

# DEEP CREEK LANDCARE GROUP

*(Covering Lancefield and Romsey Districts)*

## PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT – Nov. 2010

What a year. The tanks are full, the dams are overflowing, the creeks are flushed and people are getting bogged in their own paddocks. I believe it was also a good year for our Group and our network. The network met 7 times over the last twelve months and managed to arrange 3 field days on the theme "Comfortable Farms". This was a well received well attended series. Thanks to Pat Francis for his time and expertise.

We continue to work with Melbourne Water. Over last summer and into early Autumn we did regular depth checks at 3 locations in Deep Creek. More recently, in October, we visited Goldie Bush Reserve and the Crown land at Sheehan's Crossing with Adam Barber from Melbourne Water. The latter site has exciting potential for our Group to work with Melbourne Water on re-vegetation and weed control. I foresee some years of good project work here.

We also continued our work with Western Water. In June we helped with a tree planting day at the Romsey Treatment Plant. Thanks to our many volunteers who lent a hand. Together with Andy Scanlon we have also negotiated a 3 year weed control arrangement at the Treatment Plant.

We continue our work at the local Primary Schools. Thanks to Kerrie Mewett for her outstanding contributions at Romsey. At Lancefield we delivered 2 sessions on weathering and erosion and arranged for a plant propagation and planting exercise.

Earlier this year John Anderson attended a workshop on "Volunteerism". It addressed volunteer recruitment, retention and burn-out. John led us through a couple of brainstorming sessions which resulted in a list of possible reforms for our Group. A major one of these is the design and establishment of our own website at [WWW.deepcreeklandcare.org.au](http://WWW.deepcreeklandcare.org.au). We have also tried to make our meetings less formal. Other reforms are pending. Thanks John, it involved a lot of your time.

Our equipment list continues to grow. From grants received we have acquired a new demountable display board which had its first outing at the Lancefield show, and we have also purchased some safety vests for roadside activities.

DPI continues to monitor the rabbit population in our rabbit management area on the Mt William Range. The rabbit numbers remain satisfyingly low at 1.45 per spotlight kilometre, however this could change dramatically with the bumper grass growth this season.

Members of our Group attended a Dung Beetle discussion at Darraweit. The benefits of these little bugs are amazing, from fly reduction to paddock fertilisation and aeration. We have done some groundwork and hope to secure some grant money next year to proceed.

In April we hosted De Debner from Tree Project to visit sites in our area. De is involved in the propagation side of Tree Project and had never witnessed the outcomes from her Group's work. Our Group received over 70 boxes of tubestock from Tree Project this Spring. Many thanks to George Lobb for looking after them until members picked them up. Also in April, together with other Network representatives we helped the Shire to word a questionnaire aimed at selected landholders whose properties had the potential for landscape size re-vegetation projects. We have made progress with the results to the point where we have applied for a grant to proceed with this vision.

In May we enjoyed guest speaker Dean Platt whose theme was, "The Perception of Healthy Streams". This topic educates us to realise that logs, branches, rocks and other natural debris are indicators of good stream health. Thank you Dean.

In August we worked with the Romsey-Lancefield Girl Guides at Doggetts Bridge to plant understorey species. About 300 tubes were planted and we enjoyed a BBQ lunch with the girls afterwards. Thanks to those who helped on the day. We also got some good publicity in the local paper from this.

At last our signs are up at the Olympic Tree plantation. Many thanks Hayley and Robin.

The Lancefield Show this year was successful yet again with a lot of interest from a lot of people, despite the cool day. Thank you volunteers for your help on the day.

We continued to attract new members through the year which is both rewarding and pleasing. Let's hope the trend continues

Many thanks to Robert Green for opening these premises for us and to our backbone team of Treasurer Steve and Secretary David. Like the last several years I urge our broader membership to attend some of our meetings and mix and learn with like minded people.



(John Blamey)  
President, Deep Creek Landcare Group  
8 November 2010.