

ground cover



NORTH CENTRAL
Catchment Management Authority
Connecting Rivers, Landscapes, People

www.nccma.vic.gov.au

November 10

Keeping you up-to-date with all the Landcare news

A message from the Regional Landcare Coordinator

Hi everyone,

Who would have thought we would still be talking about rain! The region again experienced more cold and wet weather in October and it seems that it may not be the end of it. The wet weather can be attributed to the La Niña in the Pacific which remains a moderate to strong event. The Bureau of Meteorology's long range models are suggesting that the La Niña will persist into at least early 2011 so there may be even more rain...

It has been a busy month and there have been plenty of highlights. I made the trip down to Halls Gap for the Victorian Landcare Forum. It was two jam packed days with some very informative presentations. The keynote speaker was Dr. Kate Auty the Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability Victoria. She introduced her role and discussed the report 'State of the Environment of Victoria' which will inform the Victorian community about the health of the natural environment and influence government to achieve environmental, social, cultural and economic sustainability. The forum provided an excellent opportunity to hear about some of the great projects being delivered on ground and also meet Landcarers from all over the state.

During the middle of the month I was lucky enough to work on a Friday night, and no, I am not being sarcastic. A few of the North Central Catchment Management Authority's (CMA) staff spent a night with Geoff Williams from the Australian Platypus Conservancy conducting a platypus survey on the Coliban River at Malmsbury. The Australian Platypus Conservancy (APC) is a non-government, non-profit organisation that is dedicated to conserving platypus and their habitat. We headed to Malmsbury in the afternoon to set four traps along the river and let me tell you there is definitely a great

deal of skill and 'know how' that goes into setting a platypus trap!

I clearly didn't display a great deal of skill at the first trap site when I slipped over crossing the river... We spent the night checking the traps on a two hour roster. We were fortunate enough to catch two very healthy males in separate traps throughout the night. I was surprised at how big they were with the first male weighing 2.5kg. To find out more about program head to the Australian Platypus Conservancy website www.platypus.asn.au.



Geoff Williams with the first platypus caught.
Photo: Courtesy Nick Layne, North Central CMA

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Geoff Williams and I setting traps on the Coliban River at Malmsbury.
Photo: Courtesy Nick Layne, North Central CMA

If you have a project in mind make sure you look under the Funding section of the newsletter, as the Department of Sustainability and Environment's Volunteer Action Grants are open. Grants of \$1000 - \$5000 are now available for Landcare and Community Based Natural Resource Management groups so get your thinking caps on!

Until next time, warm regards!

Jodie Odgers

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NEWS

Regional Landcare Facilitator is now in the building

We would like to take this opportunity to officially welcome Ashley Beven, the Regional Landcare Facilitator to North Central CMA's Landcare team. She is based out of the CMA's Huntly office. If you meet Ashley in the field or at an event please make her feel welcome.

Name: **Ashley Beven**

Nickname: *Ash*

Born In: **Broken Hill NSW**

Live: **Bendigo**

I relax by... **Waterskiing with friends and family - although it's not always physically relaxing!**

My previous job was... **Agronomist at Landmark**

Three people I'd like to invite to dinner... **Kevin McCloud, Myf Warhurst and Audrey Tautou.**

What I'm looking forward to in this new role the most... **is working with Landcare groups and networks to improve the sustainability of agricultural production in a continually changing environment.**



Photo: Courtesy Jodie Odgers, North Central CMA

Release of new bio-controls for Gorse and Cape broom

After the tremendous impact of rust fungus release on the rampaging Bridal creeper, Landcare groups around Maldon were pleased to host the release of two new bio-control trials, Gorse thrips and Cape broom psyllids. The release was held at the Beehive Mine site in Maldon on Wednesday 10 November 2010. Greg Lefoe and Megan Relf from the Bio-Research Division of Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Frankston discussed integrated weed management and the role bio-controls play. For more information please contact Ian Grenda on 0412 015 807.

Guide to the plan released

There has been lots of media coverage in recent weeks about the release of the Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) Guide to the proposed Basin Plan. The Guide is the first part of a three-stage process consisting of the Guide, the proposed Basin Plan and the Basin Plan. The Guide is for stakeholders and includes content of the proposed Basin Plan. If you want to find out more about the plan or provide feedback before the formal consultation and submission process begins, head to the MDBA website www.thebasinplan.mdba.gov.au.

Resources on the Landcare Gateway

Are you familiar with the Victorian Landcare Gateway website? If not, then have a look. The Gateway is not only a great way to advertise your group and make it easier for the community to contact you but it also has lots of valuable resources. The site is home to factsheets and Landcare notes covering topics such as; developing and undertaking projects and activities, managing staff, insurance, risk assessments, employment, training and sourcing funding. Go to www.landcarevic.net.au/resources to find out more. If your group isn't on the Gateway then have a go at starting your own page or contact me if you need help on 03 5440 1883 or email jodie.odgers@nccma.vic.gov.au.

Biolinks Planning Consultant wanted....!

The Land Management Sub-Committee of the Redesdale Fire Community Recovery Committee is seeking a consultant to develop a biolinks plan and identify potential sponsors for its implementation. The goal is to connect the vegetation in and surrounding the Redesdale Fire footprint, including part of the McHarg Range, upper reaches of the Campaspe River and the Barfold Gorge.

Ideally, applicants will have relevant qualifications and/or experience in natural resource management (with knowledge of Biolinks); stakeholder consultation and analysis; and project management. This is a twelve-month half-time appointment with flexible working hours including some evening and weekend work. The position commences late in November 2010. Applications should include evidence of qualifications as they relate to this project, recent experience with similar projects and contact details for 3 referees. Applications should be emailed to: redesdalelandmgt@gmail.com or mailed to:

**Redesdale Land Management
PO Box 1205
Kyneton VIC 3444**

Please note: Applications close 12 November 2010. For a position description or for further information please send your inquiry by email to the above address providing an evening telephone number for call back. Interviews with shortlisted applicants will be held between 1.00pm and 3.00pm in Barfold on Thursday November 18, 2010.

International Volunteer Day

This year International Volunteer Day (IVD) will be celebrated on Sunday 5 December. IVD is a United Nations auspiced day that commenced in 1985 and is now celebrated around the world as a day to recognise the contribution of volunteers in their communities. Each year thousands of volunteers are involved in a range of IVD initiatives including clean-up campaigns, conferences, exhibitions, morning teas and many other activities. To find out more or to see how you can get involved go to www.volunteeringaustralia.org > News and Events > International Volunteer Day.

Tell them what you think!

There is an opportunity for groups to provide the Caring for our Country team with feedback on the Community Action Grants process for 2010-11. If you went through the process this year then please take the time to complete the survey. Even if, or perhaps especially if, you didn't complete the application, please complete the survey. The more feedback the community supplies the greater the likelihood that the process will be improved in the future. Please find the link at www.surveymonkey.com/s/56QBB6R.

Australian Landcare council announced

The Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Senator Joe Ludwig, recently announced the appointment of sixteen new members to the Australian Landcare Council. The council is the Australian Government's key advisory body on Landcare. For more information please find the media release at www.daff.gov.au/ludwig/media-releases/2010/october/minister-ludwig-announces-appointments-to-australian-landcare-council.

Caps, T-shirts plus lots, lots more...

Landcare Australia has set up a not for profit online shop for landcare groups to purchase merchandise for events and members. All items are sold at cost price to groups. The shop includes t-shirts, caps and pins. The landcare community can purchase merchandise items that are branded with the Landcare Australia logo or add their own group logo. If your group needs a certain item that is not in the shop you can request a quote. To purchase Landcare merchandise – visit the Landcare Australia website www.landcareonline.com.au and look under the Resources tab. If the online shop is popular and used by groups regularly a dedicated site that is more attractive and functional will be created.



Do you have news...?

What has been happening in your local area? How did the floods affect you? Do you have any news or a story to tell? Do you have some amazing or interesting photos that you would like to share? Is there anything that is missing from Groundcover that you would like to know more about? Please send through your stories, thoughts, ideas, and feedback to landcare@nccma.vic.gov.au. Your feedback is essential to making Groundcover a success for you – the Landcare community!

COURSES & RESOURCES

Photopoint Monitoring & Environmental Photography Workshop

Taking representational images of the Australian natural environment presents many challenges. A workshop, run by Alison Pouliot, will explore the major principles of camera operation and photographic techniques for effective photography of environmental subjects, including people in the natural environment. It will also cover the use of photography as a scientific tool for documenting environmental change in a technique known as Photopoint Monitoring.

The workshop on Friday 17 December includes an interactive and illustrated theoretical component followed by a field trip to put principles into practice. It is aimed at those working in environmental management, Landcare & environment rehabilitation, landholders/students and anyone interested in documenting the natural environment. Beginners to advanced photographers are all welcome.

The workshop will run from 9.30am - 4.30pm at 13 Camp Street, Daylesford. There is a cost of \$75 to attend the workshop and to book in call 03 5348 3569 or email daylesford@ourneighbourhood.org.au. For further queries please contact Alison directly on 0439 764 344 or email alison@alisonpouliot.com.

Don't forget to bring your cameras (including battery charger and instruction manual if available), lunch and sturdy shoes!



Get the 'The Break'

Grain growers can access seasonal climate risk information in one easy location in "The Break". The newsletter describes credible seasonal outlooks, generates potential crop yields from decision support computer tools, provides links and highlights topical climate risk information. It is published as part of the "Preparing Victorian Farmers for the Future Climate and Emissions Challenges" project which is funded under the Future Farming Initiative. To find out more or to subscribe head to <http://new.dpi.vic.gov.au/home> > Agriculture > Climate.





FUNDING NEWS

Calling for Expression of Interest for the Volunteer Action Project grants

The Volunteer Action Project grants are available for projects that can demonstrate an innovative and effective way of encouraging volunteering, while contributing to the protection and restoration of our natural environment. Grants of \$1000 - \$5000 are now available for Landcare and Community Based Natural Resource Management groups. This is a real chance for your group to get creative in designing a project!

Previously funded projects have ranged from innovative approaches such as geocaching (a GPS-enabled treasure hunt), showbags and 'Landcare for singles' planting days to more traditional methods such as expos and information sessions.

The Community Engagement and Landcare Unit of the Department of Sustainability and Environment are calling for Expressions of Interest from Friday 29 October to Friday 3 December 2010.

For more information on the Grants, including the expression of interest form, the investment criteria, process for allocating grants and example projects, check out the Victorian Landcare Gateway website www.landcarevic.net.au or contact the Community Engagement and Landcare Unit on 03 9637 8190 or email celhub@dse.vic.gov.au.

Need computer software?

DonorTec provides donated and discounted technology products and services from well known Information Technology software companies to eligible income tax exempt (ITE) Australian not for profit groups. The program assists not for profit community groups access the latest products. The program can assist groups build their Information Communication Technology (ICT) capacity and has already assisted some Landcare groups.

To be eligible for software products your group needs to be a income tax exempt Australian not for profit group. The donated products will only be distributed to qualifying organisations (not to individuals) that have an operating budget of less than \$2 million (AUD) per year.

For more information explore their website www.donortec.org.

Calling all bush guardians

Bush Guardians is a community based small grants program that aims to protect threatened flora and fauna from the impact of weeds and pests. The program encourages volunteer groups to propose, manage and undertake onground works on public land. The total funding available for DSE grants statewide in 2010-2011 is \$260,000.

For further information, please contact Mary Camilleri at Bendigo DSE on 03 5430 4676. Priorities for threatened flora and fauna protection will be determined in consultation with your local DSE officers. The 2010/2011 application form and guidelines are now available on the DSE website www.dse.vic.gov.au. Applications close on Tuesday 30 November 2010.

The Mullum Trust

The Mullum Trusts Environment Conservation & Heritage grants are now open.

Grants funding: Max per grant: \$10,000 Min per grant: \$100 Total Pool: \$40,000

Closes: Ongoing

Purpose: To support and engender projects which have significant, ongoing, or catalytic environmental outcomes.

Overview: Projects that are preferred are those with specific localised environmental outcomes, although projects which are locally based but have far reaching impacts are also encouraged.

Funding provided is between \$100 to \$10,000. This is a consequence of the annual income of the trust which is currently \$40,000. We strive to fund projects which maximise the environmental outcomes for dollars spent.

Although the Mullum Trust commends projects which address social or welfare concerns, it tends not to fund these. Likewise the trust tends not to fund personal research projects.

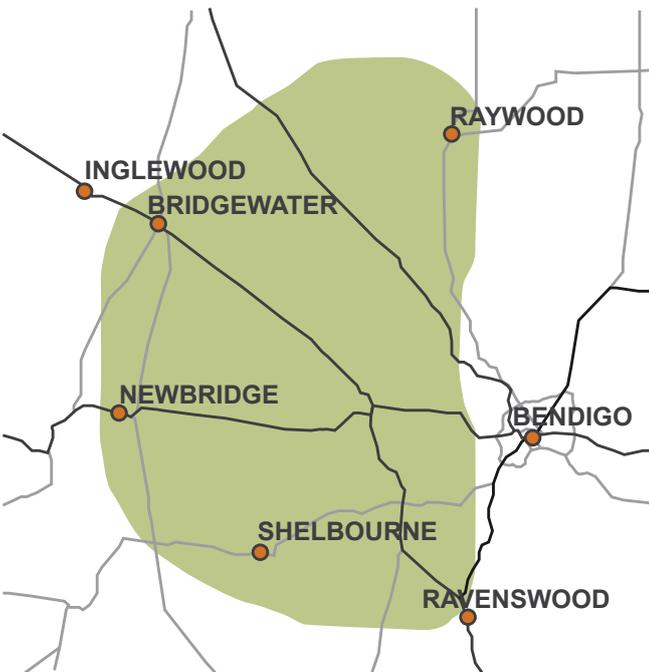
Limitations: The Trust Deed does not allow for offshore funding.

How to apply: Mail, Email or Fax.

For further Information contact Mr Ryan Neoh Mullum Trust C/o at Deloitte Private on (03) 9671 6658 or email rneoh@deloitte.com.au.

Box-Gum Grassy Woodlands Grants Extended

Landholders in the Mid Loddon area (that's roughly between Raywood and Ravenswood) now have until Monday 6 December 2010 to apply for funding assistance to protect or enhance Box-Gum Grassy Woodlands on private property. Box-Gum Grassy Woodlands in this region contain White Box or Yellow Box trees (now or in the past) and landholders can receive funding to fence remnants or conduct revegetation to enhance or connect patches. Contact the project officer, Robyn McKay on 5440 1876 or 0448 578 086 for more information or for assistance to apply. Landcare groups or networks may apply on behalf of more than one landholder and include up to 10% project management costs. Applications and an identification brochure can be downloaded from www.nccma.vic.gov.au.



EVENTS

Eagles, Understorey and Gorse

Baynton Sidonia Landcare Group, supported by North Central CMA, is holding a Family BBQ Day on Saturday 27 November 2010 at Glenhope from 10.15am-2.30pm. Come and find out about the Gorse eradication work done in the area on the Pohlman Creek and walk through a delightful hidden valley of indigenous understorey species, guarded by Yellow Box trees and wedge tailed eagle's nests, with Robyn McKay from the North Central CMA. A free BBQ lunch by the Pohlman Creek will be provided (meat and vegetarian).

Meet along Franklins Road (signposted from the Burke & Wills Track/Buntings Lane intersection, near Rowanston Winery) at 10.15am (VicRoads ref: Map 60 B3) and drive into 'Thistledown'. BYO chair, rug, hat and water bottle. RSVP by Monday 22 November by calling Jim 03 5425 5533 or Heather 03 5425 5400.

Get on board the bus

It's no longer Landcare Week, but we're still doing the bus tour! Come along and join with fellow Campaspe Landcarers on an interesting day tour to Violet Town, Boho and Benalla areas on Friday 12 November. Leaving from two locations:

Rochester Shire offices on Mackay Street at 8am or the Kyabram Shire offices on Lake Road at 8.30am.

Don't forget to bring a sturdy pair of boots, jacket, hat, sunscreen and water. Morning tea, lunch, hot & cold drinks will be provided. RSVP to Rhonda by Monday 8 November on 1300 666 535 or 0429 968 917.

Get your 'Ground Cover' direct

The newsletter you are reading is for ALL members of Landcare and Friends groups in our region. If you would like to receive it directly, rather than via your group, jump on our direct email list. All you have to do is send an email request to landcare@nccma.vic.gov.au or phone reception on 03 5448 7124.



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