

Beechworth Landcare

◆ THE CYPRESS EXPRESS ◆



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Dear Landcare Lovers

Water always wins...

Dr Who in the 'Waters of Mars' episode

Whether it's finding its way through a gap in your roof, or rushing down the granite drains in Ford St, or encroaching on your BBQ on the long weekend, water has to be declared the winner this month!

If you're looking for an interesting walk in the bush, we're reliably informed that the rain has brought on a mass flowering of Mugga Ironbarks in the Chiltern-Mt Pilot National Park, and that Red Stringybarks are showing a little bit of bud for the first time in 4 years.

Tell me, am I still a member? Have I paid my fees yet?

Well...if you have received this newsletter as a hard copy with a red dot reminder, it means you are still on our books but you haven't renewed your membership of Beechworth Landcare. Membership runs from September 2009 to September 2010. Please - support your local group and return the membership form with your fee (\$20 per family or \$15 single/concession) to the Treasurer, PO Box 231 Beechworth 3747.

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New funding model for Landcare: implications for our future

Donna attended the recent meeting held by NECMA to explain the changes to **Second Generation Landcare funding** and the implications for Landcare groups:

- there will be no more facilitator positions in regional areas
- Catchment Management Authorities (the regional authorities) have been re-centralised in Melbourne
- support for Landcare is no longer a role for CMAs
- groups will not have the freedom to decide on how to spend their funding (formerly allocated funding model of \$5 000 base funding per group plus allocation per membership numbers); it is now tied funding, with a 10 month project time-line
- groups are not guaranteed funding under the new model. Funding will be on a regional basis, not local group
- funding is now competitive, against all other Landcare groups in the state.

Grants available 2010 and beyond

A: large integrated projects (\$5-40K) for onground works, 10% project management; 1:1 in kind

B: small (\$5K max) capacity building/community engagement projects, integrated with on-ground works, 10% project management

C: Maintenance grant for groups for operating costs: \$500

D: Landcare groups in partnership with DSE for projects in flagship biolink areas (we don't yet know what this means).

These grants are in line with the Victorian Investment Framework Priorities 2010-11 (one of which is 'promoting the public good'). Much of the work is aimed at saving the Murray-Darling basin, which can't be argued with, but the feeling of abandonment of Landcare, and confusion over the role and expectations of volunteers in the organisation is widespread. Many at the meeting expressed anger and disappointment with the changes, particularly the disregard for volunteers, and lack of a voice.

Our committee was concerned about the lack of certainty in funding, the competitive nature of the funding model, and the meagre funds available to pay a project manager (10% of any grant received). In effect this means our ongoing projects (eg the contact with schools, the work with the Shire) would have no coordinator.

Donna recently spoke to Tom Croft (NECMA) about our funding. We have another year's allocation of \$6 550 under the old funding program, from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011.

Beechworth Landcare committee resolved not to apply for grants under the new model, but to consider applying in 2011, after consultation with members.

In spite of these uncertainties, at the local level we have developed **a research project on the eco walking tour along Spring Creek** and **a great program of events for 2010.**

**Landcare events for 2010
incorporating Beechworth Sustainability events**

Please note: outdoor events will be cancelled in case of rain or bad weather conditions.

	Beechworth Landcare	Food, Water and Localisation Group
MARCH 27 10am-12noon 28 11am-1pm	<i>Spring Creek Clean up Australia Day</i> Sunday 28 March 11am-1pm Meet at the swimming pool carpark. BYO Gloves. Followed by free BBQ lunch at Lake Sambell	<i>Preserving Morning</i> Saturday 27 March 10am -12 noon Beechworth Neighbourhood Centre
APRIL 18 9.30am-1pm	<i>Visit to Chiltern Wetlands Area</i> Sunday 18 April 9.30am-1pm Meet at the Beechworth N'hood Centre to car pool.	<i>April: Yea Seed Savers Group visit</i> informal seed swap Date and venue tba
MAY 9 10am-12 noon	<i>Guided bush walk in Beechworth</i> Sunday 9 May 10 am -12 noon Meeting place tba	<i>CERES Electric Car Workshop</i> Date and venue tba
JUNE 16 7pm	<i>Movie night with Hot Chocolate and Cake</i> Saturday 16 June 7pm Beechworth N'hood Centre	<i>Composting workshop</i> Date and venue tba
JULY 25 10am-12 noon	<i>National Tree Day planting at Spring Creek</i> Sunday 25 July 10am -12noon Meet at the swimming pool carpark. BYO Gloves.	<i>Vegetable bed preparation and planting</i> Date and venue tba
AUGUST 15 10am-12 noon	<i>Back to Jacks Creek</i> Sunday 15 August 10am -12noon A visit to see the progress of a very successful biodiversity project.	<i>Winter Soup Day</i> An opportunity to catch up over a bowl of hearty homemade soup. Date and venue tba
SEPTEMBER 12 10am-12 noon	<i>Orchid Walk with John Hawker</i> Sunday 12 Sept 10am-12 noon Beechworth Golf Club car park	<i>Movie Night</i> Date and venue tba
OCTOBER 17 10am-12 noon	<i>Tour of small productive and water saving gardens in Beechworth</i> Sunday 17 October	<i>Tour of small productive and water saving gardens in Beechworth</i> Sunday 17 Oct
NOVEMBER 21	<i>Landcare Breakup Get together</i> Sunday 21 November	<i>Breakup Party!</i> Sunday 21 November

Frog alert!

In the news recently was a scary story about a common ingredient of many weedkillers that has been found to cause all sorts of problems for frogs. Recent research has shown that the chemical *atrazine*, found in many pesticides, was banned in the European Union in 2004 but is still commonly used in Australia and the United States. It causes hormonal imbalances in frogs, producing chemical castration, sterile eggs and even complete sex changes. It can also be carried, through waterways, over 1000 kilometres from the source of application. Maybe there should be a Landcare initiative to support a ban of *atrazine* in this country before we lose too many more boy frogs?



Amazing roof paint!

This summer we painted our tin roof with a roof paint that was claimed to reflect the rays of the sun and therefore cool the house by as much as 15 degrees. We were sceptical and tried it out on a portion of the verandah. We found that on a hot day we could touch the underside of the tin and it was hardly warm, so we decided to go ahead and paint the whole thing. The result has been a huge success. Not only is our house cool most of the day, it cools down at night much more quickly. If it is 35 degrees outside, it is 25 degrees inside. Most mornings it is about 20 degrees.

Having recommended this 'discovery' to a few friends, we have been getting appreciative phone-calls all through summer saying - it works, thankyou! It is probably not proper to advertise a product in the newsletter but if anyone would like to know more, send me an email ali.garnett@gmail.com.

I promise, we have no commercial interest, just delight in finding something so effective.

Ali Garnett

Trialling a new organic Herbicide

In my home garden I am about to trial a new pine oil herbicide. It is a non-selective herbicide whose mode of action is to melt the outer layer or cuticle of the leaf resulting in dehydration which kills the weed. You can then dig the weeds back into the soil and can plant 2 days later. It is certified by NASAA and BFA. Look out for an update in the next newsletter as I will be trialling this product when the rain stops!!

Donna Page

Beechworth Landcare Project Manager

Management for Native Orchids Balaclava Road/Baamutha Park Site, Beechworth

With the expert advice of Landcarer John Hawker, the Indigo Shire Council has developed a management plan for the native orchid site on Balaclava Rd. Thanks to John for his advocacy and to Shay Simpson for taking action to protect this precious site.

The management plan includes placing bollards around the site and improved signage to prevent access and to explain the site's importance. Weeds, especially English Broom, pose a significant threat but will not be sprayed because of possible negative impact on the orchids. The method of weed control via hand removal will be employed within the immediate area. Similarly, fertilisers can have a negative impact on the orchids and therefore a buffer will be created to ensure fertilisers are not used within 50metres of the site. There will be no mowing to allow for seeding and natural regeneration and also to prevent introduction of weeds and possible disease.

It is hoped an information leaflet will be developed to increase golf course users' awareness of the conservation significance of the site.

Have you renewed your membership? There's a form on the next page!

Hope to see you at a Landcare event soon!

Joy Phillips

BEECHWORTH LANDCARE
Membership Application/Renewal
September 2009 – September 2010

Name/s

Postal Address

Residential Address.....

Phone (H)..... (W).....(M).....

E-mail

Are you happy to receive the *Cypress Express* via e-mail? Yes ⇐ No ⇐

Full year's membership fees: \$20 per individual/family / \$15 concession

Please forward this application/renewal, with your membership fee to

The Treasurer
Beechworth Landcare
PO Box 231
Beechworth 3747

We respect your right to privacy and will not forward any of your personal information to any persons or organisations without your consent, but may be used within Beechworth Landcare for planning and statistical purposes.