



## Wallaga Lake Heights community newsletter 6, 22 May 2020

Hullo neighbours and welcome to our sixth newsletter. We have news and a new identity, more of which below.

### Grant submissions to WIRES/Landcare and BVSC

#### **WIRES/Landcare grant**

As noted in the last newsletter, the grant to WIRES/Landcare has been submitted and receipt acknowledged. We are following up and will let the neighbourhood know when we hear any news.

#### **BVSC sustainability grant**

At the beginning of this week we submitted a proposal the Bega Valley Shire Council for a sustainability grant. This has also been acknowledged. Heartfelt thanks go to Peter Campbell who did battle with a ... challenging ... web-based document that needed re-inputting more than once. On the strength of this Peter has found himself seconded to the steering group – welcome Peter!

### Weed identification and clearing with Greg Watts

Greg, the arborist we have been consulting for our grant applications, joined an informal gathering of neighbours along the embankment by Wallaga Lake. The group spread out and walked along the top of the bank, then along the foreshore track between 19 and 35 Lake View Drive. Greg met several of the people living along the lake and answered questions. He identified some of the bad weeds we should eliminate but also a good number of beneficial native plants.

#### **Progress in clearing invasive weeds**

Greg demonstrated an effective technique for painting poison onto the stumps after we cut the weeds. A number of people including Greg then stayed on to tackle the large patch of weeds below no 35, targeting the blackberries, lantana and bamboo. It will take another few afternoons to get on top of this. It will be necessary to clear a path into the bamboo as it needs to be cut, pasted then all cut material removed.

Plumbago below number 31 has been removed, and the same will be done with the invasive tecoma on the fence. Progress is being made on bush bashing lantana and blackberry at various places along the bank. Umbrella trees, elderflower tree and Turkish rhubarb are being cleared below number 21, along with the widespread tecoma.

Clearing and removing the prickly pear at the bottom of 27 will need another afternoon or two. The prolific ipomoea vine is being cleared, after which it will be essential to find the main trunk and poison it.

**STOP PRESS 21 May** – one main trunk found, severed and poisoned: progress, hooray!

These activities clearing and poisoning weeds will be the focus for the next few Tuesday afternoons. It is a daunting task but working as a group is rewarding and professional help is wonderful.

#### **What next? Some restoration after all that weeding**

After getting rid of weeds one sets about restoring the area. Some banksia and callistemon planted at the top of the bank is a small but promising start. Greg found Kangaroo Grass – a traditional grain used by the Indigenous inhabitants for tens of thousands of years – under a coastal grey gum. It is planned to peg off an area so that hopefully, with a cultural burn, we can get it to spread nicely.

Photos are being taken as work proceeds along the top and bottom of the reserve.

TAFE will be running some online bushfire regeneration/Landcare groups but they aren't yet advertised. We will let people know how to sign up when they come online.

**Would you like to help?**

With the Bermagui growers' market re-opening we are shifting the weeding and planting effort to **Tuesday** afternoons, starting at 2 pm and going on until we feel the need for a cup of tea, usually by about 3.30. Anybody who would like to join in please contact one of us – it's a lot of fun!

**New identity: Heights Care – caring for Wallaga Lake Heights**

For the grant applications and to choose a punchier name than '*The Wallaga Lake Heights Community Landcare Group*', we have settled on a new one. 'Heights' places us geographically, 'Care' reflects consideration for both our community and the environment. The sub-heading makes these explicit.

We have sought the support of members of the Yuin community to use their totem, the black duck, in our logo. We are delighted they agreed, and the black duck is respectfully incorporated. Sincere thanks to Ivana Gattegno for the artwork.

**Best wishes, Heights Care steering group,**

Roz, Libby, Peter, Ivana, Doug, Bill