

## Nesting Boxes

Due to the great response to nest box plans in the last newsletter we have decided to provide another plan for those interested. Also the Landcare network is running a scheme where materials are being donated to local schools who are making nest boxes to be located throughout the district.

For any further information or plans call Simon 59 427 137

## **Now available**

*Weed Identification Guide*  
CITY OF CASEY  
CARDINIA SHIRE COUNCIL  
CITY OF GREATER DANDENONG

This Weed Identification Guide has been produced through the combined efforts of the City of Casey, Cardinia Shire Council and the City of Greater Dandenong. This booklet assists with the identification of 90 of the worst environmental and agricultural weeds over the three Councils by providing coloured pictures of each species as well as information and control methods.

City of Casey CITY OF GREATER DANDENONG CARDINIA

The shires of Cardinia, Casey and Dandenong have got together and produced a wonderful booklet called the Weed Identification guide. This booklet shows nearly 100 different types of weeds that can be found in the area. Not only does it give a photo and description of the weeds, it also explains how it is spread and how it can be controlled. The best part is the booklet is **free** and can be picked up at the shire offices.

# Toomuc Landcare Newsletter

Proudly sponsored by Melbourne Water

## 2008

Did you know?

### Up coming Events

- Next planting Sunday 10th of August, location is the intersection of Thewlis Rd & Peck Rd Time 9am
- Land care week
- Planting 7th sept
- Crn Brown and Toomuc Rd

### This newsletter

It has been 2 years since our last newsletter, so this is a great opportunity to reflect on some of the great results the community has achieved over the last several years within the valley. There has been dozens of kilometres of fences erected, many tens of thousand native trees and shrubs planted and countless thousands of weeds destroyed. All of this has been achieved with good humour and community spirit which is rare these days. Most of this newsletter is to illustrate the results of labour and encourage others to participate.

The Toomuc creek is currently not flowing. As far as many of the long term residents can remember this is the first time they can recall the creek has not flowed in winter. "Up until a few years ago the creek flowed all year round, more recently, particularly over the dry months it has stopped, now even in winter it is not flowing" one of the locals said. We really have not had a wet winter for nearly 10 years. Fingers crossed it rains soon!

The window is getting smaller!!!

Due to the on going dry conditions the opportunity for plantings is getting less and less every year. Several years ago it was possible to plant very late in the calendar year. Now due to the drought conditions even in the middle of winter the ground can be dry and hard and may require watering in to ensure the plants survival. Anyone interested in a planting on their property please phone 59 427298

## New water tank for the landcare group

Thanks to the fantastic effort of Joy Carberry the Toomuc Valley Landcare Group is now in possession of a brand new watering tank on its own trailer and has a pump for drawing water from both dams or creeks. It is easily towed behind either a car or 4 wheel motorbike. This will be of great benefit to future plantings. We have discovered the rate of survival for all plants is far greater if they have a good soak when first planted and several follow up waterings till their roots establish. This may be available to members to help at plantings. For more details contact Joy on Ph: 59 427 298

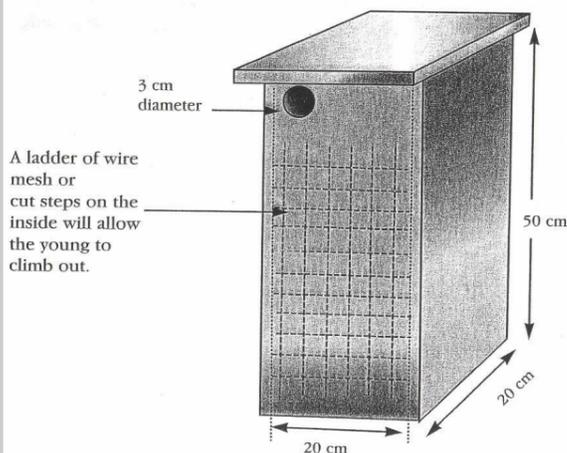
## Membership now due .

Existing members your \$10 annual fee is now due and payable to our Treasurer Joy Carberry Ph : 59 427 298. For anyone looking to join this is all that is required and this money goes to new equipment and or plants that members are entitled to use. By joining you can also have your property assessed for possible grants for both fencing and plants which can be worth thousands of dollars.

You don't have to be Green to join, just care.

## Sugar glider nestbox

Height above ground 4-8m



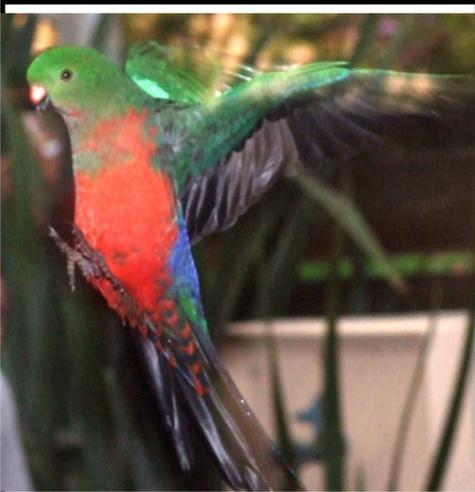
### Special instructions

Cats are a great enemy of sugar gliders, trees should be cat proofed with a collar of smooth metal or plastic.

Drill three well spread 5mm drainage holes into the base of the box.

### Maintenance

Little maintenance is required. Do not disturb, these pretty little animals have extremely sharp teeth and will readily bite to defend themselves.



**What bird is that ?**  
**The King Parrot**  
*A very colourful parrot that is quite common around the north end of the valley. One of the largest parrots in the area the male has a bright red nearly orange head and body. With emerald green wings and back. It is usually found in the company of a similar sized birds which is predominately pale green. This is the female which the tend to mate for life. The young are also the same colour as the adult females. The males don't get there brilliant colours till they are several years old. This is a photo of a young male coming in for a landing at bird feeder.*

For more information on this and other birds in the area you can purchase obtain Birds of Cardinia from the Cardinia council Free of charge.

## Remember this 2005

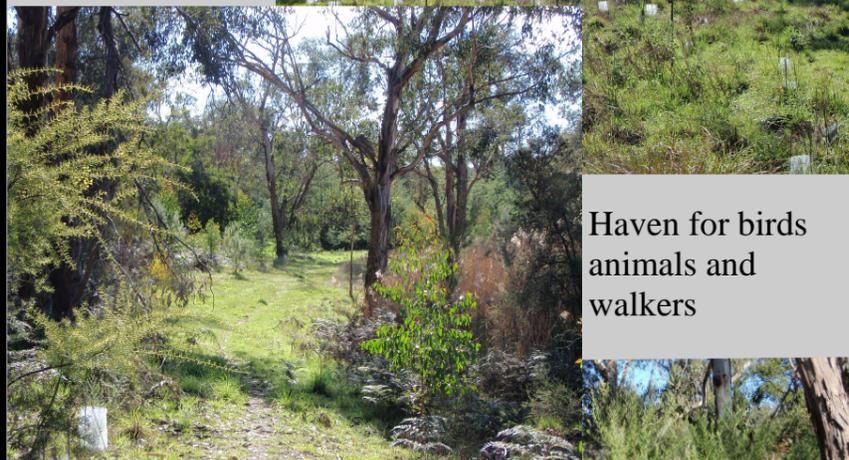


### 1,000 Plants in one morning!

This was one of first large scale project that was taken on in recent times. It involved several planting over a 12 month period on the land at the intersection of Shelton Rd and Toomuc Valley Rd. The first was 1,000 plants which was then followed by several other plant on a slightly small but in all totalling nearly 3,000 plants.

### Look at us Now!

The growth has been staggering in only a few years.



Haven for birds animals and walkers

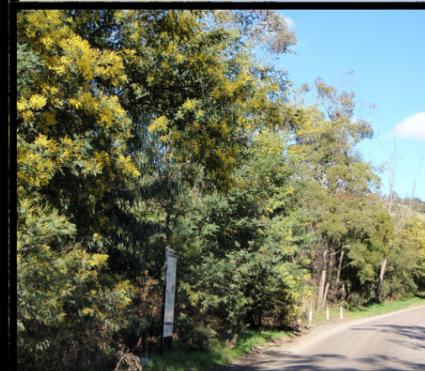


### Hair Tubing and nest boxes are you interested.

Now that we have great results out in the field we are trying to find out what benefit it is having on the local wildlife. When we walk through some of these areas you are able to see and hear that a lot of the birdlife has returned. But most of Australia's native animals are nocturnal so it is hard to know if many of any have return to these revegetated areas. The best way of being able to do this is with hair tubes. They are PVC pipe approximately 40mm in diameter and 15 cm in length. These are placed both on the ground and also on trees they are then baited with a mixture of honey and Peanut butter which is meant to be irresistible to these little critters. The end of each tube is coated with double sided sticky tape. So as the animals come into feed they leave some of their hair on the tape. This is collected and then sent off to be analysed. Within a few weeks we can find out exactly what is in the area. The other thing that we as a group want to start to do is create some nesting boxes. By planting the trees we are creating a food source for many of the birds and animals but young trees do not provide



the shelter required to let them nest and bred. The other advantage with nest boxes is that we are able design different boxes for different species of birds. It also enables you to stop some species of introduced birds from gaining access. We are thinking of holding several workshops in regards for both the construction and set up of both Hair tubes and Nest boxes. If you are interested in being involved please contact Simon on 0412 323 712. PS with the laying out of the tubes this is a great outing and way of getting young kids involved.



### Rod's Trees

*At the moment as you cross the bridge on Toomuc Valley Rd you will see a mass of blooms from the Golden Wattle. The original Cracked Willows which were clogging the creek, were removed and replaced with these magnificent trees thanks to Rod Shelton*

### Aqueduct Trail

#### Looking Good

The aqueduct trail that runs from Thewlis road to the Beaconsfield Reservoir has come along way in a short period of time. Once a sea of pittostriums now after several large scale clearing and many more thousands of dollars paid to contractors by Toomuc Landcare the trail is now being return to its former glory and the native bush is coming back with vengeance.



### Frog Census.

**Melbourne water are currently trying to conduct another frog census for Autumn. This time they have decided to target 2 species in particular one of which has been known to frequent these areas. Melbourne water has provided a frog kit to the landcare group. This was a series of forms and tapes to record frog croaks at night. If you would like to know more or would like to see the results of the current survey please contact Melbourne water on .melbournewater.com.au/frogs,**