

2011

STEELS CREEK COMMUNITY NOTES - NO 90 (April/May 2011)

Landcare

The next meeting of the Steels Creek Landcare Group interim committee is coming up.

Anyone thinking about being part of the committee is most welcome to join us.

The meeting will be at Yileena Park Winery on Monday 4th April at 7.30pm.

Blackberry control

For those who missed the workshop, a 96-page control manual is available free. It is an excellent resource, very well laid out, that provides comprehensive information about blackberry control. Landowners can get copies by contacting Rob Fallon

STEELS CREEK COMMUNITY NOTES - NO 91 (June/July 2011)

A Landcare Double-Feature

Steels Creek Landcare Group AGM

The Steels Creek Landcare Group is back up and running (slowly but surely!) and is having its first AGM since reforming late last year.

When: Thursday 7 July, 7.00pm

Venue: Ferguson's Winery, 82 Wills Road, Dixons Creek (Melways 267 H1)

Light refreshment provided

New members welcome. Old members welcome. All welcome. Nominations for the committee most welcome!

Please call Sandra Turnley or Rob Fallon for more information.

Blackberry Action Group information night

When: Thursday 7 July, 8.00pm

Venue: Ferguson's Winery, 82 Wills Road, Dixons Creek (Melways 267 H1) Light refreshment provided

STEELS CREEK COMMUNITY NOTES - NO 92 (August-September 2011)

Landcare

Steels Creek Landcare is back in action after two years in recess following the bushfires. Many residents of Steels Creek have been flat out on their own 'Landcare' problems along with re-fencing, re-building and re-establishment of farms and gardens. There have been many local activities where local landholders have met, discussed problems and solutions and just got on with the job.

Now there is a mood to again get together and find solutions to bigger problems, such as blackberries, weeds, erosion and rabbits. The new Landcare committee has scheduled a meeting, (7.15 PM on Thursday, 25th August 2011 at Yileena Park Winery) to welcome all members and to set out a program for the year ahead. This will also be an opportunity to outline financial and other aid that may be available to members. Come along and join the discussion over a glass of local product.

Ivan Filsell (chair) **Sandra Turnley** (Sec) **Rob Fallon** (Coordinator)

FREE Chemical Users Course

The Northern Yarra Landcare Network is pleased to offer free courses in the use of farm chemicals such as those that are most effective against blackberry. These courses are available free to property owners in the fire-affected area.

Completion of a Chemical Users Course will mean you can...
Qualify for the Agricultural Chemical Users Permit (ACUP) from the Department of Primary Industries.
Learn about spray equipment and how to calibrate it correctly.
Understand how to interpret labels and use the right techniques.
Improve your preparation, storage and cleanup of chemicals.
Know the safety issues around the use of herbicides so you, your property, your neighbours and local wildlife will be safer.

Two courses are offered. Each course is run over 2 days.

Course 1 Day 1: Saturday 27th August Day 2: Saturday 3rd September Time: 9.00am – 3.00pm

Course 2 Day 1: Saturday 8th October Day 2: Saturday 15th October Time: 9.00am – 3.00pm

Morning tea and lunch will be provided. Venue: Details to be confirmed. For more information, please contact Rob Fallon

STEELS CREEK COMMUNITY NOTES - NO 93 (October - November 2011)

Steels Creek Catchment Landcare Group

The Steels Creek Catchment Landcare group has reformed and has an active program in place for the coming year. Rob Fallon is coordinating the funds available for Landcare in the bushfire area of the shire and these funds will be applied to a range of activities including, blackberry taskforce, weed control, pest control and erosion control.

We are endeavouring to set up a rabbit control field day and an erosion control workshop in the near future. Recent Landcare activities have included planting on local properties and the chemical use certification course.

To join SCLG, please phone Ivan Filsell

A happy band of Tree-planters and their work



The next planting is at the Tomlins, this Sunday 9th October from 9am on Lunch provided
800 To Be Planted. Be There!

2012

STEELS CREEK COMMUNITY NOTES - NO 95 (February-March 2012)

Landcare

Favorable rainfall allowed a third tree planting to be held in Steels Creek in November, this time at the property of Ray and Sandra Turnley.

In total, about 1500 plants were planted across four Steels Creek properties last Spring.

Thanks to everybody involved in these events. Stay tuned for more planting days this coming Autumn.

Carolyn Suggate from **the Northern Yarra Blackberry Action Group** (NYBAG) is working with landholders in the northern reaches of Steels Creek to control blackberry. The NYBAG Steering Committee is made up of community members from the fire-affected area as well as reps from the different government agencies. NYBAG is a sub group of the new Northern Yarra Landcare Network, offering the use of spray equipment, rebates on the cost of chemical, safety wear and contractor spraying, as well as advice with mapping outbreaks and the coordination of blackberry control across property boundaries. So far, 17 properties in the north of Steels Creek have signed on to the voluntary program.

Parks Victoria have sprayed some of the boundaries they share with private owners and DSE will be tackling at least one area of Crown land that has been neglected for many years. For more information about the Blackberry Action Group, call Rob Fallon

An Indian Myna Control Workshop is planned for Saturday 11th February, 9.30am-12.30pm, at the Dixons Creek Reserve. The first hour will be spent hearing about the behavior and characteristics of this invasive species. Guests will then have the opportunity to make their own traps using the materials provided for \$20. Alternatively, guests can take home a trap already made for \$45. For more information call Rob Fallon.

A Rabbit Control Workshop is planned for Saturday 25th February, 9am-12pm, at the Dixons Creek Reserve. You will be able to get expert advice and ask questions about the best techniques for rabbit control. We also plan to discuss ideas for a regional approach to rabbit control in the fire-affected area. For more information call Rob Fallon

STEELS CREEK COMMUNITY NOTES - NO 96 (April-May 2012)

Landcare

Steels Creek Landcare Group Erosion Information Night - *We all have it, so how can we fix it?*

Steels Creek Landcare Group, with the support of PP&W Catchment Management Authority and Melbourne Water has planned an Information Session aimed at exploring the issues around this question.

When: Wednesday 2 May at 7.30 - 9.30pm

Where: Steels Creek Community Centre

Topics include:

- Identifying types of erosion and what causes them
- Solutions for current erosion problems
- Understand the big picture and what to do in your own place
- Melbourne Water will outline some of their programs and background information on Steels Creek's land types

There will be time for you to ask questions about your specific situation.

Contact Sandra Turnley – SCLG secretary

Northern Yarra Blackberry Action Group (NYBAG)

As the spray season draws to a close, Carolyn Suggate continues working with landholders in the northern reaches of Steels Creek to control blackberry. The NYBAG Steering Committee is made up of community members from the fire-affected area as well as reps from the different government agencies. NYBAG is a sub group of the Northern Yarra Landcare Network, offering the use of spray equipment, rebates on the cost of

chemical, safety-wear and contractor spraying, as well as advice with mapping outbreaks and the coordination of blackberry control across property boundaries.

NYBAG has signed up 28 properties to the north of Hunts Lane in Steels Creek and 17 in the north of Dixons Creek in its first year. Yarra Ranges Council contractors have sprayed the roadsides in these areas. Parks Victoria and DSE have applied for their own funding to assist with more spraying on the Kinglake National Park and State Forest boundaries, and VicRoads have made a commitment to spray the Melba Highway north of Pinnacle Lane. Melbourne Water is also following up with people on the Stream Frontage Management Program to help with creek infestations. We are hopeful that all agencies involved can carry through on their commitment to compliment action by landowners in our area.

An **Indian Myna Control Workshop** was held on Saturday 11 February at the Dixons Creek Reserve. The first hour was spent hearing about the behaviour and characteristics of this invasive species and guests then made their own traps using the materials provided or they bought one already made. More than 40 people attended, with 33 traps made or sold on the day. A further trap-making session is planned for later this year.

A **Rabbit Control Workshop** was held on Saturday 25 February at the Dixons Creek Reserve. Our 32 guests received expert advice and asked questions about the best techniques for rabbit control. A regional approach to rabbit control in the Steels Creek area could be the next big thing.

A **Native Grasses Information Night** was held on Wednesday 21 March at the Dixons Creek Reserve, with 45 people there to hear Dr Ian Chivers from NativeSeeds talk about the practicalities and benefits of native grasses for pasture, lawns, landscaping erosion control and inter-row planting in vineyards.

Coming up: stay tuned for more tree planting days this coming Autumn, provided the plants and owners are ready! We also hope to see the launch of the Dixons Creek Landcare Group. The combined efforts of Landcare Groups in both Steels Creek and Dixons Creek will definitely strengthen.

STEELS CREEK COMMUNITY NOTES - NO 97 (June-July 2012)

Landcare

SCLG held a very successful ***Erosion Info Night*** recently with Dan Borg speaking about how hot bushfires decrease the soil's ability to absorb water. That has been a major cause of erosion in the fire affected area because of the heavy rains experienced immediately after the fires and the following months. Katie Drummond highlighted the improvements to Steels Creek that can be made when involved in a Stream Front program with Melbourne Water.

Andrew Grogan discussed possible erosion solutions in response to Q&A. And all in the spacious comfort of the SC Community Centre. We will be arranging to meet with those who volunteered their properties to check out possible erosion sites to highlight in forthcoming field days. We will advertise the dates when arrangements have been completed. Thank you to everyone who came.

The Reveg/Planting program on private land will be happening in early Spring. It is wonderful to see the plants growing above the tree guards from last year's planting.. And it is a great way to catch up with friends and neighbours or to make new friends when planting trees together. Dates will be posted closer to the planting season. Any one who has plants and need a hand to get them planted, please contact Sandra and we will add your property to the schedule.

The Northern Yarra Blackberry Action Group has recently been successful in receiving further funds to continue the wonderful work done this past blackberry season into the future. Thanks to those involved in writing the successful grant application on our behalf and to those Screekians who worked hard to remove blackberry infestations from their properties last season. Contact SandraTurnley



Steels Creek Landcare Group

Erosion follow-up:

Following up on the problems discussed at our recent Erosion info night and to assist with planning the next stage, we met with Kerry, an erosion expert from DPI and visited 3 properties in Steels Creek and Chum Creek. Dam wall stability, management of water through a dam, tunnel/rill erosion and slumping were looked at and possible solutions discussed.

Often the problem has occurred as a result of changes to the landscape by use of machinery, poor construction techniques or the amount of surface and underground water moving across the land. Some improvements can be simple to achieve whilst others involve a greater degree of works and money.

We are now planning for some more sessions to look at examples of common erosion people noted and seeing what expertise we can arrange to demonstrate positive measures/works for you to then try on your land. We will keep you informed on developments and when we will hold on-site activities.

Landcare gate signs:

You often see signs for Land for Wildlife and other environmental groups on properties.

We now have the opportunity for members to have a **Steels Creek**

Landcare Group sign to place on your gate or fence.

Information about how to get one for your property will be emailed out to members shortly.



Tree planting

Thank you to all the members who came along to the Train Trak vineyard tree planting. After a few hours work by a large group of adults and children, 1000 plants were planted. A great turnout, considering the weather forecast for the day.



STEELS CREEK COMMUNITY NOTES - NO 99 (October-November 2012)

Steels Creek Landcare Group

Steels Creek Landcare Group will hold their Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 23 October at the Steels Creek Community Centre at 7.30pm.

Come along and share a cuppa and a snack as you listen to our guest speaker **Carolyn Suggate** talking about the wonderful results achieved by Steels Creek members of the Blackberry Action Group last year and how a difference can be made in the fight against blackberry infestation. We will be holding Committee elections and nominations can be taken on the night or beforehand by contacting Sandra for nomination forms. We look forward to seeing you there.

***** Topic and Guest speakers changed.** Notice sent out
Topic : Microbats Guest speaker Tony Fitzgerald (Parks Vic) and Rob Gration (Microbat Specialist)

 Tuesday, 23rd October 7.30pm
at Steels Creek Community Centre
699 Steels Creek Rd. Steels Creek

Come along and hear about our nearby neighbours,
MICROBATS

Our guest speakers will be **Tony Fitzgerald** and **Rob Gration**.

Tony is a Ranger at Kinglake National Park. Hear about recent flora and fauna findings and how the recovery is going in the Park, as well as current management issues, plans and programs.

Rob is a very well known bat specialist. The latest information about the bats of Steels Creek and the importance of the immediate area to their migration and breeding cycle will be discussed.

Tony and Rob will answer questions after their presentations.

This will be followed by the SCLG AGM, a short meeting to elect Office Bearers for the coming year.

Supper time will allow further time for discussion with Tony and Rob

RSVP appreciated by:
phone Sandra 97301550
or email steelscreeklandcare@yahoo.com.au



2013

STEELS CREEK COMMUNITY NOTES - NO 101 (February-March 2013)

Landcare

You are invited to a get-together of the Steels Creek Landcare Group

Come along and share a meal with your friends and neighbours in the Steels Creek area.

Dinner will be a delicious 2 course meal (with alternating choices). Special dietary requirements are available by request.

We would like to hear if there is some way in which Landcare could help you with your property.

Are you interested in encouraging wildlife, farming issues and/or sharing tips of the trade etc.?

When: 6.30pm for 7.00pm Saturday 23 February

Where: Steels Creek Community Centre

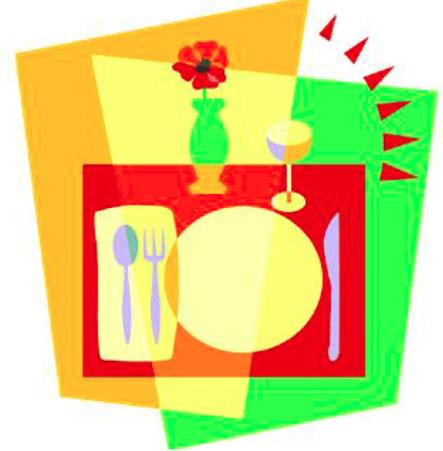
Cost: Members \$15

Non-members \$20

BYO drinks

Bookings are essential.

RSVP to Lindy Montell – by Monday 18 February



STEELS CREEK COMMUNITY NOTES - NO 102 (April-May 2013)

Steels Creek Landcare Group

In February, a **Social Meeting** was held. It was great to see so many members come along. An excellent 3 course dinner prepared by Chef Angie, friendly conversation and some great ideas for workshops during the year made the night a 'must repeat' event. Common issues haunt members - rabbits, foxes and weeds.

An **Indian Myna workshop** provided information about a serious environmental pests moving into the Steels Creek area. The Yarra Indian Myna Action Group gave a talk about the challenges in halting the invasion of these birds which take over the habitat of our native birds. Sightings have been seen the length of SC road in increasing numbers. Thanks to Northern Yarra Landcare Network for the generous subsidy given to Landcare members buying traps and kits. To buy a trap or kit to make, please contact YIMAG at <http://www.yimag.org.au/>





Following the high interest in **Microbats** at the AGM, we have been given the opportunity to help with the important work of counting bats in the local area in April. Can't wait to hear how the night goes and how many bats are out there.

Up-coming events: In May, a **RABBIT WORKSHOP** will be held with information about trapping, safe use & subsidies towards the cost of Pindone to members. **WEED MANAGEMENT** is in the pipeline for July. Information will be sent out closer to the events.
Sandra Turnley

STEELS CREEK COMMUNITY NOTES - NO 103 (June-July 2013)



Steels Creek Landcare Group
Need Help on your Property?

Volunteers are again available to assist landowners with a range of tasks. Assistance activities have previously included tree planting, firewood stacking, fence removal and garden tidy up, plus a whole lot more. The current groups of volunteers are made up from twenty Year 9 students and 2-3 supervising adults. The work is done in a single session of approximately three hours, starting at 11am. We can divide the group so that two properties can be reached at the same time.

Availability: We currently have spots available on the following days: -

- Wednesday 12th June (1 group of 20 or 2 groups of 10),
- Wednesday 19th June (1 group of 20 or 2 groups of 10).

If we can't assist you this time around.- there will be other opportunities later in the year. Requests to place volunteers come in from different organisations periodically. It would be useful if landowners registered their interest in the program so that we might get in touch with them next time.

To register, please contact us at steelscreeklandcare@yahoo.com.au .

Blackberry Removal: Congratulations to all those members who have been working on removing blackberry on their properties. As you look around Steels Creek valley, blackberry infestations have diminished or are gone.

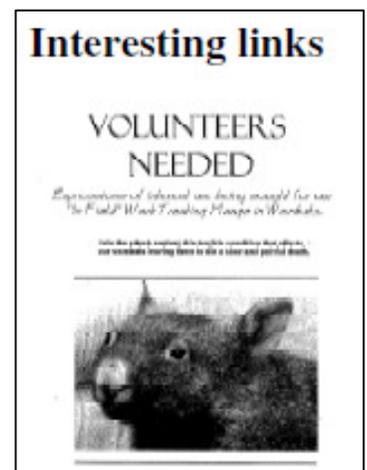
Rabbits: Our Pindone subsidy program has been deferred until Spring. We are looking at ways to help neighbours coordinate their efforts to improve results. Northern Yarra Landcare Network will provide the subsidy for our members.

Indian Mynas: We recently had a busy workshop making traps. Has anyone caught any?

Upcoming Events:

Rabbit workshop - A joint event between the Valley's Landcare Groups is planned with a focus on approaches to remove rabbits from your and your neighbours' properties. It will be held in Spring - date to be advised

Agricultural Chemical Users Training:
Winter - date to be advised Sandra Turnley



STEELS CREEK COMMUNITY NOTES - NO 104 (August-September 2013)



Breaking news!!

Our Landcare group now has 79 members.

We welcome our new members who have joined us through the Blackberry Action group and from the Sustainable Garden workshops being held through Dixons Creek Landcare (which has been a very informative program and given much 'food for thought' to participants), and through word of mouth.

There is lots happening at the moment, with members attending chemical user's courses, chainsaw courses through the SCA and planting opportunities at Erin-Marie & JB's property (*details to be confirmed*). There are also a variety of different activities that come through the Grape Vine about caring for our land, wildlife, healthy dams etc.:

- Wombat mange <http://www.mangemanagement.org.au/>
- Creating habitat for fish etc. in dams
- Landcare for Singles

Information flyers will be emailed out via Grape Vine

And the Social Dinner and AGM!

Come along to a scrumptious dinner, cooked for you by Angie, Chef Extraordinaire, and spend an enjoyable evening with fellow Landcare members. A delicious three course dinner will be provided at a subsidised cost of \$15 - byo drinks. For our new members, this is an opportunity meet other interested Landcarers, people you often see down the street in Yarra Glen.

Yes, we have to hold an AGM.

We would love to have some new faces on the Committee but there is no obligation.

Just think about it for a moment.

To book for the dinner please use the email address:

steelscreeklandcare@yahoo.com.au.



*The sun is out and, hopefully, the grass is growing.
And our view towards the north of the Steels Creek valley is so serene and peaceful.
Such a wonderful place to be.*

(STEELS CREEK COMMUNITY NOTES - NO 105 (October-November 2013))

Steels Creek Landcare group has the opportunity to run a **Wombat Mange Management workshop** provided there is enough interest in this topic indicated by the members.

We will go ahead with this if there is sufficient commitment from members.

Please **indicate your commitment to attend a workshop** by emailing steelscreeklandcare@gmail.com by **8th**

October.

For details about what would be involved, contact Sandra.

Steels Creek Landcare

Blackberry action

Congratulations to all the Screekians who are dealing with blackberries on their properties as part of the Blackberry Action Group program. This year's spraying and other eradication efforts are kicking off again over the summer season.

You too can support your "sreek" and near neighbours by joining the program to fight the spread of blackberries.

Call Mark Deslandes or David Callow (email northernyarralandcare.net.au) for a property visit and some good advice about blackberry action on your property and the program's benefits in supporting your efforts. See <http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/agriculture/pests-diseases-and-weeds/weeds/other-declared-weeds/blackberry> for some updated DEPI information.

Rabbits

Noticed a rabbit or two around your place? Want to do something about getting rid of them? Like the Blackberries, we can best tackle the rabbit problem together.

The Landcare Group is planning a three pronged approach and would really like your help in making it work well. The Creek undertook a very successful rabbit baiting effort in the 2001 and we hope to do as well again. The first step will be an information session in December to outline the extent of the rabbit problem and how we can best deal with it. The second step will be to have a number of you committed people join us to co-ordinate the action in your local area. We will meet in January to assist co-ordinators to put a process in place. Working together, we can reduce rabbit numbers in each area and collectively, across the valley.

The last step will involve February being the rabbit busting month. We will run a practical workshop or field day to demonstrate the various rabbit reduction measures - baiting, harbour clearing and warren destruction, trapping and more.

We aim for as many as possible to all take some rabbit action during February. More details soon on the Grapevine.

Call Ray Turnley if you can assist in your locality.

Fire Preparation

With the approaching summer season, we all need to be fire ready with our plans in place. Are you and your property prepared for the upcoming season? See CFA Fire Ready Kit at <http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/fire-ready-kit/>

Wishing you all well for the festive season and in your Landcare efforts, Steels Creek Landcare Group

2014

STEELS CREEK COMMUNITY NOTES - NO 106 (February - March 14)

Steels Creek Landcare

RABBIT CONTROL FOR STEELS CREEK

Steels Creek Landcare Group encourages you to participate in a Rabbit Control Program in the coming 'Rabbit Season'.

Rabbits are one of Australia's most serious pest animals and typically:

- destroy pasture, crops and plant communities, impacting on agriculture and the environment;
- cause soil erosion and associated sedimentation of waterways;
- compete with native fauna for food and habitat; and
- are well suited to Australian conditions and breed prolifically.



HOW CAN WE SUCCESSFULLY REDUCE RABBIT NUMBERS?

1. Work together

Coordinate control work with your neighbours. The best results are achieved where neighbours conduct simultaneous rabbit control rather than just on individual properties.

2. Aim to be rabbit free

Create a detailed rabbit management plan for your property.

3. Conduct monitoring

Identify rabbit feeding and activity areas in and around your property. Map these areas for future reference. Rabbits are often found around waterways, weedy areas, rocky outcrops, buildings, wood heaps & fence lines.

4. Time of year

Rabbit control is most cost effective in late summer and early autumn as rabbit breeding has generally stopped.

5. Use all the tools!

Make your property a rabbit-hostile environment. Use all the available control measures that you need to - baiting, clearing of cover, trapping and warren destruction. Every individual rabbit should be exposed to as many different control measures as possible.

6. Size of the task

Put your best effort into the first year of your rabbit control program.

Remember - It is your responsibility to control rabbits on your property.

After SCLG's Rabbit Control meeting, the survey results will be used to plan practical demonstrations of rabbit control.

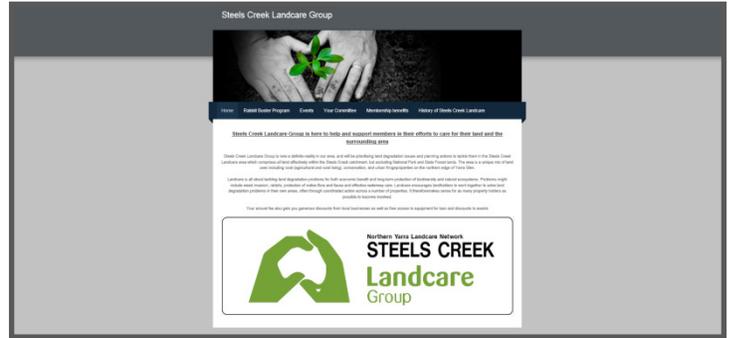
So please return your survey.

For more info, please contact Ray Turnley, Pres. SCLG or steelscreeklandcare@gmail.com

Steels Creek Landcare Group

The Landcare group has a new website.

See it at <http://www.steelscreeklandcare.org>



SCLG followed up its February Rabbit Control workshop with a practical demonstration of the rabbit baiting process in March at the Lloyd's property.

The day began with carving some baiting trails in known eating areas. Free feed oats were then laid into the furrows to attract rabbits. The poisoned bait oats will be laid out in the furrows with 3 feeds each a few days apart.

A bait station of wire netting was made to show an example of how to exclude native animals and non-target species from taking the bait.

Burrows were smoked to locate connected exits. Harbour was explored to locate hidden burrows. The burrows were ripped and destroyed using a 5 tonne excavator.



The Landcare Group would like to encourage all readers to join us over the next 3 weeks in undertaking rabbit control baiting on your the properties. Working together in this time will really help reduce the rabbit numbers and their effect on our environment and landscape.

The Landcare group thanks the local traders who are supporting this initiative, in particular **Hoogies, Rural Fence & Trade Coldstream & CRC Excavations.**

Information on member discounts for Pindone, blackberry spray and fencing materials can be found on our website. Members purchasing pindone at RF&T during April will go into a draw for a solar electric fence energiser, generously donated by RF&T.

The landcare group's smoker is available for members to borrow and the group is purchasing some more equipment to assist members with fencing needs, including a motorised steel post driver and wire spinning and straining gear.



Steels Creek Landcare is delighted to now be able to supply a variety of equipment to its members for borrowing.

Rabbits- Following the start of our Rabbit Busting program, we are able to offer a smoker to check warrens prior to fumigation or ripping. It is hoped that with assistance, members will feel empowered to have an annual rabbit control program.

Fencing- We also now have a maxi driver to assist with fencing, this hand held driver weighs around 17 kg and is ideal for driving steels posts including larger ones. We decided to also purchase a netting strainer large enough for netting up to 1500mm wide and a 3 way wire spinner.



General gardening- there is a large list of pruners, weeding tools and planting equipment available to any members who want to borrow them, a full list is on our website at <http://www.steelscreeklandcare.org/>

Spraying- in addition to the 600 litre towable spray unit which is available through NYLN, we also have a smaller 200 litre unit, complete with 30m spray hose and boom spray, this unit (petrol driven) can be used from a quad bike, tractor or ute and is ideal for cape weed control & blackberry spraying in difficult access areas or even to dress your paddocks with a liquid fertiliser.

All equipment is free to borrow with a small (\$10) charge for fuel for petrol driven items - our intention is to add more equipment and are open to suggestions.



If you have not received your **membership card**, please email your postal details to Angie at steelscreeklandcare@gmail.com. You will need it to borrow equipment and when taking up member discount opportunities with local businesses.

On Monday 5th May a group of 37 students and 3 teachers from Billanook College braved the wet weather to assist with **weed control** of *Melaleuca armillaris* (listed on the Shire's Environmental Weed list) on the Maskiell's property in Steels Creek. After a short demonstration of the cut-stump method by Rob Fallon, the students worked tirelessly to clear the affected area. Thanks to the help of neighbour Keith Montell and his trusty ute, the students were able to carry all the cuttings to a central pile ready for burning. The day was part of the schools "Community Day Program" and it was a win-win situation for all involved. Billanook College is to be congratulated for the attitude, enthusiasm and work ethics of its students. Jennifer Duncan, SCLG's Volunteer Program coordinator and Angie Lloyd were in attendance and appreciated the hard work done by Billanook students - regular supporters of the Volunteer program in Steels Creek.

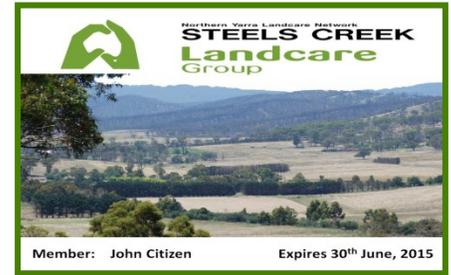


School volunteers will be coming regularly during the year so if you would like some help on your property, don't wait to be asked, contact Jennifer steelscreeklandcare@gmail.com.

Steels Creek Landcare Group Membership drive is now on!!

A growing range of benefits are only available to members.

1. NYBAG (Northern Yarra Blackberry action group) provided subsidies for the treatment of blackberries. To continue to be part of the NYBAG program or any future subsidised programs you must be a member of SC Landcare group.
2. Borrowing Landcare equipment - Spray equipment, small gardening tools, a Honda -powered wood splitter (this will be popular), a warren smoker, a petrol-driven post driver and other fencing tools, to name a few.
3. We have a list of local suppliers who give generous discounts on presentation of our membership cards and we welcome any businesses who would like to give a special offer to members.
4. Information and training events on topics of interest.
5. Celebrate being a member of SCLG by having a SCLG sign on your fence or gate - pay \$20 with your membership.



New members and current members can pay for their membership of \$20 and gate sign cost of \$20 by -

- Cheque made out to SCLG and sent to PO Box 562, Yarra Glen 3775
 - Direct deposit to Steels creek Landcare group Bendigo bank BSB 633-000 account number 124262114.
- Please include your name as a reference.

Please renew your details by -

mail to PO box 562, Yarra Glen 3775 or email steelscreeklandcare@gmail.com



Steels Creek Landcare Group Annual Dinner 8th August @7pm

Colin Carter, from Trufficulture, will be giving a talk on Growing Truffles

at the Steels Creek Community Centre.

This event is only open to SCLG members. There will be a charge of \$15 to cover the meal.

Bookings and pre-payment are essential and may be made by contacting Angie Lloyd or Sandra Turnley steelscreeklandcare@gmail.com



Steels Creek Landcare Group AGM 8th August @ 8.30pm

SCLG Annual General Meeting will be held at the Steels Creek Community Centre.

All members are encouraged to attend the AGM.

Please consider nominating for the Committee of YOUR Landcare Group.

Nomination forms available from Sandra Turnley, Secretary, steelscreeklandcare@gmail.com

Secrets to a healthy, happy property (For long-time and new property owners)

Learn tips to improve the land, appreciate its natural values and dynamic systems and enhance your assets.

Develop a plan to look after your property, whether bushland, grazing or lifestyle.

Presenter David Stewart brings 40 years of practical experience in farm management, training and developing Farm and Property Management Plans.

Saturday 9 August - Hurstbridge - venue yet to be confirmed

The workshop commences at 10am and concludes at 4pm. Morning tea & lunch provided. An aerial image of your property with a contour overlay will be organised for you by SCLG if you are attending this event.

Bookings: Call 9433 3316 or e-mail: Environmental.events@nillumbik.vic.gov.au