

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.

Farewell to 2006

Over 60 members turned up for the end of year Xmas celebration at Wesley Park. The evening was a great opportunity for members to meet up with each other once again to review the year and enjoy a meal and drink while chatting on matters other than landcare for a change. Everyone came ready to party and brought plates of a range of salads, desserts and cakes that would have formed a magnificent entry at the CWA's annual cooking competition. A fresh southerly breeze during the evening meant the barbecue was a popular warm spot with many experts competing to turn over a variety of sausages, kebabs, chops and hamburgers to claim the best cooked meal for the evening.

Our Treasurer, Hilary, was a hard working MC for the occasion cajoling and controlling the younger members in a few fun races and he had the audacity to win the three legged race with the third leg being provided by young Alexander Wiggett. There was no shortage of participants for the annual egg throwing competition and once again Hilary struggled to control the proceedings with shouts of 'back, back' as the throwing distance reached the ten metre range. By this time scrambled eggs adorned bodies and the landscape as players were progressively eliminated. The competition was finally won by Alex Flanagan and his friend Chris Boal with a remarkable throw and catch of well over 10 metres that would have impressed the likes of Ricky Ponting. For their efforts Alex and Chris were awarded a trophy comprising a tree ingeniously sculpted by member John Winter using, would you believe, ubiquitous landcare plant tubes. Although the prize lacked a remote control or ear phones that would have no doubt pleased the boys, they would have been happy with the knowledge that their names will be engraved on the trophy for prosperity.



THIS IS HILARY – CHEATING

Throughout the evening our President Penny proudly presided over the proceedings, after a busy but equally successful year for the Landcare Group. Thanks to Penny and Hilary for all their hard work in preparing for the evening and the message is very clear, don't miss next year's party!

NEWS ITEMS

Envirofund round 8 success

Yet another successful funding application!

This time it was for \$34,000- to be spent between now and the end of May 2008 on two adjacent properties at the northern end of the Campaspe-Maribyrnong Headwaters Bio-link.

Remnant vegetation will be fenced and 10,000 tube stock planted to fill a gap in the corridor of vegetation.

Our official Spring planting will be at this site and we have made an early request from Treeproject for volunteer labour from the city.

Frances Andre and the Wiggetts would love any assistance you can offer – they are planning to have monthly sessions [weather permitting] – the usual, a few hours labour in exchange for a feed! For dates see calendar.

Special Thanks

Thanks to Lorri Buttner. Through her efforts we have a swanky set of 4 second-hand, but as-new 'Rainbow' display panels to display information about our group and its activities.

She also personally donated a pair of 'feet' for the panels. You will see these at our educational events as well as events in the broader community.

Also, Australia Post has agreed for us to spend the remaining funds from their grant on additional "Rainbow" display panels.

Landcare signage

You will begin to see Newham & District Landcare signs around the district in the near future.

If you would like to support the group by increasing public awareness in this way you can purchase a sign at cost for \$15- from Hilary Roberts [5427 0795]

GPS unit

As we noted in the last Newsletter a GPS unit is available to members.

If you are interested in learning how to use the GPS and mapping software make your interest known to a committee member.

Trailer Mounted Spray Unit – Trailer Warden

Colleen Wood has been appointed as the Trailer Warden following consideration by the committee of expressions of interest received.

Members wishing to hire the trailer will have to complete a hire form and accept certain conditions and the hire charge of \$50 per day.

Please contact Colleen Wood on 5427 0336 if you wish to hire the trailer.

Newham & Deep Creek

Significant work by Melbourne Water has been completed. Tube stock for autumn has been determined. We are following up with MW the policy re clear felling versus leaving remnants.

Roadside Weeds Project

As we move into summer it is clear where spraying the roadside weeds has been ineffective. The Roadside weed group encourages any landholders, whose properties abut those that have been sprayed and have concerns or comments in relation to the spraying and its effectiveness to contact Lachlan Milne from the MRSC on 5429 9659.

Landcare members who wish to assist the group are invited to contact Alice Aird on 5427 0453 to register their interest and to attend the meetings of the group which take place at the Newham General Store.

The Weeds Group are preparing a letter to all landowners who have had weeds sprayed on roadsides outside their properties as to how they can contribute to the long term success of the eradication programme.

Clean Up our Community Never Stops

You have all seen examples by the roadsides in the district of the litter and rubbish that is thrown from vehicles. We encourage everyone to pick up this litter and rubbish whenever it is seen.

If we all removed one item per day – soon there would not be any!!!

Elders Discount

A fact sheet on how to obtain the Elders Discount is available to all members. Discounts range from 5% to 10% off normal retail pricing.

Please contact Hilary Roberts for the fact sheet on 5427 0795

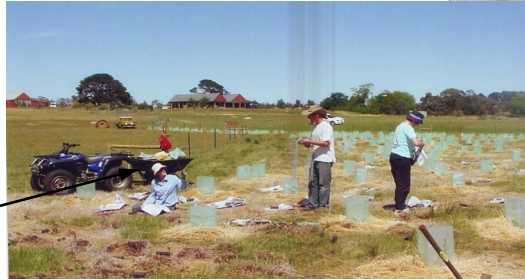
Plantings

Over twenty members attended John Winters property off Three Chain Road on 11 November 2006. The weather was fine, several hundred trees were planted and a fantastic feed was laid on by Dez Winter.



The Bucket Brigade

Penny Roberts directing "her staff"!



Updates on Previous Plantings

The editor congratulates Sally Stabback in for an update on the planting at her property some 15 months ago. Sally reports that 30% of the plants have been lost. Of those remaining the gums have done well and are 2 feet tall. Lomandra, Carex and Poa grasses have done well. Wattles have struggled and the Hop Goodenias were killed by frosts. (*Hint from Marie Marmara – frost effected plants will sometimes re-shoot so don't be too keen to pull them out too quickly*).

I welcome other updates. So please submit a short report to Nick Massie (massie@ozemail.com.au).

responding to the call

How do we know whether what we do makes a difference?

- 1 Find out what plants and critters are there before we begin!!!
- 2 Then do a check again in a decade.

A baseline biological survey for the "Campaspe-Maribyrnong Headwaters Bio-link" was undertaken in early December by 13 student volunteers from La Trobe University Naturalists Society. This involved bird and botanical surveys, trapping of animals and spotlighting at night in an area of isolated remnant vegetation.

Campaspe–Maribyrnong Headwaters Bio-link is the official name for the corridor of vegetation that is being developed from Mount Macedon to the Cobaws via Hanging Rock Reserve and the Jim Jim. At the moment remnant vegetation on the Jim Jim and in Hanging Rock Reserve are isolated from the large areas of vegetation on the mount and in Cobaw State Forest by expanses of pasture that provide a barrier to the movement of small animals in particular.

We hope that by increasing the amount of native vegetation and animal habitat through this area it will act as a buffer zone for the populations at Hanging Rock [including koalas, which have been declining in numbers over recent years] and be possible for small animals to better survive in the Macedon Ranges.

Protecting existing remnants of native vegetation is the first priority and next is enhancing remnants by providing a 'buffer zone' of *new* native vegetation or linking it to other remnants or adding back lost understorey species. To date six properties falling along the line of the corridor are undertaking works of this nature supported by funding from the Natural Heritage Trust.

If you would like more information regarding the corridor and funding options, contact the project co-ordinator, Penny Roberts 5427 0795. Results of the survey will be presented at a speaker meeting in 2007.

Membership Drive

A dynamic Landcare Group relies on its membership. Please encourage others to join and contribute to your community. Forms can be obtained from any member of the committee or at Newham Store. Members are also invited to consider committee membership and are invited to contribute thoughts to any committee meeting. Please contact any committee member if interested.

Current membership is 62 and we need to increase these numbers to stay vibrant

Memberships for 2006/2007

If anyone asks why they have not received their Newsletter it's because their membership has lapsed. To renew contact the treasurer.

Lancefield Fair

One of our six enthusiastic volunteers, Kathy Mexted, manning our stand at the Lancefield Fair.

The stand displayed a huge aerial photo of our district and information on our current projects, special-interest groups and local flora, highlighting local wildflowers with potted specimens and photos.



KOALA FOOD excerpt from *Attracting Wildlife to your Garden* by Rodger Elliot

Koala have a very specialised diet – they eat leaves from only a limited range of eucalypts, plus one or two other species.

Visiting Koalas will stay only for short periods, usually 1 to 5 days. Koalas need and devour large amounts of foliage and they usually move to another location during the night. If you wish to attract koalas please realise that although they may look nice, cuddly, quiet bundles of fluff, their night activities often become a frenzied and very noisy affair, especially during the mating season.

There are five species of eucalypt koala food found in the Newham area, they are *E. obliqua* (Messmate), *E. ovata* (Swamp Gum), *E. radiata* (Narrow Leaf Peppermint), *E. rubida* (Candle bark), *E. viminalis* (Manna Gum).

Your New Committee for 2007

President:	Penny Roberts [5427 0795]	Fran Spain
Secretary:	Peter Eisen [54270574]	Chris Wiggett
Treasurer:	Hilary Roberts [5427 0795]	Nick Massie
	Jim Sansom [5427 0408]	Alice Aird

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

The Committee thanks those members of the Committee who stepped down this year [Roger Rugless and Phillip Flanagan]. They gave Newham and District Landcare a significant contribution during its foundation period that led to the award last year of "Community Group caring for private land" to Newham and District Landcare a win from the total of 450 similar groups in the Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment.

The Committee extends a welcome to the two new members, Fran Spain and Chris Wiggett who the committee is sure will with their enthusiasm add greatly to the Newham Landcare activities in 2007.

Special interest groups

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

Roadsides: Sue Massie [5427 0065]

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

Newsletter items: Nick Massie [5427 0065]

New Items available for loan from our library

Sally Stabback [5427 0059] manages the Newham Landcare Library which has many items of interest relevant to the management of properties in the Newham area. New arrivals include:

Gorse National Best Practice Manual – is the definitive guide to dealing with gorse!

It has comprehensive instructions for mapping gorse, planning an eradication program, undertaking the work and following up.

You can download a copy at <http://www.weeds.org.au/WoNS/gorse/> or ring 1300 368 550 [National gorse co-ordinator]

Stock and waterways - a managers guide – published by Land & Water Australia in 2006

This is an excellent guide that shows how stock access and grazing in and around riparian land can be improved and how to develop a strategy to manage this land productively and sustainably.

It has chapters on why managing riparian land is important, assessing the state of the land, planning, water access points and crossings, location of fences and gates, choosing fence type, flood resistant fences, watering systems, controlled grazing and 'assorted challenges', along with a number of case studies.

This is well laid out, easy to read and has some great illustrations and photos.

Trees on Treeless Plains [a revegetation manual for the Volcanic Landscapes of Central Victoria by David Holmgren]. The book has a wealth of information including a section on revegetation design systems for private land, farm forestry, woodlots, etc.

Archives

Sally is recording social activities and plantings in the district to document changes in the district. Please contact Sally at any time to come and take pictures of work you have done to your property.

More Christmas Party Snap Shots



Upcoming Events for 2007

Educational sessions

- pest animal management
- roadsides – management, value etc.
- fungi ecology workshop with Alison Pouliot
- more on landscape level planning for biodiversity with Jim Radford
- presentation of findings of baseline biological survey on the Jim Jim

You will also be notified of events being held by other landcare groups in this region [and sometimes further a field].

Hands-on Activities

- Autumn planting on May 6th at Hanging Rock Reserve – a family oriented event in combination with Friends of Hanging Rock
- Spring planting
- Lots of opportunities with special interest groups – contact co-ordinator

Social Activities

- Winter Warmer dinner
- End-of-year gathering
- All the hands-on activities are very sociable!!!

Projects

- in 2007 I hope we will finish more than we start
.....but if you have a project in mind, especially if it involves protecting or revegetating along creeks/drainage lines or fills a gap in our Macedon - Hanging Rock - Jim Jim – Cobaws corridor, contact Penny[5427 0795] to discuss funding options.

Envirofund Round 8 Success!!! – see detail in NEWS below

This requires planting sessions that are proposed for one Saturday a month (mostly the 4th Saturday of each month) starting in May – (May 26th, June 30th, July 21st etc.)
Contact Frances on 54235225 or at francpl@lizzy.com.au to find out more.

Rabbit & fox eradication program

If you have a particular interest in the eradication of rabbits and foxes in this district, please contact John Luckock [5427 0909], who is the co-ordinator of the new Pest Eradication Group.