

# Report on results of Solutions at the Source at the Source Farm Plan Review workshops



Draft report prepared by Cassie Wright, Nature Matters  
for Bass Coast Landcare Network

November 2009

# Table of contents

1	Introduction .....	3
1.1	Project Background .....	3
1.2	Objectives.....	3
2	Description of Methods.....	3
2.1	Workshops.....	3
2.2	Telephone Surveys .....	3
2.3	Data analysis.....	4
3	Results.....	5
3.1	Workshop attendance and phone surveys .....	5
3.2	Review questions.....	5
3.2.1	Use of plan .....	5
3.2.1.1	Figure 1. Frequency of use of plan.....	5
3.2.2	Works done since completing course .....	6
3.2.2.1	Figure 2. Works done since completing course .....	6
3.2.3	Practice change on farms.....	7
3.2.3.1	Figure 3. Farm management practice changes made by participants.....	7
	Future works planned .....	8
3.2.3.2	Figure 4. Future works planned .....	8
3.2.4	Topics of future interest.....	9
3.2.4.1	Figure 5. Topics of future interest.....	9
3.2.5	Method of delivery.....	9
3.2.6	How the course has assisted landholders .....	10
3.2.6.1	Figure 6. Topics of future interest.....	10
4	Discussion .....	11
4.1	Use of plans.....	11
4.2	Works done since completing course, changing practices and works planned .....	11
4.3	Topics of future interest.....	11
5	conclusion and recommendations .....	11
6	Appendices.....	13
6.1	Appendix 1: Review questions (see word file attached).....	13
6.2	Appendix 2: Responses to review questions (see excel file attached).....	13
6.3	Appendix 3: Future interest questionnaire (see word file attached).....	14
6.4	Appendix 4: Responses to future interest questionnaire (see excel file attached).....	14
6.5	Appendix 5: Group discussion results.....	15

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Project Background**

The Bass Coast Landcare Network has been running land management planning courses since 2005. The *Solutions at the Source* course has been modified and improved over this time, and in its current form is a series of six workshops that help farmers/landholders assess their current farm practices and prioritise areas that need action.

In October 2009 BCLN engaged Cassie Wright to run a series of workshops to enable farmers who had attended previous courses to update their whole farm plans. The opportunity was also taken to gather feedback and information on the works landholders had planned and then undertaken since the course, as well as actions they intend to take in the future. They were also asked how the course assisted them, and whether they had undertaken any monitoring on farm.

### **1.2 Objectives**

The objectives of this report are to summarise the results of landholder questionnaires looking at works completed since undertaking the Solutions at the Source course, and topics of future interest to landholders.

## **2 DESCRIPTION OF METHODS**

### **2.1 Workshops**

Four workshops were held across the Bass Coast Landcare Network region. Two were held at the Corinella & District Community Centre, one in Wonthaggi and one on French Island. Two workshops were held on week days, and two on weekends. By varying the location, day and date, we hoped to provide the opportunity for all past participants to attend a workshop session.

At two stages of the workshop participants were asked to complete a survey (see appendix 1).

The first (Review questions) asked the following:

1. When did you do your course?
2. How often do you use your aerial plan (e.g. monthly, seasonally, annually, less frequently)? Do you update it? How often?
3. What works did you identify during your course?
4. What works have you completed since doing the course?
5. What works do you have planned?
6. How did the course assist you?
7. Have you undertaken any monitoring? If so, what have you monitored?
8. Any other comments?

The second (Future interest questionnaire) asked participants to select (circle) the topic and method of delivery that they would prefer for any topics of future interest (see appendix 2). Delivery methods listed were: Hard copy, Digital, Training course, Field day, Farm discussion group and Other.

Once participants had completed the surveys group discussions were held, to provide an opportunity for sharing of ideas and knowledge and a chance to get to know other farmers.

### **2.2 Telephone Surveys**

A small number of landholders were contacted by telephone and taken through the review questions. Their responses have been included in the results below.

## **2.3 Data analysis**

Data was analysed and graphs created using Microsoft Excel.

Some participants came with their partner, and some filled out a survey each (two per farm). When compiling data care was taken to combine such results into the one survey.

In addition, a small number of landholders had undertaken a telephone survey as well as attending a workshop. In these instances, only their workshop responses were included, as these results were more up to date.

This means that all results shown for number of responses refer to responses per farm, not per individual farmer.

### 3 RESULTS

#### 3.1 Workshop attendance and phone surveys

Twenty-eight landholders from twenty-three farms attended the four workshops. A significant number of others expressed interest however were unable to attend on the dates held. Eleven landholders were surveyed by the telephone, three of which subsequently attended workshops. The data below is therefore based on the responses of thirty-six landholders from thirty-one farms.

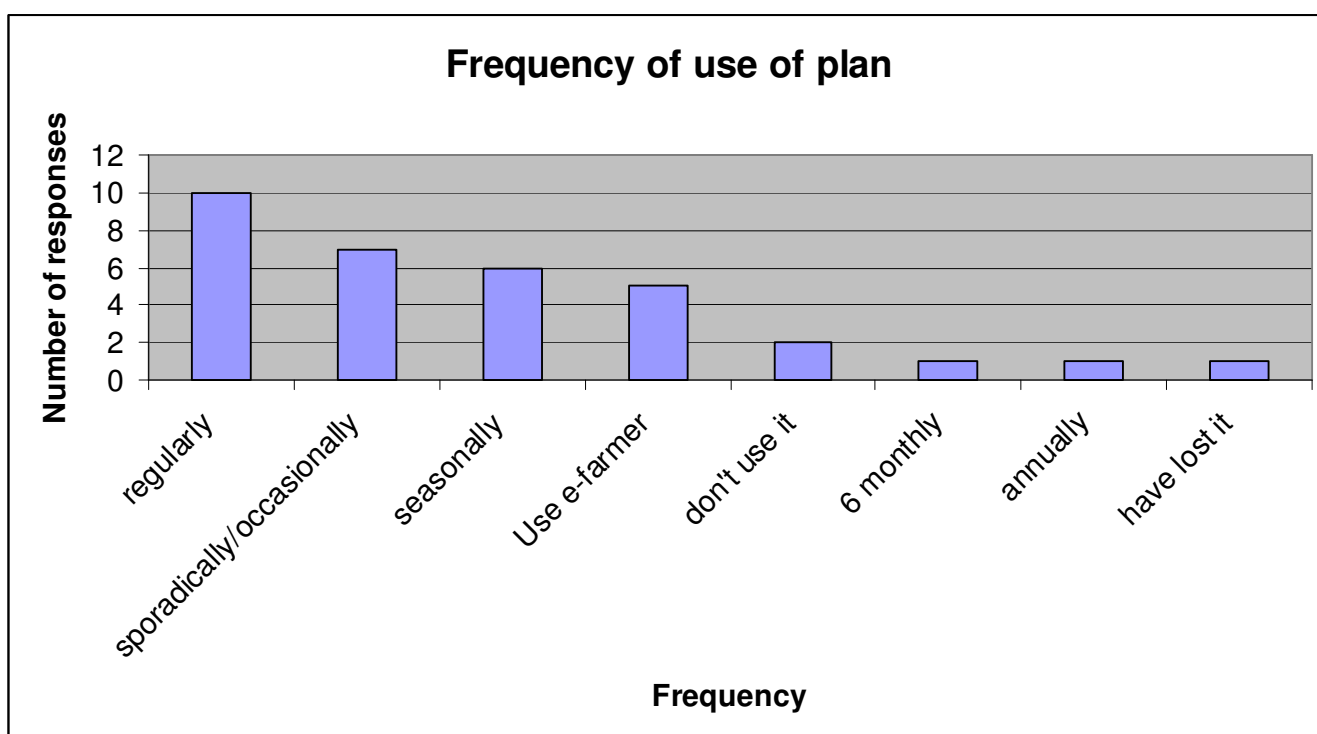
#### 3.2 Review questions

##### 3.2.1 Use of plan

The majority (however not all) of participants responded to this question. About a third of participants said they used their plan regularly. Most others either used it occasionally, seasonally, or were now using the on-line electronic planning tool e-farmer (see figure 1).

Less than a third of participants responded to the question about updating the plan. Of those that did respond, about half said they update it when projects are completed. Others update it once or twice a year, every five years, or haven't done it and don't think it's necessary.

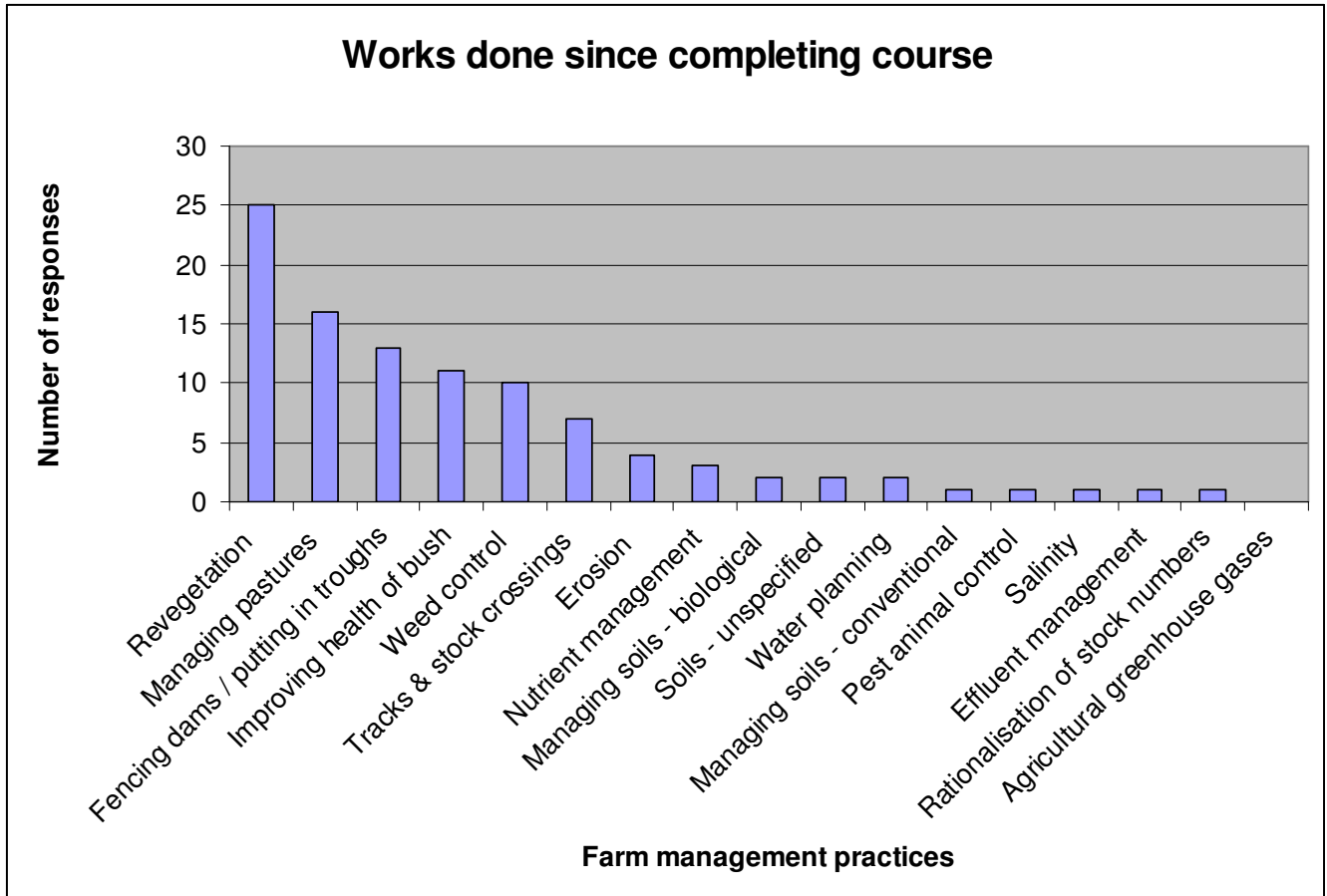
##### 3.2.1.1 Figure 1. Frequency of use of plan



### 3.2.2 Works done since completing course

Revegetation was the most frequent response when looking at works done on farm since completing the course. Managing pastures, fencing dams and putting in troughs, improving the health of remnant bush (usually by fencing) and improving tracks and stock crossings made up the majority of other responses.

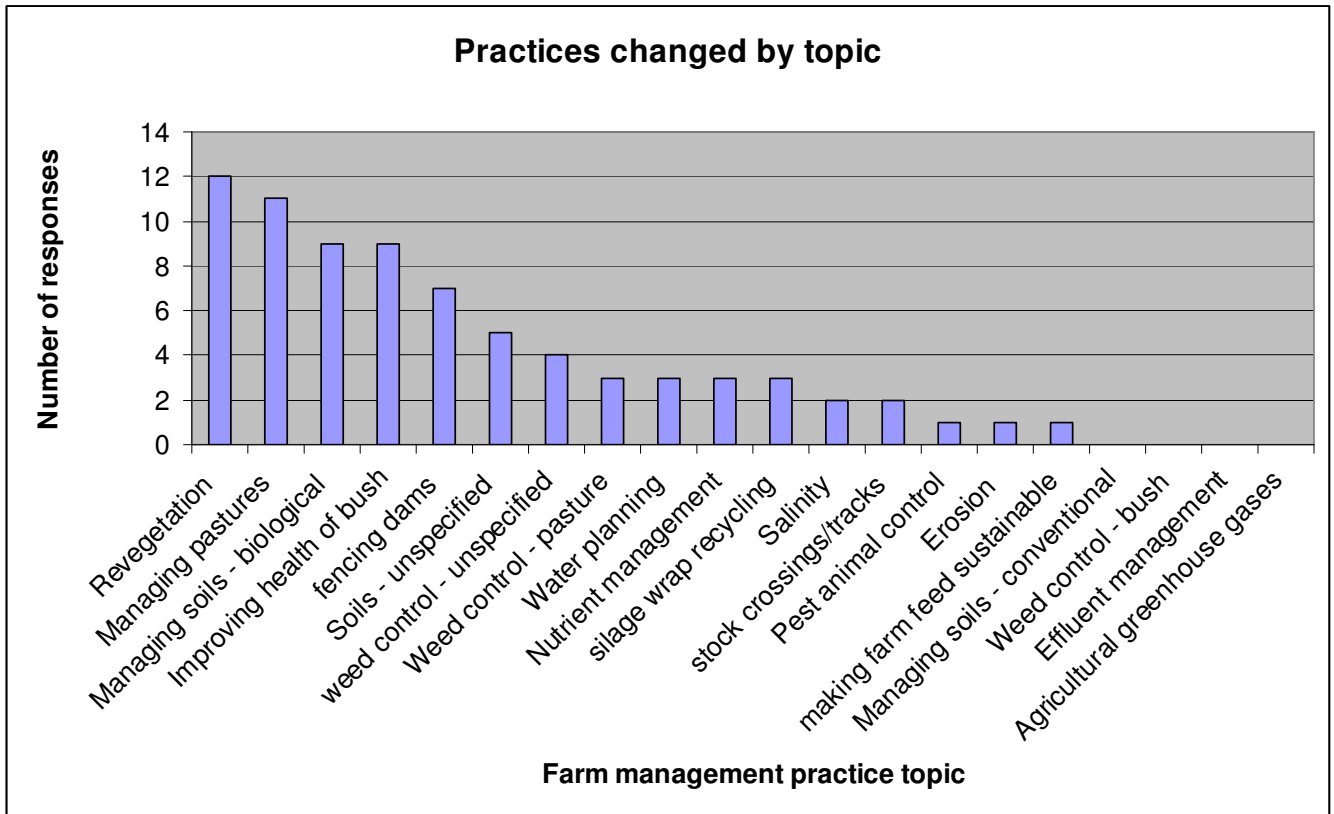
3.2.2.1 Figure 2. Works done since completing course



### 3.2.3 Practice change on farms

During group discussions at the workshops, landholders were asked the question 'Have you changed any practices?'. The results below were drawn out of group discussion responses (unlike the rest of the graphs in this report which are taken from individual survey responses). See appendix 5 for more detail.

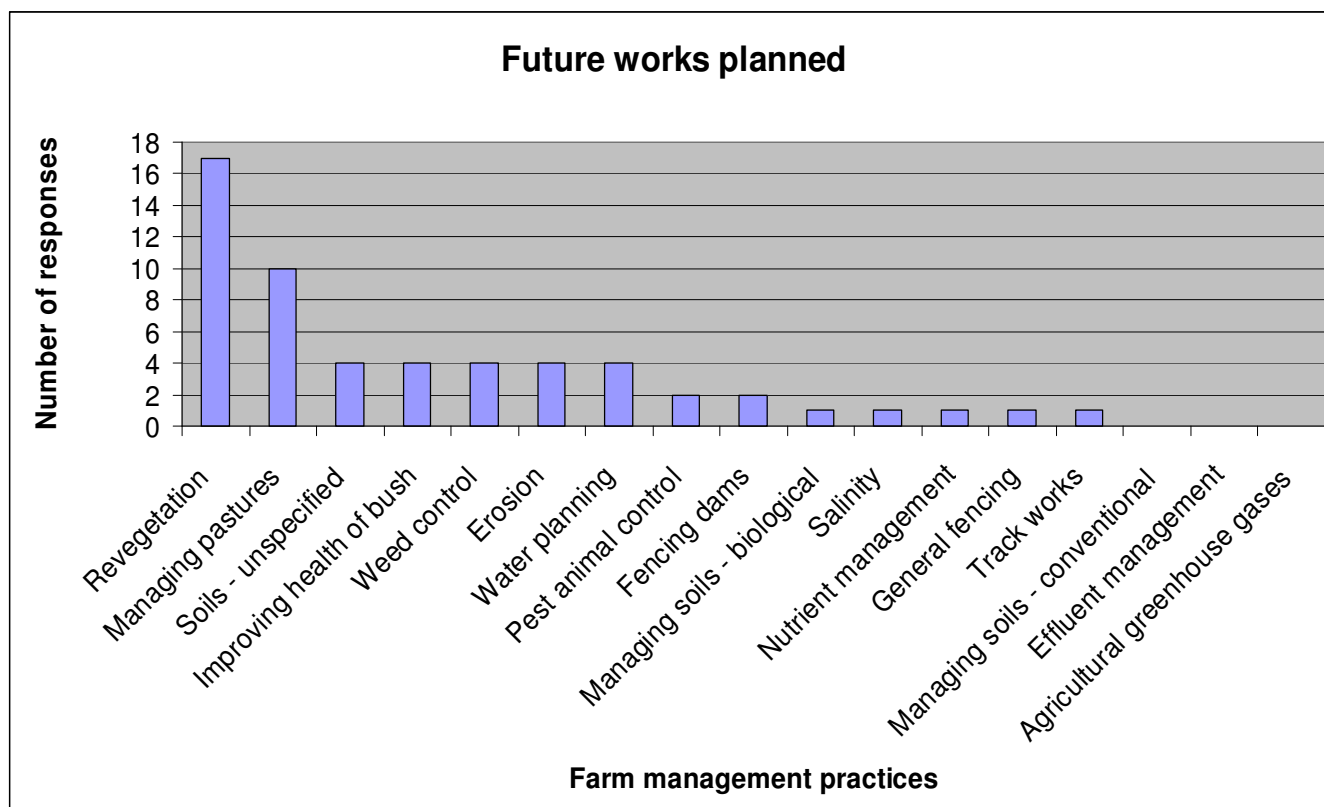
**3.2.3.1 Figure 3. Farm management practice changes made by participants**



## Future works planned

Revegetation followed by managing pastures were again the most frequent responses when looking at future works planned. Managing soils, improving the health of remnant bushland, weed control, erosion and water planning were the next most frequently chosen topics.

3.2.3.2 Figure 4. Future works planned





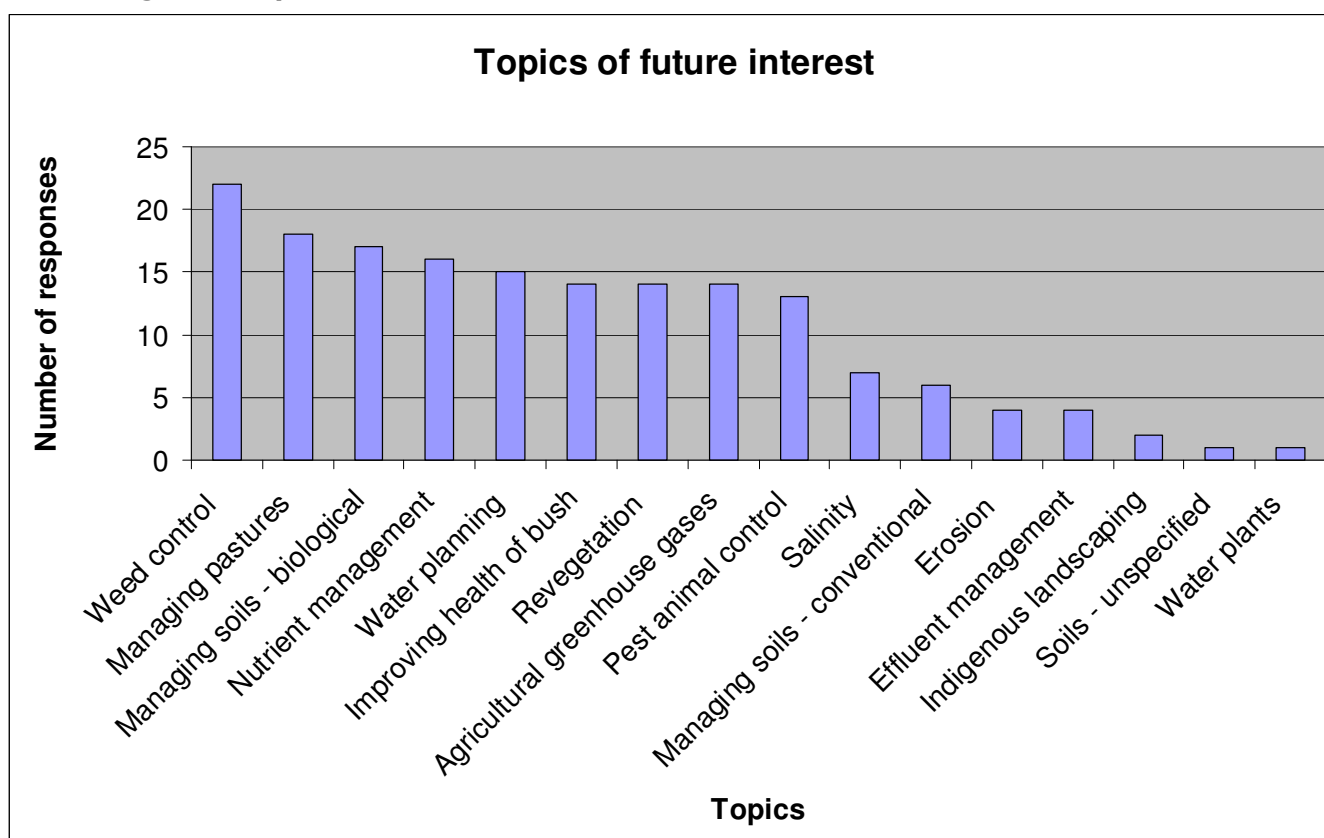
### 3.2.4 Topics of future interest

Weed control (both pasture and bush weeds) was the most frequently selected topic of future interest.

Other topics of interest to more than 10 participants included managing pastures, managing soils biologically, nutrient management, water planning, improving the health of remnant bush, agricultural greenhouse gases and pest animal control.

Salinity, managing soils conventionally and erosion were only of interest to a few participants.

#### 3.2.4.1 Figure 5. Topics of future interest



### 3.2.5 Method of delivery

Participants were given the opportunity to select the topics they would be interested in knowing more about, along with the method of delivery.

There were a wide range of responses given, with every topic/method of delivery combination chosen by at least one participant. Field days were the most popular delivery method across the board.

The most popular topics and methods of delivery combinations (that received at least 8 responses) are listed below, in the order of most popular method to least:

Managing soils biologically – Field days, Farm discussion groups, hard copies of information and training courses

Managing pastures – Field days and Farm discussion groups, training courses, hard copies of information

Improving the health of bush – Field days and hard copies of information

Revegetation – Field days and hard copies of information

Water Planning – Field days, Farm discussion groups, hard copies of information

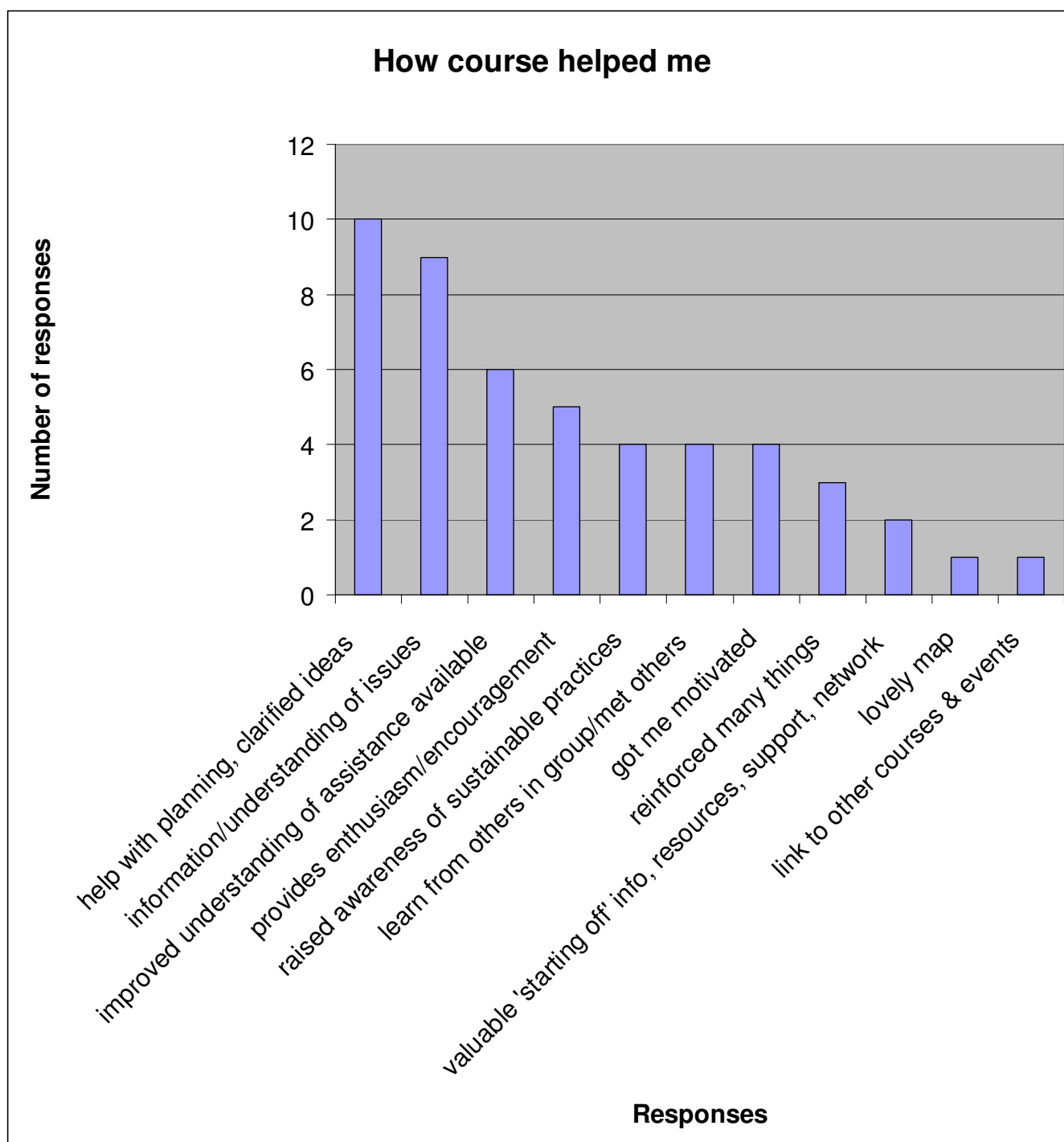
Nutrient Management – Farm discussion groups

Agricultural greenhouse gases - Field days, Farm discussion groups, training courses and hard copies of information

### 3.2.6 How the course has assisted landholders

Landholders found the course has assisted them in a range of different ways. The most frequently stated were that it has helped clarify ideas and with planning, and also that it has improved their understanding of issues on their farm.

3.2.6.1 Figure 6. Topics of future interest



## **4 DISCUSSION**

### **4.1 Use of plans**

The majority of landholders appear to be using their plans, with landholders from twenty-three farms (out of thirty-one surveyed in total) using it regularly, occasionally or seasonally. Some landholders are now starting to move across to the electronic planning program Efarmer. One landholder commented: 'I think the course has morphed into the efarmer now. Efarmer is more useful now - the course is a good introduction but efarmer should be integrated into the EBMP course'.

It was mentioned more than one during group discussions that people tend to use their aerial photographs more than their written action plans.

### **4.2 Works done since completing course, changing practices and works planned**

Works done since completing course appear to be the 'bread and butter' of Landcare activities in the past – revegetation, managing pastures, fencing dams and putting in troughs, fencing bush, improving tracks and stock crossings. The responses to 'have you changed any practices?' were largely similar to those of works done since completing the course. The one strong difference was the use of biological methods of soil management, which was mentioned by landholders from nine farms. This included practices such as using dung beetles and the use of alternative fertilisers such as seaweed and chook poo, along with studying biological soil management.

When it came to looking at future works planned the majority of respondents specified revegetation and managing pastures. Most landholders seem to have done some revegetation and pasture management works and will now need to keep going to do the rest of their gullies/more shelterbelts etc. Water planning is starting to be mentioned as works planned, where as very few people mentioned water planning as a work completed since doing the course.

### **4.3 Topics of future interest**

It's interesting to note that weed control was the most popular topic, given that it is an ongoing requirement of farmers, not a new topic. Perhaps landholders are looking for better or more efficient ways to manage this ongoing problem. The same thing may explain the interest in revegetation and pest animal control.

New topics that are of interest are managing soils biologically, nutrient management, water planning, and greenhouse gases. Very few landholders mentioned having done works on these topics in the past, or having any planned currently, however there is clearly much interest in them for the future.

## **5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The majority of landholders are using their plans, particularly the aerial photographs, at intervals which suit them in their farming business. Some landholders have moved on to using electronic mapping tools such as efarmer instead.

The majority of works done in the past are the 'typical' landcare activities such as revegetation, managing pastures, fencing bush and dams and fixing tracks. Most of the works planned for the future appear to be a continuation of revegetation and pasture management works.

Most practice change has occurred around the topics listed above, with the addition of the biological management of soil. This topic, along with nutrient management, water planning and greenhouse gases appear to be the hot new topics of interest for landholders moving into the future.

## 6

## 7 APPENDICES

### 7.1 Appendix 1: Review questions (see word file attached)

### 7.2 Appendix 2: Responses to review questions (see excel file attached)

#### other comments

##### **workshop 1**

without the original course we still wouldn't have had the improvements that we have now - forever

grateful

EBMP - brilliant educational tool for course and easy future reference. Helpful landcare staff especially Moragh & Joel. Very appreciative of Landcare's gifts to us - fencing, trough, trees

Disappointed with soils course in Inverloch - presentation too slick, too fast, not enough follow through i.e. interpretation of soil test results, etc.

Social aspect is important

Small acreage makes formal planning difficult

Farm wastes (green) opportunity to collect energy from this

New courses that provide ideas for further improvement .... Sustainability (photocopy missed bottom of page)

##### **workshop 2**

moving on is the challenged for the future. Covenant needed. Weed trees need removing e.g. cypress pines, cootamundra wattles, bushy yates

opportunity to share experiences with other

farmers

##### **workshop 3**

the course gave me the perception that caring for the environment is ongoing and is never complete

enjoying what I am doing

nothing disciplined (monitoring) - it all seemed too hard. Would like to have help before endeavouring to do it myself

chasing low input pastures for profitable grass growing

##### **workshop 4**

weed management has become more of a

concern

rabbit & wallaby management are of great

concern

this course is highly beneficial in many aspects and a good way of sharing information and encouraging ourselves and

others

Landcare including various courses are a fundamental real necessity to provide education and support to all landowners in my area. Can't do without them.

##### **Dave's telephone surveys**

Less paperwork simpler

Grass noticeably better on the inside of the L shape shelter belts on the leeward side Enjoyed the Site visits John Gallehan was great The whole farm plan was too late for Trevor b

Excellent course foundation for further

investigation

I think the course has morphed into the efarmer now efarmer is more useful now the course is a good introduction but efarmer should be integrated into the EBMP course

***Joel's telephone surveys***

Without sustainable management the property will rapidly degrade. The EBMP course highlighted the need for sustainable management. Productivity has also increased due the in  
Awaiting get together with fellow participants.

On a continual learning curve, in particular about breeding and herd quality. Learning commenced with EBMP course. Observed improvement in property eg improved water quality

**7.3 Appendix 3: Future interest questionnaire (see word file attached)**

**7.4 Appendix 4: Responses to future interest questionnaire (see excel file attached)**

## 7.5 Appendix 5: Group discussion results

**Date:** Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2009, Corinella

**Groups:** 05/06

### What did you try that worked well?

#### Group 1

- Doing the course
- Ripping around tea-tree to encourage growth (Anne Westwood's idea) Sort of worked but bush not fenced and cattle got into it
- fencing remnant bush from cattle, small plants aren't eaten, more diversity now
- Fenced dams, improved water quality (didn't improve inflows)
- tree strips, gives good shelter, and improved pasture growth
- brush off for blackberry control (heard about it through course)
- planting in Autumn rather than spring, also digging a hole larger than the tube area, breaking up soil, watering plant in
- Direct seeding (continued to come up in the second year)
- Rotational grazing
- Chicken manure & lime
- Lime to control bracken in paddocks
- Esteem chemical

#### Group 2

- Planted taller species in middle of re-veg area & grasses & smaller species along edges, had 99% survival
- Plants with weed mats grew better/had greater survival
- Allowing natural regeneration
- Fencing smaller paddock (better pasture, better water management, plus double fencing helps with stock management)

### What didn't go as well as you'd hoped?

#### Group 1

- planted 400 trees, eaten by roos/wallabies (and lack of weed control problem). Now guard each tree. Can't manage large plantings.
- Seasons haven't helped. Think will see improvements in tree survival/cape weed control etc. with better seasons.
- Plants obtained through landcare can arrive too late for planting
- Direct seeding in wet areas

- Don't offend your suppliers

Also: Government actions for desal plant/pipelines impacting on works, e.g. ripping out revegetation areas.

## Group 2

- Direct seeding, only 3 gum trees. Timing & soil type
- Revegetation in 2008 after 2009 heatwave
- Establishment of native grasses for pasture is more labour intensive than first thought
- Building fire load in reveg area – some re-thinking re. Reveg – species selection & siting

### **Have you changed any practices, and where did you get the idea?**

#### Group 1

- thought they had no practices before they did the course so no changes.. realised this wasn't the case, and have made big changes! E.g. fenced most of the remnant bush & some water
- controlled blackberries
- changed thinking on pastures (idea from magazines e.g. weekly times), one year used zero fertiliser on pastures, also aerated paddocks, changed from granular fertiliser to fish emulsion (foliar)
- more aware of trying to retain remnant bush, tried ripping around tea tree to promote growth, however not yet fenced, as good shelter
- more tree strips, direct seeding, dams fenced and planted (ideas from follow on after course, e.g. water trough subsidy)
- farm improvement through beefcheque, etc.
- biggest advantage of S@S was as an introduction to all of this

#### Group 2

- Feed out hay by placing large bale on patches of weeds (capeweed as a re-pasturing & weed control)
- Fenced off dams, put in troughs (x3)
- Cut & painted blackberries
- Removed pine & cypress & revegetated
- Revegetation & rabbit control (x3)
- Fenced wetland, control graze in Autumn
- Renovated pasture (x2)
- Smudging – learnt from neighbour
- Dung beetles (more info please)
- Rotational grazing, fenced paddocks (x2)
- Fertiliser management, from S@S & soils course
- Remnant protection
- Shelterbelts
- No longer use insecticides (for red legged earth mite / lucerne flea), now using soil improvements to combat



- Double fencing from shelterbelts also good for managing bulls & cattle control
- Silage wrap recycling

### **Top priorities for new information**

#### **Group 1**

Maintaining revegetation areas (how to remove weeds, how to fill the gaps)

Remnant bushland (how to remove weeds & improve its health, how to prevent it becoming a fire hazard)

Revegetation techniques (including direct seeding)

Type of plants to grow around dams

Gardening with indigenous/native plants around houses

Climate change, minimising impacts on farm & measuring

### **Evaluation of day**

#### **Liked**

Meeting people

Getting more information/ideas

Peaceful venue

Lunch

Facilitation & process

Day right length

How people were given relevant factsheets for them

Moragh knows people

Plan review session ok

Time for reflection

Networking with other farmers (could visit each other's properties)

#### **Could be improved**

What hasn't worked???

Could have done more whole group discussion

Reminder for people to bring maps (we did do this)

Switch groups over in afternoon

Opportunity for show & tell (maybe at lunch time?)

or Bring weed for ID

Expert feedback on plan would have been good

Provide generic 12 month plan to help people get started

Hold sessions more frequently (every 2 years)

**Date: Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2009, Wonthaggi**

**Groups: 05/06**

**What did you try that worked well?**

**Group 1**

- Agistment
- Rotational grazing
- Shelter for animals – better health (less disease, however more deficiencies in managed system)
- Shelter for pasture – improved growth
- Clean water through fencing dams and using troughs (also improved health of stock, e.g. less white scours)
- Dirt / gravel around troughs for calves
- Quality fittings for troughs (brass floats, gravel pads) especially important if not there full-time
- Header tanks, gravity fed troughs
- Renovation with annual grasses, over sowing (doing it himself) with annuals and perennials using a super spreader
- Direct seeding revegetation and encouraging natural regeneration
- Electric fencing keeping roos out of paddocks

**What didn't go as well as you'd hoped?**

**Group 1**

- Maintenance around troughs and pipes
- Over sowing, cost lot of money and not effective in one instance (2% up, maybe too deep or not enough rain?)
- Revegetation without spot spraying
- Wildlife eating revegetation (roos, swamp rats)
- Providing more shelter for ferals now in reveg
- Blackberry, so much work to control. Reveg maintenance more than expected it to be (good to control them for 2-3 years before doing reveg at a site).

**Have you changed any practices, and where did you get the idea?**

**Group 1**

Making silage and recycling wrap - x2 (Kevin Pirra, Phillip Is and neighbours)

Putting on Nitrogen

Fencing dams and putting in troughs (from course) x2

Fencing gullies

Crossings

Fencing bush

Paddock divisions along creeks so cattle not continually crossing (if the creeks aren't fenced that is)

Use less fertiliser (to be profitable), also chicken litter (although not a new idea to Daryl), smudging, aerating paddocks sometimes.

**Top priorities for new information**

### **Group 1**

Managing soils, Biological – training courses, field days

Managing pastures

Revegetation (on-going management of revegetation plots, blackberries, etc.)

Weed control in pasture and in bush – field days, farm discussion groups (simple solutions)

Pest animal control – rabbits

Water planning - training courses, field days. Expert water engineer would be useful.

Nutrient management

Prefer talking to other farmers and seeing real situations (their farms) to being spoken to by 'experts' although they can be useful at certain times e.g. water planning.

Also like smaller groups.

### **Evaluation of day**

#### **Liked**

Interaction

Presenters didn't try and take over

Agenda on wall, 3 clear aims for day

Interaction to help trigger actions

Relatively short day

Updating plan was better than he thought it would be (Daryl)

Informal

Really good to sit in front of plan and be asked a few questions – helped to refocus (Tony)

#### **Could be improved**

Review more frequently (follow up with landholders)

Cakes!

Hold review on a farm so opportunity to also get outside and check out something

More expert feedback on content of the plan

**Date: Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2009, Corinella**

**Groups: 05/07/08**

**What did you try that worked well?**

**Group 1**

- Shelter belts
- Sod seeding in salty paddocks
- Rotational grazing
- Negotiating with husband and project officer to come up with blocks rather than just shelter belts

**Group 2**

- Not spot spraying when doing revegetation
- Applying lime on sandy soils
- More rotations
- Keeping minimum cover (especially on sand) led to far better paddocks over winter
- Changing from milking to beef
- Spraying capeweed
- Didn't put fertiliser on this year – got great clover
- Dam ramps
- Pasture renovations (fixed root mat caused by bent grass)
- Seems like more little birds around after doing revegetation
- Planting really close when doing reveg (CMA said the landholder's results were much better than theirs)
- Important to keep onto blackberries when doing revegetation
- Adding copper to superphosphate is having an effect
- Electric fences

**What didn't go as well as you'd hoped?**

**Group 1**

- drains along laneway didn't work so well
- pumping out of the bore by westernport water
- 15m wide shelterbelts too wide
- Lease farmers

**Group 2**

- More wombats, foxes, etc. in revegetation areas
- Monitoring (went to monitoring day, but is harder than she thought it would be)
- Expense of fencing in steep country, at least \$10/m
- Wildlife eating revegetation

- Bug killing remnant gum trees
- Maintenance of fences (big job)
- Direct seeding (when the Spring was very dry)

### **Have you changed any practices, and where did you get the idea?**

#### **Group 1**

- control barley grass
- address salt issue, sod seed perennial rye, salt tolerant (from Diana's salinity program & John Gallian's advice)
- re-testing for salinity
- adjust mob size to paddocks (from Beef Cheque)
- rotational grazing
- tree plantations
- planting kikuyu on sand blows
- heavy grazing of cape weed paddocks then resting for 2 months (Landcare and beefcheque)
- remnant vegetation protection and river protection (Landcare)
- Windbreaks
- Laneway with drainage to conserve water plan to deepen dams

#### **Group 2**

- soil testing (x3 – Landcare and John Gallian)
- cropping – fixed the root mat
- fencing dams & using cattle ramps
- 1 mile of fencing around coastline (x2) because stock eating mangroves and getting bogged
- Fencing bush
- Capeweed spraying (has cut capeweed by 70%)
- Fenced most of dams, putting in troughs
- Concentrating on soil biology & soil management (was putting on lime before, not getting differences. Now gone to biodynamics, using seaweed (via aerial spraying) etc.
- Dung beetles
- Being more observant
- Experimented with spot spraying for revegetation, now don't do it (planted 8500 this year)

### **Top priorities for new information**

#### **Group 1**

Managing soils & pastures profitably  
Financial assessments of farm improvements

- cost/benefit analysis of changed practices
- preparing tender bids

Master land stewards course (x4)

Carbon ready planning course (x4)

## **Group 2**

Managing soils, both biological & conventional – field days

Managing pastures – field days

Revegetation

Weed control (id of grasses)

Erosion & pest animal control (wombats)

Water planning

Agricultural greenhouse gasses

## **Evaluation of day**

### **Liked**

Lunch

Informal

Casual

All have done the course so have a common core of knowledge, so can get up and running quickly

Hearing people's ideas and the results

Revision of the plan

Changes in information available

### **Could be improved**

More food

**Date: Saturday 31st October 2009, French Island**

**Groups: 05/08**

**What did you try that worked well?**

**Group 1**

- Dung beetles
- B.D. sprays, Lime, Chook poo 3m<sup>3</sup>/ac in 2 applications (all in combination)
- Reduced stock numbers to take pressure of pasture
- Soil testing
- Protecting soil health is driver of decision making
- Revegetation: widening original shelter belts, re-orienting to N/S rather than E/W to work better for shelter from wind

**Group 2**

- The more active you get the soil, the more palatable the weeds are to the animals
- Reducing the size of paddocks can force animals to eat weeds too
- Revegetation in the hills (grows well!)
- Not worrying about controlling weeds in revegetation (other than blackberry) as they will be shaded out by the indigenous plants
- Not slashing capeweed (let it grow, grasses and clover come through and outcompete it). Slash it when capeweed has flowered. Allows grasses to grow too, and set seed. Also prevents bare patches.
- Manually digging out small capeweed and thistles (90% eliminated over 2 years)
- Snowpeas smoothed out pugged/holey paddocks – safer for tractoring
- Landcare network on French & Phillip Islands is valuable
- Grants system
- Landcare support & encouragement
- Fencing & revegetating wet gullies

**What didn't go as well as you'd hoped?**

**Group 1**

- Winter dung beetles (need to monitor)
- Direct seeding (ripper seeder + mouldboard plough)
- Capeweed difficult to manage
- Fencing with plain wire
- Species selection in saline areas

**Group 2**

- Weed control now being certified organic (expected it, but still challenging)
- Trials for salinity (tried 3 combinations of Green Bio, Chook Poo & Gypsum) none have worked yet
- Autumn direct seeding

- Ploughing for snowpeas (damaged soil structure – went deeper than they asked for)
- Salty/windy property Landcare give them plant species that the landholders know will die, they only want the species they know will survive. More attention needs to be paid to species specific to the property
- Problem with lack of care by volunteers at planting days (maybe need more education for volunteers)
- Also ran a planting day, no-one turned up. Were told to expect 12-20, had provided lunch etc. and then also had to plant all trees themselves. Now don't bother with volunteers.
- Planting trees in dam walls (made it leak) – need more info on this on to be given trays with just grasses/groundcovers for dam walls.

### **Have you changed any practices, and where did you get the idea?**

#### **Group 1**

- attention to soil health
- organic fertiliser application
- weed management
- encourage microbial activity
- resting paddocks for longer
- rationalised stock numbers
- increased water storage capacity (x2)
- aquitane use

#### **Group 1**

- direct seeding (tried in both Spring and Autumn)
- changing from spring to winter planting (idea from experience)
- *stocking rate (reduced stock) – to avoid having to buy feed, to make farm feed sustainable (point also listed above as Kate & John in separate groups)*
- now selling cattle as meat directly to abattoir (rather than selling live to market) – better profits
- certified organic
- moving away from chemical fertilisers (x2). Idea from reading, radio, etc.
- tried smaller paddocks (x2) for better paddock management
- widened revegetation areas

### **Top priorities for new information**

#### **Group 1**

Good to use demo sites/field days – come and see what you can do on your property

### **Evaluation of day**

#### **Liked**

Discussion

Success stories are motivating



Good to take time to be more strategic, think through importance of activities, risks, etc.

Helps you concentrate on what to do

Feedback for landcare

Phoncall reminder

Just the catch up/discussion session is valuable – had thought the day was more about the plan updating, maybe market them more as catch up/discussion

**Could be improved**

Letter came too long ago, people forgot about it coming up. Not more than 1 month before the event.

More clarity around exactly what to bring

Email reminders ok for ½ the group

Could put a notice up at Jetty for French Islanders

Not 100% clear on what day was about

Could write something and get French Is Landcare to spread the word for us – needs to be in simple language