

Newham & District Landcare Group



Working towards a
healthier environment



Address – PO Box 314, WOODEND 3442

Newsletter Editors: Paul & Marie Marmara

Vision & Mission

Newham & District Landcare Group has the following Vision and Mission.

Vision: To enhance biodiversity and natural ecosystems within the local environment.

Mission: To raise awareness of, protect and enhance the local environment.

This will be achieved by bringing the community together to address environmental problems, to appreciate the natural landscape, to assist in promoting sustainable agricultural production promoting the benefits of working and sharing together.

Happy New Year—2008

We had around 93 members and guests gathered at Wesley Park for the annual end-of-year-get-together.

It was a beautiful balmy evening, with the usual excess of wonderful food and drink. We were entertained by the new gum boot throwing competition, won by Paul Tanner.

The “Wellington Stakes” trophy was presented by the donors, Helen and Ian Scott.

Door prizes were in the form of a lucky dip...some were lucky and some were not!

The Egg Tossing Championship was well supported, with new champions Mark Grady and Stephen Mahon edging out some very stiff competition ...although their egg size may necessitate a change to the rules for next year.

The real highlight, however, was just being together to share our time, reflect on the year and enjoy each others company. Fading light and mosquitoes finally drove the last of us home. Well done to the many who organized and supported the night.



Egg Tossing Winners:
Stephen Mahon & Mark Grady



Welly Tossing Winner:
Paul Tanner
receiving trophy donated by Ian & Helen Scott

News Items

Wesley Park

Landcare and Newham Garden Club announces that the Wesley Park Enhancement Scheme is happening. Spraying of areas has taken place and some mulching has occurred. Planting will take place in Autumn. Members will be advised of dates of the planting. Volunteers will be required to assist.



ANZ Planting

In late September 28, volunteers travelled up from Melbourne to plant at one of our Enviro funded sites. Lunch was provided by the landowner, splitting the day into two blocks of 'work'. The weather was superb, the ground soft and damp and 2000 tubestock were planted in four hours!! Great effort.

We hope that in future years we will be assisted by city-based volunteers like these on a regular basis. We will seek groups of 6 – 12 that could be expected to manage 400 – 800 plants. Let **Penny** [5427 0795] know if you are interested in hosting a group.



Newham Watermark Group Joins with Newham Landcare

The members of Newham Watermark Group have looked at questions like these in a process leading to a wonderful resource book called "Our Watermark". This excellent and useful book gives the facts, the figures and the actions that are needed to change our water future - in businesses, on the land, at home and as citizens with a voice and a vote!

The good news is that Newham Watermark will continue the work towards the goal "Our Watermark" has set - to become "water literate" and "water efficient" – as part of Newham and District Landcare Group.

Newham Watermark Group contributed to the book by ten or so locals sitting around Chris Wiggett's generous kitchen table a number of times in 2005/06. With facts and stimulating questions about watery topics provided by Watermark Australia– such as the water cycle, how much water it takes to make a computer (as much as a small car), who owns water and how it should be shared – we told fascinating experiences of water in our lives and put forward ideas about such things as how governments should handle water policy. It was interesting, informative and good fun, some great friendships were also forged. All the ideas were sent in to Watermark who worked with leading water experts to create the book.

What you can do to give Newham and Australia a sustainable water future:

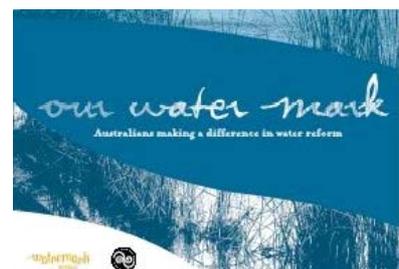
1. get a copy of the book and read it (copies from us) tell others about Our Watermark and spread the water action (more copies available at all the locations below)
2. join Newham Watermark - Contact **Alice** on 5427 0156 or email airda@bigpond.com visit www.watermarkaustralia.org.au

Through generous sponsors "Our Watermark" is available free in a number of locations including libraries and Readings bookstores.

Want to get your head around the way we are using and managing water in Australia?

Want to understand the nature and extent of the challenge we face in securing our water future?

Want to play a part in reforming the ways we use and manage water in this ancient, arid and fragile land continent?



Landcare and Newham Primary School

A reminder of the invitation in the last newsletter that if you are interested in helping our primary school, a sub group is proposed which could further our connection with the primary school, please ring Jenny Waugh 5427 0408.



By-laws

Newham & District Landcare Group is proposing to adopt a set of By-Laws designed to enhance the smooth working of the Group and clarify operating procedures.

Members are invited to comment on these rules to Hilary Roberts, 54270795 or any Committee member before January 30 2008. If there is no material changes suggested, the Committee will formally adopt these rules at its next meeting in February 2008.

The rules of our group are initially set out in the rules of the VFF Farm Tree & Landcare Association Inc. (A0011639S) dated 28/2/2000

As per Rule 9.2 of the VFF Rules, where any inconsistency of purpose exists between the Association and the Member Group, the purposes of the Association shall prevail.

1. *Member Group means "Newham & District Landcare Group"(refer rule 2.1)*
2. *Financial Year means the year ending 30 June (refer rule 2.1)*
3. *Member means any household that is approved for membership of the Member Group.*
 - ◆ *A member will be defined as including any person living at the nominated member address including partners and family members.*
 - ◆ *For purposes of clarity, in the event of a vote being required regarding Member business, only one vote per member /household is permitted.*
 - ◆ *Only one annual membership fee is payable for each household. (refer rule 2.1)*
4. *The annual subscription is payable in advance on 1st July each year. (refer rule 4).*
5. *A member that has not paid the annual subscription due on or before 31st December shall be a non- financial member until all amounts owing are paid in full. (refer rule 6A. 1)*
6. *No member of the Member Group can be a member of the Committee for more than 6 consecutive years. (refer rule 19)*
7. *The President shall only be eligible to hold office for 3 consecutive years. (refer rule 20)*
8. *The Vice President is elected on the basis of becoming the President following on from the termination of the Presidents maximum term in office. (refer rule 20)*



Group

each year

Clean Up Australia Day

The next Clean Up Australia Day is Sunday 2 March 2008. Site Registrations will open in November 2007.

Every year, from Perth to Penrith, hundreds of thousands of Australians get stuck in and clean up their local environment by collecting and removing rubbish on Clean Up Australia Day.

Clean Up Australia - The Facts

- ◆ Australians are among the highest producers of waste, per person, in the world.
- ◆ An estimated 7 billion cigarette butts end up in Australian waterways, streets and parklands each year.
- ◆ 80 million plastic bags are dumped in Australia each year - creating a serious threat to our precious marine life.
- ◆ 37% of all items collected on Clean Up Australia Day 2004 were plastic - recycling one tonne of plastic saves enough energy to run a refrigerator for a month.
- ◆ Recyclable material makes up almost 80% of total household waste in Australia.
- ◆ To date, Clean Up Australia Day participants have collected over 200,000 tonnes of rubbish - that's 4.7 million household wheelie bins!
- ◆ Clean Up Australia Day is fun, easy and everyone can get involved. Individuals and local groups can either organise a Clean Up site or volunteer to join an existing site.



News Items continued

Pest Animal Control Project

Every landholder has a direct responsibility to control animal pests on their land, and the DPI will help by providing information and assistance (the carrot). But if a landholder ignores these responsibilities, the DPI can move progressively towards the 'stick', something they strongly prefer not to do, and the cost to the recalcitrant landholder can be quite high. It is much better to join with your neighbours to take action together.

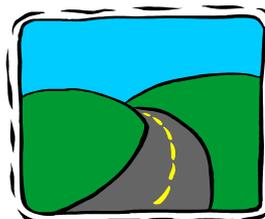
To get involved, please contact **John Luckock** on 5427 0909 or **Bob Evans** on 5427 0784.



Roadside Management Group

Hello all from us "weedies". We have recently been freewheeling but in earnest in the new year. Hopefully with not as much enthusiasm as not satisfied with taking weeds to the Woodend Transfer Station tried to of the rubbish bins as well!!!

If you would like to become part of the "weedies" group, please call **Alice Aird** – 5427 0156, or **Sue** (damaged car) Massie – 5427 0065.



work will commence one member who park her car in one

Planting Days

Information sheets on organizing a planting day are available – contact **Penny** or **Hilary** [5427 0795]

Website up and running

All members are invited to look at the new NDLG website. It has been up and running for a while but we were refining the information that was to be posted on this site.

<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~newhamlc/index.htm>

There is information on joining Landcare, advantages of joining, current groups and projects, trees that are recom-

Your Current Committee

President: Penny Roberts [5427 0795] Secretary: Donald Lang
Treasurer: Hilary Roberts [5427 0795]

Committee Members

Arthur Clarke, Chris Wiggett, John Luckock, Fran Spain, Nick Massie & Jim Sansom

Please note that if any member wishes a copy of the Presidents Report, Treasurers Report or other items tabled at the AGM then they should contact the Secretary.

Members are invited to contact the committee on the contact numbers above on any issue.

The committee meets on the first Monday of the month [February to December] at 7.30 – 9 pm in Newham. All members are welcome to attend the Committee meetings to become more involved or raise specific matters. Please advise a committee member if you wish to attend. Meetings start and finish on timeand we enjoy them!!

Special interest groups

If you have any queries, or wish to contribute, please contact the person listed below.

Roadsides: Alice Aird [5427 0453] Sue Massie [5427 0065]

Seed bank/seed collection: Penny Roberts [5427 0795]

Newsletter items: Nick Massie [5427 0065]

For your Information

Disposal of Unwanted or Obsolete Rural Chemicals - (Not Household Chemicals)

ChemClear® connects users of ag and vet chemicals with a **safe collection** and **disposal** service for unwanted and obsolete rural chemicals.

The program is an industry stewardship initiative funded to collect unwanted agricultural and veterinary chemicals at the end of their life cycle, minimising their impact on the environment and reducing waste and the possibility of residual contamination.

Group 1 chemicals are collected free of charge under the program, these chemicals are currently registered ag and vet chemicals manufactured by companies supporting this stewardship initiative.

Group 2 chemicals are those chemicals that are no longer registered, unknown, out of date, or mixed ag and vet chemicals. Usually there is a charge to collect Group 2 chemicals.

So, register for the upcoming collection in Victoria.

Take an inventory of your unwanted products and book on

1800 008 182 or www.chemclear.com.au

Inventory Forms available by contacting

(02) 6230 4799 or 1800 008 182



STEP by STEP To DISPOSAL

Step 1 - Take an Inventory of your unwanted chemicals

Step 2 - Register @ www.chemclear.com.au **Free-call 1800 008 182 Fax form back to (03) 9369 4380**

Step 3 - Ensure that your registered chemicals are stored securely and safely

Step 4 - ChemClear® remains in contact with you to advise of the next collection in your area

Step 5 - When advised of the collection date prepare your registered chemicals for delivery to the nominated site

Step 6 - Deliver your registered chemicals to the advised location for retrieval by ChemClear®

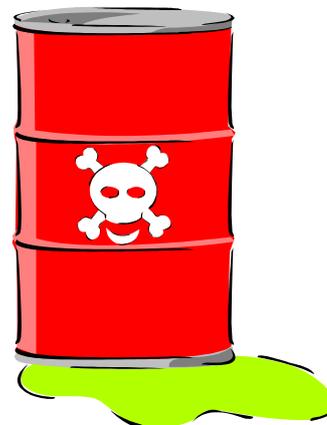
For more information about the ChemClear® program:

Level 4, AMP Tower, 1 Hobart Place, GPO Box 816, Canberra City, ACT2601

Phone (02) 6230 4799 Fax (02) 6230 6710

Email chemclear@agsafe.com.au

Web www.chemclear.com.au



For your Information

Small Equipment Available

A reminder that members have access to 15L back-pack spray units, Hamilton planters, weed wands, long handled ratchet mechanism loppers and some mattocks. Contact for borrowing items is the Roberts household in the first instance – **5427 0795**.

Trailer-mounted Spray unit [600L]

Why not get together with a neighbour (or two) and make a concerted effort to get those weeds under control. Removing weed infestations that provide cover is an important part of pest animal control too. The hire charge of \$50 per day is to cover future maintenance requirements and a Trailer Warden fee per use. The Trailer Warden will ensure you know how to operate the unit and explain conditions of use. Contact **Colleen Wood** (Trailer Warden) on **5427 0336**

Newham & District Landcare signs

A limited number of signs are available for you to declare your concern for the environment to your neighbours. Please contact **Hilary Roberts** on **5427 0795** [price \$15] to obtain your sign.

Upcoming Events for 2008

December and January will be quiet months on the Landcare front – but your committee has been busy planning for 2008.

There will be a range of activities over the year – including speakers, field events, a film night for families, hands-on sessions at Wesley park and Newham Primary school, social gatherings etc.

Mark the following dates in the diary for 2008, details to follow:-

Sunday March 2nd - Clean Up Australia Day

Contact **Kathryn Colclough** on 5427 0153 to get involved.



Saturday March 15th – Discover bats – fascinating, under-rated creatures! An evening with Dr Lindy Lumsden at Hanging Rock Reserve.

Details to follow but mark the date in your diary NOW..... Lindy is passionate about trying to reverse negative perceptions about native bats.

Her activities will educate and enthuse you about these fascinating animals.

You will have an opportunity to see bats close up and meet George, her Eastern Freetail bat, that she has been taking to talks for 17 years!!.

Starts at 5:00pm Includes BBQ, includes exit fees.

Fee \$5:00 per adult (children under 16 free) **BOOKING ESSENTIAL**

BYO chair [or rug] and torch.



Bee Workshop – April 5th contact Jim Sansom 5427 0408



Friends of Hanging Rock Calendar of Events—still to come.

Indigenous Plants of Newham & surrounding district

Marie Marmara - Landcare member and grower of local indigenous flora

Lomandra longifolia Spiny-headed Mat-rush **Xanthorrhoeaceae**

A fantastic all round plant. It is tough, adaptable and better yet a 'local' native.

These plants can make quite a bold statement in the garden due to their size (1mHx1.2mW) and their bright green strappy leaf blades. *Lomandra* is a superb architectural/feature plant.

Size: approx. 0.5-1m H x 0.5-1.2m W

Habitat: This plant can be found as a understorey plant in open forests and along water courses.

Form: Large tussock plant with slender strappy bright green leaves

Foliage: Smooth bright green strap-like leaves to 12mm wide

Flowers: Many scented pale yellow flowers with purplish/maroon bases Sept. to Dec.

Flowers arranged in sessile clusters along branches of a two-sided panicle.

(Sessile = they have no stalk. Panicle = many branched inflorescence/flowerhead)

The flowers become glossy seed capsules. All *Lomandra* spp. are dioecious, ie. they have separate male and female plants. With *L. longifolia* the female flowers are larger, 4-5mm and have narrow panicles compared to 3-5mm in males which have many branched panicles.

Landscape Usage:

Grows well under established trees and also in large pots.

Useful habitat for frogs when positioned near a pond.

In my garden I have used *Lomandra* to line my dry creek bed. I had an area next to my house which was wet and almost running as a creek when we had down pours and yet in summer it would be dry as a bone. I was baffled as to what to do with this area. After viewing this area through a couple of seasons, I decided to make a man-made dry creek bed and this concept was perfect for both seasons.



Special features:

Butterfly attracting, as well as being an important food source for their caterpillars

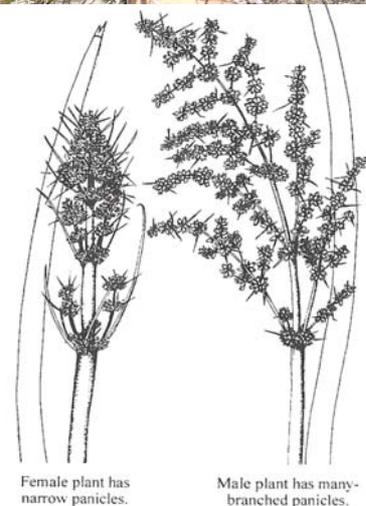
Tolerates full sun, part sun and dry fully shaded positions.

Plant may provide food, shelter, habitat and/or nesting sites for birds.

Helps with erosion control near watercourses.

Koorie Plant Use:

The *Wurundjeri* people know *Lomandra* as 'Karawun'. It was widely used by them. They made drinks from the nectar when in flower and ate the soft white leaf bases which taste like fresh green peas (they do I have tried them!). The tough long leaves were used for making baskets and mats. The leaves could also be split or scraped to provide fibre for string-bags.



References: - '*Flora of Melbourne*' SCAP 1993 '*Victorian Koorie Plants*' Beth Gott & John Conran, 1991

'*Koorie Plants, Koorie People*' Nelly Zola & Beth '*Wild Food In Australia*' A.B. & J.W. Cribb, 1982

Sketch above by Helene Wild Botanical Artist from '*Basaltica Waterwise Garden*', 2001 Need more info. contact Marie.