

Torbay Catchment Group Workshop Series - 2013

Engaging Small Landholders through Community Workshops
Within Torbay Catchment and Princess Royal Harbour Coastal Communities



A project delivered by the Torbay Catchment Group Incorporated through South Coast Natural Resource Management Incorporated, on behalf of the State NRM Office, between 5th February and 30th June 2013. Project ID: 08008-03



Torbay Catchment Group Inc.

June 2013

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For Torbay Catchment Group Inc.

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Summary

In early 2013 Torbay Catchment Group received funding from South Coast Natural Resource Management to run 3 workshops to increase skills and knowledge among small landholders within Torbay catchment and the coastal communities of Princess Royal Harbour. A series of 8 workshops were delivered between March and June 2013 that attracted over 300 people and covered a variety of topics that included weed control, pasture management, property planning, organic farming, and estuarine ecology.

Feedback from participants was very positive with many people providing complimentary comments on the content of workshops, knowledge of speakers and general running of events that were enjoyable as well. These outcomes were a result of careful planning, good promotion and efforts to continually improve upon workshops.

Promotion of the series was a large factor that ensured that the small landholder community were aware of upcoming workshops. This included an initial mail out, regular letterbox drops, prominent display of flyers, a dedicated “workshops” website page, advertorials in the newspaper and regular emails which enabled landholders to be constantly informed and aware of upcoming events. It also gave small landholders a sense of community and that being involved was part of a larger effort by locals to do their part to minimise impacts on the environment and improve their land through good management practices.

Surveying of workshop participants provided valuable feedback that helped improve workshops as the series progressed. Participants’ comments demonstrated small land holders are eager to learn more and resulted in a list of ideas for future workshops. Surveys also revealed that over 85% of people attending were small landholders which were the focus group for the project.

The combination of careful planning, widespread promotion and professional delivery of the workshops resulted in project milestones and objectives being met and surpassed in many areas. The successful implementation of the workshop series has raised the profile of Torbay Catchment Group within the community who have welcomed and commended their efforts. It is hoped that the need and clear desire for more workshops by the community will result in similar workshop series taking place in the future. The on-going education in land care related topics will not only increase skills and knowledge but promote community ownership of the catchment that will help ensure we have a healthy and sustainable environment into the future.

1. Introduction

Torbay Catchment is located approximately 400 kilometres south of Perth and located 26 km's west of Albany on the south coast of Western Australia. The catchment covers an area of 330km² (33,000 Ha) of which about 33% remains as natural vegetation, 51% is used for grazing, 5% has timber plantations and 1.6% is occupied by waterways and wetlands (Department of Water, 2006).

The Torbay catchment has an estimated population of approximately 1000 people who live in the communities of Cuthbert, Elleker, Torbay, Bornholm and Redmond (ABS, 2013). The catchment has 563 rural land holdings which have an average size of 120 hectares (Department of Water, 2006). In recent years new housing developments have occurred in areas such as the 5 and 7 mile sub-catchments.

Traditionally, volunteer community groups that foster environmental conservation and management have been represented by catchment groups that cover a particular watershed. Examples of these in nearby areas include Oyster Harbour and Wilson Inlet Catchments. On examination of the boundaries it was obvious that large areas outside the catchments were not serviced by groups because they do not fall within a catchment that included an inlet or harbour. With this in mind, Torbay Catchment Group decided to include the areas east of the Torbay catchment extending to Bald Head and west of the catchment to include West Cape Howe National Park. To the east an extra 85 km² (8,500 Ha) was added to areas serviced by Torbay Catchment Group. This included the coastal communities of Robinson, Torndirrup, Little Grove and Goode Beach with a total population of 2695 people (ABS, 2013). The inclusion of West Cape National Park added an extra 35km² (3,500 Ha) bringing the total area to 450 km² (45,000 Ha). This area is now referred to as the Greater Torbay Catchment (Fig. 1).

To increase skills and knowledge in natural resource management so as to minimise impacts on the environment as well as raising awareness of natural assets in the Greater Torbay Catchment, a series of workshops were held covering a wide range of topics that included weed control, property management, organic farming, revegetation and pasture management. This report provides a summary of workshop activities between 5th February and 30th June 2013 and reflects on outcomes and experiences during this time.

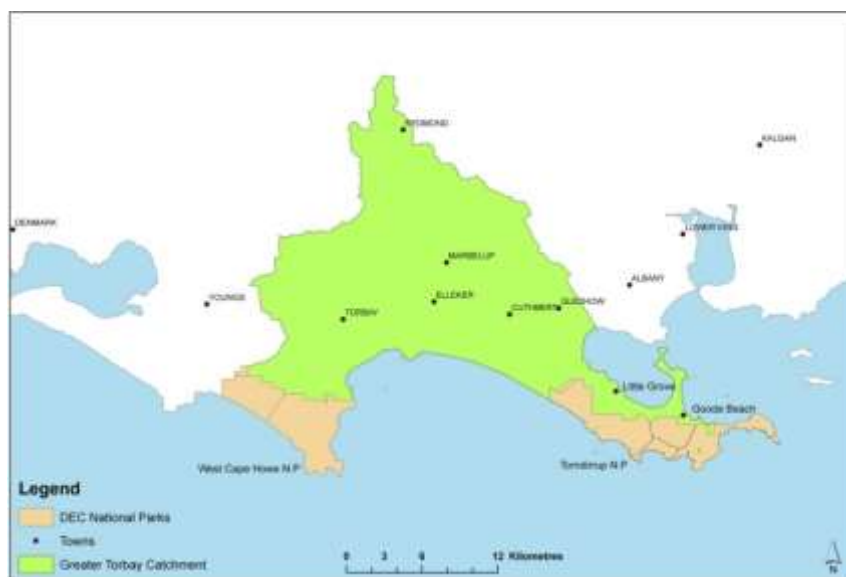


Figure 1: Greater Torbay Catchment that includes West Cape Howe National Park, Torndirrup National Park and the Princess Royal Harbour coastal communities

2 Project Activities

2.1 Project Description and Objectives

The project aimed to deliver 3 specific workshops to the Torbay catchment community including under-represented areas in the 5 and 7 mile creek sub-catchments. It also encompassed areas outside Torbay catchment around the coastal communities of Princess Royal Harbour that included Robinson, Little Grove, Torndirrup and Goode Beach as these areas are not serviced by a catchment group and engagement from these communities has traditionally been low. These areas are now referred to as the Greater Torbay Catchment.

The deliverables set for the project were developed as milestones and objectives to be achieved during the project. The list below details the milestones and objectives that were not only achieved but significantly surpassed.

Milestones and objectives to be achieved by 30th June 2013

- Horse and Pasture Management Workshop
- Open Farms Bus Tour of Torbay Catchment
- Heavenly Hectares Workshop
- 3 Media Releases
- 1 Newsletter
- 3 Letter Drops
- GIS Data & Activity Register (Surveys) to South Coast NRM
- Engage a Minimum of 67 People
- Provide Up to Date List of Project Ideas



Figure 2: Letter box drops helped ensure all the community were aware of upcoming workshops

2.2 Workshops Delivered During the Project

The focus of the workshop series was to increase skills and knowledge among small land holders and to raise awareness of natural assets within the Greater Torbay Catchment with efforts made to engage landholders from traditionally under represented areas mentioned. Many landholders are inexperienced or new to managing larger properties and want to learn about a large array of subjects relating to property management and land care. To address this desire and need from the community, a total of 8 workshops were held between 5th February and 30th June 2013 which attracted a total of 318 people (Table 1).

| Workshop | Presenter(s) | Date | No. |
|----------------------------------|--|-----------------------|-----|
| Weed Control Workshop | Dianne Harwood & Peter Hennig | Saturday 02-March-13 | 23 |
| Heavenly Hectares Workshop (1) | Chris Ferreira | Sunday 14 -April-2013 | 63 |
| Heavenly Hectares Workshop (2) | Chris Ferreira | Sunday 14 -April-2013 | 43 |
| Organic Farm Workshop (1) | Lex and Karen Langridge | Sunday 14 -April-2013 | 47 |
| Organic Farm Workshop (2) | Lex and Karen Langridge | Sunday 14 -April-2013 | 55 |
| Torbay Inlet Estuary Paddle Tour | Tracy Calvert, Sarah Barrett & Sheryn Prior | Sunday 12- May- 2013 | 19 |
| Torbay Catchment Bus Tour | Keith Smith, Lex & Karen Langridge | Sunday 19-May-2013 | 15 |
| Horse & Pasture Care Workshop | Chris Ferreira, Morgan Sounness & Dr Shey Rogers | Saturday 08-June-2013 | 53 |
| | | Total | 318 |

Table 1: Workshops held during project and number of people that attended

Workshops covered a wide range of subjects including weed control and identification; sustainable property management as well as organic farming methods that demonstrated how food can be produced in ecological balance with the land. Education on estuary ecology occurred during the paddle tour of Torbay Inlet whilst experiencing the serenity and beauty of Inlet. A bus tour of Torbay catchment stopped at three locations seeing the benefits of a straw bale home, revegetation through directed seeding and organic farming. The final workshop was aimed at horse owners and discussed many subjects such as soil, pasture, water, weed and fire management. Horse welfare and nutrition were also discussed ensuring the full gamut of equine property management (Fig. 3) was covered. The following provides a description of each workshop and what occurred on the day.



Figure 3: Many aspects relating to property management were high on the agenda during the workshop series

2.3 Weed Control Workshop

The weed control workshop was the first workshop of the series and was held at Torbay Hall on Saturday March 2nd from 9.30am to 1.00pm. A total of 23 people were in attendance to listen to presentations from Denmark Weed Action Group's Diane Harwood and biosecurity officer Peter Hennig from Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia. Thanks to some hard work the previous day by Diane, participants were able to view a large selection of weeds available for viewing on tables and found it a great way to learn and discuss weed control. Peter Hennig gave a presentation of chemical control of weeds and how different chemical effect different weeds.

Both speakers chose not to use a power point presentation and preferred a more hands on interactive approach with their audience. This approach was welcomed by participants as they were able to ask questions one on one and get answer to their weed problems. There was also a large amount of brochures and information on weed control available for people to take home. The free copy of southern weeds received by most participants was also much appreciated.

After a morning tea with jam, scones, tea and coffee, everyone ventured outside to nearby Unndiup Creek where Diane demonstrated manual removal of some weeds including Blackberry (Fig. 4) and Pittosporum. Diane also pointed out that many plants had become garden escapees that had jumped the fence of nearby homes and are now growing in bushland. An inspection of a Watsonia weed control site that was successfully revegetated in 2012 occurred as well as some more weed identification in the field. The workshop finished with Diane identifying weeds that people had brought to the workshop. Feedback from everyone was positive with surveys revealing that knowledge on weed management and species was increased by all. The workshop was enjoyed by all and the speakers received compliments from everyone for a great workshop.



Figure 4: Diane Harwood (pitch fork in hand) listens to questions after removing Blackberry that is ready for disposal

2.4 Heavenly Hectares Workshops (1 & 2)

The heavenly hectares workshops were run on Sunday April 14th at Bornholm Hall, Bornholm from 10am to midday and repeated after lunch from 1pm to 3pm. The presenter for the workshops was media personality Chris Ferreira. The workshop was originally planned to run from 10am to midday with a tour of a nearby organic farm to follow on after lunch. Both workshops proved very popular and when the amount of bookings topped 75 people it was decided to split the number of bookings in half and run a heavenly hectares and organic farm workshop simultaneously from 10am to midday. After lunch the workshops were then be repeated to accommodate the 124 people who had booked. On the day, there were 106 attendees to the heavenly hectares workshop which was down slightly from the 124 who had booked. This was not surprising as over the years it has been found that on average, 10% of people do not turn up to workshops for various reasons.

Chris Ferreira proved popular and delivered a workshop that was very informative and entertaining as always (Fig. 5). Topics covered by Chris included property design, planning, pasture management, soil health, fire management, wind breaks, revegetation and much more. His energy, passion and personable delivery was enjoyed by attendees and helped ensure that everyone took home the messages he was conveying. Regular interaction with the audience through questions and answers as well as prizes and giveaways also contributed to a successful event. The first workshop was attended by 63 people and the repeat workshop after lunch by 43 people.

"I think it was an inspirational and informative talk; Loved the slides and enthusiasm from a very personable speaker." Sue Coulstock, Redmond, W.A

Lunch proved to be a feast for all with about 115 people attending when you included people from the organic farm and heavenly hectares workshops as well as presenters. Feedback for the heavenly hectares workshops was very positive due to the diverse range of topics, issues discussed and because people left feeling inspired to get out and make changes to the way they manage their land. Participants also appreciated the large amount of hand outs that were available at the workshop.



Figure 5: Chris Ferreira presenting the day's first heavenly hectares workshop which was entertaining and inspirational

2.5 Organic Farm Workshops (1 & 2)

The organic farm workshops were also held on Sunday April 14th from 10am til midday and repeated after lunch from 1pm to 3pm. The farm tour was held at Karanda Organic Farm, Bornholm which is just a stone's throw from Bornholm Hall. The presenters at the workshops were owners Karen and Lex Langridge. As mentioned, bookings for this workshop were also popular and so the numbers (102) were divided into two groups with 47 attending the first workshop and 55 attending after lunch. The resulting smaller groups allowed for more personal interaction with either Karen or her husband Lex when they conducted the tours. In fact at each workshop, Karen took about half the group and Lex the other with groups having around 25 people in each.

During the tour of the organic farm people were shown a variety of organic farming practices being employed. Karen talked about the non-use of herbicides and pesticides in the no-dig vegetable garden (Fig. 6) which has been established directly on an area that was previously kikuyu grass. Other topics covered included worm farming and free range chickens using a converted shearing shed. Lex talked about his pure-bred and cross-bred Pied Montese cattle, a 4,000-year-old breed from Italy (Fig. 7). Participants were also introduced to biodynamics and the benefits to soil structure and productivity.

Feedback from the workshops very good with people finding many benefits from seeing organic farming in action. Comments from people were very complimentary of Lex and Karen with their knowledge and variety of talks leaving people motivated to get out and do more or change the way they manage their land.



Figure 6: Karen talks about her organic vegetable garden

Holding the heavenly hectares workshop either before or after the organic farm tour was ideal as people were able to see many of the topics Chris Ferreira discussed first hand. Those with ambitions to convert to organic farming were also taken through the steps involved in gaining certification.



Figure 7: Lex talks with participants about his pure and cross-bred Pied Montese cattle, a 4,000-year-old breed from Italy

2.6 Torbay Inlet Estuary Paddle Tour

A tour of Torbay Inlet was held on May 12th to learn about estuary ecology and the many natural features of the inlet. The paddle tour was conducted using 2 person canoes (Fig. 8) with guides in kayaks from Albany Canoe Club. This workshop was not originally planned as part of the workshop series, but when Sheryn Prior from South Coast Natural Resource Management (South Coast NRM) asked TCG if they would like to run a workshop educating people about Torbay Inlet, there was no hesitation. This jointly run workshop was run with support from South Coast NRM through its Coastal Community Engagement program and funded by the Australian Government's Caring for our Country initiative. The paddle tour was limited to a total of 22 persons for safety and logistics reasons. With a couple of late withdrawals we ended up with a cosy group of 19 participants.

The tour started at Flood Gates West camping area and headed up to Torbay Inlet basin and along Torbay channel which runs parallel to Manarup Lagoon. Along the way we stopped to listen to Sarah Barrett from Department of Environment & Conservation (DEC) talk about local flora and rare vegetation communities that are endemic to the Torbay Inlet area.

After paddling for one hour we stopped for a break on an embankment overlooking Manarup Lagoon. Here we listened to Tracey Calvert from Department of Water (DoW) talk about the drainage system and the 3 levels Water Corporation operate as well as water quality in the upper drainage system compared to Torbay Inlet (Fig. 9). Sheryn Prior (South Coast NRM) also talked about fish ecology and species present in the estuary using information gained by Dr Paul Close, University of Western Australia.



Figure 8: A total of 19 people set out on the inlet tour



Figure 9: Overlooking Manarup Lagoon, Tracey Calvert discusses water quality and the drainage system

The tour concluded after a brief look at the Manarup flood gate and the Torbay Inlet sand bar at Mutton Bird Beach before heading back for a well-deserved lunch. The tour lasted 4 hours (9am to 1pm) and covered over 6km's of waterway.

Feedback from the workshop was simply fantastic as everyone had a great day (Fig. 10). During the week leading up to the event, the weather had been atrocious but on the day, apart from a light sprinkle of rain, the weather was cool with virtually no wind which was perfect for paddling. Talks from speakers and discussions with fellow paddlers were informative and increased everybody's knowledge of the estuary. Hand outs on the estuary and related subjects were also made available.



Figure 10: The paddle tour was a fun day of adventure that covered much about Torbay Inlet ecology & its management

2.7 Torbay Catchment Bus Tour

The seventh workshop of the series was a bus tour of the lower Torbay catchment that took place on Sunday May 19th. A 22 seater bus was used to visit a few key locations in the catchment to provide an overview of some of the sustainable farming practices that occur, educate people on the drainage system and visit locations that display good environmental practices. Due to the limited number of seats on the bus and a couple of late cancelations, a total of 15 people took part in the tour.

The 4 stops included:

1. The “plug” (valve) on Marbellup Brook to discuss how it functions and affects water quality in the drainage network
2. Tour of a straw bale house and the benefits of building this way
3. A previously grazed paddock that has been revegetated using the direct seeding method
4. Karanda Organic Farm to learn about various organic farming practices

The day began at 9.00am in Brook Street, Elleker where participants were given maps and a brief overview of the drainage network. This included a short walk to the plug which is essentially a valve that can be opened and closed to drain water from one side of a drainage channel to the other.

The 2nd stop was at the home of Sam Pasfield and Karen Kirby who are in the process of building a straw bale house. Here the high thermal qualities and energy efficient benefits of a solar passive designed home were on display. The building also used recycled material including wooden beams and trusses from the old wool store in Fremantle. The subtle rounded edges of the thick walls (Fig. 11) and open spaces, gave the home a feeling of comfort and relaxation that was very appealing.



Figure 11: Keith Smith inspects the straw bale walls that have high thermal qualities and are aesthetically pleasing

Next we visited the property of local farmer and horticulturalist, Keith Smith. Keith took us to an area of his property that was previously used as a sheep grazing paddock. Using locally collected native seed, the area has now been transformed into thick native bush using a Marlak Direct Seeder; a one pass direct seeding machine. After 3 years, the area shows no signs of once being kikuyu grass with most plant species over 12ft tall (Fig. 12). The success of the revegetation project was due to good site preparation and correct implementation of seeding techniques using specialised machinery.



Figure 12: Local horticulturalist Keith Smith stands among velvet rush (*Meeboldina scariosa*) discussing the benefits of direct seeding. At the rear you can see 12ft high revegetation (3 years old) that links up with existing remnant bush

The final stop on the bus tour was a visit to the organic farm of Karen and Lex Langridge. Here Karen and Lex provided a tour of their farm and discussed the various aspects of their organic farming operation, such as how they have set up the property and management of systems in place.

Unlike the organic farm workshop where Karen and Lex took a group each, this time they both guided participants around their property explaining various methods used to produce organic food.

Areas looked at included a converted shearing shed that is now used by rehomed laying hens, a worm farm (Fig. 13) that produces worm juice for the vegetable garden as well as the benefits to soil health and production using biodynamics



Figure 13: Karen talks about how easy it is to set up a worm farm

The vegetable garden was of great interest with a large variety of very fresh and healthy vegetables growing (Fig. 14). Karen explained how the use of carpet and rubber matting does a great job of keeping weeds at bay. A pair of resident ducks also did there bit by keeping snails and slugs in check. Little tips were also passed on like letting inkweed grow nearby to keep those pesky silver eyes out of the tomatoes.



Figure 14: Everyone enjoyed listening to Karen and Lex talk about how they grow organic vegetables

Before heading back to Elleker, everyone had a tasty lunch at the farm where they had access to various brochures and information on subjects covered on the tour. The weather on the day was perfect and helped ensure everyone had a pleasant and educational day.

2.8 Horse and Pasture Care Workshop

The final workshop to round off the series was a horse and pasture care workshop, which was held at Albany Equestrian Centre (AEC) on Saturday June 8th. Chris Ferreira returned to present the workshop, with the aim of educating horse owners on the correct method of setting up an equine property, and the various land management issues that need to be addressed. Chris was also joined by local veterinarian Dr Shey Rogers and perennial pasture expert, Morgan Sounness. A total of 53 attended the workshop all of whom were horse owners.

The day kicked off at 9.30am with a presentation by Chris in the AEC rooms covering many aspects of setting up an equine property the right way. During his talk, participants were able to ask questions and seek clarification on subjects, as well as advice on specific problems relevant to their properties. Issues raised by participants included management of weeds, erosion, soil, manure and fire. Chris and Morgan also talked about the benefits of perennial pastures and its management.

Following Chris and Morgan's talk, everyone grabbed a cuppa and headed outside to a nearby paddock where local veterinarian Dr Shey Rogers gave a talk about nutrition, digestion and caring for horses (Fig. 15). She presented her 1 hour talk with the aid of Clayva, a 5 year old Highland Pony which worked very well, providing a great visual aid for the audience (Fig. 16).



Figure 15: Dr Shey Rogers presenting her veterinary talk on nutrition, diet and horse care to participants

This was followed by a general question/answer session with Shey, where participants asked about a range of veterinary issues, including diet, suitable pastures for grazing and the types of trees suitable for planting in horse paddocks. She also provided a hand out on nutrition, discussing many issues such as digestion and how horses have evolved to eat pastures high in fibre continuously and not just two feeds a day.



Figure 16: Dr Shey Rogers (black top) gave her talk with the assistance of Clayva, a 5 year old Highland Pony

After the veterinary talk, as weather was so pleasant, it was decided to stay outside and continue Chris and Morgan's talk on pasture and property management in the paddock (Fig. 17).



Figure 17: Chris Ferreira and Morgan Sounness talk to participants in the paddock about perennial pasture management

Following their talk, everyone headed back to the AEC rooms where Chris wrapped things up with a recap and general discussion with the audience. During the day there were prizes and giveaways with just about everyone receiving something. These included horse brushes, lead ropes, bandages, hats, weeds books, and sustainable gardening products which were a huge hit with everyone.

The workshop concluded at 2.00pm which was followed by a lovely catered lunch. Feedback from the workshop was extremely positive with everyone saying they got a great deal out of the event. Going off surveys, the expert knowledge supplied definitely has inspired people to make changes in the way they manage their properties. The enthusiasm to learn more was evident with just about everybody saying they would like another workshop that covered similar topics over 1 or 2 days.

3 Promotion of the Workshop Series

The promotion of the workshop series was paramount to its success and occurred through several methods to ensure all of the community were aware of upcoming workshops. The original objectives set for the project were to engage small landholders through the delivery of 3 community workshops within Torbay catchment and Princess Royal Harbour coastal communities; now referred to as The Greater Torbay Catchment. The promotional milestones set for the project required that there were to be 3 media releases, 3 letterbox drops and publicity through 1 newsletter.

As the project developed and certain opportunities arose, the framework for how the workshops were delivered, the number of workshops held and the methods used to promote them changed to help improve the delivery of the project. The final outcomes were that the set milestones were well exceeded with 5 extra workshops delivered (8 in total); numerous letterbox drops occurring and several types of promotional methods used across the GTC. The following is a summary of the promotion that occurred for each workshop and strategies used.

3.1 Media Articles in Local Paper

The utilisation of the newspaper to promote upcoming events was used on two occasions for the heavenly hectares/organic farm workshops and the horse and pasture care workshop. This occurred through the publishing of a ½ page paid advertorial in the Great Southern Weekender. This form of advertising was very successful as it combines the features of an eye catching flyer with a story that contains all the details about the event. The fact it also appears to have been written by a journalist would mean that more people are likely to read it. The professional layout of one of the advertorials is displayed in the proof for heavenly hectares and organic farm workshops (Fig. 18).

Heavenly Hectares Workshop

Followed by
Organic Farm Workshop

The FREE Workshops Run Back-to-Back
Come to One or Both!

Workshop 1: Heavenly Hectares
Learn how to manage your small property
Bornholm Hall, Lower Denmark Rd, Bornholm
Sunday April 14th - 10am to Midday
(Includes free lunch)

Topics covered include:

- Creating a drought-proof property
- Designing a beautiful, productive & sustainable farm
- Trees for all reasons and seasons
- Effectively dealing with weeds and pests
- Creating a fire-safe property
- Creating an ever-green farm for stock

Workshop 2: Organic Farm Workshop
Visit a real farm practising organic methods
3 Shepherds Lagoon Rd, Bornholm
(Next to Bornholm Hall)
Sunday April 14th - 1.00pm to 3.00pm

- Conversion to organic farming • Running chickens
- Worm farming • Fencing waterways
- No-dig organic vegetable garden
- Establishing shelter belts

BOOKINGS REQUIRED FOR BOTH WORKSHOPS
Ph: Craig Carter on **0428 928 484** or craig@earthrise.net.au






Heavenly Hectares and organic farm workshops

JOIN WA media personality Chris Ferreira and learn how to turn your land into Heavenly Hectares.

Aimed at small landholders and farmers, the Heavenly Hectares workshop will cover a range of topics from property design, shelter belts, weed/pest control, pasture, soil types, fire-proofing and drought-proofing the landscape, plus much more. Held at Bornholm Hall on Lower Denmark Road, the workshop runs from 10am to midday followed by a free lunch.

After lunch there will be an organic farm workshop where Chris will take us on a 2-hour visit to a nearby farm practicing organic methods and in the process of turning their property into Heavenly Hectares. This workshop runs from 1pm to 3pm and will be held at 3 Shepherds Lagoon Road, 8500a from Bornholm Hall.

Topics covered include:

- Processes involved in gaining organic certification.
- Biodynamics: looking at Preparation 500, different stirring methods and spray equipment.
- Re-boned laying hens using a converted shearing shed and portable housing system.
- Setting up a worm farm in an old bath tub or 1000 litre drums to collect worm juice for garden.
- Fenced waterways for weed and erosion control and using troughs to water cattle and sheep.
- Looking at a no-dig vegetable garden system set up in the middle of a kikuyu lawn.
- See pure-bred and cross-bred Piel Montrose cattle, a 4,000-year-old breed from Italy.

"Both workshops promise to be informative and fun where you are bound to come away with new knowledge and be inspired to transform your property into a productive and sustainable one," said organiser Craig Carter.

Bookings are required for both free workshops. Please contact Craig Carter on 0428 928 484 or email craig@earthrise.net.au.



• Chris Ferreira



Figure 18: Advertorials used to promote workshops attracted people's attention resulting in a high amount of bookings

This style of advertising, grabs people's attention inviting them to read on. In the case of the heavenly hectares/organic farm workshops advertorial, there are several points that are immediately apparent to the reader. That is, there are two workshops (heavenly hectares and organic farming); it is free; they are both at Bornholm on Sunday April 14th and it is being presented by a well known media personality in Chris Ferreira. Thus the immediate appeal of the workshop draws people in to read the entire article resulting in many bookings.

Prior to the heavenly hectares/organic farm workshops advertorial appearing in the paper (Appendix 1), approximately 55 people from within the GTC had booked. This was a result of the mail out of approximately 740 letters to people on the Torbay catchment rate payers list and letter drops within the GTC promoting the workshops. The advertorial essentially ensured the number of bookings more than doubled to 124. Unsurprisingly many of these bookings came from outside the GTC as the newspaper has a large distribution (22,000) and covers a wide area that includes Albany, Denmark, Walpole, Mt Barker, Kojonup, Katanning and Bremer Bay. The fact it comes out on a Thursday also allowed many people (estimated readership 66,000) to read it over the weekend and into following week which is when most of the bookings occurred. This resulted in people from as far away as Nannup, Collie, Katanning, Porongurup, Walpole and areas in between attending. A similar occurrence took place after the horse and pasture care workshop was advertised in the newspaper (Appendix 2) which resulted in 65 bookings and 53 people attending.

The attendance of many people from outside the GTC is seen as an excellent outcome for the project, TCG and most importantly the wider small land holder community. The fact the many people travelled large distances to the workshops showed they were eager to learn about subjects such as organic farming (Fig. 19) and property management in general. Therefore a desire from the wider small land holder community for more skills and knowledge was being serviced. Furthermore, although at times



Figure 19: A happy group who enjoyed learning about organic farming

similar types of workshops on property management occur in the other localities mentioned, having a property management workshop and farm tour follow on from each other made this event appealing. This is because people liked that they could learn the theory and see things first hand ensuring that messages were understood and taken on board.

The fact that Chris Ferreira (who is well known to many people for his regular roles on 720 ABC radio on Saturday mornings) was a presenter at these workshops was also a significant factor behind the large number of bookings from both locally and outside the GTC. Chris has worked many times with organiser Craig Carter, who knew that his skills, broad knowledge on sustainable land management, enthusiasm, charisma and even his bad jokes would be a winner with workshop audiences.

Finally, the fact that over 300 hundred people from within and outside the GTC came to workshops that were put on by TCG has been an outstanding promotion for the group. People now know that TCG is a community group with passion for the land care willing to assist the community with environmental management and they put on a decent workshop.

3.2 Mail Out and Letter Box Drops

To promote the upcoming workshop series to the GTC community, a letter was mailed out (Appendix 3) to Torbay catchment rate payers as well as letter box drops around the 5 & 7 mile creek sub-catchments and the Princess Royal Harbour coastal communities. The 740 letters posted out alerted people to upcoming workshops and included flyers for the three workshops that had already been organised, namely the weed control workshop (Appendix 4) on March 2nd and the heavenly hectares/organic farm workshops (Appendix 5) on April 14th.

Throughout the project a sustained effort was made to deliver promotional flyers for each of the workshops to letterboxes within the entire GTC. Flyers were delivered inside envelopes that were addressed to “The landholder” which took place about 3-4 weeks prior to the event. Key areas where letter drops occurred inside Torbay catchment included Elleker, Kronkup, Marbelup (including the new Albany Green Estate), the 5 & 7 miles Creek Sub-catchments and areas to the north of South Coast Highway leading to Redmond. Letter box drops also occurred in the coastal communities near and around the southern side of Princess Royal Harbour which included Cuthbert, Robinson, Little Grove, Torndirrup and Goode Beach. As many properties in these coastal communities didn’t have letterboxes, extra efforts were made to ensure residents received flyers through door knocking, leaving them on front porches or on tables near horse stalls. This occurred for all workshops except the Torbay Inlet estuary paddle tour as numbers were restricted for this event. This workshop was simply promoted through the TCG email list as well as the flyer (Appendix 6) being put up at the Elleker general store. As numbers were also restricted on the Torbay catchment bus tour, this workshops was only promoted to landholders within Torbay catchment.



Figure 20: Horse and pasture care workshop flyer

The initial mail out/letter box drop, plus subsequent flyers distributed for the Torbay catchment bus tour (Appendix 7) and horse and pasture care workshop (Fig. 20) resulted in a total of 3 letterbox drops occurring across the GTC during the project. Letterbox drops for each workshop occurred over several days taking considerable time and covering large areas. As an example, delivery across the Princess Royal Harbour coastal communities took 3-4 hours alone. It is estimated it took a total of 8 hours to conduct one letterbox drop across key areas within the GTC.

3.3 Torbay Catchment Group Website

The TCG website also played an important and convenient role in promoting the workshops. At the start of the project, a workshops web page was made with and a link placed on the home page. The workshops page gave a brief overview of the project, a description of the workshops and an option to download the flyer. It also had a convenient online booking system at the bottom of the page. When filled in, the details of the person(s) booking were the automatically emailed to organiser Craig Carter who then added it to the bookings register. The promotion of 4 workshops occurred through the website which included the weed control (Appendix 8) heavenly hectares/organic farm (Appendix 9) and horse & pasture care (Fig. 21) workshops.

Horse and Pasture Care workshop

Learn how manage your horse property and take care of your horses as well

Where: Albany Equestrian Centre, Roberts Road, Robinson

When: Saturday June 8th – 9.30am to 1.30pm (includes free lunch!)

Presented by: Media personality Chris Ferreira

Topics to be covered include:

- Improving your horse paddocks and ongoing management
- Soil dynamics and getting it right
- Talk by horse veterinarian with question/answer session
- Weed management and more...

Join media personality Chris Ferreira for a half day workshop aimed at horse owners and riders to learn about how to best set up your property for horses. Chris has been running these style of workshops for many years and will leave you with new knowledge and be inspired to transform your paddocks and surrounds into a happy environment for both you and your horse. The four hour workshop will cover all of the above topics and more.



A qualified horse vet will be in attendance and will give a talk on horse care which includes a question/answer session in the Albany Equestrian Centre indoor arena. So this will be a great time to ask questions to an experienced horse veterinarian.

The free workshop will also include a catered lunch (also free) which is always well received, going off responses at past workshops.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Bookings are required for all workshops. You can book online by filling out the form below, or phone Craig Carter on 0428 928 484 or [email Craig](#). You can [download a PDF flyer](#) with information on the workshops.

These workshops are provided through funding from South Coast Natural Resource Management and the State NRM Office of Western Australia.



Workshop Booking Form

Name:

Phone number:

Email address:

Please indicate which workshop(s) you want to attend:

☒ Horse care

Figure 21: Promotion of the horse & pasture care workshop on the Torbay Catchment Group's website

The website link was listed on the flyers for these workshops as well as the two advertorials. This exposure of the website through the online booking system was also a great way to promote TCG and the work they do. Once on the website, people could then download the flyer, book online or click on the link to email organiser Craig Carter directly. Over the course of the project a total of 48 bookings occurred though the website for these 4 workshops.

3.4 Other Forms of Promotion

Several other forms of promotion greatly assisted in making people aware of the workshops. One method that always worked was to place flyers up in public places where the target audience would see them. Two locations that resulted in many people becoming aware of the workshops were at the Elleker and Little Grove general stores. Other locations that worked well included local horse saddlerys or Albany stock feeds which resulted in many people attending the horse and pasture care workshop. Promotion of this workshop also occurred through the Albany Equestrian Centre web page (Appendix 10) and their Facebook page (Appendix 11). The horse community and the numerous equine clubs then promoted it via email and their newsletters, resulting in people from as far as Collie and Nannup attending the workshop.

Workshops were also regularly promoted through the TCG and Earthrise Environmental Services email contact list with an initial email being sent a few weeks before workshops took place and a reminder email being sent a few days out from the date of the events. The heavenly hectares, organic farm and horse & pasture care workshops were also promoted online through The ABC's Big Diary (Appendix 12 & 13) and also South Coast NRM's E-Newsletter.

The TCG newsletter also alerted everyone within Torbay catchment (approx. 780 households) to the workshops with an initial story appearing in the spring/summer edition in January 2013 (Appendix 14). At the conclusion of the project a story appeared in the winter edition that talked about the success of the workshops series and the workshops themselves (Fig. 22).

Workshops a Winner with Catchment Community

Between March and June, 2022 Torbay Catchment Group ran a series of 8 workshops to engage small landholders and farmers within the Torbay Catchment and Princess Royal Harbour coastal catchments. This included areas such as Pottsville, Little Grove and Double Beach which were part of the Greater Torbay Catchment. These coastal communities outside the catchment have traditionally had low representation in Natural Resource Management as they are not defined by a catchment group. The focus on these areas as well as newer sub-divisions in Torbay Catchment (3, 4, 5 and 7 Mile Coast) were made during the project. The workshops aimed to increase skills and knowledge in natural resource management to minimise impacts on the environment as well as enhance and raise awareness of natural assets in the catchment.

The response to the workshop series was fantastic with a large number of bookings for each event. The response to the Heavenly Hectares & organic farm workshops alone was so great that the original plan of running the Heavenly Hectares workshops in the morning and the organic farm workshop after lunch had to be changed. In the end we ran both workshops simultaneously in the morning and repeated them in the afternoon to accommodate the large number of bookings (1246). Workshops covered a wide range of topics such as weed control, property management, organic farming, revegetation, pasture management and horse care. The workshops proved very successful with a total of 324 people attending.

The series kicked off in March with a Weed Control workshop at Turkey Hall which included weed ID in the field with Steve Hurren and Peter Hurren, 22/03/2022. April saw the popular Heavenly Hectares and organic farm workshops. Princess Chris Ferrelle provided an entertaining talk on how to transform your property into heavenly hectares covering a range of issues relating to property management. On the same day Les and Karen Longridge took people on a tour of their organic farm where they talked about biosecurity, organic vegetable gardening, livestock welfare, worm farming and more.

An evening course tour was held on Sunday May 12th exploring Torbay Island and surrounds. Everyone had a great day with perfect weather with locals very proud. Tracy Carter (SWA), Morgan Price (South Coast NRM) and Sarah Barrett (TCG) added to day with their expert commentary about the wetlands, unique flora and estuary ecology. The following Sunday (May 14) was the Torbay Catchment bus tour. With seats made to the lovely straw bale home of Sam Paschall and Simon Kirby. Their beautiful design utilizing natural materials impressed all and displayed the benefits of using straw bales that provide high thermal insulation reducing energy consumption. Next day participants saw the excellent results that can be achieved from revegetating a previously grazed paddock through direct seeding. Local farmer Keith Smith has successfully grown many species of local natives that now provide habitat and shelter for wildlife. The final stop was at the sustainable property of Karen and Les Longridge where we were impressed of the benefits of organic farming.

| Workshop | Presenters | Date | No. |
|----------------------------------|---|---------------|-----|
| Weed Control Workshop | Dianne Hurren and Peter Hurren | 22 March 22 | 23 |
| Heavenly Hectares Workshop (1) | Chris Ferrelle | 10 April 2022 | 61 |
| Heavenly Hectares Workshop (2) | Chris Ferrelle | 15 April 2022 | 49 |
| Organic Farm Workshop (1) | Les and Karen Longridge | 11 April 2022 | 21 |
| Organic Farm Workshop (2) | Les and Karen Longridge | 14 April 2022 | 25 |
| Torbay Island Estuary Field Trip | Tracy Carter, Sarah Barrett and Sherrae Price | 10 May 2022 | 16 |
| Torbay Catchment Bus Tour | Keith Smith, Les and Karen Longridge | 12 May 2022 | 15 |
| Horse & Pasture Care Workshop | Chris Ferrelle, Morgan Price & Tracy Carter | 08 June 2022 | 51 |
| | | Total | 216 |

Rounding off the workshops series was a Horse and Pasture Care workshop on Saturday June 8th at Albany Equestrian Centre. Chris Ferrelle returned to present another information packed event that was assisted by professional pasture expert Morgan Price, & local veterinarian Dr. Tracy Rogers. The 34 people who attended enjoyed the workshop as well as the prizes and giveaways. The workshop ran for a 7th hour which really wasn't long enough as everyone wanted to learn more and extend it over the whole day. As a follow up, we hope to run a property management workshop in the future.

The workshop series received great positive feedback from participants either directly to workshop organizer Craig Carter or through the surveys filled in at events. "Attending these workshops was very rewarding especially when you can see people enjoying themselves and get something out of it," said Craig. Workshop surveys also allowed participants to say what subjects they would like to learn next. Many people listed a wide range of subjects including fire management, native plant propagation, pasture management and property planning. In the future Torbay Catchment Group plans to run workshops covering these topics. In fact in spring 2023, we are hoping to get Sandra Hales and Chris Ferrelle back to do a talk on sustainable gardening and orchards which should be fun too.

The success of the project was due to a great line up of presenters, whose expertise and passion for managing the environment was conveyed to people attending workshops. Special thanks also to many people who helped out at the workshops that helped ensure they ran smoothly. Most importantly, thank you to the landholders who gave up a large part of their weekends to attend and contributed to the wonderful success of the workshop series.

Craig Carter, Project Officer, TCG

Habitat Protected & Native Bush Increased Across Catchment

Over the past three years Torbay Catchment Group (TCG) has been implementing a highly successful program to protect native coastal vegetation and bushland from grazing paddocks back to native bush. With the current round of Federal government Caring for our Country funding concluding in June 2023, a total of 10,000 native bushland has been protected and the planting of 25 hectares of native seedlings (approx. 27,000 plants) will have been completed.

These large areas of newly protected bush will not only help prevent soil loss, create shelter and reduce runoff, but also act as safe havens for many rare flora and fauna. "This is great news for endangered wildlife, which includes rare endemic species like Bushy's, Carnaby's and Red-tailed Black cockatoos as well as the Western-Longlegged juncos," said project officer Craig Carter.

June 2023 will see this year's remaining 10,000 seedlings planted with many of the plants having been grown from seed collected within Torbay catchment. This will add to the 12,000 seedlings planted in 2021. These positive environmental outcomes would not happen without the commitment and enthusiasm provided by the 18 landholders who enrolled funding.

To continue the work in protecting and restoring habitats, waterways and fostering environmental awareness, TCG has applied for more funds to continue this work and should know if we were successful by late July 2023. For more information on available funding, land care advice and how workshops, contact Craig Carter at craig@torbaycatchmentgroup.org.au or via FB: [torbaycatchmentgroup](https://www.facebook.com/torbaycatchmentgroup)

The project is funded through South Coast Natural Resource Management and the federal government's Caring For Our Country program

Carnaby's Black Cockatoo and Western-Longlegged juncos

Figure 22: The winter edition of Torbay Catchment Group newsletter featuring a 1^{1/2} page story on the workshops series

4 Surveying Workshop Participants

At each workshop, participants were asked to fill in a two page survey. The first page (pre activity survey) was filled in at the start of events and gathered information on the types of landholders attending such as where they were from, age group and the size of land they lived on (Fig. 23). At the end of workshops participants were asked to fill in page 2 (post activity survey) of the survey which allowed them to provide feedback on the workshop. Questions asked included whether or not they had increased their skills/knowledge, what they found most beneficial, what changes they would make as a result of the attending the workshop and how the event could have been improved. Importantly, participants were asked what skills and knowledge they would like to gain next. Answers to survey questions were later entered into an electronic activity register using Microsoft Access. Here summarised information from all the questions answered in surveys was converted into graphs that provided an easily understood visual interpretation of data.



Figure 23: Surveys completed at workshops collected valuable information from people

Of the 318 people who attended the various workshops, 204 (64%) completed surveys (Appendix 15). This represents approximately two thirds of participants which would more than likely be indicative of the entire group of workshop participants. The following is a summary of this information and interpretation of the data. As the majority of the second page of the survey asked people to provide written answers and list ideas on future skills and knowledge they would like to gain, this information as well as list of workshops ideas and suggestions for larger projects that would benefit small land holders is covered later in the report. Although surveys were collected for the Torbay Inlet estuary paddle tour, these were not available for analysis as they were collected directly through South Coast NRM as it was a jointly run workshop. To simplify data analysis, information gathered from surveying people at the two heavenly hectares workshops has been combined as has the two organic farm workshops. This and the non-inclusion of data from the Torbay Inlet estuary paddle tour has resulted in 5 workshops being analysed and the data interpreted.

GIS Data (G.P.S points) were supplied for each venue and included on the surveys for each event.

4.1 Results from Workshop Survey Questionnaires

The difference in the number of male and female participants attending workshops showed a notable difference with 34 more females attending than males. This represented 58% of participants (Fig. 24). A closer look at the data revealed that this was the general trend across most workshops with the horse and pasture care workshop attracting 32 females compared to 9 males. The age of people attending workshops was mainly adults over 30 with most (115) coming from the 31-59 age bracket with about half as many (61) coming from the 60-69 age bracket (Fig. 25).

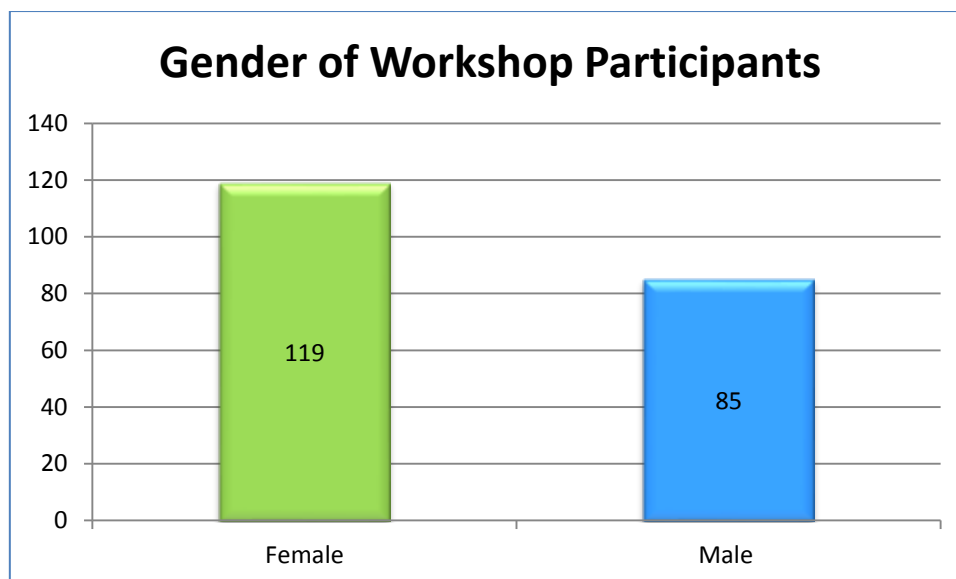


Figure 24: Number of females compared to male participants at workshops

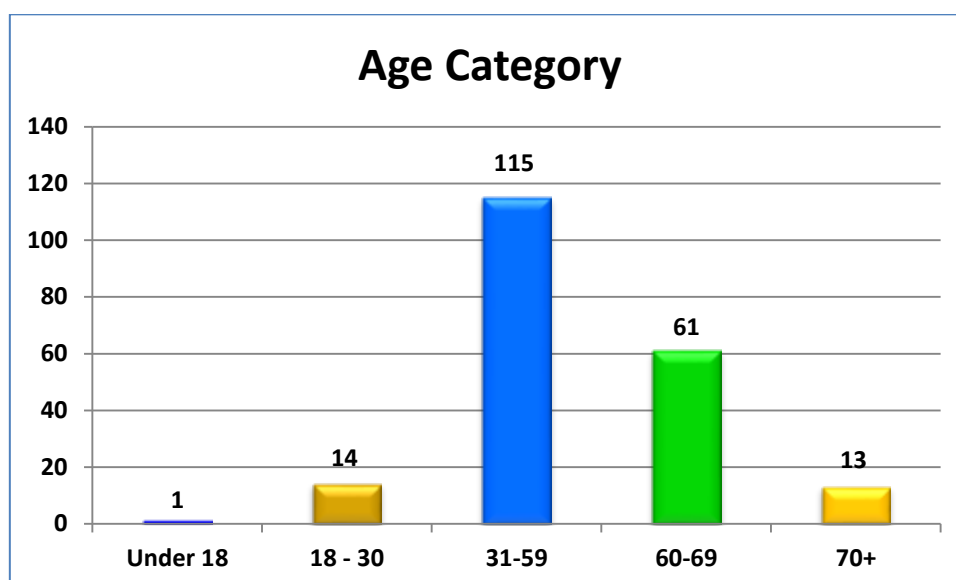


Figure 25: Age categories for people that attended workshops

As the project was focusing on small landholders, it was important to find out the size of land owned by workshop attendees. A small landholder or periurban landholder can also be categorised as someone who has a land holding between 1 to 100 hectares and earns no or some income from the property. To gain this information, people were asked what their land holding size was and the proportion of income gained from the property. Results show that the majority of people surveyed gain no income from their property (120) and a further 71 gained some income (Fig. 26). This represents 191 out of 203 people who answered this question or 94%. This correlates with land holding sizes with 172 people having a property between 1-100 hectares and a further 19 (total 191) having less than 1 Ha (Fig. 27). The 12 land holders identified as having properties over 100 hectares also matches the proportion of income earned with 7 land holders earning most and 5 earning all of their income from their property (total 12). Therefore you could conclude that 172 small land holders (85%) attended workshops during the project.

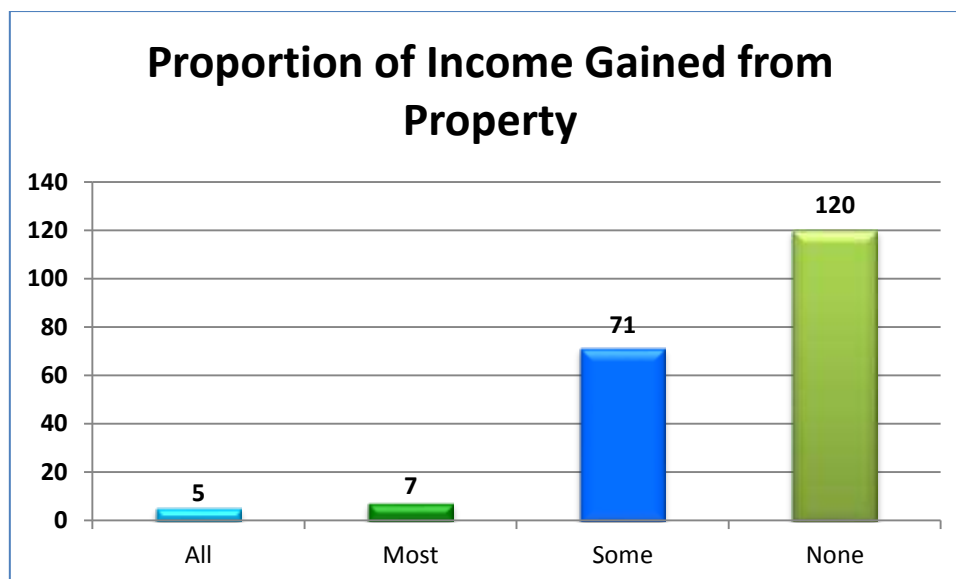


Figure 26: Proportion of income gained from property

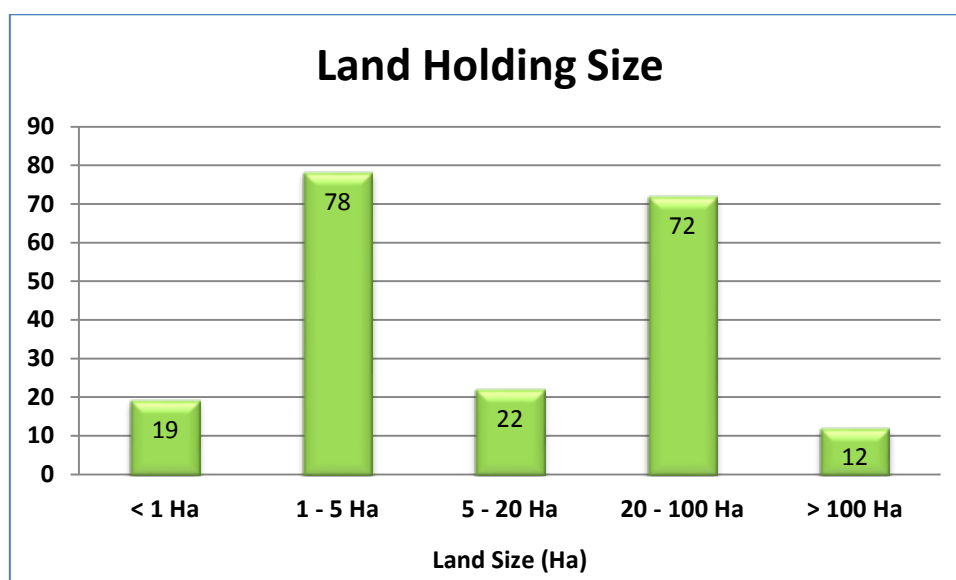


Figure 27: Land holding size of people who attended workshops

The GTC is located in one of the fastest growing areas in Australia. Many land managers are new to the area and new to managing land and therefore need to acquire the skills and knowledge required to be a good land manager. The increase in skills and knowledge in natural resource management among small land holders was a key goal for this project. To help ascertain how many people may be new to land management, participants were asked how long they have lived in the area to provide an indication of how many people may be new land managers.

Responses to this question showed that of the 204 people surveyed, 130 (64%) have lived in the area for over 5 years of which 65 (32%) had lived there for over 10 years (Fig. 28). Many people are also new to the area with 34 (17%) having lived in the area for less than 1 year and 40 (19%) being residents for under 5 years. Therefore, it appears that approximately 1/3 of people are long-time residents, having lived in the area for over 10 years, 1/3 have settled in after living in the area for 5 to 10 years and the remaining 1/3 are new to the area having lived there for under 5 years.

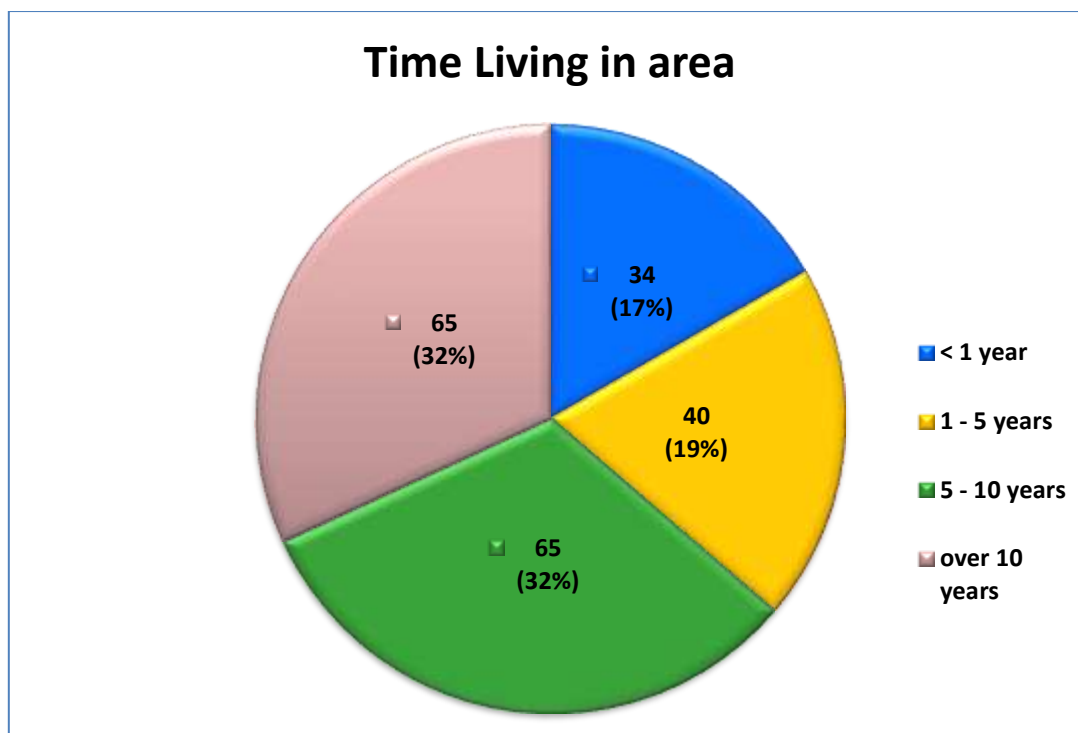


Figure 28: The number of time (years) workshop participants have lived in the area

To determine how many properties within the GTC are owned by landholders who reside outside the area participants were asked about their residential status. This information would also show how many live at and own their properties. It is thought that those who own and manage their land are more inclined to effect positive changes to their property and undertake on going land management

Of the 204 people surveyed for residential status, the majority (188) were owners. A total of 13 were tenants and 3 were absentee landholders (Fig. 29).

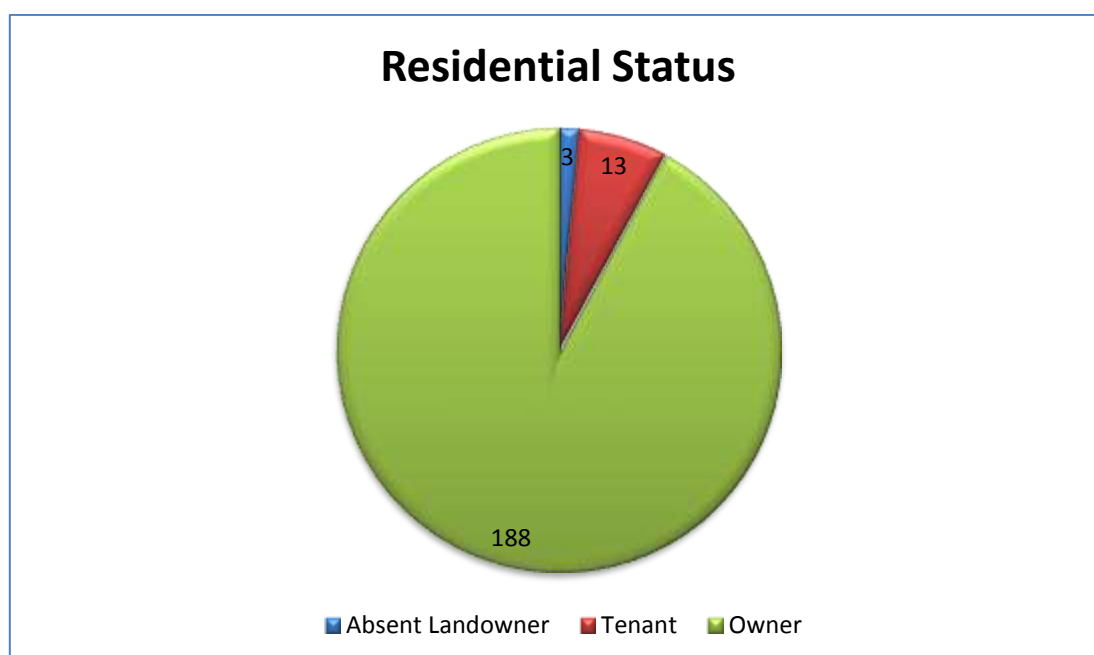


Figure 29: Residential status of landholders who attended workshops

As mentioned previously, the workshops were publicised in many ways. The most successful avenue that people heard about the workshops was through the newspaper which attracted 60 of the 204 people surveyed. This was closely followed by emails, friends and the mail out of a letter to the TCG rate payers list that alerted everyone to the upcoming series (Fig. 30). The distribution of the flyer across the GTC was also largely responsible for people hearing about the workshops.

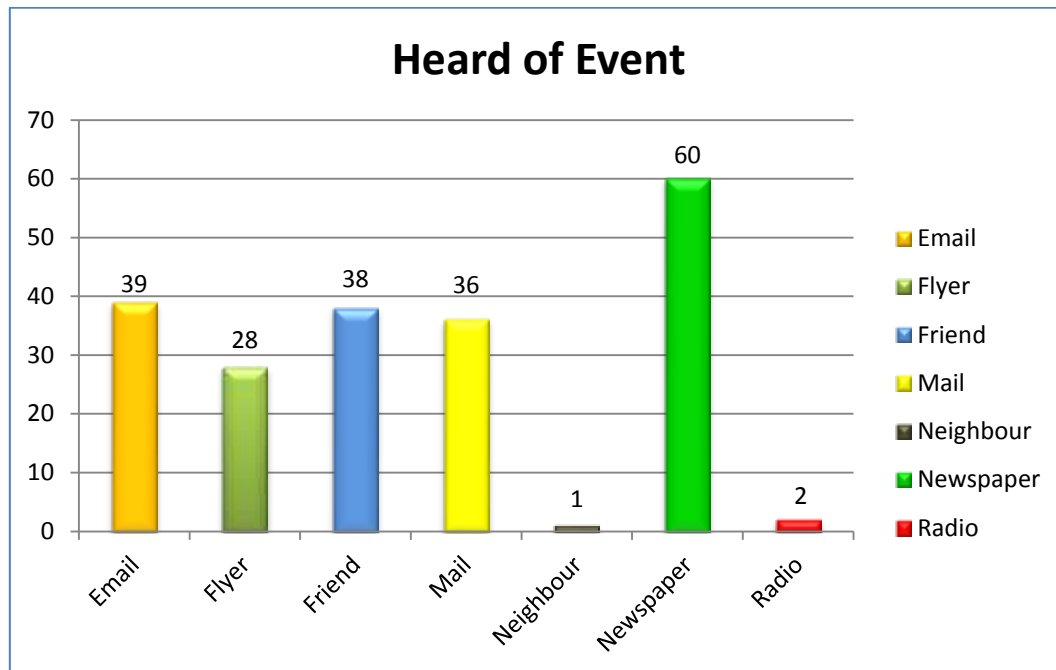


Figure 30: Various ways workshops participants heard about the workshops they attended

The second page of the survey allowed people to provide feedback on the workshop. The first question asked at the conclusion of the workshop was “To what degree did the event meet your expectations”. Results show that the majority of people had their expectations met or exceeded. 18 of the 204 people did not answer this question with 12 of the 18 failing to fill in page two at all.

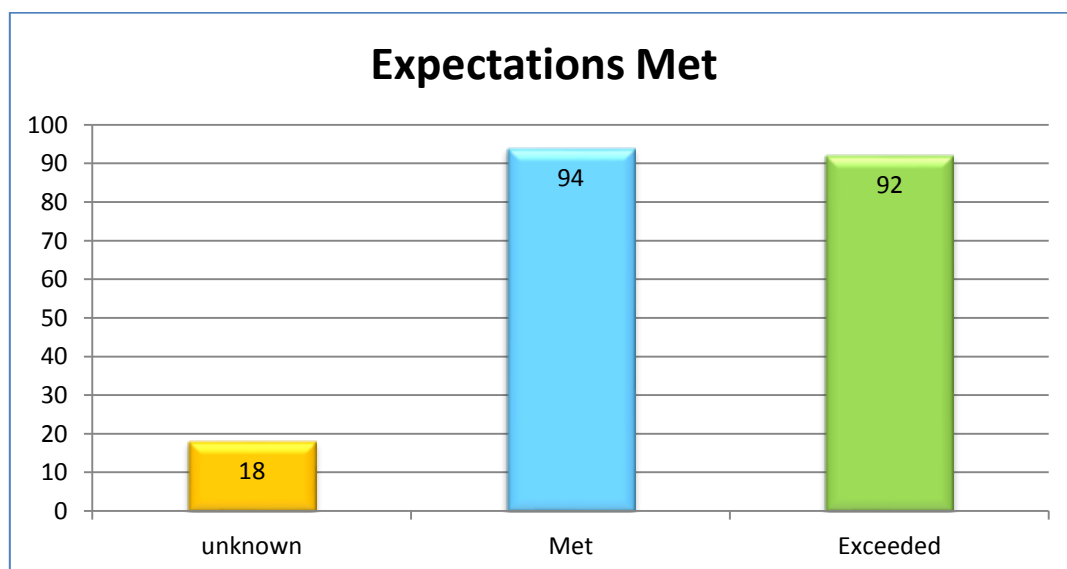


Figure 31: Most workshop attendees found their expectations were met with nearly as many saying they were exceeded

4.2 Interpretation of the Results

Information from surveys showed that more females attended the workshops than males with the ratio being 58% to 42%. This outcome was influenced slightly by the horse and pasture care workshops with 32 of the 41 participants surveyed (78%) being female. This indicates that more women in the area are active in the equine community and are probably more eager to learn about horse care related subject compared males. This increased desire to learn by females was apparent across most workshops, especially the horse and pasture care, heavenly hectares and organic farm workshops which attracted the majority of workshops participants (261 of 318).

The age category of people attending workshops came mostly from the 31-59 (56%) age group followed by the 60-69 age categories with (29%). This was not surprising as many people attending would be working on their properties and actively undertaking land management. The 29% of people from the 60-69 age groups would have similar aspirations with some people being retirees. The amount of people from the 31-59 age categories also correlated with the average age from the GTC which is 44 years as well as population demographics with about 48% of people also falling into the 31-59 age bracket (ABS, 2013).

One of the main reasons workshops were aimed at small land holders is because traditional farming properties have been largely replaced by small land holdings across the GTC. Many small landholders don't have the land management skills of someone with a traditional farming background which can place more pressure on the natural environment though a simple lack of knowledge and experience. As the surveys revealed, 85% of attendees were small land holders which was a positive outcome for the project and the environment, as the workshops have increased skills and knowledge that will result in minimised impacts on the environment. People have also been gained confidence and been inspired to make practice changes and learn more through alternative sources.

The amount of time people have lived in the area showed that 36% (74 of 204) were new to the area with 17% (34 of 204) having lived in the area for less than a year. These responses indicate that many of the people that have relocated to the area are most likely first time land managers. It also eludes the fact that many small landholders move on after a few years creating a regular turnover of residents creating and on-going need for education. Those that have lived in the area longer were also eager to gain new knowledge with many participants (32%) revealing they had been in the area for only 5-10 years and the remainder (32%) for over 10 years. These people represent the majority of workshop attendees and again highlight the importance of on-going educational projects to service the needs of the small land holder community and help ensure properties and natural assets are sustainably managed.

The residential status of participants showed the vast majority (92%) were the owner of the property they managed. This is seen as a positive indicator as a land manager who owns and lives on the property is more inclined to effect on ground changes such as soil testing, revegetation, establishment of perennial pastures and fencing off remnant bush (Fig. 32). Unlike absentee land holders (1%), land owners that are present on their property most of the time and can undertake continual land management. The 6% of people who rented their property are also possibly less inclined to undertake larger scale land management simply because they don't own the land.



Figure 32: Many small landholders fence off their remnant vegetation ensuring habitat is protected for local wildlife

The promotion of the workshops series was very successful and owed this success to the variety of ways promotion occurred. As reported, when people were asked how they heard about the events, most people listed the newspaper which resulted in 29% of bookings. The other bookings (70%) came from a combination of email (19%), finding out from a friend (19%), the mail (18%) and the flyer (14%). Two people also said radio and one a neighbour which although small, was still part of the way people heard about or were perhaps reminded about (radio) workshops. Quite a lot of bookings also came via telephone and even text messages.

The way people answered this question is open to debate as many people who put down email or the mail would have received the flyer as well, which was a powerful tool in promoting the workshops. Either way, the combination of all these forms of promotion made people aware of events and the word spread across large areas drawing people from near and far. This would explain the 19% of people who ticked friend. There were also other ways people heard of the events which were not provided as an option on the survey. These included newsletters, websites, notice boards and even on Facebook.

The reaction from people for each workshop was very positive and important to organisers, presenters and TCG. On the survey, the first questions people were asked to answer on page two was "To what degree did the event meet your expectations?" It was pleasing to see that of the 186 people who responded to this question, 94 (51%) said it exceeded their expectations and (92) 49% said it met their expectations. Many people also scribbled down notes complimenting the presenters and organisers on a great event. Some comments included:

"Well done: Speakers very complimentary of each other and worked well together", I thoroughly enjoyed it and the speakers were so willing to help and genuinely enthusiastic; It was very encouraging", "Well run and very informative", "Brilliant!"

4.3 Future Skills and Knowledge Requested

The surveys provided an excellent opportunity for workshop participants to list skills and knowledge they would like to gain next. The following (Table 2) is a summary of 45 future workshop subjects that (70%) of individuals listed on their surveys as things they would like to learn about in the future. Many suggestions for workshops were similar with the main topics suggested being biodynamics, property planning, pasture management, orchards, organic food and soil management. Many also responded by listing 2 or 3 subjects which again emphasised the high desire for small land holders to learn more about managing their properties and acquire the skills needed to do so. Topics have been listed with the amount of people who requested it in brackets.

| | | |
|-------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Biodynamics (17) | Pasture management for livestock (13) | Property planning (13) |
| Vegetable gardening (8) | Organic food production (8) | Native plant propagation (7) |
| Organic farming (7) | Orchard establishing /management (7) | Soil management and testing (6) |
| Weed control (6) | Horse health and feeding (6) | Fire management/prevention (6) |
| Food production (6) | Organic weed/pest control (6) | Native bush management (6) |
| Establishing trees (4) | Animal husbandry/nutrition (4) | Invasive animal control (4) |
| Nest boxes (4) | Managing livestock and health (4) | Native gardens (4) |
| Fencing (4) | Pasture improvement /solutions (4) | Native flora I.D (4) |
| Water management (3) | Native seed collecting (2) | Keeping backyard Chickens (2) |
| Native fauna (2) | Mixing deciduous tree with natives (1) | Farm machinery operation (1) |
| Dieback (1) | Worm counts in horse manure (1) | Planting trees for horses (1) |
| Permaculture (1) | Waterlogging (1) | Manure management (1) |
| Tree crops (1) | Native grasses (1) | Windbreaks (1) |
| Frogs (1) | Native garden design (1) | Native animal habitat (1) |
| Fodder planting (1) | Sustainable living (1) | Soil – Organic control of pests (1) |

Table 2 : Skills and knowledge requested by workshop participants over the workshops series

4.4 Project Ideas for the Future

The information above is of great value and can be used to tailor future workshops to meet the needs suggested by small landholders that attended the workshops. As can be seen, there are certain themes or topics that can be addressed in one event. The following is a list of workshop ideas for the future which incorporate several subjects listed in Table 2.

1. **Biodynamics** workshops covering preparation, application and spray equipment. The workshop could be held over 1 or 2 days in the field
2. **Pasture Management for Livestock** covering pasture establishment and management for landholders with sheep, goats, alpacas, cattle etc. was listed by several people. This could include how to improve degraded paddocks and various pasture species available
3. **Property Planning** was a popular topic for many participants. A workshop for a small amount of people (10-15) is suggested which would include 2-3 presenters to allow more one on one time with landholders. Preparation for the workshop would include land holders being supplied with a large aerial photograph of their property and clear overlays to help

with planning various property uses. The workshop could be held over two days to ensure a definitive plan and recommendations are made.

4. **Organic Food Production** is another popular topic among landholders. A workshop incorporating growing organic vegetables and organic pest control would be popular. The workshops would also cover organically bred livestock and organic weed control.
5. **Native Bush Management** is a workshop that could incorporate several suggested subjects such as native plant identification and touch on native seed collection.
6. **Native Gardens, Seed Collection and Propagation** could again be covered in a single workshop that focuses on seed collection and propagation.
7. **Weed Control** is another popular subject which could focus on small land holders and/or gardeners. It could cover chemical, manual and organic control of weeds.
8. **Horse Care** with a focus on horse health and nutrition could be run as a workshop on its own. Having a qualified vet attend the horse and pasture care workshop was very popular and left participants wanting a full day workshop on the subject. Topics that could be covered include what to feed horses, nutrition, trees suitable for equine properties, worming, manure management and worm counts in manure plus general vet care.
9. **Soil Health** is a subject many small land holders are interested in. A workshop covering both theory and practical exercises in the field could be held covering the basics soil testing, soil types and include the use of a soil pit to talk about soil horizons, pH and soil dynamics.
10. **Native Fauna** is something people like to have present on the properties and several people said they would like to learn how to build nest boxes as homes for native mammals and birds. This workshop could also include a talk on local native fauna and management of native bush for habitat as well as plant species that attract native animals (Fig. 33)



Figure 33: The Southern Boobook (*Ninox boobook*) sitting in a *Melaleuca raphiophylla* tree are common in the GTC

5 Successful Engagement of Small Landholders

During the 8 workshops that took place between March and June, a total of 318 people attended with a total of 204 surveys completed. These surveys have supplied important information to help ensure that similar projects in the future are successful. The target area for the project was the GTC but as mentioned, due to the media releases through the newspaper and word of mouth, people came from many areas with some travelling 4 hours to attend workshops. This was a great outcome for the series as it proved workshop topics were popular and supplied knowledge sought after by participants. When numbers for the heavenly hectares and organic farm workshops reached about 75 people, instead of turning people away because it was booked out, a second workshop was run to cater for the extra people. This again indicated the popularity of the workshops and that the series has succeeded in engaging many small landholders.

When completing surveys, participants were given the option of supplying their contact details so that they could be contacted in the future when similar events occur. At the conclusion of the series a total of 81 people were added to the TCG contact list which was an excellent outcome.

6 Lessons Learnt and Advice for Future Workshops

The workshops series took place over a 3 month period and achieved what it aimed to do and more. A good diversity of subjects were covered and many people gained new skills and knowledge which seems to have been welcomed and has received positive feedback from everyone involved. This was the result of many methods that were employed to ensure positive outcomes. Nevertheless running workshops can never be perfect and there is always room for improvement.

6.1 Fine Tuning Future Workshops

One thing that can be improved on for many future workshops was the length of time the workshop ran. Unfortunately many people who attended the organic farm, heavenly hectares and horse & pasture care workshops wished they had been longer. In the case of the organic farm and heavenly hectares workshops, 2 hours was not enough to cover everything about organic farming and to set up a sustainable well managed property. So as mentioned, in the future it is hoped that a 1-2 day workshop on property planning and a 2-3 day organic farming workshop can occur. Lack of time was also a perceived problem for the horse and pasture care workshop, even though it ran for 4.5 hours. Many people commented in surveys that it was a great workshop and were inspired by what they learnt but would really have liked it to be for the entire day. Many people also suggested an in depth two day workshop covering everything that was mentioned and more.

Promotion of the workshops was very successful and resulted in good turn outs to events. An area that could be improved upon is the letterbox drops. This method is a great way to ensure the targeted areas are aware of workshops but it took a great deal of time to hand deliver flyers to letterboxes across the GTC. It is estimated that 18 hours were spent delivering flyers over the workshops series which is very labour intensive. An alternative to this method is an insert into the

local newspaper. It was found that the cost of putting an insert into the Great Southern Weekender covering both the Torbay catchment and Princess Royal Harbour coastal communities was an alternative cost effective measure that could be used in the future.

It was also found that many larger properties located in the Robinson and Little Grove areas did not have letter boxes and so flyers were delivered in person through door knocking or left in conspicuous locations so the land owner would find them. Many people that attended workshops supplied an Albany P.O Box address which made it hard to know exactly where they were from. It is presumed that quite a few came from the Princess Royal Harbour coastal communities. Perhaps a note could be added to surveys saying “If your postal address is a P.O box, then what township do you reside in?”

There were a few other changes that could improve the surveys to make them less repetitive with some minor modifications to the questions. Detailed suggestions for improving the survey questions will be presented to South Coast NRM. Overall the surveys prove very helpful and obtained informative feedback that will allow for improvement of future projects.

6.2 What Worked and Advice for Similar Workshops in the Future

Planning and good preparation for all the workshops that took place throughout the series was an important factor that helped make everything run smoothly and achieve the planned objectives and more. The following is a list of factors that were implemented during the project that helped attract small land holders to workshops, ensured they increased their skills and knowledge in the chosen subjects and were enjoyed by all that took part.

- **Workshops Held on Weekends:** Most small land holders work on weekdays in jobs such as teaching, public service, and small business etc. and are therefore unable to attend workshops during the week. For this reason it was best to run workshops over weekends which allowed them the opportunity participate. Unlike weeknights where a four hour workshops might have to run from 7pm to 11pm, the weekend was much more practical and allowed for many outdoor activities to occur which dominated the project.
- **A Variety of Topics:** To attract more landholders to workshops it is a good idea to have a range of topics covered at the workshop. When promoting the event, if a variety of subjects are mentioned on the flyer or in the newspaper there is more chance of attracting people who have different interests. For example, the heavenly hectares workshops covered drought proofing a property, fire management, property design and invasive weeds & pests. A landholder may be keen to learn about weeds but by default be educated about several other subjects as well. So making the workshop appear interesting and beneficial to a variety of people is the aim.
- **Take Contact Details When Booking:** It is common place to take contact details when booking as things may change such as cancelations due to bad weather. It also provides a backup for double checking spelling of email addresses and phone numbers as they can be

hard to read from surveys when entering data into Microsoft Access. The online booking system provided email addresses of many people which allowed correct spelling to be checked for several addresses. During the series, about 40 people were re-contacted after booking for the first heavenly hectares workshops at 10am and asked to attend the first organic farm workshop at 10am after it was decided to repeat the workshops on April 14th.

- **Timing of Promotion:** The time when a workshop is promoted is important because if it is done too early; say 2 months, some people may forget and if done too late, some people may have already organised something for that day. It was found that promoting a workshop with a flyer through letterbox drops and local general stores about 5 weeks before an event worked well. The follow up with an advertorial about 3 weeks before an event resulted in an influx of bookings which was the case with the heavenly hectares, organic farm and horse & pasture care workshops. A reminder email about a week out also assisted.
- **The Bright Flouro Pink Survey Collection Box:** Having a conspicuously coloured box for participants to drop surveys in that was visible for the an entire workshop helped make sure that people completed surveys and remembered to drop them in the box and not take them home with all the hand outs they collected. During the workshops a pink fluorescent box (Fig. 34) was put out and everyone told to drop there completed surveys in at the end of the event. This is also recommended as something always pops up keeping the facilitator busy at the conclusion of events and people are wondering where to put completed surveys.



Figure 34: Chris Ferreira talking at the horse and pasture care workshop with the pink survey collection box easy to see

- **Make an Eye Catching Flyer:** The production of colourful, eye catching flyer that contains all the relevant information is essential to attract participants. A flyer is also something that can be posted out, hand delivered to letter boxes, put up at general stores and easily emailed out to various networks. In the case of the horse and pasture care workshop, it appears that just about every horse and pony club south of Perth received a copy via the large equine community network. It was found that as the workshops progressed, flyers also tended to become better so there is an art to getting it right. Another idea which seemed to work was printing a glossy flyer on photographic paper just for the general stores. In the case of Little Grove general store, for a gold coin donation, a bright glossy flyer was highly visible to hundreds of locals that visit the store and would have helped increase the number of bookings.
- **Time Allocated to Complete Surveys:** To help with the number of surveys that are completed at workshops it is advised to allocate a 5 minute period at the start of workshops for people to fill in the first page. Alternatively people are reminded to fill it in when the organiser welcomes people and goes through the agenda at the start of events. People should also be given time near the end of the workshop to fill in side two. If participants are reminded to complete the survey at the very end you will still get a large amount returned, but the trick is to remind participants a few times as well as telling them it assists in gaining future funding to run similar free events in the future.
- **Prizes and Giveaways:** At many of the workshops, participants were given prizes and giveaways as a kind of reward for answering questions, contributing to discussions or just being a participant. At the heavenly hectares workshops and the horse & pasture care workshop, several sustainable soil/gardening products were given away that were obtained from companies and businesses for free. The giveaways added some fun and variety to the workshops and help break the ice and get everyone involved. At the horse and pasture care workshop, some discount purchases of horse brushes and lead ropes were made at local equine suppliers which were a hit with the horse owners that attended.
- **Good Variety of Information and Hand Outs:** At all workshops, there was always a good variety of information and hand outs available which covered subjects discussed or touched on during workshops. For the larger workshops, a large variety of noteworthy publications were available that were obtained from the DAFWA Small Landholder Information Service. These brochures covered many topics that proved very popular. Many other brochures were also available on subjects such as property planning, die back, weed control and native plants.
- **Great Charismatic Speakers:** One of the huge positives for the workshops series was that all workshops had knowledgeable and charismatic speakers that captivated audience's attention and inspired people to make practice changes on the land. Having the services of Chris Ferreira, Diane Harwood and all the other great speakers was much appreciated by everyone that attended. The last thing people was to see is a boring speaker who may know their stuff, but just doesn't have the communication skills to get the message across. The workshop series was privileged to have enthusiastic personable speakers whose passion for

environmental management was engaging and inspirational. It is also advised to have a backup speaker in mind just in case someone gets sick. Luckily there was no need for back up speakers during the workshop series.

- **First Aid Kit:** A first aid kit is a must for workshops, especially if out in the field. A mobile phone is also a good idea just in case of emergency.
- **Electronic Booking Facility:** The availability of the website to not only promote the workshops but allow people to book online was a feature that streamlined the booking process. It is much easier than taking phone calls as you don't have to write down details and is convenient for the people booking as well.
- **Having a Second Person to Help at Workshops:** Having someone on hand to help set up chairs, tables etc. at workshops was a great help that ensured events started on time and ran smoothly. Registrations are also very important and so having someone at the door to guide people to the registration desk made sure people signed in at events. During the running of the event it is also important for the organiser to be available to assist the presenter throughout the event. This is not essential for smaller workshops but having an assistant at the heavenly hectares workshops for example was very helpful. Assistance with setting up lunch and packing up at the end of workshops also make a huge difference. It was found that most participants helped pack up chairs etc. at workshops which was very pleasing. A kind of thank you for running a good workshop.
- **Letter Alerting People to Workshop Series:** The letter and flyers sent out to approximately 740 Torbay catchment ratepayers in the lead up to the workshops proved very beneficial to the project. The letter resulted in many bookings and planted the workshop series in people's minds. The personal invitation from TCG also would have helped locals feel more compelled to attend at least one workshop and watch out for upcoming workshops via flyers or through the TCG website.
- **Good Catering:** During the series, food was delivered by a local catering company for all events. The variety of food and competitive prices was easy on the budget and was much appreciated by participants; especially people who attended the outdoor events and had worked up an appetite. The cost and effort of purchasing food from a supermarket and preparation was easily outdone by using a caterer. All that the organiser had to really worry about in this department was tea/coffee/juice/milk/sugar and cups. A good urn (4 in the case of the heavenly hectares/organic Farm workshops) is also essential.
- **Microphone:** A microphone was used at the heavenly hectares workshops held at Bornholm Hall as the hall is quite a large open space that causes bad acoustics. At times this can make the speaker hard to hear. If it were to rain, this problem would be exacerbated. The microphone worked well and made sure people did not miss anything.

7 Conclusion

The highly successful series of community workshops conducted by the Torbay Catchment Group Inc. and Earthrise Environmental Services between March and June 2013, exceeded project milestones by delivering 8 workshops attended by 318 people.

The workshops engaged mostly small landholders who made up 85% of attendees. Feedback has been excellent with increased skills and knowledge gained by participants on a wide range of topics, including weed control, property planning, organic farming, pasture management, estuarine ecology and revegetation.

The professional manner in which the workshops were organised and managed, choice of charismatic, passionate and knowledgeable speakers, strategic promotion and the provision of delicious home-made food ensured the success of the workshops.

The profile of natural resource management within the Greater Torbay Catchment has increased substantially and it is expected that the flow on effect of the successful workshop series will raise awareness of future projects within the catchment. Information captured through completed surveys will enable a targeted method of engaging small landholders, whose desire and enthusiasm for on-going education in the many facets of land management, bodes well for future attendance for similar projects. Ultimately this will result in better land management practices that will reduce impacts on the surrounding natural environment.

8 References

Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2013, *2011 Census Quick Stats. All people - usual residents, Australia/ Western Australia/ State Suburbs- Robinson, Code SSC50680 (SSC)*, viewed June 12th 2013, http://www.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2011/quickstat/SSC50680?opendocument&navpos=220

Department of Water 2006, *Torbay Catchment Restoration Plan*, Department of Water

9 Photo Credits

Figure 3: *Many aspects relating to property management were high on the agenda during the workshop series*; Photo taken by Elissa Stewart.

Figure 35(A): *The paddle tour was a fun day of adventure that covered much about Torbay Inlet ecology & its management*; Photo taken by Sheryn Prior

Figure 19: *A happy group who enjoyed learning about organic farming*; Photo taken by Tania Scoles

Figure 33: *The Southern Boobook (Ninox boobook) sitting in a Melaleuca raphiophylla tree are common in the GTC*; Photo taken by Keith Smith.

All other photos were taken by Craig Carter

10 Appendices

Appendix 1

ADMISSION: Adults \$5, 12 years & under FREE
Details on 9842 8172

Win! decided by public vote
Winning entry 2pm Sunday

● Family, Kobi and Jarvi
Doubt-Pamplin.

● Greg and Leanne Cornhill
finish their ride.

● Bryce Holland and Dylan
Andrews.

Heavenly Hectares Workshop

Followed by
Organic Farm Workshop

The **FREE** Workshops Run Back-to-Back
Come to One or Both!

Workshop 1: Heavenly Hectares
Learn how to manage your small property
Barnholm Hall, Lower Denmark Rd, Barnholm
Sunday April 14th - 10am to Midday
(Includes free lunch)

Topics covered include:

- Creating a thought-proof property
- Designing a beautiful, productive & sustainable farm
- Tools for all seasons and seasons
- Effectively dealing with weeds and pests
- Creating a fire-safe property
- Creating an ever-green farm for stock

Workshop 2: Organic Farm Workshop
Visit a real farm practising organic methods
3 Shepherds Lagoon Rd, Barnholm
(Road to Barnholm Hall)
Sunday April 14th - 1.00pm to 3.00pm

- Conversion to organic farming
- Running chickens
- Weeds, fencing, waterways
- No-dig organic vegetable garden
- Establishing shelter belts

BOOKINGS REQUIRED FOR BOTH WORKSHOPS
Ph: Craig Carter on 0428 928 484 or craig@earthrise.net.au

Logistics covered include:

- Transition method of growing organic vegetables
- Bio-dynamic feeding of pastures, 500, 1000, 1500, 2000, 3000, 4000, 5000, 6000, 7000, 8000, 9000, 10000, 11000, 12000, 13000, 14000, 15000, 16000, 17000, 18000, 19000, 20000, 21000, 22000, 23000, 24000, 25000, 26000, 27000, 28000, 29000, 30000, 31000, 32000, 33000, 34000, 35000, 36000, 37000, 38000, 39000, 40000, 41000, 42000, 43000, 44000, 45000, 46000, 47000, 48000, 49000, 50000, 51000, 52000, 53000, 54000, 55000, 56000, 57000, 58000, 59000, 60000, 61000, 62000, 63000, 64000, 65000, 66000, 67000, 68000, 69000, 70000, 71000, 72000, 73000, 74000, 75000, 76000, 77000, 78000, 79000, 80000, 81000, 82000, 83000, 84000, 85000, 86000, 87000, 88000, 89000, 90000, 91000, 92000, 93000, 94000, 95000, 96000, 97000, 98000, 99000, 100000

Heavenly Hectares and organic farm workshops

JOCK WA (with personality) Chris Ferreira and learn how to run your land into Heaven's Farm.

Arrived at small landholders and farmers, the Heavenly Hectares workshop will cover a range of topics from property design, shelter belts, water and control, pasture, soil types, fire-proofing and through the landscape, play every part of the day. The workshop will be held at Barnholm Hall, Lower Denmark Rd, Barnholm, 10km from Barnholm Hall.

After lunch there will be an organic farm workshop where Chris will take you on a 2 hour visit to a real farm practising organic methods and in the process of turning their property into Heavenly Hectares. This workshop runs from 1pm to 3pm and will be held at 3 Shepherds Lagoon Road, 10km from Barnholm Hall.

Topics covered include:

- Transition method of growing organic vegetables
- Bio-dynamic feeding of pastures, 500, 1000, 1500, 2000, 3000, 4000, 5000, 6000, 7000, 8000, 9000, 10000, 11000, 12000, 13000, 14000, 15000, 16000, 17000, 18000, 19000, 20000, 21000, 22000, 23000, 24000, 25000, 26000, 27000, 28000, 29000, 30000, 31000, 32000, 33000, 34000, 35000, 36000, 37000, 38000, 39000, 40000, 41000, 42000, 43000, 44000, 45000, 46000, 47000, 48000, 49000, 50000, 51000, 52000, 53000, 54000, 55000, 56000, 57000, 58000, 59000, 60000, 61000, 62000, 63000, 64000, 65000, 66000, 67000, 68000, 69000, 70000, 71000, 72000, 73000, 74000, 75000, 76000, 77000, 78000, 79000, 80000, 81000, 82000, 83000, 84000, 85000, 86000, 87000, 88000, 89000, 90000, 91000, 92000, 93000, 94000, 95000, 96000, 97000, 98000, 99000, 100000

Bookings are required for both free workshops. Please contact Craig Carter on 0428 928 484 or email craig@earthrise.net.au.

14 The Weekender, March 21, 2013

Figure 36: Heavenly hectares newspaper advertorial that appeared in Great Southern Weekender on March 21st, 2013

Appendix 2

Presenter
Media Personality
Chris Ferreira

FREE prizes & giveaways

FREE Horse & Pasture Care Workshop

Location: Albany Equestrian Centre, Roberts Rd, Robinson
Time & Date: Saturday 8th June 2013, 9.30am to 1.30pm

- Improving your horse paddocks and ongoing management
- Soil dynamics and getting it right
- Talk to horse whisperers with specialist knowledge
- Weeds, Water and Fire management plus more.

Bookings required. Includes FREE lunch.
Online: www.torbay.southcoastwa.org.au
Ph: Craig Carter on 0428 928 484 or craig@earthrise.net.au

Presented by Torbay Catchment Group. Proudly supported by South Coast Regional Resource Management & State NRM office.

Logistics covered include:

- Property Planning
- Soil Dynamics and Getting it Right
- Through Planning a Property
- Creating an Evergreen Property for Better
- Weeds, Water, Pasture, Fire Management & More.

Heavenly Hectares and organic farm workshops are aimed to a Horse and Pasture Care Workshop to be held at Albany Equestrian Centre on Saturday, June 8th, 10am to 1.30pm. Media personality Chris Ferreira will learn how to set up your property the right way. Chris has been making the style of workshop for many years and will have you with new knowledge and inspiration to transform your paddocks and surrounds into a happy and healthy environment for you and your horse. Topics to be covered include:

- Property Planning
- Soil Dynamics and Getting it Right
- Through Planning a Property
- Creating an Evergreen Property for Better
- Weeds, Water, Pasture, Fire Management & More.

Heavenly Hectares and organic farm workshops are aimed to a Horse and Pasture Care Workshop to be held at Albany Equestrian Centre on Saturday, June 8th, 10am to 1.30pm. Media personality Chris Ferreira will learn how to set up your property the right way. Chris has been making the style of workshop for many years and will have you with new knowledge and inspiration to transform your paddocks and surrounds into a happy and healthy environment for you and your horse. Topics to be covered include:

- Property Planning
- Soil Dynamics and Getting it Right
- Through Planning a Property
- Creating an Evergreen Property for Better
- Weeds, Water, Pasture, Fire Management & More.

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- Property Planning
- Soil Dynamics and Getting it Right
- Through Planning a Property
- Creating an Evergreen Property for Better
- Weeds, Water, Pasture, Fire Management & More.

20 The Weekender, May 10, 2013

Figure 37: Horse & Pasture care workshop advertorial that appeared in Great Southern Weekender on May 16th, 2013

Appendix 3

Torbay Catchment Group Workshop Series - 2013

6 February 2013

Dear Landholder

Torbay Catchment Group is delighted to announce a series of workshops that will be run throughout 2013 with 5 workshops already lined up to occur before 30 June. The workshops are aimed at small landholders and farmers covering a range of topics to help increase skills and knowledge relating to the environment and property management.

We have 3 workshops organised to date (see below information). Future workshops include a Horse Care and Pasture Management workshop which is currently being organised. This workshop will be aimed at horse owners who want to learn about caring for their horse and having a property set up correctly. We also intend to have a horse veterinarian as a speaker who will give a presentation as well as a question / answer session with workshop participants.

Register today by contacting Craig Carter by phone (0428 928484), email craig@earthrise.net.au or you can book online by clicking on the workshops link at

www.torbay.southcoastwa.org.au

Enclosed are information flyers on the confirmed workshops. If you would like any more information on the workshops, please contact Craig. The workshops are free, but bookings are required to assist with catering and planning. For updates of future workshops check the website in the coming weeks.

Workshop 1

Weed Management Workshop

Where: Torbay Hall, Hunwick South Road, Torbay

When: Saturday, 2 March 2013. 9.30am to 1.00pm

Speakers: Diane Harwood (Denmark Weed Action Group); Representative from (DAFWA)

Description: This workshop will cover many aspects of weed control to help landholders with effective management solutions. Diane Harwood will be talking about many of the common weeds we all know and show you how and when to control them. Numerous local weeds will be on display. A field walk to nearby bushland is organised to inspect recent weed control efforts and demonstrate manual removal techniques of blackberry and watsonia plus any others we might come across. DAFWA will cover topics including declared weeds and Weeds of National Significance as well as various chemical control methods that can be used.

Bring along any weeds you would like identified. Please wear suitable clothing and sunscreen.

Workshop 2

Heavenly Hectares Workshop

Where: Bornholm Hall, Lower Denmark Road, Bornholm

When: Sunday 14 April 2013. 10.00am to Midday

Speaker: Chris Ferreira (Media personality and Great Gardens)

Description: We are glad to have Chris Ferreira down from Perth visiting his favourite part of the world to share his knowledge with us. He has been doing the Great Gardens and Heavenly Hectares workshops for many years and delivers an informative and fun workshop where you are bound to come away with new knowledge and be inspired to transform your property into a productive and sustainable one. Some of you might know Chris from his regular appearances on ABC720 Saturday Morning Breakfast with James Lush and Sabrina Hahn.

Topics covered will include growing trees for the right reasons and seasons; pasture management; controlling weeds/pests, plus more. Chris will also answer your questions during the workshop. Lunch will be provided at the conclusion of the workshop, but please book to help with catering.

After lunch we will hold the Organic Farm Workshop (Workshop 3). These workshops run back to back but we have split them so you can attend either or both.

Workshop 3

Organic Farm Workshop

Where: No. 3 Shepherds Lagoon Rd, Bornholm (500m from Bornholm Hall)

When: Sunday 14 April 2013. 1.00pm to 3.00pm

Speaker: Chris Ferreira (Media personality and Great Gardens)

Description: We are very happy to be holding this workshop at Lex and Karen Langridge's farm. Chris Ferreira will again be taking us through this lovely property that is practicing organic methods and in the process of transforming their property into heavenly hectares. Topics include:

- Processes involved in gaining organic certification.
- Biodynamics: (looking at preparation 500, different stirring methods and spray equipment).
- Re-homed laying hens using a converted shearing shed and portable housing system.
- Setting up a worm farm in an old bath tub or 1000 litre shuttle to collect worm juice for garden.
- Fenced water ways for weed and erosion control and using troughs to water cattle and sheep.
- Looking at a no dig garden system set up in the middle of a kikuyu lawn.
- See pure breed and cross bred Pied Montese cattle. A 4,000 year old breed from Italy.

Hope to see many of you at our workshop series

Yours sincerely

Pip Tilbrook

Pip Tilbrook

Chair

Torbay Catchment Group



Weed Control Workshop

Saturday 2nd March - 2013

(9.30am to 1.00pm)

Torbay Hall (Off Hunwick South Road, Torbay)

Free

Presenters

- **Diane Harwood : Denmark Weed Action Group**
- **Department of Agriculture and Food Biosecurity Officer**

Topics Covered

- ⇒ **Weed identification:** See many local weeds displayed and learn to I.D them
- ⇒ **Blackberry Control:** Controlling blackberry on your property (chemical, manual and biological methods) includes manual control demonstration in field
- ⇒ **Chemical Control:** Talk by Department of Agriculture & Food W.A
- ⇒ **Garden Escapees:** Environmental weed control (Includes field walk)

This free workshop will contain loads of relevant information from presenters Diane Harwood and the local biosecurity officer from the Department of Agriculture. Questions are welcome and there will be free information on weed control available to take home. Bring along a pen and paper and any weeds you would like identified on the day.

Morning tea and refreshments provided!



Bookings Required

Online: www.torbay.southcoastwa.org.au
Ph: Craig Carter on 0428 928484 or craig@earthrise.net.au



Figure 38: Flyer for the weed control workshop on Saturday March 2, 2013 held at Torbay Hall

Heavenly Hectares Workshop

Followed by

Organic Farm Workshop

Both **FREE** Workshops Run Back to Back - Come to One or Both!



Workshop 1: Heavenly Hectares

Learn how to manage your small property



Workshop 2: Organic Farm Workshop

Visit a real farm practicing organic methods

Where: Bornholm Hall, Lower Denmark Rd, Bornholm
When: Sunday April 14th - 10am to Midday (Includes free lunch!)

Topics covered include

- Creating a drought proof property
- Designing a beautiful, productive & sustainable farm
- Trees for all reasons and seasons
- Effectively dealing with weeds and pests
- Creating a fire safe property
- Creating an ever green farm for stock

Where: 3 Shepherds Lagoon Rd, Bornholm: (Next to Bornholm Hall)
When: Sunday April 14th - 1.00pm to 3.00pm

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| • Conversion to organic farming | • Fencing waterways |
| • Running chickens | • No dig organic vegetable garden |
| • Worm farming | • Establishing shelter belts |

Bookings Required for Both Workshops
Online: www.torabay.southcoastwa.org.au
Ph: Craig Carter on 0428 928484 or craig@earthrise.net.au



Figure 39: Flyer for the heavenly hectares and organic farm workshops held on April 14th, 2013 in Bornholm

Torbay Inlet tour

**Come along and enjoy this paddle tour
Learn about the estuary !**

**Local experts to share
their knowledge on:**

- Estuary ecology
- Vegetation
- Fish
- Water quality

**Sunday
May 12th**

**~6km paddle
It'll be Oarsome!**

8.30am registration for 9am launch, to 1pm.

BYO WATERCRAFT OR ENQUIRE ON BOOKING.

Meet at Flood Gates West camping area, off Perkins Beach Rd.

Limited places. Bookings Required. Includes snacks & FREE lunch!

Phone Craig Carter on 0428 928484 or email craig@earthrise.net.au



Figure 40: Flyer for the Torbay Inlet estuary paddle tour held on Torbay Inlet on Sunday May 12th, 2013



Torbay Catchment Group



Grazing & Growers Catchment Tour

Torbay Catchment Free Bus Tour

- Working farm practicing organic methods
- Direct seeding revegetation using local plant species in grazed paddock
- Stops at key locations to understand drainage network

| Starting Location | Time & Date |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 37 Brook St, Elleker | Sunday 19 May 2013 9.00am to 1.30pm |

**Book Now for this Free Bus Tour of Torbay Catchment by contacting
Craig Carter on 0428 928484 or email craig@earthrise.net.au**

Presented by Torbay Catchment Group. Proudly supported by South Coast Natural Resource Management & State NRM office













Figure 41: Flyer for the Torbay catchment bus tour held on Sunday May 19th, 2013

Appendix 8



Torbay Catchment Group Workshop Series - 2013

Torbay Catchment Group is delighted to announce a series of workshops that will be run throughout 2013 with five workshops to occur before June 2013. They are aimed at small land holders and farmers to help to increase skills and knowledge relating to the environment and property management.

Topics will include soil health, growing fruit and vegetables, horse/property management, weed management, organic farming, revegetation, etc. We hope you can come to one or more of the workshops; we have some great presenters locked in for the events including weed specialist Diane Harwood and ABC/Great Gardens personality Chris Ferreira. More workshops are in the pipeline that promise to be informative, interesting and *FUN*! Check back soon as there are two more workshops planned for May and June with some great presenters on the cards.

The following workshops are now open for bookings:

Weed Control Workshop

Presented by: Diane Harwood (Denmark Weed Action Group) and Department of Agriculture and Food Biosecurity Officer

Where: Torbay Hall (off South Bornholm Road, Torbay)

When: 9.30am to 1.00pm Saturday 2nd March, 2013

This free workshop will contain loads of relevant information from presenters Diane Harwood and the local biosecurity officer from the Department of Agriculture. Questions are welcome and there will be information on weed control available to take home. Bring along a pen and paper and any weeds you would like identified on the day.

Topics covered:

- Weed identification: see many local weeds displayed and learn to identify them
- Blackberry control: controlling blackberry on your property (chemical, manual and biological methods) including a manual control demonstration in the field
- Chemical control: talk by Department of Agriculture and Food W.A.
- Garden escapees: environmental weed control (includes a field walk)

Attendance is FREE. Morning tea and refreshments provided.

Bookings are required. You can book online by filling out the form below, or phone Craig Carter on 0428 928 484 or [email Craig](#). You can [download a PDF flyer](#) with information on the weed control workshop.





Figure 42: The weed control workshop being promoted on the workshops page on the Torbay Catchment Group website

Appendix 9



Home
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The Group
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Members

Torbay Catchment Group Workshop Series - 2013

Torbay Catchment Group is delighted to announce a series of workshops that will be run throughout 2013 with five workshops to occur before June 2013. They are aimed at small land holders and farmers to help to increase skills and knowledge relating to the environment and property management.

Topics will include soil health, growing fruit and vegetables, horse/property management, weed management, organic farming, revegetation, etc. We hope you can come to one or more of the workshops; we have some great presenters locked in for the events including weed specialist Diane Harwood and ABC/Great Gardens personality Chris Ferreira. More workshops are in the pipeline that promise to be informative, interesting and *FUN*! Check back soon as there are two more workshops planned for May and June with some great presenters on the cards.

The following workshops are now open for bookings:

Heavenly Hectares Workshop

followed by

Organic Farm Workshop

Both are FREE and run back to back - come to one or both

Workshop 1: Heavenly Hectares - Learn how to manage your small property

Where: Bornholm Hall, Lower Denmark Road, Bornholm

When: Sunday April 14th - 10.00am to midday (includes free lunch!)

Presented by: ABC personality Chris Ferreira

Topics to be covered include:

- Creating a drought proof property
- Designing a beautiful, productive and sustainable farm
- Trees for all reasons and seasons
- Effectively dealing with weeds and pests
- Creating a fire safe property
- Creating an ever green farm for stock

Workshop 2: Organic Farming - Visit a real farm practicing organic methods

Where: 3 Shepherds Lagoon Road, Bornholm (next to Bornholm Hall)

When: Sunday April 14th - 1.00pm to 3.00pm

Topics to be covered include:

- Conversion to organic farming
- Running chickens
- Worm farming
- Fencing waterways
- No dig organic vegetable garden
- Establishing shelter belts

Bookings are required for both workshops. You can book online by filling out the form below, or phone Craig Carter on 0428 928 484 or [email Craig](#). You can [download a PDF flyer](#) with information on the workshops.

These workshops are provided through funding from South Coast Natural Resource Management and the State NRM Office of Western Australia.




Workshop Booking Form

Name:

Phone number:

Email address:





Figure 43: The heavenly hectares & organic farm workshops webpage from the Torbay Catchment Group website

Appendix 10



Figure 44: Screen shot from the Albany Equestrian Centre webpage that promoted the horse and pasture care workshop

Appendix 11



Figure 45: The Albany Equestrian Centre Facebook page also helped promote the horse & pasture care workshop

Appendix 12

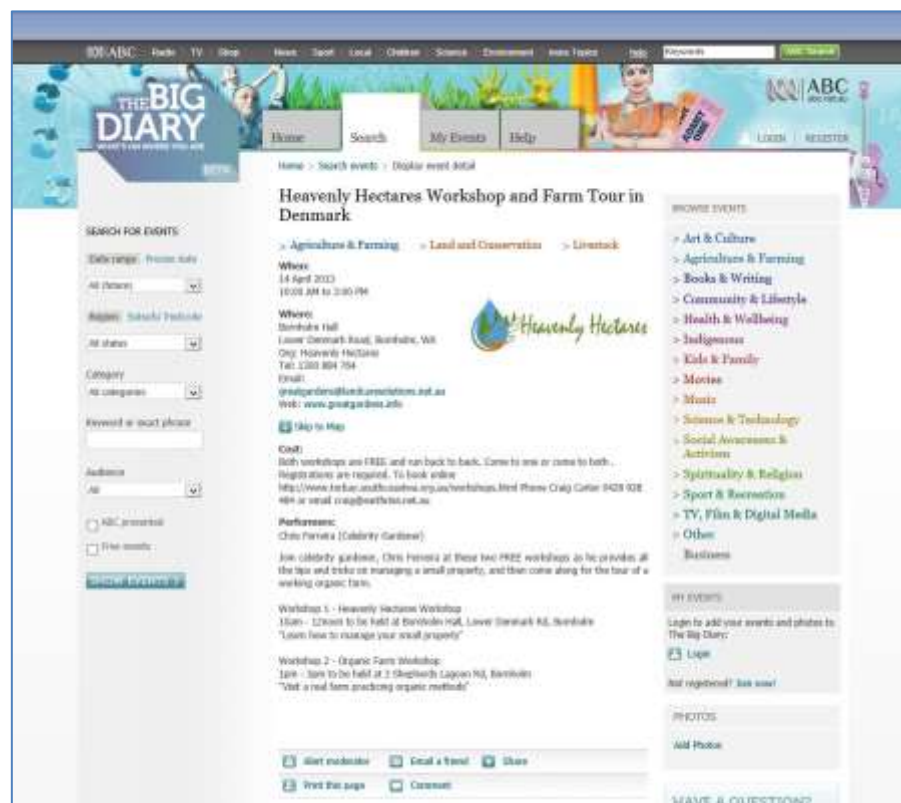


Figure 46: The heavenly hectares & organic farm workshops were promoted through the ABC website on “The Big Diary”

Appendix 13



Figure 47: The horse and pasture care workshop also was promoted online through the ABC website on “The Big Diary”

Appendix 14

New website 4 SMALL LANDHOLDERS

Recently the Department of Agriculture and Food WA launched its **Small landholder Information Service (SLIS)** website. It's a great source of information for small land holders and farmers on everything from owning livestock (cattle, sheep, horses) to soils and pasture. Presented in an easy to understand language the PDF brochures can be downloaded and stored for future reference.

"After working with small landholders for nearly 8 years, this is the best source of information I have come across" (Craig Carter)

There is information on

- Establishing wind breaks
- Chainsaws
- Fencing
- Soil testing
- Organics
- Irrigation
- Keeping chickens etc.



This information has been available for a while but now that it's online, it will be used by many more people. To download a PDF, just right click on the title and click "save target as". Then just choose somewhere to file it on your computer. You can also sign up to receive the free quarterly newsletter by joining online. Finally, check out the Fresh Food Link, a free service aimed at connecting smaller producers with suppliers, processors and markets. Great if you are looking for support for your business selling produce etc. You can contact the friendly team who are very happy to help small landholders get it right. The web address is

www.agric.wa.gov.au/PC_92609.html

Craig Carter (T.C.G Project Officer)

Water protection ('P') ratings - what do they mean?

With this edition of the newsletter we are including a **catchment map**. Hopefully this will be the first in a range of maps indicating different aspects of the catchment. The most noticeable part is the large yellow section: the Marbellup Brook sub-catchment **Public Water Drinking Supply Area (PWDSA)** with a designation of **P2**. There are also **P1** and **P3** rated areas, and some locations that are not assigned a rating (see the legend, right).

The Department of Water (responsible for the protection of public water supplies) indicates that **P1** areas are typically declared over **publicly owned land** such as crown reserves or high pollution risk areas and these areas are designated to have the **highest level of protection** and land use should ensure there is no degradation of the water source.

P2 areas can permit **low density and low risk development** such as rural areas. P2 is managed so that there is no increased risk of pollution to the water source. While some development is allowable, land use that may be considered to be potentially polluting will be restricted in these areas as the protection of the water supply is a high priority. This would include intensive agriculture and industrial land uses.

P3 is designated where a water source supply **needs to coexist with other land uses** such as residential, commercial and light industrial developments. These areas are managed through a set of guidelines.

The Department of Water has prepared the Marbellup Brook Catchment Area Drinking Water Source Protection Plan (www.water.wa.gov.au/publicationStore/first/74843.pdf) to guide management of this water source. While water is not currently harvested from the Brook, the department manages the catchment to protect the potential water supply. Enquiries to: the Water Department on **98425760**

LEGEND

Hydrographic Catchments - Catchments - DOW

Geodata, Lakes - GA 28/06/02

Road Centrelines - Landgate

Rivers, DoW

Protection Zones for Public Drinking Water Source Areas - DoW

Public Drinking Water Source Areas (PDWSAs) - DOW

Protection Area - Not Assigned

Protection Area - P1

Protection Area - P2

Protection Area - P3



2013 Catchment Workshops

Register your interest now for the next Landholder Catchment Workshops planned for 2013. Topics include:

- Soil Health & Organic Farming
- Pasture Management
- Property Management for Horse & Small Animal Owners

If you have a topic for a community workshop contact Craig Carter Ph:9845 8537 or craigc@southcoastnrm.com.au

SOUTH WEST SECTOR FIRES PROHIBITED 15 Dec- 15 Mar



Lake Powell—an important part of
the Torbay Catchment ecology

Figure 48: The Spring/Summer edition of the Torbay Catchment Group newsletter (page 2) was as early source of promotion for the 2013 workshops series

Appendix 15

Heavenly Hectares Workshop – Bornholm Hall 14th April 2013

Pre Activity Survey (to be completed at the start of the workshop)

1. Have you attended something similar to this event (Please circle) Yes / No

If so, what? _____

2. How would you describe your knowledge about Property Management? (Please circle)

Excellent Very Good Good Some None

3. How would you rate your skills relating to this Property Management? (Please circle)

Excellent Very Good Good Some None

4. What age category applies to you? (Please circle)

Under 18 18-30 31-59 60-69 70+

5. What is your gender? (Please circle) M / F

6. Are you involved in Natural Resource Management? (Please circle) Y / N

7. What size landholding do you have?

< 1 ha 1-5 ha 5-20 ha 20-100 ha 100-500 ha >1000 ha

8. How long have you been living in the area? (Please circle)

< 1 year 1-5 years 5-10 years > 10 years

9. In respect to you current residence, are you (Please circle)

the owner tenant absentee landholder

10. What proportion of your income do you gain from your property? (Please circle)

All Most Some None

11. How did you hear of this event? _____

To assist us help you in the future we would be grateful if you could complete your contact details - (optional)

Attendee Name

Address line 1

Suburb _____ State _____ Post Code _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Post Workshop Survey (to be completed at the conclusion of the workshop)

1. To what degree did this event meet your expectations? (Please circle)

Exceeded

Met

Did not meet

2. What has been most beneficial and why?

3. What has been least beneficial and why?

4. Have you increased your knowledge and/or skills as a result of this event? (Please circle) Yes / No

Specifically, what knowledge/skills have you gained from today?

5. What will you do differently as a result of today?

6. Were there any ways the event could have been improved from your point of view?

7. What skills/knowledge would you like to gain next?

8. How would you like to gain them/have them delivered - Workshop? (Please circle)

Workshop

Practical Exercise

Field Day

Email

Mail

Fax

9. What further information would you like to be supplied with?

10. Can we contact you in 3 to 12 months to find out how you have used your newly gained skills and knowledge? (Please circle) Yes/No

Thank you for your candid feedback. Your responses will help us to better assist you in future and provides valuable information on how our events and activities can be better delivered in the future.