

NEWSLETTER

Sept. 2011

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*Phascogale tapoatafa (Tuan)*

2011 STLG Annual General Meeting



Once again we gathered at the Strathbogrie Memorial Hall for the STLG AGM. There was another excellent turn out this year to welcome our guest speakers and elect a new committee for 2011-2012. Landcare Support Officer Kerri Robson's information on wider Landcare functions reminded us that we are part of a significant force for good in the region. Steve Wilson, currently Land and Biodiversity Program Manager for Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (GBCMA), gave us a fascinating insight into the often hidden world of lizards, snakes, frogs and toads.

STLG Project Reports covered the ongoing alternate fertiliser trials, Caring for Our Country (CfOC 1 and 2) Water Projects for Seven Creeks Catchment Improvement, bore monitoring, the Conservation Management Network, Strathbogrie Nature Atlas Project and Friends of Bridge to Bridge.

This year's displays provided further information and education on STLG activities through PowerPoint, print, photos, local maps, bore height graphs, SNAP observations and acquisitions.

At 11.40 the Annual General Meeting was convened. Outgoing President, Pete Kelly, and Treasurer, Lindsay Rose, reported healthy outcomes for STLG activities in the previous year. Objectives have been met; positive moves on new projects made and finances remain in surplus. Future plans outlined by President Kelly included open meetings with guest speakers, STLG coordinated skills training sessions and a landholder survey.

Election of Office Bearers and Committee Members

The newly elected office bearers for 2011-2012 are as follows: President Bert Lobert, Treasurer Lindsay Rose and Secretary David Jamieson. They were joined by committee members Bill Wells, Julian Trescowthick, Denis Taylor, Brian Law, Ben Brook and Martin Symonds.

The usual Wine Tasting and gourmet Jamo BBQ lunch saw a bit more chewing the fat, which was enjoyed by all.



Polly McQuinn's Planting Day

A very enjoyable tree planting day was held on Friday August 19 at Polly McQuinn's Reserve. The day was hosted by the Strathbogie Tableland Landcare Group in conjunction with Goulburn Valley Water (GVW), the site managers.

Planting of indigenous trees and understory was carried out by students and teachers from Strathbogie Campus of Peranbin Primary School. They were joined by approximately 35 students from Northcote High School, who have a camp at Boho South and are very much part of the local community. Before starting, Northcote students were given an idea of the context of the day's work and its importance. On a large satellite map the scale of the Goulburn Broken Catchment in the Murray Darling Basin was shown as being only 2% of the land mass, but supplying 11% of the water to the system.

Students were assisted in location and methodology by Landcare mentors and, being blessed with a wonderful day after approximately 65mm of rain, work progressed quickly. Nearly 1000 trees and understory were planted and guarded.

This work was carried out as part of the Caring for Our Country 2 (CfOC) grant to improve the health of the Sevens Creek Catchment. This work also fits with Goulburn Valley Water Management Plan and is supported by the Department for Sustainability and Environment (DSE) along with the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (GBCMA).

All students, teachers and Landcarers enjoyed the day, which included a BBQ lunch. Everyone gained a lot of satisfaction knowing these trees will have a great chance of survival this year with favourable conditions. They will go on to providing the valued environmental benefits of improved water quality along with stock exclusion for filtering nutrient run off. They will also provide wildlife habitat and connectivity, carbon sequestration, improvement to air quality plus the visual enhancement of a special place.

This is yet another example of a great partnership between Landcarers, schools and government agencies to improve the health of Seven Creeks Catchment.



Completed Projects and the STLG Project Register

Grant expenditure for STLG Projects recently finalized includes:



✓ \$20,000 CfOC 1: for stock exclusion fencing and a creek crossing on the Sevens Creek above Smith's Bridge



✓ \$4,000 Components of a Healthy Catchment: for construction of an Information Kiosk at Smith's Bridge



✓ \$2,750 Strathbogie Nature Atlas Project Community Education Grant: for activities such as flora and fauna mapping, educational nature walks and pamphlet publication

New STLG Project Register

Incoming STLG President Bert Lobert has presented to the Committee an example of an STLG Project Register that includes every STLG activity/project and budget. This will be implemented by the committee and updated monthly, including in kind hours (labour) and spending criteria. This is information the CMA requests annually for reporting to the Federal Government. It will go a long way toward facilitating the reporting process and monitoring STLG activities of the future.



STLG Training Initiatives



Committee member Denis Taylor has made enquiries of Euroa Education regarding quad bike and front end loader / back hoe training. The response was these could be provided in collaboration with STLG.

Denis points out the advantages of specific training for use of these vehicles are to optimize efficiency and safety and to prevent accidents. If someone was unlucky enough to have an accident, he also points out that being registered means TAC cover in case of accident.

Other committee members have proposed OH&S, poisons and chainsaw training as courses being beneficial to locals as well as improving the quality of future STLG activities and promotion.

There is the possibility of approaching equipment manufacturers and local suppliers to assist with sponsorship/funding, coordination, equipment and training.

New Blackberry Control Project

After REP comes a new initiative for blackberry control on The Tableland. Over the past few weeks the Catchment Management Authority has requested land holder's expressions of interest for major blackberry spraying. This would be carried out by a trainee and two contractors. The focus is to be on big areas, particularly associated with wetlands, bogs and gullies. Recently successful wetland tender recipients are excluded, but those who were unsuccessful could be approached. Next year there will be a follow up. So keep your ears to the ground.

Special Thanks to Granite Creeks

and to the lobbying skills of David Jamieson, for an agreement to provide funding of \$1000 for Friends of Bridge to Bridge. Further news on FOBB appears later in this Newsletter. For now, thanks David.



Granite Creeks logo

Opportunity to be part of CfOC 2

The Caring for Our Country (2) grant provides for creek planting and fencing along the Sevens Creek to improve the quality of the catchment through water filtration, erosion reduction and stock exclusion from the waterway itself. This is an excellent opportunity for landholders with creek frontage to contribute towards better water management on their property for personal benefit and for that of the wider community and environment. Contact Bill Wells, phone: 57908563.

COMING EVENTS

Organisation	Event	Who & Where	When
GBCMA	Walk on the Wildside – Night Adventure: spotlight walk after damper, bush tucker and BBQ	Jenny Wilson 58201115 jennyw@gbcma.vic.gov.au	Sept 23, 6pm
Fernhills Conservation Park	Talk - Trees and climate change. Greg Moore Includes afternoon tea	254 Fernhills Rd., Shean's Creek Penny Algar 0439381132 landscapeart@fernhills.com.au	Sept 24, 2-4pm
Strathbogie Ranges Conservation Management Network	Walk - Granite Hills, Wildflowers and Sand Slugs with Neville Rosengren and Sally Mann	Euroa & Strathbogie Ranges Penny Algar 0439381132 landscapeart@fernhills.com.au or Shirley Saywell 0427246900	Oct 8, 10-5pm

Coming Events Notification

Forward events you would like publicised through the Landcare network to:

Kerri Robson | Landcare Support Officer

T: (03) 5763 2465 | M: 0418 140 710 | F: (03) 5761 1547

208 James Rd, Warrenbayne 3670 landcare2@iinet.net.au

Swanpool Landcare AGM Thursday, Sept 15 7.30pm

Guest Speaker is Ray Thomas, Regent Honeyeater Project Coordinator



Photo courtesy of Chris Tzaros from the project website

This is an invitation to you from Swanpool Landcare Group to hear the Regent Honeyeater story.

Swanpool are having Ray Thomas speak at their AGM this week. Many of you will know of Ray's amazing and fantastic work on Regent Honeyeaters in the Benalla-Lurg districts. It should be a great talk. Details below:

Ray will tell us all about the Regent Honeyeater Project. The scope of this project is enormous and it attracts ongoing support from a wide cross section of the community. Hundreds of volunteers and students are involved. We'll also hear about ecological balance mechanisms and how the wildlife is responding to the new habitat created, particularly the squirrel gliders and the Regent Honeyeater. It really is a good news story.

Ian Herbert

Friends of Bridge to Bridge

Sean Mathews was invited as a guest to the first STLG Committee meeting post AGM to be involved in discussion regarding the future management of Bridge to Bridge. In a proposal accepted by the Committee, President Bert Lobert suggested appointment of a FOBB Project Manager and steering committee with establishment of an annual budget.

This proposal was discussed at a meeting of regular FOBB volunteers on Sunday Sept 13. In attendance were Sean Mathews, Heather Cousland, Dana Coleman, Charles and Hazel O'Connor. Apologies and comments were received from Angus Martin, Carole Crowe, Bert and Ruth Lobert. This group determined that Sean Mathews would coordinate FOBB activity for the next 12 months and liaise with the STLG Committee regarding budgeting. The aforementioned FOBB members would continue as a steering committee for planning and costing of work on Bridge to Bridge.

Further discussion resulted in the following outcomes:

1. That Sean Mathews would develop a dedicated FOBB distribution list for FOBB communications
2. That Heather Cousland would continue issuing advice re FOBB activities through the Euroa Gazette and strathbogie.org
3. That Working Bees would continue to occur on the fourth Sunday of each month
4. That the next working bee would begin with a consultative walk along the track outlining 2011-2012 plans and inviting discussion as follows
 - To facilitate all year access:
 - Relocating the track toward the fence above the flood line between the nature trail and the handrail
 - Construction of one small bridge across the track where the pond drains into the creek
 - Construction of one short boardwalk/bridge at the lowest point of the track below the Haley Street entrance
 - To determine a manageable and cost effective track surface in light of recent wash outs
 - Gravel
 - Packed earth
 - Mown grass
 - To establish a recurring calendar based weed control regime
 - To promote safe, competent and skilled volunteering

NEXT WORKING BEE: SMITH'S BRIDGE SUNDAY, Sept 25 9.30 to 11.30am