



North Central chat

MARCH 2019

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

A message from the Regional Landcare Coordinator

Hi everyone,

A very warm welcome to autumn, a wonderful time of year. Although the high temperatures of late February make the lives of our famers and growers more challenging, as they look for some moisture in anticipation of autumn crop sowing including cereals and oilseeds.

The Bureau's ENSO Outlook is currently at El Niño WATCH, meaning there is a 50% chance of El Niño developing from autumn; double the normal chance. While southern Australia shows little shift towards wetter or drier conditions, the past two to three decades have seen a decline in autumn rainfall. You can track the autumn scenarios via the [monthly and seasonal outlooks](#).

Over the past month, the North Central Landcare Network Facilitators have met in Bendigo, joined by representatives from the Dhelkunya Dja Land Management Board, Parks Victoria and Djandak. The discussion was centred around the [Dia Dia Wurrung Parks](#) and Landcare's involvement in the ongoing involvement of jointly managed landscapes. We are so grateful to have had such a rich and empowering session which strengthened the knowledge and partnerships between Landcare and Dja Dja Wurrung Traditional Owners.

Looking ahead, I am planning the 'Northern Rivers Round-up' Landcare Facilitator Training event in Moama, and also taking suggestions from local groups and networks around training you wish to see delivered across our catchment. A 'Training Needs' survey will soon be circulated by the DELWP Landcare Team. Data from the survey will also inform me about groups common needs. I encourage all groups to complete this survey when it arrives in your inbox.

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In the coming months, the CMA's Victorian Landcare Grants will be open for applications. Groups are advised to begin to discussions and plan for projects, gain necessary public and/ or private land owner consent and consider the seasonal outlook. Volunteer follow up efforts should be considered if undertaking revegetation as part of your activity as the past spring's dry conditions disrupted several of the currently funded revegetation projects.

Enjoy the read,

Tess Grieves

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News...

Welcome to FarmHub

FarmHub connects Australian farmers with services and support during tough times, such as drought.

FarmHub has been developed by the National Farmers' Federation using funding from the Australian Government and in partnership with numerous government and non-profit agencies to provide support to farmers.

FarmHub aims to provide farmers with a single portal through which they can access information about assistance and advice to manage hardship, with an initial focus on drought.

More information can be found at <https://farmhub.org.au/>

Commissioner appointments for the Victorian Environmental Water Holder 2019

Are you passionate about the environmental health of our rivers and wetlands?

Would you like to apply your skills in environmental management, economics, water or public administration to making a difference to the environment?

The Victorian Government is seeking suitably skilled candidates to contribute their experience and knowledge to improving the environmental health of rivers, wetlands and floodplains by registering an expression of interest for a Commissioner role with the Victorian Environmental Water Holder (VEWH).

All applicants must be Victorian residents, and at least one of the positions must be filled by a person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent who is living in Victoria. Applicants are required to have knowledge of, or experience in, one or more of the following fields:

- environmental management;
- sustainable water management;
- economics;
- public administration

Applicants are required to apply online via the [Get on Board](#) website. Applications close Monday, 4 March 2019.

Got gorse?... We've got a goat for that!

Article by Friends of Cornish Hill President Margie Thomas



Interesting things have been happening on Cornish Hill as the Friends explore different ways of eradicating weeds and reducing the use of herbicides.

In collaboration with the Cornish Hill Committee of Management and thanks to neighbour Vasko Drogriski, eight gorgeous goats are devouring their way through broom, blackberry, willow and other woody weeds. And just around the corner, Friends member Ivan "The Brushcutter" has been wielding the mighty brushcutter to remove the infestations of blackberries along the creek. At the other end of the Reserve, at the picnic area, Steam Weeds owner/operator Kieran Foley has been using high pressure steam on the weeds growing through the gravel near the Interpretation sign. Whilst the steam weeding has its limitations, it is still highly appropriate for the picnic area and we are keen to try this method as an alternative to spraying.

Removal of flowering gorse heads and cutting and painting willow suckers has also been undertaken by Friend member Anthony together with a team from Conservation Volunteers Australia. The group remains committed to weed control in the Cornish Hill area through conventional and emerging methods to reduce the overall reliance on herbicides.

Big thanks to everyone who has taken part in this exercise. We can't do this sort of thing without the help of our volunteers, Conservation volunteers, Kieran Foley and Vasko Drogriski.

Cornish Hill is located along Smiths Creek in Daylesford. For more information on the work undertaken by the Friends of Cornish Hill, visit <http://www.cornishhilldaylesford.com.au/friends-of-cornish-hill/> or follow the group on [Facebook](#).



Cornish Hill, Daylesford



'This Farm needs a Farmer' field day success

On Sunday 24 February, I was thrilled to host a CMA and Landcare stall at the second annual Field Day in Kyneton.



John Robinson and I were flying the Landcare flag and discussing all things land management in Kyneton.

The event saw pre-registrations double on the previous year, with more than 500 people through the gates on the day.

Thankfully I had John Robinson from the Upper Deep Creek Landcare Network on hand to help out, alongside Macedon Ranges Shire Council Officer Beau Kent.

Between the three of us we fielded a huge range of questions from hundreds of people walking through the gates, but the number one issue on people's minds was weeds. People were really interested in how they could learn more by being a part of their local Landcare group, attending community events and learning from others experience- everything Landcare is about.

The annual field day, created by tree changer Melissa Connors, is designed for newer residents who have taken on a rural property and might be in need of some guidance and inspiration from those around them. People enjoyed wood cutting and sheep shearing demos, roving farmers personal stories, as well as access to exhibitors from agri-business, community organisations and local producers to gain a hands-on understanding of life on the land.

We had a tough gig being placed next to the Kyneton CWA stall for the day, but we managed...cake in hand!



The Taungurung Clans Aboriginal Corporation (TCAC) have rebranded to Taungurung Land and Waters Aboriginal Council (TLWC).

The new name closely reflects the fact that the organisation exists to represent the rights and interests that the Taungurung people have as the Traditional Owners of the land area described in the Recognition and Settlement Agreement (RSA) with the State of Victoria.

Taungurung Land and Waters Aboriginal Council hold decision-making responsibilities for protecting Aboriginal cultural heritage in a specified geographical area. In our CMA region this includes the area of the eastern side of the Campaspe River around townships such as Heathcote, Kyneton and Elmore.

[Visit the website](#) for lots of information, RAP maps and wonderful cultural information, language and creation stories.

Living Heritage Program- Round 4

The Living Heritage Program was launched in 2016 and provides \$38.5 million over four years to safeguard and reactivate Victoria's key heritage resources.

The program includes \$8.5 million for a competitive community heritage grants program targeting at risk state-listed heritage places. The program aims to enable owners and managers to undertake necessary conservation works to address the needs of their heritage place or object, and in doing so, support the ongoing and sustainable use of our most significant heritage assets.

The fourth round for the Living Heritage Grants Program competitive community heritage grants program opens on **Monday 4 March 2019** and closes on **Friday 10 May 2019** at 5pm.

Program guidelines and eligibility criteria are available via:

<https://www.heritage.vic.gov.au/grants/living-heritage-program>



Hello everyone,

It feels like it's been a particularly long hot summer, I hope you are all enjoying the cooler nights with the arrival of autumn.

We'll be catching up with most volunteers either individually or in small groups throughout March to complete some quality control by undertaking shadow testing (we test water quality alongside you and then compare our results). This ensures the equipment is working as it should, and that we're all collecting data in the same way. Testing helps provide confidence in the data quality ensuring the data is put to good use.

If you're in the Bendigo area, you might be interested to learn more about the City of Greater Bendigo's Reimagining Bendigo Creek Project. Our very own Bendigo Creek Citizen Science Program will contribute important water quality information. The community is invited to share their thoughts on values, issues and opportunities. [Click here](#) to find out more about this exciting project.

We were recently lucky enough to have aquatic ecologists and expert water quality gurus David Tiller and Peter Newall join us for an in-depth look at our Waterwatch database. The day was designed to increase monitor's familiarity with the portal and included sessions on website features, data entry, interpretation and analysis. We hope all those who came along have a much better understanding and confidence in using the portal and the data – we sure do!

Britt Gregory

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Are you a ResourceSmart School?

Entries are now open for the ResourceSmart Schools Awards

For more info and to enter [CLICK HERE](#)

Upcoming events and special days

Avoca River Bus Tour – Late March

Waterwatch volunteers will soon receive an invite to a one-day tour of the Avoca River, stopping at several sites for presentations and discussion.

This will be a great opportunity to get together with others in the Waterwatch network and learn more about the catchment. Transport and catering will be provided. Watch this space!

March

- Clean Up Australia Day 3 March
- World Wildlife Day 3 March
- National Ground Water Awareness Week 11-17 March
- International Day of Forests 21 March
- Earth Hour 30 March
- World Water Day 22 March
- Broad-shelled turtle breeding season March - May (after rain)

April

- World Heritage Day 18 April
- Earth Day 22 April



Water storages update

With continued limited in-flows, most storage levels continue to decrease:

Region	Water Storage	% full at 15 Jan 2019	% full at 20 Feb 2019
Murray Storages	Torrumbarry Weir	100.02	100.02
	Third Lake	101.51	↓ 100.71
	Reedy/Middle Lake	98.37	↓ 96.08
	Kangaroo Lake	93.66	↑ 96.23
	Kow Swamp	82.12	↑ 89.64
	Lake Boga	91.60	↓ 85.87
	Lake Charm	88.14	↑ 91.93
Campaspe	Lake Eppalock	47.73	↓ 43.64
Loddon Storages	Cairn Curran Reservoir	41.07	↓ 37.64
	Tullaroop Reservoir	47.31	↓ 43.76
	Laanecoorie Reservoir	37.63	↓ 36.63
Bullarook Creek Storages	Newlyn Reservoir	70.96	↓ 50.62
	Hepburns Lagoon	56.29	↓ 41.92

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

River Detectives update

The new school year has commenced, and our 17 River Detectives schools will soon be receiving their water quality testing kits to make a start on monitoring local streams.

Teacher training will be rolled out during March-keep an eye out for a registration email coming out very soon.

We have a lot of extra work going on at the moment, so are planning to put someone on in a short-term capacity to help us rollout these introductory training sessions for educators this year.

As previously mentioned, the Bendigo Creek Citizen Science Program is now up and running. We are hoping to engage with schools located nearby the Bendigo Creek and to work with teachers and students to improve their knowledge, awareness and skills in waterway and catchment health.

If you are or know of any parents, teachers, helpers or students in one of the schools along the Bendigo Creek corridor, please get in contact via RiverDetectives@nccma.vic.gov.au

Events...



Wetlands of the West event

Are you interested in wetland restoration on your property?

Want to learn more about current conservation efforts across the Wimmera Mallee area?

Join us for an engaging event celebrating the landscapes of the Wimmera Mallee wetlands and hear from those caring for and enhancing the natural environment.

The event agenda includes a Welcome to Country, keynote presentations from Deanne Marshall-Trust for Nature, Jeroen van Veen- Bush Heritage, and Sue Pretty- South East Mallee Landcare Facilitator followed by a bus trip to Davis farm. Bring along suitable walking shoes, a hat and drink bottle.

When: Wednesday 20 March

Where: Birchip Cropping Group Conference

Centre, 73 Cumming Ave, Birchip VIC 3483

RSVP: Please note attendance and any dietary requirements by Friday 8 March via email: info@nccma.vic.gov.au or phone (03) 5448 7124

Soils masterclasses and workshop: Dig deeper into Regenerative Ag

Vic No-Till is thrilled to bring Nicole Masters to Victoria for a series of Soils Workshops and Soils Masterclasses in March 2019.

Shepparton Soils Masterclass <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuesday and Wednesday March 12 and 13 9.30am-4.30pm DEDJTR Tatura Centre <p>Supported by Goulburn Murray Landcare and Goulburn Broken CMA.</p>	<p>VNT Members \$110</p> <p>Non-Members \$220</p>
Lockington Soils Workshop <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Friday March 15 9.30am-4.30pm Pine Grove CFA Shed <p>Supported by North Central CMA</p>	<p>VNT Members \$66</p> <p>Non-Members \$132</p>
Horsham Soils Masterclass <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday and Tuesday, March 18 and 19 9.30am-4.30pm Horsham Angling Club <p>Supported by Wimmera CMA</p>	<p>VNT Members \$110</p> <p>Non-Members \$220</p>

Lunch, morning and afternoon tea provided, and all prices include GST.

Due to the limited places in these sessions, bookings are limited to one participant per farming business. If others from the same farming business would like to attend they will go on a waiting list. Find more details on Nicole and the Masterclasses at: <https://www.vicnotill.com.au/events/event/soils-masterclasses-workshop-dig-deeper-into-regenerative-ag/>

PLACES ARE LIMITED. Contact Penny to register on 0402 216 267 or penny@vicnotill.com.au



Join the Upper Campaspe Landcare Network for a soil management workshop led by soil scientists Christian Bannan from South East Soil and Water, and Melissa Cann and Martin Hamilton from Agriculture Victoria.

Gain from their wealth of knowledge and have your questions answered regarding how to assess and improve your soil (best for those who have a basic understanding of their soil types).

When: Thursday 21 March, 10.00am-2.00pm

Where: Olive plantation 53 Pickerings Lane, Edgecombe

RSVP: essential by 18 March. [Click here](#) to book or email environment@mrsc.vic.gov.au

Victorian Weeds Conference 2019



The Weed Society of Victoria is hosting the Victorian Weeds Conference at Echuca on 7 – 8 May 2019.

Expressions of interest are now being sought for presentations and posters from all groups including government, research, universities, community and private companies.

The conference program will include invited speakers and cover topics covering environmental and agricultural weeds including (but not limited to) biological control, community projects, species in the spotlight, innovative solutions and demonstrations.

If you are interested in submitting an expression of interest for a presentation or poster, please

email admin@wsvic.gov.au for a copy of the template by 15 March 2019.

When: 7 and 8 May 2019

Where: Mecure Port of Echuca, Echuca, VIC

RSVP: Cost and agenda are available via the registration page:

<https://www.wsvic.org.au/events/>

Landcare Victoria Inc. (LVI) Biannual Forum

The next LVI Forum will be hosted In the Wimmera CMA region at the Grampians.

Learning between landholders has always been a true strength of Landcare. In this forum we investigate what we can learn from our Traditional Owners. We look at what farmers are doing to ensure productivity and sustainability.

Learning builds knowledge, sharing builds connections and together we build a resilient community.

When: 29 - 31 March 2019

Where: Norval Lodge and House, Halls Gap.

RSVP: For program details and to register go to - <https://www.landcarevic.org.au/groups/state/lvi/landcare-victoria-inc-biannual-forum-29-31-march-2019/>

Courses and Resources...

Riparian land website revamp



Who's responsible for riparian land? How is riparian land managed?

Sound familiar?

DELWP is pleased to advise that the riparian land website has been updated and contains clearly presented information on responsibilities,

management, technical information and the Regional Riparian Action Plan.

Visit <https://www.water.vic.gov.au/waterways-and-catchments/riparian-land> for information.

New Landcare stories booklet available

Connecting Country Landcare facilitator, Asha Bannon advised the 2018 Midland Express newspaper series of 'Landcare stories', published each month as part of Connecting Country's 'Nature News' series is now available to read in electronic format (as pdf file), or as a printed booklet.

This is a fantastic way to promote the variety of Landcare activity taking place locally and provides a snapshot in time of the projects and people of Landcare.

[Click here](#) to download the file or drop in to the Connecting Country office for a hard copy. Asha acknowledges the Midland Express, Sarah Edwards and Landcare volunteers who dedicated their time to put these stories together.



Floodplain Ecology Course - celebrating 10 years!

Goulburn Murray Landcare are again hosting the Floodplain Ecology course in Barmah, 14 - 18 October 2019

The purpose of the Floodplain Ecology course is to promote awareness and greater understanding of these complex ecosystems in a drying climate. Their ecological importance and values, the intimate connection of floodplains with the health of their parent rivers and how, in a volatile political setting, consideration of floodplains is important to the long-term sustainable use of our waterways.

Registrations are now open for the five day course commencing on Monday morning 14 October and concluding Friday lunchtime, 18 October 2019.

The course fee for 2019 is \$1600 (plus GST) which includes accommodation, meals, transport during the course, instruction, and course notes.

For presenters, topics and course instructor details, contact Goulburn Murray Landcare Network via <https://gmln.com.au/> or e-mail: info@gmln.com.au.

Funding opportunities....



Got a project that needs funding? Let Fund Landcare help

Learn how to raise funds for your Landcare group with Fund Landcare.

Landcare Australia has created a webinar demonstrating how easy it is to use the Fund Landcare platform to raise the money you need to make your projects happen.

Watch the webinar here <https://bit.ly/2WRvtHg>

For more info visit: <http://fundlandcare.org.au/>

Community Climate Change (3CA) Grants

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) is delivering a small grants program to build resilience to climate change impacts through community-driven adaptation activities that address identified gaps and priorities in Victoria's regions.

The Community Climate Change Grants Program is now open. Grants from \$25,000 to \$75,000 are available and applications must be submitted by Sunday 31 March 2019.

The Community Climate Change program will support projects that:

- identify and support practical projects focused on adaptation activities with clear community benefit;
- foster partnerships between communities, local governments and regional stakeholders on adaptation; and
- generate and share lessons on good practice approaches to community adaptation.

Two categories of projects will be funded:

Building Adaptive Capacity: these projects will build the capacity of communities or regions to better plan for, coordinate and deliver actions that support communities to adapt to current or future

climate change impacts.

Delivering Adaptation Action: delivering adaptation action projects will implement practical actions that support communities and regions to adapt to current or future climate change impacts.

More information on the grant program can be found [here](#).



The VFA Small Grants Program is continuously open for applications, year-round, subject to the allocation of available funds for any given period.

The Small Grants Program is not reliant on any matching cash contribution for an application to be successful.

An 'easy-to-complete' grant application form has been developed, visit the [Recreation Fishing Grants program website](#) for guidelines and application forms.



Strengthening Rural Communities – Small & Vital, is now accepting applications.

FRRR is managing the Small and Vital Grants Program which could go toward building community resilience; education and learning; culture; or the arts; improving community health and wellbeing; strengthening the local economy; making local organisations stronger and more sustainable; or improving environmental sustainability.

SRC - Small & Vital is a rolling grants program, which means that applications will be accepted at any time. Visit the FRR website for timelines and guidelines on this grant round:

https://www.frrr.org.au/SRC_Small_Vital.php