

**April 2021**



## **Messmate Park Bushcare News & Next Meeting**

Messmate Park is a 4-hectare bushland reserve on Priddy Road, Kia Ora. The park features towering 80-year-old Gympie Messmates and is recorded as habitat for koalas and the endangered Giant Barred Frog.

The birdlife is significant as there are lots of older trees providing nesting hollows etc. The group believe platypus live in the billabong close to Tinana Creek.

Messmate Park Bushcare Group meet every third Saturday of the month with morning tea provided. It's a good time to relax, chat and plan the next meeting.



Another enjoyable morning was recently spent maintaining & weeding. The paths were raked and previous cats claw areas checked.

I must say though the main topic of the day was how much rain fell & measurements compared. Morning Tea was enjoyable but we had to pack up quickly as a heavy shower put an end to our work.

Many thanks to our great volunteers & resident artists.

If you would like to join the Messmate Park Bushcare Group, our next meeting will be **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 8:00am.**

Please bring weeding tools secateurs, and lots of water. Hat, sunscreen and sturdy shoes are a must.

**Directions:** Messmate Park – follow Tin Can Bay Road, turn onto Priddy Road and the park is on Tinana Creek.

For more information, please contact Sandra Lalor on 0412 137 187.

## **Our Postal and Address Details**



We would like to give everyone a friendly reminder that our PO Box is no longer active and any mail sent to this address will not be received.

Please ensure to use our street address for any mail you send us – 5 Groves Rd, Araluen QLD 4570.

## Free Beekeeping Sessions with Valley Bees

The Valley Bees group hold free beekeeping sessions at Gympie Landcare on the first Saturday of every month. Come along, enjoy the fun and learn how to work with bees on your own property.

The next Bee Keeping session will be held on Saturday 1st May 2021 at 9am.

Please note that parking for these sessions is available in our office carpark or roadside only. Access is available through the side gate of the office car park.

For all enquiries please contact the Valley Bees group directly on 0479 131 208.



## Can We Please Collect Seed From Your Property?



We are currently seeking permission from members of the community, who would allow representatives from our organisation to come onto their properties for the purposes of collecting native seed and/or to assess future collection times.

Anyone interested in allowing us to do this, please phone Andrew Mackenzie on 0484 681 950 or the Gympie Landcare nursery on 07 5483 8866.

## To All Of Our Amazing Volunteers – We Couldn't Do It Without You!

Here at Gympie & District Landcare Group we simply couldn't deliver the volume, quality or prices that we do without our incredible volunteers!

With volunteers working across our propagation, retail, maintenance and admin areas, we have a job suitable for everyone!

Our volunteers come from far & wide in the heat and cold to produce beautiful plants for your regeneration and garden projects. They enter data, serve customers, build next boxes, and keep the premises maintained. Volunteers outweigh our staff by more than 2 to 1.



So what keeps them coming back? We asked our propagation team to answer that very question!

*'We love learning about local native plants and regeneration methods, quite a few of us have bush blocks of our own to manage, coming here has a sense of community and it's great to socialize with like minded people with a genuine shared interest in the environment and making a difference'*

So when you plant your baby trees and shrubs, please remember that they were produced with passion and the help of more than 2000 volunteer hours already this year!

## **EnviroTech Day Gympie – Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2021 9am to 3pm**



EnviroTech Day Gympie is a joint initiative of Gympie Community Solar Association, Gympie & District Landcare Group, Gympie Regional Council and Gympie Living.

This fantastic day out will be held at Nelson Reserve on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2021, from 9am to 3pm.

The goal of this day is to highlight technologies that make our community sustainable.

Society is facing huge challenges due to climate change. This day will highlight technologies that are available to help to minimise its adverse consequences and make our community sustainable.

We are seeking displays of technologies that will reduce energy use, emissions, waste and water costs to business and households across a wide spectrum of industries, including agriculture, water, energy, transport, housing, education, employment, waste and recycling.

The day is also the culmination of the EcoBiz and the businesses that participated in this program will be recognized and their improved efficiency will be recognized and applauded.

If you would like to be involved in this day, either as a stallholder or a volunteer, please contact Gympie Community Solar Association on 0421 607 930 or by email to [envirotechgympie@gmail.com](mailto:envirotechgympie@gmail.com)

## **Introduction to Food Forest Gardening 2-Day Workshop – Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2021, 9am to 4pm**

Come along and join us for this weekend workshop where you will immerse yourself in the world of creating and maintaining a Forest Garden.

You will gain knowledge on the establishment, as well as the ongoing maintenance of a successful orchard ecosystem. We will demystify the necessary art everybody should know about the workings of their Forest Garden, as well as design, soil biology, and health management.



This is a 2-day introduction to the concept and techniques of forest gardening, involving theory and practice from visioning to harvesting.

The 2-day course will cover:

- Benefits of forest gardening;
- Ecological principles;
- Site selection and design;
- Integration of permaculture principles and design process;
- Architecture;
- Succession;
- The Underground Economy;
- Species selection; and
- Site preparation, establishment and maintenance; harvesting.

We will also look at some easy preparations that you can make, which will help boost the overall health of your system.

Edible forest gardening is the art and science of putting plants together in woodland-like patterns that forge mutually beneficial relationships, creating a garden ecosystem that is more than the sum of its parts. You can grow fruits, nuts, vegetables, herbs, mushrooms, other useful plants, and animals in a way that mimics natural ecosystems. You can create a beautiful, diverse, high-yield garden. If designed with care and deep understanding of ecosystem function, you can also design a garden that is largely self-maintaining.

About Your Host: Michael Wardle

My name is Michael and I began my permaculture journey about 25 years ago when I picked up a copy of Permaculture One and the Introduction to Permaculture by Bill Mollison.



I have applied the design principles and ethics of permaculture to my personal life and am now enjoying the wonderful opportunities of being able to apply them to my workplace and my community.

I enjoy learning about the many different facets of permaculture and design. Through my learning, I have also come to love teaching.

I finally jumped in after reading and applying what I had learned and have since done 4 PDC's followed by my Permaculture Teacher Trainer with Rosemary Morrow and Nick Ritar. I completed the Advanced Permaculture Design Principle workshop with David Holmgren, Advanced Permaculture Design with Dan Palmer and the Forest Garden Design Intensive with Dave Jacke as well as the REX10 online with Darren Doherty plus many more. I aspire to be as inspirational and effective as my teachers.

I continue to do other courses to advance my knowledge and to increase the value which I may provide in both my teaching, projects and consultations.

To find out more about Michael and Savour Soil Permaculture, [please click here](#).

Session Times:

Saturday 5th June 2021, 9:00am – 4:00pm; AND

Sunday 6th June 2021, 9:00am – 4:00pm

Morning tea and lunch will be provided.

Prices:

\$220 – Members\*

\$250 – Non Members

How to Register:

Please phone our office on (07) 5483 8866

## Junior Landcare - Focus on Birds of Prey

Over the last few weeks of Junior Landcare we have been learning all about Birds of Prey and their roles in the environment.

For these lessons we have been very lucky to have been joined by James Tozer (who the children have now aptly nicknamed Mr Birdman.) James holds a university degree in Conservation of Birds of Prey and his knowledge of this subject has provided a wonderful learning experience for us all!

The main species that we have focused on for these lessons include Eagles, Falcons, Owls and Hawks. We learnt that the Wedge-Tailed Eagle is the largest eagle in Australia, with a wingspan of up to 2.5 metres, and they can fly at altitudes of up to 2km high!

We also learnt about the Australian Boobook, which is the smallest and most widespread owl in Australia. I also never knew that Australia is home to the Barking Owl – which literally sounds like a dog barking. Unfortunately the Barking Owl is becoming less common along the Eastern and Western coasts of our beautiful country.

Our lessons wrapped up with us inspecting and analysis pellets from a White-bellied Sea Eagle, in order to examine and determine this particular bird's diet. The children were amazed to find many pieces of bone and hair, which allowed us to determine that this bird had recently eaten a few mice or rats.



We also learnt that the biggest threats currently facing many of our Birds of Prey include tree clearing and habitat destruction, followed closely by impacts with vehicles. So please keep an eye out on the road for these beautiful creatures and be sure to slow down if you see one.

All in all, these recent lessons have been a lot of fun and we have all learnt so much about these magnificent creatures and their habitat and food needs.

## Did You Hear Us on Zinc 96.1 Radio?

Thank you to Zinc 96.1's Bilko and Ali for inviting us to be featured on their breakfast radio show recently.

The Zinc 96.1 team are big supporters of the Gympie Hobbit House gardens and were very excited to hear all about our Junior Landcare Butterfly Garden plans!

We will definitely be following up with Ali to try and organise the hobbit outfits and a photo drone!

You can listen to our on-air interview by visiting our website or Facebook page.



## Nursery Specials – Crows Ash (*Flindersia australis*)

What is not to love about this adaptable, tolerant, large, shade-producing, timber-producing tree???

Although initially from the rainforest, it can tolerate open forest and drier areas quite well. Tolerant of clay soils and, once established, drought and frost tolerant.

The seed pod is very recognisable – with large brown bumpy stars that make great decorations!

In spring/summer it gets covered in beautiful white flowers, attracting bees and butterflies. Can you tell it's one of our favourites!



Grows to heights over 15 metres.

**50mm Tubestock – Buy 1, get 1 Free!**

*Single tubestock priced at \$2.90 each*

## April Nursery News – What's Popping, What's Peaked and What's Waiting



### What's Popping

What we're loving this month, just because they're looking rather lovely, are Wild May (*Leptospermum polygalifolium*), plus all of our pea type flower species like Pultenaea, Hovea and Oxylobium are just looking great and perfect for planting right now.

### What's Peaked

We are on our last few 50mm tubes of Saltbush (*Atriplex muelleri*) and this means that we won't have any in the nursery until we can source more seed locally. We also don't have any Old Man Saltbush (*Atriplex nummularia*) so if you have access to cutting material or seed please do get in touch with us.



### What's waiting

Grass Tree seedlings are almost ready.....almost! We will have 4 local species to sell very soon, thanks to a very kind donation from a professional local grower....we ask that you respect their special price also, these species are going to be a bit higher than normal seedlings.

## Bio-Control News – April 2021

We had an exciting day recently where we headed out to monitor our Biocontrol insects around the Gympie Region. Once again, all stages of the insects life cycles were located in most of our release sites, which is expected due to the change in season.

Our leaf tying caterpillars transferred onto fresh cats claw creeper after our initial release last month and we are hoping that after pupation they will remain around their release site so that they can be easily located and monitored.



A huge thank you to our volunteers Chris and Rita, who donated numerous water plants for us to grow on for sale in our retail nursery next Summer.

## Environment & Conservation Specials for Members



As a way of showing our appreciation to our members, we are currently offering a special on all Environmental Conservation Services, including weed management, riparian restoration, revegetation and vegetation maintenance, plus many more!

We are offering a reduced service rate of only \$49 per hour\*, excluding GST, for all Environmental Conservation services.

Please be advised that you must be a current member of Gympie & District Landcare Group Inc. in order to receive the reduced service rate and you must maintain your membership over the period of works being conducted.

### Environmental Conservation Services Available:

Gympie & District Landcare Group's Environmental Conservation Team offer contract services which can assist you in meeting your biosecurity obligations and improving the overall quality of your land.

With the high prevalence of local weeds in our region, such as Giant Rat's Tail Grass and Cat's Claw Creeper, it is extremely important to treat these species before an infestation develops. Our team are committed to providing the best environmental outcomes to the community through a range of specialist land care services. These services include:-

- Environmental Property Consultancies – including vegetation surveys and land management advice.
- Pest Management & Environmental Works Plans
- Bushland Regeneration including advice on species selection, the supply of native tube stock, labour, watering, and maintenance.
- Riparian Restoration
- Native Timber Establishment, Environmental & Carbon offsets & Maintenance
- Revegetation
- Vegetation Maintenance
- Weed Removal utilising a quick spray unit, knapsack spot spraying and tree spears for woody weeds.

**For more information about accessing these services, please contact our office on (07) 5483 8866 or email our Environmental Conservation Manager via [ecm@gympielandcare.org.au](mailto:ecm@gympielandcare.org.au)**

\* vs Standard service rate of \$55 per hour, excluding GST

## A Great Day Out At Our Recent Cover Cropping Workshop

We recently held our first workshop of the year on a lovely property out at Glastonbury – the topic being the long awaited Cover Cropping and Small Grazing Management, which we had promised to reschedule since being affected by Covid-19 last year.



We had a wonderful turnout and the weather even turned up for us on the day, creating a lovely atmosphere that was neither too hot or too dry.

Our hosts Karren and Warren were extremely informative and we all loved how open and honest they were about their own personal successes and failures in managing the farm. Everybody could really get a sense of the passion that this couple has in their quest for becoming a completely regenerative farm set-up.



Karen began our day by holding a talk about the property – what they have tried to achieve over the last 5 years and how successful they have been in achieving this, whilst continually adapting their grazing management techniques. Karen taught us all about the importance of multi-species cover cropping to not only assist with biodiversity, but also to “upgrade” the network of root systems ultimately increasing the different nutrients that are shared between plants under the surface.

Karen also taught us about some of the techniques that she has learnt by studying the works of reputable regenerative agriculturalists, such as Joel Salatin, Dr Christine Jones and Allan Savory. These included aspects such as the amount of moisture your soil will retain at different soil temperatures and planting multi-species grasses to aid in plant root networking.

Warren then led us around the farm to show us their new water contours and we are now definitely looking into arranging a more detailed workshop on the topic of water contouring.

All in all we had a wonderful day and learnt some great techniques and advice from Karren and Warren. We must say a big thank you to them for having us all for the day, and also to their young sons who did a fantastic job being Karen’s helpful assistants for the day.



## 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?

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](mailto:admin-assistant@gympielandcare.org.au) and we will provide one for you to pick up from our office.



## Transition to Regenerative, Sustainable Grazing – Free Workshop – 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021, 9am to 1pm at Goomeri Golf Club

WHAT IF YOU COULD GROW MORE NUTRIENT DENSE PASTURE, SPEND LESS and GROW MORE KILO's PER BEAST, QUICKER?

And what if you could do this while reducing chemical input use? With biological land management, it's possible.

THERE'S GOT TO BE A BETTER WAY!!! Its' a common statement we hear from farmers looking to revitalise their pasture – and there is a better way that starts with a mind shift.

In this free half-day workshop we'll show you how you can easily, transition to a more regenerative, sustainable and profitable farming system.

Following the presentation, we will travel 10 minutes to Rob Atkinson's property where you can have a hands on look at what Rob has achieved using these principles.

### What you will learn

- The importance of biology for soil, pasture & animal health
- Diversity in pasture species
- Pasture management in a biological system for maximum productivity
- Hear Rob Atkinsons transition success story
- The role of dung beetles in your paddocks

### Guest Speakers include:

- Danny Hood & Terry Stokes from BOSS (Aust)
- John Moor from Growmoor Biological
- Rob Atkinson from Atkinson Pastoral Company

### Special Notes:

Morning Tea is included and lunch is available on the farm for a small fee  
Please bring a hat for the Farm Tour and also a chair.

**To book for this workshop, please contact Terry on 0499 483 779 or 07 5442 8473 or by email to [terry@bossaust.com](mailto:terry@bossaust.com)**



Learn how you can  
**Transition to Regenerative, Sustainable Grazing**  
for increased productivity and profitability

**FREE WORKSHOP & FARM TOUR**  
Wednesday 28 April 2021 - 9:00am - 1:00pm  
Goomeri Golf Club, Goomeri



### 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.

## Conference Room Now Available for Hire

The Community and Gympie Landcare members are welcome to hire our Conference Room facility. Our meeting room includes air-conditioning, tables, chairs, a projector, screen, whiteboard and kitchen facilities. The venue can seat 30 people configured in cinema style.



### Occasional use – prices effective 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020

1 Hour (minimum 2 hours) – **\$25.00**

Half day (4 hours) – **\$55.00**

Full day (8 hours) – **\$95.00**

Costs for regular use of our venue by clubs or groups will be determined on request. Please contact our office on (07) 5483 8866 to obtain a copy of our Terms & Conditions, as well as a Booking Form.

## Our Containers for Change Drop-Off Depot is Now Open



Did you know that by returning your containers at the Gympie Landcare Nursery, our organisation receives a 1.5 cent donation for EVERY container that you return – and this doesn't even come off your refund!

We use these funds to support our Junior Landcare Program, aimed at inspiring and educating young people in the Gympie region to practice sustainable regenerative land management practices and environmental sustainability.

### How Does It Work?

Bring in your recycled containers and pop them into the designated purple bins. All funds from the containers in the bins are donated to Gympie Landcare.

If you would like to claim your own change for the containers, you must use and fill your own multi-use plastic bag, before printing and sticking your label on the front and placing in the cage-bin provided.

**Please note:** We do not give cash for container exchanges as we are an 'Express Depot'. Return-It Queensland will deposit all funds directly to the bank account that you have nominated upon creating your Containers for Change account. For all enquiries relating directly to containers or refund amounts, please contact Return-It directly on (07) 3390 1377.

Labels are sourced from the 'Return It' kiosk – we have instructions available if you need any help.

**If you would like to donate the funds from your entire bag of containers to Gympie Landcare, all you need to do is provide our code for the sticker: C10161523**

*Did you know that when you donate your container funds to our organisation, we receive a total of 11.5 cents per eligible container!*

### **OPENING HOURS:**

Tuesday – Friday: 8.30am – 3.30pm / Saturdays 9:00am to 1:00pm / Closed Public Holidays



