



# **Gippsland Agroforestry Network Landcare sub-Group**

## **2014/15 Presidents Report**

Firstly I wish to thank the committee comprised of David Bennett, Bob Gray and Jon Hauser with Clara Mandaletti and Judy Alexander providing feedback and listening posts.

So we have come to the end of our first year as a Landcare group. It has been one of learning and establishing ourselves in this new environment. We have submitted two proposals for grants and were successful with one being the Victorian Landcare Grant provided by WGCMA. Like most grants applications we learnt that there is little time to submit so you really need the submission previously prepared, ready to be tweaked appropriately to match the grant objectives. On line submission can be tricky so start early and progressively submit.

Our grant is for the Budgeree Biorich Agroforestry woodlot which is designed to test the methodology of clearing the vegetation (predominantly grasses) from an area adjacent to some modified native vegetation in an attempt to encourage native understorey species to naturally regenerate (no weedicide) and improve the biodiversity of a woodlot being grown for wood use. In this case the over-wood species is Spotted Gum which will require pruning and some thinning although initial planting may be reduced from 1,000 trees per ha to around 600. In addition to the physical field works and digital mapping a key function of the grant was to improve group function through participation in the grant process and build group resilience. So your involvement is welcome in any aspect. The clearing for this project was completed in February

As a part of this project we ran a successful seminar in May at Boolara. 45 people attended the workshop which was sponsored by the Latrobe City. The notes from this seminar can be found on our website [www.gippslandagroforestry.com.au](http://www.gippslandagroforestry.com.au).

A planting day is set for Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September. A report will be due to be submitted to LCLN in November. The GAN committee is acting as the Project committee for this grant.

Other activities have included a Tree Measurement field day at Bob Grays run by PP&W CMA and a Christmas breakup at Woodside (Clara Mandaletti and Paul Savige).

Further activities for 2015 include a Christmas Breakup at Bob Grays on Sat 5<sup>th</sup> December. Depending of opportunity there may be a field day here at Lardner Park if harvesting is arranged. This may have short notice. The new committee will meet in the coming months to plan activities for 2016.

Thanks to Jon Hauser for arranging our website hosting and email distribution system and more recently to Lynton Clay who has been working on the website itself. Keep watching as it blossoms into something quite special.

There is the opportunity to become involved with the Agroforestry mentoring program which has run successfully in the Otway Agroforestry Network. As part of their program delivery they are available to come down here in November for two days to train up some local mentors (8 to 12) and discuss an ongoing program to which we might be a joint party. As a follow-on there might be the opportunity to run another Master Tree Growers course in autumn next year. We will need to commit to the Mentoring training soon so please let the committee know if you are interested. The main attributes you should have is to be a landowner who grows trees and have time to mentor to new growers. The rest will be covered in the training. Each of us has our own story and results from our tree growing activities. To pass those things on is an important part of the mentoring.

The OAN is also joining forces with the PP&W CMA to present a series of bush foods workshops which may be interesting to some of you here. Locations and dates are Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> Oct Ruby South Gippsland, Friday 16<sup>th</sup> Oct Jindivick

Peter Devonshire August 2015