

## Strathewen Landcare 2009-10 in brief

In memory – 10 of our members died on Black Saturday as well as 3 other residents who were not financial at the time but had been off and on for the last 20 years. The loss of these people and the contribution they made to our community and the environment will always be remembered.

2009-10 has gone past in a blur. We knew we were busy but it wasn't until we constructed the list below that we could say why. We've tried not to exceed the energies of our membership and have leant heavily on the support of the Nillumbik Environment Recovery Working Group. We are also developing long term relationships with other groups so that we can rely on their volunteer energies during the long recovery period in front of us. However, it is the Landcare Group that has a role into the future and it is important that we maintain our capacity as a group. The activities in green are ongoing and should give some idea of 'what Landcare does' and will do into the future.

Thank you to those members who responded so generously when asked to host visiting politicians and natural resource management agency staff on their properties. Your input has been invaluable, not only in placing Strathewen on the map, but also in giving the visitors a chance to develop a realistic perspective on the challenges you face managing the land after the bushfires.

It is a great privilege to be part of such a positive and capable group. I know we could not have achieved what we have without the 'can do' approach of everyone involved. A special thanks to our Secretary, Kylee, whose energy and motivation has done so much to hold us together for the last 12 months. Bronwyn

### Meetings

4 general meetings – Kylee

### Membership

We have a mailing list of 48 and no one has asked to be removed.

Current paid-up membership is low (24) because it is simply not a priority - Everyone

### Financial

#### *Grants applications*

DPCD – Volunteer Bushfire Relief Grant - BBQs, chairs etc for community (\$2,000) – Steve

DPCD – Payment for community gathering for Christine Nixon (\$1,600) – Tom

Nillumbik Shire – Community Group Support Grant (\$4,000) – Bronwyn

PPWCMA / MW - \$100 and \$800 group support grants – Kylee

Nillumbik Shire – Weed control program grant (\$5,000) – Kylee / Tom

VBBRA – Equipment grant for new weed sprayer (not confirmed but looking hopeful) – Bronwyn

Acquittal of grants – Tom

Annual returns – Tom

Insurance – Kylee / Tom

### Communications

Email has been the primary source of communication – Kylee / Bronwyn

One newsletter – Bronwyn / Ron / Kylee / Brendan

Token website – Bronwyn

Replacement signs purchased and available – Kylee

Presentation to Nillumbik Shire Council Meeting – Bronwyn

Presentation and discussion with St Andrews Landcare Group – Bronwyn

New Residents' Folders – Kylee / Ron

Maps relating to bushfire impact – Kylee

Maps for noting weed infestations – Kylee / Bronwyn

Maintenance of Environment Information at Community Centre – Kylee

Nillumbik Shire Community Group of the Year – finalist

## **Events**

Pasture Field Day – Kylee

Visit from Joe Helper (Minister for Agriculture) – Landcare / VFF

Visit from Melbourne Water Waterways Advisory Group – Bronwyn / Nowaks / Raftery-Woods

Walk with Lynlee Tozer – Kylee

Visit from Melbourne Water and Ben Hardman (Local Member) – Bronwyn / Nelsons / Tozers / Tullys

Visit from Peter Ryan (Opposition spokesperson for Bushfire Recovery) – Bronwyn (Landcare) / Barrie (VFF) / David McGahy (CFA) / Malcolm (SCRA)

Walk behind Apted's dam – Bronwyn

Baby animal night – Bronwyn

Seed collection information session – Landcare / NERWG

Working bee at Strathewen PS – Bronwyn / Friends of Warrandyte State Park

2010 AGM – supper with slides – Brendan / Ed

## **Operations**

Facilitation of fencing trailer purchase for bushfire recovery – Malcolm / Eric

Equipment trailer received from FOWSP – Steve

Maintenance and hire of existing spray unit – Eric

Purchase and resale of planting materials for members – Kylee

Distribution of donated plants – Kylee

Roadside spraying of bulbous plants in Spring 2009 by Indigenous Design – Bronwyn

Bird survey – Matthew

Soil tester kit donated by Nillumbik – Kylee

Community Nursery – we are promoting the support of individual community members for this project and have hosted one information session, and seed collection by Candlebark Nursery and Kahn & Julie Franke

Candlebark Nursery planting day at Malcolm & Diana's – Kylee

Eltham Valley Preservation Group – Planting at Pascoe's & Newport's Sat 17<sup>th</sup> April – Bronwyn

Friends of Warrandyte SP – Thurs 15<sup>th</sup> April and Thurs 13<sup>th</sup> May woody weeds – Bronwyn

Chilean Needle Grass survey and control by Charles Grech due now – Bronwyn / Julia

## **Liaison with agencies and affiliated groups – all ongoing**

SCRA – support and input into Environment Recovery Plan – Kylee / Bronwyn / Barrie

NERWG – Kylee / Bronwyn / Barrie

WACMAC – Brendan

Arthurs Creek Landcare – suppliers of plants and moral support – to Keith, Gayle, Pat and everyone thank you

Melbourne Water – re CFA tank area and ongoing maintenance of previous works on creek between Chadds Creek Road Bridge and Eagles Nest Road Bridge – Bronwyn / Tamara

Nillumbik Shire – re ongoing roadside spraying program and support for landholders below the fire line – Bronwyn / Kylee

Parks Victoria – feral animal control \* 2 – Bronwyn

We also need to acknowledge the relationship that is growing between our group, St Andrews and Christmas Hills as we all strive to remain focused through these difficult times.