

## Summer Edition

Newsletter issue 49 - Summer 2021/22

### Big numbers at horses workshop

Over 35 landholders turned out for a *Healthy Land, Healthy Horses* workshop at Landsborough's School of Arts, Community Hall on Saturday 27 November. The free, property management for horses, workshop was presented in collaboration with Healthy Land & Water & the Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group.



Regional Agricultural Landcare Facilitator, Bruce Lord, was the keynote presenter

Topics covered included pasture management and healthy pastures for horses, forage budgeting, weed management, and protection of waterways. Local Vet, Stuart Bryce, provided well received advice on horse health, nutrition and linkages to sustainable land management. The workshop concluded with a field visit to a local Glenview property, inspecting well managed pastures.

The workshop was delivered through MRL's Seqwater funded *Ewen Maddock Dam Water Supply Program* project, now in its second year.

Eligible landholders in Ewen Maddock Dam catchment can receive financial assistance for improved property management actions. Express your interest in this initiative by emailing Sandra at: [catchmentofficer@mrwl.org.au](mailto:catchmentofficer@mrwl.org.au)

**Nursery opening:** Wednesday—8.00am to 4.00pm Saturday—9.00am to 1.00pm

**Volunteer days:** Monday & Tuesday **MRL phone:** (07) 5494 5074

**Nursery email:** [nursery@mrwl.org.au](mailto:nursery@mrwl.org.au) **General email:** [coordinator@mrwl.org.au](mailto:coordinator@mrwl.org.au)



Feature story—Peachester local, Hans Tiltman, Page 3

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*Lophostemon confertus* (brush box—flowers) © tatters:) November 16 2008



## Coordinators corner

As 2021 draws to an end, I wanted to give thanks to all our volunteers for another dedicated year with MRL. We celebrated all their efforts at the MRL Volunteer Christmas Party last week, held at the Mooloolah Valley Country Club.

Without the generous assistance of volunteers, MRL couldn't provide the various services that we offer.

Our volunteers also bring in their knowledge, experience, ideas and passion, which makes us a greater organisation. So, THANKS! :)

Have a fabulous festive season.



## Nursery musings

The Glossy Black Cockatoo, the MRL mascot, is an endangered species due to habitat loss. In our region, preferred food trees for Glossy Black Cockatoo are both *Allocasuarina* species. Why not plant some today. Both *Allocasuarina* species are in stock at the MRL nursery.



Photo: Redland City Council

Did you know that the MRL nursery's plant species list has increased by more than 30 new species in the past year? A current [stock list](#) can be found on the MRL website.

### Is Volunteering for You?

If you've ever considered volunteering and have an interest in the environment, perhaps you'd like to join us at MRL. We have lots of plants to produce this year, and not quite enough hands to do it! Only stay as long as your schedule suits.

If you'd like to be involved, pop in and see us on a volunteering day or contact the nursery at [nursery@mrwl.org.au](mailto:nursery@mrwl.org.au).

### Fast Facts:

Our volunteers help us to provide;

- ◆ our ever increasing range of native plant species on offer
- ◆ pot recycling free to the public
- ◆ weed control options and advice,
- ◆ cane toad trapping
- ◆ educational workshops
- ◆ donations of plants
- ◆ work experience training and plenty more.

### Fast Facts:

- ◆ *A. littoralis*, the black she-oak, and *A. torulosa*, the forest oak, are the main trees used by glossy blacks in our region
- ◆ retaining big old hollow trees for nesting will help ensure the glossy's future

### Volunteering

- ◆ volunteers usually come in on a Monday or Tuesday
- ◆ work with like-minded people
- ◆ get your hands dirty while helping the environment—propagating, tubing, assisting on project-specific initiatives, catching biocontrol bugs
- ◆ share morning tea discussing plants, animals, nature, the weekend and plenty more.

## From Nursery to Nature

MRL's long term member and nature enthusiast, Hans Tiltman, has created a nature wonderland at his Peachester property. Using native tubestock and unwanted excess plants from his job as a landscaper, he has transformed his block from a grass-weed dominated hillside, to an attractive, diverse and ecologically valuable patch of nature—in only 4 years!

Hans bought the property in late 2017. Being a 'doer' he wanted a project to tinker on in his down-time—the steep, weed-filled hillside was certainly that.

Fortunately, one of Hans' mantras is 'the more species, the better' and he went about collecting and planting as many locally native species as he could get his hands on. The ideas evolved as he learnt more about the land, where the wet areas are, where the soil conditions change. He has now created a combination of gorgeous landscaped gardens and wild, natural areas. One achievement is that his backyard now entices finches to nest, in only four years of evolution.

The best part is that his efforts have encouraged four other neighbours to embark on similar plantings. Hans helps them select species and pitches in with the planting and maintenance, creating an even more valuable natural resource.

The 'Let's go for a Walk' group will head to Hans' place on Saturday February 19th, details on fb and emailed to members.

Thanks for inviting me to see your place Hans, and well done! Karen



Hans with his newly created backyard.

### Fast Facts:

- ◆ planting of Hans' block commenced in March 2018
- ◆ block transformed from a devoid, degraded hillside to a diverse ecosystem in less than four years
- ◆ a realised aim of the project was to entice finches to nest
- ◆ an unexpected benefit was the interest by neighbours in undertaking similar projects on their land!



- ◆ native grasses, flowers and landscaped areas encourage a diverse range of wildlife.



## Biocontrol news

**Introducing The Weed Warriors: MRL's youth group dedicated to protecting our waterways by busting weeds!**

The program focuses on raising awareness about weeds in our local area and riparian zones through fun and engaging youth-led community events such as regular Weed Walks.

Follow Mooloolah River Landcare on social media for Weed Warrior event updates or email Jessica: [mrwl.projects@gmail.com](mailto:mrwl.projects@gmail.com)

### Biocontrol Facility Update:

Summer is Beetle Bioagent Season! Although it is a busy time of year, visitors and beetle catching volunteers are welcome to the facility. If you'd like to take a peek at what a biocontrol facility is all about, catch some beetles at the facility or be involved in our field activities, please email Jessica: [mrwl.projects@gmail.com](mailto:mrwl.projects@gmail.com)



Maddy identifying weeds with young helpers Erica and Claire Schmidt



Madeira vine before beetle infestation (left) and after beetle attack (right)

### Fast Facts:

- ◆ invasive weeds are one of the biggest threats to our natural environment.
- ◆ Weed Warriors are the force behind Wicked Weeds, a new Mooloolah River Landcare project, supported by a Seqwater community grant.
- ◆ MRL's new, youth-led group is keen to help protect and regenerate our riparian ecosystems by connecting with locals keen to learn about weeds.
- ◆ Weed Walks are scheduled for the 1st Saturday of each month and open to the community, all ages and abilities are welcome!
- ◆ Summer is the busiest beetle harvest period for release into the field, helping in the battle against cats claw creeper & Madeira vine.
- ◆ Also known as lambs' tail, Madeira vine is a Weed of National Significance and is an ecosystem destroyer.
- ◆ It is identified by fleshy heart-shaped leaves, succulent appearance and aerial tubers.



## Photo Gallery—MRL Christmas party and bare foot bowls



Left—Jim, Suzanne and Leesa puzzling over what to do next and Right— Rod and Alan vs Karen and Sandra



Staff and volunteers get into the festive spirit

AND some seasons greetings from MRL coordinator Karen Schmidt.

At MRL, we love hearing about how our native tubestock is going months or years after leaving the nursery. But to see them thriving in their end-location is next-level stuff! I was lucky enough to be invited to a member's property recently to see the fantastic transformation that's been made to a bare block, using native tubestock. Hans was only too happy to feature in this addition of the newsletter and to showcase the wonderful outcomes he has achieved.

Each tubestock planted, nurtured and protected at Hans' place has created a diverse patch of vegetation, provided a plethora of fruit, foliage, seeds and cover for wildlife, and created connectivity between vegetation. It's a good reminder that each small action adds up to make a significant difference and we can all create a positive impact through our collective actions. I hope we can hear more stories in 2022, about the changes in the landscape that our members are creating.

We hope you had a great Christmas, from all at MRL.

# Project News

## Macroinvertebrate Monitoring

MRL's 20 year water quality monitoring program continues at many sites on the Mooloolah River. In the past year, macro-invertebrate monitoring was also added to provide a fuller picture of waterway health.



Leesa helps Bev Brocklehurst remove wet boots after a testing run of the River

## New Biocontrol Intern

USC Animal Ecology student Rex Danielle Gruspe, will commence an internship placement at the Biocontrol Facility in January. Rex is pictured with Leesa and Jessica, with whom he has already been volunteering. There are plenty of tasks to complete come the New Year.



## Native Plant Butterfly Garden

The MRL Butterfly Garden continues to provide surprises. Filled with local native plants, the garden is host to a wide range of caterpillars.



Checkered swallowtail caterpillar on *Cullen tenax* (Emu foot)

## Fast Facts:

### Macroinvertebrate monitoring:

#### KEY findings in 2021:

- ◆ monthly invertebrate study activities are open to the public
- ◆ anyone in the community is welcome to help monitor Mooloolah River health
- ◆ to get involved, contact Biocontrol officer Jessica Raintree at [mrwl.projects@gmail.com](mailto:mrwl.projects@gmail.com)

### MRL Butterfly Garden

- ◆ during spring, checkered swallowtail, white nymph and common grass blue butterflies laid their eggs in the garden
- ◆ there were also a fine selection of (difficult to identify) moths that used the garden
- ◆ the team and volunteers were very excited to watch the lifecycle from egg-to caterpillar-to chrysalis-to butterfly/moth
- ◆ MRL welcomes visitors to the butterfly garden, so pop in to learn more about native plants that you can grow in your garden to support local butterflies.



Photo courtesy of Robert Whyte and SOWN

## Plant of the season: *Lophostemon confertus* (brush box)

*Lophostemon*....Greek lophos, a tuft of hair, and stemon, a thread (stamen) describing the flowers; *confertus*....Latin compressed, dense  
Attractive, large tree in the Myrtaceae family. Prefers full sun in well drained soils. In stock now at MRL nursery.

### Fast Facts:

- ◆ up to 35 meters in rainforest edges and was a multi use timber species
- ◆ half bark - rough scaly bark at the base, smooth pink/brown above
- ◆ shade tree that is fire retardant and drought tolerant once established
- ◆ bee and bird attracting, butterfly plant, koala food tree.

The MRL Landcare Led Bushfire Recovery Grant project, announced in our last newsletter, is supported by the Australian Government's Bushfire Recovery Program for Wildlife and their Habitat.

If you are interested in learning more about this project or would like to apply for free plants, drop into the Nursery or send us an email [coordinator@mrwl.org.au](mailto:coordinator@mrwl.org.au). As part of this project, a tree planting event will be undertaken in April, stay tuned for more details.

### Fast Facts:

- ◆ donating >2000 plants to the local community
- ◆ releasing >5000 biocontrol agents
- ◆ increasing seed collecting effort
- ◆ controlling 5ha of riparian weeds
- ◆ hosting community workshops e.g. weed management and conducting rainforest walks

