

# North Central Chat

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



## A message from the Regional Landcare Coordinator

Hi everyone,

I have been so pleased to be involved in local Landcare events over the past month. In partnership with Barkers Creek Landcare and Wildlife Group, Connecting Country and Agriculture Victoria, we hosted a 'Rabbit Buster' event on Sunday 16 February. The landholders kindly allowed more than 55 people onto their property. We spent the morning hearing from the Ag Vic Biosecurity Team, followed by contractor Jarrod Coote demonstrating rabbit management techniques and sharing 20 years of his practical experience managing rabbits.

The Landcare group has had success using specially designed [bait stations](#) as part of their integrated control program. Each participant in attendance at the event was gifted a bait station. The next six weeks is a critical period to undertake rabbit control as a community, so we look forward to the impact in the local area.

Campaspe Shire and Mount Alexander region Landcare support staff have been busy organising their get-togethers with member groups showcasing the diversity Landcare activities. I am biased but Connecting Country's Landcare link-up was a highlight for me this month, as it featured some of the amazing Intrepid Landcare crew. The crew remains connected through social media and since our retreat in August 2019, have immersed themselves in climate change leadership, weed control and environmental education programs.

At a regional scale, North Central CMA has begun consultation around the Regional Catchment Strategy renewal through our Regional Roundtable events. We're asking you to book your seat at the table and tell us what you value and where we should focus our efforts on land, water and biodiversity management. See page 12 for the event details.

At a state scale, the Victorian Landcare Team met for two days on February 20 & 21 to discuss the future of the Victorian Landcare Program (VLP), which includes



55 Landcarers enjoyed a practical rabbit management how-to session with Jarrod Coote at Barkers Creek Landcare Group's 'Rabbit Buster' event

Regional Landcare Coordinators, Local Landcare Facilitators, Victorian Landcare Grants, Landcare Gateway and the support team within DELWP. More detail on the VLP will be available in the new financial year.

For the coming month, we are excited to be hosting a stall at the Bendigo Sustainability Festival on March 28 with a focus on soil health, Landcare, citizen science, Waterwatch and regenerative agriculture.

Finally, we are thrilled to now have a full team of local Landcare Facilitators working across the catchment, with the recent appointments of Andrew Borg (*Buloke Northern Grampians Landcare Network*), Rebekah Ritchie (*Upper Campaspe Landcare Network*) and Ted Ryan (*Murray Mallee Landcare Network*), so be sure to touch base with your local facilitator to discuss projects, group support and planning local Landcare action.

Enjoy the read,

Tess Grievs

Regional Landcare Coordinator  
North Central CMA

Phone: 03 5448 7124

Email: [tess.grievs@nccma.vic.gov.au](mailto:tess.grievs@nccma.vic.gov.au)

## News...

### Loddon Plains Landcare Network extends its activities across oceans

**Loddon Plains Landcare Network's Landcare Facilitator, Danny Pettingill has been a key driver of a program to take beekeeping and land management skills to Samoa.**

This program, a version having been delivered in 2018, will once again be developed as a series of training and education workshops to be rolled out in Samoa in April 2020.



Danny Pettingill conducting a workshop at WIBDI HQ in 2018

The program, funded by a consortium of the Crawford Fund, Loddon Plains Landcare Network and Bendigo Rotary will enable Danny and another beekeeper from the north central region of Victoria to travel to Samoa. The program has been designed to provide and share skills in beekeeping to help with the establishment and development of small-scale apiaries in village communities, particularly for women in Samoa.

The program, in context of a mixed enterprise business model with apiary as a focus, will deliver key workshops in small to large-scale beekeeping and cover project design, creating sustainable small-scale agriculture operations, environment and NRM training, understanding the value and conservation of local

pollinating species such as invertebrates, birds etc. and promoting the value in conservation and biosecurity.

An exchange will take place in 2020 in which selected leaders within the group of Samoan participants will have an opportunity to come to Australia in September 2020. These participants will spend time with the Loddon Plains Landcare Network, Bendigo Rotary and Apiarists in the North Central area with the assistance of the VAA Bendigo branch. The visit will form a crucial opportunity to understand and experience local small-scale agriculture and food production, and extend their skills in flora, land management, agriculture principles and apiary skills before taking this knowledge back to Samoa.

The program will also cover flora identification and understanding pollen and nectar sources and the importance of pollination to small to medium agriculture and food production and how these elements dovetail into a small mixed farming operation.

Successful delivery of this program will provide participants with a sound understanding of the operations and planning involved in small to medium scale apiary operations and provide participants with confidence to undertake or develop their own operations.

The program will aim to reinforce learning and training with a follow up visit of Australian trainers in early 2021.

Details of previous workshops can be found at the following links;

<https://www.samoaoobserver.ws/category/article/8849>

For further information please contact Loddon Plains Landcare Network [facilitator@lpln.org](mailto:facilitator@lpln.org) or 0490 412 430



## World Wildlife Day - 3 March 2020!

**This year's World Wildlife Day theme, "Sustaining all life on Earth", encompasses all wild animal and plant species as key components of the world's biodiversity.**

World Wildlife Day 2020 is a celebration of the special place of wild plants and animals in their many varied and beautiful forms as a component of the world's biological diversity.

It is also an opportunity to raise awareness of the multitude of benefits wildlife provides to people and communities and to continue the conversation about the

threats they are facing and the urgent need for governments, civil society, private sector actors and individuals to add their voices and take actions to help conserve wildlife to ensure its future.

To register your World Wildlife Day event on the world map and download promotional material go to - <https://www.wildlifeday.org/>

## Cascade Connections - Landcare Facilitators event

**North Central, Goulburn Broken and Corangamite CMAs are partnering to create an engaging peer-support event for Landcare Facilitators.**

The event, to be held May 4 & 5 in Creswick, will support the current Landcare Network Facilitators in our three regions. The event model combines formal training topics, peer-to-peer presentations, and a networking dinner. We will report back on the events outcomes in the June edition of the Chat.

## Victorian Landcare Team update

**The Victorian Landcare Team made up of 10 Regional Landcare Coordinators and DELWP's Victorian Landcare Program staff met for two days on February 19 and 20.**

The meeting focused on the future of the Victorian Landcare Program, the achievements of the 2018-19 program year and updating the team's workplan. The two days also enabled the team to discuss funding to train and support Landcare Facilitators, environmental volunteers and to create stronger partnerships between Landcare and Traditional Owners.

The productive sessions created a clear focus and set goals for our collective team working toward June 30 while ensuring the voice of grassroots Landcare was heard by the Victorian Landcare Program team.

## Nardoo Hills 'Climate-Ready' Revegetation project

**Guidance for Bush Heritage Australia (BHA)** The project will provide direction to BHA on future revegetation options at Nardoo and a model for similar revegetation projects (in the face of climate change) elsewhere in Australia. The project will create opportunities for scientists, researchers and enterprises to participate and/or track the outcomes from this major research trial.

Traditional revegetation programs use locally sourced seed based on the expectation they are the most suited

to the local environment. This approach is now considered high risk due to the changing climate (Breed et al., 2013). Bush Heritage seeks to build climate adaptation options for its reserves.



You can read more about the projects design, layout, seed sourcing and ground preparation via: <https://www.bushheritage.org.au/projects/nardoo-climate-ready-revegetation>.

If you would like to keep updated via the project updates newsletter contact: [garry.mcdonald@bushheritage.org.au](mailto:garry.mcdonald@bushheritage.org.au);

## Holistic Management Community of Practice

**A group of holistic management farmers that I support as a community of practice recently got together at Sam White's property 'Sidonia Beef Naturally' located at Sidonia.**

The group invited farmers who have just completed an eight-day holistic management course based at Kyneton to Sam's property. These farmers are new to holistic management and are on a steep learning curve to implement the new practices and management systems learnt during the course. This is where a mentor group is valuable in assisting farmers to transition from their previous practices and management systems to newly learnt ones.

To start the day Sam provided an overview of his farming operation, which produces beef cattle. Sam's number one goal is maintaining 100 per cent ground cover 100% of the time - a big factor in being resilient to climate change and also providing protection to the soil from wind and water erosion. To achieve this goal Sam made the decision to sell most of his cattle last year, he is currently rebuilding his herd and has 250 head of cattle. It was a difficult decision, but with the continued dry

conditions last year he was very happy with how quickly his pasture responded when it did rain. He also has 100 head of cattle on agistment from drought and fire affected NSW.

The group toured Sam's property looking at a 120-day recovery paddock, with many questions and discussions throughout the day including how well the perennials grasses were doing, the amount of cover protecting the soil and the number of new germinating pasture plants. During these discussions many of the holistic management farmers commented on the resilience of their farms and how well their properties looked during these dry times.



Holistic management farmers Sam White and Ed Oram

This group of farmers are passionate about their farming and how they manage their soil and are excited to be able to share their knowledge and skills with other farmers. The group continues to provide support and are arranging other opportunities for the groups to meet and share their experiences and learning.

## Stories being sought for Landcare magazine Winter 2020 Issue

Stories are being sought for the Winter 2020 (issue #78) issue of the Victorian Landcare and

## Catchment Management magazine, which is a feature on Landcare and emergency recovery.

Stories for this issue of the Landcare magazine are sought on how Landcare groups and networks have planned for and responded to environmental and social emergencies in their communities. This includes the role that Landcare has played in supporting and enabling local communities and landowners to respond to, recover from, and plan for emergencies such as bushfires, droughts, floods, and to also mitigate and adapt to the impact of climate change. We recognise that crisis has long-term impacts and articles that reflect on emergencies in the past are welcome.

Readers of the Landcare magazine are keen to learn about the successes of different approaches and projects, as well as what hasn't worked, and the insights and reflections of your group or network along the way.

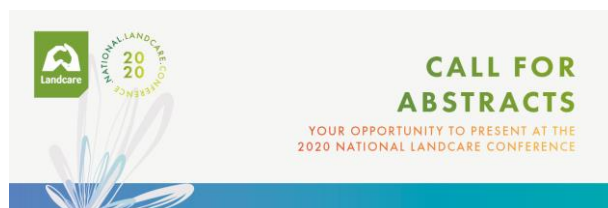
### Contribution deadline

Contributions for the Winter 2020 issue need to be sent to the editor **by Friday 27 March 2020**.

The Landcare magazine fills up with stories very quickly so please get in touch with the editor (Carrie Tiffany) well before the contribution deadline.

### Where to send contributions:

Carrie Tiffany Editor - Victorian Landcare and Catchment Management magazine. Email: [editorviclandcare@gmail.com](mailto:editorviclandcare@gmail.com)



## On behalf of the Landcare community, Landcare Australia is pleased to call for the submission of abstracts for the 2020 National Landcare Conference.

The bi-annual event will be held from 11 to 13 November 2020, at the International Convention Centre in Sydney.

Landcare Australia is seeking presentations for the concurrent sessions that demonstrate the Landcare ethos for the following streams:

- **Sustainable Agriculture:** Innovation and technology, soil health, adaptation to climate change, integrating productivity and conservation.

- **Environment and Climate Change:** How to encourage individuals to take positive action to mitigate climate change with Landcare.
- **Community Partnerships in Action:** Building community capacity and resilience, communication and storytelling, volunteering, partnerships, building and sharing knowledge
- **Landcare Impact:** Landscape, biodiversity, community resilience, mental and physical health of individuals, community wellbeing, agriculture productivity, economy.

The guidelines for submission along with the stream definitions can be [read here](#).

All abstracts are to be submitted electronically in accordance with the guidelines and should be submitted by **Wednesday 8 April, 2020**. Authors may submit more than one paper, but the program is limited, and your submission(s) may not be included.

## Healthy waterways and catchment progress snapshot

**The Victorian Government has invested \$222 million over four years to improve the health of our waterways and catchments – Victoria's largest ever investment. We are three years into delivering the investment as we work to protect the rivers and landscapes that people love and use.**

North Central CMA's project activities feature in all sections of the report, which is well worth a read.

Visit: <https://www.water.vic.gov.au/water-for-victoria/progress-report-waterway-and-catchment-health>

## Landcare to receive proceeds from 'Songs for Australia' charitable album

**There is an album coming out next month from Julia Stone (as in Angus and Julia Stone) called 'Songs for Australia', with proceeds donated to Landcare Australia (amongst other charities).**

'Songs for Australia' will be digitally released Thursday March 5 through BMG. The album will be released on vinyl and CD in June.



There may be opportunities for site visits as part of the national tour. The Victorian Landcare Team will keep you posted as they receive more info from Landcare Australia.



## Recording of Inside the Bureau's new climate guides project webinar

**In this webinar, Luke Shelley (BoM) discusses how the regional climate guides help farmers understand and manage climate risk.**

The climate guides provide regionally focused climate and weather summaries that detail historical observations and trends using information from local Bureau of Meteorology weather stations.

To view the 60 minute recording, [click here](#) and use the Password: Climateguides

## Climate Future Plots- Greening Australia Guide

**I was fortunate enough to attend a recent workshop hosted by Greening Australia, that provided knowledge about revegetation under a changing climate, including working out what your future climate will look like, and how to select the appropriate species and provenances to plant.**

If you're planning a future revegetation project this resource is well worth a read . Download a copy of the guide via: <https://www.greeningaustralia.org.au/climate-future-plots/>

## Drought Employment Program – workers wanted

Are you an irrigated dairy, cropping, or horticulture farmer or farm worker impacted by drought? Do you live in the Loddon, Campaspe or Gannawarra shires or the Rural City of Swan Hill? Are you interested in off-farm work? Then consider applying for the North Central CMA's Drought Employment Program.

Working part or full-time, a minimum of two days per week for no less than two months, you will be paid \$30 per hour (plus super) to work on environmental public good projects such as weed eradication, fencing, revegetation, or infrastructure maintenance in the Goulburn Murray Irrigation District (GMID).

The Program will operate up to June 2020, pending funding availability.

For more information visit [www.bit.ly/GBCMADEP2020](http://www.bit.ly/GBCMADEP2020) or contact Jodi or Kristy at Chandler MacLeod on 03 5825 6000.



## 10 years of Waterwatch-ing!!

Wow, can you believe I've been hanging out with you all for more than 10 years now! What an amazing journey it's been. I feel so privileged to work alongside you to monitor the health of our region's waterways. Your passion and commitment to the environment and protection of our waterways is commended!

Over my time, I've had some wonderful, challenging, learning and fun times. Some of my best memories are from visiting you at your sites and listening to your stories! I'm proud that I was part of the 20 and 25 years of Waterwatch celebrations and was by your side as you celebrated your own individual milestone achievements in volunteering, I can't believe some of you have clocked up 20 and 25 years of Waterwatch-ing!

Thank you for being a welcoming community and for sharing your stories! Many of you are like family and I love that we all hug each other when we catch up!

February feels like it slipped through the cracks for me. The team has been busy planning for the year ahead

including hosting evaluation workshops, planning events and programs and attending the statewide Waterwatch meeting.

In March, we will be hosting Professional Development workshops for our River Detective schools, attending Bendigo Sustainability Festival and the Climate Change event in partnership with Barapa Land and Water.

We are also excited, that Aunty Marilyn Nicholls, Nicole Howie and Rohan Potter are still a part of our team for the coming months.

Cass Davis  
Regional Waterwatch Coordinator  
North Central CMA  
Phone: 03 5448 7124  
Email: [cass.davis@nccma.vic.gov.au](mailto:cass.davis@nccma.vic.gov.au)

## Reimagining Bendigo Creek: Have your say

**This Plan presents vision and plan for creating a healthier, more inclusive, more connected and more beautiful Creek that we all respect and value.**

I am still working with the City of Greater Bendigo on the Reimagining Bendigo Creek project; the plan is currently out for public comment and we would love your feedback. The Plan can be viewed here:

[www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/bendigocreek](http://www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/bendigocreek)



## Statewide Pilot River Detectives Achievements Report 2017 - 20

**Our River Detectives program supports our younger generation to become actively involved in caring for our precious waterways. Today's young people are tomorrow's environmental stewards.**

The River Detectives program provides access to professional learning opportunities for educators and volunteers, water science and macroinvertebrate monitoring kits, and an online platform for classroom resources and data capture



The pilot was a huge success, engaging more than 200 schools and groups and more than 5,000 students in the program. This multi-regional approach makes for consistent messaging across the state and it is a great way to foster collaboration of ideas between agencies and provides a broad network of support for all involved.

River Detectives educators actively involve students to observe, test and learn about their catchment and waterway health.

***"I will use my newly acquired knowledge to teach kids about waterway health and why it is important to look after the environment"***

Over the past four years, River Detectives program has achieved:

**5,967 students connected with their local waterway**

**360 educators trained to monitor the health of our waterways**

**70 Professional Development Training Workshops**

**221 schools and groups participating in the program**

**8 publications developed**

**5 project partnerships created**

**458 students participated in Virtual Learning Workshops**

### Seeking Citizen Scientists!

We are still looking for volunteers to help us monitor the health of our region's waterways in the following areas:

- Gunbower Creek, Gunbower to Cohuna
- Birches Creek, near Clunes.

Many waterways across our region have been monitored for water quality over the past two decades. Hundreds of volunteers have been supported as citizen scientists to collect important ecological information and have helped us create snapshot reports of waterway health.

Understanding and reporting on the condition of our waterways helps guide waterway management decisions and demonstrates management outcomes.

We'll help you develop the knowledge and skills required to collect valuable information on the ecological condition of waterways in our region. Volunteers borrow a water testing kit and receive ongoing training and support - anyone can do it, no experience necessary!

If you are passionate about contributing to waterway health and can commit around 15 minutes a month to monitor a site, please get in touch with Britt on (03) 5440 1843 or [britt.gregory@nccma.vic.gov.au](mailto:britt.gregory@nccma.vic.gov.au)



Applications are now closed for the 2020 River Detectives program, if you would like to find out more, please contact the North Central CMA on 5448 7124.

**Upcoming events and special days**

March	
<u>Clean Up Australia Day</u>	1 March
<u>World Wildlife Day</u>	3 March
<u>World Parks Week</u>	7-15 March
<u>International Women's Day</u>	8 March
<u>National Ground Water Awareness Week</u>	8-14 March
<u>International Day of Forests</u>	21 March
<u>Harmony Day</u>	21 March
<u>World Water Day</u>	22 March
<u>World Meteorological Day</u>	23 March
<u>Earth Hour</u>	28 March
April	
<u>World Heritage Day</u>	18 April
<u>Earth Day</u>	22 April
Anzac Day	25 April
May	
<u>International Composting Awareness Week</u>	3 – 9 May
<u>OZ Water</u>	5 – 7 May
<u>World Migratory Bird Day</u>	9 May
<u>National Volunteer Week</u>	18 – 24 May
<u>International Day for Biological Diversity</u>	22 May
<u>World Turtle Day</u>	23 May
<u>National Sorry Day</u>	26 May
<u>National Reconciliation Week</u>	27 – 3 June

**Water storages update**

Region	Water Storage	% full at 23 Jan	% full at 25 Feb
Murray Storages	Dartmouth Dam	↓50.02	↓46.79
	Hume Dam	↓20.85	↓17.11
	Torrumbarry Weir	100.02	100.02
	Third Lake	↓55.65	↑64.90
	Reedy/Middle Lake	↑97.97	↓96.81
	Kangaroo Lake	↑93.51	↑95.99
	Kow Swamp	↑89.38	↓87.02
	Lake Boga	↓74.74	↓69.52
	Lake Charm	↑92.39	↑94.69
Loddon Storages	Cairn Curran Reservoir	↓43.17	↓40.87
	Tullaroop Reservoir	↓71.39	↓68.47
	Laanecoorie Reservoir	↑42.00	↑42.50
Bullarook Creek Storages	Newlyn Reservoir	↓81.26	↓68.50
	Hepburns Lagoon	↓77.95	↓64.69
Goulburn Storages	Lake Eildon	↓40.34	↓37.51
	Waranga Basin	↓58.90	↓58.34
Campaspe	Lake Eppalock	↓29.61	↑60.2
Coliban Water Storages	Upper Coliban Reservoir	↓90.40	↓86.3
	Lauriston Reservoir	↓85.70	↓75.3
	Malmsbury Reservoir	↓24.00	↓18.3

Sources: [www.g-mwater.com.au/water-resources/catchments/storage-levels](http://www.g-mwater.com.au/water-resources/catchments/storage-levels)

[www.coliban.com.au/about-us/reservoir-levels](http://www.coliban.com.au/about-us/reservoir-levels)



## Events...

### Agricultural technology: pushing your water further

Agriculture Victoria is hosting a two-day workshop on strategically maximising every megalitre of water applied. With current dry conditions and increasing seasonal variability, many farmers are looking at ways to manage their water more efficiently.

The workshops will focus on future climate, irrigation decision making, soil moisture monitoring, digital agriculture and a farmer panel session.

**When:** 5 and 6 March 2020.

**Where:** Agriculture Victoria 255 Ferguson Rd, Tatura

**Cost:** Free - morning tea and lunch provided both days

For more information, or to register please contact Richard Smith on: 03 5833 5214; or email: [richard.m.smith@agriculture.vic.gov.au](mailto:richard.m.smith@agriculture.vic.gov.au)



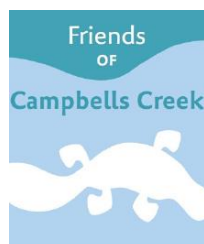
Northern Grampians Shire Council is hosting a big country day of enthusiastic conversation, vigorous debate and real community engagement at Marnoo Recreation Reserve.

The agricultural community and related sectors are eager to collaborate in codesigning smart strategies for sustainable regional growth and development. You're invited to come along and join in the Growing Ideas Festival Marnoo, the unconference in the bush.

**When:** Friday 13 March 2020. 10am to 5pm. 6pm onwards for community Gathering

**Where:** Marnoo Recreation Reserve, Park Road, Marnoo.

To register for this free community event [book online](#). For all enquiries please contact 03 5358 8700 or email [business@ngshire.vic.gov.au](mailto:business@ngshire.vic.gov.au)



### Platypus Workshop- Campbells Creek

Friends of Campbells Creek Landcare Group is organising a free public workshop on Sunday 15 March.

Experts from the Australian Platypus Conservancy will highlight the conservation needs of these animals and outline ways the community can help monitor their populations in local rivers, creeks and lakes. A practical demonstration in nearby Campbells Creek will follow the formal presentation.

**When:** Sunday 15 March 1.00 to 6.00pm

**Where:** Campbells Creek Community Centre, Elizabeth St, Campbells Creek

**Bookings** can be made by either emailing [info@foccc.org.au](mailto:info@foccc.org.au) or visiting <https://focclandcare.eventbrite.com.au>. The number of attendees will be limited by the capacity of the venue, so book early.



Southern Wimmera grain growers and advisers have an opportunity to build their understanding of soil types, fertility and constraints in their quest to boost crop yields and profitability by attending free-of-charge soil amelioration and assessment workshops.

These half-day workshops will give farmers and advisers the skills needed to characterise soils, identify constraints throughout local soil profiles and assess soils for amelioration potential including the likely return on investment and longevity of management actions.

Upcoming workshops in our region:

- **Natte Yallock, Wednesday 11 March**  
7:30am-11:45am (Grower paddock - details provided on registration)

For more information contact the workshop co-ordinator Michael Eyres on 0428 988090 or email

michael@fieldsystems.com.au. Details are also available on the GRDC website.

## Barapa Making Steps for Climate Change

**Barapa Land & Water Environment Land Management Services are hosting a Community Climate Change Adaptation Event at Apex Park - Reedy Lake, Kerang.**

Starting the event with Barapa Barapa Tradition Owners Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony this weekend of festivities aims to bring the local community together to share local knowledge on climate change.

Family activities including weaving, kayaking, forest gardening, catch-a-carp event and BBQ lunch are focused on knowledge sharing with locals to talk about changes to lands and waters over the years. Barapa Barapa Traditional Owners will be on hand to share the effects of climate change on Cultural Practices.

**When:** Friday 13 and Saturday 14 March 2020

**Where:** Apex Park- Reedy Lake, Kerang

**Cost:** Free event

Register via email to: [barapalw@gmail.com](mailto:barapalw@gmail.com)



## Women on farms gathering

**Inglewood is hosting the 2020 Women On Farms Gathering (Wofg).**

The Wofg began in 1990, it was shaped to address the specific needs of farming women for education and training in their profession, recognising the value of networking, and as a means to share experiences, knowledge, and to overcome isolation.

The aim of gathering is to bring farming women of Victoria together, to promote their role as farmers, to supply information on resources available and to provide food for thought.

The event features tours, mini-market, workshops and guest speaker. To view the full [program visit: <https://wofg2020.org.au/>

**When:** Friday 27 March- Sunday 29 March 2020

**Where:** Inglewood Town Hall

**Cost: Full Weekend Tickets:** \$240 (Full Price).

**Single Day Tickets:** Friday \$45 / Saturday \$150 / Sunday \$45

Registrations close Sunday 8 March 2020.

## North Central Regenerative Agriculture events

### Holistic Grazing (Grazing Naturally) Workshop (1 day)

Hosted by Mount Alexander Sustainability Group (MASG), this event will explore the key concepts of grazing naturally, including principles of soil health, cover and depth.

**When:** Thursday 19 March 2020

**Where:** Botanical Gardens Tea Rooms, Castlemaine  
9am – 4pm

**Cost:** Members fee \$45 (capped at \$150 per farm)

Non-members fee \$150

**For details & RSVP** contact: Deane Belfield  
0414 617 542 or [deane@regenfarmers.com.au](mailto:deane@regenfarmers.com.au)

### Progress and Discoveries from Cover Crop Demos and Trials

This event will feature farmer reports and Q&As with the Upper Loddon and Avoca Regen Ag Farmers.

**When:** Sunday 29 March (12 noon - 4.30)

**Where.** Avoca area. Venue provided upon registration

**For further details & RSVP** contact Ross Davey, 0417 548 608 [ross@glengreenock.com.au](mailto:ross@glengreenock.com.au)

There are four Regenerative Agriculture groups across north central Victoria. These groups will be conducting soil testing in preparation for the season ahead and hosting a number of events for improved soil, pasture and crop management before and during the growing season.

To get involved and to receive invitations to Regen Ag events please contact your nearest local facilitator.

- Raywood group facilitator Penny Wall  
[apwallfarmbusiness@gmail.com](mailto:apwallfarmbusiness@gmail.com)
- Normanville group facilitator Anne Jackman  
[anne@cropfacts.com.au](mailto:anne@cropfacts.com.au)
- Upper Loddon and Avoca group facilitator Ross Davey  
[ross@glengreenock.com.au](mailto:ross@glengreenock.com.au)

- Mt Alexander group facilitator Deane Belfield  
[deanebelfield@eco2sys.com](mailto:deanebelfield@eco2sys.com)

## Cover Crop Workshop

Hosted by Down Under Covers, Join Grant and Naomi Sims at Pine Grove for a demonstration day.

The event will feature

- The principles and steps to transition to regenerative farming.
- Vermicast Extractor demonstration and tool used to measure soil and plant health.
- Cover Crop Workshop including multi-species covers.
- Trials and results of multi-species crops and integrating livestock.

**When:** 10 am – 3.00 pm Friday 13 March 2020

**Where:** Pine Grove CFA Shed, 2691 Whinfield Rd, Lockington VIC 3563

**RSVP:** For catering purposes, please register for this free event through Grant (0429 966 228), Naomi (0428 998 119) or email [accounts@downundercovers.com](mailto:accounts@downundercovers.com)



## Invitation to a community open day

**Bush Heritage Australia invites you to the Kara-Kara Wedderburn Community Day on Friday 1 May.**

An inspirational day sharing and learning from local conservation groups, landowners, Traditional Owners, Trust for Nature and Bush Heritage about how together we can create a connected community through the Victorian Government's Biodiversity Onground Action Program.

**When:** 10 am – 2.30 pm Friday 1 May 2020

**Where:** 640 Wedderburn Junction East Road Fiery Flat, VIC 3071

**RSVP:** Please contact Bush Heritage by Friday 17 April on 1300 628 873 or email [tegan.hibberson@bushheritage.org.au](mailto:tegan.hibberson@bushheritage.org.au) to confirm your attendance and let us know of any dietary requirements.

## Don't miss the chance to HAVE YOUR SAY

**Kicking-off in Harcourt on 17 March, the North Central Catchment Management Authority (CMA) and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) will co-host four roundtable sessions to gather community input to help plan for natural resource management activities in the region.**

The 2020 roundtables will focus on renewing the North Central Regional Catchment Strategy for 2021-27 and providing input to DELWP's Regional Biodiversity Response Planning. The roundtables will harness local knowledge to review priorities, considering current challenges and opportunities. This will help strengthen existing North Central CMA and DELWP programs and guide future investment.

The dates and venues for the 2020 roundtables are:

- Tuesday 17 March: Harcourt Leisure Centre Hall
- Thursday 19 March: Kerang Memorial Hall
- Tuesday 24 March: Charlton Memorial Hall
- Thursday 26 March: Inglewood Football Pavilion
- Tuesday 7 April: Daylesford Town Hall

All sessions are free to attend from 6pm-8.30pm with a free meal available at 5.30pm

Register your attendance [here](#) or call the North Central CMA (03) 5448 7124

You can also contribute your thoughts and aspirations online at:

<https://engage.vic.gov.au/north-central-regional-catchment-strategy-2021-27>

For more information contact North Central CMA Project Manager, Nina Cunningham on [nina.cunningham@nccma.vic.gov.au](mailto:nina.cunningham@nccma.vic.gov.au)



Strategic Planning  
& Environment

## Managing pastures in a changing climate with Colin Seis

Macedon Ranges Shire Council will host an incredible opportunity to hear from pasture expert Colin Seis and learn about managing your pasture in a changing climate.

If you are managing land and have not heard Colin speak, do not miss this opportunity. Renowned farmer Colin Seis, who owns and runs a 840 ha property near Gulgong, NSW, will talk about establishing, maintaining and nourishing pastures while improving soil health in an ever-changing climate.

Colin will cover:

- Perennial pastures
- Native pastures
- Growing summer and winter multispecies together
- Pasture cropping

**When:** Monday 30 March, 7.30pm

**Where:** Newham Mechanics Institute, 1292 Rochford Rd, Newham

### Other upcoming events hosted by MRSC include

#### Moveable and strip fencing info session

- Monday 16 March 10am – 12pm. REGISTER NOW for central shire location.

#### Managing your stock water- Workshop

- Monday 23 March, 9.30 – 2.30. Tylden Community Hall, Tylden-Woodend Road, Tylden

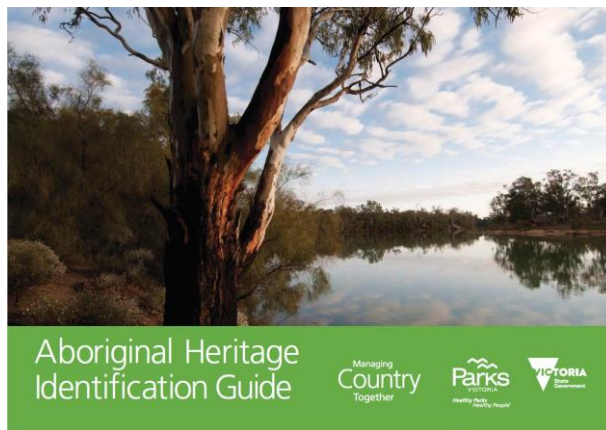
Please register with your details so that we can supply you with a map for planning activities.

This workshop will be delivered in partnership with Agriculture Victoria and part funded by National Landcare Program

**For all of these MRSC events: Register:** Book now at [mrs.c.vic.gov.au/environment-events](https://mrs.c.vic.gov.au/environment-events)

## Courses & Resources...

### Does your group work on Parks Victoria land?



The Aboriginal Heritage Identification Guide has been developed to allow for greater awareness and care of Aboriginal cultural heritage inherent to the lands and waterways that Parks Victoria manage. This guide is here to help with the basic identification of Aboriginal cultural heritage, and what to do if you find something.

Parks Victoria's *Aboriginal Heritage Identification Guide* (2019), is now available for downloading or viewing as a PDF via <https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/-/media/project/pv/main/parks/documents/managing-country-together/aboriginal-heritage-identification-guide.pdf?la=en&hash=4BE2D051D87358E336AE4981EE9FA6C0CBC71745>



Victorian Gorse Taskforce

### Victorian Gorse Taskforce: who they are, what they do and how they can help!

The Victorian Gorse Taskforce (VGT) supports private and public landowners in their community-led efforts to reduce gorse across Victoria. The VGT run demonstration field days, extension services including property inspections and mapping, attend rural shows and develop resources (a few examples) to assist Victorian's with their gorse management.

The VGT can support Landcare groups through simply supplying resources for events or collaborating on larger projects such as demonstration field days or extension services.

The VGT still have availability with their extension services program this year, so please feel free to get in touch if you think your community would be interested.

#### For more information:

- please see the VGT's Facebook page (@VictorianGorseTaskforce),
- give Brydie Murrhly (VGT - Communications, Community Engagement & Extension Officer) a call on 0428 335 705 or email [VGT@cva.org.au](mailto:VGT@cva.org.au),
- or visit the VGT's website: [www.vicgorsetaskforce.com.au](http://www.vicgorsetaskforce.com.au)

## Landmate update

### The daily cost of Landmate crews is increasing in 2020.

Matthew Menhennet, coordinator of the Landmate Environment Program provided the following update for Landcare.

Over recent years Landmate has provided increased support for environmental on ground works across the state. In the 2018/19 financial year Landmate delivered:

- 1,234 crew days of labour
- planting 49,739 trees
- erecting 72 Kilometres of fencing
- and many hectares of woody weeds clearing

"I would like to thank you for supporting Landmate work over the years, as the direct benefit to prisoners in giving back to the community is hugely important for them at a time when they may soon be released.

"For many prisoners, who possibly made one bad choice in life, being able to interact with the community by working on projects such as yours, is a real positive step forward physically, socially and mentally," said Matthew.

The Department of Justice and Community Safety is committed to a long term vision of Landmate and to ensure the strength of the program continues, will be increasing the daily cost of a Landmate crew from \$400 plus GST to \$450 plus GST from 1 July 2020. Note that this cost will only apply to the Landmate partnership projects that are not funded by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning's grant programs.

This is the first change to the cost of Landmate since ~2014 and will contribute directly to the long-term strength of the program.

"After extensive discussions with current customers and stakeholders, I have been impressed by the feedback about the value Landmate is seen to provide and we hope to continue to support project owners and community groups in completing projects and achieve positive environmental outcomes."

**For more information:** go to [www.landmate.vic.gov.au](http://www.landmate.vic.gov.au) and please feel free to give me a call with any enquires or questions.

## NEW! Junior Landcare website and Youth Summit

### Landcare Australia has launched the new look Junior Landcare website and created a Youth Summit to support the program.

What makes [this website](#) unique is the Learning Centre with learning activities developed by education professionals to help children be aware, empowered and active in caring for their local environment.

The Learning Centre, supported by Woolworths, features 30-minute learning activities for teachers and educators, parents and carers, youth groups and Landcare community groups. The learning activities focus on four key areas: food production, Indigenous perspectives, waste management and biodiversity. Every month, the Junior Landcare team will promote the Learning Centre activities to engage the next generation of Landcarers with fun and educational environmental activities.

Costa Georgiadis from ABCTV's Gardening Australia has come on board as the Ambassador for Junior Landcare and he will soon help LAL launch a campaign called What's in your backyard?

If you have the Junior Landcare website address promoted on your website or any other communications channel, would you please now update it with this URL: [www.juniorlandcare.org.au](http://www.juniorlandcare.org.au)

Also a Landcare Youth Summit is being held in Canberra on March 23 – all the details are [online here](#).



## Rochester chosen for Basin Community Leadership Program

**The Rochester community is one of 15 communities eligible for the Murray Darling Association's new Basin Community Leadership Program. This 24-month initiative is focused on building leadership capacity in communities throughout Murray Darling Basin.**

The program is designed to assist Basin communities during a time of unprecedented changes to our local economies, industries and natural resources.

Selected community members will graduate from the program with increased leadership skills and access to resources which will help the emerging leaders with local, community focussed projects and initiatives into the future.

The program comprises:

**2 Day Workshop** in Rochester on 29-30, October 2020 - Presentations from industry-leading leadership development experts (Military, Agricultural, Commerce sector experience).

**Representation** – Guest speakers and visits by key Federal, State and local Government representatives who can draw upon your local knowledge and experiences to shape future policies.

**Ongoing Support** – The MDA will maintain regular contact with the community leadership candidates as they progress through development.

**Online resources** – World-class, easy to access resources and support tools for your leadership development and ongoing efforts within the community.

The MDA is recruiting 12-15 participants from each of the eligible 15 communities through the following Key Selection Criteria:

- Are you willing to grow and develop your leadership and community engagement skills?
- Are you looking to shape and influence the future prosperity of your community?
- Would you like to have direct input into consultation with key stakeholders and decision makers?
- Are you keen and eager to participate in future community focussed projects / initiatives? If you answered yes to these questions, we would love to hear from you!

Applications are now open. Submit your expression of interest at [www.mda.asn.au](http://www.mda.asn.au). For more information email: [bclp@mda.asn.au](mailto:bclp@mda.asn.au)

## Funding opportunities...

### Leadership Development Grants 2020 now open

**The Victorian Government, through Our Catchments Our Communities, is funding the development of individuals in the integrated catchment management sector.**

The Leadership Development Grants program is designed to strengthen skills and capabilities while fostering a new generation of leaders in catchment management.

**Funding available:** grants of up to \$10,000 are available for travel, study, research, training and other forms of professional development for integrated catchment management in the following categories:

**Innovation:** new approaches and knowledge to address contemporary issues

**Aboriginal Leadership:** recognising and supporting Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians as leaders

**Women in Leadership:** improving diversity and inclusion and the opportunity for women to lead

#### Who can apply?

The grants are open to **individuals** working in the natural resource management sector for:

- Government agencies or bodies
- Private sector businesses and agencies
- Educational institutions
- Local government authorities
- Not-for-profit organisations
- Non-governmental organisations
- Community networks and groups

Please note: only Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders are eligible to apply for the Aboriginal Leadership category.

**How to apply:** for further information visit <https://www.water.vic.gov.au/grants/ococ2020>

**Applications open:** on 3 February and close on 27 March 2020.

### Helpful Hints: Grant Preparation

**Check in with your group, chat to your Regional Landcare Coordinator and discuss project ideas with your community to prepare for any upcoming grant rounds (e.g. Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants, Victorian Landcare Grants)**