

# Newham & District Landcare Group



Working towards a  
healthier environment

Address – Post Office box still being arranged.

## GROUP UPDATE

The group is now truly up and running. The first AGM was held at Newham Hall on the 10th October. The new committee has been elected for the next 12 months as listed below.

The group has had a number of successful events since our first get together at Ian and Sue Tempelton's home back in May this year.

We had the public forum on weeds in July with an excellent turn out of 60 plus people.

**Achievements** on the ground include some initial exploratory things like spraying Patterson's curse in Palmer Crescent, working out ways to attack gorse along Don's Rd. and some experiments on cutting and painting gorse (refer separate article in this Newsletter).

**Invitation to Ashbourne Road** by Wendy and Peter Duncan to learn about the revegetation work done on their property and a nearby road reserve. Two very different techniques were used and these were discussed and the outcome at 4 years observed. A great day by all in attendance.

Another achievement by the Group was the **planting day at the Tellbach's property** in Monument Road Lancefield, where approx. 250 trees were

planted. Julieanne and Horst provided a wonderful BBQ lunch followed by an enjoyable nature ramble (thanks to Marie) all of which made for a terrific day.

**Campaspe River Walk** in October was enjoyed by all who attended.

The Group also had a great response to the **Poster competition with Newham Primary School**, with all who entered getting a free tree (donated by Marie Marmara) and winners receiving a gift voucher from Aesops Book Shop.

All in all a flying start to a Landcare Group which hopes to build on the great support and enthusiasm we have within our local community.

At this stage we are planning to issue 4 newsletters per year, with information about the Group and all relevant matters, as well as, general information which may be relevant to our part of the world.

## Committee Members for 2005

- |                            |  |                 |
|----------------------------|--|-----------------|
| 1) President/Chair :       | Jim Sansom                             | Phone 5427 0408 |
| 2) President/Chair elect : | Penny Roberts                          | Phone 5427 0795 |
| 3) Secretary               | Roger Rugless                          | Phone 5427 0100 |
| 4) Treasury:               | Hillary Roberts                        | Phone 5427 0795 |
| 5) Committee               | Alice Aird, Judy Don & Philip Flanagan |                 |
| 6) Committee Associates    | Sally Stabback (Library)               | Phone 5427 0059 |
|                            | Paul & Marie Marmara (Newsletter)      | Phone 5427 0258 |



If you have any comments or wish to contribute any issues please do not hesitate to contact us.

We will do our best to address all queries.

We are in the process of organising a postal address which will be noted in our next Newsletter.

# Plants in our backyard

The following are only some of the Eucalypts & Acacias which occur within the Newham district.

Some trees only occur in certain areas of the shire eg. *E. aggregata* Black Gum may only occur naturally along creeks or flood plains.



Black Wattle

## Common Eucalypts

<i>E. aggregata</i>	Black Gum
<i>E. dives</i>	Broad Leaf Peppermint
<i>E. melliodora</i>	Yellow Box
<i>E. obliqua</i>	Messmate
<i>E. ovata</i>	Swamp Gum
<i>E. pauciflora</i>	Snow Gum
<i>E. radiata</i>	Narrow Leaf Peppermint
<i>E. rubida</i>	Candlebark
<i>E. viminalis</i>	Manna Gum
<i>E. yarraensis</i>	Yarra Gum

## Common Acacias

<i>Acacia dealbata</i>	Silver Wattle
<i>Acacia implexa</i>	Light Wood
<i>Acacia mearnsii</i>	Black Wattle
<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	Melanoxylon
<i>Acacia paradoxa</i>	Hedge Wattle
<i>Acacia verticillata</i>	Prickly Moses

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## Gorse Attack - An experiment by Jim Sansom



This is to do with the ‘cut and paint’ method of attacking gorse.

In this experiment we used good quality tree loppers and a good sharp pruning saw to cut through the trunk of the gorse. Glyphosate 360 was the herbicide used.

**Question 1.** “Do I have to paint immediately after cutting the trunk?”

**Question 2.** “What strength glyphosate is it necessary to use?”

This little experiment was carried out on Bev and Monty Woolley’s property in Egan’s lane. We prepared permanent labels indicating the dilution of glyphosate (100%, 50% and 15%) and for each dilution we had labels for three time-lapse periods: immediate, after 10 minutes, and after 30 minutes. We carefully tied the label around the trunk of the bush, cut it and applied the herbicide according to the label.

### **Results:**

After ten weeks examination of our sample gorse bushes showed:

- 15% strength was not strong enough for a complete kill.
- Both 50% and 100% did produce a complete kill.
- Application after 30 minutes was as effective as immediate.

**Implications:** In a gorse clearing operation it is much more convenient to do a whole lot of cutting and not have to put down the loppers after each cut – especially if working alone. The problem is how to see the stumps you have already painted and to make sure you have not missed any. Monty has successfully used a method of colouring the glyphosate by adding a couple of spoonfuls of sump oil thus making it easy to see where you have been. It seems it is possible to save a bit on glyphosate by diluting it 50 – 50.

Any more practical hints to share? Please send in for the next Newsletter.

# The Newham Deep Creek Project - What is it?

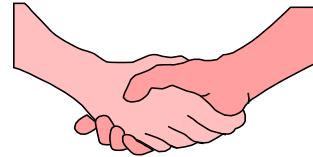
This is an initiative of the Newham and District Landcare Group.

It is a 'whole of catchment' approach to fixing-up the problems of a beautiful little creek, which starts up near the Newham School and flows north for about three and a half kilometres to Three Chain Road, where it joins Dry Creek to become Deep Creek proper.

The Project relies on the efforts and cooperation of about eleven landholders along the line of the Creek. (See map)

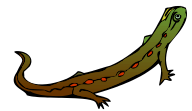


## What does the Project aim to achieve?



• Rehabilitation of the stream channel, stabilization of banks and a reduction of scouring and erosion in times of heavy flow. Monitoring of water quality.

- Elimination of weeds, especially gorse, willows, blackberries and hawthorn.
- Revegetation of the riparian zone (ie the strip of land along either side of the creek) with indigenous native plants.
- Eradication of pests especially rabbits and foxes.
- Establishment and confirmation of natural eco-systems including animals, plants, birds and aquatic life in the stream.



Before serious clearing of weeds begins, it is hoped to carry out a biological survey to find out what populations of native species might exist already. We don't want to destroy unwittingly valuable populations and then have to turn round and try to re-establish them! The presence of icon species would be a real boost to funding.



It has been suggested that some form of fire-access track might be constructed along some sections of the Creek. It is possible that such a feature in the over-all plan might help demonstrate 'community benefit' required by funding bodies.

## What are the benefits to property owners through which the Creek flows?

- Improved property values.
- Better production through such things as off-stream watering points and strong populations of native birds to help control insect pests.
- The advantages of working together in a coordinated attack on weeds and pests.
- Increased opportunity to get funding by membership of a group eg. Landcare.
- Access to bulk ordering of indigenous plants at a very cheap rate through Landcare.
- The possibility of help through volunteer labour of the Landcare Group.
- Better security against fire. ( Access track and deep pools).
- The building of a unique little valley of some ecological significance within an agricultural area.

## Report of the first meeting of landholders.

This was held at Amanda Cole and Tim Mehigan's home, 'Jolimont' on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2004. Landholders were invited. Ten people attended, one of whom was our special guest Geoff Reynolds, an environmental engineer from Maunsell who has expertise in stream hydrology. Geoff made valuable comments about the development and scope of a plan to get the Newham Deep Creek Project started.

## These things need to happen:

1. An engineering survey along the length of the creek to map accurately the most eroded places and to help

## The Newham Deep Creek Project - continued

- in preparing a plan for any engineering works required.
2. An approach to bodies skilled in carrying out a biological survey (e.g. Macedon Ranges Conservation Society or the biology departments of the universities) to help in drawing up a plan for such a survey.
  3. Preparation of an accurate map. This will be based on new aerial photography from the Shire, mapping expertise within the Newham Landcare group and on-ground foot slogging to add the fine detail.
  4. Drawing up an Action Plan. This will include specific tasks, sequencing and a realistic time-line.
  5. And above all **funding!**

### What funding is possible?

Most of the landholders have already applied for funding under the Stream Frontage Management Program and there is a Catchment Management Authority application due in by the end of October. In 2005 we will be trying for a Natural Heritage Trust Envirofund grant which is a \$ for \$ subsidy scheme. Part of our side of the funding can be made up by costing out volunteer labour at \$20 per hour. It can be seen how working bees are not only fun but also a real financial aid to the project!



Funding is easier to get if 'community benefit' can be demonstrated – even where much of the project is on private land. This is an aspect of the project to which we will have to give thought. Perhaps a fire access track (already mentioned) could assist here. Involvement of the pupils from Newham Primary School in animal and bird surveys could also be helpful.

### The Newham Deep Creek Project is not just for Landholders

The landholders of course stand to gain most from this Project but it is hoped that the whole Newham community will be able to take pride in the development of this ecologically important initiative. For example one property has the potential for re-establishing a 'wet-land' sanctuary. Another may well create a "Land for Wildlife" area in one of the most geologically spectacular parts of the valley. In any case, the whole region must benefit from the up-grading of a creek-line which at present, for much of its length, is nothing more than a haven for weeds and pests.

All this is going to take time, effort and commitment based on a vision of what is possible. We welcome any ideas, help, support from Members and anyone else in the Newham community.

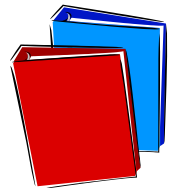
Jim Sansom 5427 0408 Amanda Cole 5427 0383 Coordinators.

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## Library & Archives

N &DLG has available to members only a library . It is available to any members to borrow from for a 1 month period. We have many articles and journals. Here is but a few;

- ◆ Land for Wildlife News & Notes including wood lots, foxes, rabbit eradication.
- ◆ Victorian Landcare News
- ◆ National Landcare Farm
- ◆ Stories of Landcare Success 2004
- ◆ Weed identification Cards



In subsequent newsletters, Sally will review various articles and journals and let us know what is "new".

For any loans of books, etc. ring Sally on 5427 0059. Special thanks to Alice Aird for her contribution toward the library.

The activities of N & DLG will be held together in an archive for historical purposes. This also enables us to record, focus and reflect on the Groups achievements. This operation will also be handled by Sally.



**SPRING!**

What a great time of year! Now is the time to get out and observe the beautiful wildflowers of the Macedon Ranges.

Two plants to watch out for, as both are beginning to flower now. Good Luck!

**“Blue Pincushion” *Brunonia australis***

A beautiful plant when in flower *Brunonia* was painted by Ferdinand Bauer (1760-1826) during his voyage on HMS *Investigator* (1801-1805), when it was under the command of Matthew Flinders.

The original watercolor is in the collections of the Botany Library in The Natural History Museum, London.

Easily recognized by the rosette of spoon-shaped blue/green hairy leaves (to 100mm long) which begin to re-emerge with the Autumn rains. *Brunonia* is called Blue Pincushion due to the dense blue pincushion like flowerheads. These are on stems up to 30cm high and begin to flower October to January. In their natural surrounding they die back to rootstock.



Picture from *The Concise Australian Flora* Leonard Cronin, Page 49.

Blue Pincushions require moist well drained soil and look great planted in clumps. Will take full or part sun. The forming flowerheads are frost sensitive if planted out in the open.

**“Grass Trigger Plant” *Stylidium graminifolium***

The common name aptly describes this plant.

When not in flower it can look just like a grassy clump, but upon closer investigation you will notice that the leaves are broader, thicker and more tufting than grass. The “trigger” refers to the ingenious mechanism (the column) that attracts and uses insects to cross pollinate the plant. When the flower is ripe, insects are attracted to the nectar. As the insect attempts to gain nectar it can set off the trigger (column) which is sensitive to touch. The trigger dusts the insect with pollen which is then transferred by the insect to other flowers as they seek more nectar, allowing cross pollination (fertilization)

The flowers can be white or pink, flowering September to December. Grass Trigger plants require moist but well drained soils in full or part sun. These also look great planted in clumps for visual effect or plant individually near a rock as a feature plant.

Reference book used for both plants, **Flora of Melbourne** S.G.A.P. 1993. Pgs 72 & 188.



Picture from *What Seed Is That?* Neville Bonney, page 285.

**Treasurer’s Report**

by Hillary Roberts

At 16th October 2004 we had 44 paid up members

Bank balance	530.25
Cash on hand	20.00
<b>Total funds available</b>	<b>550.25</b>

**Movement of funds since inception**

**Receipts**

Memberships	880.00
Donations	20.00
Weeds day receipts	152.20
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>1052.20</b>

**Expenses**

Member Insurance	295.00
VFF Administration Fees	85.80
VFF Group Fee	22.00
Weeds Day Cosy	69.00
Bank Fees	10.60
Stationery	19.55
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>501.95</b>

**Balance of funds available 550.25**