

NOVEMBER 2014

the
STLG Newsletter

Strathbogie Tableland Landcare Group



2015 Committee

Gecko Clan Landcare Facilitator Kerri Robson oversaw the AGM election of the 2015 Strathbogie Tableland Landcare Group Committee. Standing down this year were: Natasha Baldagya, Joel Ingham and Martin Symonds. Natasha, Joel and Martin were all thanked for their much-appreciated contributions to the work of the Committee during 2014.

Elected to the following positions were:

President: Bertram Lobert

Secretary: Sean Mathews

Treasurer: Julian Trescowthick

Committee member: David Jamieson

Committee member: Brian Law

Committee member: Terri Frewin

All are looking forward to another productive year for STLG.

An Introduction to Local Archeology at the AGM

Local archeologist, Jo Bell, presented a fascinating talk and accompanying displays focused on investigation of local archeology. Jo operates a business out of Violet Town working with local indigenous groups, landholders, businesses and Catchment Management Authorities involved in heritage management. Beginning with an overview of settler / indigenous relations, Jo proceeded to describe *cont. page 3*

Save the dates: Wild Strathbogie Festival

Art Exhibition

Nov 8 - 22

Experience the Wild Strathbogie theme at Euroa's Sheila Inc. Gallery

Forest Walk

Nov 14, 6.30pm

Meet at Bogie Hall to travel to the forest for mothing and spotlighting

Family Fun Day

Nov 22

Join in fun activities and learn from speakers at Euroa Arboretum



Northcote Students Visit

Once again in 2014, all enjoyed our annual visit from Northcote Secondary School's interested and creative Green Team students.

Who is on the Green Team?

This year Northcote Secondary's Green Team is a group from across Years 7 – 11. This group helped the school toward student led sustainable practices such as implementation of low energy lighting throughout school buildings. Every year a self-selected group of these student volunteers camp on the Tableland.

They experience the natural world of the Strathbogie Ranges by interacting with the environment.

STLG President Bert Lobert and Secretary Sean Mathews took the Green Team group out to the Strathbogie State Forest for a natural history tour. The focus was on forest regrowth conditions and logging.

What happened in the forest?

Students were charged with the task of investigating the condition of the forest by exploring two copse sites and examining their vitality. The first copse demonstrated considerable regrowth and the other very little. One group gathered examples of fungi, another leaf samples and the third various humus deposits.

What were the outcomes?

Creative displays of collections were presented, analysed and discussed. Bert shared his expertise toward understanding of what was found and insights into the implications. Of most significance were the biodiversity of the first copse and its rich floor of organic matter, relative to a sparsely vegetated and dry second site. It was a pleasure to share a day in the forest with such interested and enquiring young minds.





An Introduction to Local Archeology at the AGM continued ...

Jo proceeded to describe indigenous social structures, particularly those of the first inhabitants of the Strathbogie area, the Taungurung language group. This group was divided into 9 clans across mid to NE Victoria. They followed seasonal routes across the area by seeking permission to cross into another clan's country.

Food resources, tools and their utility were discussed. Stone resources depended on the local geology. Strathbogie Ranges' granite was particularly useful. Lima South and Sugarloaf Creek have presented boulders with grinding grooves. Many quartz flakes have been found in

the area. Greenstone was traded for making axes and other cutting tools.

Art and cultural artefacts have been found in the Garden Range above 270 metres. There are some scar trees throughout the Ranges and on the plains. The bark from these trees was used for creating carrying implements and shelters.

Burial sites often include placement in crevices and rock shelters.

If you may have found an area of significance call in an archeologist to register the site. The whole community benefits from understanding and preserving these special places



Friends of Bridge to Bridge

Working Bees, the 4th Sunday of each month. 0900-1100hrs, meet at Smith's Bridge picnic ground.

FOBB has been fairly active this year, but with a couple of our regulars moving to new locations working bee numbers have been down. Consequently, the focus has been on keeping the

track open, verges clear and the picnic ground well maintained and rubbish free. Doug Frood's botanical tour was well received. The bench seats are seeing plenty of use and the new fish education sign at the confluence has attracted attention.

New helpers welcome in 2015

STLG: 2014 in Review



A busy year saw STLG's ongoing support for the Bridge to Bridge and Alternate Fertiliser Trial Projects. A boardwalk was constructed to create an all weather educational nature circuit at Smith's Bridge. Further plantings were undertaken, bench seats installed and the "Life in the Sevens" sign erected along the track. The Alternate Fertiliser Trial continues soil tests and pasture cuts to evaluate product on the market. An extra \$1000 has been funded to add lime and improve testing for acid tolerance of fertiliser.



Committee member David Jamieson continues to provide STLG oversight of state government roadside weed control.

The annual STLG / Euroa Arboretum Tree Sale has been well subscribed once again.

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Address contributions to:
STLG Newsletter
Secretary, Sean Mathews
PO Box 33
Strathbogie, Vic. 3666

The campaign to see better management of our forests, a chainsaw course, weed management programs, educational walks and talks have all been either directly run by or actively supported by STLG.

Future areas of work associated our regional Landcare Gecko Clan involvement will see tree planting funded by the Direct Action Plan, erosion management, pasture cropping, establishing shelter belts for livestock, and an introduction to mosaic burning.

All the best for the upcoming festive season!

From the Strathbogie Tableland Landcare Group Committee