

Woolshed / Thurgoona Landcare

JUNE 2011

ISSUE FOUR

Caring for our Country

Sam Niedre

The Slopes to Summit partnership and Woolshed Thurgoona Landcare Group are delivering a Caring for our Country Community Action Grant project across Thurgoona, to improve habitat for native plants and animals and engage residents in biodiversity related activities over the next 12 months. The project involves planting 3,000 indigenous seedlings, hosting 5 events, and developing educational/awareness raising materials relating to Thurgoona's wonderful biodiversity.

The first event, the 'Business Staff and Family Planting Day', was held on Sunday June 19th in the Woolshed Creek parkland. Eighteen businesses (not including the S2S partners) got behind the event; providing funds to cover expenses, lunch, promotional signage, and door prizes/plant giveaways. Thanks to Joss, CPG Australia, Link Real Estate, Gruen Energy, Specialty Press, Yalandra Fine Foods, Smarts



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY



Bakery, Harvest Thyme, Paddy's Bar and Bistro, Stompshoes, Phil's Garage, Jayfields Nursery, Personnel Group, St Pauls College, Albury City Council, Namany Pty Ltd, Essential Energy, WIRES (The NSW Wildlife Information Rescue and Education Service Inc).

In total, 45 people and a dog braved planted just under 1,000 trees, shrubs and groundcovers (see photo). Parklands Albury Wodonga, one of the S2S partners, prepared the site and helped the event run smoothly. Thankyou to each businesses that got behind the event, Albury City Council for providing a site and other support, and also Felicity Corrigan for her tremendous effort in helping to make it all happen.

President's report

Felicity Corrigan

...

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2011. In it you can see a sample of the many activities being undertaken to enhance the sustainable use of our beautiful and special local environment.

Much has happened since our last newsletter, including some much needed and appreciated rain. But the water has brought some problems with it as described by David Mitchell in this newsletter.

The Landcare group will soon have its own webpage to help keep everyone up to date with actions and events.

Between events such as that described by Sam (above) your Landcare group is busy in a

**Schools Tree Day - Friday July 29,
Charles Sturt University**

**National Tree Day - Sunday July 31,
Thurgoona.**

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number of ways. The Woolshed Creek/ Thurgoona area is blessed with a many bodies and organisations that manage lands, such as the Albury Environmental

Lands Advisory Committee, Albury City Council, the Murray Catchment Management Authority and the Albury Conservation Committee. Landcare executive members liaise with members of these bodies to learn where we can help, and to provide expertise and skills.

And something to look forward to...Tony Hall, author of "Life and Death of the Australian Backyard" is coming to Thurgoona soon. Tony will discuss the consequences of suburban habitat loss with Council and other interested people. Stay tuned for date, time and venue....

Floods and Flows in Woolshed Creek

David Mitchell

There is an obvious connection between rainfall and run-off from the land. What is less immediately obvious is the connection between the volume of run-off and the nature of the surfaces on which the rain falls.



Well-vegetated fertile landscapes, whether farmland, natural grassland, woodland, or forest, absorbs a large proportion of the rain they receive that results in runoff volumes of up to about 12-15% during heavy, continuous rainfall.

This contrasts with the hard, impermeable surfaces of roads and the roofs of houses in built up areas



that yield a run-off of 100% even in light rainfall.

This is well-illustrated by recent flooding of Woolshed Creek in Thurgoona as a consequence of heavy rainfall yielding large increased volumes of runoff from recently developed areas of Thurgoona.

Photo C. Tankard

The cumulative effect of heavy rainfall and recent suburban development was clearly demonstrated by extensive destructive flooding of the lower end of Woolshed Creek in late 2010, as illustrated in the accompanying photographs.

Allocation of the consequent costs of this event, though unintended, should not be borne by those who contributed least and suffered most

Photo C. Tankard

Murray Catchment Management Authority

Felicity Anderson

...

The Murray CMA is about to launch the 2011/12 incentive funding round for on ground works for landholders, including fencing of creeks, erosion and vegetation. All information will be available on the website:

www.murray.cma.nsw.gov.au

regarding eligibility for the incentives, and how you can register.

If you require further information, or would just like to discuss your project idea with someone you may contact Felicity Anderson (02) 6051 2253."

Equestrian Centre trees progress report

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The trees planted by the members of the Landcare Group and the Equestrian Centre last year are growing well (so is the grass, but if you look in this photo you will see healthy young trees and shrubs leaping from the ground).

Tree and shrub planting days such as this, and those coming up in June and July this year, contribute to the gradual enhancement of biodiversity in

Interested in revegetation? Check out the Native Vegetation Guide for the Riverina :<http://www.csu.edu.au/faculty/science/herbarium/riverina/>

The Robins are coming, the Robins are coming!

Rob Fenton

...

This is the time of year Thurgoona is lucky enough to host a number of special visitors - The Robins. At this time of year the Robins move from the forests and woodlands and some end up taking up residences across the Thurgoona area. The females are brown with darker wings with paler stripes, (check out a field guide for the differences).

But, as usual the males are all show-offs.

There are four species that can show up in the Thurgoona area. Below are photos of the males

1. Flame Robin, you should be able to find this one



2. Scarlet Robin, note the larger white patch above the Robin's beak.



3. Red-capped Robin, this is considered a declining woodland bird and is listed as being of conservation concern, hope you can find one.



4. Hooded Robin. This is listed as an endangered species and in the Thurgoona area has only been seen on the TAFE campus on Ettamogah road, if you spot one of these please let the landcare group know.



Why not take your Binoculars and see which of these spectacular little birds are around your place. They can often be seen showing off on a fence-line somewhere.

River Ramble, Dec 2010

Ros Webb

...

A small and enthusiastic group gathered by the NSW side of the Murray River at Hawkview. We welcomed visitors from Sweden and also a family from Sth Albury. Our first guest speaker was Tony

Crawford from The River Murray Streambank Restoration Project.

He described the ongoing works along this reach of the river. We were able to sit under the River Red Gums beside the swollen river and look across to the Victorian side where Willows had been removed in favour of Native Vegetation. After a leisurely shared lunch we jumped into 4WD vehicles and went downstream a little to view the rock walling of the river banks and established and enhanced revegetation sites.

Our other guest speaker Rob Fenton arrived quietly in his kayak and pulled up in a sheltered backwater. Rob told us about his bird monitoring over the years; of note being the presence of Barking Owls. He has seen platypuses regularly and would expect squirrel gliders to live around the site due to the mature Red Gums with many holes made from fallen limbs. After a check on a few of Landcare's nesting boxes (yes something is in residence) we made our way home.

Thanks to Rob and Tony and the Webbs for an interesting and relaxing few hours down by the Murray.





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FROM THE EDITOR

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Contributions are welcome and should be sent to
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Woolshed Thurgoona
Landcare Group

To: interested residents of
the Woolshed Creek/
Thurgoona area