landcare Group
Rosemary Trease, Mardan/ Mirboo North Landcare Group
Arie Bos, Agnes River Landcare Group
Dawn Marroti, Arawata Landcare Group
Peter Fell, Foster North Landcare Group
Jan Fell, Foster North Landcare Group
Peter Hinksman, Fish Creek Landcare Group
Stephen Hoole, Allambee Community Landcare Group

The SGLN has produced their Annual report for 2008/2009 – a copy will be sent to all groups shortly and will also be sent to our project partners and possible sponsors to highlight the great work our Landcare groups have been undertaking in the past year.

The Network has submitted an application to the Register of Environmental Organisations – if we are successful, this will give us tax deductibility for all donations to Landcare in South Gippsland. Which in turn would open up a range of new funding opportunities for us.

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STATE LANDCARE AWARDS

An excited group of South Gippsland Landcarers journeyed to Government House on Sept 8th to attend the State Landcare Awards.

All of us were proudly clutching our gilt edged invitations as nominees or nominators of entrants to the five award categories we contested. Most winners of our local awards were nominated for the equivalent category in the State Awards, with the sad exception of our wonderful Rivercare Award winners, for whom a category could not be found.

Environment and Climate Change Minister Gavin Jennings and Governor of Victoria Professor David de Kretser, AC, presented the awards which received 111 nominations across 14 categories.

Minister Jennings said "The Brumby Labor Government is taking action to protect and maintain Victoria's valuable natural assets and these awards recognise the contribution of those members of the community who devote so much time and effort to their own environmental efforts."

"The nominees and winners are excellent representatives of all the volunteers who contribute so much of their energy to Landcare which is now in its third decade.

"These awards celebrate the extraordinary efforts of ordinary Victorians who through their efforts also motivate others to do the same.

"As Victoria faces the challenges of climate change and environmental sustainability, the Government is delighted to support such an inspirational community movement."

The Individual Landcarer Award was presented to Arie Bos, a Landcare champion in south Gippsland for many years.

"Mr Bos' work repairing and restoring land makes him the ideal winner of this award," Mr Jennings said.

"He is well known and regarded in his local community in the

Welshpool area. Mr Bos is a 'quiet achiever' who rarely talks about his work yet manages to be a source of inspiration and education to others.

"Mr Bos has been president of his local Agnes River Landcare Group for many years and is involved with the

continued support of more than 1300 Landcare groups throughout Victoria. Over the past five years the Government has contributed more than \$34 million to Landcare programs.

Arie was presented with his award



The SGLN group at Government House after the presentation.



Arie Bos receives his Australian Government Individual Landcarer Award from the Governor

South Gippsland Landcare Network, the Hazel Park Flora Reserve and the Toora and Welshpool Primary Schools.

"As well as Mr Bos, I would also like to thank the many other Landcarers who do an amazing job in protecting Victoria's valuable natural resources."

Winners of the national award categories will now represent Victoria in the National Landcare Awards to be held in Canberra next year.

Mr Jennings said the Brumby Labor Government was proud of its

by the Governor David de Kretser A.C., Minister Jennings, Trust for Nature regional Manager Sue Mudford. He won a \$500 cheque, a beautifully framed certificate and a book on Australian Birds.

Our entrants in the DPI Sustainable Farming Award, Warren and Vicki Kenney were awarded a Highly Commended Award for their entry.

Fingers crossed for Arie who now automatically goes on to challenge the National Landcare Awards, held in Canberra next year.

Weed Talk: By Martin Chatfield Landcare Community Weed Officer.

Broom a fire hazard

Cape Broom (*Genista monspessulana*)

English Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*)

Flax-Leaf Broom (*Genista linifolia*)

Broom species are currently in flower and can be easily identified this time of year infesting roadsides and bushland with their distinctive yellow pea flowers. It is highly flammable so thickets along roadsides and in native vegetation are an increasing fire hazard. By Christmas they form numerous hard seeds in pods and on a hot day pop the seeds out in their

thousands. The seeds can last up to eighty years in soil. They are mainly spread through grading, slashing, water, and vehicle tyres. Broom can also be poisonous to stock. In South Gippsland these broom species are all classified noxious, regionally controlled which means it can not be sold or transported and landholders are expected to control and prevent its spread on their land. Brooms are native to scrub and open woodlands in the Mediterranean region, Europe, Portugal and the Azores. It was probably introduced to Australia as a garden or hedge plant and was widely planted last century.

Once in infestation has taken hold it can potentially take up to twenty years to eliminate, so early detection is important. Small plants can be hand removed if the soil is soft enough, larger plants could be slashed before flowering and spray any re growth or foliar spray the whole plant with the registered chemical. Cut and paint with herbicide is also an option. Landcare and the community are working to keep these weeds under control. Further information is available on web site www.southgippslandweeds.com.au or by contacting Martin on 5686 2934 or 0428 317 928.

Cape Broom (below)



English Broom (above)



English Broom (below)



Flax Leaf Broom (left)



Next Stop - Hilda Falls

A small platform will be built at Hilda Falls on the South Gippsland Railway Line between Loch and Jeetho, after a highly successful Landcare event in June.

The event highlighted the developing partnership between South Gippsland Landcare Network (SGLN) and the Tourist Railway (SGR) and celebrated the achievements of the Loch Nyora Landcare Group's Hilda Falls Regeneration Project.

Two years ago SGLN engaged with SGR to address weed concerns along the track. This project has grown to include Hilda Falls and brought the railway enthusiasts into the world of Landcare and natural resource management.

The Falls were a tangle of blackberry and hawthorn but the beauty of the area has been uncovered with 5 years of work by Landcare and adjoining landholders. SGR have signed a 3 year weed management agreement to contain the weeds

and intend building a small platform at the Falls, allowing passengers to disembark and enjoy the surroundings while the train moves on to Nyora and returns to pick them up again. SGR have also recently received funding of \$40,000 to address weed concerns from Nyora to Ferriers Road through the DSE Eco Tender and a further \$5000 for weed mapping through the Foundation for Regional Rural Renewal.

"The partnership is very important to us at South Gippsland Landcare Network," said facilitator Tony Gardner. "The Tourist Railway and the Great Southern Rail Trail cover more than 6000 hectares and over 100kms of line, right through the middle of our Network with more than 500 rural landholders who border the line. It is

an important wildlife corridor and bio-link and contains creeks, river crossings and some wonderful vegetation, including at Hilda Falls. Managing weed control to protect agricultural land and managing the native vegetation are important to our Landcare groups. This is a significant piece of tourism and history for our region and we want to see it looked after."

SGLN will continue to assist SGR in developing their management plan, and work with the Loch Nyora Landcare Group, Melbourne Water and other stakeholders to continue improvements at Hilda Falls and along the railway line.



Gavin Brock, Tony Gardner, Glen Raven and Ron Barnacle unveil the Hilda Falls Regeneration Project sign at the Falls.



Train travellers enjoying the stop at Hilda Falls, above and top.

Revitalise, Renew and Regenerate Landcare in South Gippsland

The Network has been successful in receiving \$70,000 to revitalise, renew and regenerate Landcare in South Gippsland. The project funded by the Volunteer Recruitment Initiative for 2009/10.

The revitalising of the Network is not confined to existing groups and members, it is also about bringing new people into Landcare across the Network and working with them to raise the profile of Landcare and get a greater number of people involved which will in turn help to reinvigorate Landcare within the existing groups.

The Network will be looking at a number of key areas

Looking at innovative ways of recruiting new Landcare members and volunteers

Developing greater linkages to broader community and encourage greater interaction between Landcare and community engaging the indigenous community

Engage with indigenous and urban communities including the possible establishment of an urban based Landcare group

Engage a greater range of stakeholders such as landholders, community groups, government agencies, and/ or industry groups

Develop a comprehensive corporate sponsor package and roll out across the Network to enhance the corporate involvement in Landcare.

The first step in the revitalisation project was a survey sent to all members with their membership card and AGM information.

Results

1. Landholder Type

57% - Primary Producer

45% - Lifestyle/ Small Holding

12% - Absentee

(% add up to more than 100% as a number of respondents ticked multiple types)

2. Landcare Issues

75% Available funding

66% Weed control

63% Revegetation

51% Local wildlife

49% Local plant species/EVC's

47% Remnant vegetation

46% Rabbit/Fox control

44% Productivity & sustainability

43% Propagation

41% Climate change

38% Water management

34% Nutrient management

33% Dung beetles

32% Seed collection

31% Erosion

30% Pastures

29% Direct seeding

19% Whole farm planning

Other

- How to look after Landcare

- Composting

- Alternate energy, solar, wind, hydro etc

- What other groups are doing

3. What could SGLN do more of to support your group?

46% Provide more Funding

36% Help groups stay alive

33% Attract more new members

27% Publicise Landcare more actively

27% Combined group meetings

26% Provide more training

22% Plan with a longer-term view

19% Associate with more like bodies

17% Organise More Functions

17% Become involved in political issues

13% Provide more staff

11% Visit more meetings, more often

4. How would you rate SGLN Communication with members ?

46% Very Good

36% Good

18% Excellent

9% Average

2% Poor

5. Suggestions to improve communication

- More frequent communication

- More combined group meetings on subjects of interest

- Direct contact maybe phone calls periodically. More of this surveys, more extensive recognition of Landcare work completed on properties

- More ads in local papers re funding/ events

- Email updates are very good. Need to promote to broader community

- Email is good at present. Site visit for advice/encouragement would be good
- Combined group meetings might help build shared projects across the whole area

6. Suggestions on how the Network could better service its member

- Lobby politicians to increase funding support for local Landcare groups

- Social functions combined with guest speakers on environment and Landcare topics - bring in expertise to keep us better informed and motivated

- Lots of articles in local papers. Work with local schools to get children interested

- Make money available for fencing as well as trees

- Less meetings & more plantings

- Funding for labour units re: site preparation/spraying/planting re: large farm projects etc.

- I wish that when areas are fenced off for new plantings we didn't have to plant in the same year as it is fenced off so that weed eradication can take place if there is a problem in this area

- Personal contact would keep members active and encourage new members

- Sponsorship announcement a good idea

- Congratulations on the Leading Edge deal. More of this, possibly look at bulk buys of materials

- More political activism with other networks

- Doing well with the time/funds available

- Doing a great job

- Regular email updates are good

- Have a calendar of annual events on website and action plan.

- Keep up the good work

The results of the survey will be further discussed at the Board meeting on 5th October and the Board will look at how we can implement some of the suggestions.

Stay tuned for new projects and ideas. Any comments, please give Belinda Brennan a call 5662 5759 or send us an email on sgln@landcare.net

One Million Trees Launch cont

in South Gippsland by handing over a cheque for Network membership. With \$22.00 from each Network membership going directly into the One Million Trees Project, even more trees will be planted.

The day was a great success with a fantastic start to a project that will make a huge difference to the environment in South Gippsland.

Special Thanks to Coral Hughes and Jean Carnell who worked with the Network to plan the showcase planting and especially to Coral who recommended the beautiful flower varieties and sourced the plants. Thank you so much.



Left. (L to R) Russell Broadbent, MP; Noel Maud, SG Water; Geoff Hocking, WGCMA; Phil Piper, Mardan Mirboo Nth LCG; Mark Uren, SGLN Board Chair.

Right. Belinda Brennan organises propagation kits to 1,000,000 trees participants.



Above Right, Noel Maud, SG Water hands over \$20,000 cheque to Mark Uren, SGLN Board Chair.



Left. Planting out the showcase garden.

Right. During the project launch.



Left. At the launch, listening to the speakers.

Right. Russell Broadbent MP enjoying the launch with from L to R, Noel Maud, Phil Piper and Mark Uren.



Whilst SGLN staff are willing to make themselves available to you at most times, there are some things that cross that line. Anonymous mail to our home address is one of them. Anonymous letters are by their nature not the sort of thing even the writer wishes to own up to, being full of negative, nasty comments. This sort of behavior is unacceptable, and the letters are always filed where they belong - in the bin.

There is always a place for robust discussion in any organisation, however a recourse to hate mail is to be deplored.

If you wish to discuss any concerns, please phone Belinda 5662 5759.

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***10% off Boots and clothing**

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The Victorian State Government has approved \$500,000 funding for a consortium of three Landcare Networks in our region, (South Gippsland, Bass Coast and Western Port) to run a land stewardship tender in the Western Port catchment. While this program does not extend into West Gippsland at this stage, we suggest all of our landholders become familiar with the concept of land stewardship and tenders as it is increasingly becoming a method of delivering dollars to those who are looking to make natural resource improvements on their land.

We are all familiar with the concept that landholders provide goods and services to the market place, which are measured to produce our Gross Domestic Product (GDP). What has not historically been recorded or measured are the environmental services that landholders can provide, clean air and water, biodiversity, carbon capture, healthy soils etc. There is no doubt that these services are vital to the economy; (eg, stopping algal blooms in the Gippsland lakes). These services are now being factored in to the GDP by economists worldwide.

Land Stewardship is really what people in Landcare have been working towards over the last 20 years, and it's not just about trees and fencing waterways. Good pasture and stock management, effective fertilizer regimes and effluent management, can all have major environmental benefits as well as improving productivity for farmers. This particular program is funded to find projects that will improve the health of soils and waterways in the Western Port catchment and in many ways will not differ greatly from the projects that landholders have undertaken in the past. The delivery method however will change.

Tenders in the land stewardship model

Using a tool developed by the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE), projects will be scored to assess the overall environmental benefit of the works to be undertaken. Factors in the score include slope, geology, aspect, rainfall, soil type, vegetation type, connectivity to important vegetation or waterways, existing vegetation and much more.

A score will be given to the project and landholders will be asked to bid for the amount of money they believe they will need to undertake the project successfully.

All bids will be opened together, divided into their score and the best benefit per dollar projects will be funded until the money runs out. The process will follow the successful trial of a program run by Bass Coast Landcare Network last year and will be similar

to the recently run Western Port EcoTender by DSE.

While some landholders found the process difficult at first, feedback suggests that most got a handle on it and would find it easy to do it again.

Eligibility and the Land Stewardship Pathway.

The other important aspect to land stewardship is the approach to assisting landholders to become better land stewards. When an Expression of interest is received, a project officer will come out on site. Through a series of questions, the project officer will determine what level the landholder is at depending on their experience. Entry level land stewards will not be eligible to enter the tender process, but will be directed to one of many opportunities to improve practices including whole farm planning, best practice management courses (EBMP), DPI nutrient and effluent plans etc. They may also be eligible for funding through more traditional Landcare or Melbourne Water programs and will be directed to those.

More experienced land stewards will be guided through the tender process and may also be eligible for other incentives and programs.

To find out more about land stewardship contact Tony Gardner at the South Gippsland Landcare Network on 5662 5759





Department of
Sustainability and
Environment

Community groups managing important biodiversity on public land can now apply for weed and pest control funding through the Bush Guardians Program, a Department of Sustainability and Environment initiative.

Bush Guardian Program project manager Brian Simpson said volunteer committees and groups across the state contribute knowledge, time and energy to biodiversity protection works on public reserves.

"One of the big challenges in biodiversity management is reducing the impact of weeds and pests that threaten key native plants and animals. Initiatives such as the Bush Guardians Program can provide much needed financial stimulus and assistance to these dedicated groups," Mr Simpson said.

The Bush Guardians Program, a four-year small-grants program now in its third successful year, is part of the Victorian Government's \$30 Million Weeds and Pests Initiative 2007-2011.

This year funding totalling \$260,000 is available for distribution as grants to community groups.

The program is implemented through a variety of projects managed by DSE, Parks Victoria and the Department of Primary Industries.

"Over the last two years through Bush Guardians grants, 93 community groups have undertaken ground works on over 120 sites across 16,000 hectares to protect grasslands, wildlife habitat and endangered plants and animals from weeds or pest animals," Mr

Simpson said.

One such project is the Mid-Loddon Sub-Catchment Management Group at Lockwood South State Forest near Bendigo which works with landowners across several thousands hectares of forest improving habitat quality and reducing foxes, a predator of the endangered ground dwelling Bush Stone-curlew.

Mr Simpson said the Bush Guardians Program aims for long term biodiversity gains and provides a significant opportunity for our volunteer communities to increase their knowledge and understanding of our precious and sometimes fragile ecosystems.

To apply or to find out more about the program, groups can talk to Public Land Services, Land and Fire or Biodiversity Officers in their nearest DSE office.

Priorities for protecting threatened flora and fauna will be determined in consultation with DSE and several useful reference resources are available from DSE offices.

The deadline for Bush Guardians applications is Monday 30 November 2009.

Mr Simpson said he encouraged groups to apply for funding.

"Our public land managers engage with diverse committees and interest groups across an extensive network of coastal, forest and smaller public land reserves," he said.

"We acknowledge the biodiversity gains and the long term difference their voluntarism makes to protect our reserves and the Bush Guardians Program is one way to offer support."

Bush Guardians information and application form are available from www.dse.vic.gov.au/bushguardians

Grant information sessions.

Monday October 12th at the WGCMA offices, Corner of Bair and Young Streets, Leongatha from 10.00am to 12.00pm. We will be covering grants available, support from the Network, possible projects and helpful hints.

See the article on page 15

RSVP or any further info by phoning Belinda Brennan on 5662 5759

GREEN CORPS GROUPS BEING FORMED NEED PROJECTS!

Chris Pascuzzi from Gippsland Warragul campus has announced they are getting some Greencorp groups together across Gippsland and are seeking projects to involve the kids in. If you have the sort of project that would be suitable for a Greencorp group please contact him on 56228511.

Tell me about your farm

Recent events have shown the importance of insurance and how important it is to get it right.

Too often, the insurance cover you currently have becomes one of the most important decisions of your life.

It sounds simple but have you sat down with your insurance advisor and told them about your farm? It is probably the most important conversation you should have to make sure you do not have any nasty surprises when something goes wrong and ensure your livelihood and possessions are appropriately protected.

It is important to note that a basic farm insurance product in the marketplace is just that – basic – until it can be constructed to suit your unique farm. As farms become more complex, particularly in relation to liability and insurable interests, a policy needs to cater for the right combination and

description of the farming operation.

As a general guide, the sorts of things you need to discuss with your advisor are:

Who owns and operates business on the property?

This includes property leased out or perhaps family members trading separately from your normal business name.

Where is the property and is it on the one title and or location?

Do you agist stock on your property or do agist your stock elsewhere?

What do you produce and/or do you supply a service?

Perhaps you “value add” to a product or contract your services or equipment out.

How do you market your products?

Consider products beyond your main income streams like hay or farm dogs or maybe you sell products direct to the public?

As you know, the nature of farming is unique in that the majority of

properties also comprise the family home plus one or two additional dwellings. Your advisor needs to understand who lives on the property, if there is more than one dwelling on the property and how they are occupied? Is it a family home or a tenanted dwelling? The insurance requirements can be quite different.

Your advisor needs to know and understand who and how your farm operates, including your future plans, so they can give you the right advice.

Elders Insurance can help you consider the various aspects of risk management specific to your needs. We are also keen for you to provide us with feedback to ensure our articles continue to be informative and useful to you.

Have you had an experience and learnt any lessons about being prepared, that you would like to share with us? Perhaps you have a story to tell about the recent bushfires.

Email us your feedback and comments to tim.mathieson@elders.com.au

GROUP UPDATES

Fish Creek Landcare Group.

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday October 7th 2009 - 8pm

Oberon Room, Promontory Gate Hotel, Fish Creek

(6.30pm for dinner, optional)

Challenges & Opportunities for Gippsland Now & the Future

Guest Speaker – Mr Duncan Malcolm

Mr Duncan Malcolm AM has recently retired as inaugural Chair of the Gippsland Coastal Board, he was also a Member of the Victorian Coastal Council. Duncan was awarded the Outstanding Individual Achievement Award by the Victorian Coastal Council upon his retirement.

The committee is always open to new members - anyone interested is welcome to join in!

A Farm Walk – Pearson’s Beef Property

Sunday October 11th 2009

12 noon for byo BBQ lunch & chair, Farm walk 1pm – 3pm

“Haeremai” Haw’s Rd Tarwin – 6 kms from Sth Gippsland Highway along the Tarwin

Lower Rd. Follow Fish Creek Landcare signs (Vic Roads Map 102 J4)

More information contact David Hall 56822939.

Foster North Landcare Group.

Fire Awareness Day

Saturday 24th October at Dollar

Call Ken Dowdney on 5664 6588 for details.



Weather Alert is an exciting new service allowing us to warn you about severe weather events heading your way. This could give you time to make sure you're safe and take action to reduce the impact of the event on your home and property.

Examples of people using the service and being able to prevent damage to their property include:

- Making sure their car is under cover after receiving a severe hail alert
- Tying down loose objects around the house when informed of an impending storm
- Graziers making sure their sheep have enough cover to withstand a storm after receiving an alert.

This service can be tailored to your specific needs so you only receive alerts for events happening in your area. You can also choose to receive your warnings through SMS, email, or phone (text to voice).

What's more, the service is free. And it's really simple to join, simply log onto www.weatheralerts.com.au go to register now and fill out the registration form. It will only take 5 minutes.



Insurance

EN246469 07/09

Coast Action/Coastcare this year celebrates its 15th birthday, but would be nothing without its volunteers.

Volunteers who have worked on projects along the South Gippsland coast from Corinella to Loch Sport were invited by South Gippsland Coastcare facilitator Bruce Atkin, to the 15th birthday celebrations of the program at Foster's Rhythm Café on August 21st.

Bruce told over forty volunteers who attended the dinner, "Without your work and your inspiration the government's work on the coast would grind to a halt".

Like Landcare, Coastcare began in Victoria (as the Coast Action program) and spread nationally in 1996. Since then an estimated 20,000 volunteers have helped with projects along Australia's coastline.

In South Gippsland, Bruce liaises with around 30 volunteer groups. Working in varied environments such as the sandy beaches at Sandy Point and along the 90-Mile, the muddy shores of Corner Inlet, rocky coastlines like Walkerville and at many hinterland sites, the volunteers have combined

their efforts and initiative with government funding to accomplish much over the years. They have worked on bird hides, fishing and viewing platforms, boardwalks, cultural heritage protection, beach access stairs and ramps, festivals, wildlife and plant surveys and a myriad revegetation and weed control projects.

Two guest speakers entertained and informed the gathering. Carole MacMillan, from DSE's Traralgon office is the Eastern Victoria Project Manager for the State Government's Future Coasts Program. She explained how Future Coasts is intended to assist planning for the impact of climate change on the coast.

Second speaker Dr. Neville Rosengren, a coastal geomorphologist of over 30 years' experience, used striking local examples to illustrate how forces have shaped South Gippsland's coastline, including previous changes in sea level. In a fascinating address he said that modelling future changes involves some exceedingly complex equations. However extreme weather events

will continue to occur, the sea level will continue to rise - as it has many times before - and the coastline will continue to change.

A number of volunteers joined Dr Rosengren the following morning on a wonderful field excursion to visit some of the most significant geological sites around Corner Inlet. For further information about the Coastcare program, or to discuss how Landcare and Coastcare can work together, please contact Bruce Atkin on 51839116 or bruce.atkin@dse.vic.gov.au



Dr Rosengren (right) with participants at Duck Point during the Corner Inlet field trip.

Individual Membership of SGLN

The South Gippsland Landcare Network now offers a range of membership options to suit the needs of the community without taking members from our local Landcare Groups.

Our No. 1 priority is for people to be directed to their local Landcare group.

This would be via a membership form in the Welcome Pack.

However, to cater for everyone's Landcare needs we are now offering an individual Network Membership.

Cost: \$33.00/ year per mailing address

What do you get as a member?

- Contribution to the One Million Trees for South Gippsland
- South Gippsland Landcare Newsletter—3 times a year
- Monthly email newsletter—"Network Notes"
- Regular updates on events and information related to Landcare
- Subscription to Victorian Landcare Magazine—4 times a year
- Opportunity to attend Landcare group field days, tree plantings, information sessions
- Opportunity to hear guest speakers on range of issues including dung beetles, climate change, bush foods, biological farming, soil carbon
- Public liability insurance coverage for all Landcare events

If you would like to join the Landcare Network, please give us a call on 5662 5759 or sgln@landcare.net

Volunteer Action Training – Working with Landcare Volunteers in the 21st Century

The Landcare Volunteer Recruitment Initiative (VRI) is sponsoring training across the state in October and November. The training is intended to provide Landcare members and staff with some new tips and a better understanding of attracting and retaining volunteers in the current environment.

Training will cover the following:

Morning Session - Generations and Change

- Characteristics of the Generations
- Attracting different generations to volunteering

Middle Session- 4 Rs of Volunteering

- Key aspects of volunteering
- Recruitment
- Recognition
- Reward
- Renewal

Afternoon Session - Applying for Volunteering Grants

- Overview of Volunteer Recruitment Initiative
- Strategies for recruiting Volunteers
- Developing a proposal workshop

Training is free and lunch will be provided. Numbers at some sessions may be limited.

Training is occurring at the following locations and dates across the state.

Date Location Venue and Address

15/10/2009 Maffra DSE, 1 Stratford Road, Maffra

TBC Frankston DPI, 40 Ballarto Road, Frankston

TBC Melbourne VECCL, room1.6, 86 Albert Street, East Melbourne

To register your interest, please contact Grant Godden, Project Officer Victorian Landcare program by telephone (03 9637 8190) or email (grant.godden@dse.vic.gov.au) Please advise of any dietary requirements, and the session you wish to attend.



SOUTH GIPPSLAND LANDCARE NETWORK

New Landholder Skills Workshop No. 1

**Learn basic fencing skills in a hands on workshop.
Weed identification and introduction to farm chemicals.**

Saturday 31st October 9.00am—4.00pm lunch provided.

**Ben Davies property, 307 Savages Rd, Rd, Fish Creek.
David Stewart from the DPI and Jill Vella from the SGLN will take you through the skills needed to keep your property secure and weed free.**

RSVP 0417 380 273 or jillv@wgcm.vic.gov.au

Prom Plains Landcare Group

A General Meeting of the Group will be held on Thursday 8 October, 1pm at the home of Noel and Jo Stringer, Harmon Road, FOSTER Richard Allen (Golden Creek co-ordinator), Ken Holland (Silver Creek co-ordinator) will be in attendance and addressing the meeting. To be discussed at this meeting are plans for the Group Christmas Break up, Treasurer's Report and any business which may arise from Correspondence. Member input on issues is most welcome.

Contact Numbers: Rhonda Bland 0438 407 022 ; Jo Stringer 5687 1250

Nerrena Landcare Group

Soil Health Worksop . A sausage sizzle will be followed by a soil workshop with Kevin Hughes of Koonwarra, whose method has made a great improvement to many local farms.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 3RD 2009 12.00- 3.00PM

KOONWARRA RECREATION RESERVE FREE SAUSAGE SIZZLE

CONTACT : Richard Baillie 5664 0081 Stuart Greaves 5664 2390

Caring for our Country - Community Action Grants

Eligible community groups can apply for grants from \$5,000 to \$20,000 (GST exclusive) to take action to help protect and conserve Australia's environment.

Eligible community groups include:

- Community groups involved in coastal rehabilitation, restoration and conservation groups of farmers or land managers working on sustainable farming or improving natural resource management
- Indigenous partnerships involved in protecting or improving the environment
- Community groups involved in biodiversity conservation, environmental protection or managing natural resources
-

Community Action Grants are only available to eligible community groups not individuals.

Eligible projects must:

- Involve volunteers and communities in activities which work towards achieving outcomes in the Caring for our Country national priority areas of Biodiversity and Natural Icons, Coastal Environments and Critical Aquatic Habitats, and Sustainable Farm Practices
- be completed within 18 months or less

Applications open on 1 October 2009.

More information about Community Action Grant eligibility criteria and how to apply is provided in the guidelines for applicants.

Community Action Grants applicant guidelines (PDF - 217 KB) | (Word - 166 KB)

<http://www.nrm.gov.au/funding/pubs/cag-guidelines.pdf>

<http://www.nrm.gov.au/funding/pubs/cag-guidelines.doc>

You can view a sample application form in advance of the online form being made available from 1 October 2009. Please note that this is a sample application and cannot be submitted. The sample form is provided for your reference only.

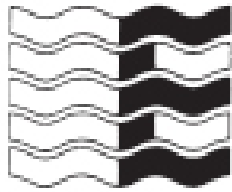
Community Action Grants sample application form (PDF - 189 KB) at

<http://www.nrm.gov.au/funding/pubs/cag-sampleform.pdf>

If you cannot access an online copy of the applicant guidelines or sample application form, you can request hard copies by calling 1800 552 008.

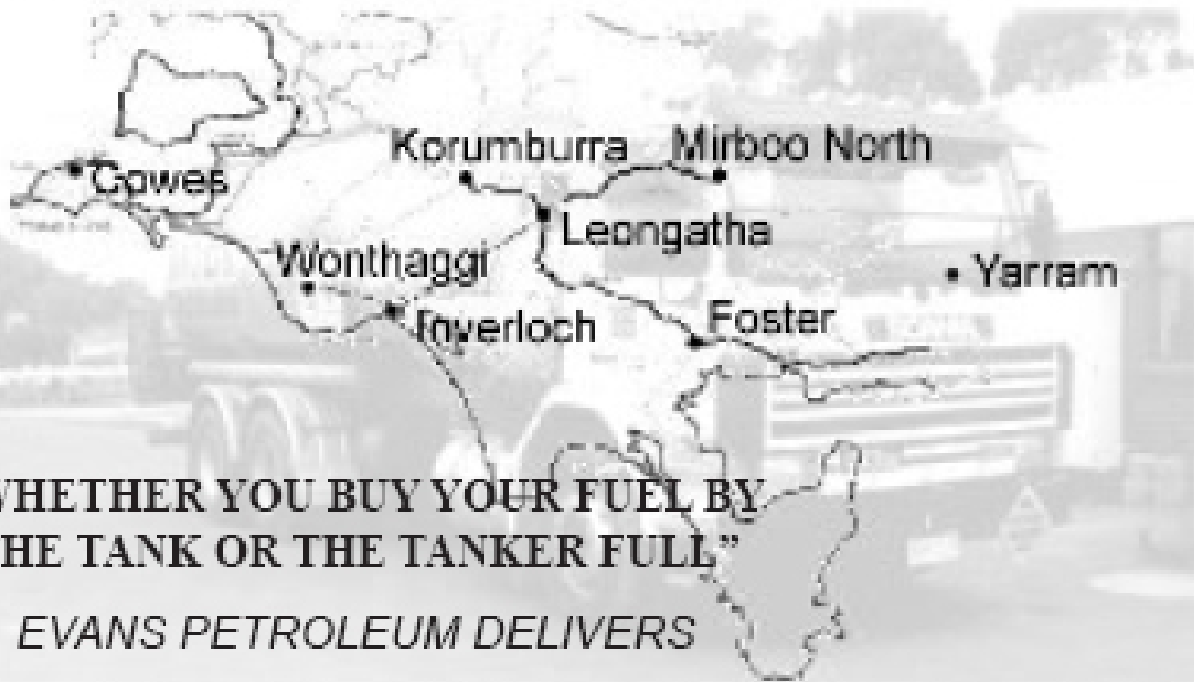
If you would like to be notified when the online application form is available, or register to be mailed a hard copy version, please call the Caring for our Country Information line on 1800 552 008.

The closing date for applications is Thursday 22 October 2009.



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Rosemary Trease, Peter
Hinksman, Jan Fell, Arie Bos,
Peter Fell, Dawn Marriotti and
Stephen Hoole

SGLN Staff Contact Details

Network Coordinator
Belinda Brennan 0409 004901

Project Officer
Jill Vella 0417 380273

Group Facilitator/STF Project
Officer
Tony Gardner 0429 629212

Pest Plant and Animal
Facilitator
Martin Chatfield 0428 317928

POSTSCRIPT/ STOP PRESS

The next edition is planned for the end of 2009 prior to which there will be a call for contributions.

Written material should be sent in by email if possible, although don't hesitate to ring us if you have a story worth publishing. Photos are better scanned from the originals, or supplied as a jpeg file. Articles should be no more than 250 words.

This newsletter is a non-profit newsletter, which is designed to provide agricultural and catchment management information to land managers throughout South Gippsland. It is directly mailed to over 800 landholders as well as being freely available through DPI/DSE and Catchment Management Authority shop fronts. It is also sent to a wide range of Landcare/agricultural professionals working locally and throughout Australia.

The content and management of this newsletter is a joint effort between the Landcare staff in the region, and members of the South Gippsland Landcare Network.

If you are interested in placing an advertisement and/or article in the Newsletter or would like to know more, please contact us on (03) 5662 5759 or email sgln@landcare.net

Network Notes

The SGLN monthly email newsletter is now emailed directly to all members who have provided us with their email address. If you would like to receive Network Notes, please email your address to sgln@landcare.net

If you already receive Network Notes and change your email address, please let us know - we would hate for you to miss out!