

Nerrena Tarwin Valley Landcare Group

MEETING MINUTES



Location: Caithness Road, Koonwarra

Date: 9-9-2022

Meeting opened 7.33pm

Present: Sue Miles (President), Coral Hughes (Secretary), Jill Vella (Secretary) Kevin Hughes, Kate Walsh, Marijke Horvath, Robert Rainbow, Meryl Andrews, Michael (Andrews), Eric Miles, Sue Miles, Corné Smit, Jennifer Smit, Michael Vella, Herb Wildes, Jillian Staton SGLN Chair. Present by Zoom, Roger Serong, Merrilyn Serong, Jenny Wilson, Phil Poulton (until the free meeting time limit was reached)

Apologies, Peter Walsh, Sarah Western, Cameron Snashall.

Robert asked what the Pittosporum that is being controlled as Landcare work on the rail trail was being sprayed with. As this is an SGLN project from Minns Road to Meeniyah, Jillian was well placed to answer. The Bass Coast Landcare Network works crew is performing the work, and as in the Apple tree wetland project which they are also contractors for, cut pittosporum is being sprayed with glyphosate straight after cutting or frilling.

A discussion on the Black Spur Creek apple tree wetlands works then ensued. Sue noted that the Major Roads Project engineers have been very consultative with Landcare about environmental issues and have implemented most of our suggestions and addressed our concerns. They have also given us access to archaeological investigations and are currently working with us to make sure all of the apple tree wetlands area is revegetated either by our project or theirs, as some of their project area boundaries have changed since we applied for works funding over a year ago. Herb requested that a note of thanks be sent to the road works engineers.

Carbon Farming field day.

In our last years Victorian Landcare Grant we were given funding to hold a Carbon Farming workshop. This will be held on October 15th this year. Deane Bellfield from Regenerative Farmers Australia will deliver a one day workshop. This workshop will deliver an

- Overview of Regenerative Agriculture
- Its relevance to Australian farmers
- Case studies
- Approach for local farmers to get started (interactive)
- Carbon Farming overview
- Carbon Farming (what is it, commercial potential, case studies)
- Soil Carbon Projects (how can I get involved)
- Options Going forward (individually, as a regional group)

- Relevant Funding streams
- Field Session

Also lunch. See <https://regenfarmers.com.au/> for more info and some background.

We may have the opportunity on the following day to look at two more best practice farms around the district. This is still in the planning stage, but now the AGM is over work can proceed. <https://farmersforclimateaction.org.au/blog/2020/07/22/fergus-and-deb-oconnor/> We have been invited to see what Fergus and Deb are doing on their Berrys Creek property.

Corné and Jen, our hosts for the workshop noted that farm biosecurity protocols will be in place.

Action: Jill will contact the Smits and organize the fine details of the day in the following week. Also liaise with Deane, and Fergus.

Kate, Sue, Coral and Jill attended an SGLN hosted meeting with the South Gippsland Shire Council to discuss This workshop was planned as an opportunity for Council to present on the current state of play with GSRT asset management issues & priorities, and links with wider (recreation/tourism) aspirations for the GSRT; each Landcare group to present what they've done on the GSRT and what aspirations they have for the future; Clarifying what council does (can do) and what Landcare can do to improve the potential of the GSRT to meet Landcare (e.g. biodiversity, weeds, education) goals; Recording locations & details of future activities and considering what level of documentation (e.g. formal MOU, works plan, Procedure for working) is required. What actually happened is that Fish Creek Landcare group members had been inspired by biodiversity mapping undertaken by Cardinia Shire council and the potential to develop biodiversity projects using such a tool. The meeting felt that having overarching biodiversity information for the whole shire would lead to the creation of a plan of action which would deliver the most targeted projects. Funding could be sought, and projects would be undertaken where the work would have most value, rather than just doing small projects at a group level that did not connect with an informed strategy. It was noted that the Landcare Network had the data but lacked current funding to develop into a useable tool. This was seen a priority with groups supporting the network to finish the biodiversity mapping. It was suggested that a working group be formed from the Landcare groups that had the rail trail in their area to develop a plan of action when the data became available. It was a very positive meeting.

Jillian spoke about her Tarwin Lower Landcare groups meeting on the Sunday after the grand final (25th) on the rail trail at Meeniyen walking to the bird hide.

9.45 am from Meeniyen, 10.10 am from Stony Creek. At the bird hide, Clive Hope will be talking about the birds, plus there maybe someone from SG water and a frog expert. More details soon.

Meeting closed 8.07pm.



Sue Miles and Jillian Staton with our threatened species day cakes – Broad toothed rats. We chose the rat because this year it was rediscovered on Wilsons Prom (just down the road) It is a native animal vulnerable to extinction and known for its chubby cheeks, found at Victoria's Wilsons Promontory for the first time in three decades.

Key points:

- The broad-toothed rat has not been seen on the promontory for 32 years
- Scientists manage to track one of the chubby-cheeked rodents, trap it and release it back into the wild
- The broad-toothed rat, or Tooarrana, is a tiny rodent historically found throughout south-eastern Australia.

- The catastrophic Black Summer bushfires tore through much of its habitat in the Victorian high country, but studies showed its population was significantly declining in the decades before that.
- The tiny rat has been vulnerable to predation by cats and foxes, habitat loss from an overabundance of grass-grazing animals, bushfires and climate change.
- See this link - [Landmark rediscovery of endangered native rodent at Victoria's Wilsons Promontory - ABC News](#)