We need to protect these...

**Stony Rises Landscape Action Plan**

**The Corangamite CMA’s Woodland Recovery Project - looking after our unique landscape for biodiversity and farming benefits.**

### What can I do?

**Protect Native Vegetation**

1. Establish stock from native vegetation and wetlands. Fences can stop stock destroying native plants and prevent soil erosion and weeds from establishing. Rookies provide habitat for small native animals and contain native weed that can regenerate if managed correctly.

2. Prevent the spread of environmental weeds. Blackberries, salicace and horchow are examples of weeds that can overtake native plants. Work with neighbours to ensure weeds are eradicated.

3. Control and eradicate pest animals. Pest animals such as rabbits and foxes can have a direct impact on native vegetation. Prey on our native species and spread environmental weeds. Integrated pest management strategies are the best approach, combining shooting, trapping, baiting and fumigation methods.

4. Permanently protect native vegetation. A conservation covenant is a legally-binding agreement that protects native vegetation forever but often doesn’t change how you currently manage your bush. Corangamite Shire also offers rebates for landholders who enter into a conservation covenant. Visit: www.trustfornature.org.au for information.

**Enhance Native Vegetation**

7. Maintain natural wetlands. With a growing emphasis on water conservation, landholders are turning to alternating water management methods such as troughs. Restoring natural water courses and allowing them to flow and help re-establish native animals and plants.

8. Introduce ecological burning. Controlled burning can regenerate the Stony Rises woodland and create greater diversity of native plants. Contact your local Country Fire Authority before planning any ecological burning.

9. Retain scattered trees and forest hollows. Many Stony Rises animals need hollows to breed, such as possums, owls, kookaburras, parrots, gliders and bats. Scattered trees in paddocks often contain hollows. Fencing can protect the trees and promote natural regeneration of native vegetation. Install nest boxes for trees that have not yet developed hollows.

10. Replace logs, fallen branches and leaf litter. For some animals the ground layer is just as important as trees and shrubs. The quoll is dependent on logs to raise its young while birds find insects in fallen branches and leaves.

11. Replicate vegetation layers. Trees, shrubs and ground layers which typically exist are missing in some areas of the Stony Rises. Natural regeneration is not possible additional planting might be appropriate to complete the vegetation structure.

12. Introduce ecological grazing. Avoid grazing woodlands in most situations. Wetlands can be grazed after a prolonged dry period, when pugging will not occur. Avoid grazing grasslands in spring and summer to enable flowering and seed set to occur.

**Stony Rises Landscape Holder**

Lois Dupleix

Stony Rises farmer Lois Dupleix can come up with many reasons why protecting the rocky, undulating land at the back of her property is a good thing to do. But high on the list is the value the unique volcanic tafoni provides for future generations like her five grandchildren. Mrs Dupleix has a soft spot for the Stony Rises, which she bought into in 1992, and understands the challenges it often presents for farming. But she believes landholders can successfully work with the rocky terrain and preserve the unique habitats and vegetation that make the area so special.

And she has come to appreciate the protection and diversity on offer from the scrubland and how the landscape can have value in farming.

“In winter it’s another climate in there - it’s four to five degrees warmer,” Mrs Dupleix said.

“The rains provide shelter and nutrient rich feed going the cattle a real chance to gain weight through our harsh winters,” she said.

Mrs Dupleix is among the landholders on board the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority’s Stony Rises Woodland Recovery Project.

The project aims to protect the area’s natural vegetation and animals which rely on it for habitat, and reduce the destruction through improper land management.

The project considers both environmental and agricultural production outcomes and aims to broaden the community’s appreciation of this unique landscape and the flora and fauna that it supports.