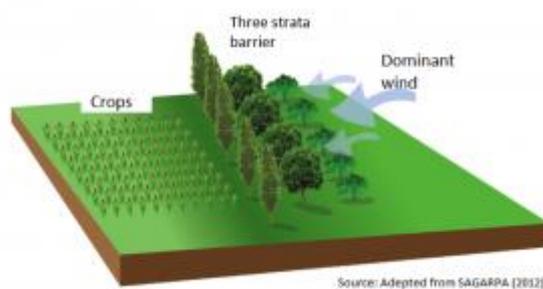




Reminders of Windbreaks

A short summary of salient points regarding planted vegetational windbreaks.

- The taller the windbreak the greater the length of reduced wind speed on the leeward side and a short windward speed reduction occurs.
- Windbreaks should be at right-angles to the wind directions of greatest local threats.
- Multiple-row (2-5) windbreaks are generally safer/more effective and windbreaks must not have any gaps particularly if using a single-row design.
- The espacement of trees must be appropriate to their likely mature height and spread (successive rows should be at a staggered spacing) but can vary between complimentary rows of ANY shorter/smaller species.
- Gaps in windbreaks can increase wind speed by at least 20%.
- Early protection from grazing stock is essential to success.
- Choice of suitable species with respect to site quality/moisture status, foliar structure and longevity is critical to success.
- Windbreaks must be somewhat pervious to enable laminar flow over the leeward side and to avoid vertical eddying via the “brick wall” effect.
- Over large areas the effect of the leading windbreak can be extended by successive plantings at suitable intervals.
- Windbreaks should be at least a mature tree-height from dwellings in case of windfalls in storms and further in fire-prone situations.
- Avoid using trees that have double-leaders or a steep branching habit.
- Windbreaks near dwellings should not be flammable by nature (e.g. bamboo) or drop many branches or large cones (e.g. bunya pine).
- Windbreaks need to be regularly maintained to maintain structure and reduce suspended fuel build-up underneath.
- Choice of suitable species can be used for nature corridors/refuges &/or as emergency drought fodder for stock and some species may be more aesthetically pleasing on the eye especially when they flower.



Volunteering at Gympie Landcare

Thinking about volunteering with us? Our volunteers are the lifeblood of our organisation bringing lots of different and much-needed skill, experience, and knowledge to our organisation. To assist with managing incoming volunteers, we are now holding volunteer induction days on the first Friday of every month from 9.00am. Volunteers are able to attend the induction in the morning, have some lunch with our current volunteers (please bring your own) and then continue to volunteer some hours in the afternoon.



Alternatively, you can come for the induction to just to see if it is right for you and we can work with you to arrange which days you would like to volunteer.

When people think of volunteering with us, most people assume the only area they can volunteer in is our nursery, but that's not true! We have many areas and departments that require volunteers, from administration, marketing and education to bio-control and events. Whatever your background is, we're sure we can fit you into an area that works for both of us.

If you intend on attending one of our volunteer induction days, please RSVP by the Wednesday before (the first week of each month) to ensure we are prepared for your arrival. To enable us to find the right area for you to volunteer in please visit our website and complete a registration form or pop into our office.

Permaculture Principle 1 – Observe & Interact

This principle - observe & interact - encourages us to take the time to observe a situation before applying a solution. Through observation, we are able to understand the patterns and relationships between various elements of the situation. Our modern education has trained us to specialise and dissect things into manageable pieces but in so doing we can miss the connections which lead us to incorrect or less effective solutions. Important to understand is that every solution is dependent on a person's unique situation, therefore, there is rarely a one size fits all and there might be many possible solutions for your unique situation.

After observation, you might be ready to implement a solution, observation continues once you have implemented a solution, continued interaction with the solution and observation can lead to course correction which improves the solution.

For example, on Mellow Farm, we identified an area that we wanted to turn into a fruit orchard. It seemed like the perfect position had we spent a little more time observing particularly the soil and its drainage capability we would have noticed that just below the topsoil was a clay layer which prevented drainage and given the high rainfall on the Farm, the fruit trees we wanted to plant would struggle and ultimately die which is exactly what happened. So, although we did some observation, we did not interact sufficiently with the site. We did not apply real critical thinking to our observations.



The key to using this principle successfully is to improve your observation skill and apply critical thinking to your observations. How can you become better at observing and interacting with your environment to ensure that you have effective and sustainable solutions? Below some ideas on improving your observation skills and applying critical thinking.

It is important to understand that as human beings our brain has certain protection mechanisms to ensure that we are not overwhelmed with information thus the brain filters out what it believes is non-essential and this can make us miss pertinent information. It is therefore very important to focus the mind during times of observation. The way to do that is to identify a list which you can go through and make observations around that. For example, now when I want to establish a native garden or orchard anywhere on the farm I go through the following checklist:

- Soil (type, PH, drainage, analyses)?
- What is currently thriving?
- Are there birds, frog, insect & other wildlife observed in this area?
- How much sun, wind, shade, water?
- How is the area affected during storms or droughts?

- What do I intend planting here & what do they need?
- What weeds are present?

Thus, focusing your mind and telling it what is important to observe is how to improve your observation skill. Writing down your observations is the first step then move on to thinking critically about what you observed, what are the relationships, do you see patterns, if there are plants that are thriving what does this mean, what are the weeds telling us about the soil etc. Observing and interacting will save a lot of time, effort and costs when developing solutions for your unique situation. This process can be used in any situation.

Fundraising for Gympie Landcare – Drakes Key Tags

Did you know that when you shop at Drakes in the old “IGA complex” and show them one of our Gympie & District Landcare Group key tags, 1% of your total bill is donated towards our organisation?

By using your tag every time you shop, you’re actually fundraising for our organisation!

If you do not have a Drakes key tag currently, please contact our office on (07)5483 8866 or email admin-assistant@gympielandcare.org.au and we will provide one for you to pick up from our office.



Fridge Donation

Our nursery is in urgent need of a fridge donation to assist in the longevity of our seeds!

Storing seeds in a cooler environment will assist in prolonging the seed life, thus, assisting us with our most important projects. We’re seeking a fridge that has a minimum capacity of 350L.

If you would like to generously donate a second-hand fridge that you no longer need, please contact our office on (07) 5483 8866 or email us at nursery@gympielandcare.org.au.



Find Us on Facebook!

Here at Gympie & District Landcare Group Incorporated, we recognise that social media is becoming one of the most effective sources of communication and a fantastic way to get our name out there and increase our exposure! Not only is it a means for communication, but it creates an additional platform to keep our community aware of upcoming events and provides further opportunity to provide the community with helpful tips in relation to land care.

We would love to see our Facebook follower base increase and encourage all of our members to “follow us” on Facebook.

If you have a Facebook account, go to our Facebook page and hit the “like” button to follow our posts.



Don’t forget to like and share our posts on our page to assist us in gaining further exposure in our local area!

Nursery Manager's Plant of the Month – *Geitonoplesium cymosum*

The Scrambling Lily lives up to its name quite well, at least as far as scrambling goes. The 'lily' component is, like many native plants, something that might require a little more attention to detail to appreciate.

Geitonoplesium cymosum is fairly common in our region in and along rainforest margins and wet sclerophyll forests. It is considered a relative of the asparagus plants and exhibits some similar characteristics – delicate leaves and twiners, edible shoots and a hardy rhizome. From field experience, it also seems to be quite tolerant of several of the more commonly used herbicides in revegetation works (a trait shared with the exotic asparagus species that can now also be found growing in our parks, roadsides and forest margins).

Whilst *G. cymosum* can reach several metres into a forest canopy and mature plants will have tendrils around 2cm diameter at the base, it will also fare quite well as a low plant, twining through other groundcovers and shrubs. Younger *G. cymosum* or those growing in more exposed conditions will have quite fine leaves, whilst older and more shaded specimens may develop leaves 2-3cm wide and over 10cm long – almost looking like a different plant altogether! It can develop a reasonable cover of foliage when growing over debris but doesn't usually get thick enough on other living plants to smother them like some other thickly-leaved vines can. This makes it a good option when trying to reinstate some groundcover or edge 'complexity' (some people call it 'messiness') without losing too much of the existing shrubs or groundcovers. Its twining nature will be a threat to very young plants though, perhaps strangling them if they are not old enough to have developed a sturdy woody stem.

In landscaping, *G. cymosum* could work well as a companion to other creepers/vines on vertical structures such as a trellis or archways, or it may be a way to bring more foliage and feature to other sparse-growing shrubs or under larger shade trees. If planting it in a pot, be sure to choose one with good depth to give the rhizomes plenty of room to bank away the nutrients and moisture that give this plant its resilience through the tougher times.



There is another place this species could find fame too, eventually. In the market-garden or fruit orchard. Perhaps one day, it won't be so unusual for humans to cultivate native plants such as this in rich poly-culture systems, rather than turning to broadscale monoculture of exotic species simply because of familiarity, old habits, or lack of experimental interest.

The flowers of *G. cymosum* are small pendulous clusters of white flowers 1-2cm diameter, which will lead to fruits about 1cm diameter that ripen to a black colour. You may find the flowers give off a delicate scent. The birds will find the fruits give a good feed!

If you are out and about looking for this plant in nature, keep in mind its doppelganger *Eustrephus latifolius* or Wombat Berry, which prefers the drier forests, but there is often reasonable overlap in their distribution. Both have similar twining growth and fine leaves – the details that tell them apart can be for you to study yourself!

Shane Litherland – Nursery Manager

Seeds Processing – Unwrapping Nature’s Packaging

Since last newsletter with my article on seed collection, you may well have overwhelmed yourself with boxes- and buckets-full of seeds, now awaiting your attention. But what to do?

Luckily for you, it’s not too technical. Sure, there’s lots of interesting scientific information about how seeds grow and what turns their germination on (or off), but for the backyard propagator (or even here at the Landcare Nursery), you can get by with a few general methods. Namely, chew ‘em, brew ‘em, shake ‘em or bake ‘em.

The Chew:

The container (i.e. a fruit) in which nature packages seeds can be broadly divided into those that are fleshy (such as plums, tomatoes, pumpkin) and those that are dry (e.g. almonds, sorghum, cardamom). Fleshy fruits are what we’re looking at with this method.

First off, you have to decide – who, or what, is going to do the chewing? For whilst there are numerous native plants with edible fruits, there are also plenty that might have you taking a one-way trip to the hospital, or (and perhaps even worse) dancing naked down the street proclaiming to be the next Messiah... then returning to this world the following day and having to explain the resultant newspaper headlines to your soon-to-be-former-employer (or spouse).

So a good study of your specimen is essential before you do any of the chewing. And don’t be fooled simply by common names or appearances – there might be something that looks like a bush plum but is toxic to all but the cassowary, or relatives of the common tomato that are still laden with the poisonous chemicals long since bred out of the cultivated species.



Why then, you might ask, would one even consider this method? Well, once you’ve dodged the dangerous ones, there are some real treats out there in the bushfood smorgasbord, including flavours that can differ markedly from those we recognize in our regular foods. There’s some tongue-twisters too of course – many of our native fruits are known for their concentration of nutrients with minimal sugars, hence descriptives like ‘tart’, ‘sour’ or ‘astringent’ are not uncommon.

My reasoning for chewing on native fruits is twofold. First, you get a free feed. Second, you can keep your hands picking, while your mouth processes. Then, when there’s little left of the fruit and you’re down to the seeds, they’re all-but-ready for sowing.

There are some benefits too for the seed collector, for having other animals chew the fruit. Ever spotted a tree laden with goodies, but out of reach? Well, perhaps you should have a look under the tree... not for fallen fruit, but for pre-packaged bundles of seeds. No, this does not always refer to animal poo. Birds might eat fruits and pre-digest the fleshy component in their crops then regurgitate a pellet of fairly clean seeds – collecting these can save your processing effort and get you far more seeds for your time.

The Brew:

Once you have chewed, or had others chew, your seed sample, it might be clean enough to sow. Occasionally though, you might want to give it a bit more cleaning, or you have fruity seeds that

you won't eat and would just take too long to process by hand individually. So here's where you mimic a digestive journey for your fruits.



It's little more than starting with a simulation of chewing – this might be a rough de-flesh with your hands, rolling around on a hard surface to bruise or soften the flesh, or mechanical bashing to create a coarse pulp. Then, into a bucket of water and simply let nature turn it into an ungodly stench.

The bucket phase can be tweaked to suit the sample you have. Perhaps the fruits are not as soft as you'd hoped – in which case a second bash-and-brew might be in order. Or perhaps they were chewed fruits that you just wanted to tidy off – so it could just be a few hours to free the seeds from the remaining flesh. Again, do a bit more homework on your species in question and don't be scared to experiment. I've heard of very successful experiments with a certain well-known soft-drink, thanks to its high sugar and acidity. You'll get your own tricks and rules-of-thumb soon enough.

The 'brew' can also double as a means to hydrate the seed or dilute inhibitors from the seed coat, to hasten germination. But for now, it's probably best to consider it as a de-fleshing process and keep the soaking separate – a little less chance of drowning the seeds that way.

The Shake:

If your seeds are of the dry type, you're at this step already. You can also use this step for chewed-and-brewed seeds that have then been dried out enough ready for storage.

Initially, it's simply a step to encourage the seeds from their shelter. Some, such as Eucalypts, will open the pods with a good day in the sun so it's not much more than several seconds of tossing them around in a bucket. Others such as *Rhodosphaera rhodantha* will have very woody pods that need substantial scarification to expose the seed, which could mean your 'shaking' ends up quite mechanical such as tossing the seeds into a cement mixer with a sharp, coarse gravel.



After a rumble and tumble, your shaking can be refined to then separate the seeds from the empty pods, husks, frass or dried fruit remains. Gravity will be your friend on the most part – shaking through a sieve (or series of sieves) to separate out the seed based on size; vibrating the mix to settle the heavier seed to the bottom of your container and allow the lighter debris to be discarded from the surface; winnowing the seed by blowing frass from the surface of the mix or pouring it all in front of an electric fan.

Sometimes it might be of use to process your seed with a 'wet' shake, essentially combining most of the above methods. But this can also mean more work – if you've had dry-type fruits and want to wash-and-shake, you will then have to have another step to re-dry them to sieve or store.

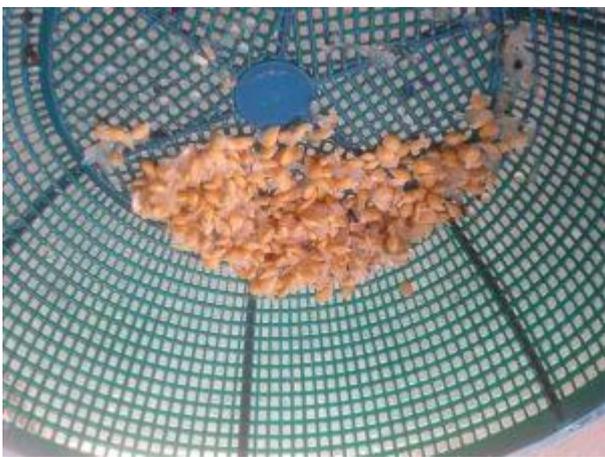
The Bake:

I've already mentioned a mild example of this step, namely putting Eucalypt seed in the sun to heat up the pods and dry them out – the result is the pods then opening. This is known as 'dehiscence' (the process) or 'dehiscent' (referring to the pods themselves). It is a work of nature fascinating for its simplicity – when the moisture content of the seed pod reaches a certain low-point, the woody tissue changes its characteristics and capsules open. It may be rather gentle, like in *Casuarina*, or it may be quite explosive, such as for *Hovea* or *Petalostigma*. If you have any of the explosive types, be sure to keep them in a paper or material bag so that they can still dehisce but not then spread themselves all over your kitchen.. because all good seed collectors do this step on their sunny kitchen window bench, right?



You may have gathered up some seed pods that simply aren't responding to a day or two in the sun. Or you're in the middle of a cold, rainy spell (sigh... if only) and you're too impatient to wait for the hot weather to return. This is where you get to set free your burnt-toast-making skills.

The drier types of Australian flora have been subjected to fire in the landscape for quite some time now. Some plants, such as *Hakeas* or *Banksias*, are now well suited to such a disturbance. Their seed pods are so woody that it typically takes the heat of a short burst of fire to finish their dehiscence. Using fire to encourage your seed sample from such pods can be achieved without having to start your own bushfire though. Having a small pile of leaf litter or sawdust with the pods on top can produce enough flame or smouldering heat to do the job. Dousing the pods in some methylated spirits and setting alight is another method. Putting them atop the barbeque or in a fan-forced oven could work also. The one thing to watch is that you don't end up applying too much heat once the seeds become exposed.



Another element of this 'baking' method is the chemistry of smoke. It is still largely a mystery to us, but there is enough understanding to know that compounds in smoke can have a positive effect on seed germination for a range of species. There is probably something happening in the seed coat that 'wakes up' the seed inside, by adding new chemicals or by neutralizing chemicals that act as inhibitors to seed germination. Fortunately, the benefits can be obtained without needing to fully understand it. If you choose to use fire to open your seedpods, then you are likely to have enough smoke around as the seeds

are exposed to get some benefit. Or, you can create 'smoke-water' by having a container of water in or near a fire, so it absorbs some of the chemicals (just like your clothes smell like campfire the day after). The smoke-water can then be used to water your seed-trays. Or you can even get fancy and built a little smokehouse, into which you can place a tray with soil and seeds already sown and watered! Just don't do to the tray what you do to your neglected toast...

With one or more of the above combinations, you can harvest and process even the most obscure of seed samples. How technical you make the process is up to you – it may be that you collect samples that are no trouble to simply process by hand. But as you get more eager or add more species to your repertoire, at some point you're bound to chew, brew, shake, or bake.

Shane Litherland – Nursery Manager

Welcoming Nina Drinkwater to the Bio-Control Team

The team at Gympie & District Landcare Group would like to formally introduce and welcome Nina Drinkwater to our bio-control team.

Here is a little bit of background on our newest team member!
“25 years ago, I left the big smoke in search of a lifestyle more in touch with nature. I stopped on the Cooloola Coast, joined the local bush regeneration group and settled down to do an Assoc. Degree in Applied Science. I have always had an interest in the ecological workings of natural environments and as my studies and field experience progressed, I became passionate in understanding the factors that provide for more sustainable resource use. I have worked in the conservation industry in many roles from educator and project coordinator to field officer. I have a history of roles in flora and fauna management in natural and culturally significant environments, and therefore bring a broad knowledge base to the Landcare team. I am now undertaking a new area of interest and training within the Bio-Control team at Landcare and look forward to contributing my land management experience to the local community in our war on invasive species. My mantra for life in the modern world is “let’s look after our own backyard”



Nina Drinkwater – Bio-Control Team Member

Caring for your rural block course

Our very popular ‘Blockies’ course is on again in 2019

Owning a rural block gives you the opportunity to start an agricultural venture or hobby farm, maintain habitat for wildlife or create your dream living space. It also brings responsibilities to control weedy grasses, manage fire risks, maintain fences and manage vegetation and water resources.

Over ten consecutive weeks, Gympie & District Landcare Group will provide an overview of common property management issues in the Gympie region and introduce you to some local organisations.

When: The first session will commence Wednesday 6 February 2019, however, please contact our office for the full schedule. Sessions will commence at 9am and generally finish by 12.30pm, although sessions involving bus travel for field trips will require an earlier start.

Where: Some sessions will use the facilities at the Gympie & District Landcare Nursery at the corner of Groves Road and Old Maryborough Road.



Four sessions will involve bus travel to a variety of field sites and these sessions will depart from Gympie & District Landcare at 8.00am and return no later than 12.30pm. One of the bus trips may

leave a little earlier and return a little later due to the travel distance from Gympie & District Landcare.

Cost:



10 Week Course

Members: \$100.00

Non-Members: \$120.00

One off Sessions

To book for individual sessions, contact us on (07 5483 8866)

Members: \$10.00 for classroom sessions, \$25.00 for field trips.

Non-Members: \$12.00 for classroom sessions, \$30.00 for field trips.

Morning tea and cold drinks will be provided at each session and there will be toilet facilities on the bus for field trip days.

Field trips: You will travel by bus in air-conditioned comfort. As field sessions may involve walking up to 500m through paddocks and wooded areas, walking shoes, long trousers, hat, sunscreen, and a water bottle are recommended. Participants must have the capacity to walk through paddocks and stand for reasonable periods, however, walking will not be arduous nor on particularly steep grades. Feedback from the 2018 course identified field trips as the biggest highlight of the course.

Presenters: The program will be delivered by professionals, public servants and community members with specific knowledge in their field. Many presenters have a rural block in the Gympie Region, bringing first-hand experience of managing a property. In addition to the structured learning sessions, participants have the opportunity to share experience with people in similar situations and to discuss concerns with the presenters over morning tea breaks.



Payment: To register for our 2019 Blockies' Course, please contact us on (07) 5483 8866 to confirm your place or go online to www.gympielandcare.org.au. Casual or "one-off" sessions will be possible if space is available, however, priority will be given to people choosing to register for the full programme. Unfortunately, children are not permitted on this course.

Save the Date – Members Meetings 2019

The Committee hopes you can join us for the quarterly Member's meetings in 2019. This will be your opportunity to keep up to date with what is happening at Landcare and share your thoughts with the Committee and other Members.

The dates for the meetings are as follows:

Wednesday 15 May at 10am

Saturday 3 August at 9am

Wednesday 27 November at 6pm



There will be a call for agenda items 2 weeks prior to the meeting.

If you have an item for the agenda please submit it in writing to admin@gympielandcare.org.au for consideration prior to the deadline.

We look forward to seeing you.

Landcare Management Committee Meeting 15 March 2019

Our next Management Committee (MC) meeting will be held at 9.00am, next Friday 15 March 2019.



Members are invited to observe and take part in the discussions in the meetings.

If you would like to add any items to the agenda in addition to the usual business of the meeting, please email admin@gympielandcare.org.au by Friday 8th March 2019.

Respectively, if you wish to attend the MC meeting, please RSVP by 5.00pm Wednesday 13 March 2019 to admin@gympielandcare.org.au to ensure we cater for all attendees.

Join One of Our Sub-Committees

Gympie Landcare has an active management committee who are keen to give as many members the opportunity to be part of guiding the organisation into the future.

To facilitate this process and ensure a focused effort on various areas of the organisation that require attention the management committee have created sub-committees.

All the sub-committees are chaired by a management committee member and have a 'Terms of Reference' (scope) that has been approved by the management committee.

We invite all our members who want to actively take part in developing the organisation to become part of one of our sub-committees.

For more information on the sub-committees and who to contact see below.



Marketing Sub-Committee

Purpose

To develop a marketing & promotions strategy, and oversee the implementation of that strategy

Delegated Authority

Provides direction on marketing and promotions strategy and manages the resources delivering on the strategy.

Makes decisions on all the activities within its area of responsibility that have been approved by the management committee.

Specific Areas of Responsibility

- Marketing & promotions strategy
- Social media (Facebook, Instagram, YouTube)
- Other media (includes media liaison)
- Website
- Newsletter
- Events

- Organisation Branding (Organisation logos, style sheet, templates, presentations, business cards)
- Signage
- Publications (brochures, flyers, fact sheets).

To see the full Terms of Reference visit www.gympielandcare.org.au

To express interest, please email Mel Marx at marketing@gympielandcare.org.au

Education Sub-Committee

Purpose

To develop an education platform (workshops, courses etc.) that supports both the landowners and our vision.

Delegated Authority

We identify, develop and implement education content to further the vision and purpose of Gympie Landcare

Specific Areas of Responsibility

- Education policy, guidelines, procedures and practices
- Pricing of education content (workshops, courses, online resources, information sessions)
- Development & sourcing of education content
- Planning and implementation of education content
- Manage & report on feedback with regard to education content
- Management & development of online education content
- Marketing & promotion of the education content in collaboration with the marketing & promotion sub-committee
- To collaborate with the following: science and technology sub-committee, marketing & promotion sub-committee and staff

To see the full Terms of Reference visit www.gympielandcare.org.au

To express interest, please email Louise Watson at education@gympielandcare.org.au

Human Resources Sub-Committee

Purpose

To develop a basic human resources framework that meets the requirements of the Fair Workers Act ensuring all legislative requirements are met and that the organisation has effective people management policies, guidelines, and strategy.

Delegated Authority

Provides direction on all the people management aspects required by the Fair Workers Act and the effective people management of the organisation.

Makes decisions on all the activities within its area of responsibility that have been approved by the management committee.

Specific Area Of Responsibility

- Human Resources Policies
- Human Resources guidelines, procedures and practices
- Grievance procedures
- Human Resources templates (contracts, role descriptions)
- Monitoring of the entire employee lifecycle
- Coaching of staff & managers/supervisors in their human resources roles
- Organisation effectiveness (structure, leadership, work practices/methods, accountabilities, culture, climate, decision making, engagement)
- Recommendation to MC on adhoc HR matters arising

To see the full Terms of Reference visit www.gympielandcare.org.au

To express interest, please email Mel Marx at marketing@gympielandcare.org.au

Terms of reference are currently being created for 2 additional sub-committees. They are a finance sub-committee and science and technology sub-committee.

To express interest in either of those sub-committees please contact the chairperson of the sub-committee.

Science & Technology – Ernie Ryder: president@gympielandcare.org.au

Finance – Barry Lambooy: finance@gympielandcare.org.au

Summary of the February Management Committee Meeting

To keep you up to date with what is happening at Management Committee (MC) meetings we will be providing a summary of the important points discussed at the meeting every month. The Management Committee meetings take place on the 3rd Friday of each month.

1. Improved communication and efficiency for our project managers in the Nursery, CLS and Biocontrol is now enhanced by their new Tablets as the IT improvements are rolled out. An additional work vehicle will be delivered this month to boost CLS capacity and assist Biocontrol releases as well. With this improved medium of communication, we aim to be efficient in responding to enquiries as well.
2. The nursery is in full swing planning and propagating to meet orders and demand for future projects for the CLS team. A stock take also took place in the nursery at the end of January 2019.
Nursery Management reported that sometimes there are not enough hands available to balance their front counter, as well as keeping up with tasks behind the scenes, so...they are always looking for volunteers! Wink wink-nudge nudge!
3. Please signal your willingness to join one of our friendly teams by contacting our admin staff, who are only too happy to take your details and introduce you to your area of interest at Landcare!
4. We are considering applying for a grant to get a large rainwater tank to catch water from our roof.
5. The old plumbing map and outlay as well as subsequent changes are receiving attention.
6. New rules need to be drawn up to ensure that clients who pre-ordered plants take timely delivery of their order. This, to avoid plants becoming too mature and wasting space and nursery time keeping them alive.
7. Some rows of plant benches are buckling and need replacement, we discussed options of economically doing this.
8. Biocontrol harvested plenty of Moths for release in two sites and Yvonne is putting a list together of biocontrol experts she will invite to put their heads together at the planned Forum. The date is to be confirmed and will be held at our Landcare boardroom. Yvonne has staff and a volunteer assisting her now, which is a great relief.
9. CLS manager Carl discussed how he manages the team to stay safe and recover after extremely hot days in the field.



10. The Blockies Course has been a great success so far, judging by the feedback forms after each of the 3 sessions. On 6 February, David Williams in his inimitable way, kept the attendees engaged and fascinated with his knowledge and humour on the unique geology of the Gympie Region. On 13 February, at Ernie Rider's property, we learned how geology translates into soil and how he transformed a bare paddock into a forest. On 20 February, there was a soil testing with hands-on experience with an expert from The BMRG which inspired attendees to learn more and to put it into practice on their own properties. Many more Block sessions to go which you can still book through our website!



11. Finally, the Committee noted no further feedback from members on your preferred days/times for the Quarterly Member Meetings, so we decided to continue with our plan to vary days for the purpose of accommodating different preferences until we hear from you! Meanwhile it was decided that attendance and presentation by our Project managers was really important at the Quarterly Meetings, to keep you in touch with the operations. We are planning interesting speakers also.

Again: if you have an agenda item for our next MC meeting, please send it in before the 2nd Friday of each month, to be included on the day of the meeting, which is the 3rd Friday each month. Admin staff will confirm inclusion of your item by sending you the agenda. As long as you have your name on our list of members interested in receiving the subsequent ratified minutes, these will be emailed to you. Please consult our GDLG website for dates of meetings, as you are welcome to attend these (lengthy!) meetings but we won't bother everyone with reminders anymore.

Until next time!

Antoinette Augustinus – Secretary

Would you like to become a member?

Gympie Landcare values your involvement and support. Members receive discounts on nursery plants, newsletters, and email notices.

Title _____ Surname _____ GivenName/S _____

Residential Address: _____ Postcode: _____

Postal Address: _____

(If Different from above)

Home

Phone: _____ Work: _____ Mobile: _____

Email: _____ Occupation: _____

Signature:.....

Date:...../...../.....

Membership Price Table	1 Year	2 Years	3 Years
Individual	\$25.00	\$45.00	\$60.00
Family	\$37.50	\$67.50	\$90.00
Community Group/ Organisation	\$50.00	\$90.00	\$120.00

Life Membership: \$220.00

Method of Payment: Cash / Cheque/ Direct Deposit/ Other: _____