

Newham & District Landcare Group



Working towards a
healthier environment

Address – PO Box 314, WOODEND 3442

Newsletter Editors: Paul & Marie Marmara

Aims of Newham & District Landcare Group

The Group has the objective of raising awareness of the natural environment amongst the residents of the district. Emphasizing how we can all contribute to the wellbeing of all (humans, plants, water quality and the natural environment) through the raising of knowledge and participation of all in projects that improve the environment of Newham & District.

Roadside Weeds Project

Roadside weed spraying of Don's Road, Egan's Lane and Jim Road has been undertaken. Lachlan Milne, Environment Resource Officer of the MRSC advised he will audit the spraying to establish the success rate. If any landholders, whose properties abut these roads, have any concerns or comments in relation to the spraying, Lachlan has asked that he be contacted direct on 5429 9659 and informed.

Members of the Group have now had instruction on entering weed information into the MRSC data base and are in the process of cataloguing data on the roads surveyed to date. Lachlan has asked if, once this is completed, and the next projected road surveyed, the Group would consider mapping Three Chain Road as it is badly weed infested.

The Group is keen to map as many roads around Newham as we can and two more members will take part in the next road mapping survey, which will be Colwell's Road.

Members of the Group have said how good it feels to be dealing with a weed problem which, according to Lachlan, has been festering for 60-70 years and in a very tangible way to be able to:-

- (i) recognise weeds on roadsides;
- (ii) record weed levels;
- (iii) contribute to weed removal;
- (iv) provide valuable assistance to the Council in recording the Shire's weed infestation on roadsides; and
- (v) contribute to the return of natural vegetation in our environment.

If you would like to be part of the Group, please contact Alice Aird on 5427 0453 or Sue Massie on 5427 0065 for more information.



Group Activities

May 24th “Landscape forms and processes: Mount Macedon – Cobaw Ranges.

What a fabulous speaker!!!! Dr Neville Rosengren is anything but dry on his favourite topic. 50 people braved the weather and gathered in [an almost warm!] Newham Hall to hear Neville Rosengren talk geology.

They were rewarded with a wonderfully lucid and fascinating, walk through the complexities of Victorian regional geological history, with a focus on our region. Neville has offered to return later in the year – see coming events list.



21st May - Ken Sweaney’s Autumn Planting

Despite some real concerns about the weather, our official Autumn Planting day at Ken’s property on the corner of Dons Rd and Three Chain Road turned out to be a real beauty in all respects.

It was a lovely, clear autumn day and 23 hardy souls managed to get over 600 plants in the ground along a little gully that runs into Deep Creek from the North-Eastern face of the Jim Jim.

Ken has received funding via the Community Water Grants Scheme and will be planting a total of 3000 indigenous tube stock – 10% trees and the rest understorey plants.

This will enhance water quality and also contribute to the vegetation corridor that runs across the along the ridge of the Jim Jim [part of the Campaspe-Maribyrnong Headwaters Bio-link] by extending existing vegetation, further up the gully, towards Deep Creek.



Volunteers preparing to Work!!

Whilst the area had not been sprayed the grass was short and the soil rich and damp which enabled us to scalp the soil easily with mattocks and then use Hamilton planters for the holes. The real bonus for the day was having our own 600 litre spray trailer available for the first time which we used to water the plants.



Enjoying Ken’s splendid Bar-B-Que Lunch

With two spray lines available the time and effort of watering was greatly reduced. Hopefully our members can use the spray trailer for the same purpose for future plantings.

Our thanks to Ken for hosting us and providing a barbeque lunch, which capped off a terrific day of planting, with plenty of socialising.

Group Activity cont.



Dr. Jim Radford – ‘Planning Landscapes for Wildlife’

In Jim’s talk he nominated key aspects of the planning process which can be summarised as below:

1. **Construct a Landscape Vision**
2. **Develop a Restoration Plan**
3. **Within the restoration plan follow the edict of Protect – Improve – Enhance – Reconstruct**
Protect remnants.

Improve quality of existing habitat elements by removing or controlling threatening processes.

Enhance by enlarging existing habitat through passive regeneration or revegetation of gaps, buffer zones and natural corridors [waterways and ridges]

Reconstruct by creating new habitat elements through revegetation



For Your Information

Memberships for 2006/2007

Renewal of membership for next year falls due on 1 July 2006. Our membership fee remains at \$20 per annum per property.

This fee covers our basic incorporation costs, insurance for members, some administration costs and the delivery of the Landcare Australia quarterly magazine and our own seasonal newsletter.

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



Please complete the enclosed form with your current details and interests and forward to us in July and grow the group from the current 58 members.

Global Positioning System (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.

Seed Separator

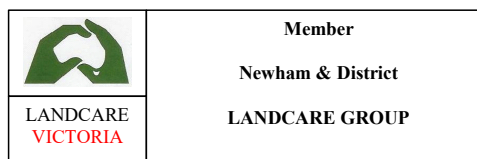
The committee has authorised the purchase of a 13” seed separator which consists of eight sieves and is used to clean native seeds for later planting. This will be available for members. If anyone is interested please advise any member of the committee.



Gate Landcare Signs

Newham & District Landcare has obtained a number of gate signs for members to indicate their membership and contribution to the environment. The signs cost \$15 each and are 200mm x 600mm made from colourbond metal.

The sign would be similar to the one shown here.



Please indicate your interest by contacting Hilary Roberts 5427 0795

Member Discounts at Elders

Your committee has negotiated a discount of 5-10% (depending on the product) for Newham Landcare members on purchases from Elders Kyneton.

Upcoming Events

Saturday July 1st Winter Warmer

Social gathering to warm the cockles of our souls in miserable weather.



When: 6.30 for dinner at 7 pm
Where: 159 Dons Rd., Newham
What to bring: Drinks and something for a shared table
RSVP: Penny 5427 0795



Pencil in these dates

Clarkefield Serrated Tussock Field Day

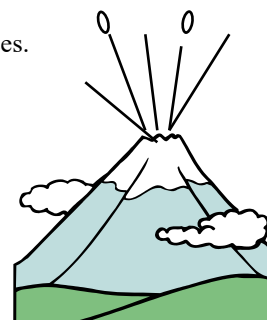
July 8th 10:30-12:30 Fenton hill Road Clarkefield, free BBQ RSVP 5429 9659 for catering purposes.

Neville Rosengren The Volcano Man

An extension of his May talk for those who missed out, and those of us who want more.

He says "Perhaps I could focus more on the volcanic processes and products of the immediate area – Sunbury – Macedon - Kyneton – Lancefield with more detailed descriptions of the land-forms and soils on the different lavas and other rocks of the Land Care district."

Keep tuned for this presentation which will be late August/early September.



Understorey Planting at the Rock – Saturday 22nd July - *further details*

contact the Friends of Hanging Rock Paul Marmara 5427 0258

Wildflower Walk with Marie Marmara – Saturday 28th October - in conjunction with the Friends of Hanging Rock *further details to follow in next newsletter*

Spring planting – Saturday 11th November at John Winter and Des Schepers

further details to follow in next newsletter

Speaker Evenings

Speaker meetings will become a regular feature of our calendar with the committee aiming to organise two each year.

Soon we will advise details of an evening with Tim Bloomfield, the pest man and later Jim Radford, birdman and landscape ecologist!

If you have a request for a speaker meeting, please inform your committee.

Other

Social Events are planned for Christmas (including the annual egg tossing championship) and early in 2007. These free events will be a great opportunity for all members to meet and interact.



HOW'S IT ALL GOING ALONG THE NEWHAM DEEP CREEK? Or

WHAT HAVE WE GOT TO SHOW FOR \$50 000 SPENT ON ONE KILOMETRE OF CREEK?

I write this on the last day of May 2006. Over the past 4 weeks things have really been happening along the Newham Deep Creek. PERHAPS YOU HAVE SEEN THE SMOKE from all the burning willows as you drove along Dons Road.

Under expert guidance from David Fisher and Rob Ferguson of Melbourne Water, the really big problem of huge willows choking the stream channel has finally been tackled.

The effort has been concentrated where the creek flows through five properties from Judy Don's downstream to David Moody's 'Yungaburra'. This was the worst area of willow infestation. A team of 4 enthusiastic and hard working men employed by Rodney Woods Contracting with 3 chain-saws whirring to feed the clutches of a 12 tonne excavator made short work of willows and other major weed species. Our landcare group also organised for the creek in the grounds of the Newham School to be cleaned up.

As weeds were cut they were immediately painted with glyphosate to kill the stumps. These are to be left in the creek to rot away slowly thus maintaining the stability of the channel until other (indigenous) plants become established.

The landholders now have a wonderful opportunity to put in thousands of plants to create a beautiful stretch of stream. They may well need the support and assistance of the Landcare Group over the months and years ahead to achieve this.

Rock work is also being done in some places to help control erosion where willow removal has upset the channel.

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ALL THIS WORK?

Two things are evident:

- (a) Since taking over the role of 'waterway manager' in November 2005, Melbourne Water is showing that it really means ACTION! It is not some far distant body in some office in the city but **here on the ground doing things!**
- (b) As an organization, Melbourne Water responds to local community interest and involvement. How come we have been able to get this work done on a couple of kilometres of creek when there are some 700 km of stream in the Maribyrnong catchment needing this sort of work? It's as a result of the interest shown by the Landcare Group and the community. We must **maintain this enthusiasm.**



Let's keep working to improve our Newham district!



Achievements

Australia Post Sponsorship

We are pleased to announce that our Group has had further success in obtaining funding - \$3300 sponsorship from Australia Post via Landcare Australia - to continue our property planning activities.

This money will be used to run workshops on property planning and project development for property owners who *did not* participate in the Autumn Property Planning Series. [Aerial photos and overlays for participants, catering and administrative costs]



The idea is to develop project plans so that when funding opportunities arise (which they do on a rolling basis) we will be in a position to apply for them.

If you are interested in participating, please let us know by contacting Penny on 0418 396837 or hproberts@bigpond.com

Talk to your neighbours and come as a 'cluster' – all the better for planning!

Non-members will be charged \$25 [free to members]

Likely Dates: mid-August on Friday pm / Saturday am - to be confirmed.

Duration: 2 hours

Thanks to Councillors Henry Bleeck and Sandra McGregor for their contribution of \$400- towards the catering costs of the Autumn Property Planning Series.

PS we also confirm that we have received a grant from Melbourne Water of \$6300 for the Newham Primary School and \$200 subsidy for our Newsletter.

Special Note

Update on Previous Plantings

It is important that members receive feedback on the success and failures on past community plantings. Accordingly we intend to make this an important section in our next newsletter. I invite all property owners who have had plantings by the Newham & District Landcare Group to contact Nick Massie with a short report (including photo's) on the progress of the revegetation.

Your Committee

President: Penny Roberts [5427 0795]
Secretary Roger Rugless [5427 0100]
Treasurer Hilary Roberts [5427 0795]
Past President Jim Sansom [5427 0408]

Peter Eisen - committee member
Philip Flanagan – committee member
Nick Massie – committee member
Alice Aird – committee member

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

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]
Library Archive material: Sally Stabback 5427 0059