



Thurgoona Bioblitz **Sam Niedra**

The inaugural Thurgoona Bioblitz 2012 is co-ordinated by the Slopes2Summit (S2S) partnership and the Woolshed Thurgoona Landcare Group. It is part of a Federal Government 'Caring For Our Country' Community Action Grant.

The Thurgoona Bioblitz 2012 is a community event involving surveys of wildlife across a number of sites throughout Thurgoona. The surveys will focus mostly on animals, particularly targeting birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. The aim is to engage the community in fun and meaningful activities that raise awareness and increase appreciation for the many wonderful native animals and habitats in the Thurgoona area. The surveys will include nestbox checks and spotlighting for the Squirrel Glider, one of

the region's most significant native animals.

The Thurgoona Bioblitz 2012 will be assisted by ecologists from Charles Sturt University, Australian National University and others, who will be helping design the surveys and act as survey leaders, and generally enrich the experience of participants. Fauna observations recorded during the event will be fed into the Atlas of Living Australia (ALA), using a web based portal being especially designed for Thurgoona by S2S in partnership with the ALA, and will contribute to the knowledge base of native fauna in the area.

Volunteers are sought to help prepare the event and participate on the days. Landcare members are especially encouraged to join

in. If you can help or you'd like more information please contact Sam Niedra (S2S Facilitator) on ph 60519924, mob 0408 806 256, or email sam@nct.org.au

**Thurgoona
BIOBLITZ –
Friday 18th May
and Saturday 19th
May 2012**

The event is supported by a number of other organisations including the Albury Conservation Company and the Department of Primary Industries (Catchments and Lands).

See page 3 for details of the Landcare General Meeting on May 9th to prepare for BioBlitz



\$19 400 of new Community Action Grant funds

The Thurgoona Woolshed Landcare group applied for, and received, a 2012 Community Action Grant from the Federal Government program Caring for our Country. This follows on from the previous CAG grant that is supporting the BioBlitz. The 2012 grant will allow us to complete two on ground projects.

The first involves erecting protective fencing around dams on the National Environment Centre. These dams are special because they are home to a small amphibian the Sloane's Froglet, one of the district's threatened species. Fencing will protect the dam's verges from trampling and grazing, increasing the habitat for the froglet to call and, hopefully, breed.

The second is community revegetation works in the Woolshed Creek /Thurgoona area in spring 2012 (more on this later in the year).

Any remaining funds will support information sharing.

Thanks to the Albury Conservation Company for sponsoring our bid.

Sugar Glider with young using nest box built and installed by TAC students on EnviroDay 2011. Photo – Scott Melgaard

Nest box homes at Trout Farm Rd

The Lucas Family installed 17 nest boxes on their property in 2007 as part of a Woolshed landcare activity. These were located mainly as bird nest sites but some were placed to provide a corridor down to the Murray River.

Boxes were inspected the following year in 2008, and again recently. In 2008, 4-5 boxes showed evidence of use by parrots, bees and maybe gliders but the vast majority were unused (apart for Sawfly larvae).

Boxes were recently inspected, and results again recorded, prior to Easter 2012. Results this time were much more exciting. Only 3 boxes showed no signs of activity. Results in boxes were as follows:

- 2 x Possums present, and 3 x evidence of probably possum
- 1x Parrot nest/feathers and 1 x Parrot feathers with frogs x 4
- 2 x Gecko (1)

- 4 x curved nest (Glider?)
- 2 x Antechinus
- 1 x rat family

A possum was also present in a "Round Up" drum we had recently placed in a tree. With this activity, particularly the gliders, we are keen to place more boxes adjacent the River where hollows are in short supply.

We have also been noting the bird species at our block and have reached the high 80's. If you would like to know more or swap stories of wildlife at your place catch up with Kaye or Stuart.

Trinity Anglican College

Scott Melgaard

Trinity is gearing up for what promises to be the biggest and most diverse Enviro Day yet. With the large scale development planned and, to the West of the College at least, implemented, the theme for 2012 is

"Sustainability Through Diversity"

This year we are taking part in the following inspiring activities;

- *Nestbox building
- *Nestbox monitoring
- * Re-vegetation works
- *Native wildlife presentation
- *Environment based artworks
- *Albury Environmental Lands walk and talk

NSW Murray CMA Catchment Action Plan

HAVE YOUR SAY

Members of Woolshed-Thurgoona Landcare Group are encouraged to have their say in the way natural resources of the NSW Murray Catchment will be managed for the next 10 years through the NSW Murray CMA Catchment Action Plan.

The Catchment Action Plan sets targets and strategies to maintain and improve the soil health, water quality, native vegetation, fauna, and cultural heritage in the landscape of the NSW Murray Catchment.

The Catchment Action Plan sets the framework for the investment of funds by the NSW and Australian Governments to fund projects between the Murray Catchment Management Authority (CMA) with landholders, Landcare and Producer groups, and other stakeholders.

The Murray Catchment Action Plan aims to help communities achieve:

- A healthy and productive catchment
- Vibrant communities
- Landscapes and communities which are resilient when faced with change.

How Can I get involved?

Attend a community meeting near you –

Albury 23 May:
6pm – 9pm,

Mirambeena Community Centre.
19 Martha Mews, Lavington
(dinner will be provided).

The Murray CMA Board has appointed a Community Committee of 15 well-known local people to oversee the development of the plan.

Committee members in your area include: David Sexton –
Thurgoona (0458 172 938)

Ray Stubbs – Albury (0408 498 534)

Brian Royal – Table Top (0434 899 907)

and Daniel Clegg – Albury (0419 711 906).

There is also a survey on the Murray CMA website which you are urged to complete to help us understand your concerns – go to www.murray.cma.nsw.gov.au/yoursay/



Landcare group members, and others with an interest in the local environment, are encouraged to participate in the BioBlitz surveys.

Friday 18th May will be a “Schools day”, and the Friday evening and Saturday will involve the broader community in a number of wildlife surveying activities.

This is the first of what organisers hope will become an annual or biannual event, which could be expanded across a broader geographical range

To ensure the BioBlitz is as effective as possible the next Landcare group

general meeting will be a preparation and training session.

Sam Niedra and local ecological experts will have some tasks to allocate, and will provide training to help you do your task well and with maximum enjoyment.

For further information about the Landcare general meeting contact Catherine Allan

All welcome!

**Landcare general
meeting and
BIOBLITZ training
6pm May 9th 2012
National
Environment Centre**

Ecoportal

There is a new local website promoting the activities of environmental and sustainability groups in NE Vic and Southern NSW.

<http://ecoportal.net.au>

This will soon include a link to the soon to be alive Woolshed/Thurgoona Landcare group webpage



Your Landcare group committee

Catherine Allan

Rob Fenton

Stuart Lucas

Ros Webb

Greg Davis

David Mitchell

David Petrovic

Graham Chapman



This occasional newsletter is produced for the Woolshed/Thurgoona Landcare Group. Its production and distribution is supported by the Albury-Wodonga campus of Charles Sturt University

Contributions are welcome and should be sent to
callan@csu.edu.au

TO:

Interested residents of
the Woolshed Creek/
Thurgoona area