



North Central chat

JULY 2018

*Keeping you up to date with all the Landcare
and Waterwatch news*

A message from the Regional Landcare Coordinator

Hi everyone,

Well the winter woollies are well and truly a staple at this time of year, especially if you're working outdoors. As we hit the middle of winter, the bird bath freezes over, crops slow down and the days shorten but life in the catchment is still booming.

I think I mention it every July, but those little lambs dotted across the paddocks are too cute to drive past and I always stop for a visit. The creeks and rivers are slowly flowing, and many of our gorgeous native *Correa* species are bursting into flower.

Flora is the feature this month, specifically native trees, as July 29 marks National Tree Day. I recently attended a meeting at the City of Greater Bendigo, at which a member of the arboriculture team discussed the Greening Greater Bendigo project. It was incredible to see the data collected on the shire's trees, native and exotic, their health, significance, function and future. The project is looking at the total coverage of 'the city in the forest' and the work that needs to be undertaken now, to not only maintain, but grow, the shade, amenity and wellbeing values that tree canopy coverage provides. Landcare projects contribute significantly to the overall efforts to securing a healthy future for our communities and landscape, through tree planting.

While Landcare is certainly more than just planting trees, National Tree Day is always a good reminder that trees and plants in general, provide essential and often immeasurable health and wellbeing benefits to everyone.

This month's edition features stories and projects from groups working on protecting the region's flora.

News	2
Events	5
Courses & Resources	9
Funding News	10



You can find your local National Tree Day planting site at: <https://treeday.planetark.org/find-a-site/>

Finally, this is my last edition for a few months, as I am heading across to WA on leave, returning in October. Cass has kindly offered to take the reins and write the Chat over the coming months, so please send your articles, photos and events through to her.

Enjoy the read,

Tess Grieves

Regional Landcare Coordinator
North Central Catchment Management Authority
Phone: 03 5448 7124
Email: tess.grieves@nccma.vic.gov.au



News...

2018-19 Victorian Landcare Grants

Applications for the 2018-19 VLG program came in steadily across the six week application period from May 4 to June 12.

North Central CMA received 79 applications totalling more than \$430,000 of proposed Landcare activity and support. This year's demand is \$80,000 higher than previous years despite the programs total funding pool changes.

Applications will now move into the assessment phase and applicants will be made aware of their success, or otherwise, in the coming months.

The Landcare Team wishes to thank all applicants for their interest and feedback on the mapping system, guidelines and for seeking advice early in the process.

The green guardians of Maldon

Bev Phillips, Maldon Urban Landcare Group

The primary objectives of this project conducted in 2017 by Maldon Urban Landcare Inc. (MULGA) were to obtain detailed records for original indigenous eucalypts that were growing before 1852 (pre-European occupation) in Maldon, and to achieve long-term protection for these trees under the Mount Alexander Shire Council Planning Scheme, or an appropriate alternative scheme.

The large, old indigenous eucalypt trees still surviving in the township of Maldon are of significant environmental and historical significance, and are rare examples of pre-European occupation vegetation in an urban setting.

Initial work for this project was carried out by the late Wendy French in 2009-2010. In 2016, a planning permit application and an intersection re-design re-ignited the need to gain protection for the pre-1852 eucalypts. In early 2017, MULGA members, assisted by Frances Cincotta from Newstead Natives, conducted a detailed survey of trees with a circumference of at least 1.82m (using the formula described below in reverse for trees at least 165 years old), measured at a height of 1.3m (breast height, BH). Sites surveyed were the Maldon Primary School, Maldon Hospital, Bill Woodfull Reserve, the Maldon Police Lockup land and St. Brigid's Catholic Church. In addition, two trees on a private property and four roadside

***Eucalyptus microcarpa*, Maldon Primary School, estimated age 320 years**



***Eucalyptus polyanthemos* subsp. *vestita*, St Brigid's Catholic Church, estimated age 430 years**





trees were surveyed. The data recorded the species, GPS location, circumference at 1.3m, and a photograph was taken. The tree diameter (mm) at BH over bark (DBHOB) was calculated by circumference/3.14. An average growth rate of 3.5mm¹ was used for all species recorded and the estimated age was calculated by DBHOB/3.5.

Of the 61 pre-1852 original eucalypt trees recorded on public and private land in Maldon, 64 percent are *Eucalyptus microcarpa* (Grey Box); there are eight *Eucalyptus goniocalyx* (Long-leaved Box), eight *Eucalyptus polyanthemos* subsp. *vestita* (Red Box) and three *Eucalyptus melliodora* (Yellow Box). The recorded trees are estimated to be aged between 175 and 530 years old; 49 trees are estimated to be 200-399 years old and there are three trees estimated to be aged 400-499 years and one tree 530 years. This means that 80 percent of the trees are estimated to have started growing between the years of 1618 and 1817.

In addition, MULGA members surveyed 36 pre-1852 eucalypt trees on parts of the Maldon Historic Reserve – the lower slopes of Anzac Hill, Pond Drive, and part of The Butts reserve at the base of Mt. Tarrengower. The species recorded are grey box (50%), yellow box (28%), red box (17%) and one tree each of long-leaved box and *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* (river red gum). All of these trees, estimated to be between 190 and 645 years old, are protected in the Maldon Historic Reserve, which is managed by Parks Victoria.

The location and data for all 97 eucalypts have been entered on the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas. Discussions have been held with staff from the Mount Alexander Shire Council regarding obtaining long-term protection for the 61 eucalypts not on the Maldon Historic Reserve, and MULGA will continue to advocate for this to occur.

The live data table and two location maps for all the pre-1852 eucalypts recorded can be viewed online at:

<http://www.connectingcountry.org.au/landcare/mulga>. There is also a brochure, Living Treasures, available in the Maldon Visitors Information Centre, which includes information and a map for some of the pre-1852 trees. You can also contact Bev Phillips, Secretary, MULGA, on ph. 0407 770 350 or email phillips1bev@gmail.com

Students get stuck into Cornish Hill

Margie Thomas, Friend of Cornish Hill

It has been an unusually mild autumn and before the planting season drew to a close, Friends of Cornish Hill were able to enlist the assistance of Wesley College Clunes and Daylesford Secondary College staff and students to plant indigenous trees and shrub on the Cornish Hill reserve.

On Thursday 24 May, 11 students from Wesley lead by staff members Jonathan and Zoe, planted more than 50 trees and then spent some time chipping out and cutting and painting broom seedlings, dock and thistles.

The following week, with staff member Tania at the helm, the Hands on Learning team from DSC propagated seeds and cuttings for planting later in the year, and another 50 trees and shrubs were planted. Assistance from our volunteers as well as help from the schools has been crucial to our success in revegetating the Reserve. For those of you who are unaware, Cornish Hill area was heavily mined and once that ended, invasive noxious weeds took hold. Since then, it has been a battle to remove these weeds before we could even begin to think about replanting.

In February sites for the plantings had been set out by a Conservation Volunteer Australia team from Bendigo. However, holes were dug by the students on each day by using an augur with our volunteers providing the tuition. Using this machinery has added another dimension to these events. The students love using it.





Mandatory history walks to visit the old mining relics have also been a highlight of these visits. These walks give us a chance to tell the story of the Hill as well. The students are fascinated with the deep and fully capped mine shafts and in particular the story of the Cornish miners who introduced the deep shaft techniques.



Friends of Cornish Hill are well supported by local organisations and businesses but for this event, particular thanks goes to the State Government for providing us with the funding to host these planting days

LVI Membership & insurance

Landcare Victoria Inc. has advised that renewal paperwork for Landcare Victoria Inc. (LVI) membership & insurance has been distributed to member groups and network.

The LVI insurance package continues with the three important policies:

- o Public and Product Liability Insurance
- o Voluntary Workers Insurance
- o Management Liability Insurance (Office Bearers, Professional Indemnity etc)

The Public Liability Insurance cover level is

currently \$20 million. For a copy of insurance Summaries please [click here](#) . More detailed policy wordings are also available on request by contacting the LVI office on 03 9207 5527 or info@lvi.org.au .

If your group or network intends to conduct Landcare activities during 2018-19, LVI urge you to renew your membership. Any alternative insurance arrangements made by groups and networks should cover these three policies for the security of office bearers and members.

Redlegged earth mites coincide with delayed establishment

cesar PestFacts Issue 5

A slow start for crop establishment increases vulnerability to redlegged earth mite damage.

The redlegged earth mite (RLEM, *Halotydeus destructor*) is active from autumn to late spring in southern Australia, with hatching of over-summering eggs generally coinciding with early crop establishment in autumn/winter. The slow start to the growing season in many south-eastern regions has increased the vulnerability of young crops to RLEM damage.



Redlegged earth mite adult (left) and damage (right) (Source: cesar).

Growers should be regularly monitoring crops. Mites are best detected feeding on the leaves in the morning or on overcast days. If mites are not observed on plant material, inspect soil for mites. There are some basic economic thresholds available for RLEM in crops and pastures. These are:

- o Canola: 10 mites per plant at the cotyledon/1st true leaf stage
- o Wheat/barley: 50 mites per 100 cm²
- o Pulses: 50 mites per 100 cm²



- o Establishing annual medic pastures: 20-30 mites per 100 cm²

A new national document provides strategies for pest management and preventing the development of resistance in Victoria and NSW can be downloaded from <http://cesaraustralia.com/sustainable-agriculture/pestfacts-south-eastern/issue-5-25-june-2018/redlegged-earth-mites-coincide-with-delayed-establishment/>

Events...



Join dynamic, like-minded rural and regional women at a gala dinner and take home practical skills from a series of energising workshops as we celebrate the first birthday of the revived Victorian Rural Women's Network

When: Thursday 2 and Friday 3 August 2018

Where: RACV Goldfields Resort, Creswick

RSVP:
<https://extensionaus.com.au/VRWNetwork/>

Bendigo TAFE - Future Directions Conference June 2018

Hear from a panel of industry speakers who will discuss what food and fibre will look like in 2020. The session is facilitated by ex ABC radio announcer Jonathan Ridnell.

After lunch, attend more sessions including:

- Garden design with an Aboriginal Bush Tucker theme
- Composting – a new institute initiative at Bendigo TAFE
- Surgery in our new vet clinic on one of only two synthetic cadaver dogs in Australia

When: Friday 29 June 2018 at 9:30am

Where: Bendigo TAFE - Food and Fibre Centre of Excellence, F Building (off Lansell street), Charleston Rd Campus, Bendigo, VIC

RSVP: By 25 June to secure your place via <https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=389839&>

Vic No-Till's 16th Annual Conference - July 12 and 13, 2018

This year's theme 'Regeneration Nation - Unlocking nutrients' will feature international keynote presentation from Jay Fuhrer and experienced, successful Australian regenerative farmers who are highly profitable.

Vic No-Till President Grant Sims was a drawcard at the North Central CMA's 2018 Soils Conference and has put together a wonderful program featuring local, interstate and international presenters.

The program is available via <https://www.vicnotill.com.au/events/event/annual-conference-2018-12-13th-july-2018/>

When: July 12 and 13, 2018

Where: Rich River Golf Club Resort, Moama.

Tickets:

\$330 Members

\$660 Non-Members

Extra tickets for family members or staff of your farming business are \$165

More details call Penny on 0402 216 267 Email: accounts@vicnotill.com.au



Hi all,

It's getting cold! I hope you have enjoyed reading the July edition of the North Central Chat! June has been a little quiet (we are never quiet) however a great month.

We were lucky enough to get involved in the Passions and Pathways program in June, supporting students from St. Monica's Primary School to participate in workplace experience. I also visited the RiverScan project area with Tracey and introduced to some of our wonderful volunteers as part of our support network to volunteers across the region.

Sophie was out and about hosting our third *Ask the Expert* session with Tiana Preston (Melbourne Water) talking all about platypus. Sophie has collected unused monitoring kits from across the catchment ready to go into new schools and has ran another pop-up workshop with two new teachers.

Upcoming events during July:

- North Central Waterwatch – Summit Workshop
- Celebrating 25 Years of Waterwatch

Stay Warm,

Cass Davis

Regional Waterwatch Coordinator
(03) 5440 1863
0434 730 526
cass.davis@nccma.vic.gov.au

Saltwatch Week –testing many water samples for salt

Chris Bromley, River Detectives program volunteer at Malmsbury Primary School

Malmsbury Primary School River Detectives Group the Ramblers involving students from Prep to Grade 6, got involved in some Citizen Science to celebrate Saltwatch Week and Education Week (parents came along to learn too).

Students investigated salinity, testing many water samples from the local area (rivers, creeks, dams, tanks, taps, mineral springs, the school fish tank and even from puddles. They tested for salinity using the EC meter and recorded their results on a graph. Students used the graph to analyse and discuss the possible reasons for differences in salt levels from different locations. Not surprisingly, students discovered the mineral water was not suitable for use in their fish tank. They had lots of questions about their results.

Students thriving through Passions and Pathways program

Shari Rankin, Plan2Farm Project Manager, North Central CMA.

Primary schools participating in Passions and Pathways program have a high proportion of families receiving financial assistance. Community issues such as generational poverty and unemployment impact on schools and on student aspirations and their desire to learn. Many students held little hope for their participation in the workforce, believing that people had successful careers as a result of "luck".

Passions and Pathways was designed to overcome these situations and beliefs. During workplace and classroom visits, guest presenters and Young Industry Ambassadors share their stories and their knowledge about how to present 'yourself in the real world'; OHS considerations and the many different jobs and pathways available in their industry or profession.



Shari with students from the Passions and Pathways program

Passions and Pathways is a partnership between the Goldfields Local Learning and Employment Network (GLEN), four Bendigo primary schools, state and local government, industry bodies and more than 40 local businesses and organisations.



Over the past 5 years around 280 grade six students have completed the program which introduces them to the world of work.

Find out about how we got involved here:
<http://passionsandpathways.org.au/passions-pathways-students-thriving-completing-projects/>

Water Storage - May update

The table below will indicate the current storage levels in our water storages and is updated daily, this information is taken from Goulburn Murray Water: www.g-mwater.com.au

Catchment	Storage name	% full June 2018
Campaspe	Lake Eppalock	61.18
	Waranga Basin	45.62
Loddon	Carin Curran Reservoir	53.27
	Tullaroop reservoir	56.34
	Laanecoorie Reservoir	39.13
	Newlyn	51.06
	Hepburn Lagoon	47.94

Sustainability Summit - hosted by Loddon Mallee Waste and Resource Recovery Group

Lisa Hall, Castlemaine Steiner School and Kindergarten teacher.

The summit inspired and engaged our students. The opportunity to share their ideas with students from other schools, in such a well-structured format, led them to consider sustainability more deeply and gave them ideas for the future.

The Grade 5 and 6 students in the Green Team went on an excursion to Chewton Primary School to attend the Student Sustainability Summit. There were more than 80 students from 14 schools at the summit. Seven of the schools made presentations about the sustainability projects that are going on at their school.

Our Green Team made a presentation about M.A.D Monday and the Green Team. To make the

presentation, we recorded films and photos of how our Green Team formed and how MAD Monday works.

The MC talked to us about following our passions and making sure that we take care of the Earth at the same time. After all the presentations we went back into our school groups and discussed an idea that we would like to bring back to our school. We liked the school that did water testing because it involves doing a science experiment. There were some schools inspired by our presentation of MAD Monday and they thought that they would like to take MAD Monday to their schools. *Students presentation at assembly from Camp Hill Primary School*

RiverScan: meeting our citizen Scientists

Tracey Harbridge, North Central CMA

As a part of the Native Fish Recovery Plan project, we have partnered with North Central Waterwatch to create RiverScan, a citizen science program that is focussing on working with local communities to monitor the health of waterways within our program area.

Recently Cass and I headed to Pyramid Hill and Kerang to visit some of our RiverScan volunteers. I am planning to provide the programs volunteers with ongoing Waterwatch support as I frequently visit the region. My aim is to help them stay connected to their local monitoring sites and support them to collect important information for the Native Fish Recovery Plan (NFRP).

We met with volunteers Bill and Trevor and students from Pyramid Hill College:

- Students with Lizzie their teacher, monitor two sites on Box Creek (d/Stream of Kow Swamp)
- Bill monitors a site on the Loddon River @ Old Kerang Road
- Trevor (along with Brian who couldn't be there yesterday) monitor three sites along the Loddon River at Appin South Crossing, Robertsons Road and Capel's Crossing. Brian just turned 80 and has lost his licence but not his sense of humour nor his knowledge and desire to care for the environment.



Bill Astro, RiverScan citizen scientist



Trevor Wilkerson, RiverScan citizen scientist

Part of my current role as a Catchment Restoration Officer is to work with local landholders to fence off river frontage, so I need to establish relationships and trust in the community. Within minutes of meeting Trevor, I had managed to have two km of fencing ready to investigate for the 2018-19 NFRP project, which I am very excited about as I have a lot of fencing I need to do.

Meeting the volunteers will be so much help for me, drawing on local knowledge, understanding of the community and their diverse skills. It's exciting because it's not just about collecting information for RiverScan, it's connecting to the community in a completely new way. This will help me to deliver onground outcomes for my project, which is great!

On our way home, we spotted two beautiful brolga in the front paddock of a farm at Tang Tang Swamp, the male put on a wonderful show

for his lady brolga- wings spread out and bum wabbling. What a treat. As I didn't have a camera I was unable to take an image, BUT I was able to upload this very important sighting on the North Central CMA's NatureBlitz App.



Have you done your water quality testing for April?



Cathy McCallum collecting a water sample with a student from Baringup Primary School

Coliban Water - National Water Week Poster Competition

The National Water Week Poster Competition is on again. Primary school students are asked to create a poster reflecting water-related issues which are important and relevant to them and their local area.

Poster entries are invited in four categories: Prep / Foundation; Years 1 and 2; Years 3 and 4; Years 5 and 6.

Great prizes can be won by the student and the school at both local and state level judging.

Entries close 31 August.

More details can be found on [Coliban Water's website](#). If your local water authority is different, check to see if they are running a similar competition. Previous entries can be viewed [here](#).





Fifteen Trees

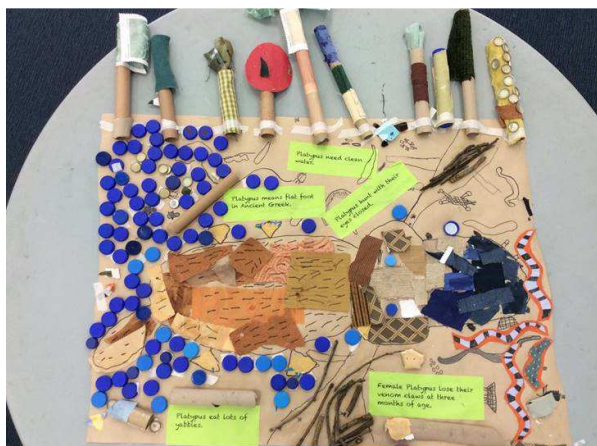
Fifteen Trees is an organisation that helps reduce individual and organisations' carbon footprint by planting trees on their behalf. They have some seedlings on offer for school or community groups to plant out in the Bendigo region. For more information contact Colleen at filippa@15trees.com.au to find out more.

World Environment Day

To celebrate World Environment Day (Tuesday 5 June) 126 students from six schools across Victoria joined in a virtual learning session hosted by the River Detectives team where they could Ask the Expert all about platypus.

The expert was Tiana Preston from Melbourne Water's Waterwatch team. Students had lots of great questions for Tiana, including how big they are, and why the females lose their venomous claws. Tiana also asked the students to vote on the plural word for platypus. *The answer... platypuses!* As part of the session, students also created their own creature that had amazing features from different animals (a little like the platypus, with its fur, egg laying, bill and webbed feet), the creativity of the students was amazing.

Schools were also asked before the session to find out a little bit about platypus before joining and produce a poster with recycled materials (to go with the theme of the day – Beat Plastic Pollution) with platypus facts. The winning poster was from the Skipton Primary School students and a highly commended poster from Georgia from Carraragarmungee Primary School with her 3D recycled platypus.



Skipton Primary School poster.



Carraragarmungee Primary School

Courses and Resources...

Rakali Wetland Ecology Course

Registrations are now open for the Wetland Plant Identification Course 2018 - November 22.

This three day course is for anyone interested in wetland plant identification and ecology.

Observe the changing seasons and water depths of the stunning Reedy Lagoon, Gunbower Island over a six month period.

Each of the three days will focus on a different wetland habitat (wetting and drying) and associated plant community.

Courses are presented by Damien Cook and Elaine Bayes.

Only 25 places are available.

See website for session outline, field guide provided, evaluations etc.

- Three day course is \$800 plus GST (\$880).

More information, the 2018 flyer, program and to view feedback from past participants:

<http://rakali.com.au/education-and-training/wetland-plant-identification-courses/>

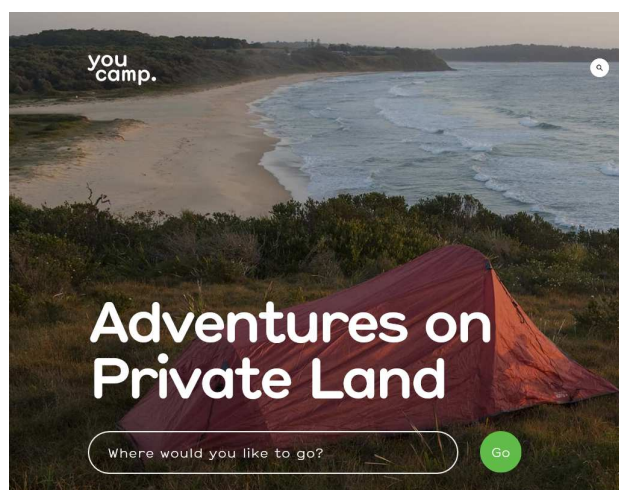
You can go straight to the registration page here <https://www.trybooking.com/WHNX>

You camp? Try youcamp

Landline recently featured the private land camping website youcamp, which could be a fantastic value add for farming and lifestyle property owners, or a great resource for your next camping trip.

Youcamp began life in 2013 when two NSW South Coast landholders realised that all around them were beautiful places on private land that could be visited by the public if only there was a way for travellers and property owners to connect.

The website features sites for campers right across Australia, as well as information for potential hosts, including a new \$50M insurance liability cover with every booking.



You can learn more about this home grown success story via <https://youcamp.com/>

Funding news...



The Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) in partnership with Landcare Australia is giving schools, kindergartens, childcare centres, Scouts, Girl Guides and youth groups the chance to apply for a grant of up to \$5,000 (ex GST) as part of the Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants.

Grants of up to \$5000 each are available to schools, kindergartens, childcare centres, Scouts, Girl Guides, and youth groups. The Victorian Government is providing up to \$400,000 in funding for these grants. **Grant applications close on 20 July.**

Types of projects supported by this program include:

- o On-ground projects that restore, protect, enhance, or develop habitat for native flora and fauna, and/or address threats to biodiversity e.g. weed invasion, habitat loss etc., and/or
- o Projects that increase opportunities for children to connect with their natural environment e.g. a school excursion to Healesville Sanctuary; and/or
- o Projects that educate and raise awareness, among young people, of the benefits and importance of biodiversity and a healthy environment, and/or how they can contribute to environmental improvement

Please ensure you read the guidelines and visit the FAQ before applying. Visit the [Landcare Australia grants hub](#) to apply.

City of Greater Bendigo Grants

The CoGB has undertaken an extensive Community Granting Policy review, and Council have changed the way in which grants are distributed.

The new policy will come into effect on July 1, 2018.

Each year the City provides approximately \$1M in grant funding. The following grant programs will be offered under the new Policy:

GRANT TYPE	OPENING DATES
Small Grants (up to \$3,000)	Apply any time
Medium Grants (up to \$10,000)	Apply July, November, March
Large Grants (up to \$50,000 over 2 years)	Apply July 2018 (then biennially)
Community Group Essentials Grants (up to \$3,000)	Apply any time