



UnderStories

*promoting preserving protecting
& rehabilitating native vegetation*

Winter 2015, No 70

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and memberships to:*

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COORDINATOR'S REPORT

With winter well and truly upon us, it is a great time to brave the cold and do some planting! The Understorey Network has been very busy in this regard, and recently the volunteers from the Tolosa Nursery made a short journey down the creek to the grounds of Dominic College, also on Tolosa Street to help do some planting. The planting was part of a project to rehabilitate a stretch of creekline that was previously infested with willows and other weeds. The volunteers worked alongside the enthusiastic students from the grade 5/6 classes to put in 300 plants.

Understorey Network members in the Dunalley area whose properties were burnt out in the big bushfire will also be busy planting as recently the plants grown by USN volunteers through the growers scheme and at the nursery were handed over. If you have been involved in the growers scheme as a grower or receiver feedback is very welcome. Let us know what works and what doesn't so we can endeavour to improve it.

Indeed it is time to think ahead to the upcoming growing season. You will find enclosed in this edition of the newsletter the 2015/16 growers scheme registration form as well as the annual membership renewal form. If you would like to be part of the growers scheme either to grow your own plants, grow plants as a volunteer or to receive plants grown by another volunteer please complete the form and send it back to us by the end of August.

Thank you for your continued support of the Understorey Network and stay warm this winter.

Oliver Strutt

FROM PRESIDENT

How S.M.A.R.T are we?

SMART means Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, Time bound and it appears to be a requirement for organisations submitting requests for future government grants to include SMART statements in the applications. In the past it was acceptable to make a statement such as “we will plant 5000 understory plants to increase the area of habitat for the 40 spotted pardalote which in turn should lead to an increase in the number of fledglings successfully raised ”. A SMART statement would be something like “... plant 5000 understory plants of which 10% are likely to die within the first 12 months. At the end of 12 months the area of useful habitat will have increased by 25% (or 1 acre) which will accommodate 2 additional breeding pairs of 40 Spotted Pardalote within 2 years and 5 pairs within five years. Each pair should be able to successfully raise 4 chicks which will lead to a population increase of 50 individual birds by the fifth year.” (Totally factious statistics but you get the picture.)

Unfortunately we overlooked the importance of a SMART statement requirement when we submitted a request for funding under the 20 Million Trees program and as a result were deemed to have provided insufficient information to be appropriately assessed under the “value for money” category. Much of the necessary information was included in the application but we accept that it would have required the assessors to read the whole document and draw inferences from what was written. Hopefully we will learn from the experience and be prepared to submit SMART requests in future.

However, as you will see from the example given, it takes time to put together a grant application that includes specific researched data and can include liaison with other organisations able to fill in our knowledge gaps. With this in mind your Committee is keen to explore ways to develop closer relationships with other environmental groups or organisations to identify projects that the USN could support if funding was available. It would also be useful to have a number of partly researched applications ready for finalisation when a suitable funding round is advertised. USN members who are also members of other groups might like to discuss with those groups how we could form relationships that would benefit both groups and if possible provide some contact details to a committee member.

Everyone will have received the email about the strategic planning meeting due to be held on 15 June. It is anticipated that meeting will consider ways to create useful partnerships with other appropriate organisations or even possible ways to amalgamate with others to ensure that the objectives of the Understorey Network continue to be met. Information from the planning meeting will be provided as soon as it is available to enable everyone to discuss outcomes prior to the AGM.

Now to matters of more fun, but of no less importance. We have arranged to hold a members garden walk in Kettering to provide an opportunity for everyone to inspect a number of properties that have been transformed by the use of USN grown plants. Please come and be inspired and take the opportunity to meet with other members of the USN. I look forward to meeting as many people as possible on the day, which will go ahead even if it rains or snows or we have a heat wave!

Joan Rodrigues

PAKANA SERVICES

During April, the Understorey Network was pleased to host an event in conjunction with NRM (south) at Tolosa Park Nursery.

The event was pakana services' celebration of its first birthday as an independent social enterprise, which was attended by Senator Eric Abetz, Federal Employment Minister.



Shannon, Reg, Luke and Darrell, from pakana services team, at the Tolosa Community Garden ready to do some planting.



Oliver Strutt, Luke from pakana services and Senator Abetz planting an Olearia in the native garden

pakana services is a social enterprise focused on supporting the Tasmanian Aboriginal community. In the past three years, the enterprise has grown from an idea shared between the Aboriginal community, NRM South and supportive partners to become an independent enterprise in 2014.

pakana services offers land management services including tree planting, fencing, weed management, brushcutting and garden maintenance to organisations such as councils, government business enterprises and properties where land management has become a particular challenge

The Understorey Network's coordinator, Oliver Strutt, and the eight member pakana team have been working together to propagate native plants from seed for a range of environmental and land management projects in Tasmania, specifically the North Bruny Revegetation and Restoration Biodiversity Fund Project. Some members of the pakana team have been involved with Oliver last year, in building new benches in the nursery.

During the morning the pakana team members and Senator Abetz planted trees in the Tolosa Community Garden, before joining the pakana team to cut the birthday cake and talk about the achievements of the organisation.

Amanda Cole

USN COMMUNITY NURSERY FUNDRAISING PLANT SALE

Once again the popular Understory Network fundraising sale drew hundreds of native plant lovers from all over the region to the Tolosa St nursery in April. Eager customers browsed through this year's selection of shrubs, groundcovers & trees and walked away smiling with armloads of bottlebrush, banksia, triggerplant, poa, gums, ferns and more. USN nursery workers were on hand to answer questions about membership, matching seedlings to soil conditions, watering and planting out.



USN Coordinator Ollie Strutt talking about seedlings with visitors while committee members and nursery workers



Customers browsing through a wide variety of seedlings at the plant sale



Amanda Cole and De Deegan answer customer's questions about soil conditions and watering
(editors note: love the budding Ned Kelly)

Visitors also enjoyed wandering through the USN community garden adjacent to the nursery getting ideas for their own plots and admiring how healthy and vibrant everything was looking. And of course, the fantastic brick pizza oven at the entrance to the garden is always a big hit.

Also on offer this year, a selection of garden pavers made to order from a variety of motifs, *USN Guide to Growing Native Plants*, two kinds of tree guards and biodegradable felt weed mats. These items are also available for purchase during regular nursery hours most Mondays 10-2.

Keep an eye open for the next USN activity listed on the back page of your newsletter. There's always something exciting going on 'in the understory'.

Jeannie Mooney



Plant Sale

Saturday July 4th

10.30am - 2.30pm

Please note Tolosa Park does not open until 10.30

Monday July 6th

10.30am - 2.30pm



Where: Tolosa Street Nursery & Native Garden, Tolosa Park Glenorchy (follow signs)

What: Tasmanian Native Plants (tube stock \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00, larger pots \$3.00 - \$5.00)
Also Plant Guards, Weed Mats

WANTED – TUBES RETURNED

Growers' could you please endeavour to return your tubes to the Understorey Network nursery at Tolosa Park or contact Oliver if you are unable to get them to Tolosa Park.

Pots can be left at the nursery over the weekend or during the week after nursery staff have left, by popping them over the nursery gate or walking them through the community native plant garden via our newly completed entrance and left outside the hothouse.

For growers in the channel region pots can be dropped off at the Kettering Hall on Sunday the 26th of July and a volunteer will collect them and return them to the nursery.

PLANTING DAY AT DOMINIC COLLEGE

First day of winter on cold and drizzly Monday morning Year 6 students of Dominic College and USN volunteers got together to plant 300 seedlings along the creek that runs through the school grounds. Spirits were high and even the weather improved. To the volunteer's delight, students did the planting with enthusiasm and obvious care, some went as far as naming they seedlings.

Now along the creek in Dominic College are growing: Mia, Trio, James, Rosie.....

Anna Holan



I thought that the planting sessions were so fun! It gave all of the Year 6 students a chance to get outdoors and have a good time!

Ella Fitzpatrick

I thought it was cool, much better than I thought it would have been.

Daniel Watkins Reynolds



My experience of Creek Planting was amazing because the people who helped were awesome. It will be good to look back at the plants when we get older. It was good to get all the Year 6's outdoors.

Liam Cowen

I thought that it was great to be doing something like that, everybody working together as a team. You just needed to say that something was needed and one of the group would help out and get it. It was great!

William Medwin



What's happening



Please call 0407 352 479 or email oliver@understorey-network.org.au for more information or to RSVP for any of the workshops.

White Gum Regeneration Trial Field Day

The endangered forty-spotted pardalote depends on white gums for habitat. Lack of white gum regeneration is a concern for the survival of the species. In 2012 NRM South, Kingborough Council and the Understorey Network established a long-term experiment on Murrayfield, North Bruny, to determine methods that encourage the regeneration of white gum woodland, including fencing, burning and others. This field day is an opportunity for people to come and look at the experiment and the results, and to discuss management of native bush, restoration and revegetation of pardalote habitat. (Lunch provided)

When: Saturday 27th June 11:30am (Catch 11:05 ferry)

Where: Murrayfield, North Bruny Island (5km from the ferry)

Plant Sale Fundraiser

The Understorey Network Community Nursery is having a native plant sale fundraiser. Come and choose from a wide variety of Tasmanian native plants

When: Saturday 4th July and Monday 6th July 10:30am to 2:30pm both days

Where: Tolosa Park, Tolosa Street, Glenorchy

Native Garden Tour

Understorey Network members and friends are invited on a tour of three gardens in the Kettering area that have been recently established using Tasmanian native understorey plants.

Please bring your own lunch, refreshments will be provided.

When: Saturday 27th June 11:30am (Catch 11:05 ferry)

Where: Murrayfield, North Bruny Island (5km from the ferry)

Understorey Network Committee Meetings

When: 5:15pm on the Second Monday of the Month

Where: Salamanca Square, Hobart

All members are welcome to come to our regular meetings – please RSVP for catering purposes