

Upper Hopkins Landcare Newsletter September 2004

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Edited by Louise Thomas, Department of Primary Industries Ararat

This bi-monthly newsletter is mailed to around 450 farmers in the following Landcare Groups: Upper Hopkins, Ararat, Fiery Creek, Buangor, Beaufort and District, Watgania, Willaura-Hopkins, Combined Willaura Groups, Lake Bolac. To be added to the mailing list please call Louise 5355 0526. The newsletter is also available by email which saves paper and allows you to zoom in to read it. Email addresses are kept confidential in the distribution of the newsletter. Large print copies can also be made available. Please obtain clearance with the editor and author for any article you may wish to reproduce in another publication.



Above: The "gorse grooming"
machine clears a large area of gorse
earlier this year on the Fiery creek

urban weed control projects between Beaufort and Buangor. Best practice methods to control weeds while preserving waterway and native vegetation values will be discussed.

The tour starts at **Buangor at 9am Wednesday 13th October**. The bus will leave from the Cobb and Co Building opposite the Buangor Hotel. There will be a refreshment stop at a Beaufort Café. **Bus returns to Cobb and Co Building at approx. 11.45 a.m.**

To assist with planning the tour please book a place on the bus by phoning Simon Martin (5336 6760) or Peter Forster (5355 0530) by Monday 4th October.

WeedBuster Bus Tour

Wednesday 13th October

As part of **WeedBuster
Week** the Department
of Primary Industries
and Glenelg Hopkins



CMA are organising a bus tour of
weed control projects in the upper
Catchment. The tour will take in a
range of roadside, waterway, rural and

Magnificent Local Wattles now in bloom

The local wattles have been truly magnificent in flower this month, especially the Golden Wattle (*Acacia pycnantha*) below left, which also happens to be Australia's floral emblem. Varnish Wattle (*Acacia verniciflua*) below right also looks spectacular at the moment with a paler shade of yellow. Both can be included in most of our local CMA funded tree projects. For a more comprehensive list of local wattles see Louise 5355 0526.



The Nature Page

Plant of the Month

Louise Thomas DPI

Sweet Bursaria (*Bursaria spinosa*)

This is a very adaptable, hardy large shrub which is suitable for planting in hill country as well as on the basalt plains. In our district it is no longer very common in farmland remnants, but can be found on some roadsides (eg. Dennicull Creek area) and is very common in Langi Ghiran State Park. Its an important species for us to include in plantings because of its contribution to local ecosystems.

According to David Bellamy (at the website <http://home.vtown.com.au/dbellamy/native/bursaria.html>) the nectar is attractive to insects and birds while the prickly foliage forms a safe nesting site for many small birds such as

wrens. He says that spiders also like to spin their webs in the foliage to trap insects and birds in turn use the webs for lining their nests. To include it in your plantings you will need to order it in advance (preferably the year before) as they are often grown from cuttings which take a while to strike.



Bird notes by Irene Sturt

President of Friends of Lake Buninjon



Little Grass Bird shown above from Neville W. Cayley's book 'What Bird is That?' Angus and Robertson Publishers, 1984

Water levels are steadily rising at the lake but there is surprisingly little bird life to be seen except Black swans and a few ducks. However many birds could be heard. A **skylark** hovered overhead with its liquid song pouring forth. In the distance the "t-thee-thee" call of the **Little Grass Bird**, as always hard to see, but distinguishable by its call. **Black swans** hooting on the lake and flying overhead. As usual, **Willie**

Wagtails and **European Goldfinches**, **Wrens** and **White-fronted Chats** could be heard in the background. Also the loud squawking of the **Masked Lapwing**. The Masked Lapwings, a brown and white bird with black markings and a prominent yellow wattle, have a habit of building their nests in the most unsuitable places. One pair is trying to raise their family on a busy Hamilton roundabout. Another is nesting right on the edge of a fairly busy road near Willaura. They simply lay their eggs in a scrape on the ground with the eggs blending into the ground colour. When disturbed they will try and lead the intruder away from their nests. Ducks are trying to cross roads with their youngsters in tow around the district in the next few weeks. In Willaura a **Kookaburra** has been heard and seen which is unusual for right in the town.

Peter Forster's Bird Sightings

Spring migrants are starting to arrive. Ian and Sue White on Burrumbeet Road spotted a **Rainbow Bee Eater** about mid August. I disturbed one **quail** (stubble?) in Kangaroo grass on the Bullock Hills which may be an early arrival or may have over-wintered if seed supplies were sufficient. Bill and Annette Taylor at Moyston west have a **White Winged Triller** in breeding plumage and another was spotted near the Ararat Racecourse on the Hopkins River flood plain. Keep an eye out from now on for other spring migrants arriving to breed or passing through to coastal locations (eg Rufous Fantails, various Cuckoos, Brown Songlarks and Singing Bushlarks). Pairs of **Brolgas** have been seen over a wide area south of Ararat (5 sightings in different locations reported) in the last two months especially in the Langi Logan area. I observed breeding behaviour (dancing) in several pairs. I am quite interested to know where they are breeding and would appreciate hearing from anyone with info. Dale Homburg has spotted a yellow form of the **Musk Lorikeet** in Dunneworthy Forest. It stood out from the flock so he is not expecting it to survive very long! **Barking Owls** with two young were spotted in the Ararat Hills Regional Park in June. The importance of hollows was emphasised when Geoff and Margaret Ryan, at Annies Lane, Ararat, showed me my first ever sighting of an **Owlet Nightjar** resting in a hollow log he had placed in a gum tree. You can easily improve habitat values in young plantations by adding natural or artificial hollows. At least 100 species of native birds and many animals, bats, insects etc require hollows for nesting and safe resting places.

Around Ararat there is sufficient native vegetation of high quality to support a small flock of **White winged Choughs** at Flint Hill Reserve as well as **Sitellas** and **Grey or Clinking Currawongs**; one of the latter was also observed in Geoff and Angela Laidlaw's red gums on Langi Logan Road. They may extend their range from woodland to farmland in spring to rob nests. They have a slow, lazy but strong flight and are normally sedentary. One of the best places to regularly see them is feeding on the side of the Western Highway as you pass Mt Langi Ghiran. (My record sighting is three pairs on the roadside in July this year.) They are larger than Pied Currawongs and are usually alone or in pairs. The call is loud and ringing.

If you are travelling along Port Fairy Road look out for a **Whistling Kite** soaring overhead between Burrumbeet Road and Labrador Roads. There is a large nest in a red gum tree on Sally and Tim Phillip's driveway with tail protruding which I suspect is the Kite's. In previous years they have nested further north in Geoff and Angela Laidlaw's Station Paddock (opposite Wills Hill Road).

Direct Seeding - Worth Persisting With! Louise Thomas DPI

While there's a certain amount of luck involved in direct seeding native vegetation, the majority of success seems to come from good weed, rabbit and hare control, timely spring sowing and use of seed that you know is going to germinate. When you consider the small amount of work which goes into direct seeding compared with tubestock planting, it really is worth persisting with. How many have planted tubestock only to spend a lot of time at the chirotractor afterwards? On that point alone, its worth considering the benefits of direct seeding!

There are some terrific examples around the area of direct seeding from last year, even some that was done a little later than the recommended sowing time, due to late rains. The site along Helendoite Rd sown by Trevor Perry has done very well with both wattles and eucalypts coming up.



One particularly good site which was sown last year is on the Hartwich family's property "Mt Challicum" on a hill-slope which was previously a sheep camp. Like most sheep camps it was covered in capeweed, which when sprayed with glyphosate, created a good bare site for seeding (**see left**). The site was sown in late August (it was sown early in the hills to take full advantage of any spring rains) using fresh seed which had been locally collected and germination tested. A good crop of seedlings appeared fairly soon afterwards and were able to make good use of September rains and a few late spring/early summer thunderstorms. The whole spectrum of seeds sown appeared to germinate and some seedlings were quite large by the autumn break.



However, as often happens with direct seeding on sites like these, the capeweed came back in full force, and by June/July this year was well and truly smothering the shorter seedlings. The capeweed was removed by hand from around the larger trees to help avoid accidentally spraying them. The tree lines were then oversprayed by hand with a light rate of glyphosate, being careful to avoid

spraying any visible trees. The capeweed has since died back (**see above left**) revealing quite a few seedlings, some of which appear to have been partly affected by the spray, but not killed. The capeweed seems to have shielded the smaller trees from some of the spray. Also, because it was winter, the trees were probably not growing as actively and therefore not as badly affected by the spray. Hopefully these trees will recover and take off during the spring minus the weed competition.

Wick wipers and shielded sprays are good alternatives to help minimise drift onto the trees. Alternatively you can carefully spot spray around the trees earlier in the season when the trees are more visible. Willaura Hopkins Landcare Group have a 12 volt 50L ATV/ute sprayer for loan, contact Tim Hill 5354 1429. If you are doing any direct seeding this year, go earlier rather than later if possible and make sure your weed control is adequate. Please ring if you want advice on species, seed, seeder hire etc. 5355 0526.



Above: Noel Hartwich with a drooping sheoak seedling direct seeded last year

Two Grampians Walks to Look for Vulnerable Plants

Parks Victoria is holding two walks in the Mt William area on Saturday 18th September to look for 2 plants which are listed as nationally vulnerable, the Grampians Rice Flower and the Grampians Bitter-Pea. The walks are on steep rocky bush tracks and require a good level of fitness. A plant identification session will be held at the start of the day. If you are interested in joining them (this time or in future) please obtain further information from Susan Hansen Parks Victoria on 5356 4381.

Incentives Available for Managing Saline land and Recharge Tree Planting

Please see Louise if you have a project in mind for managing saline discharge areas (fencing and sowing salt tolerant pasture) or for managing recharge areas (planting trees or sowing perennial pastures) as in certain areas, incentives may be available. These incentives come via the CMA from the National Action Plan on Salinity and Water Quality. Technical advice is being provided by DPI, contact Louise on 5355 0526.

Around The Traps

Una Allender

The recent **GRDC Update** at Dunkeld was a huge success. Farmers filled the bowling club to capacity and heard from several excellent speakers on a range of subjects including plant nutrition, herbicide resistance, stubble management, grazing grains, managing raised beds and soil health. Many of the presentations touched on issues of sustainable farming, in particular Telangatuk farmer, Tom Dunstan's excellent presentation on how he deals with heavy cereal stubbles without routinely burning. Maarten Stapper, CSIRO Canberra, concluded the day with a thought provoking talk on "Soil health for plant health" looking at the role of soil biota, organic matter and the effects of chemicals on the soil. If you missed the Update, you will have another chance to hear Maarten, as he will be speaking at a combined Landcare / Southern Farming Systems gathering on 13th October.

Southern Farming Systems have been active recently with several workshops and a paddock walk looking at several issues including stubble management, pest and disease control, canopy management and weed control. Mike Fix from Fix Engineering attended the paddock walk to demonstrate and discuss weed control options using his innovative Hatzenbichler harrows. **Southern Farming Systems Streatham Branch - Spring Field Day Friday Nov 12th**
**Note that the inaugural Ladies Field Day will be held on Nov 11th.

Soil Health for Plant Health - an evening with **Dr Maarten Stapper**, Principal Research Scientist, CSIRO Plant Industry, Canberra. **Wednesday 13th October.** Maarten spoke at the recent GRDC update and his presentation titled "Improve your soils: Healthy soils grow healthy crops" was a highlight of the day. He is delighted to be invited back to speak to us. This is a rare opportunity to hear a leading scientist discuss issues of soil and plant health, biological farming principles and achievements as well as problems created with high production agriculture and some ideas for solving these problems and creating sustainable farming systems.

4.30 pm: Paddock walk at Graeme McCarthy's property. Meet at the woolshed. (CFA Region 16 Map 435 B15)

6.00 pm: Maroona Hotel for Dr Stapper's presentation to be followed by dinner.

There is no charge for this event other than the cost of your meal. Those wanting to stay for dinner must let Una know before **Friday October 8th** so the Hotel has an idea of numbers. This event is a combined initiative of the Upper Hopkins, Willaura Hopkins and Lake Bolac Landcare groups and the Streatham Branch of Southern Farming Systems. Queries and bookings for dinner to Una Allender: Tel/Fax: 5350 4244 unaa@netconnect.com.au

Notes on Salinity Readings (p5)

Louise Thomas DPI Ararat

It's been great to see some runoff at last, and some decent flushes of fresher water through the smaller creeks. For the first time in two years there was water in almost all waterways (most flowing) sampled on this run. The highest salinity recorded during this run was the water in the drain next to Rossbridge swamp at 28,800 EC ($\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$). This waterway doesn't run often but is usually quite saline when it does. Lowest reading was 100EC at Good Morning Bill Creek (west arm) running for the first time in a while and very turbid (suspended clay). Hopkins salinity levels have come down and are now below the average recorded. Una spotted a tortoise swimming about in the Hopkins near the Major Mitchell Rd bridge during sampling! Fiery Creek levels are also below average salinity which is great.

We are starting to get a good range of water sampling data from the area. While these samples are just opportunistic "one-off" grab samples (and not continuous monitoring data) they do provide a reasonable overview of the ranges of salinity which can be expected in certain areas. Some sites have been sampled more regularly than others - I have now included a column on the right of the table showing the number of samples the data is based on, which gives you an idea of how reliable the data is. Thanks to Una for rounding up and testing the extra samples from the Wickliffe-Lake Bolac area.

On page 7 I have included a graph showing lowest and highest readings recorded in the Upper Fiery Creek catchment over the last few years. Some sites (especially in the lower Fiery are based on less data) so bear that in mind when interpreting the graph. Sampling has been done in both low and high flow periods. The Fiery Creek is generally quite fresh at Raglan but the salinity level almost always jumps markedly by the time it gets to Ballyrogan Rd. The creek is fed by many springs which account for the variation in EC levels along the stretch to Lake Bolac during non-rainfall runoff periods. It is not uncommon to see a low flow at one bridge and an increased flow at sites downstream.

Salinity Jargon, EC stands for electrical conductivity - the more salts there are in the water, the more conductive the solution is, and this is what the meter reads. My meter reads this in microsiemens per centimetre ($\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$). EC multiplied by 0.64 will give you approximate parts per million. Once a waterway reaches 1500 EC ($\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$) many sensitive freshwater aquatic species can be affected. For stock drinking water: animal production decline may begin at 6000 EC ($\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$) for weaners, lactating ewes, horses and beef cattle; 9,300 EC ($\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$) for dry sheep; 3100 EC ($\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$) for poultry. Sea water is around 50,000 EC ($\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$). If you would like a sample tested, please take it to DPI Ararat, or if you live close by Maroona Primary School or Ararat Secondary College - they have meters too. If you have a query on management of salinity (either water, recharge or discharge areas) you can contact me at DPI on 5355 0526.

Salinity Readings for the Upper Hopkins and Fiery Creek Catchments

By Louise Thomas DPI Ararat - Please refer to accompanying notes on Page 4

Stream	Road where site accessed	EC ($\mu\text{S/cm}$) 3-9-04 *visibly flowing	Highest EC recorded last 3 years	Lowest EC recorded last 3 years	Average EC recorded last 3 years	Based on # samples
Billy Billy creek	Warrak Rd	*500	500	300	370	3
Captains Creek	Tatyoan North Road	dry	300	100	220	6
Cemetery Creek	Warrak Road	*700	1,700	300	900	12
Challicum Creek	Porters Bridge Rd	*7,200	16,300	300	9,540	12
Charleycombe Creek	Old Geelong Road	*600	4,600	600	1,400	7
Creek from Rocky pt	Port Fairy Rd	7,600	7,600	3,800	5,060	5
Denicull Creek	South end of Denicull Creek Rd	*5,500	10,900	2,200	7,000	14
Drainage line	Rockies hill rd - railway end	*12,100	25,000	9,000	15,590	10
Fiery Creek	Lucardies Rd (east) Raglan	*500	1,910	200	860	12
Fiery Creek	Ballyrogan Rd	*900	9,280	500	3,550	14
Fiery Creek	Yalla-Y- Poora Rd	*1,500	10,600	700	3,820	13
Fiery Creek	Porters Bridge Rd	*1,300	10,500	1,300	5,450	12
Fiery Creek	Runway Swamp Rd	*3,200	14,520	2,100	5,640	8
Fiery Creek	Ritchies Rd Bridge	*3,300	14,350	2,000	5,720	8
Fiery Creek	Streatham Reserve	*4,300	7,940	2,200	4,930	8
Fiery Creek	McCrows /Nerrin Nerrin Estate Rd	3,600	12,620	2,900	8,660	9
Fiery Creek	Lake Bolac	3,800	14,310	3,000	8,780	9
Good Morning Bill Creek	West end of Burrumbeep Rd	*10,500	19,800	2,700	10,430	11
Good Morning Bill Creek	west arm 2nd bridge Taits Lane	100	2,100	100	560	5
Good Morning Bill Creek	east arm - 1st bridge Taits Lane	dry	6,500	6,500	6,500	1
Good Morning Bill Creek and Nekeeya Creek comb.	Willaura Moyston Rd	*1,900	13,100	300	8,040	15
Good Morning Bill Creek and Nekeeya Creek comb.	Buninjon West Road	*1,700	39,000	300	12,360	13
Gorrin Creek	Dobie Road	dry	800	100	400	4
Green Hill Lake	Height Gauge rec reserve	15,300	28,800	2,900	10,560	16
Hopkins River	Warrak Road	*3,200	17,800	1,000	8,790	14
Hopkins River	Dobie Road	*3,500	11,300	1,300	6,040	10
Hopkins River	Old Geelong Rd	*4,300	12,120	1,900	7,030	11
Hopkins River	Jacksons creek Rd	*4,800	11,900	1,500	5,550	14
Hopkins River	Burrumbeep Boundary Rd	*4,300	11,700	1,400	5,550	14
Hopkins River	Tatyoan Rd	*3,500	8,900	1,300	4,180	12
Hopkins River	Robertsons Bridge	2,200	8,950	1,200	4,770	17
Hopkins River	Labrador Rd	5,200	9,800	2,700	6,480	15
Hopkins River	Helendoite Rd	4,900	10,800	1,200	6,380	14
Hopkins River	Rossbridge	*7,700	13,700	2,700	8,570	15
Hopkins River	Delacombe Way	*8,900	16,400	7,500	11,860	13
Hopkins River	Bald Hill Rd ford	*9,600	18,600	9,600	15,000	4
Hopkins River	Willaura Golf Club Rd	*8,400	16,200	8,100	12,480	8
Hopkins River	Back Bolac Rd	*8,500	23,200	7,900	13,990	9
Hopkins River	Major Mitchell Rd bridge	*8,600	23,240	8,400	13,800	7
Hopkins River	Major Mitchell Rd reserve	*8,600	22,700	8,500	14,470	9
Hopkins River	Wickliffe - Glenelg Highway	*8,800	18,780	7,800	12,970	9
Jacksons Creek	Coopers Rd	*9,300	13,100	4,000	9,160	11
Lake Bolac	Fishermans Pontoon	10,400	12,900	9,600	10,880	8
Lake Bolac	East Beach boat ramp	10,600	12,880	9,400	10,970	8
Lake Bolac	South Beach Boat Ramp	10,600	13,000	9,500	11,020	8
Lake Bolac	Overflow	dry				
Lake Buninjon	reserve boat ramp	16,500	51,000	4,500	19,300	14
Middle Creek	Willow tree Rd	200	650	100	310	11
Nekeeya Creek	Taits Lane	400	900	100	500	5
Rossbridge Sw. drainage line	Grange Rd	28,800	28,800	15,300	22,250	4
Three Mile Creek	Warrak Road	7,800	7,800	400	2,650	8
Three Mile Creek	East arm Warrayatkin Rd	*15,100	22,400	3,400	12,780	8

Landcare Photo Competition Results

The Landcare photo competition has been finalised with first prize going to David Mitchell for his photos showing rehabilitation of his creek area, second prize going to Keith Little for his photo of the racecourse reserve plantings (shown below) and third prize going to Sandy Lewis for her photo of roadside gorse issues. David has won a copy of *Trees and Native Shrubs of South Eastern Australia* by Leon Costerman while Keith and Sandy have won books on local flora and fauna. Thanks to all who submitted photos. First and third prize photos did not reproduce well in black and white and so are not shown but can be viewed at the Ararat DPI Office.



Your CMA community representatives

Did you know that we have two of our local farmers on Glenelg Hopkins CMA committees who help ensure that priorities from this region are included in the CMA's decision-making? **Debbie Shea**, a local woolgrower at Ararat is your local community representative on the Land and Biodiversity Committee of the CMA. Debbie contributes her valuable local expertise and time to this group to help ensure that local land and biodiversity issues from the Upper Catchment are considered. If you have any queries or feedback about funding or local land and biodiversity issues please contact Debbie on 5352 1357. **John Anderson** (woolgrower/cropping farmer) from Willaura is your local community representative on the CMA's



Waterways Committee. John contributes valuable local expertise and time to decision making about waterways and wetlands of the region. If you would like to talk to John about issues to do with waterways or associated funding, drainage etc. please contact him on 5354 1238.



Thea Laidlaw - our CMA Community Facilitator

Thea Laidlaw has been working with the CMA in the Beaufort-Ballarat area for the past 18 months and has developed strong links with groups and landholders in this area. She has assisted groups to obtain funding, helped them organise field days, and provided valuable support for groups.



Thea's boundaries have now extended, beyond Beaufort to take in Ararat and the Glenthompson area. She will shortly be located in the Ararat DPI/CMA office in Barkly St and in the meantime will be available on 0428 991 444 (new mobile). Please contact Thea in this area for help with accessing funding, group support and support for local issues.

Community Planting Day at Wickliffe by Una Allender

The people of Wickliffe, ably assisted by students and teachers from the Willaura Primary School, turned out in force to plant around 800 indigenous trees at the site of the now closed Wickliffe Tip. The area already is showing signs of recovery with quite a lot of natural regeneration, and the planted trees will enhance this even more. Commanding sweeping views of the Hopkins and the Grampians, and with a walking track planned, the site will become a pleasant recreational area and a valuable asset to the township.

The project was organised by Miep Wortel and the Wickliffe Recreation Reserve Committee with advice and financial assistance from the Glenelg Hopkins CMA. Even the weather cooperated with rain falling on cue to water the trees in. The locally indigenous trees were supplied by Franklin Plant Native.

Willaura Primary students at the planting day



CMA Notes Peter Forster Glenelg-Hopkins CMA

This year Grants are available for fencing wetlands to allow for improved farm management practices that benefit both the landholder and biodiversity or wildlife. These wetlands can be non-permanent (that is have wet and dry cycles) or be permanent freshwater or saline lakes.

With Department of Primary Industries assistance gorse and other woody weeds are being targeted on waterways across the upper catchment from North Ballarat to Ararat and south to the Glenelg Highway.

In conjunction with this program grants are available to fence the waterway for stock exclusion and revegetate or protect remnant vegetation. In the upper Hopkins catchment (Ararat and Chalicum Hills area) grants are available for erosion control works in combination with fencing for stock control and preferably revegetation with native species. Erosion control works could include gully edging and battering, drop structures, trickle pipes, in-stream rock gabions, diversion banks etc. A detailed technical assessment may be needed and funding rates may vary depending on the estimated public benefit. Please contact me if you have any projects that fit the above criteria or you have other projects in mind that improve environmental condition and native vegetation values.



PHOTOBOARD

Left: thick regeneration of Golden wattles on Hillside Rd after a fire went through around five years ago.

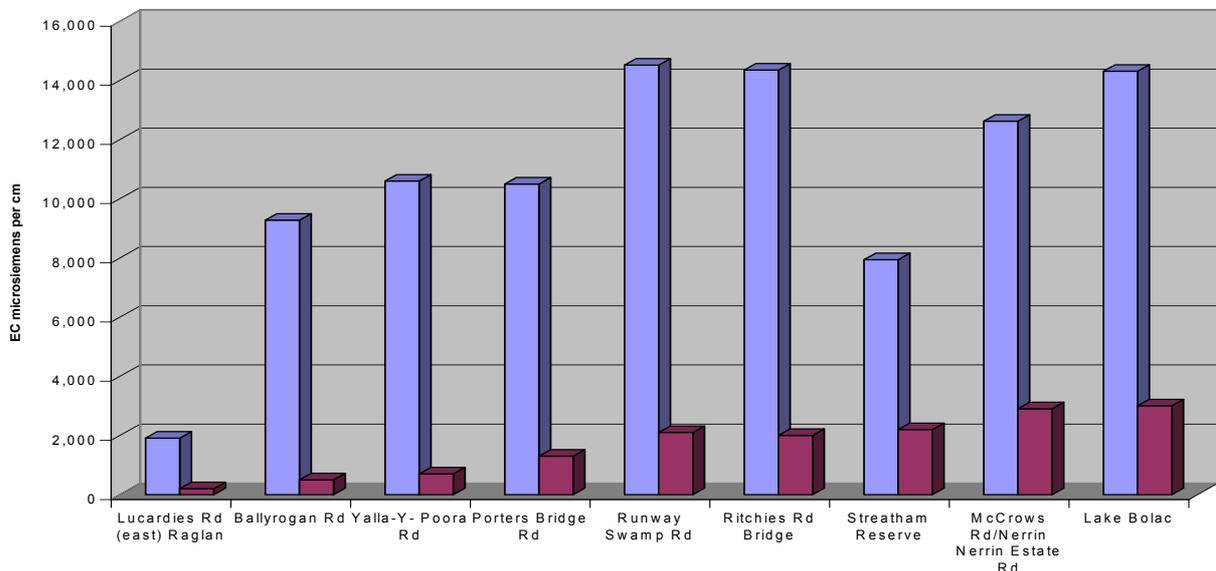
Right: historical shot - a sheep takes shelter from an impending dust storm (1983 Langi Logan -photo courtesy Forster family).



Landcare AGM Dates for Your Diary

Willaura Hopkins Landcare Group AGM will be held on Wednesday October 27th 8pm in the Willaura Hotel. **Upper Hopkins Land Management Group** AGM proposed date is Wednesday November 17th. A walk in the Bullock Hills to look at Peter Forster's revegetation work will be followed by a BBQ and AGM. **Buangor Landcare Group** AGM will be held Wednesday 22nd September at the Buangor Hotel, 7.30pm. Guest speaker Bernard Noonan Soils officer DPI Horsham will talk about cropping. Meeting also to discuss future of group.

Summary of highest and lowest salinity readings Upper Fiery Creek 2000-2004 (see notes p4)



Free Mini-Posters

A series of free mini posters (A3 size) created by Louise Thomas are available from the Ararat DPI office. These posters include the Indigenous Trees of the Ararat Hills, Common Salt Indicator Species of the Upper Hopkins Catchment and a new poster (pictured right) on Roadside Native Grasslands.



A poster "Indigenous Shrubs of the Ararat Hills" will be available soon.

Call in or phone the Ararat DPI Office on 5355 0526 for a copy of the posters.

Second Generation Landcare Grants

By Laurie Norman Glenelg Hopkins CMA

The Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority is calling for applications through the Second Generation Landcare Grant process, from Landcare Groups to undertake catchment protection projects including the control of weeds, and rabbits, revegetation projects including establishment and protection of remnant vegetation and for Landcare Facilitators. Individuals are also invited to apply, however projects need to have a high community benefit.

Applications close on Friday 12 November 2004.

Further information and application forms are available from CMA Community Facilitator Thea Laidlaw on 0428 991 444, Peter Forster CMA Ararat on 5355 0530 or Laurie Norman on 5343 2555.

Lake Bolac Subsoil Field Day

Despite freezing cold weather a successful field day was held in June at Tony and Hugh McMaster's property, Lake Bolac, to look at subsoil limitations to plant production. Around 30 people attended and heard from a range of soil experts. A new project which is looking at land capability in the Ararat Rural City was also discussed. Soil cores have been assessed from a range of sites across the area and analysed along with other site information to look at the suitability of land for agriculture and other purposes. Those who attended received results books & packs on assessing and managing soils - there are a few spare copies at Ararat DPI (ring Louise 5355 0526). Sponsors for the day included Southern Farming Systems, Ararat Rural City, AWB, Landmark, Westlake Fertilisers and ABB.



Do you have a new road number?

Please ring Louise on 5355 0526 if you would like to make any alterations to our mailing list.

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