

ENVirowise

News from the Chittering Landcare Centre incorporating the Ellen Brockman Integrated Catchment Group, Chittering Landcare Group, North Swan Landcare Group and Wannamal Lakes Catchment Group.

SURVIVORS!

The bushfire that went through Wannamal in January burnt through 1650 hectares. The Wannamal Lake Catchment Group has undertaken many revegetation projects in the Romany Subcatchment. The site below is about 8 years old. The fire came right up to the edge, but thankfully, it survived. There were a few smaller sites of riparian revegetation that were burnt, but they have already begun to resprout. We would like to acknowledge the amazing job the volunteer fire fighters do.

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Dewar Riparian Revegetation Project Survived the Fire



LANDCARE EXPO

Saturday 5th May 2012

**FREE ENTRY!
FREE SAUSAGE SIZZLE!**

**See page 6 for
more details!**

Vision for the Landcare Centre

A better informed community with a greater understanding and respect for the environment leading to healthy water, an enriched biodiversity and an environmentally sustainable landscape for future generations.

Landcare Legends



Richard & Anne Janes

of
**Bullsbrook
Landcare
Group**



“Of the 200 plant species that are supposed to be here, we only had one....now the Splendid Fairy Wrens are back!”

Anne suggested Richard should attend a meeting back in the mid-90's, which eventually led to Richard becoming one of the founding members of the North Swan LCDC (now known as Bullsbrook Landcare Group). Having now been members for over 15 years, Anne is the Secretary of the group and both have been involved in organising landcare expo's and planting days.

Richard and Anne moved to Bullsbrook in the early 90's, when they bought their 50 acres property. Marri trees were the only vegetation remaining, so Richard and Anne have undertaken several revegetation works.

Their first stage of planting in 2000 was designed, funded and planted themselves. Unfortunately a bushfire came through, and they had to replant the following year.

The second stage was planted in 2005, with the help of a landcare officer.

Richard and Anne say they learnt a lot from the first project, but the help of a landcare

officer was invaluable the second time around.

The third stage was to revegetate the understorey along part of a creek line. The results after only 9 months are incredible! The fourth stage is being planned for 2013.

These revegetation projects have brought biodiversity back to Avondale, the Fairy Splendid Wrens are back!

As well as planting trees, Richard and Anne protect young saplings from grazing to encourage local provenance, and provide floating structures in their dam for Grebes to nest in. These are the things that can't be done on a large scale, but can be successful and gratifying to do on a smaller scale.

We would like to thank Richard & Anne for their invaluable contribution to landcare!



In Brief



Christmas Function

On Wednesday, 70 friends of the Landcare Centre joined us for a Christmas lunch at Cafe D'Vine. The meals and service were fabulous. There were puzzles which were completed in teams, and the lively Bird Group Table took out the prizes. Rosanna delivered an entertaining speech, thanking everyone for their efforts in 2011.



Sea Container Painting

Over the Summer break Morris Jacobs, has transformed one of our sea containers into a work of art. The mural features many creatures in a Chittering Valley landscape with exceptional detail. Come and have a look next time you are at the Landcare Centre!



Morris Jacobs' Sea Container Mural

Dieback Treatment

The Dieback Treatment Services team have been busy treating and mapping reserves in the local area. This is being funded by the 2012 DEC Community Grant and the 2012 State NRM Community Grants. Reserves that are being *treated* are Mooliabeenie, Chequers Reserve, Baracca Springs Reserve (Lot 209), Heron Hill Reserve, and Smith-Chittering Reserve. Reserves that are being *mapped* are Blackboy Ridge, 4 smaller reserves in Bindoon's Country Club estate, Ghost Gum Reserve, Woodlands Estate and Smith-Chittering Reserve.

Successful 2011 Plantings

The 2011 plantings have surpassed our expectations with the fantastic amount of rain we have had. The pictures on the right show rushes and sedges at Aquila Public Open Space and the almost 100% success rate of the planting at Bullsbrook Bridle Trail.





Articles of Interest

**Do you live in the Bindoon Shire and/or close to Lake Chittering/Lake Needonga?
Do you regularly undertake fox control on your property or in the Chittering Shire?
Do you ever see turtles on or near your property?**

During 2012, Murdoch University is conducting a study, in partnership with the Department of Environment and Conservation, to investigate predation of Oblong Turtles (*Chelodina oblonga*) and their nests. At present very little is known regarding the predation pressure on the oblong turtle population in the Bindoon area or how this may be influencing the long term survival of this population. The Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) is suspected of predating both adult turtles and nests. This research aims to identify those species involved in nest and turtle predation at Lake Chittering/Lake Needonga, but we need your help. Diet analysis of red foxes in the Bindoon area throughout the year is vital for identifying the occurrence of oblong turtles (either adults or eggs) in the red fox diet.

How you can help

If you shoot foxes in the area surrounding Lake Chittering, Lake Needonga, or the

broader Chittering Shire, we would be very keen to utilise those carcasses. Fresh, frozen or refrigerated carcasses with a date and location of collection are of great value to us. We are more than happy to provide gloves and robust plastic bags for storage and we will be happy to collect carcasses as soon as possible.

EVERY FOX COUNTS!

If you see any turtles on or around your property, please note their activities, time, and date, and email me (particularly if they are nesting).

If you have any questions, information or fox carcasses, or you'd like further information regarding this project, please don't hesitate to contact me:

Stuart Dawson B.Sc.

Honours Student

Mob: 0439 51 46 37

Email: S.Dawson@murdoch.edu.au

You said

"In the situation of this property here, it was in need of scrub vegetation, it had been stripped, it had been used for cattle and sheep, mainly cattle and all that was left was really the big whitegum trees with no undergrowth whatsoever. I was brought up in the bush and my fondness of scrub and everything that goes with it and the importance of it, I decided to contact Landcare. The place needs vegetation and without the assistance of Landcare I would have done my own little program anyway, but of course with your assistance I can do a lot bigger and better job and a lot quicker because it all costs money and thats something I don't

have a lot of. But I do have passion . I've met a lot of people here that feel the same as me.

This first year has been a success story. I was very careful with the preparation, knowing that any baby that you put into it, plant or animal, it has to be nurtured to a certain extent, be given a good chance and I feel happy with the results so far.

I think next year's results are going to be as good as this year, and the year after **it's going to be a real joy**. It will be a long term project thing, as long as I'm here, as long as I can afford to stay."

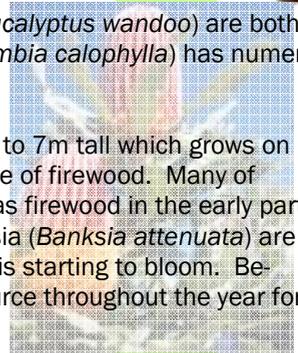
In Season

Wildflowers Currently Flowering:

Powderbark Wandoo (*Eucalyptus accedens*) and **Wandoo** (*Eucalyptus wandoo*) are both white trunked trees with white or cream flowers. **Marri** (*Corymbia calophylla*) has numerous white or cream flowers on the ends of the branches.



Firewood Banksia (*Banksia menziesii*) – is a shrub or tree up to 7m tall which grows on sandy soils. It gets its common name from its use as a source of firewood. Many of these trees were cut in the Muchea area to be sent to Perth as firewood in the early part of the twentieth century. As the flowers of the Slender Banksia (*Banksia attenuata*) are finishing in March the Firewood Banksia (*Banksia menziesii*) is starting to bloom. Between them these two species provide an important food source throughout the year for



Weeds:

The good rains in many areas in the last few months have created ideal conditions for the growth of summer weeds. Therefore areas which were treated early in the season may need to be re-treat. If using herbicides be cautious as desirable plants in the area may be actively growing and will be more sensitive to herbicide than they may have been at this time of year over the last few years..

Some weeds which may be seen now are:

African Lovegrass (*Eragrostis curvula*) – is common in disturbed areas but can also invade bushland. Grass selective herbicides are generally not effective.



Perennial veldt grass (*Ehrharta calycina*) – invades disturbed areas and also is able to invade undisturbed ecosystems and is a major threat to Banksia woodlands.



Stinkwort (*Dittrichia graveolens*) – is an annual member of the daisy family. It has yellow flowers, is strongly aromatic, poisonous to livestock and can cause dermatitis and skin irritation. The seeds are sticky and easily transported by anything they come in contact with.



You may have seen **Paterson's Curse** around—but don't worry, the bugs will be back when it rains!

The Burning Question:

Pros & Cons of burning off in Autumn:

Pros:

- More effective as a regeneration burn, as the fire triggers greater germination/regrowth and leads into winter and spring time.
- Effective in reducing fuel loads to curb the risk of wildfire
- Does not occur during the high breeding

Cons:

- Fire is more intense and spreads more quickly.
- Can be difficult to manage
- More likely to burn down some mature trees
- Fauna more at risk to fire
- Less patchy and more likely to burn the entire area.



Events

Landcare Expo

Saturday 5th May 2012

Showcasing all things Landcare!

alpacas - birds - soils
WWF - dieback - snakes property planning - goats
carbon farming - wildlife carers - bush foods - annual pastures
perennial pastures - borewater - heavenly hectares - weeds
feral pigs foxes rabbits - sheep - tree planting - bushfires
carnabys - permaculture - chooks - fencing - land for wildlife

FREE

- Entry
- Sausage Sizzle
- Water Testing
- & Door Prizes!

Presented by

Chittering Landcare Centre



FREE

175 Old Gingin Rd.
Muchea.

Enquiries: 9571 0400 - chitteringlandcare@inet.net.au



Workshops



Feral Animal Control

The Feral Animal Forum was attended by 47 people. Frank Camarri, Chairman of the Southern Feral Pig Advisory Committee provided an overview of management of feral pigs in southern Western Australia. Other speakers from DFWA and DEC explained government processes on developing pest plans and what their agencies are doing to control feral animals in the State. Local input was provided by Sandy Pate and Gary Harley. Self nomination for an advisory committee occurred at the end of the evening and following confirmation from the management group at the Landcare centre a new group will be formed. The Chittering Invasive Species Group will operate under the Chittering Landcare banner. This group will address issues related to feral animals and birds.



*Feral Animal
Forum
7th March 2012
wth
"Hog Hopper"
In foreground*

2012 Workshop Dates

~~Feral Animal Control
Tues 7th February 6-9pm~~

~~Bushfire Behaviour
Sat 25th February 9am-4pm~~

~~Bushfire Survival
Sat 10th March 9am-12pm
Tues 13th March 6-9pm~~

Annual Pastures & Soils
Sat 28th April 9am-2pm

**Landcare Expo
Sat 5th May 10-4pm**

Weed Workshop
Sat 23rd June 9am-1pm

Perennial Pastures
Sat 25th August 9am-2pm

Birds, Wildflowers
Sat 8th September 7am-1pm

Night-stalk & Members
Nights
Wed 10th October 5-9pm

Native Grass Pasture
Sat 27th October 9am-1pm

Lunch Provided with gold
coin donation
PLEASE RSVP

Look out for
our
2012
Community
Workshop
Booklet





Chittering Landcare Centre

Group meetings to be held in 2012



Chairman:
Robert Hawes

@ Chittering Landcare Centre
Mondays 9am—12noon

26th March
28th May
23rd July

AGM 24th September
26th November



Chairman:
Ann Graham

@ Chittering Landcare Centre
Wednesdays 7:30pm—9:30pm

28th March
23rd May
25th July

AGM 26th September
28th November



Chairman:
Judith Beer

@ Lowery Park, Bullsbrook
Thursdays 7pm—9:30pm

22nd March
24th May
26th July

AGM 27th September
22nd November

Staff:

Rosanna Hindmarsh
Sue Metcalf
Sue Pedrick
Bonny Dunlop-Heague
Megan O'Grady
Kay Reid
Beverly Paton

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**Toshiba Community
Group Award
Winner 2011**

W T M W T F R



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY

