

Nerrena Landcare Group

Presidents Report 2016 – 2017

Welcome to our Annual General Meeting.

At our last AGM Jill Vella was elected Nerrena Landcare Group President but due to her taking on the position of Landcare Network Project Officer she had to resign this position.

I was nominated as President at our Christmas meeting held in mid December at the Meeniyan Hotel.

Since then we have held a walk along the Railtrail from Meeniyan to wards Stony Creek and BBQ tea, where we met up with a few members of the Tarwin Valley Landcare Group.

Kathy and Bradley Westaway invited us to see their plantations at property in Ruby. They have been planting up the valleys and steep sections of their property for a number of years. Even though we did not walk up to the section our group assisted to plant, it was refreshing to see size of the trees in such a short time.

Several members of our group attended the 30th Anniversary of Landcare Green Carpet Awards in Heyfield. Our group received an award for the Black Spur Wetlands Project for future projects. It was an honour for our group.

July saw us meet up with the South Gippsland Bird Observers who were surveying birds along the Rail Trail and at Sue and Eric's property. Even though it was cold 35 birds species were recorded.

Our largest project this year has been the Black Spur Wetlands project. Kate Walsh is the project sub committee chair, ably supported by Jill Vella. There have been a range of meetings and Kate co-ordinates a working group for this project. The project is also being involved with the realignment of the South Gippsland Highway through VicRoads. We wish to thank Kate

for her expertise and leadership of this project.

You cannot run an organisation without a lot of work behind the scenes. Thank you to Coral our Secretary / Treasurer for her hard work to keep our group up and running.

Thanks to the members for your support.

We had another member join us this year. Jemima and Ben Geitz's little boy Max was born in March. We wish them all the best.

We would also like to thank Richard and Zoe Baillie for their long time support of Landcare. They have chosen to "retire" after being members of several groups and Zoe the project officer for the South Gippsland Landcare Dung Beetle project in the late 1990's early 2000. Their various farms are still a testament to their dedication to improving the land and environment.

We need the members to let us know what they want out of Landcare. We have some ideas, and a few suggestions but this is a group and your ideas and actions are what keeps us relevant. For me, a merger with Tarwin Valley Group and a name change will enable us to be relevant within the community and catchment area we all live in.

Thank you for your support of me as President.

Sue Miles