

Celebrating the many who lend a hand

Landcare in Victoria turns 30 this year. This grass roots movement began with a handful of volunteer landholders wanting better outcomes for their properties and for the environment as a whole, and now boasts thousands of members nationwide. Landcare is celebrating the people of all ages, urban and rural, who now regularly commit their time and effort to projects that make a difference in our communities. Our Regional Landcare Coordinator provides advice and support to 31 Landcare groups and three Landcare networks across the region.

Importantly, these projects come from a need identified by the volunteer groups themselves. Whether it is revegetation with indigenous species, works to halt erosion, encourage wildlife habitat and birdlife, protect waterways or the removal of weeds and animal pests, Landcare projects bring benefits not only to the properties of those involved, but also to the wider community.



In addition to Landcare groups, other volunteers working on environmental projects include dedicated Waterwatch volunteers who monitor water quality for the State program, plus Rainforest Conservation Management Network and Gippsland Redgum Plains Conservation Management Network.

I thank each and every volunteer for their efforts in achieving significant environmental, recreational and community benefits.

– Craig Parker, Acting CEO, East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority



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Landcare in Eastwood

The Eastwood Landcare Group was established in May 2013 and currently has 17 active members. The group works solely on public land contributing to the development and maintenance of Eastwood area reserves in partnership with East Gippsland Shire Council, including native vegetation and works on wetlands at Goose Gully. They are also working along Tulaba's Track to re-establish a warm temperate rainforest. Many rare species of indigenous plants are flourishing. For more information, visit the website: www.eastwoodlandcare.org.au.



Harriet Shing, MP, (left) recently met with Eastwood volunteers

Rabbits in focus at forums

Pest animals, in particular, rabbit control has become the focus for a dedicated group of people from various Landcare groups across the East Gippsland Landcare Network. The Nicholson Landcare Rabbit Control sub-committee, along with Regional Landcare Pest & Animal sub-committee members and representatives from Lower Tambo, Bruthen, Picnic Point Reserve and Clifton Creek Landcare Groups, formed to take a coordinated approach to rabbit management.

For the first time this year, they held a community Rabbit Control Forum over the two days of the East Gippsland Field Days, attracting excellent crowds and interest. Coordinated by Regional Facilitator April Wilkins, the event included displays of rabbit control equipment and short talks from local farmers and guest speakers, including Neil Devanny of Euroa, **pictured below** (Victorian Rabbit Action Network), Barry Davies, (Wild Dog expert), Mike Hinchey (Nicholson River), and Brett Mills, (Trust for Nature), Neil Stringer and Craig Bush, (Bandlink project). For more information, see egln.org.au.



Restoring Marlo rainforest

Restoration of the littoral rainforest between the Marlo escarpment to Jack's Track has been a long-term project for the Marlo Landcare Group. Since the start of 2010, the group has been awarded more than \$12,000 in two stages for littoral rainforest restoration, and a further \$5,600 for foreshore restoration work. In the 2015/16 grant round, the group was awarded \$8,300 to undertake restoration work at the site of the former Marlo tip, now Parks Victoria public land. Their plan is to restore indigenous rainforest species.

Marlo Landcare snapshot:

- 32** member families
- 5,000** seedlings planted
- 14** working bees, total approximately **280** hours

Snapshot:

- 62,400** seedlings planted
- 485** ha revegetation/protection
- 1,040** ha weed control
- 20,100** ha pest animal control

Jarrahmund Avenue of Honour



The Jarrahmund Landcare Group, well-known for its ongoing linkages works, celebrated a different kind of project in the past year. For the 2015 ANZAC Centenary, it received \$5,000 to erect memorials to the district's 33 WW1 soldiers and 2 nurses listed on the Jarrahmund State School Honour Roll and replant blossoms. The group partnered with the RSL, Historical Society and Anglican Church in a well-received community-wide project.

Restoring Island natives

In 2014, Parks Victoria gave the Raymond Island Landcare group permission to revegetate a 3ha stretch of land covered in waist-high bracken. Robert Wright, then new to Landcare, was appointed Project Manager. He and the Landcare helpers have taken on the time-consuming task of restoring vegetation native to the Island to encourage local flora and improve the habitat for the Island's birds and animals. Work began in early January 2015, with the mulching of the bracken, planting, watering and mulching hundreds of native plants. The Run is not fenced so it is a constant battle to ensure the plants are well established.



Other projects include:

- \$8,206** Friends of Picnic Point Reserve reducing erosion
- \$76,360** East Gippsland Landcare Network promoting agriculture and environment best practice
- \$18,725** Far East Victoria Landcare projects improving soil health and biodiversity
- \$9,780** Deddick River gully erosion mitigation project



East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority

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