

Winter 2024

"Landcare for Everyone"

# The Glider Gazette



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## HDLN Office Bearers

President : Dave Smurthwaite  
Vice President: Chris Hibburt  
Secretary: Regina Mudge  
Treasurer: Adam Nash



## Our Staff

Michelle Leech (Coordinator)  
Lyndell Driscoll (Resource Centre)  
Kate Leslie (Project Officer)



## Volunteers

Students, local farmers, landholders, schools- you and fellow community members!



**Save the Date:** Free public workshop—Bitterns on Farm with Birdlife Australia Saturday 24th August, 9-12 noon, Lake Elingamite.

## Lend a hand planting!

Landcare groups and community members will be out and about planting hundreds of native seedlings on both public and private land around the region in upcoming months.

The first event: indigenous plants replacing blackberry infestations in Timboon.

Keep an eye on our website for more opportunities to join in.

No experience necessary.



Megalodon teeth, volcanoes underfoot and what's driving the ice ages and interglacial epochs that shape our landscapes: Dr John Sherwood was guest presenter at our recent AGM and delivered a fascinating talk on geology. We welcomed new committee members Gavin Sinclair and Peter Doolan and thank outgoing members Andrew Irvine and Jason Ashwell.

David Smurthwaite, President of HDLN, Excerpt of AGM speech -

Hello Landcarers,

Our major work in the last 12 months has been the Agrifutures emission reduction toolkit, Biofund, Bitterns on Farms and Multi-species pasture field days, and of course our ongoing nursery production.

I believe we are now in a position to continue our leadership role in this precipitous time in human history. For we do seem to be at a turning point in environmental awareness.

The creeping impacts of climate change and environmental degradation are now recognised in the popular, and just as importantly business, consciousness. We see a future where we can be an essential vehicle for turning business and government responsibilities and aspirations into real outcomes. Many companies will be seeking to demonstrate their environmental credentials— and we can help! The first principle of ecology is that everything is connected to everything else. If we change one part of the system we often have no idea of where the consequences of this may show up. The recent algal blooms and fish kills in the lower Curdies River are a case in point.

We are finally becoming aware of the dangers of our cultural mindset of (to quote Richard Flanagan) promoting infinite theft from a finite world.

The second principle of ecology is that diversity is stability. I heard the other day that nature tends toward complexity, and humans tend toward simplicity. Central to our operations is promoting diversity and holistic land management.

Societies should be mindful of these principles; they are the issues that unite all of us here tonight. HDLN embodies them in our vision for a way forward.

I am presenting a draft summary of our 5yr Strategic Plan, to hopefully guide and map out our priority actions. This document should be a useful tool when funding is sought because it shows we have carefully examined our situation and evolved co-ordinated and consensual priorities for action.

David

## Community Planting Day

Sunday 2nd June 2024 | 10am - 12noon

Timboon between the Distillery & the Ice-creamery

green & sweet



## Love 4 manna gums

Nurseryman and environmental educator Mike Robinson-Koss led 35 people in a bush meander, celebrating the life supported by manna gums in April in Timboon.



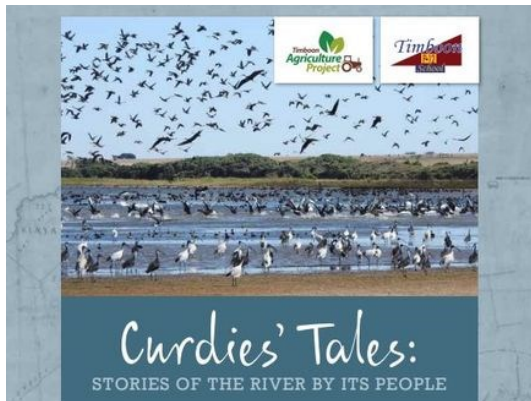


# Heytesbury District Landcare News

## Curdies Tales Booklet Launch

We congratulate Timboon P-12 on the launch of their booklet. It's a collection of tales from older folk about their memories of the Curdies River and was an oral history project by 2023's Year 9s.

Students wrote up tales about swimming lessons, fish hotels and fish poachers at night, as well as children's pranks, the lime works and floods.



Interviewee Clyde Basset told the Timboon Field Naturalists it was interesting to read the different memories and noticed the strong theme from all that the condition of the Curdies River had deteriorated within their own lifetime.

HDLN's view is that revegetating improves water quality, particularly close to river banks. Revegetating with natives throughout the catchment, including Scotts and Cooriemungle Creeks, will help restore natural cycles to our river.

We were privileged to have a role in this project, and especially wish to thank all the people who agreed to be interviewed by the students.

## Farmers Emission Reduction Toolkit update

A series of decision-making pathways and tools will help landholders evaluate their available options to reduce their on-farm emissions and select the ones most suitable on their property.

We heard last year through surveys that interest focused on the topics of multispecies forage crops, revegetation, energy management, effluent and organic waste management and grazing management. Our sustainable agriculture project team researched promising strategies on these topics and started developing potential tools.

In April HDLN hosted the latest meeting of local farmers and industry representatives who gave feedback and suggestions to our team on the tools under development.

It was a great help in refining the tools for launch soon. Watch this space!



## Nursery volunteers propagation success

Every Tuesday from November to April, volunteers came to our community nursery to help propagate plants. 16 people volunteered across that time, bringing visiting mums, mates and daughters. The nursery benefitted from just over 250 volunteer hours.

One person texted "It's always great to meet up at Landcare - I learn so much and have fun."

Thanks to Corangamite Shire Environment Support Grant for supporting an extended program. If you would like to volunteer later this year, contact Kate.



## Support for Revegetation

Biofund is our annual grant program focused on planting, protection, enhancement or linking of native vegetation. EOIs are due 30th September of each year.

Contact the office for more information.



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Or check out our website: [www.heytesburylandcare.org.au](http://www.heytesburylandcare.org.au)