



## SEEDS TO REEDS

### LOWER LAKES COMMUNITY NURSERIES NEWSLETTER

Lakes Community Nursery Project is growing!

Welcome to the first newsletter of the Lower Lakes Community Nursery Project. Through this newsletter we would like to share with you the experiences of the nurseries involved, and provide details and information on up and coming events within the nurseries.

First Edition Dec 2009

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## **Introduction and project outline:**

The purpose of the establishment of the community nurseries is to collectively grow approximately 130,000 plants to help revegetate the Lower Lakes.

The initiative is managed by the Milang Progress Association inc. And is part of the Lower Lakes Bioremediation and Revegetation Project funded by the Australian Government and supported by the South Australian Department for Environment and Heritage.

## **Community Nursery Coordinator**



Meet Jo McPhee, the Community Nurseries Project Officer for the Lower Lakes Bio-remediation and Revegetation project.

Jo has recently been appointed to this position and has a horticultural background with years of propagating experience. She has two children and lives in Goolwa. Jo is a member of the Hindmarsh Island Landcare Group and is interested in environmental issues and helping to save the lower lakes.

Jo believes that the sharing of information and resources within the groups will be an integral part in

the success of this project and it provides a unique opportunity to bring people together for the benefit of the environment.

If you wish to become a nursery volunteer or need more information call in to the Lakes Hub office at Shop 2, 10 Daranda Tce Milang or phone 85 370 808.

## **Nursery Activities**

In total there are seven nurseries involved in the project along with some private growers who are linked in with the community nursery in their area.

Some of the nurseries are already established, and they include: Melaleuca Nursery at Meningie, private growers Robert & Margaret Mrongovius at Narrung, Raukkan Nursery, Hindmarsh Island Landcare Group, Alexandrina Community Nursery at Goolwa, and the Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Group which is based at the Strathalbyn Natural Resource Centre.



Training with Robert



Filling the shade house at Melaleuca

Melaleuca nursery at Meningie, and Robert and Margaret Mrongovius at Narrung have propagated almost all of their *Myoporum insulare* (Coastal Boobialla), and *Muehlenbeckia florulenta* (Lignum) cuttings. These add up to approximately 19,500 cuttings. Robert has kindly donated his time to teach the volunteers how to propagate the cuttings and his expertise has been invaluable.

The Clayton Bay Community Nursery is starting from scratch and both the Milang and Finniss nurseries are undergoing renovations to be ready for propagation to begin in November and December.



In October we have been busy finalising species lists of plants to be grown by each nursery. The collation and delivery of materials such as tubes and trays, soil, fertiliser and seed has been organised so the nurseries will be ready to start propagating.

Most of the nurseries have begun propagating the species that need to be sown in November/December.

The other nurseries are well underway with their seed sowing and most of them are growing between 6 and 10 different species with the exception of Alexandrina Nursery who are growing approximately 20 different species of plants.

Richard Owen and members from the Hindmarsh Island Landcare Group have played a key role in assisting the nurseries who are propagating for the first time.

With years of propagating experience behind them their advice has been extremely valuable.

Hindmarsh Island Nursery



The Milang Community Nursery at The Milang Environment Centre had a fantastic turn up at their working bee on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> Dec and propagated almost 6,000 tubes. This was a great effort and proves that many hands do make light work.



## Lakes Eco Skills - Training Skills Network

The Milang, Finniss, Clayton Bay and Hindmarsh Island nurseries are also linked with the Milang Old School House Community Centre Eco Skills Conservation and Land Management training program. This project is coordinated by Shirley Smith who is also a volunteer with the Finniss Nursery.

Linking these projects has been a huge success as group members are gaining practical experience to coincide with the study they are undertaking and as a result our working bees are well attended. It is also a great way to share resources and knowledge and so far our propagating has been a real team effort.



### Propagating at Clayton Bay



Team members will also be involved in seed collection with the intention of having seed storage facilities at each nursery. The nurseries will therefore be able to supply their own seed for future propagation.

## Nursery Profile: Clayton Bay Community Nursery

The Clayton Bay Community Nursery has started from the ground up and works began in early in 2009. The whole concept of the Clayton nursery was initiated by a grant from the Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Group, and the involvement in the lower lakes revegetation project has sped up the completion process. The nursery is situated near the hall complex and is sharing the grounds with the community gardeners. This adds another dimension to the project as members from both groups are taking an interest in their achievements and sharing knowledge.



The hard work and dedication of Carole Richardson, Suzie Rex, Marion Thompson and members of The Clayton Bay Foreshore Committee has seen this nursery evolve into a successful operation.

They have instigated the on ground works through the employment of Andre Botha who is a landscaper and spends most of his weekends at Clayton Bay as the commodore of the boat club.

The local Green Corps team helped to spread the gravel which was very much appreciated and the shade cloth fence is now up and the irrigation completed. The Finniss nursery has carried out their propagation at Clayton which will give them more time to complete their renovations and return the plants to Finniss later.

Between them Clayton and Finniss are growing a total of 20,000 plants for the revegetation project with a vision to extend the numbers each year. Most of the plants are sown by seed straight into the tubes, but they have also propagated almost 1,000 *Myoporum insulare* from cuttings so it will be interesting to see the results. Private grower Pat Ingleton from Point Sturt is also involved through the Clayton Bay nursery and will be growing 1,000 plants for the project.



**Great teamwork at  
Clayton**



## Lakes Hub Opening at Milang

The opening of the new Lakes Hub office was held on Friday the 4th of December. In front of a crowd of around 60 people the Minister for Environment & Conservation the Hon. Jay Weatherill officially opened the Hub office.

The Lakes Hub is a result of a lot of hard work by Karyn Bradford and Mike Linscott from the Milang Progress Association and Shirley Smith from the Milang Old School House Community Centre who worked closely with Karyn in the early stages.

The purpose of the "Hub" is to provide an information source for the general public on what's happening around the lakes. The staff based at the "Hub" are involved in the revegetation and bioremediation project and will be more than happy to assist wherever they can.



**So call in to the "Hub" anytime between 9am & 5pm Monday to Friday at Shop 2, 10 Daranda Tce Milang for a chat.**

Left to right Wendy White: Lakes Hub Coordinator, Terry Sim: On ground works Project Officer (Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Group), Mike Linscott: Milang Progress Association, Karyn Bradford: MPA, Carole Richardson: Monitoring & Evaluation Project Officer (GWLAP) and Jo McPhee: Lower Lakes Community Nurseries Project Officer.

### **List of Contacts/Suppliers:**

- Woodchuck Landscaping Systems.  
Supplying a large range of nursery equipment including secateurs, fertiliser, sieves, bamboo canes & tree guards etc.  
18 Follett Close Mt Barker. PO Box 1111 Mt Barker SA 5251  
Rod GoodenManager Free call 1800 655 542
- Amgrow, a division of Eco/fertiliser Pty Ltd (also called Envirogreen/Nu Erth Organics)  
Supply of Trees for Life Native Potting Mix. Price as at 26/10/09: \$91.50 per cubic yard. Delivery extra.  
65 Cavan Road Gepps Cross. SA 5094  
Sales free call: 1800 682 221 or contact Leigh Williams 0419 476 827
- Goolwa Transport. Delivery of soil/tubes etc. 47 Gardiner ST Goolwa 5214
- Smoult Horticultural Suppliers. Tubes & racks.  
Unit 4 /28 Maxwell Rd Para Hills West. PO Box 118 Para Hills SA 5096. Phone 8 359 1633.  
Website: [info@smoult.com.au](mailto:info@smoult.com.au)
- Applied Safety & Work wear. First Aid kits, Safety Equipment.  
5 Light Crescent Mt Barker SA 5251. Ph 1300 853 445
- Garden City Plastics. Pots/Trays etc. 53-73 Churchill Rd North Dry Creek. SA 5094. PO Box 205 Dry Creek SA 5094. Ph 8 168 4100 Website: [sa@gardencityplastics.com](mailto:sa@gardencityplastics.com)
- Goolwa Quarries. Supply & deliver gravel.  
Frome Rd Currency Creek. Ph 0418 840 813. Postal address: 11-13 Ferry Avenue Melrose Park SA 5039
- Greg & Ben Dalton: Creation Care. General nursery and revegetation advice. Ph 85 363 075 Nine Mile Rd Strathalbyn. PO Box 2 Strathalbyn SA 5255
- Bio Grow. Suppliers of potting mix.  
194 Jubilee Highway East Mt Gambier . Ph 8 724 5545s