

South Gippy

# Landcare News

A newsletter for landcarers in the South Gippsland Landcare Network (SGLN)

Issue 2  
Volume 25  
Spring 2017

It's the  
weeds  
issue!

SOUTH GIPPSLAND  
LANDCARE NETWORK



STANDS, *SENECIO JACOBÆA* L.



63678  
*Rubus fruticosus* ssp.  
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South Gippy Landcare News is a joint publication between all Landcare groups in the South Gippsland Landcare Network.

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### Circulation

South Gippy Landcare News is distributed to all members of the South Gippsland Landcare Network and at field days and festivals. 500 copies are circulated in the South Gippsland and Westernport catchments.

Greetings fellow Landcarers, as I write this report, the rain is pouring down and snow is falling to 300 metres, while in East Gippsland, the region has missed significant winter rains and severe frost has impacted grass and tree growth. South Gippsland certainly is the lucky country even though it can get cold and miserable in winter. Our past year has been a very busy one indeed, with a vast array of events and activities available to all SGLN members to participate. Some Highlights I have experienced include the Green carpet awards, presented at the Heyfield wetlands precinct and having

dinner with former Governor General Michael Jeffery discussing the importance of healthy soils. There has been a multitude of fantastic events held throughout the Network like ragwort field day or celebrating national Landcare week just to name a few recent

activities. I must warmly thank many people in the SGLN who make it all happen. A big thank you to Jill Vella our hard working network co-ordinator, who has worked tirelessly to deliver great outcomes for our network, your efforts are greatly appreciated. To Margaret McDonald our hard working treasurer, thanks for your devotion to the role and the many additional hours you have contributed towards the SGLN To all our board members, old and new, thanks for your knowledge and contribution in what has been a busy year for the SGLN your input has been invaluable. We look forward to the upcoming AGM with a positive outlook for the future of the SGLN.

Yours in Landcare,

**Frank Dekker**

**Chair - South Gippsland Landcare Network**



Photo top Frank delivering his Chair's report at the AGM

Photo above :Frank presenting Dick Howarth Award winner, Suzanne Wightman with her award and flowers

### Hi and welcome to this edition of *South Gipps Landcare News*

Whoa, where has the year gone? Here it is, closer to summer than autumn, and during the first hot weather of this spring. I cannot believe the year has raced away so quickly. We have achieved a lot over the year, but there is still good stuff to come. Keep an eye out for *Network Notes* in your email inbox, so you don't miss out on any of our coming events.

I don't know about your place, but at mine, there is less feed in the silage paddocks than there was at this time last year. The late wet weather kept the soils at lower temperatures, which has retarded growth a little.

I posted on Facebook that we had above average rain for September. Speaking of Facebook, have you liked our page? We have been running training in Facebook for Landcare volunteers, encouraging groups to interact with their community through social media. Our webpage has a Facebook feed from each of the groups that has a page, and it is an easy way to keep the website and all your followers updated about the latest happenings.

We have 750 followers of @southgippslandlandcarenetwork with a majority local following. If you don't follow us yet, sign up (or click on) - and help us get to the magic 1000 likes!

At the recent AGM I was very proud to announce that Suzanne Wightman was our first Dick Howarth memorial life membership award winner. Although the Dick Howarth award is not new, it became sidelined when we stopped awarding SGLN awards and moved to the Green Carpet awards. The Board felt that keeping the Dick Howarth memorial was important to the SGLN community, so re-invented it as an lifetime membership.

Suzanne has made an fantastic contribution to Landcare and the South Gippsland environment over many years. She is so awesome, she was nominated twice! We have all the nominees in the newsletter on page 8. We certainly have a great number of people who have given a great deal to Landcare over the years. Well done to all the nominations, and congratulations Suzanne.



Those that didn't come to the AGM (we wouldn't of elected you as secretary- promise!) missed an excellent night. The chef's tasting plates as part of our Tapas style dinner at the Mirboo North Brewery were lovely, featuring Paul Crock's Gippsland Natural beef for the omnivores. The beer was cold and hit the spot, and the entertainment was fabulous. Alan Pentland, of Fast Forward fame, but also French Island and a keen Landcarer, was our presenter for the evening. His spoken word performance was very well received with one attendee describing the pieces as 'short, sweet and very tasty morsels, just like the meal'. Alan presented his works with such skill, we were carried along on a slightly madcap journey. It was great fun. I was told it was the 'best AGM ever'.

There were only two Board vacancies with Russell Swan and Margaret McDonald's two year terms completed. Russell stood for one of the positions and was re-elected, but Margaret was unable to, due to family commitments.

I would like to thank Margaret for her contribution to the network over the past year. She has very much improved our financial systems and, as in real life she is an auditor, made our accounting much more robust. Enjoy your time with your family, Margaret and thank you again!

Jill Vella

**Network Coordinator- South Gippsland Landcare Network  
(Maternity Leave replacement)**



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# How to commit herbicide - a field day

## SGLN held a successful field day on Thursday

**24th August** as part of its 'Innovative solutions to controlling agricultural weeds' project.

Over fifty participants watched demonstrations of weed spraying by an unmanned aerial vehicle – the Yamaha R-max unmanned helicopter- and 'Weedsteamers' steam weeder in the field day host's organic blueberry orchard. Property owner Tim Farrell is a partner in the steam weeding business and has controlled the weeds in the orchard exclusively with his steam weeding machine.

Field day participants first looked at our ragwort control trial plots where agronomist John Gallienne explained the trial setup. The aim of the trial is to evaluate some practical control options for ragwort growing in established pastures that are appropriate for the region, including determining the cost-effective outcome of these options for landowners.

The various treatments being evaluated are:

- Spray applications:    -Organic herbicide  
                                  -Selective herbicide
- Steam treatment
- Plant nutrients and/or lime – depending on soil test results
- Control – untreated

The demonstration trial activities will be recorded and mapped against the treatments. The results will be available to the farming community in the region at a trial site 'paddock walk' in January 2018 and the field day in early March 2018. Information will also appear in Landcare newsletters and the local press.

This project is supported by funding from the Australian government.



Photo left; the Yamaha R-Max unmanned helicopter demonstrating to the field day attendees targeted blackberry and ragwort spraying



Photo left middle; John Gallienne, our agronomist discussion the trial site and the control methods we have applied to the ragwort infested pasture. Our biggest challenge is to prevent the Landholder from killing the weeds in the trial plot!

Photo left bottom; in the organic blueberry orchard, steam weeding the blueberry rows



Photo above; Scott Noble from Yamaha, explains how the Yamaha R-Max unmanned aerial vehicle is used to spray weeds in inaccessible sites.

Photo below right; after a sausage sizzle lunch, Tim Farrell, property owner and partner in weed control business *Weedsteamers* demonstrated the steam weeding equipment and use



Weeds may be managed using a variety of methods. The most effective management is usually achieved through a combination of techniques. Combining techniques to manage invasive species is also known as integrated management.

In general, the principles of a successful weed management program are:

- Clean (or weed free) areas should be managed to keep them free of infestation.
- Lightly infested areas should be treated as a priority to minimise further spread.
- Heavily infested areas should be tackled progressively as part of a property management plan. Repeated treatments will be required.

## Things to consider before you begin

It is important not to disturb native vegetation, culturally significant areas or waterways when undertaking weed control works. If looking to undertake weed control works in these areas, consult with the responsible authority to seek advice on the best approach for your circumstances.

Work with your neighbours and encourage everyone to work together to control weeds at the same time. This will help to reduce re-infestation from neighbouring properties and reduce the amount of follow up control work required.

Contact your local Landcare group who will be able to provide advice and information that will assist your weed management program. They may be able to provide equipment, financial assistance or help coordinate a community program.

A long-term approach, regular monitoring and vigilance is necessary to successfully control weeds and, if the property is heavily infested, many years of follow-up treatment will be required. This is because many weeds will regrow from seed and other plant parts stored in the soil.

Noxious, restricted or regionally controlled weeds have this symbol



## Non-Chemical Control Methods Explained

### Biological Control

Biological control is the use of one living species, the agent, to control an unwanted species, the target.



### Cultivation

Cultivation has two main objectives, to prevent seeding and to destroy existing plants.



### Fire

Controlled burning for the management of large woody weed infestations to enable access for follow up control treatments such as hand removal or (if using chemical) foliar spraying or cut and paint methods. Follow up essential. Many safety concerns. Consult CFA and DSE/CMA (if infested area involves public land).



### Hand Pulling

Very effective in small areas or with isolated plants. Some plants will regenerate unless all root material is removed.



### Mechanical– Use of Machinery

Suitable for initial removal of large infestations of woody weed to enable access for follow up control treatments such as hand removal or (if using chemical)



foliar spraying or cut and paint methods. Ensure machinery is cleaned down before moving to a new area.

### Mulching/Smothering

Involves placing a thick layer of material on the ground surface which weeds struggle to penetrate.



### Pasture Improvement/Re-vegetation

The aim of the game for weed control is to ultimately replace weeds with plants that we do want. Once weeds are down to a manageable level, plant competition is an important means of weed control.



Increasing competition through good grazing management and addressing soil fertility will help to control many weeds. In fact, once competitive pasture is established, the pasture weeds drop out the picture altogether as is the case with certain weeds in a bushland environment. In areas where you want native vegetation, weed control programs should include revegetation using suitable native plants.

### Slashing or Mowing

May be used to delay seed production until a more suitable means of control can be undertaken. Care must be taken as weeds, if in seed, can spread easily using this method.



### Solarisation

A technique that blocks light and uses the heat from the sun to 'cook' weeds. Usually involves covering the infested area with a plastic sheet, sealing it tight and leaving it in place for several weeks. Suitable for plants that grow along the ground i.e. creepers. Adequate sunlight is required for this technique to be truly effective.



## Chemical Control Methods Explained

### Cut and Paint

Suitable for many woody weeds and some climbing creepers. The plant is cut off close to the ground and herbicide is immediately applied to the cut surface. A staggered pruning technique may be used for larger trees with herbicide applied at the last cut.



### Drill and Fill

Chips or fillers are made into the trunk of a woody weed close to the base of the trunk with an axe or tomahawk with herbicide immediately applied to the cut surface. Cut to penetrate through the hard outer bark to just into the soft bark layer. Alternatively, an angled hole can be drilled into the sapwood just below the bark and herbicide immediately apply the herbicide.



### Scrape and Paint

A variation of cut and paint that is more appropriate for treating large woody, vine-like weeds. The outside bark of a vine is removed with a knife and the exposed inner tissue is immediately applied with herbicide.



### Foliar Spray

An appropriate applied as fine droplets to the surface of foliage using a knapsack or spray unit.



### Grazing

Using stock such as goats, sheep and cattle



**This information is from our website**  
[www.sgnl.org.au/south-gippsland-weeds/](http://www.sgnl.org.au/south-gippsland-weeds/)

# Summer

## Autumn

December

January

February

March

April

### Agapanthus

*Agapanthus spp.*



Remove flowers



### Angled Onion

*Allium triquetrum*



### Apple of Sodom

*Solanum linnaeanum*

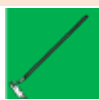
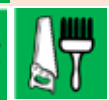


### Blackberry

*Rubus fruticosus L. agg*



Hand pull small plants; remove all parts



### Boxthorn

*Lycium ferocissimum*



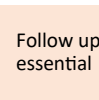
### Bridal creeper

*Asparagus asparagoides*



### Broom

*English, Flax leaved, cape*



### Cape ivy

*Delairea odorata*



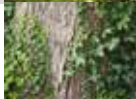
### Capeweed

*Arctotheca calendula*



### English ivy

*Hedera helix*



### Gorse

*Ulex europaeus*



### Hawthorn

*Crateagus monogyna*



### Hemlock

*Conium maculatum*



### Mirror bush

*Coprosma repens*



### Ragwort

*Senecio jacobaea*

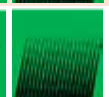


Any remaining part will regrow



### Thistle—Californian

*Cirsium arvense*



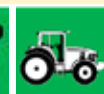
### Thistle—spear, slender, shore

*Carduus sp & Cirsium sp*



### Willow

*Salix spp*



### Pest Animals

*Fox, rabbit, deer*



Year round control—shooting all declared animal pest species.

Deer are vocal during the rut anytime with landholder permission.

Autumn		Winter				Spring			
April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November		
Hand pull small plants; remove all parts						Chemical control on small plants, large plants - wait until actively growing			
Follow up essential		Follow up essential							
		Follow up essential							
						Spray-graze, don't allow bare ground			
Follow up essential		Follow up essential							
Any remaining part will regrow		Any remaining part will regrow				Any remaining part will regrow			
Monitor and control rosettes in autumn after rain									
St—shooting deer is allowed permission (not hog deer)	Plan a neighbourhood baiting program before lambing/calving.				December—March; peak rabbit movement, use baits and or fumigation.				

## Dick Howarth Memorial Award nominees

**Dick and Maree Howarth were “tree-changers” who retired for a quiet rural life after living and working in the city. They bought two hectares of farmland and changed it to their rural paradise with mudbrick home, dam and lots of native trees.**

**Dick joined Landcare in about 1998, two years after the Loch/Nyora Landcare Group was formed. He became particularly active when they moved to Loch in January 2001. As president of Loch/Nyora Landcare, Dick advocated for the smaller landholders, and supported the group in actively recruiting and involving lifestyle farmers and town dwellers in Landcare activities. Dick represented his local group at the South Gippsland Landcare Network as firstly a vice president and then president. In these roles he represented the broader Landcare community on various regional and state-wide forums, and played a key role in assisting the Network to move forwards in a strategic manner during challenging times.**

**In September 2002, Dick passed away after a sudden heart attack. The Network elected to celebrate his life and contributions to Landcare by creating a memorial award life membership recognising outstanding contributions to the Landcare movement by a Landcare member.**

### Alex Campbell

He is endlessly cheerful and helpful with everyone in our Landcare group and beyond to the wider community. As an early organic dairy farmer, he is an inspiration and a real fount of farming wisdom! His Landcare work to plant out the Tarwin River at its junction with Loves Lane is a model of how beautiful our rivers can look with the proper native vegetation. I know he has also been a regular helper with the Mirboo North Secondary Landcare Cadets.



### Suzanne Wightman (two nominations)



1. She was an early founder of the Mardan Mirboo North Landcare group; helped start and support the Mirboo North Secondary College Landcare Cadets programme; switched her

dairy farm to being organic including planting shelterbelts with natives; encouraged others to join Landcare, and has been a consistent volunteer with Tree Bees held by our group. Suzanne has also been our Treasurer for a very long time which is probably one of the hardest jobs on the Committee. She is always willing to help to make sure our group functions well. You can always count on Suzanne to be there.

2. Suzanne is a “hands on” person who has volunteered hundreds of

not thousands of hours to help other people plant trees on their properties. She has also provided advice and support as required. She works regularly at Mossvale Park, maintaining the beautiful facility and is part of the management group. She also works regularly at the Baths Road reserve, clearing weeds and planting new trees. She supported Mardan Mirboo North Landcare group with their recent field days, working at the planning and the implementation stages. She has served as treasurer for a number of years and is the friendly face of Mardan Mirboo North Landcare.

### Lyn Mitchard



Lyn's enthusiasm and dedication has been a huge inaugural part in the success of the Mt Lyall Landcare Group. Lyn is a founding member of this group which formed in 1991. Lyn has led by example and has held many office positions and currently is our treasurer. Lyn's driving force has attracted many new members to our group and has strengthened the knowledge of Landcare in our area. Lyn won the State Landcare Primary Award in

1999 for her endless volunteering contributions on committees. South Gippsland Landcare Network, South Gippsland Seed Bank Committee, Slow the Flow and a big part of the Living Systems Project just to name a few. Lyn has planted thousands of trees on her property and has ensured her property remains economically viable as a working farm. Lyn is a pioneer of Landcare and thoroughly deserves this award.

### Ian and Gay Cornthwaite

Ian and Gay Cornthwaite work as a team in both their business and on farm work. Ian does most of the local seed collection and Gay has worked tirelessly in perfecting suitable techniques for the successful propagation of seed and plant material. Their efforts in the plant nursery and the family farm show the dedication to revegetation of the local area. The family farm has many areas which they have fenced and planted (much to his father's earlier disagreement) and now has well established



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## Dick Howarth Memorial Award nominees cont



trees and ferns returning to the once marginal farming areas. Now that ownership of the property has been passed to them, they

- President 2007, 2017
- Project Officer 2008
- President 2014-17

### Rae Knee

- Franklin River LC group member from 27/02/1996
- Project Officer 2003-2007
- Representative 2001-2002, 2009, 2011
- Secretary 1996-2003
- Vice-President 2007



### Bob and Robyn Gray

The Triholm group would like to nominate them for the award. They have transformed their farm with thousands of trees and taken on other projects as well.



Thanks to all the groups that nominated a member for this award. We are only able to award one life membership per year, and the choice the Board faced was a difficult one. Congratulations Suzanne on being the 2017 award winner.

have great visions to build on the work they have already done and have mapped the extra areas which they intend returning to vegetation, when funds become available. They have recently started earthworks on a series of dams to create a wetlands area on the property- entirely self funded due to the lack of funding opportunities. They are not ones to blow their own trumpet, they are worthy recipients of any award where the Environment and Landcare is involved as they are true advocates of caring for and improving the environment. Allambee Community group members are in awe of their vast knowledge of plants, and we are extremely privileged to have them as a resource and part of our Landcare group.

### Judy Bacon

- Franklin River LC group member from 27/02/1996
- Representative 2001-2005, 2008, 2011
- Treasurer 1999-2005
- Committee 2006, 2009-2013



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## Danny O'Brien meets with Poowong Landcare group

### Weed control compliance was the hot topic under discussion

at a cluster meeting held in late July in Poowong. They had a big turn up at the meeting with Danny O'Brien MP, Cr Lorraine Brunt, Cr Aaron Brown and Landcare group members from Loch/Nyora, Mt Lyall, Triholm, Warragul Sth, Mt Worth, Poowong and other interested persons. A TV film crew was in town for the "Legendary" project, and filmed the meeting. There were more than 40 people present for the discussions.

As a result of this meeting, the Nationals Member for Gippsland South, Danny O'Brien, has taken community concerns about enforcement of weed control on private land to State Parliament.

Mr O'Brien has asked the Minister for Agriculture, Jaala Pulford, to take action to crack down on recalcitrant land owners who don't do the right thing in controlling noxious weeds.

He says, "A few weeks ago I met with a number of Landcare groups at Poowong to discuss their concerns about weed control on private land.

"With a lot more tree-changers and absentee land holders moving into our beautiful Gippsland landscape, education is an issue and there is a growing concern about the management of weeds.

"But it's not just new arrivals; some long-time landowners as well need to be reminded of their obligations.

"The government has the law at its disposal to enforce proper weed management and the message I heard from this meeting is that not enough is being done."

Mr O'Brien said he had asked the Minister about better compliance, such as a flying squad to travel the state to tackle seasonal weed issues, penalties being applied onto land titles of offenders and on-the-spot fines as measures to tackle weeds that were suggested at the meeting.

It's estimated that weeds cost Australian agriculture \$4 billion through yield losses and product contamination each year and that controlling invasive species in Victoria alone costs \$253 million.

Mr O'Brien followed up with a meeting on site with National Party leader Peter Walsh. Mr O'Brien and Mr Walsh were joined by Member for Narracan, Gary Blackwood at the meeting along with farmers and Landcare groups from Mount Worth, Poowong, South Gippsland and Maffra.

Well done to the Poowong group for this initiative.



Photo above from left, SGLN Vice-chair Mark Walters, a ragwort aka Jo McLeay, Gippsland South MP Danny O'Brien, Wendy Davis impersonating a rabbit and Bob McLeay, as a very fetching thistle.



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Photo left; from left, SGLN Vice-chair Mark Walters, Gippsland South MP Danny O'Brien, Strzelecki beef farmer Rob Jackson, Leader of the Victorian Nationals and Shadow Minister for Agriculture Peter Walsh, Narracan MP Gary Blackwood and Rob Waddell from Grand Ridge Propagation Nursery.

## Out and about with Landcare



Photos; at the AGM held at the Mirboo North Brewery. Clockwise from top left, Mardan Mirboo North LC members; Russel Swan giving the treasurers address; Russell and Jenni Swan, Evelyn Lillie and Judy Lackman from Allambee Community LC group; General room shot; Gary Wallis (who contributed some of these images with Merran Wilde, Mark Walters and Alan Pentland).



Photos above; Khory Hancock (the environmental cowboy) - second from the left in the left photo is talking about climate change and soil health at the Buckley Park Community Farm Spring farm fair. Khory is from Queensland, and the network supported the Fish Creek Community Farm at Buckley park to have him come and present to over 40 local farmers on soil health and climate adaptation, remediation and mitigation strategies. This presentation was supported by the South Gippsland Landcare Network and the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme.

## Upcoming events

### Healthy Soils Sustainable Farms; Developing a grazing enterprise –yards, infrastructure and watering systems from scratch.

Where: Bruce Whittaker and Jillian Staton's, 145 Illawong Court, Cape Liptrap – drive to new house at end of laneway.

When: Tuesday 14 November 2017 10.30am – 2.30pm. BYO lunch and deck chair, morning tea provided

For more information or to RSVP by Thursday 9 November 2017 to Jenny O'Sullivan on M: 0419 153 377 or E: [sgln@landcare.net](mailto:sgln@landcare.net)

This project is supported by the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme.

### Healthy soils, Nutritional food, Healthy people

Where: Inverloch Hub, 16 Abeckett St, Inverloch VIC 3996 Healthy lunch included

When: Friday 17th November 2017, 9.30am registration for 10.00am start- 2.00pm

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL link : <https://healthysoilsfoodpeople.eventbrite.com.au> All enquires to Joel, Bass Coast Landcare Network, 5678 2335

This project is supported by Bass Coast Landcare Network, South Gippsland Landcare Network and the West Gippsland CMA, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program



We have a Managing azolla on farm dams field day; Friday 1st December (morning session) TBC

An agroforestry field day; Friday 1st December (afternoon session) TBC

A managing tunnel erosion field day Friday 24th November (TBC)

Watch out for more details in *Network Notes*, Facebook or [www.sgln.org.au/events](http://www.sgln.org.au/events) or call Jill on 0419 382 379

