

Tell the grassroots story

What links dung beetles, native plants, sooty owls, public footpaths, rainforests, wetland species, endangered wildlife and improved farm production?

These are just a few of the beneficiaries of projects Landcare groups in East Gippsland have undertaken in the past year.

Victorian Landcare started 30 years ago as a truly grassroots movement with farmers seeking to improve the sustainability of their land, by working to restore vegetation and soil health. It has become a revolution that extends to schools, community groups, landholders and those who just love the outdoors and nature.

For its 30-year celebrations, the three local Landcare networks have combined to offer some top prizes to enter a short presentation slideshow or video that represents Landcare or highlights its work in some way.

Landcare wants to celebrate the success and the innovations of its groups across the region with short entries that share their stories. The entry can be a slideshow, a collection of pho-

tos, a short video, less than three minutes. Entries close August 26.

The adult categories include: Innovation – new ideas and approaches; Farming Flair – sustainable approaches to agriculture; Landcare Legends – tell the history of notable local Landcare figures; Group Gossip – history and tales from a Landcare group perspective.

There are two youth categories for those under 13 and 13-18 years, which have an open theme representing Landcare values.

For those who want to try a short video, a free workshop with a professional digital storyteller is being held next Wednesday, August 10, at Lakes Entrance Mechanics Institute from 5pm to 8pm, light refreshments included. To attend, contact East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority's Landcare community projects officer, Carolyn Cameron.

For the Lakes Entrance workshop, bring an iPad, tablet, camera or even smartphone, or there are some to borrow on the day.

Mick Green, from Drift Media, will show

how simple it is to use even basic smartphones to produce a short clip. The group will also discuss techniques for putting together slideshows from photographs and other visual storytelling methods.

You don't need to be a Landcare member to enter. Carolyn can provide information and put you in touch with local Landcare contacts. The deadline is August 26 and the winner will be announced at a special Landcare 30 Years Celebration Dinner on September 10.