

Newham & District Landcare Group



Working towards a
healthier environment



Address – PO Box 314, WOODEND 3442

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.

Congratulations

Cause for celebration. - Landcare award for Newham & District Landcare group, recognizing the value of the activities we are undertaking.

Port Phillip & Westernport catchment has some 450 Friends and Landcare groups besides us.

Our Landcare group has won an award in the category of “Community group caring for private land” – and received a beautifully framed certificate and \$400-.”



Penny Roberts receiving the Landcare award on behalf of the Newham & District Landcare Group



Landcare Awards – Well Done

What have we been up to?

Winter Warmer Dinner

Thirty members attended on the 1st July a dinner at the home of Hilary and Penny Roberts. The dinner was an opportunity for new members to meet existing members and to learn about the activities in a social atmosphere. A wonderful range of food contributed by Newham Landcare members was consumed with glee and enjoyment as was a selection of fine wines brought in from the district.



All who attended learned from each other about each others properties and advice was freely given and received on improvements that can be made and incorporated in property plans.

The night was so enjoyable that a yellow bathmat and two oval glass avocado dishes remain unclaimed – do these belong to you???

Tree Project Tube Stock

1200 plants grown by city volunteers for Newham & District Landcare group members have recently been distributed.

Some additional plants of small stature will be grown on over Summer and be available, at the same price of 30c per tube, in Autumn 2007.

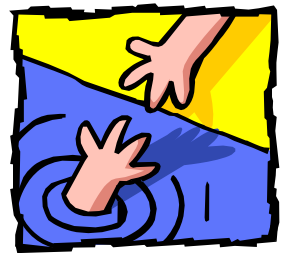
A group order will be placed with Tree Project for Spring 2007 delivery – details will be circulated separately, and included will be an opportunity to purchase tree-guards and stakes at wholesale prices.

Assistance Wanted - Nothing Too Onerous!

We need help from members!!

Administrative support is required from the membership to action the following:

- with Tree Project orders for 2007
Tasks involved include sourcing seed, collating orders and sorting plants for members to collect.
- with organization of new member kit materials.



Call Penny on 5427 0795 if you are able to volunteer assistance.

Australia Post sponsored Property planning /project development workshops

Fifteen property owners in the Newham District have recently taken advantage of this sponsorship to plan their properties development. They all received an A3 aerial photograph of their property and attended a session to discuss use of the photo for planning purposes and how to develop an environmental project with a view to obtaining funding support.



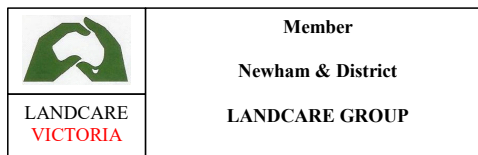
Planning what you would like to do [in however many stages you like/need] and preparing an A4 'map' depicting your property and the project area puts you in the best possible position to take advantage of funding options when they become available. Co-ordinating with adjacent properties makes it even better!

If you have a property of 10 hectares [is this too large] or more and would like to participate in the next workshop, please contact Penny on 5427 0795 by September 20th.

Free to members. \$25 for non-members – talk to your neighbours!!

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 of \$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 – A quick update

Erosion protection works will soon commence following the surveying that has been undertaken.

Clearing of willows and other trees has proceeded apace and is almost complete.

Roadside Weeds Project

As we move into spring the weeds on  the roadsides will really kick into action.

This is the ideal time to control weeds and it will bring into relief the effectiveness of the spraying by Council.

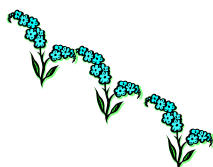
The Roadside weed group encourages any landholders, whose properties abut those that have been sprayed and have concerns or comments in relation to the spraying and its effectiveness to contact Lachlan Milne from the MRSC on 5429 9659.



Members of the Group plan to commence mapping Three Chain Road after Colwell's Road as it is badly weed infested.

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

Updates on Previous Plantings

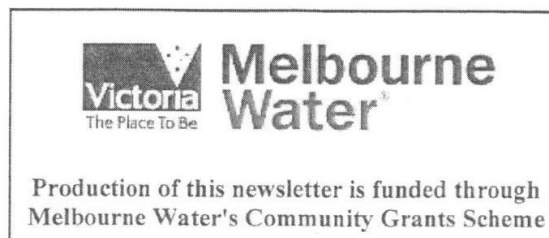
In the last newsletter a call was made for an update on the success of Newham and District Plantings. No submissions have been made to the Newsletter editor.

LET'S MAKE THIS A GOAL for the NEXT NEWSLETTER.

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

Newsletter Support

Melbourne Water community grants scheme is helping to support the production of this newsletter with associated costs. Newham & District Landcare Group wishes to acknowledge the financial support and thanks Melbourne Water for their ongoing assistance in the production and issue of our newsletter.



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

ORGANICS – Solutions to Climate Change by Peter Eisen



The Third Organic Federation of Australia National Conference at Darling Harbour, Sydney. 22nd -- 23rd July 2006

This Conference was a stimulating and instructive experience; 33 papers and presentations covering sustainable soils for climate change, soil fertility, soil biology, strategic feeding of ruminants, pasture cropping and many more topics. Many of the participants were scientists, academics and business leaders. However, the most impressive input came from farmers who were applying organic principles to their farming activities, and, from Dr Elaine Ingham, Director of the Soil Web Institute.

Many interesting statistics like: Humus stores 20 times its weight of water; 1 tonne per hectare increase in organic soil material takes 3.7 tonnes CO₂ from the atmosphere. Ingham's detailed research into the composition and activity of soil biology essentially in the form of compost provides a very useful framework within which to work on soil improvement and a sustainable environment. Just imagine, every gram of healthy soil biomass contains 25000 species of bacteria, 8000 species of fungi, along with protozoa, nematodes, microarthropods and earthworms. These are the "workers" of the soil biology that plants need to achieve optimal growth. All from quality compost. And plants grown organically can significantly reduce CO₂ in the atmosphere.

I'm happy to provide more info. , Phone 54270574 or peter Eisen@bordnet.com.au

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. Mem-

Membership Drive



bers are also invited to consider committee membership and are invited to contribute thoughts to any committee meeting. Please contact any committee member if interested.

Memberships for 2006/2007

For those members who have not yet paid, renewal of membership was due on 1 July 2006. Our membership fee remains at \$20 per annum.

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 list for events and grants information.

So if you have not already done so, please complete the enclosed form with your current details and forward to us as soon as possible.

Upcoming Events

Friday October 13th

Annual General Meeting followed by presentation by Chris Lindorrf of Trust for Nature

Macedon Ranges Shire Council gives a 100% rate rebate on land protected by a Trust for Nature Conservation Covenant. Why?? Find out about the work of Trust for Nature and what you can do as a private landowner to protect bio-diversity.

Newham Hall, 7.00 pm wine & nibble 7.15 AGM, 7.30 presentation
Continue to drink & eat afterwards!

Saturday October 28 -Wildflower Walk

A combined Friends of Hanging Rock and Newham Landcare event with Marie Marmara along Sheltons Road, Newham. This section of road way has an excellent range of wild flowers, and who better to identify them, but Marie, who has an extensive knowledge and passion of the local flora.



Meet at Sheltons Road (just up from the corner of Bolgers Lane) at 10:30 am.

Wear walking shoes and hat if sunny. Bring your camera. Should be walking slowly for no longer than 2 hours. Limited parking is available in Sheltons Road as well as at the corner of Bolgers Lane

Saturday November 11th – Spring Planting Day Woop! Woop! Woop!

Time to get your hands dirty again, this time planting a wetlands area.

Planting is always a pleasure [compared with weed control, anyway] and it is even more fun to do it with a group of friends and then share a meal.

Where: 709 Three Chain Rd., Newham

When: 0930 start, lunch at 12.30 provided by our hosts.

BYO gloves, kneeling mat, and gumboots just in case.

RSVP to Dez and John 5427 0282

November Sat 18th – Bird walk with Albert Golden at Rock Reserve (FOHR)



Hanging



Always a great morning out with something interesting to see. Anything from rosellas, wrens, tree creepers, through to various wet land birds on the dam and peregrine falcons high up on the rock. If you are lucky we may even see the Powerful Owl, So don't forget to bring your binoculars and a hat to keep the sun off.

Be at the Café no later than 9:00am for an early start. (Free Reserve Entry/Exit fee provided on the day).

Saturday December 2 -End-of-year social gathering from 5 pm

We hope you will all come.

Newham Hall, BBQ

Games for children, gingerbread decorating

Annual egg-tossing event & presentation of perpetual trophy

Details to be advised closer to the event – but keep the date free!

Rabbit & fox eradication program

Tim Bloomfield [DSE Bacchus Marsh], one of the great speakers from the Autumn Prop-Planning Series] has offered to run a couple of sessions focusing on rabbits and foxes.

Due to the heavy load of events this year it has been decided that we will wait until next year to take up his generous offer – WATCH THIS SPACE!!!

If you have a particular interest in the eradication of rabbits and foxes in this district, please make it known to Hilary Roberts [5427 0795].



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