



North Central chat

NOVEMBER 2018

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

A message from the Regional Landcare Coordinator

Hi everyone,

I am thrilled to be back after a refreshing and enjoyable extended break. I managed to squeeze in trips to WA, SA, New Zealand and Mallacoota, so it's been an amazing three months from Western to Eastern Australia... and beyond!

I wish to extend thanks to my wonderful CMA colleagues Cass, Laura, Darren and Britt for all their help in keeping the Chat, grants and other Landcare related activities rolling along smoothly while I was away.

Congratulations to the [2018-19 Victorian Landcare Grant recipients](#), I look forward to being involved in your projects as they progress throughout the coming 12 months. It was certainly a challenging experience as an assessor this year with so many deserving projects unable to be funded. However, I am pleased we were able to support as many groups as we did with the available funds.

Funding and the future of Landcare was a key topic of discussion during the 2018 National Landcare Conference in Brisbane which Darren and I attended, along with National Landcare Award nominees Ian Higgins and Tarrangower Cactus Control Group, in early October.

The conference showcased grassroots Landcare projects from across the country, amidst keynote speakers discussing feeding hungry soils, supporting meaningful partnerships. Most confronting but topical was Professor Mark Howden discussing moving towards a climate change strategy for Landcare. Professor Howden is Director of the Climate Change Institute at the Australian National University and Vice Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the organisation which released a [Special Report on Global Warming](#) on October 8. The timeliness of his keynote address at the conference unpacked the history, policy, science and varying scenarios and their impact through global warming.

The National Landcare Award winners and conference presentations are available online. Visit Landcare Australia's website [here](#)

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<https://www.nationallandcareconference.org.au/presentation-request/>

Over the coming month, Darren and I will be hosting Landcare Network Chairs and Facilitator meetings, assisting groups with 2017-18 grant reporting and the Macedon Ranges *Intrepid Landcare* Leadership retreat for young people aged 18-35, which I'm really looking forward to.

Enjoy the read,

Tess Grieves

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News...

All aboard 2018 Chicks in the Sticks

Saturday October 20 marked the sixth Chicks in the Sticks event held in the North Central CMA region.

Boarding the M.V Mary Ann in Echuca, 80 guests were welcomed to Country by Yorta Yorta woman Auntie Greta Morgan who shared the importance of holistic healthy Country, healing plants, waters and community.

The theme for 2018 was 'Giving Voice to Vision- Increasing the Visibility of Women in Rural Areas'. Guest speakers included Bronwyn Blake, author of 'Gulf Women- Voices from remote North West Queensland'. Bron delighted the audience with readings from a compilation of stories from ladies on the land. Tales of kitchen floor births, snakes attempting to strangle sleeping children and station cooks causing chaos were amongst the incredible incidents written by women of the land who thought "What would people want to know about my life in this place. What story do I have to share?"

The book was launched in 2017 and has gone into its second reprint due to overwhelming popularity.

Cath Walker from the Royal Flying Doctor Service followed presenting information and helpful hints on supporting people with mental health concerns and paying particular attention to rural people during dry times. Cath's lifetime of experience working with urban, regional and remote farming communities around Australia made for some wonderful stories which got us thinking about the health and wellbeing of those around us.

The chatter didn't cease all afternoon, with plenty of ladies taking an interest in the Strathallan Landcare Groups Squirrel Glider display and CMA information stands. Everyone had their very own Oprah moment, getting a copy of 'Gulf Women' to take home as a memento from the day.

The Goulburn Broken and North Central CMAs are thrilled to take Chicks in the Sticks around our catchments annually. The event will be featured in the upcoming edition of the Victorian Landcare Magazine which focuses on 'Women in Landcare'.

Happy snaps from 2018 are [online here](#). Looking forward to seeing more of you at the 2019 event!

Out 'n' About - Snow Gum Seed Spot

Blampied-Kooroocheang Landcare Facilitator Simon Kirby recently sent through some progress updates from the 2016 Snow Gum Regeneration project funded through a North Central CMA Landcare Network Grant.

"The trees are doing well at over 8ft and will set seed soon, buds were seen on many of the trees. Seedlings were also seen from Snow Gum Tree 7 at the site."



The tree planting was a part of the Network's, 'Protecting the future of our Trees- Seed Security' project, which targeted the seed of species rapidly declining in the Upper Loddon catchment area, including yarra gum, snow gum, yellow box and long leaf box.



Students working to improve the Little Coliban River with Peter Gordan Lawrence (PGL) Camps

Tylden Landcare President, Brendan Smith

PGL Campaspe Downs, Tylden Landcare and Camberwell Girls Grammar School students recently participated in a Tylden Landcare program.

The program involves the school in the Integrated Catchment Management Plan for the Coliban River system operated by the North Central CMA and Coliban Water- this part of the project is to plant indigenous plants along the Little Coliban River during 2018.

With the help of PGL staff, school staff and Tylden Landcare Group, children from Camberwell Girls Grammar School spent time planting small plants from forestry tubes along the Little Coliban on PGL land.

Stuart Davie from PGL Campaspe Downs said "The students have enthusiastically joined the program and have planted indigenous trees, shrubs and grasses. The students are very aware that indigenous vegetation offers food and homes for native animals, prevents soil erosion and keeps the air clean. These plants were planted along the Little Coliban River as part of the Coliban system Integrated Catchment Management program."

Stuart added that plants included eucalypts, acacias, cassinia and Lomandra, poa and a range of other seedlings usually found along water courses in our region.

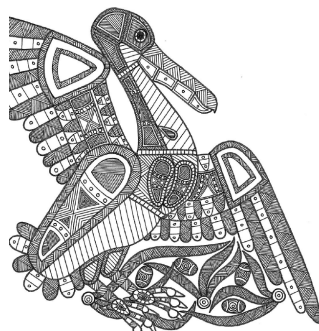


Photo: Students from Camberwell Girls Grammar School with heads down busily planting seedlings along the Little Coliban River.

Tylden Landcare is working with landholders along the Little Coliban River and the North Central CMA together with Coliban Water to protect and rehabilitate the Little Coliban River to ensure a healthy water supply for farms and all users of the Coliban water storage system. A clean, healthy

catchment ensures clean, healthy water for the future.

Along with PGL staff school staff assisted students on the day and said, "The students did a great job of planting along the river. We have visited PGL at Campaspe Downs for a school camp and now we feel we have contributed to the ongoing, future health of the Little Coliban River".



Launch of Reconciliation Action Plan

The North Central CMA has developed a Reconciliation Action plan for the organisation.

The plan, endorsed by Reconciliation Australia, provides clear and practical pathways towards our vision of walking alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as partners, caring for our region's catchment together.

It commits us to actions that recognise the ongoing connection Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have with Country as the custodians of the land and water for thousands of generations, and to tangible measures towards restorative justice. It is our aim that exceptional leadership and practice in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander engagement is part of how we do business.

Wamba Wamba man Nick Stewart helped in the development of the Reconciliation Action Plan, seeking input from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and organisations including the North Central CMA region's seven Traditional Owner groups; Barapa Barapa, Dja Dja Wurrung, Taungurung, Wadi Wadi, Wamba Wamba, Wotjobaluk represented by the Barengi Gadjin Land Council and Yorta Yorta.

Nick says "Reconciliation to me is very important as it is a small step in the healing of past wrongs committed in this country. To me, a strong Reconciliation Action Plan for the North Central CMA is vital as it will allow for the voices of all concerned stakeholders to be heard on matters relating to land and water."

The plan was launched in Bendigo on 30 October – Find a link to the plan on the North Central CMA website.



News on the latest CMA Regenerative Agriculture project

Felicity Harrop, Project Manager North Central CMA

The North Central CMA is in the process of securing National Landcare Project 2 funding for a Regenerative Agriculture project to be delivered during 2018-19.

The project aims to increase awareness and adoption of land management practices that improve and protect the condition of soil, biodiversity and vegetation. I will be project managing with support from Darren Bain, the North Central Catchment Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator.



The **Regenerative Agriculture project** will work with farmers, industry and communities to manage multiple farming threats, such as soil carbon and biodiversity loss. Supporting local farmers to increase their understanding and knowledge of soil management, trialling options for improving soil health, and protecting and enhancing farm biodiversity and native vegetation is the focus. The project supports the testing of new and innovative farm practices at the local scale through on-farm demonstration sites as well as knowledge building workshops and field days.

The first year of funding will support the establishment of three Regenerative Agriculture Community groups to complete foundational activities such as base line data collection, soil testing, soil knowledge building workshops, and a group soils activity plan determined by community members. Landholders interested in the project can contact me further via email: felicity.harrop@nccma.vic.gov.au

Victorians Volunteering for Nature

On Sunday 14 October, the Hon Lily D'Ambrosio, Minister for Energy, Environment, and Climate Change launched the Victorians Volunteering for Nature: Environmental Volunteering Plan.

The Plan aims to reduce barriers to volunteering in Victoria, and to get more Victorians connecting with nature and acting to protect and enhance the natural environment. It provides a new, coordinated and revitalised approach to environmental volunteering through four focus areas (i.e. sustain, expand, value, and understand) that seek to address the challenges, issues and the changing needs facing the environmental volunteering sector.

Read the Plan: to download or read the Environmental Volunteering Plan (and the Plan summary) go to <https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/home/victorians-volunteering-for-nature>



For further information: on the Environmental Volunteering Plan please email

environmental.volunteering@delwp.vic.gov.au

Digging into your doggo's DNA

It's not every day you get asked to circulate information from a "Farm Dog Project" researcher, and as an avid a dog lover, how could I say no.

Glenda Forster from the University of Sydney is doing research on working dogs. Glenda has asked "If any of you have a few minutes to spare and could fill out the data on your herding dogs in the attached link it would be very helpful"

"We are collecting data and some DNA to try and map the best working traits for breeding better working dogs. Also looking at what families have strengths in different areas and we need a lot more data at this stage of the project."



Photo: Shari Rankin North Central CMA

You and your furry friend can get more information from the Livestock Herding Dog study via:

<https://doggenetics.net.au/Kelpie/FarmSurvey.html>



Community help needed to map carp populations

Centre for Invasive Species Solutions FeralFlyer Issue #352.



Photo: Danswell Starrs

CARPMAP, an online survey tool to support community surveillance of carp aggregations, has been launched by the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation, and it is being led by you!

Recreational fishers, landcare volunteers, farmers, tourists and all members of the public are being asked to report information on these 'aggregations' in our waterways.

"Understanding carp aggregations not just locally but at a national scale will be critical for an effective national approach to carp control," said Matt Barwick who leads the National Carp Control Plan.

CARPMAP is a joint initiative community surveillance program led by Fisheries Research and Development Corporation with support from the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions, the NSW Department of Primary Industries and CSIRO.

To log your sightings and for more information visit the [CARPMAP website](#).

Events...

Cohuna kids Catch-a-Carp competition

The North Central CMA Kids Catch-a-Carp Competition is on again this year as part of the Big Cohuna Festival.

Enjoy a morning of fishing alongside the Gunbower Creek in Cohuna, with prizes awarded for:

- Biggest carp caught
- Smallest carp caught
- Most carp caught
- Most interesting catch

Children must always be accompanied by an adult.

When: Sunday 4 November 2018, 10.00am -1.00pm (registrations open 9am)

Where: Garden Park, Cohuna (Gateway Information Centre end)

RSVP: Free event. Register on the day or prior to the event by calling 5448 7124 or emailing info@nccma.vic.gov.au

Free training for Landcarers

Connecting Country, based in Castlemaine, is delivering a series of important workshops for Landcare members throughout November.

Workshop 1: Governance Training

- How to run an efficient, effective, and fun meeting.
- How to achieve your group's goals.
- What are you responsible and liable for?

When: Friday 23 November, 12pm-4pm

Workshop 2: Attracting, Recruiting and Retaining Volunteers

- How to attract, recruit and retain volunteers for your Landcare group

Where: Friday 30 November, 12pm-3pm

Workshop 3: First Aid Training (note: the CPR refresher course is run as part of the same training session, but only goes for a couple of hours in the morning)

When:

- Thursday 29 November, 9am-4pm
- Friday 7 December, 9am-4pm



Option of Level II First Aid training (#HLTAID003 Provide First Aid) or a CPR refresher course (#HLTAID001 Provide Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation).

RSVP: For further details on all of the above contact Asha Bannon, Landcare Facilitator (Mount Alexander region) on (03) 5472 1594 or email asha@connectingcountry.org.au



STOCK UP: Keeping and caring for goats

Stock Sense is hosting a free, interactive webinar for goat owners on Tuesday 13 November, starting at 8pm.

This webinar is free to attend so please pass on to your contacts who may be interested. Program details are listed below.

'Stock up: Keeping and caring for goats' focuses on what you need to know when it comes owning goats in Victoria. Dr Berwyn Squire, Agriculture Victoria, will walk through the 101 of owning goats and during the interactive webinar there will be the opportunity to ask questions and be part of the discussion.

Topics covered include:

- The do's and don'ts of goat care
- Your role in traceability
- Getting the jump on worms and lice
- Looking after your goat's teeth, feet and horns

When: Tuesday 13 November, 8pm – 9pm

Where: Online

RSVP: Register [online](#), call 1300 020 163 or email stocksense@vff.org.au

Waterbug workshop

Calling all citizen scientists!

Join us to learn the Agreed Level Taxonomy method of identifying Waterbugs, how we can use them to monitor the health of waterways and how you can become a Citizen Scientist through our RiverScan program.

Help us track the progress of our Native Fish Recovery Gunbower and Lower Loddon Project by monitoring river health with waterbugs.

FREE event, lunch provided

When: Monday 12 November 2018, 9am – 4:30 pm

Where: Meet at Cohuna Gateway Visitor Centre

RSVP: To register or for further details, call Peter Rose on (03) 5440 1873, or email peter.rose@nccma.vic.gov.au

Waterbug field work- update your skills

North Central CMA is sampling Waterbug sites on Pyramid Creek, Gunbower Creek, Lower Loddon River and Little Murray River using the Agreed Level Taxonomy method.

No experience is required. You are welcome to join us to further your waterbug ID skills and help contribute data to the 2018 RiverScan Report.

When: Tuesday 13 and Wednesday 14 November

Where: Meet at Cohuna Gateway Visitor Centre

RSVP: To register or for further details, call Peter Rose on (03) 5440 1873, or email peter.rose@nccma.vic.gov.au





Hello everyone,

I have to say I am glad Tess is back from leave as I don't think I would have had a chance to put the North Central Chat together this month, Britt and I have had so many events on, I don't know where to start!

The month started with coming home from Perth as part of my leave, I was only there for two days, but I LOVED Perth, especially the Freemantle markets. I wasn't there for long enough to go exploring, but it's now high on my wish list.

Back to work on Tuesday with plenty of meetings and planning for our upcoming events including catching up with some of our Waterwatch volunteers in Castlemaine.

On Sunday 14 October we held our annual Campaspe Carp Catch, another great event with more than 180 participants registering for the event across six sites along the Campaspe River and in total twenty-two carp were caught.

On Monday 15 October, Britt and I launched the new Bendigo Creek Citizen Science Program in partnership with the City of Greater Bendigo. The launch included three Agreed Level Taxonomy (ALT) waterbug workshops, two River Detectives processional development workshops. We also partnered to deliver the annual National Water Week event with the City of Greater Bendigo and Coliban Water.

Britt and I are exhausted, but we have had lots of fun working with communities, Bendigo TAFE students and primary school students across north central Victoria.

Cass Davis

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Its National Waterbug Blitz time – get your fish-nets outs!

The National Waterbug Blitz is Australia's first nationwide waterway monitoring event.

In spring each year, Australians are encouraged to become 'citizen scientists' and investigate how healthy their local waterways and wetlands are, simply by exploring and identifying what waterbugs they contain. The type and number of waterbugs found in a waterway can tell us a lot about how healthy that waterway is.

The River Detectives Program is encouraging all schools to get involved and test sites for Waterbugs as part of the National Waterbug Blitz, exploring waterways to discover the types of bugs it contains (and hence how healthy it is) is a lot of fun.

If you would like to get involved, please contact your local Waterwatch Coordinator.

Good news story - Keeping watch over Bendigo Creek

An army of citizen scientists will monitor the health of Bendigo Creek to analyse how planned remediation works and development will impact water quality. The North Central CMA has joined forces with the City of Greater Bendigo to set up the program, which will see more than 350 school children, and 10 community champions keep an eye on the waterway.

"The creek provides habitat for wildlife and is important to the region's tourism and agricultural sectors," North Central CMA regional Waterwatch Coordinator Cass Davis said.

"This project will help both us and council better manage the health of the creek as it changes over the coming years."

Local Waterwatch volunteers and students from 10 local schools involved in the River Detectives program will begin



by establishing a baseline data for the creek's health.

"They will regularly monitor at least 15 sites, testing for pH levels, salinity, reactive phosphorous, turbidity, dissolved oxygen and waterbugs," Ms Davis said.

"The type and number of waterbugs at each site gives an indication of whether or not the creek is healthy.



Anthony Sheehan (CoGB) and Rohan Hogan (North Central CMA) officially launched the program.

"That data will help managers and researchers better maintain and improve the creek and allow us to see how the water improves as the city develops and as projects such as Dja Wurrung's Wanyarram Dhelk start to take effect.

"Traditional ecological knowledge will also help us better understand and manage the health of the creek."

City of Greater Bendigo Senior Environment Officer Anthony Sheehan said Bendigo Creek is an important part of council's plan to make the city the world's most liveable community.

"This project will provide outcomes that link to our vision, creating an environment people can enjoy and benefit from," he said.

"Healthy water leads to healthy communities, and that is at the heart of creating cities that are healthy places for people to make their home and grow with their families."

The River Detectives program supports teachers to get young people connected to their local waterway.

"This project will focus on increasing the students' knowledge of Bendigo Creek and will provide a unique opportunity for students to explore science outdoors, while collecting important data," Ms Davis said.

The project was launched at Bendigo's Number 7 Reservoir last week, with a workshop for educators and community volunteers.

This project is a joint initiative between the City of Greater Bendigo and North Central Catchment CMA Waterwatch program.

The Victorian Government is supporting community partnerships over the next four years through Waterwatch

and other citizen science initiatives to address local waterway priorities. These priorities are being addressed as part of the government's \$222 million investment over the next four years to improve catchment and waterway health across regional Victoria.

River Detectives 2019 – Registrations opening soon



Exploring local
waterways with students

Registrations will open in early November for the 2019 River Detectives program. Please keep your eyes open for this in your email inbox and if you would like to know how you can get involved, please give us a call!

River Detectives – how did we go?



Towards the end of November, we will be wrapping up the year that's been. We've had lots of fun working with schools across Victoria. To keep our program going, we will be asking you some questions via an online survey. It is important to us to make sure we are supporting teachers across Victoria with the appropriate resources, training and equipment to engage students. Please take the time to fill out the survey so we can bring you an even better program in 2019.

Do you want to learn how to use the Waterwatch Data portal?

Waterwatch Victoria is providing us with the opportunity to host a workshop that will focus on the Waterwatch data website.

The workshop is aimed at helping people to use and navigate their way around the Waterwatch data portal, how to use the data with confidence and comparing results with Victorian Guidelines.

This workshop will be hands-on and split into two sessions for those of you interested in learning all aspects of Waterwatch data and interpretation and for those of you who would just like a refresher in adding your data onto the

website.



We will be in touch with details soon, please keep your eyes open for correspondence.

A new and emerging citizen science program - A Healthy Coliban Catchment



The long-term protection of one of the region's most important waterways is at the centre of an innovative 20-year plan bringing together government agencies, councils and local communities.

A Healthy Coliban Catchment focuses on the health of the Coliban River and its tributaries upstream of Malmsbury Reservoir. For the first time, Coliban Water, the North Central Catchment Management Authority (CMA) and Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation have joined forces to create a plan aimed at protecting water quality, the fauna and flora, and cultural history of the area. Waterwatch will be recruiting community volunteers to participate in monitoring water quality and waterbugs to report on the health of the waterways over time.

If you would like to know more or find out how you can get involved, please contact us at info@nccma.vic.gov.au

Courses and resources...



Soil; The key to the past, the present and the future

Sustainable soil management is one of the key environmental, social and economic issues facing the world today. Increasing global population, globalisation of markets, reducing soil fertility and increasing mechanisation combine to place greater pressure on soil resources.

If the world's soil resources are to meet future human needs we must plan for and adapt to changes. To achieve greater sustainability of soil resources we need to explore the lessons of the past, reflect on the present and develop concrete plans and goals for the future. This represents a challenge for decision making at all levels, from individuals to governments. These decisions must be underpinned with quality science and first hand experiences from land management.

Landcare enthusiast Rebecca Mitchell, DEDJTR Soil Scientist and Land Management Extension Officer based in Bendigo, will be presenting at the conference. We wish Bec all the best with her session titled 'Controlled Traffic Farming in the Low Rainfall Zone, Assessing the merits through development and extension'.

When: 18-23 November 2018

Where: Hyatt Hotel, Canberra.

RSVP: Registrations close November 12, 2018. Go online at <http://soilscienceconference.org.au> or contact Kaigi Conferencing and Events on (02) 6198 3218



Funding opportunities...

Agriculture Victoria's Artisanal Sector Program

October saw the Minister for Agriculture launch the stage one grants, the Artisanal Sector Roadmap, and an online portal to link Victorian artisan producers to government services and support.

The launch is an important next step in the Victorian Government's Artisanal Sector Program. The program is delivering \$2m over two years to support the growth of Victoria's vibrant and valuable artisanal sector and its diverse artisan producers and food businesses.

Stage one grants

Stage one grants support artisan producers to improve productivity or grow their business through small-scale investments in equipment, skills, and services. Stage one grants are **now open** and will **close 31 January 2019**.

Artisanal Sector Roadmap

The Roadmap provides a framework for a state-wide approach to collectively support and grow Victoria's artisanal sector. It presents a vision for the sector in Victoria and identifies four key actions to support sector growth:

1. Promoting the sector's vibrant diversity
2. Building sector capabilities
3. Facilitating access to government services and support
4. Supporting sector-led development

Artisanal sector portal

The portal is the first activity under action 3 of the Artisanal Sector Roadmap. It provides a single point of contact for artisan producers to navigate regulatory requirements and access government information, services and biosecurity and support. The Victorian Government will continue to develop the portal in consultation with the sector. Through the portal, producers can have their say on what other information and links they'd like to see on the portal as it grows.

Go to www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/artisanag to visit the new artisanal sector portal, read the Artisanal Sector Roadmap and learn more about grants.

Now Open: 2018-19 Recreational Fishing Grants Program

Last year, the Program allocated more than \$1 million of licence fees to 16 projects across Victoria, as well as contributing significant funding to fisheries officers, VRFish and fish production at Snobs Creek.

Project proposals between \$5,001 and \$100,000 qualify for the large grants part of the Program, which has four categories:

- Fisheries sustainability and habitat improvement
- Fishing access and facilities
- Fisheries related education, information and training
- Recreational fisheries research

Previously funded projects include fish cleaning tables, signage, stiles over fences to improve access, fishing platforms and jetties, and re-snagging to improve fish habitat in rivers and lakes.

Who can apply: The Program is open to fishing clubs, community groups, incorporated bodies, and government and statutory bodies.

Large grants (for projects from \$5,001 to \$100,000) - close 28 February 2019

Small grants of up to \$5,000 - available year-round.

For more information and to apply online: visit vfa.vic.gov.au/fishinggrants or email rec.fishinggrants@vfa.vic.gov.au

On-Farm Drought Infrastructure Support Grants

The Victorian Government has now established the On-Farm Drought Infrastructure Support Grants.

Grants of up to \$5,000 (ex GST) are available to eligible farm businesses. Eligible farm businesses are required to provide at least dollar for dollar matching funding co-contribution.

The grants will assist farm businesses implement on-farm infrastructure that improves drought management and preparedness

Local Government area and Grant eligibility criteria can be found online [here](#)

Applicants are encouraged to contact Rural Finance on **1800 260 425** to discuss their needs.