

WHAT'S ON...AUGUST 2010

The monthly bulletin of the Upper Barwon Landcare Network

Dung Beetle and Earthworm workshop— Dean Suckling is presenting this workshop on Thursday 5th August between 10:30am— 12:30pm in the Birregurra hall. The workshop will help participants understand the functions of Dung Beetles and Earthworms. It will cover their benefits to soil health and how they assist in nutrient cycling, water infiltration, aeration and building soil organic matter. Dean has been working on Dung Beetles with the Heytesbury Landcare Network and will give an overview of the releases there. He will also discuss how management practices affect their activity.

Interpreting Soil Test Results workshop— Cam Nicolson will lead this intensive workshop on Thursday 19th August between 10:00am—3:00pm in the Birregurra hall. Bring along your recent soil results to find out what the numbers really mean. Cam will lead a discussion on potential fertilizer options based on these tests.

Anyone is welcome to attend either of these workshops. Please RSVP to the UBLN office on 5236 2401 or neil@ubln.org.au by Monday 2nd August for the Dung Beetles or Tuesday 17th August for Soil Test Results if you are attending.

There is no cost to attend either of these workshops and catering is provided. These workshops are supported by a Woolworths Sustainable Farming Grant.

Jigsaw Farms trip— A bus trip has been organized to visit Jigsaw Farms near Hamilton on Tuesday 10th of August. The bus will depart the Birregurra hall at 8:30am and return late afternoon. Cost is \$25 per person. RSVP is essential to the UBLN office by Friday 6th August. Jigsaw Farms covers almost 5,000 hectares and is made up of several farms from the original Potter Farmland Plan demonstration farms from the 1980's plus some other properties. The owners, Mark Wooton and Eve Kantors' philosophy is to bring all the pieces of the sustainable farming puzzle together— hence the name of the property. Extensive re-vegetation together with erosion and salinity control works have been carried out with over a million trees having been planted. The aim is to have 30% of the property planted to permanent forests, agroforestry and protected wetlands that enhance productivity.

Barwon Rivercare Meeting— Next meeting will be in the Uniting Church hall at 7pm on Thursday 29th July. Jenniy Gregory from DPI will be giving a presentation on 'Geothermal Technologies'

Murroon Landcare Group— next meeting will be held at 12:30 pm on Friday 30th July at Jan and Peter Greigs' property. The meeting will include a presentation on the Otway LEAF project. There will also be a brief presentation on the 'structure' of Landcare, the roles of the various bodies, and how they interact. BYO lunch. Tea and coffee supplied.

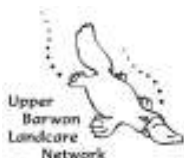
Irrewarra Farmcare Group— next activity will be on Wednesday 18th August. It is a trip to Lismore to look at some of the biological farming work that the Lismore Land Protection Group has been running. Bus will leave Irrewarra Football Club at 10am. This trip is funded by a Sue Hickey memorial grant and members from other groups are invited to join in.

Wurdale Landcare Group— no plans for a July meeting. A quick catch up will held at the Dung Beetle workshop to decide the August activity

Whole Farm Planning course— Starting early August this course will be run at the Irrewarra Football Clubrooms. It is based on the new FarmPlan 21 program and will include an introduction to iFarmer, a web based mapping tool with aerial image of your property. Contact Nerissa Lovric 5233 5508 for further details.

Community Action Grants— The 2010 round of Federal Government funded 'Community Action Grants' are open for amounts between \$5,000—20,000. Contact the UBLN office for assistance if your group has a project proposal. Further details at <http://www.nrm.gov.au/cag/index.html>

Growing the Next Wave of Rural Leaders in Western Victoria— Organized by WestVic Dairy, this 40 hour course is to be conducted at King Parrot Cottages starting on Friday 27th August. It is aimed at people who already have a leadership role in their community. Preference will be given to people involved in Agribusiness or farming. Contact Karen Wales for further details on 5562 0021 or karen.wales@bigpond.com



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