

Newham & District Landcare Group



Working towards a
healthier environment

Address – PO Box 314, WOODEND 3442

Newsletter Editors: Paul & Marie Marmara

PRESIDENTS REPORT

It has been 18 months since Newham & District Landcare was created.

A few people had felt the need for a group close to Newham – one with a broad outlook – but it was Jim Sansom who did the necessary footwork to establish it.

His energy and enthusiasm have driven the group, and we have achieved an enormous amount under his leadership. Thank-you Jim, for your amazing contribution and your willingness to stay on the committee.

At the 2005 AGM Jim talked about our achievements over the preceding 12 months and these are summarized below.

The AGM was attended by 22 people – quite amazing given the miserable weather and the shed venue!



THE "A" TEAM

**The com-
2006 :**

Penny Roberts
right

Peter Eisen not in picture

Roger Rugless [Secretary] standing left

Hilary Roberts [Treasurer] standing far right

Jim Sansom standing left

Judy Don (sitting left) has left the committee, and we thank her for her contribution over the past year.

Nick Massie not in picture

Phil Flanagan standing far left

Alice Aird not in picture

mittee for 2005-

[President] sitting

Milestone of the Group by Penny Roberts

“Newham Deep Creek Project” established

- ◆ Funds obtained from Port Phillip & Westernport Catchment Management Authority for weed control and revegetation.
- ◆ Bio-survey by a team from Latrobe University to collect baseline data. Assisted by funds from Macedon Shire Council.

“Campaspe-Maribyrnong Headwaters Bio-link ” project established

- ◆ Envirofund application submitted in September.

Group activities

- ◆ Wild-flower walk along Sheltons Rd. led by Marie Marmara.
- ◆ Clean-up Australia Day effort led by Sue Massie.
- ◆ Autumn & Spring planting days. Approx. 700 plants in the ground!
- ◆ Stroll along Newham Deep Creek, to view works done, and BBQ lunch.



General meetings

- ◆ Developing Action Plans” with 36 people in attendance to discuss proposed action plans.
- ◆ Bio-diversity in Newham” – D. Ingwersen [Latrobe Uni] & Lachlan Milne [Shire Environment Officer] with 28 in attendance.

Committee meeting guest speakers

- ◆ Neville Barwick [to discuss a ‘teams’ approach to organizing a Landcare group]
- ◆ John Blamey [presentation on regional rabbit control].

Organization of the group

The model adopted is to have a number of ‘Action Plans’. Each of these will have a convenor and an active cell of people involved to get the job done. Convenor of each Action Plan will be ‘ex officio’ on the committee. In addition to the projects mentioned above there are Action Plans being developed for Roadside Vegetation, Landcare & Newham Primary School, Weed management, Waterways & water quality, Seed collection & plant propagation and Pest animals.



And now..... that we have established our credibility as a group we need to consolidate our position by completing works underway and obtaining further funds to expand upon them. We need to think in the longer term, and to consider how we can best obtain funding.

This means gathering the necessary information to prepare detailed, long-term action plans which include mapping of areas involved and costings of works to be done - preferably obtaining funding to do this so that the committee is not exhausted!

Members can prepare individual property maps indicating what works they would like to do [and the time frame] in the format required for funding applications. In 2006 we will be holding a workshop to assist landholders in this process – more information about this in the Summer newsletter.



If we develop this data-base applying for grants will be much easier – no more 11th hour hassles!

From the Archive - by Sally Stabback

We are now established with our archives. The “Newham Deep Creek Project” is well on its way and I will be contacting folk along the creek to take photos or copy existing photos and to obtain information. These records will ultimately go to Woodend and District Heritage Society.



We have copies of the “**Biological Survey of the Deep Creek [Newham]**” that was carried out in early 2005 by a group from Latrobe University.

We also have “**News and Views**” **North Central Victoria Farming Newsletter** published by the DPI & North Central CMA. It combines farming research with Landcare and has lots of ads.!! It would be of interest and value to farmers as well as those of us who aren't.

“**Land for Wildlife**” news and “**Out of Control**” are also available.

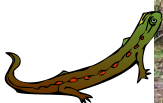
Contact Sally Stabback Phone 5427 0059



Spring Planting Day at Judy Dons property Rochford Road Newham

On a bleak, cold, rainy, miserable Saturday morning we gathered at Judy Don's property for our Spring planting day. A keen bunch of 22 members started work in the rain. Our objective was to plant 300 -400 indigenous plants in pigwire enclosures [to exclude wallabies] as per the Melbourne Water 'Stream Frontage Management' methodology. A 50m roll of wire is laid out in a circle, supported by star pickets, and the area within is closely planted with a mix of trees, shrubs and clumping varieties. With determined effort we finished by 1245 and retired to “the shed” for a BBQ lunch.

Brigitte Kny, our guest speaker, talked of her experiences - developing a property in Sheltons Road [it was to be like the Botanic Gardens!], her passion for the local wildflowers [and resulting photographic documentation] and for wildlife.



The die hards improving another part of this great land of ours.
The land we call home.

Planting Days



Information regarding planting days:

The committee has determined that we will have 2 planting days as regular events on our calendar, in Spring and Autumn. These days will have 3 aims – practical, social and educative. We wish to maximize attendance on these days and do not want to create an onerous regular workload for our membership.

Any member may request to host a planting day. The committee recognizes that there will be members who might like to have a planting day but cannot be fitted into the two calendar events. In these instances we will assist members by providing written guidelines on how to prepare for a planting day, nominating a member to assist in planning and/or supervising if required and by providing equipment.

Please contact a committee member if you would like to host a planting day!



A great planting day at Sally Stabback's property
See page 5 for details

Calendar 2005

November

Tuesday 1st (Melbourne Cup Day) (9:00am sharp)
Wildflower walk in Shelton's Road with Marie Marmara
Meet at the corner of Sheltons Road & Bolgers Lane) Newham.



Saturday 5th
Members planting session & lunch – ring 10.00am Lorri Buttner on 5427 0696 for details
Old Cobaw School
House 1141 Three Chain Road Cobaw

December



Saturday 3rd (6:00pm start)
End of Year social gathering at Newham Hall
For all the family
BBQ & tennis/soccer/garden croquet as desired
Bring Your Own BBQable bits & drinks.
Plus a salad or dessert to share
Tennis rackets & balls, croquet set, soccer ball will be available for use.



Planting Day at Sally's by Paul Marmara.

Many hands make light work.

This was very much the case at Sally Stabback's property on Three Chain Road, Cobaw. With a fabulous turnout of locals, Melbourne friends and even some international WOOFers, care of Penny and Hilary Roberts.

The planting of approximately 400 plants was set out around an existing dam. The plants were set out to ensure flight path of birds to the dam was not obstructed. This was achieved by having the indigenous grasses and sedges located on the incoming flight path with larger trees such as Candle Barks and Manna Gums located to provide shelter as well as future fauna protection adjacent to the dam area.

The operation involved Sally spraying areas adjacent to dam area and roughly marking out area wishing to be revegetated. Plants were laid out the day before the planting ensuring the right plant was located in the area best suited. Plants which liked a drier environment were placed on the dam wall and on higher parts of the adjoining land. Other plants which could tolerate wetter conditions were placed along overflow and drainage lines. Bog plants were also planted in the water of the dam itself.

With around 25 people working together the task at hand was soon done. In a matter of about an hour all plants had been inserted into the ground, with the aid of tools such as the Hamilton tree planters and the usual garden mattock.

The plants were watered in and left to pretty much look after themselves with no weed mats or stake and guards.

With the job complete and after many laughs the team headed up to Sally's house for restaurant quality lunch beautifully catered for with the assistance of more friends. Plenty of food more laughs and a feel good end to the day.

Well done to Sally and all who attended the day.



Planting around farm dam at Sally Stabback's property overlooking the lovely Cobaw state forest.

