



# Coorong & Tatiara District Local Action Plan Newsletter

Sustainability, Agriculture & the Environment



Winter 2010

## Tatiara Action Plan Committee

A joint Coorong and Tatiara District Council submission to the Commonwealth Caring for our Country Program will receive 4 years of funding totalling \$2.158 million for sustainable agriculture and environmental projects.

The submission was put together by the Coorong District Local Action Plan (LAP) Committee and with the inclusion of the Tatiara District Council area in the Caring for our Country funding it was decided to form a separate Tatiara LAP Committee. This will help encompass 'local' issues and build ownership with the local communities in the Tatiara. The Tatiara and Coorong LAP Committee's will jointly manage the on-ground works program.

This Committee will also guide the preparation of the Tatiara LAP. The preparation of a written Local Action Plan for the area has commenced with the preparation a scoping study of existing plans and strategies and to identify any knowledge gaps.

A call for membership was widely advertised and the first Tatiara LAP Committee meeting was held at Keith on April 19<sup>th</sup>. The new Committee is a section 41 Committee of the Tatiara District Council. The terms of reference and 6 members were adopted by the Tatiara DC at their meeting on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Cr Steve Dick has been nominated as the Tatiara DC representative and Council's Manager for Development and Inspectorial Services, Rocky Callisto, will act in an ex-officio role on the Committee.

To complete the Committee, invitations have been sent to 2 Agricultural Bureaus and the Tatiara Native Vegetation Advisory Committees seeking representation. We are also seeking 2 senior secondary school students for the Committee in order to promote youth participation.

## Project Update

Works proposals from 209 landholders have been submitted and approved by the Coorong Tatiara Local Action Plan for projects that will address wind erosion and improve biodiversity across the Coorong & Tatiara District Council areas. This project has been made possible due to funding from Caring for our Country, South Australian Murray Darling Basin NRM Board, and the Coorong & Tatiara District Councils.

Interest has come from across the total project area with approximately 12,000 hectares of on-ground works and 210 kilometres of fencing planned for 2010. This is a significant increase from previous years with 516 projects approved thus far. The Coorong Tatiara LAP team are extremely pleased with the response they have had to this project for 2010, and look forward to working with all of the landholders involved. The table below summarises all of the project received so far this year.

ON GROUND WORKS	TOTAL (HA)
Erosion Control	262
Fodder Shrubs	71
Establishing Pasture	8700
Establishing Saline Pasture	79
Farm Forestry	12
Clay Spreading	1532
Land Rehabilitation	166
Fencing Remnant Vegetation	932
Revegetation – Block	95
Revegetation – Windbreak	53
Protecting Wetlands	49
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,951</b>

## FENCING THE LAKES

Funding of up to \$6000 a kilometre has been made available for fencing the lake shore around Lake Albert and Alexandrina.

The fencing has been necessary to protect the revegetation and bioremediation trials that have been established on the lake bed. Lakeshore fencing will also help protect the natural regeneration of native vegetation and protect livestock from acid sulphate soils and poor water quality.

70 km of lake shore fencing and 40 alternative watering points has been completed so far within the Coorong LAP's area which involves the Eastern side of Lake Alexandrina and Lake Albert. For more information on the project please call Ken Strother on 0419 049 208



## ORAL HISTORY CDS AVAILABLE

**A CD containing 14 oral histories of the Lower Lakes is now available at all Coorong Council Offices.**

The CD is a product of much work from local historians Terry Sim and Ken Strother. The information has been extracted from a great deal of research at local and state libraries and many interviews.

The project was funded by the South Australian Murray Darling Basin NRM Board.



## APPLY NOW FOR 2011 FUNDING

**Applications are now being sought from landholders interested in undertaking projects around the Lakes and Coorong in 2011.**

The Goolwa to Wellington and Coorong District LAP groups provide incentive funding and technical assistance for projects that improve natural resource management and biodiversity conservation around the Lakes and Coorong.

The program has been running successfully in the area for a number of years and many landholders have made use of this assistance to improve the management and sustainability of their properties.

Funding and technical advice is available to landholders for a range of activities including:

- Fencing wetlands
- Fencing remnant vegetation
- Revegetation
- Fencing revegetation sites
- Fencing for stock management
- Setting up stock watering points (in conjunction with other fencing activities)

Planning and preparation are the key to successful projects, with many requiring a good lead-in time for local seed to be collected, tubestock to be grown and thorough site preparation to be undertaken. For this reason interested landholders should register their interest by completing and returning an expression of interest form.

For more information on the funding available, to discuss your project ideas or to organise a property visit contact Will Miles, Coorong and Lower Lakes Project Officer on (08) 8536 4476 or 0427 917 515.



## RESILIENT FARMING SYSTEMS SOILS PROJECT

This project, with 9 experimental sites around Bordertown, is investigating how to address soil issues that affect water use efficiencies in crops and pasture. It is supported by the Advisory Board of Agriculture and the MacKillop Farm Management Group with funding from Caring for our Country.

Despite the heat wave conditions of November affecting crop yields last year, there was a strong indication of yield increases where organic matter at 6 t/ha drymatter or clay previously spread or delved was incorporated to 35 cm by spading on sandy soils.

This year the work will further evaluate the benefits and the residual value of the spading treatments.

It was a different story on the heavier red brown loams at the Bordertown High School farm, where the spaded treatments yielded less or the same as the Nill treatment unless 5 t/ha of gypsum was incorporated. The yield loss was due to the spader bringing sodic subsurface clay to the surface. The clay reduced plant growth and caused water to pond on the surface. In addition the dry hot conditions of November severely affected the available water during grain fill on the heavier soils.

This year the benefits of controlled traffic and the major nutrient and trace element status of crops on the heavier soils will be monitored and related to crop water usage, vegetative crop growth and final grain yields. These measurements will be used to evaluate APSIM and Yield for Profit at the local level.



For further information contact: Jock McFarlane, Rural Solutions SA, 87629100.

## FOX MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

Foxlights are a new product invented by Ian Whelan which helps deter predators from their prey. The foxlights operate with a sensor that allows the light to only work between sunset and sunrise and powered by a 6V battery. The light flashes intermittently to make it appear as if there is someone in the paddock.

The foxlight is user friendly in that it can be placed either on a fence line or on a dropper. Clients who have already purchased and used these lights are impressed in the way they work and the protection they give.



The foxlights are currently available from Elders Keith 8755 1833 and can be purchased for \$72.95 inc GST (battery excluded).

## DON'T FORGET THE MALLEE SUSTAINABLE FARMING FIELD DAYS

[Waikerie September 7th 2010](#)

[Karoonda September 14th 2010](#)

## RESOURCES AVAILABLE AT THE CTLAP

- ⇒ Water Salinity testing
- ⇒ Salinity meter
- ⇒ WC Diamond tree planter
- ⇒ Pottiputki tree planters
- ⇒ Plant and weed identification

## PASTURE CROPPING AND NO KILL

Both Colin Seis and Bruce Maynard operate family farms in moderate rainfall areas of NSW, but the principals that they applied to rescue their land and family enterprises from collapse have been applied with similar success in other climates.

After a fire devastated his merino/cropping property in the early nineties, Colin Seis was faced with a serious rebuilding effort. Colin reflected on the conventional farming practices with which his family had been managing the property for generations. He changed his management based on the fact that "high inputs were sending them broke". Modern agriculture was decimating his grasslands and soils, creating conditions for weeds, was not profitable, had no summer pasture and required increasing fertiliser rates.

So he changed his management. He began by carefully managing grazing on the native pastures that regenerated after the fire. After three or four years "natural" succession led to a productive perennial pasture. After a couple more years the pasture productivity had increased over the conventional farming systems levels over the fence (on his elder brother's block) and he had reduced his DAP application by 70%. Colin is rebuilding his soils, increasing the soil organic carbon and water holding capacity. By scrapping the plow he has allowed the good soil biota to recover and make more nutrients and moisture available to plants.

What really flies in the face of conventional farming is that Colin has built these pastures in his cropping paddocks as well. Yes there was a production "dip", but it was just a dip. The benefits of maintaining a healthy grassland ecosystem include greater productivity. The summer active grasses are shaded and out-competed by the winter crop and six weeks after harvest. Colin's stock have rich pasture to graze. He also points out that "pasture cropping into winter active pastures doesn't produce as much of a competition issue as you might think. The more diverse and dense our grassland is the more productive our crop is". To the consternation of local agronomists, Colin stopped using insecticides and fungicides over ten years ago. He hasn't had a crop pathogen problem or any disease damage in over ten years.

Financially, Colin's vastly decreased input costs and increased pasture area and productivity

balanced against the initial decrease in yield. Now, Colin has less costs and more productivity (including crop yield) than comparable farms. He is also building his fundamental capital asset – healthy soil and ecology. Colin spent \$5/hd to feed his sheep in 2009. His elder brother over the fence ("a traditional best practice cropping/grazing property") spent \$40/hd.

How does this system work in the Mallee? With half the rainfall that Colin receives what impact would this have on competition and productivity. Many Mallee farmers have been successfully growing crops over medics for years. Growing canola with wheat has also been shown to work very well. EverCrop has begun extensive trials in WA, but the early focus has been in the 350-500mm rainfall areas on deep pale sands, though results have certainly been encouraging. Trial sites in lower rainfall districts are being developed. Speaking at the course in Berri, EverCrop WA Project leader David Ferris explained that their focus was to test the viability, quantify performance and develop informed decision making tools for land managers. David said that growers were attracted to the Pasture Cropping examples because they wanted to improve soil health, grow more summer feed and increase the potential for income through livestock.

An interesting result from the initial trial data was that more soil moisture was recorded where a seeder had inadvertently sown the crop into the pasture furrow. In these instances, ridge moisture was 9% whilst furrow moisture was 14%. Over-all quality penalty was very low and yield penalty was very low (14%). Yield penalty was higher at 80 N over 50 N. Add to that the productivity from 2.6t/ha feed six weeks after cropping. David explained that the most interest is coming from managers with mixed farming systems, meat dominant systems and or with large areas of poor sand.

Bruce Maynard started thinking along the same lines as Colin for similar reasons. His crisis wasn't the result of a devastating fire. Financial and family issues demanded that Bruce change his management practices or go broke. He was busy spending his time spending money on farm inputs that weren't producing. Bruce tells us that he decided to manage his family business for "profit not productivity". It's worth noting that Bruce's farm is more productive now than it was when he was using best practice conventional

## PASTURE CROPPING AND NO-KILL

farming and he has time for his family and other interests. Under a conventional farming system his farm required four to five full-time labour units. Bruce has tripled production and his farm requires a half a labour unit.

As a lad Colin remembers his dad looking at successfully established paddock of sown pasture and commenting that it was a shame that they had to remove it to grow their crop. After educating himself about ecology and soil health Bruce was thinking along similar lines. Bruce decided to manage healthy grassland for livestock and crop production. Conventional farming systems do the opposite. He developed principals that enabled him to grow a productive crop into pasture, eliminate annual weeds,

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Bruce's input costs are \$5-\$7/ acre and he gets a high return. He reasons that traditional wisdom dictates that more yield translates to more profit, (e.g. 12 bags to the acre with 8 bags input leaves 4 bags profit, which is better than 10 bags from 8 leaving 2 profit) yet what if you put in a bit less to get a bit less but got more profit and had good pasture underneath? Bruce, Colin and many others have proved that they can spend less to achieve better profits on their farms.

What about yields? I had to ask: "food security" is a vital concern, given the rising global population and depleting soil resource can the market afford even a temporary dip in production that may result from a move away

from conventional farming? Colin made the point that pasture cropping represents a greatly reduced erosion risk, enabling growers to reap crops from land classes that shouldn't be cropped with conventional techniques. Furthermore, pasture cropping and no-kill cropping can help renovate degraded pasture far quicker than good grazing alone – as long as erosion risk is managed effectively.

EverCrop, the Murray Mallee Local Action Planning Association, PIRSA, SAMDBNRM Board and members of the farming community have just accessed a small grant to trial Pasture Cropping and No-Kill Cropping in the Murray Mallee. Here's a thought though, try it on a hectare or an acre or a quarter acre at your

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19<sup>th</sup> t o 20<sup>th</sup> o f  
J u l y 2010 a n d

at the Mt Pleasant Natural Resource Centre on the 22<sup>nd</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> of July 2010.

**For more information contact: Danielle Bonnington, Course Coordinator, The Advanced Pasture Cropping Company on 0402 211 657 or [danielle@pasturecropping.com](mailto:danielle@pasturecropping.com).**

Article by George King  
Murray Mallee LAP

Picture:  
*Trial plots at Trangie Research Station showing Pasture Cropping to the left, No Kill Cropping to the right and the weedy annual pasture that they were sown into in the centre.*



## SANDHILL REHABILITATION CASE STUDY - JABUK

Bulldozing, fertilizing and planting with perennial grass was the action undertaken by Mallee farmer Ian Farley to successfully rehabilitate an eroding sandhill on his property. When he overtook the Marmon Hill property on the Jabuk Marmon Range he soon discovered an area that had experienced a significant sand drift for almost 40 years from a 90-foot sandhill.

Mr Farley described the sandhill as an “eyesore” with “sand blowing everywhere covering around 10 acres”. “I first thought that I could use the hill as a recreational park, but I believe that we have to make our farms sustainable for the future,” Mr Farley said. “At the moment we are cropping a lot of our sandy soils and I think we are over-cropping them. We are pushing the light Mallee soils to the limit.” Although he doesn’t describe himself as a ‘tree-hugger’ Mr Farley strongly believes that erosion must be stopped. “(The sandhill) was going to keep covering up good farming land and it had to be fixed,” he said. “Any soil erosion should be stopped immediately...you’ve got to be passionate and on the ball.”

After speaking with Graham Gates from the Coorong Local Action Planning Group (LAP) in March 2008, Mr Farley undertook the week-long venture to doze the sandhill flat. “We had two 40-foot grader boards behind 4WD tractors, a dozer and a twin scraper,” Mr Farley said.

Part of the hill was 90-foot vertical and it took a lot of man-power to level the 96 acres within a week. “After it was leveled, we fertilized it heavily with Super and sowed rye corn and perennial veldt grass because the soil was so raw,” Mr Farley said. “We didn’t have a good strike with the veldt grass, but the next year we sowed it again with more veldt grass and fertilizer.”

Mr Gates from the Coorong LAP assisted the rehabilitation project, which was funded by the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management (SA MDB NRM) Board.

“It was a terrific job,” Mr Gates said. “I was there recently and it was hard to know where the sandhill was.” Mr Gates said Mr Farley showed enthusiasm for the rehabilitation project and said it “shows what can be done with money and motivation”.

The SA MDB NRM Board is aiming to achieve a six per cent improvement in wind erosion protection by 2014 in line with the Board’s aim to improve soil and land condition by 2030.



Article courtesy of SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM Board

**Are you concerned about the impacts of pest plants on our resources and environment? Do you think you've seen a new weed species? Or would you like to know more about pest plants and animals?**

The South East NRM Board can help through two new opportunities- the Weed Spotters Program and pest presentations. Weeds cost South East landholders an estimated \$19 million per year in control and lost production costs. The South East Weed Risk Assessment has highlighted 37 'Alert' species that have potential to establish and spread in the South East. Prevention and early intervention are the most effective options for dealing with new and emerging weeds.

The South East NRM Board is starting a new initiative called the Weed Spotters Program. The Weed Spotters program will assist in preventing further impacts of weeds to our region. A Weed Spotter has a crucial role to look out for new weeds so that the weed can be destroyed before it's established. A Weed Spotter watches for, reports, collects, and delivers specimens of potential, new and emerging weeds to their regional co-ordinator.



Anyone that has an interest in our natural resources or regularly works in agriculture or our natural environment would make a perfect Weed Spotter. A Weed Spotter is like our front line defence against invading plant species! Extensive plant knowledge is not required to be a good Weed Spotter- just a keen eye and the motivation to protect our natural resources. The South East NRM Board will provide all training, resources and support. The Board can also provide free presentations to your community group or to any group of interested persons on pest plants or pest animals. The beauty about these presentations is that they can be designed specifically for your interests or needs and can be delivered at a time and location that suits you and your group best.

If you'd like to be involved in the Weed Spotters Program or a pest presentation, or would just like some more information please contact Leah Feuerherdt on (08) 8463 7427 or at [leah.feuerherdt@sa.gov.au](mailto:leah.feuerherdt@sa.gov.au)

Recent Mallee and Coorong Natural Resources Management (NRM) Group meetings have included a look at the expansion and improvements at Parilla Premium potatoes, a Pomegranate orchard at Wanbi and a joint meeting with the Mallee Water Resources Committee. This combined meeting enabled the NRM Group members to better understand the Water Allocation Plan process that has been undertaken to change from area to volumetric conversion in preparation for having the new Mallee Water Allocation Plan approved in the near future.

Chris McDonough (PIRSA and Mallee Sustainable Farming) and Leighton Pearce (SA MDB NRM Board Sustainable farming project officer) also spoke at our February meeting on projects being undertaken around the area. Leighton works across the whole of the SA Murray-Darling Basin region with groups such as South Australian No-Till Farmers Association and on programs and projects such as Pasture Cropping No Kill farming, Farmers-helping-Farmers and Weed ID.

Landholders across the Mallee and Coorong area are facing a few extra concerns this year with the locusts (especially in the Mallee) and mice that are increasing in numbers, and the Group will be looking at these issues at future meetings.

For further information on the Group please contact Helene Norman at the Karoonda Office on 8578 1493 or Allan Piggott (Chair) on 0407 580 925. For information on Natural Resources Management in the SA Murray-Darling Basin area contact the Head Office at Murray Bridge on 8532 1432.

# WHAT IS HABITAT 141°?



**Habitat 141°**  
ocean to outback

Habitat 141° has a 50 year vision of restoring and reconnecting iconic south-eastern Australian landscapes traversing 700km from the ocean to the outback. It addresses the critical need to protect and expand the remnants of these diverse landscape types. It promotes sustainable agricultural conditions for future generations and it evolved from decades of community based landscape linkage projects in southern Victoria.

*Linking nature and people is vital so that we can respond to the fragmentation of habitats for wildlife and disconnect of society.....it gives native species the best chance of survival and brings communities together with common vision and purpose.*

Habitat 141° has a strong north to south rainfall gradient with a diverse range of ecosystems, where widespread native vegetation was once connected, providing seasonal movement and genetic exchange for plants and animals. Now, fragmentation, habitat loss, climate change, weeds and feral animals threaten both species and plant communities. Habitat 141° is built on solid partnerships between local and state governments, NRM/CMA authorities, NGOs and philanthropic sponsors to promote on-ground actions to revegetate and restore ecological function to the landscape.

Greening Australia and the H1410 partners have been working on Conservation Action Plans for 6 zones within the H1410 region. The plans are used to direct funding to defined projects and feature collaboration, sharing knowledge and working together.

For more information, visit [www.greeningaustralia.org.au](http://www.greeningaustralia.org.au)

## Update for Zone 3 - Wimmera Mallee

The Coorong LAP region is in Zone 3 of H141°. A Conservation Action Plan (CAP) for this region has been achieved through a series of workshops over the past few years. A review of the CAP was held in Nhill, Victoria in July 2009.

There are 7 major ecosystems that form the overarching conservation assets in this region: *Grassy ecosystems; Core areas Heath & Mallee Ecosystems; Fragmented Heath & Mallee Ecosystems; Wimmera River, Terminal Lakes and Riparian Ecosystems; Ephemeral Freshwater Wetland Ecosystems; Permanent Freshwater Wetland Ecosystems; Saline Wetland Ecosystems.* For each of these assets there are nested targets (biodiversity values) which detail the plants, animals and vegetation communities that are unique, endemic or 'special features' of the landscape. Nested targets are of conservation importance and are a focus for collaborative projects that feature on-ground works to ensure their retention in the landscape and long term survival. Some examples in Zone 3 are malleefowl, orchids, grassy woodlands, mallee ningau, platypus and bulloke woodlands.

The planning boundary for Zone 3 has been refined to make sure that it is a good reflection of both ecological and social boundaries that are logical for planning purposes. The progress made in the planning stage has already led to a number of collaborative projects. The long term focus for on-ground action is actively planting biodiverse landscape linkages.



# CONTROLLING BRIDAL CREEPER

Bridal Creeper has been declared a Weed of National Significance (WoNS) due to its invasiveness, potential to spread and economic and environmental impacts. It has the ability to form thick tuberous root mass, which inhibits new plant growth. It can tolerate a wide range of conditions and establish in undisturbed areas. The foliage dies off in Summer but tuber reserves enable it to survive drought conditions. The least toxic method to suppress this plant is by spraying 'spore water'. This is a soluble spray made from spores of a rust fungus (*Puccinia myrsiphyllii*)

## HOW TO MAKE SPORE WATER



### STEP 1 — COLLECT SPORES

- ◊ Collect foliage infected with rust and place in a plastic bag (make sure not to take all of the affected plant to ensure the rust keeps spreading)
- ◊ Keep the foliage moist and out of the sun and spores should survive for a couple of days.
- ◊ 1 garbage bag will make around 100 litres of spore water.
- ◊ The best time to collect spores is usually August-September.

### STEP 2 — MAKE SPORE WATER

- ◊ Simply submerge cut foliage into rainwater and agitate to wash spores off leaves until water turns a yellow colour.
- ◊ A rate of 4kg of foliage to 100 litres of rain water will be sufficient
- ◊ Or place leaves on a sieve and wash spores off leaves.
- ◊ Wash the foliage through 3 or 4 times to ensure spores are washed off
- ◊ Rust spores have limited life in water so make water in 100-300 litre amounts.



### STEP 3 — SPRAYING

- ◊ Run water through a sieve to remove any leaves or bits that may clog the spray unit.
- ◊ Pour into suitable spray unit (eg hand held bottles, backpack sprayers, watering can).
- ◊ Spray thoroughly from top to bottom, and particularly on the underside of the leaves where there are many pores. Use as fine mist as possible. Spore water can be sprayed anywhere as it is only harmful to bridal creeper.
- ◊ The best conditions for spraying are light rain, light wind and high humidity.
- ◊ Try to keep the spore water agitated in the tank to keep spores suspended.
- ◊ Drape left-over foliage over fresh areas of bridal creeper as it will continue to release spores for several hours.

### STEP 4 — MONITOR YOUR RESULTS

- ◊ Check the infected area one month after application. If no signs of rusts is present another follow spray will be required.
- ◊ Let us know your results!

FOR ANY INFORMATION ON  
THE FOLLOWING PLEASE  
CONTACT THE CTLAP  
ON 8757 2100

## SIX LOCAL STUDENTS CANOE THE KATARAPKO CREEK

Six students from the Lower River Murray Youth Council (RMYC) braved an early start and chilly conditions to paddle Katarapko Creek near Berri as part of the Department for Environment and Heritage's Canoe-the-Kat day earlier this month.

Newly elected chair Bethany Jurgs from Meningie, Chloe Sinclair from Coomandook Area School, Simon and Braden Gregory from Karoonda Area School and Hamish Noble and Katelyn Meade from Cornerstone College participated in the canoe trip, which aimed to raise awareness and appreciation of Katarapko Creek.

South Australian Murray Darling Basin Natural Resources Management (SA MDB NRM) Board NRM education coordinator Jodie Sommerville said the event was a great opportunity for students, mentors and parents to extend their knowledge and understanding of the issues surrounding local waterways. "Once the students conquered the art of paddling a two person canoe, they were off down the picturesque waterway," Ms Sommerville said.



RMYC chair Bethany Jurgs said the trip allowed students to create "real connections" with the places they saw. "We had four stops along the way where students learnt about macro-invertebrates, life on the floodplain and what is being done to increase native fish populations, along with a wide variety of activities including handling a large Murray-Darling Python, making Catfish nests and spotting critters," Bethany added.

The RMYC is facilitated by the SA MDB NRM Board and is open to all students interested in learning more about local environmental issues and take environmental actions.

Lower Murray RMYC meetings are held every six weeks, with field trips and tours in between. For more information contact Jodie Sommerville;

Ph: 85 32 1432 or email [jodie.sommerville@samdbnrm.sa.gov.au](mailto:jodie.sommerville@samdbnrm.sa.gov.au).

RMYC member Chloe Sinclair handling a Murray-Darling python while Chris Grant from DEH explains the impact drought and lack of water has had on the snake.

## PLANT PROPAGATION AT TINTINARA AREA SCHOOL

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of March the Year 8 and 9 Tintinara Area School students & teacher Mr Ben Holbrook attended an extremely successful plant propagation workshop. We have the proof of the success as most of these seedlings and cuttings are thriving in the school shade house! Gail Traeger and Tracey Strugnell (Coorong Tatiara LAP) demonstrated to the students the methods of propagation and the kids set to work.

The group achieved a huge amount that day in a session that included;

- Washing pots
- Striking cuttings in honey and rooting powder to compare the results
- Planting locally collected native tree seed
- Planting locally collected understorey species including saltbush and native grasses.

It is planned to make use of these plants with the School's ongoing work at Lake Indawarra, in the school nature reserve, and at selected sites on National Tree Planting day in July. Practical skills were passed on, and a new generation now know how to grow their own local plants at a low cost.



## SOUTH EAST JUNIOR YOUTH ENVIRONMENT FORUM

On the 26th of May, 65 students attended the South East Junior Youth Environment Forum at the Naracoorte Caves. The forum provides an opportunity to bring students from across the region together to network and explore local environmental issues.

The students spent the day learning about different regional issues such as drought, bushfire in the landscape and sustainable on-ground action for their community. The students who attended the forum, take an action plan back to their school and work with their peers to provide outcomes to the issues.

Twelve local students who attended the State Youth Environment conference in Adelaide earlier this year spoke at the forum to share their experiences. For any information on the Junior Youth Forum please contact Kate Rhook (DEH) ph 0427015531



Kate Rhook illustrates how to design sustainable on-ground action



Bordertown Primary School work on their action plan



Padthaway Primary School talk about the importance of waste management and explore options for their Chicken Coop Committee.

## PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION WINNERS

*Congratulations to April Sanders of Keith and Ashmal Naleemundeen of Keith.*

April and Ashmal entered outstanding environmental photos and informative explanations as to why Biodiversity is important to Australia. The photography competition was held by CTLAP in order to celebrate international year of Biodiversity and illustrate the importance of local biodiversity.

April and Ashmal were awarded a \$50 voucher for their efforts. Consolation prizes went to Sam Schreiber of Keith and Rose Bailey of Peake. Thankyou to all students that entered the competition.

April Sanders winning photo





## MIG Brookman

The Coorong and Tatiara LAP committees would like to acknowledge the contribution and recognise the efforts of Mig Brookman. Mig was well known for her involvement with the LAP as well as many other community groups and organisations. Her passion for the environment and role in landcare has resulted in the establishment of thousands of hectares of native vegetation along roadsides, on private land and conservation parks throughout the Coorong and Tatiara districts.

Mig's enthusiasm and determination encouraged her and others to develop a wealth of knowledge of seed collecting, plant propagation and tree planting which when combined with her hard work ethic was able to demonstrate that large areas of native vegetation can be successfully established.

Mig was also a strong advocate for successful and sustainable farming practices that worked with nature rather than against it and that the most important asset we have is our natural resources.

Mig's commitment to the community will be missed however her legacy of millions of trees remains for the benefit of future generations.

*Henry Angas  
Coorong LAP Chairman*

## Tatiara Committee

**David Altus**  
MaCallum

**Adrian Barber**  
Keith

**Cr Steve Dick**  
Bordertown

**Miles Hannemann**  
Keith

**Tony Hedges**  
Keith

**Josie Jackson**  
Willalooka

**Rocky Callisto (Council)**  
Bordertown

## Coorong Committee

**Henry Angas (Chairman)**  
Meningie

**John Barrie**  
Coonalpyn

**Lester Cattle**  
Peake

**Alistair I fould**  
Coomandook

**Peter Miell**  
Tintinara

**Steve Murray**  
Coomandook

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