

CORANGAMITE LAKES LANDCARE NEWSLETTER

INCORPORATING THE LISMORE LAND PROTECTION GROUP, WEERING-EURACK LANDCARE GROUP, LESLIE MANOR LANDCARE GROUP, CUNDARE DUVERNEY LANDCARE GROUP, WEERITE LANDCARE GROUP & MT ELEPHANT COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT

SEPTEMBER 2022



Hello Landcarers! I got back from Canada a few weeks ago and am back in the swing of things. I was glad to come home to the

canola, cherry blossoms, and wattle in full bloom! Spring is around the corner, and we have some exciting events upcoming, including a couple spring wildflower walks!

- Alicia (LLPG Facilitator)

Upcoming Events

RSVP is required for all events. Please sign up by emailing Alicia (no RSVPs by phone please). Many events are outdoors so check the forecast and dress accordingly!

Spiny Riceflower conservation on the Volcanic Plains

This project is funded by Trust for Nature's Pimelea Conservation Trust.

Grassland Weeding Bee

Sat 1 Oct, 2-4 pm, Wallinduc

Join us to remove invasive weeds from a remnant grassland site which harbours the critically endangered spiny riceflower. You'll get to see some early spring wildflowers and post-fire recovery of spiny riceflower, plus get some exercise tackling invasive plants. We will be focusing on Phalaris grass and South African Weed Orchid.

Spiny Riceflower on the VVP: Lessons and reflections

Sat 1 Oct evening, time and location TBA

This will be the closing event of our spiny riceflower project and we will hear from various participants and local stakeholders about reflections on the project and the way forward for conserving this species in our area.

Wildflower Wander

Weds 5 Oct & Tues 1 Nov, 2 pm, Chatsworth Road

Come for a casual wander through the Chatsworth Road grassland site to see the spring wildflowers. Come to one or both events to see a wider variety of species in bloom.

Meet at the corner of Chatsworth Road and Pircarra Lane, near the town of Derrinallum.

Save the Date: LLPG Christmas Party

Thursday 1 December, Lismore

Stay tuned for further details! Like last year, we will make it a dinner event and have a guest speaker of local interest.

Lismore Land Protection Group, PO Box 28, Lismore, Victoria, 3324

Facilitator: Alicia Merriam | 0475 593 149 | Alicia.LismoreLLPG@gmail.com (Tues and Thurs)

THE CORANGAMITE LAKES LANDCARE AREA IS ON WADAWURRUNG AND EASTERN MAAR COUNTRY. WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS AND PAY OUR RESPECTS TO THEIR ELDERS PAST AND PRESENT.

2022 Trees

Tree planting is underway! Alicia will be visiting each site shortly to map tree plantations, as this is a requirement of our funding arrangements.

Our tree order is funded through the Victorian Landcare Grants program administered by the CCMA, the Stockyard Hill Windfarm Community Investment Program, and the Berrybank Windfarm Grants program administered by Corangamite Shire.

If you want to plant trees next year, contact Alicia and she'll be in touch with more info shortly.

Wildlife in our midst

Alicia spotted this bush katydid perched on a flower stem in the Cypress Hills on her trip to Canada. Alicia and her partner did see 3 bears while driving but there was no safe place to pull over, so you'll have to take her word for it!



Have you had a wildlife sighting lately?! **Let us know** so we can encourage others to tune in to what's out and about!

Funding opportunities

Parks Victoria Grants

Parks Victoria currently has two grant opportunities underway – the Volunteering Innovation Fund (projects up to \$50,000) and the Youth Volunteering for Nature Fund (up to \$2000 for individuals and up to \$5000 for groups). Both opportunities close on the 3rd of October.

Dundonnell Wind Farm

Residents in the following areas are eligible for funding: Darlington, Derrinallum, Dundonnell, Lake Bolac, Nerrin Nerrin, Pura Pura, Streatham, Vite Vite, Woorndoo. If you have an idea for a Landcare project on your property, please contact Alicia ASAP to discuss applying. Applications close 31st October.

In case you missed it...

2022 LLPG Annual General Meeting

On Thursday 8th September the LLPG committee and a selection of members got together at the Lismore Hotel for the annual general meeting.

Lyall Bond, manager Environment and Emergency at Corangamite Shire and former LLPG Facilitator, took the chair for committee elections. Fiona Cole was re-elected as President, while Vicky French took on the Vice Presidency. Craig Beazley remained Treasurer and Val Lang remained Secretary. Jane Laidlaw joined Liz Thornton as Treasurer's assistant and Chris Lang, Scott Barr and Clive Fairbairn-Calvert remain committee members. We also gained a new member: David Brunton was nominated by Fiona Cole. Welcome, David!



Other items of business of the evening included annual membership fees (to remain at \$27.50 GST inc), and that Sinclair Wilson remain auditors, but that clarification would be sought on the level of audit required. The date for the next AGM was set for 14 Sept, 2023.

After the formalities we heard from our guest speaker, Mark Prascevic of OzTrees Nursery. OzTrees grow our trees every year and this relationship goes back to the beginnings of our group when Lyall Bond was Facilitator.

Mark spoke about the history of OzTrees, which started as a "lifestyle business" that Mark hoped would allow plenty of time for fishing. However, the family business quickly grew, thanks in part to Landcare plantings. Eventually the winds of government funding changed, and the company pivoted to produce larger trees for council plantings in Melbourne, direct-to-consumer landscape plants, and established a tree planting service as part of their business.

Mark spoke about how root development at the nursery influences stability of mature trees, which is essential for council plantings for liability reasons. Using air-pruning pots and careful root-pruning when trees are transplanted, nurseries can ensure their trees meet spec. Mark finished by assuring us that he still finds time for fishing!



To finish off the evening, Alicia showed some photos from her recent trip to Canada and everyone stayed on for a while to catch up. Thanks to everyone who attended, and to the Lismore Hotel for a great meal.

Spiny Riceflower Monitoring Bee



On Saturday 10th Sept a group of keen members and locals got together at the Chatsworth Road remnant grassland to set up a monitoring site for the critically endangered spiny riceflower. We marked several randomly located quadrats and identified all the spiny riceflower plants in each one.

Each individual was tagged and the size was recorded. Because spiny riceflower has separate male and female plants (see picture below) and a mix of both is crucial to a healthy population, we also recorded the sex of each plant. Interestingly, among a total of 25 plants that we examined, we found one that was a hermaphrodite – a single plant containing both male and female flowers.

This project is funded by Trust for Nature's Pimelea Conservation Trust.



LLPG Meetings

LLPG meetings are held on the second Thursday of every month. The last meeting was our AGM on Thursday 8th September.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 13th October. If you'd like an issue raised at a meeting, contact Alicia or a committee member by midday the Tuesday prior.

For any Landcare queries contact Alicia:

0475 593 149 | alicia.lismorellpg@gmail.com