

NEWSLETTER

June 2012

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Celebrating 25 Years of Landcare

This year marks the 25th Anniversary of the birth of Landcare and we'll be celebrating with a spring community picnic-campfire-BBQ at the Bridge to Bridge Reserve once the weather warms up a little (Oct-Nov). By then the new FOBB footbridge and nest-boxes will have been installed, so we can cut a few ribbons too. Keep an eye on the Main St Notice board and your email in-box.



Nest-boxes for Wildlife

Following the well-attended nest-box community forum in Violet Town in late-May, we'd like to put all this positive energy to work. If you're interested in setting up nest-boxes on your property for the smaller gliders, phascogales and possums that live in our bush, then consider joining this new project. It's a great way to see and

learn more about these delightful marsupial residents of our forests and roadsides. Quality nest-boxes are made locally by the Violet Town Men's Shed. At \$25 each, they're an absolute bargain and also come in camouflage colours! If you want to join in a bulk order let me know. You can pick-up a copy of the new nest-box flier from the Strathbogie Store, or from the Committee (Bert 5790 8606)



Good Neighbour Blackberry Project

We recently applied for funding to control Blackberries and other invasive weeds through DSE's Good Neighbour Program. The highest priority will be to follow up the good work done over the last few years along the Seven Creeks below Brookleigh Rd, and along some priority roadsides. We'll find out in the next few months whether the application has been successful – fingers crossed!

Euroa Arboretum/STLG Plants Sell Quickly

The 1100 plants we ordered from the Arboretum late last year arrived and sold quickly. This year we focused mainly on under-story plants. The plants were available in packs of 20, each pack containing a variety of shrubs and a few trees for that type of habitat. They were very popular.

- **Wetland & streamside plants:** Pack contained 5 of: Plum-leaf Pomaderis (*Pomaderris prunifolia*), Snow Daisy Bush (*Olearia lirata*), Sweet Bursaria (*Bursaria spinosa*), Common Mirbelia (*Mirbelia oxyloboides*), Ovens Wattle (*Acacia pravissima*), Tussock Grass (*Poa labillardiera*), Tassel Sedge (*Carex fascicularis*)



Plants for rocky areas: Hop Bush (*Dodonea viscosa* ssp. *angustissima*), Lightwood Wattle (*Acacia implexa*), Drooping

Sheoak (*Allocasuarina verticillata*), Violet Kunzea (*Kunzea parvifolia*), Hedge Wattle (*Acacia paradoxa*), Purple Coralpea (*Hardenbergia violacea*), Varnish Wattle (*Acacia verniciflua*).

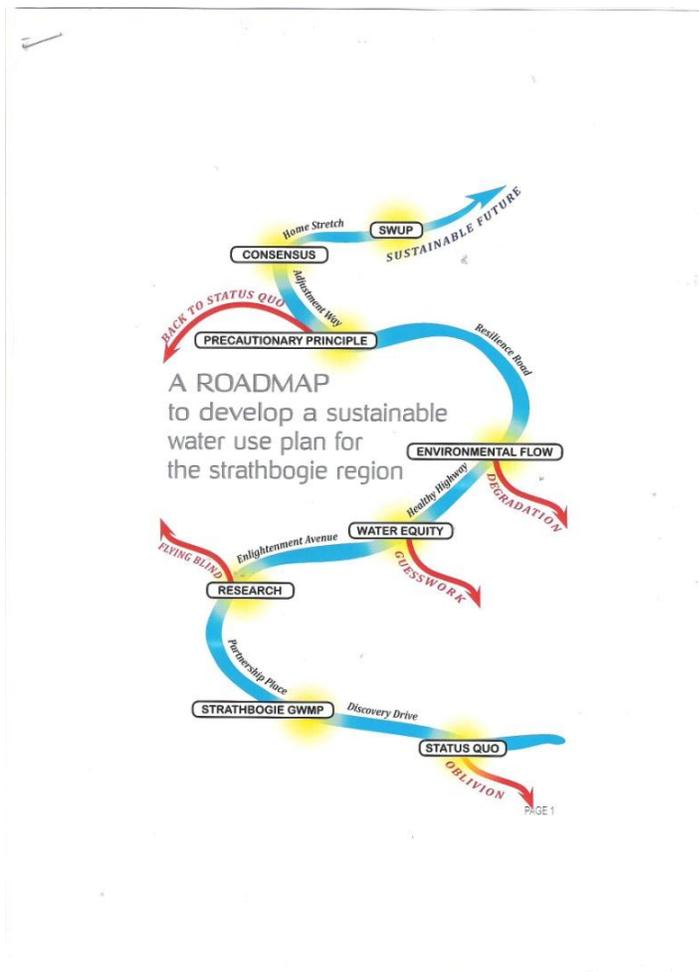
- **Cottage garden & butterfly plants:** If you're Perfect for a small garden and to attract butterflies in summer. Sticky Everlasting (*Bracteantha viscosa*), Hoary Sunray Everlasting (*Leucochryseum molle*), Clustered Everlasting (*Chrysocephalum semipapposum*), Tussock Grass, Kangaroo Grass, Varnish Wattle.
- **Plants for the wetter forests.** We have a few odds 'n sods remaining costing Landcare members \$10 for 20 plants. Non members were invited to join (\$25 Membership), or buy a pack of 20 for \$20 (still less than retail, \$1.45 ea). Bert



Northcote High School and Bridge to Bridge Reserve

On the 23-24 August, we'll again be working with staff and students from Northcote High School. This time our target is to further improve the Smith's Bridge entrance to the Reserve by planting some flowering natives, now that the Cotoneasters have been removed from there, and some planting along the new track realignment. Everyone is welcome to join in, just keep an eye on the Main St notice board and your email in-box. (Sean 0400 019 607)

A ROADMAP TO DEVELOP A SUSTAINABLE WATER USE PLAN FOR STRATHBOGIE REGION



(S.W.U.P.)

This booklet has been produced to identify a pathway to achieving sustainable water use in Strathbogie region (map included).

In conjunction with Goulburn Murray Water groundwater plan and other relevant information, a roadmap has been developed to show some of the steps needed to achieve a holistic approach to water use (groundwater and surface) in the region.

The booklet has been produced as a part of CFoC (Caring For our Country) funded project now being completed (Communities of Concern Working for Seven Creek Catchment Health). It is planned to officially launch the booklet at the Strathbogie Tableland Landcare Group's AGM in August.

Office Bearers and Committee Members wanted

Are you interested in a rewarding volunteer experience? The positions of Secretary and Treasurer are currently vacant. If you have some basic computer skills, a bit of a book keeping talent or simply a desire to participate give Bert a call on (03) 5790-8606.

THE STRATHBOGIE GROUNDWATER LOCAL MANAGEMENT PLAN:

COMPONENTS AND PROCESS

Overview:

- Current groundwater management
- Future groundwater management
- The Strathbogrie Groundwater Management Plan
 - Key management issues
 - Consultation and timing of Plan Development.

Drivers for improved groundwater management:

There are several drivers for improving and expanding the coverage of groundwater management including –

- The drought and its impact on groundwater and surface water
- Community and stakeholder concerns over environmental impacts of groundwater use
- State and federal government policy developments.

Groundwater management issues:

- Data and understanding
- Impacts on stream flows
- Impacts on springs and bogs.

Plan development:

- 9 months April – December 2012
- April – May collating information and identifying issues
- June – September undertaking technical work and developing draft rules
- October – November meeting to review draft rules
- December 2012 publish plan.

Consultation:

- 2 public information sessions (May and October)
- 3 stakeholder reference group meetings (community representatives, licence holders, stock and domestic users, Landcare/environment)
- Goulburn Murray Water Customer Service committees.

Facilitation:

- Matt Hudson, Senior Water Resources Officer
- Krystle Gillingham, telephone 58 26 3774

Water Rats and Wombats Brains

This beautiful animal is our native Water Rat. Though seldom seen, it occurs throughout Victoria and much of Australia, except for the arid interior. It is the largest of about 50 native rodent species surviving in Australia today (several species have become extinct during European history). Males can weigh up to 1.2 kg, though females are a little smaller.



Native Water Rat. Painting by John Gould 1863 ©Museum of Victoria it

I recently disturbed a Water Rat at the carcass of a fresh Wombat road-kill under Smiths Bridge, Strathbogie. After eying me off for a few seconds, fled into long grass on the bank of the Seven Creeks. Upon closer inspection, I saw it had been feeding on the Wombat's brain, having chewed a hole through the skull into the brain cavity. I presume the Water Rat made the hole, as the whole had been freshly opened up and the Water Rat was at the scene and I'm not sure anything else could neatly and easily get through the Wombat's skull bones, other than this carnivore. [From <http://strathbogierangesnatureview.wordpress.com>]

For some **Inspiring Farming Stories**, watch this recent episode of Gardening Australia - "Farming Special" (2/6/12).

Go to <http://www.abc.net.au/gardening/video/> and click on 'Recent Videos' **Farming Special** Whether you're interested in farmer's markets, beef farming, or permaculture its a must-see.

Parks Victoria Activity Coming to Strathbogie

Julie Flack of Parks Victoria has confirmed access to a work crew to do some 'township fire protection' that will include the area DSE had concerns about at the bottom of Haley St - mowing a buffer between the bush and private property.

<http://maps.google.com/maps?q=-36.857081,145.73435&num=1&t=h&z=19>

This crew will also be doing some work at Polly's. Their total commitment is several hours per visit, one visit per fortnight and five visits in total.

Bert will be meeting Julie to look at that site.



Julie is also organising a 'no camping', or 'day visitor only' sign, for the walking track reserve picnic grounds.



COMING EVENTS

Organisation	Event	Who & Where	When
Strathbogrie Ranges Catchment Management Network	Stone Tools of the Strathbogrie Ranges	Euroa Arboretum http://www.strathbogierangescmn.com/stone-tools-of-the-strathbogrie-ranges/ RSVP	Saturday, June 30, 2012, 12 to 4 pm
Strathbogrie Tableland Landcare Group	 followed by a BBQ and Bridge to Bridge walk	Strathbogrie Hall. Guest speaker Bill Sykes, who will also launch the Strathbogrie Tableland booklet "A Roadmap to Develop a Sustainable Water-use Plan for the Strathbogrie Region".	5 August 2012 10-12 AM

Coming Events Notification

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

Kerri Robson | Landcare Support Officer

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

Friends of Bridge to Bridge

Working Bees will continue to be the fourth Sunday of each month in 2012.

Next Working Bee: June 24, 2012



- Repair of the Haley St entrance washout has taken place and a diversion dug out to redirect water away from the bottom of the path, thanks Charles
- Once again Bill has sprayed to reduce weed encroachment into the track
- Led by Heather, the entrance at Smith's Bridge is looking more inviting with every working bee. Next step will be understory planting and inviting the rocks closer to the bridge to become part of the landscaped area of the picnic ground
- Angus patched up some of the worst water damage at the beginning of the circuit



- Bert and David organised the track realignment with Will, between the circuit and the gas depot. This is now complete. The next stage is one of letting it settle before further work in summer.
- Work toward construction of boardwalks, beginning with the dip where the frog pond drains into the creek, will soon get underway. Denis collected some ex Trout Hatchery walkways which have reduced the cost considerably. Julian has embarked on the process of site assessment and measurement.