



# Yarra Yarra News



**Newsletter Edition: Winter 2017**

Hello Everyone and welcome to the Winter edition

It's been a busy couple of months as you can see. If you have any queries regarding this newsletter please feel free to contact Jude Sutherland on Mobile 0429 647 506 or [landcarecoordinator@yarrayarracatchment.org.au](mailto:landcarecoordinator@yarrayarracatchment.org.au)

## **Upcoming Workshops/Events and Dates for your Diary:**

### **Bus Tour – Bonfire, Burgers & Beer – 26<sup>th</sup> July**

YYCMG &  
Perenjori  
Farming  
Forward  
with the



support from the NACC's regional landcare facilitator and Great Northern Rural are having a bus tour, focussing on:

Stock Nutrition and Management in a dry season– Bob Nicholls

Perenjori Algae Farm Update – Brian Baxter

Serradella Pasture & Dolomite – Les & Jane Spencer  
Getting started with marketing your produce - Shayne Wass, Dohne Lamb

Meet your GP – men's health update

RSVP: Lizzie King ([lizzie.king@nacc.com.au](mailto:lizzie.king@nacc.com.au)) or Jude Sutherland

### **National Tree Day – 28<sup>th</sup> July**

YYCMG will be partnering with Perenjori Playgroup and the Perenjori Early Childhood Centre (PECC) to hold a Teddy Bear's picnic tree planting extravaganza!



If you want to host your own event, or get involved with other National Tree Day events organised in your area, head to <http://treeday.planetark.org/> for all the info you need. And if you have a site in mind for next year, let us know, we'd love to help out.

### **Yarra Yarra Posters of the local Flora and Fauna –**

We are looking for volunteers to get involved with this great project. If you enjoy photography or have an artistic streak, or just love the local birds and flowers, we would love to have you on the team to help put together two posters showcasing the amazing diversity we have in our region. The posters will be printed and available to buy through the local tourist offices.

### **Bunjil Rocks Bioblitz – 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> September**

Registrations are now live!

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/bunjil-rock-bioblitz-registration-33880799383>

Come along and help record all the species found at Bunjil Rocks in 24 hours, with help from a range of experts in fauna, flora, fungi and more.

Free camping at Latham community centre, plus meals provided, and a bonfire and entertainment on the Saturday night. More details available through the NACC website.

### **Community Consultation Workshops – coming soon to a town near you**

The purpose of these workshops is to guide YYCMG into the future, and hear your ideas/thoughts on the direction that YYCMG could take to be a benefit to the region. We encourage all community members, landholders (Men & Women) and Farmer Groups/community groups to work with us to achieve great things together for our region.

We held a quick ideas session prior to the Controlled Traffic Farming event with the Carnamah Landcare Group, asking landholders for ideas for future grant applications and funding options. Please feel free to give Jude a call and share your ideas.

*More details on all of these events coming soon – please like and follow our Facebook page and/or join our mailing list to stay informed.*

### **Recent Events for 2017**

#### **Farmland Biodiversity**

On Friday the 16<sup>th</sup> June, the Yarra Yarra Catchment Management Group (YYCMG) held a double workshop at the Kalannie CRC focusing on Farmland Biodiversity. Lizzie King, Yarra Yarra Project officer with the Northern Agricultural Catchments Council (NACC) held an information session on YYCMG's existing project; "Creating Corridors and Protecting Fenceline Flora". Local farmer Mike Kalajzic provided an update on how the project has been progressing on his property as well as a question and answer session for other landholders in the area looking to conserve and increase remnant vegetation on their farmland, along fence lines, and in particular roadside vegetation. Some of these remnant roadside vegetation extents provide the most diverse corridors of vegetation left in the landscape and provide an important habitat for existing flora. 12 Landholders attended, and there was plenty of interest in expanding the project.



Following on from this session a Bat Workshop was held with our Guest Presenter Mr Joe Tonga from Perth who has spent the last 15 years perfecting the bat box. We had over 25 students and 15 adults from the Kalannie Primary School attend to learn a bit about bats and their place in the ecosystem, and then help build bat boxes. The best part was that they could then take the bat box home and erect it in a tree in the backyard and provide much needed habitat for bats around the area. Did you know bats can eat up to 1000 mosquitos every night!! Joe Tonga also donated a "Bat Hotel" to the Kalannie Primary School enabling homes for 200 bats. If you have time check it out next time you're at school.



The day finished off with a night stalk through a nearby bush reserve. Joe provided ultra-violet torches which highlighted the night creatures making it an exciting walk, searching for all sorts of creepy crawlies. We listened for birds and heard animal calls from Joe's high tech equipment.

#### **Surface Water Management Workshop/Controlled Traffic Farming – 21<sup>st</sup> June 2017**



An information session was held in Carnamah on the 21<sup>st</sup> June 2017. The Carnamah Landcare Group contacted YYCMG and we partnered up to run a Controlled Traffic Farming (CTF) evening. DAFWA's Development Officer Bindi Isbister was our guest speaker and provided information on all aspects of CTF. Thanks to DAFWA for

supporting the event. Bindi's details are: [Bindi.Isbister@agric.wa.gov.au](mailto:Bindi.Isbister@agric.wa.gov.au)

A great turnout of local landholders and good robust conversation around all facets of CTF, particularly relating to wet conditions when the impact is greater as machinery gets bigger and bigger. Farming systems are unique and depending on rainfall, soil types and machinery available, landholders need to assess their own systems to make the best decision for their business. Bindi has sent through a link to work out wheel compaction which you may find useful:

<http://extension.psu.edu/plants/crops/soil-management/soil-compaction/avoiding-soil-compaction>

Here is the website address for the CTF conference:

[www.nationalctfconference.com.au](http://www.nationalctfconference.com.au)

These events were supported by the State Natural Resource Management Program WA, made possible by the State Governments Royalties for Regions program.

#### **Committee Members**

**Yarra Yarra Catchment Management Group Committee Meeting: Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> August, Kalannie, 10.00am**

Do you have a couple of hours spare every month? Would you like to gain experience on a committee or perhaps it would help for your Uni or TAFE courses? Do you have great ideas for projects you would like to see happening throughout the region?

We are looking for new committee members for the YYCMG. There have been some dedicated volunteers supporting the group for the last 10 years (at least) and they really need a break!

We hold 4 meetings a year, 1 in Perenjori, 1 in Kalannie, and 2 as teleconferences. Positions we are recruiting for are as follows:

- Chair,
- Treasurer and Finance (paid position, with training in MYOB software if needed)
- Secretary,
- Social secretary
- Social Media Guru!
- Drone flying expert/Training Provided

If you think you might have the skills for any of these positions, or are keen to learn, we would love to hear from you. For more information about what might be involved please contact Jude. All current committee members will still be around to provide support to new members if it is needed.