



HUGHES CREEK CATCHMENT

NEWSLETTER SPRING/SUMMER 2014

The Economic Benefits of Native Shelter Belts

The protection of existing native vegetation and the planning of shelter belts may provide many benefits to the productivity and biodiversity of farming industries.

Effective farm shelter belts can assist in protecting stock, paddocks, plants and soils from increasing extreme weather events.

A well considered whole farm plan ensures objectives such as landscape integrity, biodiversity and agricultural activity's are provided for.

Shelter belts with strategic placement can benefit farm productivity by:

- Protecting crops and pastures from drying winds.
- Protect livestock from hot/cold winds.
- Provide shade for livestock.
- Provide habitat for wildlife.
- Help prevent salinity and erosion.
- Boundary shelter can reduce bio-security hazards, nose to nose contact, weed movement control.
- Protect and enhance living and

working areas.

- Acts as a firebreak.
- Can increase land value.

A shelter belt works by filtering and breaking the force of the wind.

- The shelterbelt height determines the size of the sheltered area.
- To minimize turbulence around the ends, shelterbelts should be long and continuous.
- A grid of shelterbelts offers best protection from all winds.

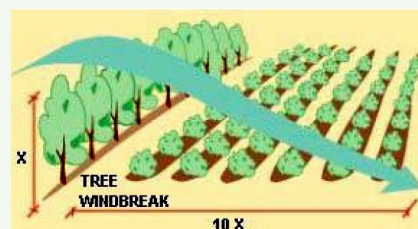
Some important things to remember when planning shelterbelts:

- Provenance- source seed, seedlings, direct seed from the closest remnants (20km radius). These species will be most adapted to site climatic and physical characteristics.
- Initial weed and pest animal control is critical in the first 2-5 years of establishment.
- Close plantings provide a faster result.
- Investigate what other benefits

can be gained by linking remnants.

- Consider fire risk- site selection, consider using some exotic and deciduous species to reduce flammability.

For more information please visit www.depi.vic.gov.au



RABBIT RIPPING FUNDING

The HCCC Landcare group has once again obtained funding this year (Combined Pest Plant and Animal) to be directed towards rabbit ripping. A 50% subsidy is available to landholders with no limit on hours requested. It is a good idea to get in before the DEPI does their next round of inspections within the catchment to avoid being placed under notice.

In order to receive the subsidy, Simone will need to come to your property and do an inspection before and after the excavator has ripped, if you have been placed under notice from the DEPI you do not need this inspection as the DEPI staff will do a pre and post site visit. The inspection can be organised via email and it will take no more than an hour on site, if you require less than 11 hours you do not need an inspection. Once the ripping has been approved it will then be up to you to organise an excavator to come to your property to carry out the work required. On completion of work you will be invoiced by the contractor which can then be forwarded for payment of subsidy.

The major excavator contractors in the area are:

- **Michael Kopanica, PH: 03 5790 4235 Mobile: 0429 804 235**
- **Andrew Shaw, PH: 03 5796 9297 Mobile: 0427 969 297**
- **John and Colleen Furlanetto PH: 03 5795 3435 Mobile: 0427 344 956**

The average price per hour of excavation is \$155, which rips approximately 6 warrens. There is also a float fee of approx. \$140 which the subsidy does not cover.

The HCCC has also recently approved a 12 ton Excavator operator as a contractor:

- **Callum Lawson. Mobile: 0437182223**

A smaller machine can be used in certain circumstances where maneuverability is needed and it can also have less impact on the landscape.

The average price of ripping is \$110 per hour, which can rip up to 6 warrens.

There is also a float fee of \$130 which could be reduced if neighbouring landholders require work. Again the subsidy does not cover the float fee.

Once work has been completed you must send a copy of the invoice to either:

Simone email: hughes.creek1@gmail.com or postal 294 Buntings Hill Rd Ruffy 3666.

or

Neville Ford, Landcare treasurer email: nev@binalong.com.





WEEDS

As part of the Pest Plant and Animal funding the HCCC can offer a 50% subsidy on chemicals used to spray Blackberry, Gorse and Pattersons curse. All of these weeds are invasive to our area, and if not controlled adequately can spread very quickly. Chemicals that are covered by the subsidy are:

- Lynx (same as brush off)
- Round up (max 20L per landholder)
- Agtryne
- Brush wett (same as Pulse- organosilicone penetrant, max 5lt per landholder)



All chemicals used for spraying can be purchased through:

Wales Rural
Wayne Rowe (branch manager)
12 Emily St
Seymour
PH: 5792 1088

In order to receive your 50% subsidy you will first need to email or send your request for chemicals required, once approval has been given you can then purchase the subsidised chemicals from Wales Rural at the discounted price, you must then send or email a copy of your receipt to Simone at hughescreek1@gmail.com . .

Alternatively you can send a copy of the receipt to the Landcare group treasurer Neville Ford at: nev@binalong.com

If you do not email or send in your request prior to purchasing products you will not receive the subsidy.

If you would like a contractor to do your spraying for you please contact one of the following:

Hillside Spraying Highlands: PH 5796 9192
John Hammond HighlandsPH: 5796 9310
Tingay Landcare services Avenel PH: 5796 2455
Regional Weed Control Seymour PH: 0404477221
All Terrain Weed Control Euroa PH: 5795 1979

RABBIT WEEK- COMING UP IN EARLY 2015

Early in 2015 the HCCC are planning on holding a "Rabbit week" hunting competition. Similar to the "Fox on the Run" competition, Rabbit week will require participants to hunt as many rabbits as possible, collect tails and hand them in for a final count. The winner will be notified and there will be a prize for the most tails submitted.

This competition will be advertised in the Granite News in the month prior to comp start, and participants will need to register their interest.

If you would like to be kept informed as to when the comp starts and further details please email Simone on: hughes.creek1@gmail.com.





AUSTRALIAN LANDCARE FORUM

I was lucky enough to be one of the 800 landcare members to attend this forum in Melbourne last week. Most of the participants came from interstate and it was inspiring to chat with like minded people working to improve their local environment. From protecting the beach nesting sites of red knee-ed plovers in Tasmania, counting turtles on the Barrier Reef, controlling weeds different weeds like Lantana and Spanish Heath, to improving the productiveness of nature pastures in western NSW. Everyone had an interesting story to tell.

The first day was spent on field trips. I opted for the urban tour of the Western Suburbs. I grew up in Williamstown and was amazed to see the improvements that neighbourhood "friends groups" in partnership with Hobsons Bay Council had made to what were once industrial wastelands and tips. What I remembered as rubbish dumping grounds, salt works and rifle ranges were now beautifully restored wetlands and reconstructed bushlands, highly valued open spaces in a densely populated

area. The speed of urban sprawl advancing towards Point Cook and Werribee was alarming.

Congratulations to Terry Hubbard from Strath Creek who was elected as president of the National Landcare Network. Terry is also president of the Victorian Landcare Council and Upper Goulburn Landcare Network. It's good to know someone with their fingers on the pulse of Landcare so speak to Terry about the big issues.

International Landcare

The Landcare model of community groups started in Australia (as we all know Whiteheads Creek Landcare Group was the 2nd in the world). There are now groups in Fiji, Bangladesh, Germany, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Namibia, New Zealand, Philippines, Sri Lanka, South Africa and Pakistan.

Many of these international groups work in poor communities that receive little help from their governments.

In an attempt to source funding two Landcare projects were launched on the Pozible Crowd Funding platform on 18th September 2014. One is in Indonesia and the other in Bangladesh. They would value your pledge of support no matter how small to help get these two projects funded. Both will make an amazing difference in their respective communities. To donate visit the Pozible website and look into the environmental collection.

Indonesian Landcare - Poo Bank
Bangladesh Landcare - farmer training video.

Hot topics at the forum were:
Supporting Paddock to Plate food production
Revival of the junior landcare program in schools
Annual Landcare awards
Rural - urban partnerships
Global trends in sustainable agriculture
Green Army or Landcare Funding?

For detailed reports go to the Landcare Australia Limited website.

By Janet Hagen.

SPORTING SHOOTERS ASSOCIATION FERAL ANIMAL CONTROL PROGRAM

Professional, reliable and prompt hunters reducing fox and rabbit numbers on public and private land.

This program is currently running in the Hughes Creek Catchment and many properties are already on their list.

Property owners and land managers wishing to participate in this program should ring the club representative Phillip Mathieson 0417 668222



20 YEARS OF LANDCARE IN THE HUGHES CREEK CATCHMENT



This year marks our 20 years of Landcare in the area and we would like to celebrate!

A casual lunch and afternoon tea had been planned for late November, however due to conflicting events this has been postponed until the new year. Date to be advised.

It will be a great day to share a meal and stories with current and previous members.

All are welcome to attend, if you would like to come along or would like more information please contact:

Simone on email hughes.creek1@gmail.com phone 5790 4146 or Janet Hagen on janethhagen@gmail.com phone 5790 4268.

CONTACTS

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Email: hughescreek1@gmail.com

Neville Ford- Landcare Treasurer
nev@binalong.com

Don Cook- Editor The Granite News
editor@tgn.org.au

UPCOMING EVENTS

WILD STRATHBOGIE

Family Fun Day at Euroa Arboretum
Saturday 22nd November
10am to 2 pm - free picnic lunch
Theme: Bugs and Insects

Activities: Kite making, building insect hotels, bug blitz, puppet play, face painting, nature walk, insect display and talk.

WILD STRATHBOGIE ART

Celebrating nature in the Strathbogie Ranges.

Calling all local creative people. This is an invitation to submit works for our

Art Exhibition at SheliaInc Gallery Euroa and Euroa Library.

Professional artists

Photographers

Keen amateurs

Sculptors and craftsmen.

Children's art.

No entry fee, opportunities to sell your work, prizes awarded, great opening night.

Closing date for entries - 1st November 2014 - but space is limited.

Exhibition opens 8th November and closes 23rd November.

Contact Janet Hagen janethhagen@gmail.com 57 904268

Strathbogie Ranges Conservation Management Network.



**GOULBURN
BROKEN**
CATCHMENT
MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITY



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY

