



Mitta Valley Landcare Inc. Newsletter October 2021

Report on Mitta Mountain Bike Park Project:

Following an approach by the Mountain Bike Park Steering Group to Mitta Valley Landcare Inc, asking for Landcare representation on their Steering Group, Doris Razeng have been appointed to that role, and attended her first meeting. Key things you might like to know from the meeting:

- Local members of the Steering Group include Tim Kabelkah and Christine Rowe, Chris O'Connor, Judy Giltrap, Greg Alloway, and Doris. Tim Cabelka was elected as chairman.
- Kerissa Heritage represents the Towong Shire and provides secretarial services. Representatives of DELWP, Tourism Northeast, and the Mountain Bike Community also attend in an advisory capacity. I think this will be a strong and workable committee to represent the community and optimise the benefits from this project.
- A Project Manager's position has been advertised. Applications have closed and will be considered this week.
- Once the Project Manager is appointed tender documents will be prepared and contractors selected to undertake required surveys – including cultural and environmental surveys, obtain permits etc. and build the trails.
- The funding provided at this stage is for half of the works proposed in the original plan – approximately 29km of trails.
- Of note, while the initial plan proposed some works immediately behind Mitta Mitta Township (Hedley and Wombat Gully Lanes), these areas will be excluded due to feedback from residents. The track head will be at the Mill Park on the Omeo Highway.
- Locals will have noticed DELWP has also been doing some work on the bush camping area which is adjacent to the trail head and picnic area. This is separate to the bike park project but the work will enhance the amenity of this vicinity for all users.
- The Steering Group will meet on the last Tuesday of each month. Regular updates will be provided via the Mitta Valley Inc website and media release provided to the Bush and Bull and other outlets as appropriate. The Mountain Bike Park page can be found on the website here: <https://mittavalley.com.au/mvmbp/>.
- There will be opportunities for review and consultation with community members at key decision points.

Of course, please feel free to be in touch at any time. I'd love to know if there are things you see as important and might help us make the most of this project. For example, are there any key cultural or environmental assets within the project area that you have an interest in, and we should be aware of?

Doris Razeng

Mitta Valley Landcare Group representative

Mitta Mountain Bike Park Steering Group

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Report On Mill Park Project

Dois and Peter Razeng also attended a meeting at the Mill Park to have input into the Project and the type of plantings that would go there with DELWP staff and the vegetation contractor. We had a great walk around the area and discussed various ideas for plantings. Owen Lord was to ask the contractor to do up a planting proposal based on what we discussed, and he hopes that a draft will be ready soon.

Among suggestions that have come forward was that there be a planting of non-native trees along the highway but back far enough to avoid reducing vision, helping to define the area. These could be sterile varieties of e.g., maple, acer. I suggested if that idea got up, we could also consider poplar in keeping with historic plantings, black walnut and (native) kurrajong for their fire-resistant properties.

Plantings within the site would be low growing screening plants between sites etc and native grasses, aiming for local species flowering at different times. Several existing large eucalyptus have been doctored and will remain. I mentioned the existence of Golden Whistlers nesting in this area and the need to maintain their habitat. Especially tea tree. These are such spectacular little birds and not that common.

The area allows for six camp sites and day visitor areas closer to the river.

Thank you,

Doris and Peter Razeng.

Mitta Valley Landcare Supporting Landholders in Wild Dog Management

Members of the Mitta Valley Landcare group have been planning strategies to further help control pest weeds and animals in the Mitta Valley and wider community.

One of the concerns raised was an increase in the wild dog and fox population which resulted in a meeting to meet our local DELWP Wild Dog Controller; Wayne Gibbs to discuss ways to work together for our common problem.

It was recognised that one way to manage wild dogs and foxes was to have the ability for Landholders to apply 1080 baits and the need for education, training, and accreditation of the Agricultural Chemical Users Permit (ACUP) and 1080 endorsement needed to purchase certain chemicals and 1080 baits.

We are pleased to say, with planning around Covid restrictions we were able to successfully provide training for 8 Landholders for their ACUP and 7 Landholders for their 1080 as well as a refresher course for chemical users which 4 people attended.

We would like to thank Bob Currie who was our trainer, Lucy-anne Cobby AWI Community Wild Dog Control Coordinator (Tallangatta) and Wayne Gibbs DELWP Wild Dog Controller for their ongoing support to successfully achieve this goal. Lucy-anne was able to provide advice in Wild Dog Management programs and how to be involved and Wayne provided a demonstration on baiting techniques including the CPE devices. We have the opportunity to be involved in a community 1080 baiting program which is the coordination of baits to be delivered to our area 3 times in Autumn and Spring seasons which is the best time to bait against foxes and wild dogs.

We are planning a delivery day in October for all interested, 1080 accredited Landholders as soon as we have received our new cards. Details TBA.

We would also like to thank Anita Reynolds for co-ordinating the activities and support from the MVL Inc who supplied a delicious lunch and refreshments and to thank everyone for their patience and support while we worked through the logistics of Covid restrictions. Activities such as these reinforce the value of a membership to your local Landcare Group as some of the activities were heavily subsidised through a Grant that was obtained by Mitta Valley Landcare Inc..

This process has reinforced how important it is for community collaboration to get the best results to control wild dogs and foxes, helping us keep the local Valley's in great shape for the future.

Victorian fox and wild dog bounty collections are updated on www.agriculture.vic.gov.au

Fencing field days can also be organised through Mitta Valley Landcare or by contacting Lucy Anne Cobby on 0429079131.

Hydatid disease is another reason to rid your farm of fox and wild dogs. It is a small tape worm that lives in the intestines of domestic dogs, wild dogs, dingos and foxes.

Record Number of Deer taken Out of Mitta Valley in Last financial Year

More than 178,000 kg of deer has been processed by Wild Game Resources in the last financial year, with the top 5 deer harvesters taking between 700-800 deer each (this is calendar year, they would have averaged at least 700 deer each). Deer harvesters in the Mitta Valley have shot a minimum of 3,500 deer each (this is the minimum total of the top 5). Of the top 5 shooters in Victoria, 4 work regularly in the Mitta Valley. Deer numbers have exploded in the last 12 months in our Valley.

One of our local shooters, for example, took from one 600 ac property in the Mitta Valley, 67 deer over 4 nights, and 12 more from other properties on those night. So that is 79 Sambar in 4 nights.

Deer harvesting is one of the key strategies promoted by Mitta Valley Landcare as well as deer fencing where it can be demonstrated that it is protecting native vegetation or waterways. Deer fencing is not available through grants for boundary fencing adjacent to roads or a normal shared fence with a neighbour.

Mitta Valley Landcare continues to run a project focused on the Deer situation and ensures we keep abreast of developments in this space. It is reassuring to note that the State Government have recognised we have a significant problem and are working to address it with various strategies. It would take time to see if the strategies employed will be effective in easing the problem. If you would like to discuss funding opportunities, please contact Mitta Valley Landcare via our web site to have your idea assessed or contact Karen Maroney on 0419 217 955.

Mitta Valley Landcare is now represented on the Victorian Deer Control Community Network. Karen Maroney will be our representative. We look forward to receiving reports from her.

[ABC 7.30 Report on fhttps://www.abc.net.au/7.30/feral-deer-causing-major-problems-for-farmers/13552010](https://www.abc.net.au/7.30/feral-deer-causing-major-problems-for-farmers/13552010)eral deer

The 7.30 report has been preparing a story on feral deer for some time now. Several people from the Victorian Deer Control Community Network have been collaborating with the production team. They had lots of material and the show was planned to be much longer but events in Melbourne last week tended to overshadow other issues. Nevertheless, it was great to see our Chair, Johannes Wenzel feature. While it may have been short on content the message was clear and the 7.30 Report is well respected and has a large audience.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR 27th October 2021 by zoom at 7 pm. Sorry to have to meet like this but it is the safest way now. If any members have inquiries about Landcare issues, please ring Robyn 0427495864 and we will try to help you. If you would like to join the zoom meeting let us know as there may be spare seats around the table.

MITTA VALLEY LANDCARE INC. AGM - SUNDAY 5TH DECEMBER 2021- 3 PM

AT MITTA BREWERY FOLLOWED BY EARLY DINER THIS WILL BE AN EVENTBRITE BOOKING SYSTEM SO A LINK WILL BE EMAILED TO ALL MEMBERS CLOSER THE DATE.

Thanks, Robyn Scales 0427495864