

# 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.

## Landcare - Be In It!

### Members planting session at the Envirofund 8 sites

May 26<sup>th</sup> was a glorious day, and 23 adults and 2 children took advantage of the autumn sunshine to plant at the Andre and Wiggett properties. 650 tube stock went in the ground before lunch - a fabulous spread provided by our host, Frances. Included in the group were nine young people from the La Trobe University Naturalist Society, some of whom had participated in the Baseline Bio-diversity Study that was undertaken on the Jim Jim in December 2006. Over the next year, a total of 10,000 tube stock will be planted on these two adjacent properties to link the Cobaw State Forest with native vegetation along Dohertys Road.

A long term goal of our Landcare Group is to develop a corridor of native vegetation between Mount Macedon and the Cobaw State Forest via Hanging rock Reserve, and the Andre/Wiggett properties lie at the Northern end of this link.



## Members planting session at the Envirofund 8 sites cont.

The group has two 'Official Planting Days' each year, and for 2007 the Official Spring Planting Day will be at the Andre/Wiggett site. These are publicized as such and we hope that, in addition to our Winter and Christmas events, these will become key social occasions in our calendar. Gentle exercise, good company and great food!

In addition to the 'Official' Planting Days, any member can organize a 'Members' Planting Day. Information sheets on organizing a planting day are available – contact Penny or Hilary [5427 0795]

## NEWS ITEMS

Always a Good  
Read!



### Volunteer Small Equipment Grant

We confirm that we were successful in obtaining \$1200 – to purchase equipment for loan to members. Items will be 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

These signs raise public awareness of the group. If you would like to support the group in this way please contact Hilary Roberts on 5427 0795 [price \$15]

### Landcare and Newham Primary School

Are you interested in helping our primary school?

There has already been plenty of Landcare activity at the school over the last year. We have planted, weeded, tested water, and taught students how to prick out native seedlings. The school is very welcoming of community groups such as Landcare, and has lots of new environmental projects on the go. So our involvement there could be expanded – in many directions.

If you are interested in forming a Landcare sub-group which could further our connection with the primary school, please ring Jenny Waugh 5427 0408.

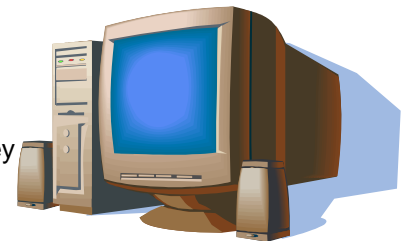
### An Inconvenient Truth

On the 18 May 2007 'An Inconvenient Truth' was shown at the Newham Hall, to 37 people. This film by Al Gore sets out the very alarming future that is in store due to global warming, based on scientific observations and trends. Unless the world community reduces carbon emissions our children's future is very bleak.

A very thought provoking film that requires an individual response.

### Web Page

Fran Spain and Matthew Nickson are developing a Newham & District Landcare web page. This will enable members to obtain news items and other information when they need it and also provide feedback on group activities and services.





## To eat or not to eat? A Fungi Experience by Kathryn Colclough

That was the question that 25 enthusiastic forest foragers hoped to find the answer to when they rolled up to a fungi workshop hosted by Newham Landcare Group on Sunday 29 April at Newham Mechanics Hall. We were greeted by a fantastic display of all things fungal and the dynamic and well informed facilitator, Alison Pouliot, enlightened us with a presentation on their identification, reproduction and ecology.

After a tasty lunch (delivered from the Newham General Store) we set off to forage! The area between the car park and Sanatorium Lake, Mt Macedon provided a visual feast of surprising diversity including a superb *Omphalotus nidiformis*. (see picture) Rumour has it that several of the intrepid foragers returned to see this specimen glowing in the dark. The results were mixed! Whilst we debated naming rights *Geastrum fornicatum* (see picture) or *Astraeus hygrometricus* and marvelled at the stages of the *Amanita muscari* (see picture) (definitely not for the table) a feast of *Lactarius deliciosus* (see picture) (the orange mushrooms found under pine trees) was prepared by Chef Sally. Alison left us inspired and perhaps even more cautious than we had been at the beginning. To eat or not to eat? The mushroom box is a safe bet!



AMANITA



GEASTRUM



OMPHALATUS



LACTARIUS

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## WATERWATCH IN NEWHAM

For some months Grades 5 and 6 students at Newham Primary School have been testing the creek near the school. Using the Landcare Waterwatch kit they've been keeping an eye on the temperature, turbidity, salinity and pH of the water. They are also all becoming expert at using chemical tests to measure the level of phosphates and ammonia dissolved in the water. The data is collected each month and recorded to give a profile of the health of our water over each season.

For further information contact Jenny 5427 0408

## ROADSIDE MANAGEMENT GROUP

Hello all from us "weedies". Mapping has been going slowly, but now with three more maps from Lachlan in our hot little hands, we shall be on our way once more. We have decided that it would be great to do all the roads in the Newham area - and getting all our members roads mapped, so are starting off at the Dohertys Road area, and working our way through. Anyone who would like to learn how to map the weeds on the roadside is most welcome to come and learn. This information is then put onto Lachlan's computer at the Shire.

Stay tuned for an information evening featuring Stevan Krstic, local vet as speaker.

If you would like to become part of the "weedies" group, please call Alice Aird - 54 270 156, or Sue Massie - 54 270 065.

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### MEMBERSHIP FOR 2007-2008

Membership fees of \$20.00 per household for 2007/08 are due on 1 July 2007. Could you please complete the attached renewal form for 2007/08 and send it along with \$20.00 to:

Newham & District Landcare Group  
PO Box 314  
Woodend Vic., 3442



This nominal fee covers our basic incorporation costs, members insurance and delivery of Landcare magazines.

Also, the fee confirms your continuing interest in the Group so that you remain on our mailing lists for events and grants information

This year we are also asking whether you would like to be on the mailing list for Friends of Hanging Rock events. Just tick the box if interested. There is no cost involved

If you have any queries, please give a call on 54 270795 or 0407 343256.

Hilary Roberts, Treasurer and Memberships

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### Your Current 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]	1 Vacant position

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

\*We have a casual vacancy on the committee – please consider joining it.

The Committee gives special thanks Alice Aird, a founding member of the committee, who has retired. She brought with her a special set of skills and we will miss her contribution.

The Committee requests that if any member is interested in filling the casual vacancy created by the retirement of Alice they contact any current committee member to indicate interest. The committee meets on the first Monday of the month [February to December] at 7.30 – 9 pm in Newham.

Meetings start and finish on time ....and we enjoy them!!

### 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]

## GROW TREES, Landcare CarbonSMART offers \$'s

CarbonSMART, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Landcare Australia offer Victorian landholders an annual cash payment, for up to 30 years, in return for growing and maintaining vegetation on their land.

See if you qualify: Was your site essentially cleared on 31st December 1989, revegetated with species native to the area by human action after 1st January 1990, with vegetation able to reach at least 2 metres high with a crown covering of more than 20%, on a site of at least 0.2ha?

There is a process which is both rigorous and looks interesting if you apply. Some of the expenditure is carried by the landowner. Then you get payment for carbon early in 2008.

Be smart and join CarbonSMART.

Many members have plantings that would qualify for these payments and we encourage you to apply.

For more info and application forms contact Penny Roberts 54270795, or Peter Eisen 54270574.

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## PEST ANIMALS CONTROL PROJECT

A new project is now underway, directed at controlling animal pests in the Newham area.

It is widely accepted that there is little to be gained if one landholder works to control pests but neighbouring properties do not, as the pests simply reinvade. This is particularly true when land holdings are small, as is the case in our area. Best results are obtained when all the landholders in a given area co-ordinate their efforts and pool their resources so that pests are controlled or eliminated over the widest possible area.

Our Landcare Group cannot do this work in isolation, but it can play a very useful role as the initiator of grouped activities, and as a source of advice and guidance. The first stage in this process is to identify the nature and extent of pest animal problems in the area, and for this purpose a survey was sent recently to all landholders within the Newham catchment area (approx 360) of whom ninety replied, a very encouraging response. It was clearly evident from these responses that the main problems relate to rabbits and foxes, but other pests were significant too.

The next step is to share the results of this survey with as many landholders as possible, and to encourage groups of landholders to form subgroups for the purpose of developing action plans to address pest problems in their areas. A meeting has been arranged at the Newham Hall on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30 pm where the survey results will be discussed, and an excellent speaker Tim Bloomfield will talk on his experiences with co-ordinated pest control activities, and preliminary action plans can be formed.

We encourage you to join in this project, to attend this meeting, and be prepared to participate in group activities in your area if pests are a problem.

For further information, or offers of support or participation, please contact:

Bob Evans on 54270784 or Hilary Roberts on 54270795 or John Luckcock on 5427 0909.

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## Upcoming Events for 2007

### June

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup>

**Winter Dinner** Newham Hall

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup>

**Members Planting Day** at Doherty's Rd. [contact Chris 5423 5279]

### July

Friday 20<sup>th</sup>

**Pest Animals** 7.30pm Newham Hall

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup>

**National Tree Day at Hanging Rock** [FoHR] 10.00am [contact Paul Marmara 5427 0258]

### August

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup>

**Understorey planting** 10am Hanging Rock [FoHR]

Friday 31<sup>st</sup>

**Roadies session** details to be confirmed

### September

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>

**Bird Walk** 9am Hanging Rock Reserve [FoHR]

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup>

**Farm Forestry** 7.30pm Newham Hall

### Stop press!

**The Upper Combined Campaspe Group, of which Newham & District Landcare Group is a member, will have funds available this year for environmental projects – contact Penny [5427 0795] for more information if you would like some funding support. This would be in the order of \$1 per plant and \$2 per metre towards fencing.**