

North Central chat

JULY 2019

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

A message from the Regional Waterwatch Coordinator

Hello everyone,

I hope you are enjoying these cold winter mornings, finally we are seeing some frost on the ground! While the cold wintry days are here to stay they won't stop the wonderful events for July.

With NAIDOC Week just around the corner it's a time to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC is celebrated not only in Indigenous communities, but by Australians from all walks of life. The week is a great opportunity to participate in a range of activities and to support your local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. To find out more, [click here](#).

We are also looking forward to hearing all about your stories from National Tree Day. National Tree Day is Australia's largest community tree planting and nature protection event. Planet Ark is asking all Australian's to put their hand in the dirt and help plant 1 million native trees and shrubs across the country! Have you registered? To find out more, [click here](#).

Highlights from World Environment Day around the catchment and a wonderful outcome for one of our region's schools who won the Sustainability Victoria ResourceSmart School Awards 2019.

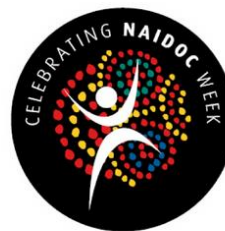
Waterwatch has lots of great events coming up and we are excited about launching into our new Citizen Science Program as part of the Healthy Coliban Project in partnership with Coliban Water.

Enjoy the read,

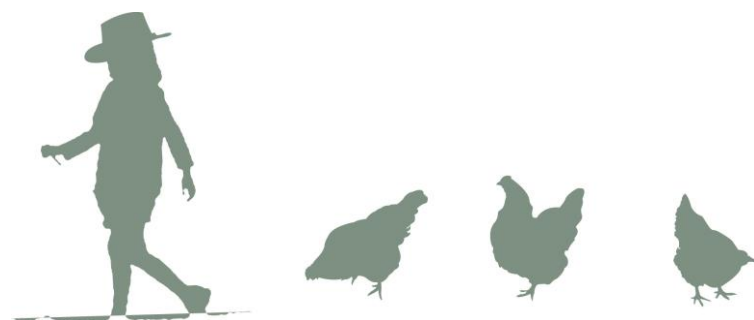
Cass Davis

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

News	2
Events	7
Course and Resources	9



**VOICE
TREATY
TRUTH** 07 - 14
JULY 2019
Let's work together for a shared future.





News...

Sacred Heart College students and Tylden Landcare working along the Little Coliban River

Tylden Landcare President, Brendan Smith

Year 11 students from Sacred Heart College partnered with Tylden Landcare to rehabilitate the Little Coliban River.

With the help of Tylden Landcare Group, students from Sacred Heart College spent time planting small plants from forestry tubes along the Little Coliban River and in the surrounding catchment area on private land. This program gives people the opportunity to participate in community projects and the Year 11 students volunteered to help with Landcare over two days in May.



Annie O'Shannessy from Sacred Heart College said "The students enthusiastically joined the program and have planted indigenous trees, shrubs and grasses. The students are very aware that indigenous vegetation offers ecosystem services including soil erosion control, cleans and filters water runoff and keeps the air clean.

Annie added that plants included eucalypts, acacias, cassinnias and lomandras, poas, swamp.

World Environment Day Highlights from around the catchment



Mid-Loddon Landcare Network Facilitator Judy Crocker (pictured fourth from left) coordinated a planting day with Regional Roads Victoria. Together Landcare and RRV planted around 5,000 trees during June.



A team of seven members and friends of Mt Korong Eco-Watch covered the northern spur of Mt Korong, eradicating wheel cactus.

Thanks to Loddon Plains Landcare Network for lending their injectors to Eco-Watch.



sedges and a range of other seedlings usually found along water courses in our region.

Tylden Landcare is working with landholders along the Little Coliban River, North Central CMA with Coliban Water to protect and rehabilitate the Little Coliban River as part of the Healthy Coliban Catchment project.

Volunteers staking tree guards.



Sacred Heart College staff assisted students over the two days and said, "The students did a great job of planting along the river. We have visited PGL at Campaspe Downs regularly and feel we are contributing to the ongoing, future health of the Little Coliban River and the whole Coliban catchment".

New serrated tussock videos

The Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party (VSTWP) has recently completed two new and exciting videos for promotion and educational purposes.

The videos were produced in Sunbury and involve most of our committee and volunteer landowners. The shorter 30 second video will be used for social media and television commercials, and the longer 90 second video for our website and social media, to explain what the VSTWP and why we do it.

30 Second VSTWP Campaign

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7svyvZODwiA>

90 Second VSTWP Overview Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-wiKLikQWfw>

Citizen scientists wins Sustainability Victoria Award

Well done Kyneton Secondary College, winning 'Curriculum Leadership Secondary School of the Year' at the Sustainability Victoria ResourceSmart School Awards 2019 for their work with Upper Campaspe Landcare Network and EnviroDNA to map the distribution of the near-threatened platypus and re-vegetating ecosystems.

The winners were announced by Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change Lily D'Ambrosio on June 13 at the MCG.

Schools across Victoria were recognised for their efforts to inspire sustainability action in their communities, reduce the environmental impact of their campuses and protect the environment. We are so proud to have had the opportunity to link the KSC students in with the important work the UCLN does to protect our environment.

"Congratulations to the finalists and winners - you are leading the way when it comes to protecting the environment and acting on climate change." Said Minister D'Ambrosio at the award ceremony.

Local Landcare Facilitator Program update

The North Central CMA region is fortunate to have community organisations hosting 10 local Landcare Facilitators, funded through the Victorian Landcare Program.

Since 2012, the Victorian Local Landcare Facilitator Initiative has provided funding for facilitators who work extensively with local Landcare groups, networks, farmers, government agencies, business and schools. Facilitators guide local projects, form partnerships and support community groups to attract funding in to the local area, achieving significant landscape and productivity outcomes, which benefit everyone living in a rural community.

North Central Landcare groups reported more than 40,000 volunteer hours contributed to environmental volunteering during 2017-18. Many volunteers noted their local facilitator was the key to sustaining the groups activity levels supporting them to complete administration and compliance tasks such as grant management, working on public land and OHS as well as being available for guidance, advice and a friendly chat.

The VLLFI (Victorian Local Landcare Facilitator Initiative) program recently received confirmation of funding for the 2019-20 year, meaning that the 10-positions hosted in our regional will continue



for the coming 12 months. More than 80% of our catchment is supported by a facilitator. So, if you aren't aware of who supports your patch, visit the Landcare Support Plan to [view the map](#) on Page 11.

The contact details for the North Central local Landcare Facilitators are;

HOST ORGANISATION	FACILITATOR
Avon Richardson and Mid Avoca Landcare Network	Kevin Spence bnglandcare@bigpond.com *Formerly Buloke Northern Grampians Landcare Network
Blampied Kooroocheang Landcare Group	Simon Kirby bk.facilitator@ymail.com
Connecting Country	Asha Bannon asha@connectingcountry.org.au
Kara Kara Conservation Management Network	Deb Saxon-Campbell karakaracmn@gmail.com
Loddon Plains Landcare Network	Danny Pettingill facilitator@lpln.org
Mandurang Strathfieldsaye Landcare Network	Ben Kroker benjaminkroker@yahoo.com.au
Mid Loddon Sub Catchment Management Group	Judy Crocker jcroc22@gmail.com
Murray Mallee Landcare Network	VACANT
Upper Campaspe Landcare Network	VACANT uclandcare@gmail.com
Upper Loddon and Avoca Landcare Network	Chris Pollock chrispollock7@gmail.com

Facilitator farewell and thank you

Whilst were on the topic, it would be remiss of me not to take a moment to acknowledge the phenomenal work of two of our local Landcare facilitators who are moving on from the role.

Sandy Scheltema has facilitated the Upper Campaspe Landcare Network since 2014. With a background in photojournalism, Sandy is passionate and inspired to tell peoples stories in a way that makes others take action.

Sandy has been instrumental in creating innovative projects and increasing the visibility of the network, notably UCLN winning the Environmental Sustainability Award in 2018 which she noted "was a compliment to the whole network and I believe an acknowledgement of how effective we have been. Engaging our member groups to be part of cutting-edge science in detecting platypus as part of a nationwide project has been fantastic. As has detecting and recording threatened species through our *Spotlight on Species* Project."

Sandy has worked with 19 groups, with seven government departments and has had a focus on funding bids for UCLN projects. Sandy grew the networks grant success, attracting funding each year she was in the role.

Thank you for the wonderful memories and experiences you created during your time as facilitator Sandy. Your impact will live on through the stunning photos you've taken as well as the communities and schools you've inspired across the Upper Campaspe region.

To the very north of the catchment, Kristy Scalora, has been facilitating the Murray Mallee Landcare Network area since 2017.

With an active role in seed collection and her local botanical knowledge, Kristy has been engaging and revitalising groups in and around Kerang, Swan Hill and Myall. Active groups have been provided great support. In addition Sandy's commendable efforts to reinvigorate inactive groups to undertake weed control, she has run community events participated in groups meetings and submitted grant applications.

On behalf of the North Central CMA Landcare team I wish to sincerely thank Sandy and Kristy for their contributions to Landcare in our region. It is gratefully acknowledged and appreciated.



Hello,

Waterwatch and River Detectives update

Welcome to the mid-winter edition of Chat.

Winter sees outdoor activities slow down a little in the world of Waterwatch. It's too cold for waterbug monitoring and not a preferable time to hold outdoor activities and events. Poor water quality may stabilise due to cooler temperatures and increased flows (particularly phosphorous levels). But, inside in the warm office, Cass and I are busy with end of year reporting and planning for the year ahead including an eventful spring season.

As is often the case, spring is certainly our busiest time of year, and we have some great things planned for the coming months.

We have locked in dates for our catchment tour for National Waterbug Blitz. We will get these dates out shortly for volunteers to pop in their calendars. We are once again lucky enough to have John Gooderham (The Waterbug Co.) come across from Tasmania to facilitate these sessions. Attendees will be trained using the Agreed Level Taxonomy (ALT) method and be graded for the accreditation program.



Our latest Citizen Science program is launching this month. Eight enthusiastic volunteers are coming on-board to help gather important data for the Healthy Coliban Catchment project. The upper Coliban is one of the most important catchments in north central Victoria, but

historical land management practices have resulted in extensive loss of stream bank vegetation, which impacts water quality and river health. The Healthy Coliban Catchment project will improve this with fencing, off-stream stock watering, revegetation and weed control. Our army of volunteers will gather data to demonstrate how restoration works are

transforming the catchment over time.

Cass and I attended the state-wide Waterwatch meeting in Melbourne last month, where a presentation on an interesting little project caught our attention. The Litter Trackers project sees scientists work with schools and community groups to launch GPS tracked plastic bottles into waterways to demonstrate how and where litter travels once it enters our waterways. The project is being piloted around Melbourne, but of course we are keen to get involved and are seeking involvement for deployment in some of our local waterways. Watch this space!

Waterwatch is getting involved in this year's NAIDOC week Children's Day, coordinated by the Bendigo and District Aboriginal Co-operative. We will host a waterbug activity to give some insight in to the fascinating underwater world of mini-beasts. This event is open to children of all ages and with a variety of free activities, is sure to be a hit. [Click here](#) for more info.

Waterwatch volunteers will be notified of annual Quality Assurance Quality Control (QA/QC) events that will be delivered across the catchment during August. These events are an important for volunteers and is one of the best ways to ensure data confidence. Volunteers come together with their water quality testing kits to test pre-prepared mystery samples to ensure consistency and accuracy of our methods and equipment.

A volunteer doing testing





Several new schools have recently joined the River Detectives program with a focus on Bendigo Creek. Welcome aboard Weeroona College, Epsom Primary School and White Hills Primary School!

We now have confirmation of funding for the 2019/20 financial year, so the River Detectives program will continue into the new school year. A big thank you to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning for their ongoing support of this valuable program.

Stay warm!

Britt Gregory, Waterwatch Project Officer

Upcoming events and special days

July	
NAIDOC Week	8 – 15 July
World Population Day	11 July
Schools Tree Day	26 July
National Tree Day	29 July
August	
National Science Week	10-18 August
International Youth Day	12 August
Keep Australia Beautiful	19-25 August
September	
National Wattle Day	1 September
National Waterbug Blitz	Sept, Oct, Nov
National Biodiversity Month	September
National Landcare Week	2-8 September
Threatened Species Day	7 September
Sustainable House Day	16 September
World Car Free Day	22 September



Water storages update

Early winter rain has seen some storage levels increase this month:

Region	Water Storage	% full at 20 May	% full at 24 June
Murray Storages	Dartmouth Dam	63.98	↑ 64.23
	Hume Dam	15.00	↑ 21.60
	Torrumbarry Weir	96.82	↓ 93.72
	Third Lake	96.27	↑ 96.94
	Reedy/Middle Lake	96.28	↓ 91.37
	Kangaroo Lake	96.26	↑ 97.97
	Kow Swamp	83.26	↓ 79.12
	Lake Boga	71.93	↓ 71.36
	Lake Charm	88.15	↑ 90.28
Loddon Storages	Cairn Curran Reservoir	31.85	↑ 33.35
	Tullaroop Reservoir	39.22	↑ 41.49
	Laanecoorie Reservoir	44.88	↓ 25.50
Bullarook Creek Storages	Newlyn Reservoir	31.83	↑ 54.54
	Hepburns Lagoon	26.70	↑ 37.74
Goulburn Storages	Lake Eildon	35.79	↑ 37.46
	Waranga Basin	37.12	↑ 41.42
Campaspe	Lake Eppalock	36.93	↓ 36.04
Coliban Water Storages	Upper Coliban	-	66.70
	Lauriston	-	80.00
	Malmsbury	-	16.50

Sources: www.g-mwater.com.au/water-resources/catchments/storage-levels

www.coliban.com.au/site/root/water_security/reservoirs



Events...

2019 NAIDOC Children's Day



Fun and Friendship - that's the best way to describe 2019 NAIDOC Children's Day. Date: Location: Crusoe College - Olympic Parade, Kangaroo Flat. Come and join in the fun!

When: Wednesday, 10 July 2019

Time: 10am - 3pm

Where: Crusoe College – Olympic Parade, Kangaroo Flat, Victoria, 355

Contact:

Becky Lesser 03 5442 4947 or becky.lesser@bdac.com.au

Miranda Whyte 03 5442 4947 or miranda.whyte@bdac.com.au

Caring for climate

How you can make a difference- Join in a 'Make A Change' event near you.

Format: Expand Your Impact

When: Thursday 8 August, 10am - 4pm

Where: Inglewood Neighbourhood House, 20 Verdon St, Inglewood

REGISTER NOW [HERE](#)

Combatting climate change

Finding the support you need to make your project happen.

Format: Let's Nut it Out

When: Tuesday 17 September, 10:00am - 4:00pm

Where: Raywood Hall, 50-52 Inglewood St, Raywood

REGISTER NOW [HERE](#)



National Carbon Farming Conference and Expo



The National Carbon Farming Conference and Expo will be held on 5-8 August 2019 in Albury NSW.

The theme of this year's National Carbon Farming Conference & Expo is ...IT'S TIME.

Time for farmers to understand how to access the carbon market; time for innovations to come forward; time to stand up and shout "Farmers are the Heroes of Climate Action!"

2019 marks the ninth National Carbon Farming Conference and Expo presented by Carbon Farmers of Australia and is where many lasting connections are being made.

The conference features field trips, a welcome event, carbon farming industry workshop and the National Carbon Cocky Awards gala presentation dinner.

When: 5-8 August 2019

Where: Albury Entertainment Centre 553 Kiewa St Albury

Conference registration prices do not include social functions, workshops or field trip.

Cost: Prices are inclusive of GST.

- Farmer (including family members and employees) | Standard Rate -\$550
- Not-for-profit Organisation | Standard Rate – \$550
- Student | Standard Rate -\$550
- Non-farmer | Standard Rate -\$765

RSVP: Register now via

<https://carbonfarmingconference.com.au/events-at-a-glance/>

SAVE THE DATE



The 2019 Chicks in the Sticks Is planned for Saturday October 26, 2019 in Moonambel. proudly partnering with Project Platypus.

More details to come...

Have you passed on the invitation to the Intrepid Landcare retreat?



Are you from the Mt Alexander / Central VIC regions?

Passionate about the environment?

Intrepid Landcare is heading this way to deliver an epic Youth Leadership Retreat over the weekend of the 9 - 11 August 2019. Jam-packed with good vibes, awesome humans, spectacular nature, cultural connections, outdoor adventure, environmental conservation and leadership development, plus all the goods you need to do stuff that matters in your community.

Applications close July 14. It's free! Apply now: <https://forms.gle/XaJr6aBTdRnvMhFW6>

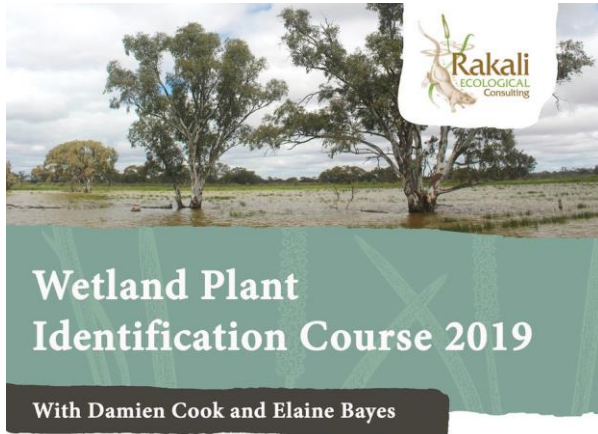


Image by Sandy Scheltema



Courses and Resources...

2019 Wetland Plant Identification Course



For anyone interested in wetland plant identification and ecology.

Observe the changing seasons and water depths of 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.

Course Dates

The course runs over three separate days running from 9.am - 4.30pm:

Day 1: Thursday 31 October 2019
Day 2: Thursday 5 December 2019
Day 3: Wednesday 19 March 2020

Each day is divided into: field trip using the coloured field guide to identify wetland plants and class time for presentations, discussion and practice using oral keys. Lunch, morning and afternoon tea provided.

Cost

- \$800 plus GST (\$880)
- \$600 Student/Landcare plus GST (\$660) (places strictly limited)

Course Location

Treetops, Spencer's Bridge Road (off Cohuna-Koondrook Rd), Cohuna, Victoria

Further information

[Book quick there are only 25 places available.](#)

New SWIFFT website feature for citizen

scientists

The SWIFFT website now has an interactive citizen science capability.

If you're heading to the coast this winter, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) is inviting the community to participate in a citizen science project which supports its Southern Right Whale research program.

DELWP invites you to submit sighting information and photos of Southern Right Whales which is vital for monitoring and protection of this Critically Endangered species.



Uploads by citizen scientists provide a really meaningful contribution to the Southern Right Whale research program to help better support their recovery.

[Visit the webpage now](#)

NatureBlitz -download now

NatureBlitz enables individuals, community groups, students and industry partners to record important biological information. The free app is specifically designed to capture citizen science data regarding aquatic fauna from waterways in north central Victoria including urban, rural and natural reserves.

