



# Ashbourne Landcare Group

## WINTER 2017

President: Robin Allen  
Vice President: Ian Temby

Secretary: Libby Peck  
Treasurer: Geoff McLeod

Newsletter: Sue Chivers  
Library: De Marshall



Fungi, corner track off Taylors Road, ALG Facebook

### President's Report:

Welcome to the ALG 2017 Winter Newsletter. We hope this finds you all well and not too disappointed at the low rainfall we have experienced so far for this time of the year. Unfortunately, the Bureau of Meteorology has advised today (18 July) that less-than-average rainfall is anticipated for the region over the next three months.

**Funding Grants** - since the last Newsletter, two funding applications have been prepared for (i) the Victorian Gorse Taskforce ALG/WAG Gorse Program 2017-18 (amount sought \$15,100) and (ii) the Victorian Government Biodiversity On-Ground Action – Community & Volunteer - Grant 2017 (\$49,890 sought).

I am delighted to advise that we have been successful for the gorse-funding grant (for a total amount of \$13,600). On behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank Michael Peck, Beatrice Schlabowsky, Brendan Martin and Margaret Blackburn for their efforts in putting the application together. See Michael's article below for more details on this grant.

We have yet to learn the fate of the second funding application, which is an ambitious one involving eleven ALG landholders identifying areas on their properties for re-vegetation purposes over a two-

year period, a project covering some 28 hectares. The common link between these is the attempt to create biolinks within the Ashbourne district including building on those that have already commenced through the 2016 grant that six ALG landholders received to undertake similar projects.

**Ecological survey** – on Thursday, 15 June, three Committee members (Ian Temby, Alan Denehey and I) joined Damien Cook (a senior ecologist) on a field day visiting the sites identified on the six landholders' properties (2016 Grant referred to above). The purpose of the visits was to commence the task of identifying focal remnant species across a range of different terrain types within the Ashbourne district and, based on those inventories, to develop planting templates for both existing and future habitat restoration schemes.

If the 2017 funding application is successful, further sites will be identified for Damien to visit thus adding to a more complete set of templates for the district. It is hoped that these will serve as a guide to landholders to apply to their specific terrain types (including optimal planting times). The range of sites that Damien visited was quite diverse and included wetlands; sedgy, riparian woodland; a gully with severe erosion; high-spur country; grassland and a poa meadow. We will keep members informed of progress in this area and would welcome any suggestions for visits to properties. Damien identified the rare (and nationally endangered) Matted Flax-Lily (*Dianella amoena*) on one property. I would like to acknowledge the funding provided by the Upper Campaspe Landcare Network (UCLN) for Damien's expert advice.

**Fungus Foray** – on Sunday 4 June, Alison Pouliot took ALG members on a fascinating walk through two Ashbourne properties to look for fungi growing in damp leaf litter, on fallen boughs and on driveway verges. Before the walk, Alison showed us some 80 different fungi that she had collected that morning en route to the walk including the Death Cap. Please see below Brendan Martin's wonderfully evocative

account of the day and Sue Chivers' photos. I would like to thank Roger and Glynis Cameron and Beatrice Schlabowsky for welcoming us onto their properties. A lovely picnic lunch was also had by all and we were very fortunate to have a beautiful, sunny day for the event.

The Committee will at its next meeting, consider adding Fungi to the ALG Strategic Plan's objective of protecting fauna and flora in the Ashbourne district.

**Cobaw-Campaspe Connections Action Plan** - Ashbourne, Newham, Carlsruhe and Woodend Landcare Groups met with the UCLN on 6 July to identify demonstration sites for protection and restoration in line with this Action Plan. After discussion, sites that were identified included: the Five Mile Creek frontage within the Braemar School farm which is severely eroded; Quarry Road, Woodend verge which requires action to protect the wildflowers that grow there; Carlsruhe wetland and grassland patch; the confluence of Five Mile Creek and Campaspe river. Ashbourne is not included as it is already receiving assistance to cover the costs of the ecologist's report (referred to above).

**Native tree/shrub tube-stock** – subject to Committee approval at our next meeting on 4 August, ALG will be holding a fund-raising stall at the Woodend Farmers' Market on Saturday 2 September between 9.00am - 1.00pm (near the Woodend Bee Friendly Society's stall which will also be fund-raising). We aim to sell excess tube-stock and to hand out our new ALG flyers on the day. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

**Robin Allen**  
President

## ALG UPCOMING DATES:

**Saturday, 7 October, 1230–1600 hrs:** Wombat Forest, Firth Park Walk followed by an afternoon tea.

**Sunday, 12 November 1000 – 1200 hrs:** Working Bee and 1200 – 1400 light lunch at the Ashbourne Reserve, Ashbourne Road.

***Details to be announced closer to dates.***

## WAG REPORT – July 2017

Since the last newsletter the WAG Committee has submitted for and been granted another large grant

of \$13,600 from the Victorian Gorse Task Force. This very pleasing news was received in mid-July and allows us to continue with the important gorse eradication in the Ashbourne Landcare district.

We are required to receive applications from all landholders in the district, meaning ALG members and non ALG members. As "first come first served" arrangements will apply, ALG Members are encouraged to apply as soon as possible to be part of the **2017/2018** Program. Funding up to \$1000 per landholder will be available. The WAG sub committee will be meeting soon to plan this next project. Please register your interest early by email to [mpeck2@telstra.com](mailto:mpeck2@telstra.com).

**To review:** the previous **2016/17** Gorse Program has been successfully acquitted. The impressive result from this VGT "seed" grant funding (\$13,360) has generated a total of just over \$66,000 for works being carried out on gorse eradication on the land owned by the 11 landholders who participated in this first program. This is a combination of \$13,360 grant funding and over \$50,000 being contributed in kind by landowners themselves. A most worthwhile investment for the VGT and a result which should encourage its ongoing support for our efforts.

As mentioned in the previous newsletter we would like to extend the scope of our work to other weed problems such as Hawthorn and Blackberry. We encourage Members who need assistance with the actual work or who would like to help us, to contact the WAG sub-committee at the email address above or by phoning Michael Peck on 0428172993. MP

## BROCHURE TO PROMOTE OUR ASHBOURNE LANDCARE GROUP

For some time now, we have realised the need for an ALG Brochure which explains who we are and what we do. Promotion of our group within our Ashbourne district benefits the community and strengthens our Landcare efforts. And also within the wider Landcare network as well.

After research, and seeking preparation and printing quotes, we are delighted that we now have the final proof to discuss at our next meeting. It is looking professional and eye-catching, informative and friendly.

We are looking forward to using it to promote the Ashbourne Landcare Group, in all sorts of ways.

## WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

### *From islands to networks:* Linking landscapes for conservation at a time of climate change

This Symposium was held on the 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 at the Capital Theatre, Bendigo and was organised and facilitated by Dr. Sophie Bickford and members of the Central Victorian Biolinks Alliance.



The event brought together leading conservation scientists, academics and practitioners from Victoria and interstate who spoke on a number of topics including:

- climate proofing;
- biolink connectivity;
- migratory bird paths and
- species survival to name just a few.

'Signatures of climate change' were a focus, along with evidence of revegetation and geneflow bird species adapting to the effects of climate change. **Mosaic biolinks** which consist of the establishment of 'shelter belts', biolink corridors, scattered woodlands and revegetation projects were some of the topics discussed. Observations of increased bird life and the return of some native species were noticed, as a result of these measures.

A sense of pro-active collaboration was a theme that emerged from the symposium. SC



Alan Denehey, Ian Temby, Beatrice Schlabowsky and Sue Chivers attended the event.

## FUNGUS FORAY SUNDAY, 4<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2017

A varied group of Landcare members, friends and family of members, and nearby residents gathered at the end of a dirt road on the slopes of the Upper Campaspe on a bracing, soon to be sunny, Sunday morning.

We were met by a young fungophile, an infectious enthusiast of the fungal world around us, and she had gathered two tabletops of specimens from the area.



Alison Pouliot is a wonderfully informative and engaging speaker, a conservation ecologist and mycologist who skilfully drew us in to the often overlooked Kingdom of the Fungi.

We first looked at the fungal groups arrayed in front of us and the taxonomic principles used to identify fungi in the field. In fact whether you're 'in the field' or in the pine forest perhaps is the first consideration!

We considered the identifying principles of fungal ecology, rubbing, smelling, peering through magnifying devices, even listening! ...listening to the pop of a snapped stalk. The anecdotes from Alison's life experiences were fascinating and the fungi jokes were... well, sporadic !

After what seemed way too little time but was probably around an hour and a half, we all shared a delicious lunch/afternoon tea, followed by a free ranging foray into the neighbouring bushland to see what we could find and there was plenty.

Brendan Martin



## Membership Fees Due!



New members are always welcome – a way of belonging to a local community group, and together achieving more for our Landcare.

Joining fee for new members now \$20.00 **per household**. Annual subscription \$20.00. Members can pay by cheque made to Ashbourne Landcare Group or via online bank transfer:

**Account name** Ashbourne Landcare Group Inc.  
**BSB** 313 140 **Account no.** 19221339

Don't forget to write MF (Member Fee) followed by your surname for description. Please notify Geoff McLeod of any change in your contact details.



## NEXT ALG MEETING

### Committee Meetings (6.30pm)

#### 2017 Meeting Dates scheduled :

- Friday, 4 August; **Tylden Junction Bar (Tylden Cafe)**
- Friday, 6 October;
- Friday, 1 December.

**It is important to note that members are encouraged to come along also and/or submit matters through any of the Committee members for consideration.**

**Any member is most welcome to attend.**



Discovering the magical world of fungi with Alison Pouliot