

GARIBALDI LANDCARE GROUP

Newsletter

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Historical photograph of the Garibaldi Bridge during floods in 1960s taken by a community member. Notice the vegetation growing along the river compared to now.

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Garibaldi Bridge Walk and Working Bee — April & May 2015

A community walk and afternoon tea on an autumnal Saturday on April 18th last year inspired some discussions and reminiscing among the longer-term members of the Garibaldi Landcare Group. Memories of the previously gorse and blackberry-infested river-side as it was compared to now after only a few years of intervention. A walk down at the Garibaldi Bridge led to a follow-up working bee to re-define the track along the river there and a general tidy up to make access easier. This area is a lovely place to take the family for a picnic or for an explore of the river and the diverse flora and fauna. It's truly lovely down there.

Some of the community walk participants near the Garibaldi Bridge 18th April 2015. 

Compare the vegetation, which now grows along the river, compared to the photo taken above some 40 years earlier...



Transplanting Seedlings and Water System Workshop - May 2015

Two of our GLG members were generous enough to run practical workshops over two separate days in May on the practice of how to transplant native seedlings and also set up a watering system to keep them growing. Gemma Wilson hosted the workshops at her house (and also provided wonderful baked goodies) and Linda Wright demonstrated how to do the pricking out and other aspects of transplanting and propagating. The two photos below illustrate a bit of what was covered in the workshops. If you would like to learn about transplanting or how to set up your own watering system for your plants, contact Linda Wright at: jimnlinda@optusnet.com.au so we can organise more workshops in 2016.



Attaching the watering system to the bench.

Testimonials from the workshops

"We had a great morning at Gemma's with Linda learning how to prick out and pot natives and care for them. Having hands on with this helps to remember and also doing some practical in learning from Gemma about setting up a sprinkler water system. Linda shared with us about how to go about extracting seeds from a number of different types of trees."

"...I really enjoyed the workshop at Gemma's on Friday. It was very informative and although we are pretty well set up here at our place i.e. plenty of trees most of which were already here. We have also planted heaps which has been costly and now are replacing ones that have fallen down (on fences of course) and also very old ones. It would have been great to have the information that I learnt just on Friday 20-30 years ago but I was busy working. Now we are semi-retired I would like to learn more i.e. workshops and where to get supplies."



The transplanted seedlings



National Tree Day Planting at South Durham Bridge

Eleven adults and three children participated in the 2015 National Tree Day planting, which took place near South Durham Bridge. Countless numbers (because we forgot to count them) of Woolly Ti-Trees, Sweet Bursarias and various Eucalypts were planted not only on river frontage, but also along South Durham Bridge Road. Keen participants also helped with de-bagging and stray stake collecting. These activities were followed up by a BBQ at the Wilson's (thanks again Gemma and Bill).

It's amazing what can be achieved in just a couple of hours with a small group of people!



Enthusiastic landcarers stopped in their tracks for a photo



Recently tidied up area on roadside now planted out.

**Community Event: River Walk & Bird of Prey Display-
20th September**



Martin Scuffins and Tyriel, a Little Eagle, from the Leigh Valley Hawk & Owl Sanctuary presenting on the wonders of birds of prey

The Garibaldi Landcare Group Committee decided to run a collaborative community event based at the Garibaldi Hall to replace the annual film night. The aim was to highlight to the public not only the plantings and Landcare efforts that have occurred along the river over the years, but also to demonstrate who benefits from this newly created habitat - in particular, birds. Over fifty people attended the event commencing with a guided walk down to the river led by Peter Sedgwick, who gave a great talk on the various features of the re-vegetated river frontage. This was followed by a bird of prey display by the Leigh Valley Hawk & Owl Sanctuary, a relatively new local environmental education business.

Despite the unusually high winds, Kevy the Kestrel, MinMin the Barn Owl and Tyriel the Little Eagle all performed beautifully for the crowd. At one stage, Tyriel flew high up into one of the huge conifers and appeared to want to remain there for the rest of the afternoon. But, after a few minutes, she gave a crowd-wowing stoop down to a lure on the ground showing off her amazing wing span and gorgeous feathers. This event culminated in a BBQ for all and a chance to meet up with other community members. Based on the popularity of this event, it may happen again in 2016. So, keep an eye on your emails...



Thank you to Marianne Schrieke & Peter Sedgwick

Being involved in and committed to a community group can be tricky as it entails giving of your time and energy sometimes over many years - this is exactly what Marianne Schrieke has done. Since the Garibaldi Landcare (formerly Environment) Group started in 2000, Marianne has been there at working bees, meetings and other events giving tirelessly to the needs of the group. Marianne decided to step down from the committee at the last AGM to share her precious energy with her family. We would like to thank Marianne for her incredible contribution to Landcare over the years. Many of those trees out there have her finger prints on them...

After three years as Chair of GLG, Peter Sedgwick has decided to step down. But, he will still be a committee member so he hasn't left us completely (phew!). Thank you, Peter, for all of your effort and support being the face of this group. It has been much appreciated.



Marianne Schrieke keeping gorse under control at the Hardies Hill Road Reserve in 2002

Water for wildlife: Warning - Tough times for wildlife by Jenny Sedgwick

The bold and the beautiful, the bossy and shy, the big and the small... Our wildlife is having a challenging season- especially in and around the bushfire area. Most natural water sources have dried up or are very low.



A single Yellow-faced Honeyeater tries to blend in with the crazy New Holland family.

Birds can't sweat or pant so providing water is a great way to help them out. A bird bath can be as simple as a pot plant saucer or an old frypan.



Begging for a refill. This magpie did recover!

Consider shade, protection from predators and experimenting with different depth containers and different height placements. Many birds like to dip in and out from a nearby tree branch or bush. If you have a trough or deep water container, place a small branch so that if young birds dip too deeply are able to escape. Remember to check, clean and refill regularly. Then enjoy the antics and the colour of the ever changing company!



'Last one in is a rotten egg!'



And don't forget the ground dwellers!

Garibaldi Landcare Group Annual General Meeting 2015

At our AGM on 1st December 2015, the following people were elected to the office bearer positions for 2015:

Chair: Vacant—a rotating chair will be appointed for meetings

Vice-chair: Gerard Zoutendijk

Treasurer: Linda Wright

Secretary: Talia Barrett

Committee members: David Holden, Jeanette Mitchell, Jenny Sedgwick,
Peter Sedgwick, Gemma Wilson

Feel free to speak to any of the committee members if you see them out and about, especially if you have any ideas for the group or any contributions you would like to make. Otherwise, contact Talia Barrett at: talia.barrett@gmail.com in the first instance.

Seed Propagation Workshop on 15th November 2015

delivered by Dan Frost (Seeding Victoria)

Yarrowee Leigh Catchment Group kindly funded the Garibaldi Landcare Group to run a community workshop on how to propagate seeds. Our particular focus was on understorey plants and wildflowers as we would like to be planting more of them now that many of our tree plantings in the area are so well established. We invited Dan Frost from Seeding Victoria to run the workshop, who inspired such enthusiasm from the 16 participants that almost everyone left having purchased at least one book on propagating. Dan also provided excellent handouts, which can be shared if you are interested (contact Talia)

The following information is taken from Talia Barrett's notes from the workshop.

Please note: the following are general tips and do not apply to specific plants (unless stated). Refer to comprehensive texts listed below the notes for more detailed information on specific species.

Drying seeds

- ◇ Put seeds into a paper bag on the clothes line (or on your car dashboard) in direct sun. This also kills any bugs or pests that may eat the seed.
- ◇ *Hardenbergias & Heath* have an explosive nature when the seed pod opens, so cover seed pods with shade cloth to catch the seeds.

Storage

- ◇ Store seeds in a cold room (3-4 degrees C) in plastic containers to keep out pests.
- ◇ Light or temperature variation can lead to seed degradation
- ◇ Grass seeds may last for 4-5 years, but other smaller plant seeds only 1 year.

Planting seeds

- ◇ You need to understand the germination process and timing of any plant's seeds before proceeding (see references below for details)
- ◇ Vermiculite is a good seed raising mix cover for native seeds.
- ◇ Generally, plant seeds in Spring or early Autumn.
- ◇ *Bursaria & Tree Violet* are cold active, so sow in May
- ◇ *Aster family (Helichrysum)*: need to be stored for 3-6 months after seed collection; they will only germinate once optimum weather conditions arrive, i.e. Autumn
- ◇ *Callistemon, Tea-Tree & Melaleuca* need light to germinate (don't plant too deep into soil) and will take 2 - 3 weeks.

Growing from cuttings

- ◇ *Grevilleas & Correas* are good to grow from cuttings
- ◇ Use a sandy mix or Succulent Mix for free drainage to ensure cutting stems don't rot

Useful References

Costerman, L. (2009). *Native trees and shrubs of South-Eastern Australia*. NSW: Reed New Holland.

Ralph, M. (2003). *Growing Australian native plants from seed. (2nd ed.)*.

Fitzroy, Australia: Murray Ralph/
Bushland Horticulture.



Dan Frost explaining the workshop content and his equipment

**2015 AGM Guest Speaker - Steve Eddy: Senior Fisheries Officer in the Ballarat district
"Fish and our waterways"**

Steve is a compliance officer who conducts routine inspections and patrols, intelligence-based investigations, education & management, and fish stocking.

For drought recovery, there was fish stocking of trout and chinook salmon of more than 2 million per year in lakes. Rivers are not a focus for non-native fish stocking as there are native species (eels and black fish are local native fish) that already exist and could be compromised by introduced species. The Estuary Perch program occurs in lower reaches of the catchment as they cope with both fresh and salt water. Brood fish are released into certain lakes, such as Lake Bolac.

In his talk, Steve acknowledged the good work of Landcare groups as revegetation of native plants promotes diversity of invertebrates for local fish etc. But Willow trees do not encourage invertebrate growth being deciduous and creating sludge in streams from mass leaf drop.

Woody debris is essential for fish to shelter and breed in. Blackfish lay eggs in hollow logs and we may need to put hollow logs into rivers to encourage their population as the juvenile generation is absent due to a variety of factors. Fish ladders are created at weirs to allow migratory fish to continue their travels, i.e. Murray Cod travel 100km to breed then travel back to the original log from whence they came.

Migratory Fish

- Short-finned eel
- Common, Spotted & Mountain Galaxias
- Australian Smelt
- Murray Cod

Introduced species

- Redfin/English Perch
- Trout
- Tench
- Mosquito Fish
- European Carp

Opera house nets are illegal in public waters.

****If you identify anyone doing illegal activities in waterways, ring 13FISH (133474) Hotline****



River Blackfish
(source: www.vewh.vic.gov.au)

We are always keen to hear about what is happening in your own neck of the woods, e.g. what unusual plants have you seen growing, or interesting animals you've spotted. Your personal experiences all contribute to the story of our local area. So, please feel free to send us a snippet about your own interactions with our local environment, it doesn't matter how brief, to put in our future newsletters.

Email the Secretary, Talia Barrett at: talia.barrett@gmail.com to include your story in our next edition