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FROM THE PRESIDENT: HABITAT IS KING

I'm sure many of you have heard the cry from the Media and conservation groups about the plight of our native fauna and flora and its often predators such as foxes, cats and other animals that attracts the blame. Whilst this is often true, the biggest threat to our native flora and fauna is *Homo sapiens*, or as we know them, humans.

Without somewhere to shelter, our wildlife have no home. How long would you last in a bare paddock? Trees, shrubs, long grass, fallen trees and rocks are home to our wildlife. The smallest little corner of your property can be a home for native fauna.

Long grass is home to all kinds of insect species. Shrubs that are dense become locations for birds to nest and trees are considered the king for wildlife habitat. One tree in the corner of a paddock provides food, shelter nesting opportunities and much, much more. Fallen branches are great and I often leave the bigger, larger portions of branches on the ground as habitat.

I have patches of long grass in which Brown Quail have been seen many times.

I ask you all to consider giving up a small pocket of your land to creating habitat for our native wildlife. I understand that many of us have already done so, but for those who need help establishing some habitat, no matter how big or small, no matter what you have done in the past, that you contact the Loch-Nyora Landcare Group.

If we get enough projects, we can seek funding through Landcare Victoria and potentially fund a large proportion of the project.

You can call me on **0403 997 831** or email the group on lochnyoralandcare@gmail.com.

Malcolm Brown



L-R: Steve McTaggart, Vice President Rosemary Knox, Dallas Handley, President Mal Brown, Treasurer Gary Martin, Jim Ahon from Korumburra Landcare Plant Group Nursery.

WHAT'S ON

Sunday 3rd May 2026 - Celebrate our 30th birthday. It all started at Henry's Creek Sanctuary on 3rd May 1996. More details below.

Sunday 26th July 2026 - South Gippsland Landcare Network Pedal and Plant - will be organised by SGLN with our group and aim to beautify the entrance to the rail trail at Nyora.

Loch-Nyora Landcare Group's 30th Birthday – You're Invited!



The Loch-Nyora LandCare Group is having a 30-year Birthday Party on the 3rd of May at Henry's Creek Sanctuary. There will be guest speakers relating to the first meeting of the group and a history of our group. See a YouTube of the history of the Sanctuary by clicking this link: [Sanctuary history](#)

There will also be a history of Henry's Creek Sanctuary and tips on bird watching from me, (Malcolm Brown). But there's more... the Country Women's Association will be helping out with scones and tea.

It starts at 10:00 AM at Henry's Creek Sanctuary and everyone is welcome. **RSVP to Malcolm at seawish@aapt.net.au or 0403 997 831.**

This photo shows Joan and (late) Gordon Henry who initiated the Henry's Creek Sanctuary.

New owners, Steve Morrison and Bonita May, will host our 30th Birthday. We are pleased that they have been tidying up and making improvements and it will be great to see the results of their efforts.





Committee visit to Korumburra Landcare Group Plant Nursery – by John Morton

During April, the LNLG Committee had the pleasure to visit Jim's property where the Korumburra Landcare Group runs their plant nursery in Bena.

As Jim said "it's better to ask once than to do it twice."

The Korumburra Landcare Group has established an excellent propagation nursery growing more than 50 varieties each year.

There is an enthusiastic Growers Group that meets on Monday mornings. All volunteers share a passion for propagating our local plant species (like the Strezlecki Gum) and nurturing many varieties of plants from the germination of seed to caring for the extensive range they have available in the nursery.



Korumburra Landcare Group Plant Nursery has been very active with revegetation projects in the area and working on the Korumburra Rail Trail plantings. The group has committed to 5000 plants per year for 3 years - with roughly 10% trees / 90% shrubs and grasses and they are already in their 3rd year of revegetation works.

When striking species that need smoke to germinate, they recommend a product called Regen Smokemaster. Mix 1 part to 10 parts water and moisten the seeds then lay out within the seed tray. They recommend having a light and nutritious growing medium to improve the propagation striking rate. This is a mix of Vermiculite / Perlite with Smolders potting mix from Tyabb and a slow-release fertiliser.

Once the seeds germinate, they are picked from the medium on which they lay and placed in forestry tubes with 1 pinch per tube (3 - 5 granules) of slow-release fertiliser. With 1m³ of potting medium they are able to do 5,000 forestry tubes.

Thank you Jim for sharing your expertise and passion for establishing our local plant species and supporting revegetation projects within our community.

If people are interested in revegetation projects and planting our local plant species please contact Jim by email, klgplantnursery@gmail.com.





A Kookaburra watches on. Photo by Andrew Keir from Woodleigh.

SOIL HEALTH SERIES BY JOHN MORTON

This two-part series, to be presented in our newsletters this year, explores the foundations of healthy soils in South-west Gippsland, drawing together practical knowledge, local experience, and current soil science. The articles focus on understanding our local soils, managing acidity and erosion, building soil biology and carbon, and using compost and compost tea to support the soil food web.

PART ONE: Our local soils – why soil health matters

Improving the health of our soils improves agricultural productivity and provides resilience to the increasing pressures of climate change. Seasonal changes and extreme weather events escalate impacts on soil, leading to erosion, land degradation, reduced productivity, and poor water quality. Maintaining active, healthy soils is crucial for water retention and soil structure, helping to prevent wind erosion and the loss of nutrient-rich topsoil.

South-west Gippsland is an area of high agricultural productivity, with reliable rainfall and fertile but often acidic ancient soils.

Our Soils – Dermosols and Ferrosols

The region is dominated by dermosols, with pockets of ferrosols. Dermosols are well-structured, loamy to clayey soils with a gradual increase in clay with depth and good water-holding capacity. Ferrosols contain higher levels of free iron and are also highly productive.

These soils support intensive agriculture, dairying, grazing, and forestry but are fragile. Pressures include climate change, soil compaction, acidification, erosion, and land-use change.

Local Landcare networks play a critical role in building soil resilience through improved soil biology, organic matter inputs, multi-species pasture plantings, and reduced tillage.

Acidity and Lime Requirements

Many local soils are naturally acidic, typically with pH values between 5.0 and 5.5. While suitable for many plants, acidity can limit nutrient availability and soil biological activity.

Applying calcium- and magnesium-rich materials such as limestone, dolomite, marl, or hydrated lime can neutralise acidity, improve nutrient availability, and stimulate beneficial soil bacteria. However, over-application can harm plants, making **soil testing essential**.

As a general guide, raising soil pH by one unit requires approximately **2–5 tonnes of lime per hectare**, depending on soil type. Clay soils generally require higher rates than sandy soils.

Liquid Lime and Agricultural Lime

Liquid lime products offer rapid pH correction and can be applied via injection, boom spraying, or fertigation systems. Agricultural lime, in powdered form, is more commonly used for broad-scale applications and is incorporated through surface spreading or light cultivation.

Reducing Soil Erosion and Managing Sodicty

The steep slopes of the Strzelecki Ranges are prone to tunnel and gully erosion. Maintaining groundcover, planting native vegetation in gullies and riparian zones, and improving soil structure are key strategies.

In sodic subsoils, gypsum (calcium sulphate) is used to replace sodium ions and improve soil aggregation and water infiltration. Unlike lime, gypsum does not raise soil pH.



John Morton, LNLG, and Jane from SGLN at the biodiversity forum in Leongatha

JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

If you're new to LNLG or are due to renew your LNLG membership, please fill in the form below and post or email to our Treasurer, Gary along with your payment.

Loch/Nyora Landcare Group Incorporated

ABN: 46 721 158 006

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I/We, _____ wish to become members of the
Loch/Nyora Landcare Group at \$30/year.

Postal Address: _____

Email: _____

Mobile Phone: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

If paying via direct deposit (EFT) please use the following bank details:

Account Name: Landcare Victoria Inc Loch-Nyora
BSB: 633000
Account Number: 229828926

Please use your name as the reference.

Please email this application to: garymartin@attar.com.au

If paying by cheque please post this application and cheque to:

Gary Martin (Honorary Treasurer)
122 Jeetho West Road
JEETHO VIC 3945

FREE PLANT OFFER

As part of your yearly membership we have a relationship with Melaleuca Nursery to supply **10 free tube stock plants** to all financial members. Instructions to pick up your 10 free plants:

1. Ensure your membership payment is up to date.
2. Email our Treasurer Gary garymartin@attar.com.au who will provide you with a code to take to Melaleuca Nursery and redeem for your plants.

The offer expires **31 December 2026**.

Melaleuca Nursery
INDIGENOUS & NATIVE PLANT FARM
"Native plants, because they're beautiful" 

Equipment available for LNLG members' use

The following weed management equipment is available for use by Loch-Nyora Landcare members. Tree guards and stakes are also available. Phone Rosemary 0409 594 312 for collection or drop off.

- 3, 5 and 15 litre sprayers
- Hamilton tree planters
- Hoes
- Spray dye
- Granular weed dispenser

GET IN TOUCH

Loch-Nyora Landcare - <https://www.lochnyoralandcare.org.au/>

South Gippsland Landcare Network (SGLN) - <https://www.sgln.net.au/>

COMMITTEE CONTACTS

Mal Brown	President	0403 997 831 seawish@aapt.net.au
Rosemary Knox	Vice President	rosemaryknox@hotmail.com
Bruce Freeman	Secretary	lochnyoralandcare@gmail.com
Gary Martin (honorary)	Treasurer	garymartin@attar.com.au
Daryl Smith, Steve McTaggart, Dallas Handley and John Morten	Committee members	

SGLN CONTACTS

Jane McKenzie-Smith - Landcare Facilitator (Western Sector) jane@sgln.net.au
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

Nick Stephens - Landcare Facilitator (Eastern Sector) nick.stephens@sgln.net.au
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday (half day)

Cassie Wright - Projects and Education Coordinator cassie@sgln.net.au
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

Kirby Leary - Project Officer kirby@sgln.net.au
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

Shelley Banders - Communications and Project Support
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday

SGLN Volunteer Board

Chair - Jillian Staton
jillian@board.sgln.net.au

Secretary - Peter Debreceny
secretary@sgln.net.au