

# North Central chat

May 2016

## A message from the Regional Landcare Coordinator

My oh my it's May already! Since the last edition of the Chat I have been thrilled to get out and about and enjoy many events across the catchment.

The Mt Bolton Beckworth Landcare Group hosted a wonderful rabbit management field day on April 1 at a property in Addington. Overlooking the impressive hills, many dotted with wind turbines and others scarred by recent fires in the area, landholders heard from John Matthews (*Biosecurity Manager, Agriculture Victoria*), who is fast becoming a local Landcare celebrity in the region.

The field day was very comprehensive with bait lines and warren ripping demonstrations and biological control discussions covering the upcoming release of K5. *Well done to the group on a fantastic and informative field day!*

Attending the Buloke Northern Grampians Landcare Network meeting in St Arnaud was a great opportunity to get out to the west of the catchment and discover the wonderful work being done by the St Arnaud Field Naturalists. Read about their reintroduction of threatened mistletoe species on Page 3.

The 2016 Future Farming Expo held on April 14 was a huge success, with over 140 people attending the day that included workshops and bus tours around farms in Swan Hill. Mandy has provided a great rundown of the day's activities in the News section.

*Did you receive a 2015-16 Community Grant?* If so, you should have received an email with the link to the mapping tool to record your project's outputs. This should make life a lot easier mapping as you go rather than struggling to remember details of events and activities come reporting time.

## This Month's Contents:

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**John Matthews gives the group the recipe for success in reference to rabbit warren management- the key in the rabbit's defence. Use the right tool, at the right time, to the right depth!**

Looking ahead, the Victorian Landcare Team and the CMA Landcare Team are very keen to hear of any '30 years of Landcare' celebrations you may be planning in your area, so get in touch if you have a story to share.

Happy reading,

## Tess Grieves

**Regional Landcare Coordinator**

North Central Catchment Management Authority

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## News...

### Bugs abuzz in Box Creek

North Central CMA Project Manager Louissa Rogers was thrilled to share exciting news about the diversity of critters that have been surveyed in Box Creek, near Cohuna.

"There are 1.5 times the diversity and three times the abundance of macroinvertebrates at the six woody habitat piles that were reinstated a couple of years ago under a recreational fishing grant".

Not everyone might be as keen on what is seemingly slime, but there is also good news for biofilm production. Louissa saying that "there is also evidence of biofilm growth and leaf litter entrainment. All this is exciting as bugs, biofilms and leaf litter are fish food or food for things that are fish food!"



*Submerged woody habitat was installed in Box Creek to improve conditions for native fish. Habitat site 5 (left) and control site 5 (right). Photo: North Central CMA.*

### FTLA & VLC merger imminent

The Farm Tree & Landcare Association (FTLA) and Victorian Landcare Council (VLC) have released a letter asking for input into their proposal to merge into one organisation.

A link to the letter and the proposed organisational model is on the [Victorian Landcare Gateway](#). Resolutions will be presented at the

Regional Landcare Forum at Dookie scheduled for Saturday May 14.

### Hunt before hibernation

This time last year you may recall an article in the Chat about methods to control European wasps with a simple and effective invention by Laurie Nicholl.



*Wasps are no match for Laurie's effective drink bottle trap. Photo: Laurie Nicholl*

Laurie recently advised that the queen wasps will soon be going into hibernation over winter and before then she has two missions; mating and looking for food.

Laurie's control method uses a 1.25 litre soft drink bottle with three one-centimetre holes about 10cm from the base of bottle. The bottle is filled with bait made from honey, water and a little pure vanilla essence which ferments in sun. The traps need a little tending this time of year, whereby once they are full removing the catch, reusing and topping-up bait, and replacing the cap.

For further information please contact Laurie Nicoll on 03 5423 2412 or email [laurie@shamp.com.au](mailto:laurie@shamp.com.au)

### Drought response program extended

Two key programs have been extended across the North Central Catchment Management Authority (CMA) region as part of the State Government's \$10 million boost to its Drought Response Package.

Funding has been made available for two additional teams as part of the successful Drought Employment Program and the Stock Containment Areas program, which is continuing to receive huge interest across the catchment.







## Stock Containment Areas - Round 2

The second round of stock containment funding is now available for landholders interested in establishing a stock containment area on their property. **Closing date for EOLs is May 14 2016**. For more information please see the North Central website link:

[http://www.nccma.vic.gov.au/Resources/Publications/Document\\_List/index.aspx?itemDetails=9283&cld=MasterSPR](http://www.nccma.vic.gov.au/Resources/Publications/Document_List/index.aspx?itemDetails=9283&cld=MasterSPR)



### Board members for BCG

Birchip Cropping Group (BCG) invites Expressions of Interest from individuals for appointment to the BCG Board.

BCG is a national leader in farmer driven, agronomic research and extension. BCG is focused on improving the prosperity of Australian broad acre farmers through independent, science-based research and extension and assisting farmers to face new challenges and on ensuring that the sector can thrive as a vibrant primary industry. It is a not for profit member based organisation based in the Victorian Wimmera Mallee region.

Written Expressions of Interest will be accepted until Monday 9 May, will be treated in strict confidence and should be addressed to [info@bcg.org.au](mailto:info@bcg.org.au) or visit [http://www.bcg.org.au/news.php?category\\_id=268](http://www.bcg.org.au/news.php?category_id=268)

## The Mistletoebird Cometh

Anne Hughes, St Arnaud Field Naturalists

In 2012 St Arnaud Field Nats members collected around a dozen fresh fruits off Buloke mistletoe (*Amyema linophylla*) and Harlequin mistletoe (*Lysiana exocarp*).

These fruits were transferred to plantation grown Buloke (*Allocasuarina luehmannii*), Drooping Sheoke (*Allocas. veticillata*) and by accident, one River Sheoke (*Allocas cunninghamiana*).

In 2013, only two Harlequin Mistletoes had "taken" - put out a haustorium (root projection) to attach to the host plant and started to produce leaves. One Buloke was supporting a very small Buloke Mistletoe.

The group refrained from putting out any more fruits in 2013 and 2014 owing to the very dry conditions and a general lack of viable mistletoe fruits.

In 2015, one Harlequin Mistletoe was coming along slowly but surely with several branches, while the other one remained at the two-leaf stage. The latter had the misfortune to be placed on the River Sheoke and is not happy. There were no obvious Buloke Mistletoes still surviving.

On checking the sites in early 2016, two Buloke Mistletoes were discovered, one on Buloke itself and the other on Drooping Sheoke.

The larger of the two plants has flowered, and now, in April 2016 is sporting a wonderful crop of fruits.

The larger of the two Harlequin Mistletoes also flowered and has produced a prolific crop of fruits.

Buloke Mistletoe and Harlequin Mistletoe, were once abundant but now absent from the Box-Ironbark forests around the St Arnaud district. The Field Nats Club proposes to start reintroducing the threatened Buloke Mistletoe into remnant Buloke stands where the flying time between Buloke stands for the all important Mistletoebird is less than 20 minutes.



**Buloke Mistletoe (*Amyema linophylla*) which was hand seeded in 2012, Carapooee West. Photo: A Hughes.**



## Future Farming Expo 2016

*Mandy Coulson, Regional Landcare Facilitator*

On behalf of the North Central CMA and Swan Hill Rural City Council, we would like to sincerely thank all those who contributed to this event.

With over 120 participants, the day was well attended and enjoyed. Presenting broader concepts on the impact of climate change and growing business in China, instigated bigger picture thinking early in the day. This combined with bus tours to local innovative farming sites created a buzz of conversation over afternoon tea. Participants enjoyed the mix of learning opportunities offered throughout the day, with several people appreciating a platform for shared conversations and practical learning opportunities.

The day was a huge team effort on behalf of all involved; working collaboratively proves invaluable to tackling future farming across the region.

This year's fourth annual Future Farming Expo provided participants with an opportunity to listen to experts, scientists and industry colleague and share ideas with like-minded progressive farmers. Attendees were able to enjoy visiting local progressive farms, participate in a selection of varied workshops and use the day to network.

The day began with Professor Snow Barlow, who provided a broad overview of the impact of climate change and research to mitigate variable climate in rural regions. His message re-enforced the importance of considering options to cope with change, importance of planning and collectively finding resources to identify adaptations that solve the real problems.

This impressive presentation was followed by Dr Mona Chung, who provided an interesting insight into growing business in China. The audience appreciated the many humorous examples to better understand the Chinese business culture, particularly the value placed on personal relationships and trust in people before making an agreement.



*Professor Snow Barlow addresses rainfall trends*

Those who toured Kilter Rural were able to learn about the history and development of the Kilter Rural property, the advantages of amalgamating small farming enterprises using sustainable practice management and its future direction. Matt Glowrey from Glowrey Dairy left participants intrigued about his 1700 cow dairy farm. Participants walked through a 100 stand rotary dairy and listened to Matt's steady expansion of the dairy business during variable climate conditions.

Nathan Free from Wattle Organics inspired many with his knowledge of sustainable organic farming who along with his parents and management team, runs the biggest organic farm in Victoria producing 23 lines of fruit, vegetable and fodder, with plans to keep expanding. All tours proved to be a huge success and will remain a key activity for future events.



*Participants enjoyed Nathan Free's tour of Wattle Organic Farms*

After a well-deserved afternoon tea, participants were offered a choice of two workshops on free trade agreement, risk and climate outlook, precision agriculture and business continuance.

Leonie Ferretter and Phillip Doyle from KPMG, will always be remembered for their contribution to the event. The audience appreciated a succinct workshop which looked at ways Australia's agriculture sector can leverage opportunities under Free Trade Agreement. The presentation highlighted that FTAs are the most important, complex and specialised component of any foreign market strategy. Both Graeme Anderson (DEDJTR) and Chris Sounness (BCG) provided the latest on seasonal climate outlook- what's normal, what isn't, what's next and some thinking around risk management. For a look at Graeme's presentation on seasonal forecasting and climate change, please follow the link below;

[https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=em-share\\_video\\_user&v=9JfAZ9RqsU8](https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=em-share_video_user&v=9JfAZ9RqsU8)

Michael Neville from Kilter Rural discussed precision agriculture and how technology and techniques are used to improve efficiencies across the farming system. His buoyant presentation provided participants with knowledge in water use efficiency, precision planting and example of the economics benefits of using precision agriculture. Often a well avoided topic, Judy Wilkinson, who travelled all the way from South Australia, facilitated a session on transition and successful planning business continuance issues. When dealing with often difficult issues, Judy believes there is a practical way to approach discussions around succession/business continuance or differing opinion.

The day was enjoyed by many and it was particularly encouraging to see so many people embracing the opportunity to learn and share experiences on ways to build sustainable and profitable farming systems.

### Rain on the horizon?

ABC Landline recently featured the Bureau of Meteorology Climate and Water Outlook, April-June 2016 video in their consideration of the current conditions, and the likely outcomes over the next few months.

This is a good summary of where things might go given the slow break down of the El Nino in the Pacific Ocean, and generally warm conditions in both the Indian and Pacific Oceans.

The short four minute clip is online at: <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/video>



### Entries now open for the Premier's sustainability awards

Now in their 14th year, the Awards continue to recognise leadership and innovation in sustainable practices, and reward those who have driven change by reducing their environmental impact.

Categories for this year's awards are:

- Built Environment
- Community
- Education
- Environmental Justice
- Environmental Protection
- Government
- Health
- Innovative Products or Services
- Large Business
- Small and Medium Enterprises

In addition to these awards, the Premier of Victoria will select two overall winners in the Premier's Recognition Award and the Premier's Regional Recognition Award.

Entries are open to all businesses, community groups, local government, and individuals who are committed to a better environment for Victoria.

Closing Date Monday 27 June. For more information and to apply, visit <http://www.sustainabilityawards.vic.gov.au/>







## Birch's Creek has a bright future

North Central CMA and Central Highland Water have given Birches Creek a new lease of life thanks to a collaborative partnership.

Birch's Creek is a special waterway in the upper Loddon catchment and home to important species like platypus and River Blackfish. Before much of its length became choked with willows it was highly regarded for its trout fishing.



*Willow choked Birch's Creek is soon to see the light again.*

With the help of Victorian Government funding, the CMA and Central Highlands Water are working with local landholders to brighten the future of the creek by getting the weeds under control, fencing the creek and replanting native species.



*Works have begun with willow removal at Newlyn - a great start to what is going to be a lot of work!*

## Help celebrate 30 years of Landcare!

To mark this special occasion North Central CMA will be developing a 2017 Volunteer Recognition Calendar to showcase the array of wonderful Landcare projects, events, achievements and the changes that have taken place over the last three

decades and have called for photos in the April edition of the Chat, so keep them coming in .

DELWP are also calling on Landcarers young and old to share their stories through photographs and videos.

DELWP are particularly looking for photos showing the progress of projects over time, milestones for your group/network, people participating in events, and more generally, what Landcare means to you.

Photos, videos and consent forms can be uploaded via the following link

<http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/2615961/30-Years-of-Landcare-Photo-Upload>

The next issue (no. 67) of the Victorian Landcare and Catchment Management magazine is also feature on 30 Years of Landcare! If you or your group or network has a long history of involvement in Landcare, especially if you were featured in one of the early issues of the magazine, they'd love to hear from you.

Please contact the editor with your story ideas. Contributions for the next issue should be sent to the editor (details below) by **Friday 1 July 2016**.

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

## Seeing the land from an Aboriginal canoe

North Central CMA Indigenous Facilitator, Bambi Lees bought this incredible video produced by Culture Victoria to my attention. The clip showcases the stories of Aboriginal peoples contribution to nation building in colonial times by guiding settlers and stock across Victoria's river systems.

The video features Dja Dja Wurrung man Rick Nelson, discussing the creation of canoes from central victorian tree species.

The story is shared online at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fcDCYXfahcA&feature=youtu.be>





## Swift news!

Avid twitcher and blogger Geoff Park, shared some incredible news recently.

On his blog, Natural Newstead, Geoff shared a rather blurry image but an amazing one all the same of endangered Swift Parrots.

A flock of about a dozen birds, including some immature individuals, were spotted on the Loddon River at Newstead.



Geoff said "*Just on dusk we came across them feeding in River Red-gum and Black Wattle (planted by Newstead Landcare in 1996!) beside the dry river bed.*"

Swift Parrots breed in Tasmania, then fly across Bass Strait to forage on the flowering eucalypts in open box-ironbark forests of the Australian mainland.

For more wonderful imagery, visit the Natural Newstead site at:

<https://geoffpark.wordpress.com/>



## Hello everyone,

In this edition of Waterwatch news, I will be talking about the exciting development of the North Central Waterwatch's NatureWatch App and how this new technology engages citizens to become scientists in the field.

I will introduce you to our newest recruit Emma McKenzie, who has taken on the role of monitoring the water quality of Five Mile Creek in the Upper Campaspe catchment and I will let you know how to sign up for Saltwatch Week!

## SAVE THE DATE- Saturday June 4

In early June, Waterwatch and Landcare will be teaming up to deliver the *Fourth Annual WaterScience Forum*. The theme for this year is 'Citizen Science'. Keynote speakers will cover topics including:

- What is citizen science?
- What makes citizen science programs successful?
- How to engage project partners
- Tips on how to engage the community and marketing your program.

Guests will hear from two local community groups who will present their successful Citizen Science programs and we intend to have a field trip too, so stay tuned for details on this great event.

## What's happening in May:

May 10: World Migratory Bird Day

May 16 - 22: Saltwatch Week

Stay warm,

## Cass Davis

### Regional Waterwatch Coordinator

North Central Catchment Management Authority

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## Meet our new Waterwatch Volunteer Monitor: Emma McKenzie

**Monitoring site:** NC\_FMC650

**Catchment:** Upper Campaspe

**Reach:** 24

**Long-term resource condition:** Improve the condition of the creek from moderate to good (based on ISC) by 2050.

**Waterway:** Five Mile Creek

**Local Government Region:** Mount Alexander Shire

My interest in waterways began when I was a kid growing up living near the Goulburn and Murray Rivers. It was not until I was living in Clare, South Australia, that I felt compelled to get involved in water management because someone had the crazy idea of piping water from the Murray to the Clare Valley region to irrigate vineyards.

I am excited to be involved in Waterwatch monitoring because it keeps me involved in catchment management. I can't remember where or when I learnt about Waterwatch, but it was most likely when I was learning about macroinvertebrates at university.

Further to this, the recent Index of Stream Condition (ISC) report indicates no water quality data was available for Five Mile Creek. However, other parameters were measured and the site was rated as 'moderate condition' (based on Hydrology, Physical Form, Streamside Zone and Aquatic Life).



*Emma collecting a sample of water from Five Mile Creek at Woodend*

## Saltwatch Week: How can you get involved?

Saltwatch is an environmental monitoring program that helps communities to understand salinity problems in our waterways.

Saltwatch began in 1987, and is Australia's longest running community monitoring program.

During Saltwatch Week each year, schools and community groups from all over Victoria can learn about the affects of salinity on water quality in their local catchment by collecting local water samples and testing the salt levels with a salinity meter.

The information collected from your sample can help land managers, researchers, scientists and other users to assess the condition of our waterways at a particular point in time.

The information can also create a bigger understanding of salinity impacts across Victoria over a period of time.

We are encouraging all our Waterwatch Community Volunteers and River Detective schools to register and participate this year!

Want to register?

Please follow this link to find out how:

<http://www.vic.waterwatch.org.au/monitoring-and-data/994/>

## NatureWatch App: turning local citizens into scientists



A mobile application for smart phones, tablets and computers is being developed to equip people - citizens - with the ability to act as scientists in the field.

The NatureWatch App, developed by the North Central Catchment Management Authority's (CMA) Waterwatch Program is an opportunity for our citizen scientists to gather and report on



important biodiversity information using new technologies.

Information collected by our citizen scientists using NatureWatch includes: images, audio, text, time, date and the geographic location associated with observations. This important information will be accessible to land managers, Landcare groups, Waterwatch groups, industry partners, scientists, researchers and students.

Working with citizen scientists to capture information across north central Victoria will greatly enhance the depth of available data for analysis and research.

NatureWatch will be available to download at the upcoming Annual Water Science forum in June

## Citizen Science: National Projects looking for volunteers



The Australian Citizen Science Association (ACSA) was formed to advance citizen science through sharing of knowledge, collaboration, capacity building & advocacy.

*Are you wanting to get more involved in contributing to the development of Citizen Science in Australia?*

ACSA committee members are looking for people who are interested in contributing to strategic and practical level planning around large-scale projects and are seeking energetic, creative, resourceful, and forward-thinking individuals. To learn more about how to get involved go to:

<http://csna.gaiaresources.com.au/wordpress/>



**Testing electrical conductivity this month is particularly important as Saltwatch Week occurs during May.**

This is a great time to focus on salinity in the environment and you can do this by logging onto the River Detective website and accessing a range of activities including a taste of salt, **creeping watertables**, surviving in saltwater and the salt inside us all.

A great way to engage with students is to test the salt content of students 'homegrown' water samples and logging the data on the website to develop graphs.

The Fresh and Salty video clip continues to be a class favourite, so why not watch the clip the River Detectives website with your students during May.

To register your school for Saltwatch Week, go to: <http://www.vic.waterwatch.org.au/monitoring-and-data/994/>

## Events...

### Fungi of Eddington Forest and Bells Swamp Seminar

Mid Loddon Sub-Catchment Management Group and Eddington Landcare Group will host a workshop with expert fungi ecologist Alison Pouliot at Baringhup on Monday 2 May.

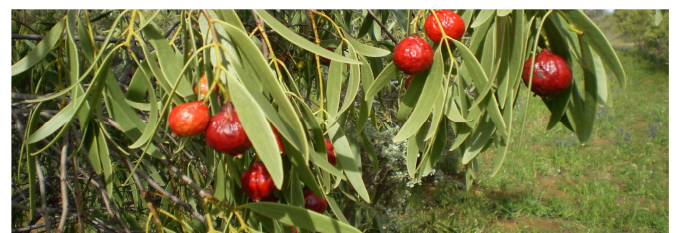
This talk explores the ecological significance of fungi and endeavours to elevate both fungi and swamps to new levels of interest, care and concern

**When:** Monday 2nd May 2016, 7pm – 9:30pm

**Where:** Baringhup Community Hall

**RSVP:** Judy Crocker: [jcroc22@gmail.com](mailto:jcroc22@gmail.com) or 0428 506 525

### Quandongs and other native sandalwoods field day



An in-depth look into the conservation, cultural significance and commercialisation of native sandalwood species. A field trip to Ko-Warra Native seeds will be followed by a light lunch and presentation from expert speakers.

**When:** Tuesday May 10 2016, 10am -11.30am

**Where:** Meet at Kowarra Native Seeds 537 Echuca- Mitiamo Rd followed by a 12pm-2.30pm Light lunch & presentation at Moama Bowling Club.

**RSVP:** Friday May 6 to Jim Begley on 03 5764 7503 or [jimb@gbcma.vic.gov.au](mailto:jimb@gbcma.vic.gov.au)



**Trees for Mum**

Trees for Mum is a part of a national series of Mother's Day tree-planting events hosted by Landcare Australia. This year's events will be held on Sunday 8 May.

Events in the North Central region are being held in Woodend (see back page) and Kyneton with many others around the state. To find an event near you, visit

<http://www.treesformum.com/Home/treesformum-Home.aspx>



## Reconnecting the Lower Loddon to the Mighty Murray

As part of the Native Fish Recovery Plan – Gunbower and Lower Loddon, North Central CMA is hosting a World Fish Migration Day bus tour.

The tour will visit three fishways constructed on major barriers in the Little Murray River and the lower Loddon-Pyramid Creek system, and complementary works to recover native fish populations.

Join Dr Ivor Stuart, fish ecologist and fishway expert, to hear about:

- The importance of fish passage for Australian native fish.
- Fishway design, operation, innovations and lessons learned.
- The Native Fish Recovery Plan – Gunbower and Lower Loddon.

**When:** Saturday 21 May 2016

**Time:** 10.00 am- 3.00 pm (bus departing from and returning to the carpark at the south end of Lake Boga Caravan Park on the Murray Valley Hwy). Lunch will be provided.

**RSVP** close Monday 18 May 2016. Secure your place by contacting the North Central CMA on (03) 5448 7124 or [info@nccma.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@nccma.vic.gov.au)

## Listening to the Mount; Culture at Kooyoora and Korong

Wedderburn Conservation Management Network presents a field day to learn more from Traditional Owners, the Dja Dja Wurrung people, about the history and culture of the Mount Korong and Mount Kooyoora region.

Gather together for a traditional smoking ceremony, and then women will go to Mount Korong and men to Mount Kooyoora, to learn about "Walking this Way" - walking women's way, men's way, Country's way.

**When:** Sunday 29 May 2016, 9:30am - 1:00pm

**Where:** Meet at the Glenalbyn Campground on the Brenanah-Glenalbyn Road before heading to Mount Korong or Mount Kooyoora.

**RSVP:** Registrations are essential and numbers are strictly limited. Please register by May 20 by contacting Trudy Nelsson on 0419 800 980 or email your name, contact details, dietary requirements, and if you'll be attending the Korong (female) or Kooyoora (male) event to: [listeningtothemount@gmail.com](mailto:listeningtothemount@gmail.com)

This is a free event and morning tea will be provided. Own vehicle required & car-pooling is encouraged.

## Courses and Resources

### National Landcare Conference & Awards 2016



**On behalf of the 2016 National Landcare Conference, Landcare Australia is pleased to call for the submission of abstracts for conference presentations.**

The conference, to be held between 21 and 23 September 2016 at Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, will centre around conference theme '*Collaborative Communities – Landcare in*



*Action:*

Presenters should look to showcase the Landcare movement's approach to natural resource management and sustainable agriculture. Landcare Australia seek presentations for the concurrent session streams:

- Climate Impacts and Responses
- Community Engagement
- Landscape Challenges and Responses
- Collaboration and Innovation

Anyone involved with the Landcare movement is eligible to submit an abstract. Farmers, volunteers, Landcare groups, natural resource management organisations, primary industry representatives, environmentalists and conservationists, academics and researchers are encouraged to consider whether they have a Landcare story to share.

In addition, poster exhibits for display at the conference are also being called for. These should illustrate the outcomes and lessons from Landcare or natural resource management projects, which you would like to share with other conference delegates.

Individuals and groups can submit an abstract for the National Landcare Conference & Awards 2016 on the Landcare Australia Communities Portal:

1. Login or register as a user on the Landcare Australia Communities Portal.  
<https://landcareonline.force.com/login?ec=302&inset=6F&startURL=%2Fa0W6F000000PeXrUAl>

2. Click on 'Create Application'.

For questions about online submissions, please refer to the FAQs tab on the Landcare Australia Communities Portal or email  
<mailto:help@landcareaustralia.com.au>.

## 2016 Wetland Plant Identification Course

Nationally renowned wetland ecologists Damien Cook and Elaine Bayes have developed this course for anyone interested in wetland plant identification and ecology.

The course will run over 3 days and each day will focus on a different wetland habitat (water's edge, deep marsh and mudflat) and be timed so as to follow the wetting and drying of the stunning Reedy Lagoon at Gunbower Island or nearby wetland. Participants can elect to do 1, 2 or all 3 days

You can choose from two course dates consisting of 3 days, 9.00 – 4.30 pm:

### Course One Dates:

- Day 1: Wednesday 12 October 2016
- Day 2: Wednesday 7 December 2016
- Day 3: Wednesday 8 March 2017

### Course Two Dates:

- Day 1: Thursday 13 October 2016
- Day 2: Thursday 8 December 2016
- Day 3: Thursday 9 March 2017

Cost per day = \$290 plus GST = \$319. A reduced price for all 3 days = \$800 plus GST = \$880.

All the details are online at ;  
<http://rakali.com.au/education-and-training-2/wetland-plant-identification-courses-2015/>

## Funding...

### Landcare Australia Special Projects Grants 2016

Landcare Australia is offering grants to Landcare and farming groups to undertake projects that protect environmental assets, address priority issues and improve the health of the environment.

Groups are invited to apply for a grant of up to \$15,000 (ex. GST) to support projects that focus on one or more of the following areas:

- Biodiversity and threatened species; and
- Sustainable Agriculture.

For more information, login (or sign up if you're not already a member) to the Landcare Australia Communities Portal and click on the 'Grants' tab.

Applications open on Monday 18 April and close on Friday 20 May (5.00pm EST).



## It's Mother's Day - Plant a tree and create a living legacy.

Come along and plant with your mum or for your mum.  
Wear your gloves and gumboots. We'll provide the rest.

Sunday, 8 May 2016 9am to 12 noon  
Campaspe Drive, Woodend. The other side of the creek to the children's park.

Everyone welcome. No need to book.  
M. 0409 373 010 [www.treesformum.com](http://www.treesformum.com)

Trees for Mum Woodend 



With huge thanks to our  
very generous photographer, Kim Selby



This event has been generously funded by