



Mitta Valley Landcare Inc

Mitta Valley Landcare has found the last eighteen months quite challenging. But in the last few months, it has become a little easier to get together and to connect with community.

Our president, Judy Cardwell, spearheaded a local response to the "Camping on River Frontages" campaign, and I know we all should be thanking her for the extraordinary hours and effort she has put in on behalf of many of us, along with other members of the Community Working group.

Our facilitator, Simon Feillafe, has been visiting quite a few of you and discussing the wonderful projects you would like to see happen. Of course, he has also been helping us find funding for some of those

projects too, a continuing process, so if you have projects, you would like us to look at contact us so Simon can review it and we are aware when funding that suits come up.

We are also still advocating for you in relation to weeds and pest animals. We are also looking at grants to fund couch grass eradication and cultural burning.

We have had some success with funding - gaining a grant that will enable us to work with the six other a landcare groups in our region to get a wider spread of spring active dung beetles, share our knowledge and add more dung beetle species into the region's arsenal .

The committee is enthusiastic about the opportunities around at the moment and we are looking at running a couple of workshops or field days - so far, we have suggestions ranging from Carbon farming, regenerative farming, Chemical Safety course and 1080 accreditation, weeds and bio-controls, and soils. If anyone has suggestions or would like to see us run one on a specific topic that may be of interest to our farming community, PLEASE let us know.

DO YOU want to be part of all this - Renew your membership due 30th June, be involved, be eligible for project funding, strengthen the group and enhance our beautiful Valley! \$20 - a year or \$60 - for 3 years.

Contact Irene on 0400 775 919

Update on Camping on Licensed Frontages.

Peter Hunt has reported in the Weekly Times (24.6.21) that:

During last week's Public Accounts and Estimates Committee hearings Environment Minister Lily D'Ambrosio conceded no additional money had been allocated to enforce regulations on campers and that DELWP's budget had actually been cut by \$601million for 201-22.

Opposition environment spokeswoman Bridget Vallance said Ms D'Ambrosio was unable to give any detail on how the camping regulations would be enforced.

She said "Labor has failed to recognise how the additional demands placed on these rivers and water frontages by camping will put at risk vital native habitats to pollution, waste and potential bushfires, and expose farmers to unnecessary hazards, biosecurity risks and potential liabilities,"

In a media release Bill Tilley said "DELWP's struggling to look after the public lands that they have now, how will they do it with \$601 million less than they had last year?"

Apparently 1100 submissions were received and these are being worked through at the moment with amendments to the regulations to follow.

Fungi of the Mitta Valley

Presentation about local fungi species, their ecological significance and conservation.

22nd August, 2pm at the Mitta Valley Landcare AGM,
Eskdale Hall.

Presenter:

Audrey Beard is currently studying a Masters in Environmental Management and Conservation and has a background in permaculture, urban agriculture and environmental studies. She is passionate about the various forms of fungi and their important roles in maintaining the health of both native ecosystems and agricultural systems.



Dung Beetle Report

Hopefully over winter people are seeing evidence of dung burial by either Bubus bison (large black beetle) or Geotrupes spiniger (even larger black beetle with a metallic blue/purple underbelly) The signs of activity are small mounds of soil castings in or around a dung pat and holes as big as your finger underneath the dung pat. I am always interested to hear how our winter active beetles are doing so would love to hear if you see these signs on your property. (contact Judy Cardwell 0400014074 or jacardwell3701@gmail.com)

It is looking hopeful that we will be able to trial a new Spring active species (Bubas bubalus) which should arrive in September this year. Our Facilitator, Simon Feillafe, has ordered 13 lots of 100 beetles from the breeder in SA and these will be distributed over the Mitta 2 Murray Landcare Network , with Mitta Valley Landcare receiving 3 of these lots, which will be raised in tents and bred up before paddock release.

Further O.vacca, the Spring species we have been trialling, will arrive in early summer.



facebook

www.mittavalleylandcare.com



Wild Dog Control

Mitta Valley Landcare are planning to offer course opportunities locally with Chemical Users Accreditation and 1080 Baiting Endorsement.

We hope to offer funding to subsidize the cost of the courses for you. So if you or your family member or neighbor would like to do this course, Contact Anita 0419 238 452

**Wayne Gibbs, our local 'dogman', is employed by DELWP to help control the Wild Dogs. You should contact DELWP's Ian Campbell, on 0409 188 465, who will log any sightings and contact Wayne. Wayne will be at our next Landcare meeting to discuss the issue, 14th July 6:30 Noorongong CFA shed.*

In response to concern at our last Landcare Meeting here is a summary of findings:

** The wild dog problem is worse this year. We do not want it to increase further as they are impacting farmers in our Valley.*

• Aerial baiting has proven successful, but we only have one drop point in our region that is done twice a year. This is one method of control for feral wild dogs in the state forest. There are other areas that could be targeted if there was funding.

• We are not likely to be able to push for more funding unless we can prove that there is a community effort to do their part to help suppress the wild dog problem.

** Community effort could mean:*

-more farmers training for 1080 accreditation (short part day course that can be run locally- if have ACUP chemical users card)

-more farmers running a community baiting program on their own properties (this could be asking someone else that is qualified to bait on your property)

-community understanding the importance of good boundary fence maintenance. The dog fence at Tallangatta Valley is being maintained and has proved an effective tool in the program.

-using the phone app 'feral scan'. It can be used for a closed group of local farmers to alert each farmer where the dogs are on the move. Training on how to use the app in this way is available and this training can come to us in the Valley on request.

-using the 'trap kits' that are circulated in the Valley

-training activities in the Valley on baiting and fencing.

Contact Anita 0419 238 452

Carbon Farming Workshops

Mitta Valley Landcare Inc is promoting Carbon Farming workshops which will initially be conducted on zoom by Landcare Australia. Contact Glenice Batchelor on

glenice.batchelor@landcareaustralia.com.au

Eventbrite also offers introductory sessions on carbon farming which you can watch in your own home on zoom. Just log onto Eventbrite and look for topics that interest you.

Up Coming Meetings and Events

#July 14th July - 6.30pm at Noorongong CFA

Guest speaker Wayne Gibbs Wild Dog Program

#AGM Mitta Valley Landcare August 22 Eskdale Hall 2 pm

Guest speaker Audrey Beard – Fungi of Mitta Valley

#General Meeting 15th September Noorongong –Guest Speaker is

Arthur Scholz re Weed control and Good Neighbour Program.

#Tallangatta Expo Sat 9th October



facebook

www.mittavalleylandcare.com