

Landcare Conference – Key Messages And Impressions

 gympielandcare.org.au/landcare-conference-key-messages-and-impressions

November 8, 2018

This year's Landcare conference had as theme 'Landcare – building a better tomorrow'. There were over 500 delegates from all over the country who came together at the Brisbane convention centre to share and learn. The conference showcased that Landcare had well and truly moved into the digital age with free wifi and delegates being encouraged to Tweet and post on Facebook. Over the 2 days you could attend any one of the 4 streams:

- Sustainable Agriculture – Innovation and Conservation in a Changing Landscape
- Community in Action – Grassroots with a Purpose
- Partnerships – Collaboration for Successful Outcomes
- Environment – Improving and Protecting our Natural Assets

Professor Mark Howden, Director of the climate change institute, Australia National University, gave the opening keynote. It was titled 'towards a climate change strategy for Landcare. His presentation clearly showed the information published in the IPCC report in October. The key message was that the carbon in the atmosphere has reached critical levels and that it was not a natural phenomenon as some people think and that immediate and decisive action must be taken to turn the situation around. He told the Landcare delegates that they play a vital role in supporting farmers to practice improved land management and in so doing to improve the release and sequestering of carbon.



Other Key Messages

- Major General, Michael Jeffery, Landcare's patron highlighted the importance of soil and that soil is the best way to sequester carbon through regenerative soil practices.
- There is a need to embrace all people in our quest to find sustainable solutions for caring for the land
- The value of community-based land care groups is almost immeasurable. If one looks at how little money is made available compared to the output and outcomes achieved. The Landcare movement is able to harness the people resources in our communities at little to no financial cost. It is an excellent model of the power of community.
- All the Landcare organisations are faced with trying to find ways of being sustainable and decreasing their dependence on grant money. Innovative ideas will be required to attain this.
- There needs to be an increased focus on youth involvement to build the next generation of people who can get involved in caring for the land and Landcare

organisations. The conference was very heartwarming in this respect as there were many young people sharing what they do and how they do it.

- Digital technology will create the next wave of farming and land care improvements and Landcare groups were encouraged to get behind technology.

It was interesting to see that a lot of Landcare groups were grappling with the same things.

Looking at Gympie Landcare we need to turn our attention to improving our member demographic by finding a creative way to get younger people involved in the organisation so that the older generation can pass on their hard-earned knowledge and skill. We need to embrace digital technology if we are going to support our members and farmers into the future. Carbon farming is going to become the next big farming product and we as a Group need to get a better understanding of the carbon credits and how to earn them as it can help many of our farmers who have marginal farm incomes to become more lucrative and sustainable



The conference was a very important growth and development opportunity for our committee members and staff who attended. It will enable us to anticipate the future and build better more aligned land care strategies.

To learn more about the conference and get copies of the presentations click [here](#)

To learn about the award winners and their stories [click here](#)

To see the highlights from the 2016 conference [click here](#)

Joel Salatin Talks About Soil Management At The Soil Biology Forum 2017

 gympielandcare.org.au/joe-salatin-talks-about-soil-management-at-the-soil-biology-forum-2017

November 8, 2018

Joel Salatin is an American farmer, lecturer, and author whose books include *Folks, This Ain't Normal*; *You Can Farm*, and *Salad Bar Beef*. Salatin raises livestock using holistic management methods of animal husbandry on his Polyface farm in Virginia. Meat from the farm is sold by direct marketing to consumers and restaurants.

Joel Salatin was invited to talk at the 2017 Soil Biology Forum. In the video, Salatin talks about thinking outside the box when it comes to your farm. He shows how he manages farm resources, composting, pasture management, animal husbandry and much more.



[Click here](#) to watch this video

Photo courtesy of Rachel Salatin Photography

Gympie Landcare To Support The New Gympie Community Garden

gympielandcare.org.au/gympie-landcare-to-support-the-new-gympie-community-garden

November 8, 2018

Hi everyone!

My name is Anna and I am secretary of Gympie Community Garden Inc. We are very much hoping to work with Gympie Landcare on a project in our new gardens. But before I get too excited... I should tell you a little more about us.

In 1988 a small plot of land on Cooina Aged Care was planted with citrus trees, to encourage residents to get active and socialise. In 2011 the tree plot became a community-owned garden in Gympie, as an initiative of Queensland Health.



We received funding so the gardens could hold regular open days, which featured speakers, workshops and free healthy food. From various sources, we also got funding for tools and other equipment and to build raised garden beds. Bendigo Bank provided funding to fence the area from kangaroos.

The garden became incorporated in December 2014. Sadly though in early 2016, Cooina Aged Care told us we would have to relocate as the construction of more buildings were scheduled for the facility.

As a result, for the past two years, Gympie has not had a community garden even though there is significant interest in the community for one. After negotiations, Gympie Council granted us a ten-year lease on a block of land opposite the aquatic centre in Tozer Park Road. Next to us is the proposed 'river to rail' bike trail that will directly border the garden. We believe the area is an ideal location for the gardens to be visible and accessible for everyone.

So where does Landcare come in? Well, we are pretty keen on establishing a native edible food forest in one of the zones of the block we have been offered. The idea is to grow trees that can provide food sources, education opportunities and workshops about eating and processing native edibles. We will be using the expertise of the teams at Landcare to assist us with designing and selecting the most appropriate tree species. We are also hoping to hold a working bee in the new year where the community can become involved and take ownership for the creation of this food forest by helping us plant it out.

We would love to know what you think of this project? Feedback can be emailed to gympiecgarden@gmail.com

Yvonne Nominated For Quiet Achiever Award

 gympielandcare.org.au/yvonne-nominated-for-quiet-achiever-award

November 8, 2018

The South East Queensland Pest Advisory Forum was seeking nominations for their Jenny Reeves award. This award is provided to an individual and or a team from within South East Queensland who go about their business of pest management in a quiet and often

unrecognised way. They achieve great things with a minimum of fuss but very few people ever know about it. The above description fits Yvonne Hennell our bio-control manager perfectly. We have sent through a nomination for Yvonne for all the work that she has done breeding Tingids, Leaf Tying Moths, Jewel Beetles, and Madeira Beetles. All these insects help fight invasive vine species such as Cat's Claw Creeper and Madeira Vine. Not only has she improved breeding and harvesting rates but she continues to improve



the bio-control facility researching new ideas and working with other people in the field. All this work is very visible in many areas around Gympie where the insects have been released and are now showing results.

Congratulations Yvonne we are holding thumbs.



Landcare member Bev Kapernick continues to build her rare native plant collection

gympielandcare.org.au/landcare-member-bev-kapernick-continues-to-build-her-rare-native-plant-collection

November 8, 2018

Bev Kapernick was one of several local beneficiaries who received Community Sustainability Action Grants from the

Queensland Government in late 2017.

Bev's small acreage property at Chatsworth supports an extensive collection of rare and unusual Australian native flora from many environmental and climatic regions. Plants such as *Clausena smyrelliana*, *Hernandia ladei*, *Graptophyllum illicifolium*, *Brachychiton collinus*, *Polyscias nodosa* and more.

The Community Sustainability Grant programme has enabled the plantings to be extended to include a collection of plants propagated and ready to be planted, along with additional plants sourced from like-minded native plant enthusiasts.

Bev has been a strong supporter of Gympie Landcare, and our nursery regularly draws on her plant collection as a source of seeds and propagation cuttings.

Congratulations Bev on steadily achieving your land caring goals.



Barry Lambooy Reflects on the Invictus Spirit

 gympielandcare.org.au/a-reflection-on-the-invictus-spirit

November 8, 2018

(With apologies to the competitors of the Invictus Games. We strive to copy)

Last week I had the rare opportunity to be present at the Invictus Games. My wife is the real keen fan, and I tagged along not knowing what to expect.

Within 15 minutes of our arrival at Olympic Park in Sydney, I knew that this was going to be special as the spectators roared to show their encouragement and belief in the competitors.

The first event was Indoor Rowing (on rowing machines) and the grading was for the most disabled people. It was a 1500m sprint and was won by a man missing 3 limbs, an arm, and both legs. When he dismounted from the machine he looked at an offered wheelchair with absolute disdain and “walked” off on one arm and torso. The applause was deafening! I was in tears. (So was the wife and everyone else).

This athlete continued cropping up all over the place either competing or racing back after winning to help less fortunate competitors complete the event. He won a handful of medals always refusing a wheelchair and climbing up onto the podium, to receive a gold medal.

When interviewed by a journalist who said “What is it now 5 golds?” his reply was “Yeah whatever”. He was far more interested in the sport and his mates. What an indomitable spirit, and this was repeated in virtually every one of the other 500 competitors.

I would love to report that he is an Aussie but alas, a Pom!

On reflecting on this while flying back home, I realised that there was an analogy with Gympie Landcare.

Gympie Landcare went through a financial event that nearly closed the doors of the organisation.



SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA – OCTOBER 22: Pete Brown of Australia competes in the Men's IR4 Four Minute Endurance during Indoor Rowing on day three of the Invictus Games Sydney 2018 at Quaycentre on October 22, 2018 in Sydney, Australia. (Photo by Matt King/Getty Images for Invictus Games Sydney)

However, there were a few extremely loyal members who struggled for years to get the organisation back to health. I won't name them because their response is also "Yeah whatever" and they would be embarrassed.

But like those athletes who have overcome adversity and inspire us to believe that anything is possible we as an organisation are ready to grow and improve our support to our members and landholders so they can be champions at caring for their land.

Our enterprises are working well. Both Bio-control and the Contracting Services are significant services to the Council and our members.

But like those athletes, it might be time to ask the question. What is possible and how can we as an organisation reach our full potential.

Photos courtesy of Invictus Games



SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA – OCTOBER 22: Estonia players compete in their match against Netherlands in the sitting volleyball during day three of the Invictus Games Sydney 2018 at Sydney Olympic Park on October 22, 2018 in Sydney, Australia. (Photo by Brett Hemmings/Getty Images for Invictus Games Sydney)

Join Messmate Park Bushcarers Group

 gympielandcare.org.au/messmate-park-bushcarers-group

November 8, 2018

You are invited to join the Messmate park bushcarers group every 3rd Saturday of the month from 8:30 – 11 am. Bring a chair, hat, water, and sunscreen.

This Park is a stunning example of remnant vegetation. It includes one very impressive big tree (Eucalyptus Cloeziana, Gympie Messmate) next to the walking track. Plus two more impressive centuries-old big trees down on the banks of Tinana Creek (these are not on the current path). Messmate Park is an absolute hidden gem. It has come so far since the days it was full of Lantana, Ochna, Hammil Grass, and Cat's Claw. If you would like to volunteer, learning about bushcare and to continue with the park's restoration, please contact Sandra Lalor on 0412137187



Messmate Park directions – follow Tin Can Bay Road left into Priddy Road past Silky Oak Tea Gardens – the park is on your right.

Member Showcase – Learning From Experience

 gympielandcare.org.au/member-showcase-learning-from-experience

November 8, 2018

At Gympie Landcare we know that many of our members are doing great work on their properties or even their backyards. Every month we would like to feature one of our members and in so doing share all the learnings, experience and knowledge of land care with other members and the public.

Please email admin@gympielandcare.org.au or call us on 07 5483 8866 if you would like to be featured or know of a member who you would like us to feature.



You Are Invited To Our Year End Celebration

 gympielandcare.org.au/you-are-invited-to-our-end-of-year-celebration

November 8, 2018

Gympie Landcare invites all our members, volunteers and staff to our end of year celebration on Thursday, 29 November at 11 am. We will be lighting up the barbeque for a sausage sizzle. We look forward to connecting and sharing a meal together.

Please bring a plate to share as we celebrate our successes and the end of our 30th year.



Farewell For Jenny

 gympielandcare.org.au/farewell-for-jenny

November 8, 2018

Our Administration Manager, Jenny Whyte will be leaving us to take up some new and exciting challenges. All members are invited to come to her farewell at Messmate Park.

Please join us at Messmate Park Saturday 17 November, 8.30-10.30 to say our farewell to Jenny. In keeping with Jenny's wishes, we will be doing our usual bushcare at the park – weeding, lots of chatting and morning tea. (Weeding is optional). Bring a chair, hat, water, sunscreen, and a share a plate for a picnic. Messmate Park directions – follow Tin Can Bay Road left into Priddy Road past Silky Oak Tea Gardens – the park is on your right.



For more information contact Landcare or Sandra Lalor, 0412137187.

Below some words to Jenny from two of our members.

A number of years ago, GDLG went through a very lean/nasty period, and Jenny was one of the very few who pulled the Group through. I have only the greatest admiration for Jenny, and if this is to be her Farewell, then I offer her my very best wishes. ...Matt Walker

While it is inevitable that everything changes over time, I was both saddened and inspired to hear that you are moving on to new and exciting challenges with your life. You have given outstanding service to the Gympie Landcare community over many years, and have been the rock that formed the cornerstone to re-built the Group from the ashes of near financial disaster, to the current state of healthy financial and operational stability.

And personally, I have enjoyed working in partnership with you to deliver many successful "Your Rural Block" field walks. You have joined the small but elite band of Gympie Landcare legends! ... Graeme Elphinstone

Using bugs to control garden pests

 gympielandcare.org.au/using-bugs-to-control-garden-pests

October 31, 2018

Recently our Bio Control manager Yvonne visited the Bugs for Bugs insect rearing facility at Munduberra where she was able to see how various insects are reared in special temperature and climate control rooms. Bugs for Bugs are pest management specialists with 35 years experience behind them.

One of the insects that caught Yvonne's ever inquisitive eyes was the green Lacewing (*Mallada signata*) which is one of many insects available to control various pests insects. As their common name implies, adult green lacewings are green, with four clear wings. Larvae pass through three moults over a period of 12 days before pupating inside a silken cocoon. Adults emerge after nine days and start laying eggs seven days after emergence. Adult female lacewings live for approximately three or four weeks and lay up to 600 eggs. Each egg sits on the end of a slender stalk, which elevates it from the ground and decreases the chances of predation by ants. The eggs take approximately four days to hatch.



Larvae of the green lacewing are wide-ranging predators that will attack and eat almost any small insects or eggs. Lacewing larvae are particularly effective at controlling aphids and can consume 60 aphids in just one hour. They will also attack mealybugs, greenhouse whitefly, thrips, twospotted mite, small caterpillars and moth eggs.

If you do not want to use chemicals on your property to control pest insects then beneficial bugs might be another option.

For further enquires call Bugs for Bugs on 07 4646 2628 or order online at bugsforbugs.com.au



Nursery Managers Plant of the Month – Grevillea robusta

 gympielandcare.org.au/nursery-managers-plant-of-the-month-grevillea-robusta

October 31, 2018

The plant of the month for November is Grevillea robusta, known widely as the Silky Oak.

It can grow quite large depending on the environment where it is grown. Along gullies and watercourses it can grow upwards of 35 metres but in a suburban environment growth up to 15 metres over 25 years could be expected. It has dark grey bark, dark green lobed foliage and stunning golden-orange flowers. Leaves are long and hairless on top with a fine covering of silky hairs below. Flowers are orange-yellow, toothbrush-like branched racemes in spring, . Seed capsules are woody and brown-grey to about 20mm.



This tree is used widely in gardens but is also very useful to control erosion around stream and river banks, and to reclaim old pasture land. The Silky Oak is one of the most popular ornamental native trees in Australia, and are widely grown here and also overseas as shade-trees and for their ability to adapt. These trees are renowned for the quality of the wood which is used for cabinet making.



This species occurs naturally in south-eastern Queensland and north-eastern New South Wales and is now cultivated around the world for the stunning display of orange flowers which attract birds and for its ease of culture and adaptability. The Jacaranda and the Illawarra Flame tree flower at the same time which makes a spectacular colourful display.

Available now in the [Nursery](#)