Southern Otway Landcare Network

5 Year Strategic Plan 2009 - 2013

FINAL

LANDCARE
SOUTHERN OTWAY
LANDCARE NETWORK

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- Department of Primary Industries: Ryan Melville.
- Department of Sustainability and the Environment: Craig Clifford.
- Colac Otway Shire: Travis Riches.
- VicRoads: Richard Curwell.

Abbreviations

ABFC	The Apollo Bay and Kennett River Foreshore Committee
ARI	Arthur Rylah Institute
CCMA	The Corangamite Catchment Management Authority
COS	Colac Otway Shire
DAFF	Department for Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry
DEWHA	Department for Water, the Environment and the Arts
DSE	The Department of Sustainability and the Environment
DPI	The Department of Primary Industries
EVC	Ecological Vegetation Class
GFN	Geelong Field Naturalists
Ha	Hectare
LC	LorneCare
PV	Parks Victoria
SCIPN	Surf Coast and Inland Plains Network
Sep	Separation Creek
SFS	Southern Farming Systems
SOLN	Southern Otway Landcare Network
SV	Seeding Victoria
VR	VicRoads
W2W	Wye to Wongarra
Wye	Wye River

1. Introduction

SOLN is a non-profit Landcare organisation that provides opportunities for the local community to undertake and learn about indigenous vegetation restoration initiatives and on ground works to assist with land management issues in conjunction with relevant government agencies.

The SOLN operating boundary extends from Wye River in the east to Johanna Beach in the west and from the coast in the south to the top of the catchments in the hills to the north. Four Landcare groups exist under the SOLN umbrella: Hordenvale-Glenaire, Otway Barham, Apollo Bay and Wongarra to Wye. To oversee the management of these groups SOLN operates with a 12 member Committee of Management (incorporating three representatives from each Landcare Group) and three working committees including Projects and Funding Committee, Human Resource Committee and a Strategic Planning Committee (each containing one member from each of the four Landcare groups).

SOLN works to protect and enhance the coastal catchments of the Southern Otway Region. This incorporates various aspects of land management including social, environmental and economic values. This plan is a collaborative effort between SOLN community members to provide a considered strategic direction and sets goals and management action targets to protect the coastal catchments and associated assets within the SOLN area.

2. Plan vision

The SOLN overall vision can be summed up in the following sentence:

> *'SOLN's aim is to protect and restore our environment so that we can all live, work and find joy in a healthy, productive, balanced landscape.'*

This vision can further be broken down into three main categories: *Leadership, Environmental Services* and *Community Engagement*. These categories are described below and build on the previous SOLN Management Plan (Scenic Spectrums 2003).

Leadership: "*Inspire, innovate, adapt*"

- Redefine the role of Landcare in the Otway Community so that it supports the sustainability of both the local and the global environment;
- Relocate/retrofit SOLN's operating location to be re-aligned with this role;
- Secure long-term funding and sponsorship for SOLN's delivery infrastructure;
- Develop and nurture strategic partnerships with Government, Corporate, Community, and Education sectors to program accredited training programs based on our activities in the field;
- Engage in strong political advocacy to ensure that SOLN is supported by Government at all levels; and,
- Develop and provide security of employment and clarity of mission to skilled staff to deliver our vision.

Environmental services: "*Build, support, and demonstrate 'Best Practice'.*"

- Foster an informed awareness of appropriate EVC targets and NRM issues;
- Protect and restore a healthy habitat for all the Southern Otway streams, rivers, and estuaries;
- Develop and nurture strategic partnerships with Agencies to manage pest plants and animals with an endorsed plan and shared 'hot spot' maps and priorities;
- Develop and nurture strategic partnerships to maintain and develop a Seedbank to Best Practice standards;
- Advise, support, manage and seek funding for public and private on-ground projects; and,
- Develop and nurture strategic partnerships that respond to climate change.

Community engagement: "*Connect, educate, empower, celebrate.*"

- Re-run a Best Management Practice on farms program;
- Continue to develop the WaterWatch Program;
- Map membership and known landholder improvements and completed landholder projects;
- Use more media channels to promote and showcase SOLN activities;
- Improve the sustainability of the Committee of Management to ensure succession;
- Establish relevant connections with a younger constituency and volunteers;
- Establish strategic links with like-minded groups in Australia and in China; and,
- Celebrate successes.

3. Plan Objectives/Goals

The goals of this strategic plan were constructed with guidance from the individual Landcare group strategic plans, community workshops, the SOLN committee of management, and the SOLN Weed forum.

Goal 1: Protect and enhance the coastal catchments and associated assets within the SOLN area incorporating social, environmental and economic values.

Goal 2: Increase community capacity for effective long-term and sustainable land management.

Goal 3: Promote and improve partnerships for coordination management works of the four Landcare groups within the SOLN boundary and relevant agencies including the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority, Colac/Otway Shire, Apollo Bay Foreshore Committee, the Department of Primary Industries, the Department of Sustainability and Environment and Parks Victoria.

Goal 4: Apply the species led and asset based approach to the management of pest plants and animals (See Appendix 6).

Goal 5 Establish effective monitoring, evaluation and reporting of works.

Goal 6 Establish a centre for sustainable living and community education

4. Plan Strategic Principles

The SOLN Strategic Plan is based on land management principles derived from national, state and regional strategies and community input. The principles are as follows:

Principle 1: A landscape approach to planning land management is required with emphasis placed on protection and maintenance of agricultural and best quality remnant native vegetation assets, as well as a strategic approach to revegetation projects.

Principle 2: Land management practices should be undertaken using integrated management systems and involve high levels of coordination and co-operation among all levels of industry, government agencies and the community.

Principle 3: Projects are incorporated into long term, holistic land management plans with defined direction and measurable end purpose.

Principle 4: Programs should endeavor to address the source of land degradation and pest introduction where possible.

Principle 5: The importance of education of the wider community of the value of being committed to sustainable agriculture, ecological management, climate change and communication of successful programs.

Principle 6: Prevention and early intervention the most cost effective techniques for managing land degradation and pest plants and animals issues.

Principle 7: An outcome based approach to monitoring, evaluation and reporting should be implemented.

5. Relevant Legislative and Policy Requirements and other Strategies and Guidelines

The following figure (Figure 1) illustrates how the strategic plan relates to other strategic documents for native vegetation management and biodiversity conservation.

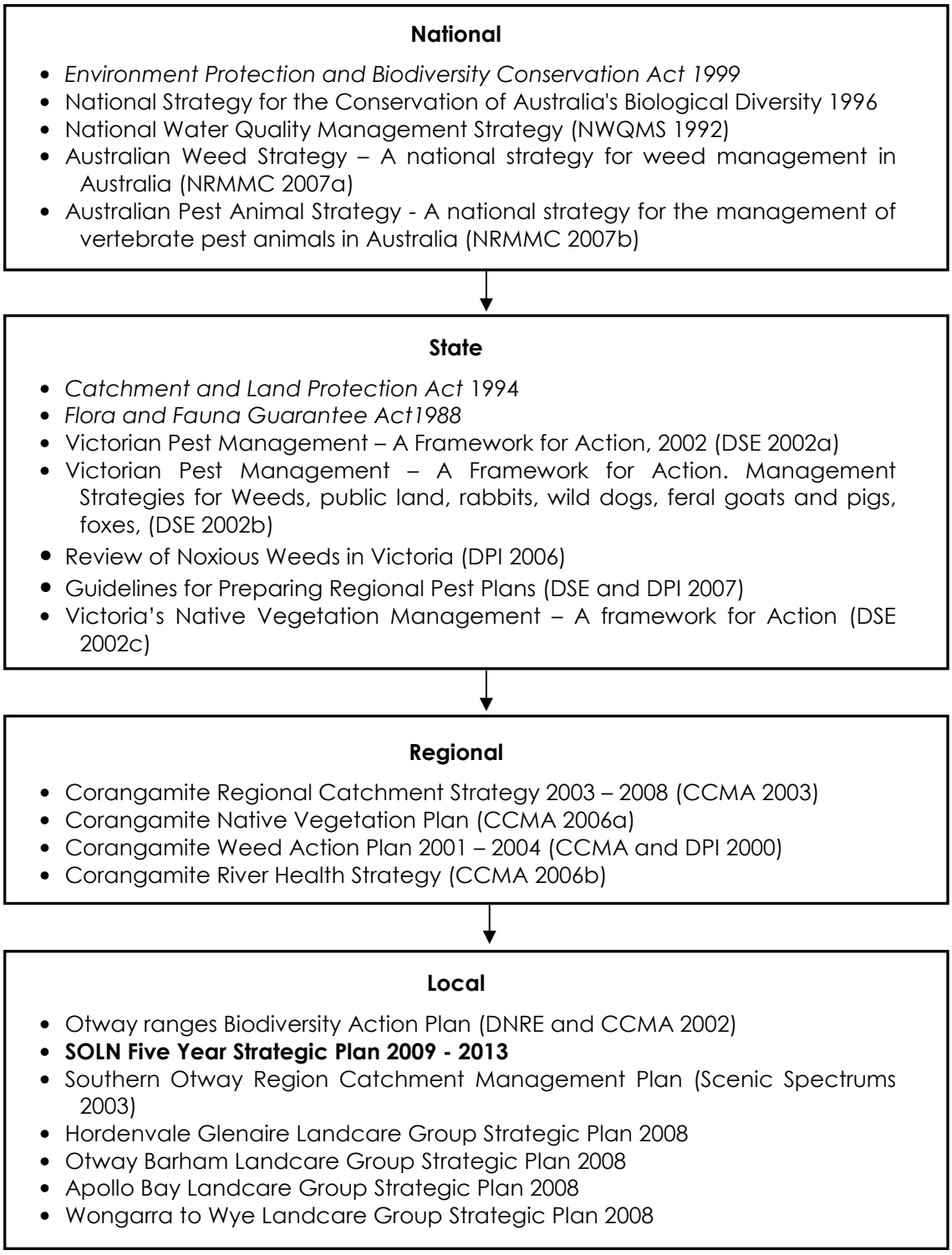

Figure 1: The relevance of the SOLN Strategic Plan in context of existing strategies

6. Priorities and prioritization methods

SOLN is a community driven organization and as such priorities and how resources are expended is determined by the community. The creation of this document initially involved utilizing management priorities as defined by the previously created five year strategic plans for each of the community Landcare groups. The four Landcare groups were then informed of current national and state strategies recommended for pest plant and animal management prioritization through community workshops which was then used to set more specific priorities for pests of the SOLN region. Additional issues raised at the SOLN Weed forum were also incorporated. A brief description of the current national and state pest plant and animal prioritization strategies is outlined in Appendix 6.

The determination of priorities can also be influenced by external factors. Factors such as funding preferences, available resources, timeframes, technical requirements, survey requirements and project planning can all play a role in the prioritisation process.

7. Potential Funding sources

As SOLN is a community based, not for profit organization much of the funding for projects and administration comes from government bodies. SOLN has received funding through the Federal Government, the State Department of Sustainability and Environment, the Department of Primary Industries, the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority, Barwon Water, the Colac Otway Shire, Coast Action/Coastcare and other private foundations such as the Sydney Myer Foundation and Dilmah Tea. It is a vital role of the coordinators to continually seek new and innovative ways of applying for funding through these sources and to search for additional funding sources. Further, with the recent significant governmental changes in funding structure which leaves community driven initiatives largely unsupported, SOLN must also seek new avenues of sponsorship, forming partnerships with corporate entities and educational bodies (schools, universities, CAE's etc.).

Many of the goals and targets outlined in this document are dependant on funding being secured and the strategic plan may require to be reevaluated if funding cannot support any proposed works.

8. Goals, Monitoring and Evaluation

Setting goals, monitoring and evaluating project success is of vital importance for any project. Without this key process it is impossible to judge the effectiveness of resource use and determine project success. To ensure SOLN's effective use of resources a Twenty Year Aspirational Target, Key Five Year Resource Action Targets (Section 8.1, to be completed by 2013) and proposed Annual Works Plans (Management Actions and Measurable Results, Section 8.2) have been detailed for 2009 and 2010.

Additional Annual Works Plans should be created each year to allow flexibility regarding available funding and potential new strategic directions.

The Twenty Year Aspirational target ties in with the plan vision and is as follows:

> *'To effectively use resources by collaborating with the community and relevant agencies to ensure a sustainable landscape that supports and enhances productive land, biodiversity and community health'*

The Five Year Resource Action Targets have been taken from community guidance through the four individual Landcare group strategic plans and meetings with each of the Landcare groups and directions from the SOLN committee of management. Proposed annual works plans draw from the Five Year Resource Action Targets and likely funding resources. The proposed annual works plans provide proposed Management Actions which detail actions to be taken and also Measurable Results which set out measurable goals related to each focus area.

Evaluation

Further, the success of each project should be assessed during and at completion, taking into account three assessment criteria where possible:

1) The condition of attributes (Outcomes) – eg: increase in education levels, number of people attending courses, increase in ecosystem health (may take many years to detect some changes);
2) The status of threats (Effectiveness) – eg: a measured % reduction in weed cover or density, reduction in erosion; and,
3) Implementation (Efficiency) – eg: hectares treated per $$$, number of people educated per $$$, number of hours to achieve goals.

Assessment criteria should be similar across projects where possible so that the success of projects can be compared against each other.

Example of assessment criteria for a revegetation project:

1) *Outcome:* the outcome is to have a 75 % survival of tree and shrub EVC character species and a 75% cover of the EVC canopy and shrub benchmark cover after 5 years;

2) *Effectiveness:* the weed cover is to be reduced to less than 25% and cover of erosion prone ground reduced to less than 5%; and,

3) *Efficiency:* The cost of revegetation projects should be less than $9,150 per hectare.

8.1 Five Year Resource Actions Targets.

Type	Asset	Threat	Key Five Year Resource Action Target
Organizational Support	The SOLN organisation	Inefficiency Miscommunication	Up to date Procedures and Processes Manual 55 COM meetings facilitated
Education	Urban Community Community Capacity Youth Farming community Land Care Project Support Centre SOLN Seed Bank SOLN Resource Centre	Lack of knowledge Asset Mismanagement Lack of skills Lack of confidence and motivation Absentee Landholders	**Water Watch** Existing monitors maintained and 5 new monitors trained 35 training days held for community and schools with over 800 attendees 20 newsletters circulated
			Seed Bank – 15 new active seed collectors 25 new species collected 150g of all collected species stored in seed bank Increase in seedlings grown for SOLN projects form SOLN collected seed
			Weed busters – 10 Weedbusters education sessions facilitated with over 250 students in attendance
			Youth – Landcare Cadets program continued at Apollo Bay and Lavers Hill Schools with over 400 students taking part 16 general Landcare sessions facilitated at Apollo Bay and Lavers Hill Schools with over 250 students in attendance
			Community Capacity – Informed, motivated community Increased understanding of ecological values within SOLN Office open to the community 6 days per week 1000 Show Bags distributed 500 DVDs produced and distributed 5 SOLN Annual Report produced 250 weekly electronic newsletters 250 weekly newssheet articles 100 Seedling Identification Books distributed 5000 Indigenous Flora and Fauna brochures sold
			SOLN and Landcare – Stalls manned at Apollo Bay Music Festival, Apollo Bay Show, Landcare L.I.F.E. expo All positions filled at each AGM
			Fauna Surveys – Investigate feasibility and facilitate 5 fauna surveys at various locations
			Townies – 6 fern species and 15 rare and threatened species propagated Facilitate 8 training sessions with over 60 attendees 125 Townie newssheet articles Display garden maintained and enhanced Incorporate Wye River, Separation Creek and Kennett River communities into townies group with six monthly newsletters.
			Support Centre – Seed cleaning bays constructed and seed sieves purchased Continued provision of service to the community and maintenance of site and SOLN seedlings Shade house completed
Sustainable Farming	Soils Pasture Alternative production on small acreages	Low nutrient values, high fertilizer input, soil erosion, landslips Unsustainable grazing practices, competing weeds Viability of large scale farming practices	Facilitate 3 year pasture management trial at 3 sites Facilitate 6 soil health workshops with 250 attendees Facilitate 3 year dung beetle survey with 24 properties surveyed for dung beetles and over 18 colonies collected and redistributed Plan and implement 6 across boundary farm plans Initiate a farm focus group with over 100 attendees Trial niche agroforestry opportunities at 9 properties and facilitate 6 field days with over 60 attendees Trial alternative production options at 3 properties on small acreages and facilitate 6 field days with over 60 attendees
Biodiversity	Intact habitat and existing links	Fish Barriers, Habitat	Sweet Pittosporum reduced to negligible levels on Skenes Creek Road and support to reduce infestations given to

	Intact native flora and fauna communities Fish populations in the Barham River, and Wild Dog and Skenes Creeks Rare and threatened flora and fauna	fragmentation, Pest plants and animals, stock Foxes and feral cats Logging on private land	Skenes Creek, Wye River and Separation Creek townships. Sea Spurge controlled to low levels between Marengo and Skenes Creek with over 20 community members taking part in SPAG! No establishment of any emergent weeds in the Sugarloaf and Onion Bay foreshore area with revegetation successfully completed at Onion Bay Revisit 75 projects and assess project success Excess seedlings allocated to past projects Dune erosion control design finalised for Skenes Creek beach in conjunction with Foreshore committee 24 ha of biodiversity revegetation corridors connecting catchments and national park with the coast implemented
Waterways	Water Quality Aire River Wild Dog Creek Skenes Creek Ford River Calder River Barham River Beauty Creek Tributary Andersons Creek Catchment Connectivity Wye River Smythes Creek Carisbrook Sugarloaf Creek	Pollutants, Weeds Weeds, Stock, erosion	Aquatic Fauna surveys undertaken in 2 waterways Remove fish barriers from East Barham River, Skenes Creek and Whale Bone Creek *Ford River:* Control Willows and implement 4 km of riparian revegetation *Aire River* : Implement 3.3km of riparian revegetation *Calder River:* Implement 1.5 km of riparian revegetation *Barham River Catchment:* Implement 4km of fencing to protect 18 ha of riparian vegetation, 2 off point watering locations, 6 km or riparian revegetation, 2 interpretive signs erected Willows removed from above the confluence, the estuary and 0.4km of Beauty Gully and liaise with COS to control weeds *Wild Dog Creek:* Implement 8.5 km of riparian revegetation, install interpretive signage, control upstream willows *Skenes Creek:* Implement 3km of riparian revegetation, facilitate burn with CFA *Smythes Creek:* Collect. Propagate and revegetate 1ha with native species *Whalebone Creek:* Implement 1km of riparian revegetation *Wye River:* Implement 2km of riparian revegetation and facilitate education campaign regarding pest plants and animals *Separation Creek:* Implement 1km of riparian revegetation *Kennett River:* Implement 1km of riparian revegetation
Partnerships	Landcare Members Townies Real estate agencies Relevant Agencies such as Colac Otway Shire, CCMA, Barwon Water, VicRoads, Apollo Bay and Kennett River Foreshore committee	Loss of members Lack of communication	Paid membership numbers up by 50% Townies membership numbers up to 20 Strengthen working relationships with relevant agencies ensuring co-operation, collaboration and communication. Strengthen coastal partnerships Establish Secure corporate funding through new partnerships
Pest Plants and Animals	Roadside vegetation Landscape Sunnyside Road	Pest plants and animals Emergents	SOLN roadsides mapped and used to guide roadside weed management Wongarra weeds mapped and prioritised Reported emergent weeds eradicated Disseminate information relating to pest plants and animals regularly At least 60 articles relating to pest plant and animals printed in the newssheet Weed Spotter training held with at lets 8 attendees Ragwort brochure included in rates mail out and community Ragwort pull organized Community fox baiting program implemented in conjunction with Parks Vic baiting Mail out with rates to Wye River, Separation Creek and Kennett River residents of a brochure of common weeds species and what to plant instead

8.2 Annual Works Plans

2009 Annual Works Plan

Type	Focus Area	Relevant Agencies	Management Actions	Measurable Results	Potential Funding
Organizational Support	Administration	SOLN0	Facilitate 11 COM meetings Update Procedures and Processes Manual	11 COM meetings held with quorum Procedures and Processes Manual updated	NA
Education	Water Watch	CCMA	Coordinate yearly water watch program.	Increase program by 1 new monitor Maintain existing monitors One QAQC and 2 Macro-invertebrate sessions for staff and community 5 complete testing kits and other monitoring equipment 4 school training courses Received results submitted to CCMA 4 quarterly SOLN water watch newsletters distributed Annual Water Watch report distributed	CCMA
	Seed Bank	SV, PV	Train new seed collectors Maintain seed bank and processes for accepting and distributing seed Distribute seed to nurseries for SOLN projects Provenance tracking Maintain database Continue partnership with Seeding Victoria including seed on consignment and germination testing.	3 new active seed collectors 5 new species collected 20% of species have 150g of viable seed for each provenance Increase seedlings by 10% grown from SOLN collected seed Ensure 100% correct provenance for SOLN revegetation projects Able to track all seed from collection to planting. Less than 10% of SOLN seed bank becomes unviable Signed MOU agreed upon	CCMA, SV, PV, DSE
	Weedbusters	DPI	Deliver Weed busters program to Apollo Bay and Lavers Hill PS (grades 3 and 4)	50 children attend weed busters workshops Written positive feedback form teachers and children	DPI
	Youth	DPI, CCMA, DSE	Deliver Landcare related activities to primary and secondary aged students at Apollo Bay and Lavers Hill College 4 school education sessions at each school Run 1 session each term at Apollo Bay and Lavers Hill primary of secondary schools on Landcare themes using SOLN Education kits	Continue Apollo Bay community cadets program 80 students educated per school 50 children educated each term Written positive feedback from teachers and children Increased invitation to implement more sessions	DSE Myer,
	Community Capacity	SOLN	Staff and resource library available to the public Investigate cultural heritage forum Information distributed to public	Office open 6 days per week Determine forum date and form appropriate partnerships 200 show bags handed out 500 DVDs produced and 100distributed 150 copies of SOPLN Annual Report distributed 50 weekly electronic newsletters 50 weekly newssheet articles 20 seedling books distributed 1000 Flora and fauna brochures sold	CCMA, DSE
	SOLN and Landcare promotion	All of SOLNs stakeholders	Hold stall at Apollo Bay Music Festival, Apollo Bay Show, Caulfield Racecourse Landcare EXPO (L.I.F.E) and the Barham River Festival Create DVD Run SOLN AGM Produce SOLN Annual Report	Stalls manned at each event. DVD created and 200 show bags distributed DVD aired at Apollo Bay Music Festival, US Landcare Conference via Rob Youl and SOLN AGM All positions filled at AGM Annual report complete	DSE (VIR Grant).

Type	Focus Area	Relevant Agencies	Management Actions	Measurable Results	Potential Funding
	Fauna Surveys	DSE, PV, ARI, GFN, DU	Investigate potential issues with holding fauna surveys	Fauna surveys suitability investigated during July and August	DSE, PV, CCMA, GFN, ARI
	Best Practice on Farms Workshops	DPI	Promote EBMP locally	Run one EBMP workshop with 5 completed EBMP forms	DPI, DSE
	Townies	SOLN, SC, ABFC	Undertake propagation trials for 3 key fern species Undertake propagation for 3 new rare and vulnerable species Undertake 2 Training sessions for local seed collecting and cleaning methods for new Townie members. Coordinator to train in viability and germination testing of native seeds. Write segment for local newssheet advertising up coming events welcoming new members.	Propagation trials completed successfully 8 townie members trained in local seed collectin and cleaning Coordinator trained in viability and germination testing 26 articles in the newssheet over the year	DSE (Second Gen)
	Support Centre	CCMA, DSE	Complete shade house and install watering system Continual development of seed cleaning facility Continued maintenance and upkeep support centre Planting indigenous species in display garden.	Shade house completed and watering system functioning Seed cleaning bays constructed and seed sieves purchased Continued provision of service to the community and good health of SOLN seedling maintenance Display garden planted out	SOLN
Sustainable Farming	Soil, Pasture and Animal Health	DPI	Initiate 3 year pasture management trial on 3 sites Run 2 soil Health workshops Initiate 3 year dung beetle survey Run one dung beetle workshop	Three sites selected, mapped and monitored including 1 field day 50 people attended workshops 8 properties surveyed for dung beetles and 6 colonies collected and redistributed Dung beetle workshop attended by 20 people	DAFF, DEWHA (CFOC)
Biodiversity	Enhance Biodiversity assets	VR, SCIPN, LC	Undertake 3 ha of Sweet Pittosporum Control on Skenes Creek Road Implement community driven Sea Spurge control program Liaise with foreshore committee to control weeds and revegetate Sugarloaf Foreshore area	Sweet Pittosporum reduced to negligible levels Over 20 people involved in SPAG group Sea Spurge reduced to low cover between Skenes Creek and Marengo No establishment of emergent weeds in Sugarloaf area Plan with foreshore weed control approach	DAFF, DEWHA (CFOC Coast), DSE (CC)
	Habitat and Corridor Creation	CCMA	Continued monitoring of past projects Enhancement of past projects Facilitate dune erosion control design at Skenes Creek beach with foreshore committee	Revisit 15 projects and discuss project success to *Projects and Funding Committee* Allocate excess seedlings to past projects Erosion control design finalised	CCMA
Waterways	Fish barriers	CCMA	Investigate possible removal of fish barriers from the East Barham River and Skenes Creek	Initiate discussions with CCMA and private landholders	CCMA
	Ford River	CCMA	Remove Willow Trees Revegetate riparian zones ~~Aquatic Fauna Surveys~~ Facilitate removal of willows closer to Aire with Parks Victoria	All Willow Trees removed from the Ford River Bridge to the Aire River Initiate planning for removal of Willow Trees upstream of Ford River Bridge Native plants established for one km south of the Ford River bridge (approx. 4 ha)	CCMA

Type	Focus Area	Relevant Agencies	Management Actions	Measurable Results	Potential Funding
				Investigate potential for CCMA funded aquatic fauna surveys	
	Aire River	CCMA	Riparian Revegetation of Aire and Tributary	Fence and revegetate 300 metres of waterway (Approx 1ha) Initiate discussion with additional landholders to implement riparian restoration	CCMA
	Calder River	CCMA	Riparian restoration	Monitor and report on autumn direct seeding trial sites	CCMA
	Barham River Catchment	CCMA, BW, COS, PV	Undertake vegetation protection, revegetation and fencing Establish off point watering in Beauty Creek and East Barham Manage weeds on COS managed land Plan stage 1 of Willow removal on the Barham floodplain Develop interpretive signage for catchment	3770m riparian fencing 18 ha riparian zone protected 37 ha riparian zone revegetated 2 off point watering points established Liaise with COS to manage weeds Stage 1 of willow removal on the Barham plain planned 2 signs developed and erected in promenint locations in the catchment	CCMA, BW, DAFF (Envirofund)
	Wild Dog Creek	CCMA	Rehabilitate Wild Dog Creek	Weed species controlled to allow revegetation 285 m of Creekline fenced (Binnawee) Appropriate native species and densities planted along 1.5 km through 2 community planting days Initiate planning for 2010 revegetation projects Install interpretive sign at estuary	CCMA
	Skenes Creek	CCMA, VR, CFA	Rehabilitate Skenes Creek	Weed species controlled to allow revegetation Appropriate native species and densities planted along 1.5km (Approx 2ha) through community planting days Spring burn carried out to clear Blackberry canes	DEWHA, DAFF (CFOC Coast). SOLN
	Smythes Creek	CCMA, PV	Rehabilitation of Smythes Creek Estuary	Undertake 5 community seed collection days for seedlings. Propagate seedlings for next years plantings Liaise with PV to manage weeds	DEWHA, DAFF (CFOC Coast), PV
	Whalebone Creek	CCMA	Assess off point watering options	Secure off point watering location	CCMA
	Wye River	CCMA	Initiate planning with Wye Community	Hold community meeting with more than 5 members present to discuss goals and visions	CCMA
Partnerships	SOLN Membership	NA	Promote SOLN via showbags, real estate agents and local events	Paid SOLN membership numbers up by 10%	NA
	Townie Membership	NA	Promote Townies through newssheet and community local events	Townie membership increased by 2	NA
	Agencies	CCMA, COS, DSE, DPI, PV, SV, ARI, GFN, DU, BW	Strengthen working relationships with relevant agencies ensuring co-operation, collaboration and communication. Strengthen coastal partnerships.	Initiate new partnership with Southern Farming Systems Have stall at Apollo Bay Music festival and assist with Carbon neutral planning Initiate partnerships with SCIPN and LorneCare through SPAG Discuss landscape roadside weed management with COS, DPI, VR , PV and CCMA	NA
Pest Plants and Animals	Education	DPI	Create calendar of weeds and control times Disseminate information regularly Organize Weeds Spotter training	Calendar created and distributed Monthly articles in the newssheet Weed spotter training held with at least 8 attendees	DPI
	Ragwort	DPI	Liaise with COS to include Ragwort brochure in rates mail out Facilitate Ragwort community pull	Ragwort brochure included in rates mail out Ragwort community pull completed with 10 community members in attendance	DPI

Type	Focus Area	Relevant Agencies	Management Actions	Measurable Results	Potential Funding
	Map SOLN roadsides for weed cover	DPI, COS, VR	Seek funding opportunities and template for mapping approach	Discuss funding possibilities with DPI, DSE and COS	DPI, DSE, COS
	Map and prioritise weeds in Wongarra	DPI	Facilitate Wongarra to Wye Landcare Group to develop a plan on how to map and prioritise weeds	Have plan on how to proceed with weed mapping in Wongarra	DPI
	Emergent Weeds	DPI, VR, COS, DSE	Any reported emergent weed infestations controlled appropriately	All reported emergent weed infestations eradicated (See Appendix for group nominated emergent weeds)	COS, DPI
	Implement fox baiting program in conjunction with Parks Vic	PV	Liaise with Gary Summers of Parks Vic to ensure that the baiting programs are coordinated Seek funding to expand local fox and cat control programs	Fox Baiting program implemented	DPI, PV

NOTES: PV – Parks Victoria, DPI – Department of Primary Industries, COS – Colac Otway Shire, VR – VicRoads. CCMA – Corangamite Catchment Management Authority, GFN – Geelong Field Naturalists, ARI – Arthur Rylah Institute, ABFC – Apollo Bay Foreshore Committee, SC – Schools, DEWHA – Department for Water, the Environment and the Arts, DAFF – Department for Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry, SCIPN – Surf Coast and Inland Plains Network, LC – LorneCare, SV = Seeding Victoria, DU – Deakin University, SFS – Southern Farming Systems.

2010 Annual Works Plan

Type	Focus Area	Relevant Agencies	Management Actions	Measurable Results	Potential Funding
Organizational Support	Administration	SOLN	Facilitate 11 COM meetings Update Procedures and Processes Manual	11 COM meetings held with quorum Procedures and Processes Manual updated	NA
Education	Water Watch	CCMA	Coordinate yearly water watch program.	Increase program by 1 new monitor. Maintain existing monitors One QAQC and 2 Macro-invertebrate sessions for staff and community 5 complete testing kits and other monitoring equipment 4 school training courses Received results submitted to CCMA 4 quarterly SOLN water watch newsletters distributed Annual Water Watch report distributed	CCMA
	Seed Bank	SV, PV	Train new seed collectors Maintain seed bank and processes for accepting and distributing seed Distribute seed to nurseries for SOLN projects Provenance tracking Maintain database Continue partnership with Seeding Victoria including seed on consignment and germination testing.	3 new active seed collectors 5 new species collected 40% of species have 150g of viable seed for each provenance Increase seedlings by 10% grown from SOLN collected seed Ensure 100% correct provenance for SOLN revegetation projects. Able to track all seed from collection to planting. Less than 10% of SOLN seed bank becomes unviable	CCMA, SV, PV, DSE
	Weedbusters	DPI	Deliver Weed busters program to Apollo Bay and Lavers Hill PS (grades 3 and 4)	50 students educated Positive feedback from teachers and children	DPI (SWRG)
	Youth	DPI, CCMA, DSE	Deliver Landcare related activities to primary and secondary aged students at Apollo Bay and Lavers Hill College 4 school education sessions at each school Run 1 session each term at Apollo Bay and Lavers Hill primary of secondary schools on Landcare themes using SOLN Education kits	Continue Apollo Bay community cadets program 80 students educated per school 50 children educated each term Written positive feedback from teachers and children Increased invitation to implement more sessions	DSE, Myer,
	Community Capacity	SOLN	Staff and resource library available to the public Cultural heritage forum Information distributed to public	Office open 6 days per week Run cultural heritage forum for landholders in SOLN area in conjunction with CCMA and SOIN 100 DVD distributed 150 copies of SOLN Annual Report distributed 50 weekly electronic newsletters 50 weekly newssheet articles 20 seedling books distributed 1000 Flora and fauna brochures sold	CCMA, DSE
	SOLN and Landcare promotion	All of SOLNs stakeholders	Hold stall at Apollo Bay Music Festival, Apollo Bay Show, Seek funding for more SOLN show bags Run SOLN AGM	Stalls manned at each event. 500 show bags created All positions filled at AGM Annual report produced and distributed.	DSE (VIR Grant).

Type	Focus Area	Relevant Agencies	Management Actions	Measurable Results	Potential Funding
			SOLN Annual Report		
	Fauna Surveys	DSE, PV, ARI, GFN, DU	Run Fauna Survey	1 Fauna Survey run in area close to Apollo Bay public to be invited.	DSE, PV, CCMA, GFN, ARI
	Flora Survey	DSE, GFN, ARI, PV	Run Flora Survey	1 Flora Survey run in area close to Apollo Bay public to be invited.	DSE, PV, CCMA, GFN, ARI
	Best Practice on Farms Workshops	DPI	Promote EBMP locally	Run one EBMP workshop with 5 completed EBMP forms	DPI, DSE
	Townies	SOLN, SC, ABFC	Undertake propagation trials for 3 key fern species Undertake propagation for 3 new rare and vulnerable species Undertake 2 Training sessions for local seed collecting and cleaning methods for new Townie members. Write segment for local newssheet advertising up coming events welcoming new members.	Propagation trials completed successfully 8 townie members trained in local seed collection and cleaning 26 articles in the newssheet over the year	DSE (Second Gen)
	Support Centre	CCMA, DSE	Continual development of seed cleaning facility Continued maintenance and upkeep of support centre Planting indigenous species in display garden.	Seed cleaning bays constructed and seed sieves purchased Continued provision of service to the community and good health of SOLN seedling maintenance Display garden planted out	SOLN
Sustainable Farming	Soil, Pasture and Animal Health	DPI	Continue 3 year pasture management trial on 3 sites, soil tests, Run 2 soil Health workshops Continue 3 year dung beetle survey Initiate a Focus Farm group incorporating 2 workshops	Continue monitoring of 3 pasture trial sites and facilitate 1 field day 50 people attended soil health workshops 8 properties surveyed for dung beetles and 6 colonies collected and redistributed Farm Focus Group attended by at least 20 people.	DAFF, DEWHA (CFOC), SFS
	Farm Practices	OAN	Work with Otway Agroforestry Network (OAN) to trial niche agroforestry opportunities Plans for 3 across boundary farms completed	Niche agroforestry started at 2 sites Implement across boundary Farm plans	OAN, DPI, DEWHA
Biodiversity	Enhance Biodiveristy assets	VR, SCIPN, LC	Follow up on 3 ha of Sweet Pittosporum control on Skenes Creek Road Continue and enhance community driven Sea Spurge control program Liaise with foreshore committee to control weeds and revegetate Onion Bay and Sugarloaf Foreshore area	Sweet Pittosporum reduced to negligible levels and other weeds controlled Over 20 people involved in SPAG group Sea Spurge maintained at low cover between Skenes Creek and Marengo No establishment of emergent weeds in Sugarloaf area Weeds controlled in proposed revegetation areas of Onion Bay and Sugarloaf Foreshore to neglible lenes in preparation for planting	DAFF, DEWHA (CFOC Coast), DSE (CC)
	Habitat and Corridor Creation	CCMA	Continued monitoring of past projects Enhancement of past projects Facilitate dune erosion control design at Skenes Creek beach with foreshore committee	Revisit 15 projects and discuss project success to *Projects and Funding Committee* Excess seedlings allocated to past projects Erosion control design finalised 7ha of biodiversity corridors connecting catchments and national park with the coast completed	CCMA, CFOC, SFS

Type	Focus Area	Relevant Agencies	Management Actions	Measurable Results	Potential Funding
Waterways	Fish barriers	CCMA	Investigate possible removal of fish barriers from the East Barham River and Skenes Creek	Initiate discussions with CCMA and private landholders	CCMA
	Ford River	CCMA	Finish willow removal Plan aquatic fauna surveys Plan continued riparian revegetation to Aire river confluence with CCMA Remove Willow trees upstream of Ford River Bridge	All Willow Trees removed from the Ford River Bridge to the Aire River Willow Trees upstream of Ford River Bridge removed	CCMA
	Aire River	CCMA	Plan with the CCMA further riparian revegetation for 1km of the river length	Plans completed for riparian revegetation of 1km of the Aire River	CCMA
	Calder River	CCMA	Monitor past projects. Initiate discussions with landholders below the Great Ocean Road to extend riparian revegetation in 2011-12	Calder River sites monitored and appropriate actions taken where required Plans for revegetation below the Great Ocean Road secured	CCMA
	Barham River Catchment	CCMA, BW, COS, PV	Kill willows present above the confluence Undertake riparian restoration for 1.5km Plan with CCMA to remove fish barrier in East Barham Plan willow removal for 0.4km of Beauty Gully and implement 0.5 km of riparian restoration Plan 1st stage of Willow removal in the Barham Estuary/floodplain with CCMA, Top-up backwaters project with more understorey diversity & monitor site	Willows controlled above the confluence and for 0.4 km of Beauty Gully 2 km of riparian restoration implemented Plan secured to remove fish barriers from the East Barham 1st stage of Willow removal in the estuary plan completed Adequate cover of understorey indigenous specie s in the backwaters project	CCMA, BW, COS, CC, CFOC
	Wild Dog Creek	CCMA	Follow-up willow/weed mgmt in estuary Implement 2km of riparian restoration Freshwater Circus and Fish Survey	Control Willows to negligible cover Adequate cover of native vegetation in revegetation areas Freshwater Circus and Fish Survey implemented	CCMA
	Skenes Creek	CCMA, CFA	Plan with CCMA to remove fish barrier Plan with landholders and CCMA riparian works for 2011 Monitor and manage tributary site for any emerging weeds. Revegetate burnt area and top-up previous plantings	Plan to remove fish barrier secured Weed species controlled to allow revegetation Previous revegetation sites maintained free of emerging weeds Adequate survivorship of revegetation areas to achieve success	DEWHA, DAFF (CFOC Coast). SOLN
	Smythes Creek	CCMA, PV	Rehabilitation of Smythes Creek Estuary	Implement revegetation using previously grown seedlings Liaise with PV to manage weeds	DEWHA, DAFF (CFOC Coast), PV
	Whalebone Creek	CCMA	Investigate fish barrier removal Monitor past projects, investigate further riparian restoration projects with landholders and seek funding	Liaisons achieved with CCMA regarding fish barrier removal Past projects achieving revegetation goals Funding applied for and meetings facilitated with 5 landholders	CCMA, CC, CFOC, DSE, TFN
	Wye River	CCMA	Seek funding for community determined riparian projects Plan with community pest plant projects	Applied for at least 2 funding bids Hold community meeting with more than 5 members present to discuss pest plant projects	CCMA, CC, CFOC
	Anderson Creek	CCMA	initiate discussions with landholders to	Successful meeting with landholders and directions of restoration	CCMA

Type	Focus Area	Relevant Agencies	Management Actions	Measurable Results	Potential Funding
			continue riparian restoration	secured.	
Partnerships	SOLN funding	NA	Seek corporate funding/partnerships and draft agreements	At least three corporate agencies to be interestd in working with SOLN	
	SOLN Membership	NA	Promote SOLN via showbags, real estate agents and local events	Paid SOLN membership numbers up by 10% on 2009	NA
	Townie Membership	NA	Promote Townies through newssheet and community local events	Townie membership increased by 2	NA
	Agencies	CCMA, COS, DSE, DPI, PV, SV, ARI, GFN, DU, BW	Strengthen working relationships with relevant agencies ensuring co-operation, collaboration and communication. Strengthen coastal partnerships.	Cement partnership with Southern Farming Systems Have stall at Apollo Bay Music festival and assist with Carbon neutral planning Cement partnerships with SCIPN and LorneCare through SPAG Discuss landscape roadside weed management with COS, DPI, VR , PV and CCMA	NA
Pest Plants and Animals	Education	DPI	Disseminate information regularly	Monthly articles in the newssheet	DPI
	Rabbits	DPI	Initiate rabbit control program	Rabbit control program initiated on 10 properties with sites mapped and monitored	CFOC, SFS
	Map SOLN roadsides for weed cover	DPI, COS, VR, PV	Initiate 2 year roadside weed mapping program	Agree on roadside weed mapping protocols Train Landcare members in mapping Begin weed mapping program Use Landcare determined weed priority lists (Appendix) to guide management actions	DPI, DSE, COS
	Map and prioritise weeds in Wongarra	DPI	Wongarra to Wye Landcare Group plan developed on how to map and prioritise weeds	Plan developed Mapping initiated	DPI
	Emergent Weeds	DPI, VR, COS, DSE	Any reported emergent weed infestations controlled appropriately	All reported emergent weed infestations eradicated (See Appendix for group nominated emergent weeds)	COS, DPI
	Implement fox baiting program in conjunction with Parks Vic	PV	Liaise with Gary Summers of Parks Vic to ensure that the baiting programs are coordinated Seek funding to expand local fox and cat control programs	Fox Baiting program implemented	DPI, PV

NOTES: PV – Parks Victoria, DPI – Department of Primary Industries, COS – Colac Otway Shire, VR – VicRoads. CCMA – Corangamite Catchment Management Authority, GFN – Geelong Field Naturalists, ARI – Arthur Rylah Institute, ABFC – Apollo Bay Foreshore Committee, SC – Schools, DEWHA – Department for Water, the Environment and the Arts, DAFF – Department for Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry, SCIPN – Surf Coast and Inland Plains Network, LC – LorneCare, SV = Seeding Victoria, DU – Deakin University, SFS – Southern Farming Systems, OAN – Otway Agroforestry Network, CFOC – Caring for our Country, CC – Coast Care, TFN – Trust for Nature

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APPENDIX

Appendix 1: Horden Vale Glenaire Landcare Group

Priority Pest Plants

Type: Absent **Treatment: Prevention** Ox-eye Daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare* **C** Patterson's Curse *Echium plantagineum* **C** Boneseed *Chrysanthemoides monilifera* **WONS** Gorse *Ulex europaeus* **C** Serrated Tussock *Nassella trichotoma* **C**	**Type: Emergent** **Treatment: Eradication** Sweet Pittosporum *Pittosporum undulatum* Ivy *Hedera helix* Pampas Grass *Cortaderia selloana* Bleeding Heart *Omalanthus populifolius* Sycamore *Acer* spp.
Type: Foothold **Treatment: Containment** Boxthorn *Lycium ferocissimum* **C** Thistle *Cirsium arvense* **R** Asparagus Fern *Asparagus scandens* Periwinkle *Vinca major* Cape Weed *Arctotheca calendula* Willows *Salix* spp. **R** Arum Lilies *Zantedeschia aethiopica*	**Type: Widespread** **Treatment: Asset Based Approach** Blackberry *Rubus fruticosus* spp. agg. **C** Pine *Pinus radiata* Ragwort *Senecio jacobaea* **C** Wandering Jew *Tradescantia fluminensis* Cleavers *Galium aparine* Forget-me –nots *Myosotis* spp.

Notes: **C** = Regionally Controlled Noxious Weed, **R** = Restricted Noxious Weed, **WONS** = Weed of National Significance.

Priority Pest Animals

Fox	Rabbits	Rats	Feral Cats	Deer
Wild Pigs	Bower Birds	Blackbirds		

Issues

Absentee Landholders	Large Forestry Companies	Road Reserves
Communication with agencies	Enforcement and Compliance	

Priority Assets

The Horden Vale Glenaire Landcare Group considered the entire landscape as one asset and did not consider prioritising any areas as appropriate.

Assets they consider valuable include: waterways, agriculture, soils, aesthetic values, remnant vegetation.

Appendix 2: Apollo Bay Landcare Group
Five year plan 2008-2013

Vision

To maintain and improve the landscape, comprising an appropriate balance of areas of natural vegetation, where the flora and fauna existing pre European settlement flourish in the correct ecological environments and invasive species are excluded and sustainably productive and aesthetic areas of settlement and agricultural production.

Our specific objectives are to:

1. **Restore the Wild Dog and Skenes Creeks and Estuaries to something approaching pre-Cook status in line with our vision by:**
    - Planting appropriate indigenous species
    - Improving the diversity and quantity of native fish in the creeks by
        a) Restoring the water quality in the creeks by
            - removal of willows and the planting of shade shrubs and trees along the creeks
            - Limiting stock access to the creek
        b) Removing or limiting fish barriers
    - Carrying out a monitoring program to check the above
    - Informing the funding bodies, the public and the landowners of progress made towards the vision
2. **Remove existing weeds within the catchment area of the Apollo Bay Group**
3. **Assess the scenic current scenic quality of the landscape and the degree to which it should be maintained and improved**

    Determine the desirability of revegetating the brows of the hills in Wild Dog Valley to shield the ridgelines from below.

4. Increase the knowledge and commitment of the community concerning the preservation of the ecological and aesthetic values of the environment.

Proposed future work

Eradicate weeds and then plant further along the Creeks

- in the Gorge area and on the public land below Binnawee in Wild Dog and
- introduce further plantings in Skenes Creek and its tributaries. Fence parts of the creeks to keep domestic animals from the creek sides and plantings

Continue to control weeds on areas already planted with native species, including

- spraying of the Kikuyu infestation in the picnic ground in Skenes Creek and
- further control the spread of Pittosporum in the catchments.

Infill gaps in plantings along the creeks with further plantings of native trees and shrubs

Introduce some larger tree plantings with wallaby guards in strategic positions along the creeks to provide more shade for the protection of fish and

If deemed to be appropriate, plant along the brows of the ridges at a height such that the foliage of the vegetation shields the ridge lines from view and reduce the probability of landslip on the slopes below.

Investigate with CCMA the improvements to fish barriers proposed by Greg Peters in his original workshop.

Contact the Cultural Office of the Catchment Authority and arrange a site visit with the Framlingham Group to discuss plans and to ask for their knowledge of the area

Investigate large scale planting together with the help of Parks Victoria and local landowners of endemic trees on the steep slopes above Wild Dog Creek.

Work with members on land management of their properties so that they can combine protection of biodiversity and native bush on their land with useful production.

In order to control feral animals some members from the group will be encouraged to take the certification course being held by SOLN and then to disseminate the information to landowners.

Monitoring

10. The group will map the weed hot spots in its catchments
11. The group will continue monitoring the health of the creeks via visual landscape evidence and photographs, water quality monitoring via Water Watch, and changes to the estuary mouths via Estuary Watch.
12. The parameters to be measured will describe the ecological health of the estuary environment, including the creek banks, and the water quality in the creeks.
13. The state of the environment will be measured by determining the density of plants of each species against the relevant EVCs.
14. Records of any wild life sightings will be kept in order to monitor progress in biodiversity.

Priority Pest Plants

Type: Absent **Treatment: Prevention** Patterson's Curse *Echium plantagineum* **C** Serrated Tussock *Nassella trichotoma* **C** Chilean Needle-grass *Nassella neesiana* **C**	**Type: Emergent** **Treatment: Eradication** Gorse *Ulex europaeus* **C** Boneseed *Chrysanthemoides monilifera* **WONS** Hemlock *Conium maculatum* **C** Bridal Creeper *Asparagus asparagoides* **R**
Type: Foothold **Treatment: Containment** Sea Spurge *Euphorbia paralias* Arum Lilies *Zantedeschia aethiopica* Nasturtium *Nasturtium* spp. Holly Ilex aquifolium Spanish Heath *Erica lusitanica* Sweet Pittosporum *Pittosporum undulatum* Willows *Salix* spp. **R**	**Type: Widespread** **Treatment: Asset Based Approach** Blackberry *Rubus fruticosus* spp. agg. **C** Cape Ivy *Delairea odorata* Ragwort *Senecio jacobaea* **C** Cape Wattle *Paraserianthes lophantha* Thistle *Cirsium arvense* **R** Dock *Rumex* spp.

Notes: **C** = Regionally Controlled Noxious Weed, **R** = Restricted Noxious Weed, **WONS** = Weed of National Significance.

Pest Vectors

Refuse dumping	Unclean machinery	Garden Escapees	Feral Pets
Livestock	Horses on foreshore	Fire (lack of weed follow up post fire)	

Priority Pest Animals

Fox	Rabbits	Rats	Feral Cats	Introduced birds
Wallabies	Cockatoos			

Issues

Education	Community demographic change	Stock in water systems
Trail Bikes	Off-target herbicide damage	Climate change

Adequate site preparation of revegetation areas

Priority Assets

The Apollo Bay Landcare group identified the overall landscape as a priority asset but within that they also identified: 1) Water quality of the two main watercourses, the Wild Dog and Skenes Creeks which provide habitat for significant fish species and 2) The beach area which provides important aesthetic and tourist values as well as habitat for the significant nesting bird species the Hooded plover. Other assets identified include habitat for the significant Rufous bristle Bird and Grey Goshawk.

Appendix 3: Otway Barham Landcare Group
5 Year Plan (2007-2012)

Vision:

"To protect and restore the health of the Barham River Catchment from source to sea."

This plan has environmental as well as social components. Each component is concurrent.

Plan A: Restore riparian environment -

Fencing out stock (where necessary), establish stock crossings (where necessary, plant indigenous species within appropriate EVC's

Provide off-stream and in-stream watering points (where appropriate);

Eradicating and controlling weeds eg willows, ragwort, blackberry

Tributaries: Anderson's Creek, Beauty Creek

Gullies

2007-2008 PRIORITIES

Complete projects from 2006-2007 within the Special Water Supply Catchment area

Riparian restoration of the Barham river below the Barwon water pump station to the estuary;

Riparian restoration of Anderson's Creek from the industrial area to the Barham river;

Riparian restoration of the Beauty Creek tributary;

Restoration of the Estuary

Strategy:

Utilise SOLN Coordinators to liaise with landholders to develop detailed project plans and source funding.

Measured by:

1. Number of successful riparian projects
2. Water Quality & Macro-invertebrate assessment- long term.

Plan B. Protect and restore the habitat of the Barham River catchment-

Establish connectivity and linkages between differing catchment EVC's eg estuary to the forest

Protect and extend remnant vegetation through woodlots, plantations, landslips, bank erosion and buffer zones

Remove fish barrier (old flow measuring point) West Barham

Embark on cross-boundary projects to control weeds and feral pests

2007-2008 PRIORITIES

1. Complete projects from 2006-2007 within the Special Water Supply Catchment area

Riparian restoration of the Barham river below the Barwon water pump station to the estuary;

Riparian restoration of Anderson's Creek from the industrial area to the Barham river;

Riparian restoration of the Beauty Creek tributary;

Restoration of the Estuary

Remove fish barrier (old flow measuring point) West Barham

Establish a feral pest management program in conjunction with Parks Victoria, and Hordern Vale/Glenaire Landcare Group.

Strategy:

Liaise and draw on expert advice eg. Parks Victoria, CCMA, Barwon Water, DPI etc

Utilise SOLN Co-ordinators to liaise with landholders to develop detailed project plans and source funding.

Measured by:

Annual fish, bird, koala, quoll, wallaby population assessment

Investigate measurement and reporting strategies for weeds and feral pests

Plan C. Increased understanding of the catchment ecology, environmental values, and best practice management

Offer Environmental Best Management Practice (on farms) Course to all members
Develop monthly program where experts conduct seminars and workshops
Plan for an annual Barham River Festival with a focus on education and celebration
Include walking (cycling track) in riparian zone
Maintain Water Quality Measurement Activities
Map landholder improvements, potential projects, past projects and membership status.
Encourage and promote Landcare within the Otway Barham River Catchment
Provide a voice for members in dealing with policy development and Government agencies

2007-2008 PRIORITIES

Run a Best Management Practice on Farms program
Survey Landcare group members to identify subjects and speakers of interest
Develop a range of activities to support priorities for 2007-2008
Initiate planning for an annual Barham River Festival
Consolidate the water quality testing and monitoring program and reporting
Map known landholder improvements and completed landholder projects

Strategy:

Initiate Best Management Practice on Farms through the Department of Primary Industries
Work with OBCLG members and other SOLN Landcare Groups to identify potential subjects and speakers
Utilise SOLN Co-ordinators to develop an activities calendar
Establish an interest group to investigate the concept of an annual Barham River Festival
Develop and promote the concept of public access to riparian zones to the Colac Otway Shire
Publish water quality data in Apollo Bay News Sheet and websites
Regular workshops for Water Quality volunteers
Utilise SOLN Co-ordinators to produce the map

Measured by:

Percentage of property plans are in the process of being implemented
Participation at seminars and workshops
A plan for an Annual Barham River Festival –range of activities and participation in activities
Water Quality activities and measurement over time
Completed map made available to all members

This plan is underpinned by the:

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Priority Pest Plants

Type: Absent **Treatment: Prevention** Patterson's Curse *Echium plantagineum* **C** Serrated Tussock *Nassella trichotoma* **C** Sycamore *Acer* spp. Ox-eye Daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare* **C** Gorse *Ulex europaeus* **C** Bathurst Burr *Xanthium spinosum* **C**	**Type: Emergent** **Treatment: Eradication** Olive *Olea europaea* False Balm of Gilead *Cedronella canariensis* Coast Tea-tree *Leptospermum laevigatum* Chinaberry *Melia azedarach* Tutsan *Hypericum androsaemum* **R** Cape Weed *Arctotheca calendula* Sour sob *Oxalis pes-caprae* **R** Petty Spurge *Euphorbia peplus*
Type: Foothold **Treatment: Containment** Spanish Heath *Erica lusitanica* Nasturtium *Nasturtium* spp. Fleabane *Conyza* spp.	**Type: Widespread** **Treatment: Asset Based Approach** Blackberry *Rubus fruticosus* spp. agg. **C** English Ivy *Hedera helix* Cape Ivy *Delairea odorata* Ragwort *Senecio jacobaea* **C** Thistle *Cirsium arvense* **R** Kikuyu *Pennisetum clandestinum*

Notes: **C** = Regionally Controlled Noxious Weed, **R** = Restricted Noxious Weed, **WONS** = Weed of National Significance.

Pest Vectors

Climate Change	Soil Health	Weather	Refuse Dumping
Imported hay	Imported gravel	Works Depots	Domestic Animals
Nursery Sales			

Priority Pest Animals

Foxes	Feral Cats	Rabbits	Exotic Birds	Ducks
Slugs	Some native birds	Wallabies	Koalas	Possums

Issues

Education of landholders	Co-ordination of control methods
Relationships with agencies	Clarification of responsibilities

Priority Assets

The Otway Barham Landcare Group identified many assets within their catchment. Some of these were intangible such as the aesthetics of the area, time (effective use of resources) and morale of the Landcare group. Other more tangible assets included clean water systems, productive land, infrastructure, flora and fauna (biodiversity and remnant, native vegetation), the beach and access, riparian areas.

Appendix 4: Wongarra to Wye Landcare Group (W2W) 5 Year Plan

Five priority areas

1. Weeds
2. Community Plantings
3. Priority private plantings
4. Education and Participation
5. Web site up and running

Year One

Weeds

Map and prioritise weed hot spots in W2W. Establish a weed control program in conjunction with Colac/Otway Shire, Parks and the Foreshore Committee. Nominate a weed control officer to co-ordinate.

Community Plantings

Continue to work on current plantings at Sugarloaf Peak and Onion Bay. Weed control and Mulching at Onion Bay and weed control and planting at Sugarloaf Peak, (500 fill in plants to be supplied by the foreshore committee). Apply for grant to Spray weeds at Smythes Creek mouth ready for planting in 2008/09/10

Priority Private plantings

Using our W2W project map, identify 3 priority projects on private land and send a Landcare kit to each landowner with an aerial map of the proposed planting.

Education and Participation

Increase participation at meetings through use of speakers and farm visits. Apply for funding and liaise with other SOLN groups to defray the costs.

Year Two

Weeds

Continue to monitor, map and control weeds

Community Plantings

Continue fill in plantings at Sugarloaf 300 trees at a time. Aim for late August planting. Monitor Onion Bay for weeds.

First planting at Smythes Creek (500) apply for grant to cover costs.

Priority Private plantings

Using our W2W project map, identify 3 priority projects on private land and send a Landcare kit to each landowner with an aerial map of the proposed planting.

Education and Participation

Increase participation at meetings through use of speakers and farm visits. Apply for funding and liaise with other SOLN groups to defray the costs

Year Three

Weeds

Continue to monitor, map and control weeds

Community Plantings

Continue fill in plantings at Sugarloaf 300 trees at a time. Aim for late August planting. Monitor Onion Bay for weeds.

Second planting at Smythes Creek (500) apply for grant to cover costs.

Carisbrook River Spraying

Priority Private plantings

Using our Wongarra project map, identify 3 priority projects on private land and send a Landcare kit to each landowner with an aerial map of the proposed planting.

Education and Participation

Increase participation at meetings through use of speakers and farm visits. Apply for funding and liaise with other SOLN groups to defray the costs

Year Four

Weeds
Continue to monitor, map and control weeds
Community Plantings
Continue fill in plantings at Sugarloaf 300 trees at a time. Aim for late August planting. Monitor Onion Bay for weeds.
Third planting at Smythes Creek (500) apply for grant to cover costs.
Carisbrook River Planting
Priority Private plantings
Using our W2W project map, identify 3 priority projects on private land and send a Landcare kit to each landowner with an aerial map of the proposed planting.
Education and Participation
Increase participation at meetings through use of speakers and farm visits. Apply for funding and liaise with other SOLN groups to defray the costs

Year Five

Weeds
Continue to monitor, map and control weeds
Community Plantings
Continue fill in plantings at Sugarloaf 300 trees at a time. Aim for late August planting. Monitor Onion Bay for weeds.
Fourth planting at Smythes Creek (500) apply for grant to cover costs.
Priority Private plantings
Using our W2W project map, identify 3 priority projects on private land and send a Landcare kit to each landowner with an aerial map of the proposed planting.
Education and Participation
Increase participation at meetings through use of speakers and farm visits. Apply for funding and liaise with other SOLN groups to defray the costs

2007-8	Maintenance and re-planting at Onion Bay and Sugarloaf Spraying at Smythes Creek
2008-9	Weed control on Sunnyside Road Planting Sugarloaf Weed control and revegetation at Wye, Sep and Kennett
2009-10	Planting at Smythes Creek; Spraying at Carisbrook Creek; Weed control at Grey River Weed control and revegetation at Sep
2010-11	Maintenance and re-planting at Smythes Creek; Planting at Carisbrook Creek; Weed control on foreshores Weed control and revegetation at Kennett River
2001-12	Maintenance and re-planting at Carisbrook Creek; Weed control on foreshores Weed control at Wye, Sep and Kennett

Priority Pest Plants

Type: Absent **Treatment: Prevention** Cape Tulip Two Leaf *Homeria miniata* **S** Serrated Tussock *Nassella trichotoma* **C**	**Type: Emergent** **Treatment: Eradication** Boneseed *Chrysanthemoides monilifera* **WONS** Gorse *Ulex europaeus* **C** Ox-eye Daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare* **C** Pampas Grass *Cortaderia selloana* Spanish Heath *Erica lusitanica*
Type: Foothold **Treatment: Containment** Agapanthus *Agapanthus praecox* Sweet Pittosporum *Pittosporum undulatum* Montpellier Broom *Genista monspessulana* **C** Wild Mustard *Brassica* sp. Asparagus fern *Asparagus scandens* Cape Ivy *Delairea odorata* Periwinkle *Vinca major*	**Type: Widespread** **Treatment: Asset Based Approach** Ragwort *Senecio jacobaea* **C** Blackberry *Rubus fruticosus* spp. agg. **C** Bracken *Pteridium esculentum* Petty Spurge *Euphorbia peplus* Bidgee Widgee *Acaena Novae-Zelandiae* Cape Wattle *Paraseriantus lophantha*

Notes: **S** = State Prohibited Weed, **C** = Regionally Controlled Noxious Weed, **R** = Restricted Noxious Weed, **WONS** = Weed of National Significance.

Pest Vectors

Gravel Pits (Ondit and Woady Yallock Quarry) Refuse dumping (Grey River historical)

Wind (Recommend belt plantations as seed catchers) Foxes Birds

Priority Pest Animals

Foxes Feral Cats Rabbits Exotic Birds

Issues

Landholder uptake Education

Absentee/Lifestyle properties The need for financial incentives

Wallabies Koalas Possums

Priority Assets

Tree Plantations Pasture The Coast Native Vegetation Tourism

Waterways (Wye River, Separation Creek, Kennett River, Grey River, Smythes Creek, Carisbrook Creek, Sugarloaf Creek, Orchard Creek, Whale Bone Creek, Von Mueller Creek)

Appendix 5: Proceedings of SOLN Weed Forum 2009

Listed below are the issues identified at the SOLN Weeds forum held in the Apollo Bay Shire Offices on the 26th of February 2009. This forum was open to all members of the community. The concerns of the group were placed into seven broad categories: 1) Weed Control Responsibilities (particularly on roadsides); 2) Education; 3) Data Collection; 4) Enforcement/Accountability; 5) Resources; 6) Major Weed Infestations. 7) Emerging Weeds and Vectors. The significance of these issues is outlined below. The issues raised at the forum have been incorporated into this strategic plan.

1. Weed Control Responsibilities

The issue of land responsibility and weed control is the most important weed issue identified at the forum and within that the issue of weeds on roadsides stood out as the issue of most concern. Weeds on roadsides are of vital importance as they can enhance weed mobility through corridor movement and have implications on adjacent land through weed invasion associated with edge effects. The clarification of responsibilities within roadsides and implementing better control and monitoring protocols is of vital importance. Furthermore, any weed control works is to be undertaken in an integrated fashion ensuring collaboration between the community and various agencies.

2. Education

Education is the key to landholders undertaking weed control. While some landholders do not have the inclination to undertake weed control even with the correct education many landholders are open to undertaking works once made aware of weed species and the effect they can have.

3. Data Collection

At the time of the forum there was much discussion about roadside weeds and the lack of action taken to control them. Mapping these areas for weeds gives us baseline data to direct the actions of agencies and also provide an important measure of determining the success of any control programs. It was considered important that all agencies are working from the same map to encourage co-operation and effective use of resources.

4. Enforcement/ Accountability

Enforcement and accountability are vital to ensure that landholders and responsible agencies adhere to their weed control responsibilities.

5. Resources

Some landholders feel that they do not have the proper equipment to deal with weed infestations and a service such as the cheap hire of a spray unit

may enable some landholders to deal with weed problems more effectively. Discussions with Landcare groups that have purchased spray units revealed conflicting experiences. Hordenvale Glenaire Landcare Group reported that while the spray unit could be used more there was generally a good uptake of the service and it was considered a worthwhile investment. Conversely the experience of the Wongarra to Wye Landcare Group who also purchased a spray unit reported that it was not used enough to justify the expense.

6. Major Weed Infestations

With limited resources for tackling weeds, resource allocation and prioritisation of weed infestations is of vital importance. Government research indicates that new and emerging weeds should be addressed first and then assets such as productive land and biodiversity values should be protected. When dealing with large weed infestations management practices should always be monitored for effectiveness and a variety of control methods utilised if appropriate.

7. Emerging Weeds and Weed Vectors

Emerging weeds are of vital importance as these are weeds this document recommends to target. Government research indicates that allocation of resources to new and emerging weeds gives the greatest reward for expenditure.

Appendix 6: Pest Plant and Animal Prioritisation

For the purposes of this strategic plan, the definition of a pest plant or animal has been taken from the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council *Report on Weeds in Victoria* (NRMMC 1998)

> *'a plant or animal that has, or has the potential to have, a detrimental effect on economic, social or environmental assets.'*

Victoria's pest management policy (DSE 2002) describes a natural resource management approach that prioritises pest management programs to optimise results by producing the best return for resources invested. There are two main approaches recommended for pest management: 1. *Species led approach* and 2. *Asset based approach*.

Species Led Approach

Under this approach to pest management, best results are achieved by first increasing efforts to prevent new pest introductions and eradicate emergent pests to the area. Consequently, the prevention of new and emerging pests is recommended to be the highest priority for management as detailed in *Guidelines for Preparing Regional Pest Plans* (DSE and DPI 2007). Generally, this will mean that priority should be given to programs that prevent the introduction of, or eradicate newly establishing species over containment and suppression programs for established species as this approach is shown to provide the greatest value (see the Costs: Benefits section of Figure 2 below).

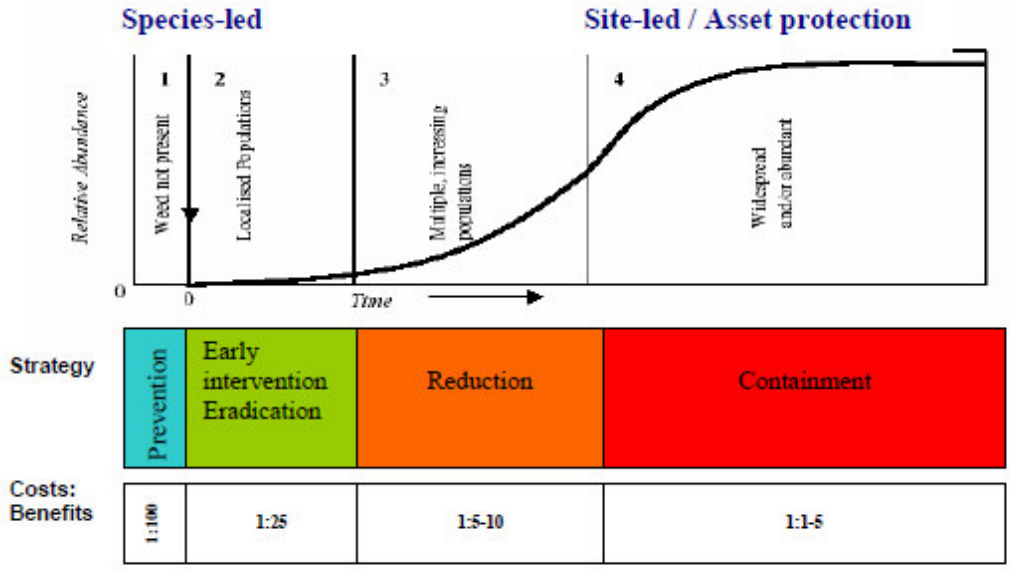

Figure 2: Invasion curve indicating stages of expansion of a pest species into a habitat, appropriate management strategy and the potential costs:benefits of intervention at various stages of invasion of a weed (GHCMA 2007).

There are a number of conditions to be met in determining whether eradication is feasible. As a general rule, when dealing with weed species, these include:

- Infestations < 100ha;
- < 3 infestations;
- Sites are easily accessible;
- Species is easily recognisable; and,
- Restricting trade may assist eradication, if it is a plant that is currently traded.

Prevention and eradication programs form the basis of the *species-led* approach to pest management, prioritising one species above another on the basis of the risk it poses to the region's economic, environmental and social values. In particular, the control of State and Regionally prohibited weeds should fall into this management approach. Prevention programs should involve management of spread pathways such as transport corridors and the delivery of community awareness programs.

At the early stage of invasion, it is feasible to target individual species for eradication. As a pest infestation enlarges, it is less likely that a species will be able to be eradicated, and containment approaches to limit its further spread return the best value for investment. Containment involves defining the boundary of the infestation and eliminating all satellite infestations outside this boundary and may also involve management of spread pathways to prevent future reinvasion onto a cleaned area.

Asset Based Approach

Once a pest becomes so widespread that their containment is no longer possible, management focuses on protecting identified assets using the second approach: *Asset Based* protection. Asset based protection programs focus upon reducing the impact of all threats, including pests, on high value assets in the region. Assets may have an environmental, economic and /or social value to the region. The control of widespread pest animals such as foxes preying upon rare and threatened species falls into this 'asset-based' management approach.