



## Swan Hill Regional Seedbank

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The Newsletter for "Seedy" people

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Hello and welcome to our second newsletter, I hope you will endure my attempt to inform and sometimes amuse within this epistle of Seedbank mutterings.

### Staff

I'd like to express a warm welcome to Paul Ward, our not so new technical Officer.

Paul started at the Seed bank in April and has proven to be somewhat of a catacomb of knowledge on not just plants but entomology, microbiology, mycology, gourmet gastronomy and anything else which petitions his grey matter into action.

Paul is available to accept seed and offer advice on almost anything but predominantly revegetation and propagation queries.



Paul and Kristy, Swan Hill Field Days.

## Field Days

In April Paul and I took the Seedbank collection trailer to Kamarooka for the Northern United Forestry Group field Day. The theme of the day was; **Saltbush, Lamb and Carbon** - *increasing productivity from saline land*

This was a terrific Day and proved to be very insightful into the extent of which saline land can be reclaimed with careful planning and revegetation. For more information on the Kamarooka Project visit the NUFG website at [www.nufg.org.au](http://www.nufg.org.au)

We participated in the Swan Hill Field Days at the beginning of May. The DPI marquee provided a good stage from which the seed bank was able to promote itself. Seed samples were provided to interested members of the public. Along with seed displays and seed cleaning demonstrations positive feedback was received by many observers.

The DPI invited us to a direct seeding field day titled: **Increasing biodiversity and creating wildlife corridors with direct seeding**

at Drummartin in mid May. Kristy spoke of the Seedbank role in revegetation, about the importance of provenance based seed and the value of preserving our local species for revegetation now and into the future. Thank you to DPI for the invite and Jim Robinson for hosting the event.

### Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs)

Native vegetation in Victoria has been classified according to Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs). There are approximately 300 EVCs state-wide. Similar EVCs have been assigned to 20 simplified native vegetation groups and 34 sub-groups for more convenient management and illustration of state-wide data.

A range of Victorian vegetation data can be accessed via the [Biodiversity Interactive Map](#) on the DSE website. This information includes statewide modelled pre-1750 (pre-settlement) native vegetation mapping at EVC level together with extant (remnant) EVC mapping, tree cover and tree density. A "Help" button will guide the user through the process, explaining each of the functions of the tabs and icons shown above the map. Web address: [www.dse.vic.gov.au](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au) >online services and resources > interactive maps > biodiversity interactive map.

This is a very interesting and informative tool. Providing information on vegetation, hydrology, land management and more. This information is useful for identifying an EVC one may be collecting seed from or wishes to revegetate.

### Goings on??

Who, whilst collecting Hakea nuts found themselves in the indecorous situation of having to relieve oneself of their lower garment due to a massive assault of cranky meat ants (*Iridomyrmex purpureus*) which, once latched on were unable to be flicked off as their mandibles become fixed in the material of the said garment.

### Germination Testing

Our germination cabinet is up and running and is working well.

At this stage we're attempting systematically test approximately 20% of stock held at the bank with space available to conduct contracted tests.

As a result we've discovered a small amount of stock which has a nil viability and will discuss with committee on developing a protocol to deal with such a situation.

### Seed

Seed sales have been picking up and **collectors**, seed supplies are down so I encourage you all to please keep on collecting (*we still need to be able to fill orders when they come in.*)

Remember when delivering seed to the Seedbank please make an appointment so I can devote the necessary time to you.

Please consider becoming a member, this entitles you to free hire of cleaning equipment (refundable deposit required) for seed being deposited in the Seedbank.

Genera to keep an eye out for this month include:

Allocasuarina	Calitris	Casuarina
Eucalyptus	Hakea	Pittosporum
Melaleuca		

There is still some *Atriplex semibacata* and *Enchylaena tomentosa* around.

This is not a complete list, ripening times vary.

Happy collecting.

Thanks for taking the time to read our newsletter.

All feedback is greatly appreciated.

If any one has Photos they wish to contribute or articles and events they wish to have included in the news letter, please contact Kristy by emailing [seedbank.net.au](mailto:seedbank.net.au).

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