

From the Project Manager's Desk...

HELLO and welcome to the August update from the Berri Barmera Local Action Planning Committee.

As I write this I can't believe that winter is almost over and that warmer weather is once again just around the corner.

However, we will keep our fingers crossed that those 35 degree September days of last year don't return.

As you will see, life in the BBLAP office and broader world of environmental action by the community continues to run full steam ahead within the Berri/Barmera area.

I often start to pull these features together wondering how to fill two pages and end up limiting the number of articles to print.

The big news from the past couple of months has been the employment of Sam Blight as a project officer.

After 12 months of not being able to retain a permanent casual/part time staff member, the committee has decided to put Sam on full time for 12 months.

“The BBLAP Committee supplies plants and guards to landholders / community groups wishing to undertake revegetation activities”

Unfortunately our revegetation program still continues to attract little interest. The BBLAP Committee supplies plants and guards to landholders/community groups wishing to undertake revegetation activities, with the only obligation from the landholder to ensure they are watered for the first few years.

We are seeking expressions of interest for next year, so if you are interested please give us a call.

Finally we are running a wetland bus tour again in early October (see advert). Places will be limited to 20 people, so if you would like to join us then get in quick.

Last year's tour was very popular and successful.

As always, please feel free to drop in or give us a call if you would like any further information about any of the activities we are up to.

Til next time.....



Paul Stribley



National Tree Day



AROUND 90 students from Berri Primary School and Glossop High School were recently involved in a tree planting event at Martin's Bend to support Planet Ark National Tree Day.

This annual event is organised by the Berri Lions Club, with support from Toyota (as the corporate sponsor of National Tree Day) Trees for Life, Barmera CFS and the Berri Barmera LAP Committee.

The students were split into two groups, each group alternating between planting trees and participating in an information session about the importance of wetland management and the conservation of existing native habitat by new BBLAP Project Officer, Sam Blight.

Around 350 trees were planted on the day, complementing previous revegetation works which will increase biodiversity values within the Martin's Bend area.

The day finished with a BBQ lunch cooked by the Lions Club at the Berri Riverside Caravan Park.

A big thank you must go to Terry Kearney for his role in co-ordinating this very successful event and volunteers from Big River Toyota who provided invaluable assistance.



STUDENTS from Glossop HS and Barmera PS actively involved in National Tree Day

Native trees and shrubs for landholders.

THE BBLAP Committee has recently provided about 700 native trees and shrubs for five revegetation projects around Barmera, Cobdogla and Overland Corner.

These trees were propagated by staff from the staff of the former member for Chaffey Karlene Maywald and Bank SA, and supplemented with additional plants purchased from Trees for Life

We are now seeking expressions of interest from landholders and community groups who may wish to undertake a revegetation project in 2011, so we can begin propagating plants in the next few months. Also, if you are interested in helping out with seed collection or propagation, please give Paul or Sam a call on 8582 2183.

RECENTLY planted tubestock and revegetation growing from previous plantings

New project officer

THE Berri Barmera LAP Committee has appointed Samantha Blight as a full time project officer for a period of 12 months.

This follows the recent resignation of Helen Limu for personal health reasons.

The BBLAP committee hopes that by offering a full time position it will be able to maintain consistent support to community projects and initiatives whilst Paul continues to work part time.

Samantha has moved from Littlehampton in the Adelaide Hills to Berri to take up this position.

She is owner/manager of a retail business in Mt Barker, which she started with her husband 15 years ago.

Sam has been involved with various local sporting groups and is an active member of the Country Fire Service.

Samantha has a diverse background in environmental management and biodiversity and conservation.

She has a diploma in Environmental Management from Urrbrae TAFE where she was heavily involved in developing and implementing wetland water quality monitoring programs for both the Mitcham City Council and Forestry SA.

She also has a Bachelor of Science in Biodiversity and Conservation from Flinders University, providing her with the



WELCOME: BBLAP is happy to welcome the latest member of the team, Samantha Blight

knowledge and skills to effectively manage the natural environment. Over the past three years Sam has worked extensively on Australian sea lions, researching the foraging behaviour of adult females and their pups across numerous South Australian offshore islands.

During her time at university Sam was field co-ordinator for a three year landscape scale fire ecology survey on the Eyre Peninsula, investigating the connection between fire and biodiversity.

In her spare time Sam loves to surf and endeavours to spend as much time as possible outdoors.

She is looking forward to developing a positive and constructive relationship with the Riverland community.

Carp screens

THE BBLAP Committee has recently completed a project to install new carp exclusion screens on existing wetland structures at Overland Corner, Spectacle Lakes and Loveday. These screens have been designed with 31mm spaced parallel bars, which, according to the latest research, best allows for the movement of small bodied native fish whilst still excluding

adult carp. Integral to the design of the screens are double opening pivotal gates, which facilitate easy cleaning when there is a build up of vegetation, and to allow adult large bodied fish into the wetland if so desired.

This project was funded from a \$20,000 grant from the South Australian Murray Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board.



New carp screens have been installed to replace corroded and missing screens at 3 wetlands.

Barmera Primary School Environment Expo

THE Riverland Field Days site was the chosen venue for the third Environment Expo organised by two classes from Barmera Primary School.

Once again it proved to be an exciting day for students from nine Riverland schools with over 500 students attending for either a half or full day program of events.

This year Kingston-on-Murray and the Waikerie Primary YEC group contributed with workshops.

Groups of students selected a broad range of environmental topics and researched information about them.

These topics included: European carp, Lake Bonney, Water Wise, carbon footprints, Weed Warriors, Riverland reptiles, turtles and yabbies, frogs, saving the environment, what's in and around our waterways, mozzies, regent parrots, and river fish.

Year 9 Glossop High students also joined the Expo as mentors for each of the primary school groups. The older students worked with the Barmera students as part of their high school SOSE component.

They gained first hand experience in showing research skills and information processing to the younger students.

They also practiced management and interpersonal relationship development with the Barmera students.

The workshops used the 'kids teaching kids' learning model.

Students take responsibility for their own learning in a practical way aiming to inspire other students to learn and care for their environment.

ment.

Creating the workshops provided the students with opportunities to learn to communicate effectively, co-operate as a group and practice problem solving techniques while developing a solid base of knowledge on their chosen topics.

There were a number of environmental organisations, including the Berri Barmera LAP group, with displays and information about themselves for the students to view.

The Department for Environment and Heritage ran workshops, as well as KESAB. The bat cave proved to be particularly popular with students.

Members of the Volunteers Australia group travelled from Adelaide with a 40 metre Murray cod which depicts the history of the Murray through an appliquéd diorama.

The Expo showcased that the students of Barmera Primary School, Glossop High School mentoring students and the other Riverland schools are involved, care about their environment and community and are keen for others to learn about local environmental topics and broader issues to help the Riverland area become environmentally sustainable.

The Barmera students would like to thank all those who helped make their day so successful.

Without the support of the various organisations, Berri Barmera Council and the SA Murray Darling Basin Resource Management Board, the Expo would have been far more difficult to organise.



Barmera PS Expo: Students Barbie Cook, Lilly Bridgeland, Elayna Wilson and Tiarnie Blight presenting a workshop at the Barmera Environment Expo



Bridal creeper

What is it?

BRIDAL creeper (Asparagus asparagoides) is one of Southern Australia's worst weeds, recognised as such with its declaration as a Weed of National Significance (WoNS), because of its invasiveness, potential for spread, and economic and environmental impacts. It has small glossy green leaves and grows as a twining ground cover or climber over vegetation. It grows from tubers under the ground and shoots from these tubers in autumn and dies off again over summer.

Why is it a problem?

IT is very aggressive and highly invasive in bushland, capable of smothering native ground plants and small shrubs. It forms a thick tuberous root mass, which inhibits growth of other plants and prevents new plants establishing. Berries are readily consumed by birds and foxes enabling rapid dispersal of seeds. Bridal creeper invades a wide variety of environments including coastal areas, heath land, woodland, Mallee shrub land, orchards and pine plantations. It can tolerate a wide range of soil and climatic conditions and unlike many other weeds it can readily establish in undisturbed areas. Its foliage dies off in summer due to lack of water, but tuber reserves enable it to survive drought conditions.

How?

APPLICATION of Bridal Creeper Spore Water

Complicated equipment is not needed; to spread rust fungus (Puccinia myrsiphylli) spore water on bridal creeper, some simple everyday articles from around the shed can be utilised.

Where is it found?

BRIDAL Creeper is widespread throughout southern Australia's temperate regions.

It can be found in a range of environments within the Murray Mallee, most commonly within roadside vegetation and other vegetated areas. It initially occurs under trees where birds have spread it through seeds in their droppings.

What can be done about it?

THERE are a range of options to control bridal creeper.

Small infestations can be dug up by hand ensuring all the tubers are removed. For larger infestations herbicides may be used but their effectiveness is varied. Refer to your local NRM officer for further information about the use of herbicides for bridal creeper control.

There are two main bio-controls for Bridal Creeper, a leaf hopper and a rust fungus. These have proved very successful over time at controlling bridal creeper. They do this through reducing how vigorously the plant grows and can also reduce seed set.

Agitate the spore water occasionally as the spores tend to settle.

Importantly choose a damp day to spread the spore water.

Spray or pour the spore water onto bridal creeper targeting the thickest parts first.

Further information... Contact the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board's NRM Officers in Berri on 8582 4477

Ensure that this equipment has not been used for other chemicals, especially fungicides as the bridal creeper rust is a fungus and will be destroyed.

To make spore water: COLLECT mature bridal creeper rust fungus from infected bridal creeper in to plastic bags. It can be identified on bridal creeper as rusty brown spots. Usually evident from mid winter.

Use a clean container to wash the bridal creeper to remove the spores. Gentle agitation by hand is sufficient for the spores to be removed from the plant.

The water will turn the colour of weak tea; this brown stain is the rust fungus spores.

Strain into a clean container using a coarse sieve to remove the leaves, etc...

If a spray unit is used it must have the sieves removed and have large aperture nozzles.

A watering can is ideal as products with fine holes will become blocked.

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FREE Wetland Bus Tour

ALL WELCOME SUNDAY OCTOBER 10, 2010

WHERE/WHEN:

Leaving at 8am from Berri and arriving back at 1pm.

WHY: Your chance to see our unique wetlands and learn more about their importance and significance in the region.

CATERING PROVIDED:

Limited seats available, so see Sam to book a place today or call her on 0428 813 508, or at the office on (08) 8582 2183 or email samantha@bblap.org.au

The tour will showcase the importance of wetland management at Spectacle Lakes, Mussel Lagoons, Lake Bonney and Overland Corner.

Berri Barmera Local Action Planning Committee

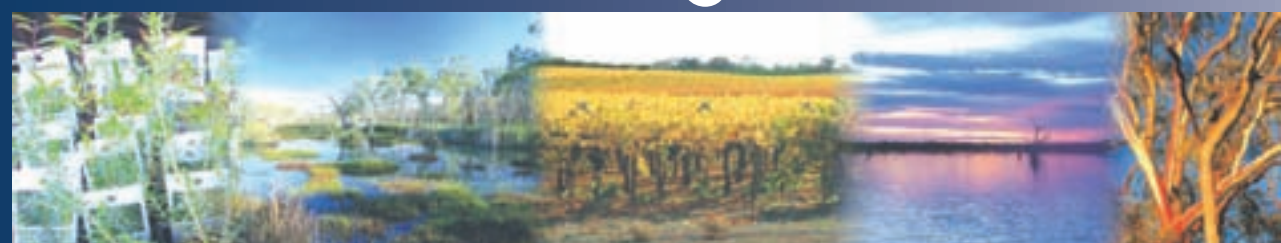


Phone 8582 2183

Fax 8582 2495

Email:

enquiries@bblap.org.au



Supported by the Australian Government's Caring for our Country and the South Australian Murray Darling Basin NRM Board.



CARING FOR OUR COUNTRY



Government of South Australia
South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board

Working with the community to support the local environment