

North Central chat

SEPTEMBER 2018

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

A message from the Regional Waterwatch Coordinator

Hello everyone,

Welcome to the September edition of the North Central Chat, Tess is still away exploring the breadth of the West Australian landscape. Meanwhile, here in north central Victoria, we are warming up for a spring full of wonderful news and events happening across the region.

I spent most of August getting our new River Detectives Coordinator Britt Gregory up to speed on the program. We have also been planning the annual Waterwatch Quality Assurance and Quality Control (QAQC) workshops. These workshops help to ensure our equipment and testing methodologies are meeting Waterwatch Victoria's standards. The testing provides us with confidence that the water quality data being collected by our community volunteers can be used in natural resource management.

Laura is working with our successful grant recipients and is in the process of sending out Landcare agreements for this round Victorian Landcare Grants program.

Don't forget to register now for the annual Chicks in the Sticks event, being held October as places are filling up fast.

Britt and I are organising waterbug training sessions for community, professional development workshops for River Detectives educators and our annual National Water Week event are all happening in October.

SAVE THE DATE: The annual Campaspe Carp Catch event will be held at six locations along the Campaspe River and will align with National Gone Fishing day, 14 October 2018. We will be working with Landcare groups and Angling clubs to deliver this event and are offering prizes for the biggest catch and the ugliest catch!

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Get your rods out.... *The Campaspe Carp
Catch is on again!*



Read more about all the exciting news in this month's edition of the Chat. Enjoy the read,

Cass Davis, On behalf of the Landcare and Waterwatch team

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News...

Why on earth is dung so important? Our junior Landcarers find our why!

Article and images taken from the Landcare Australia website.



Our wonderful junior Landcare Australia team tells all! In the recent edition of the Junior Landcarers newsletter, they explain why dung beetles play a vital in maintaining soil health. Dubbed one of nature's greatest recyclers, dung beetles bury dung to creating tunnels. These busy beetles are aerating soils, increasing water filtration and reducing greenhouse gases. Apparently 'farmers love them!' Don't believe me? [Click here](#) to find out more about these stinky beetles.

Sustainability Victoria: Creating a better environment, now and for our future.

Article and images taken from the Landcare Australia website.



Sustainability Victoria is all about information, advice and support to tackle climate change and use our precious resources wisely. We want Victoria to be a thriving, beautiful, healthy place to live and work.

We can help you take action in your home, your business, your school and your community to protect our lifestyle and ensure Victoria is a place we're all proud to call home.

Together, we can make that happen – small actions equal big impacts when we all work together.

Sustainability Victoria is committed to making e-waste recycling as easy as possible. You can now take your e-waste to a number of locations around the state where it will be recycled safely.

To find out where you can take your e-waste [click here](#).

Welcome to Britt Gregory, our new River Detectives Coordinator



Hi all! I am the new River Detectives Coordinator and will also be working on Waterwatch and citizen science projects with Cass. As well as supporting the North Central River Detectives, I will be coordinating the State-wide program (in case you didn't hear, Sophie has taken up a new role closer to her home in Ballarat).

I have been with the North Central CMA in various roles for 15 years and have been a Waterwatch Facilitator for some of that time. The programs are very different now compared to when I was last involved in 2006 - 2009, so it may take a little time for me to get the hang of things, especially the awesome new River Detectives website! Sophie and Cass have done a fantastic job expanding and improving both the Waterwatch and River Detectives programs - I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to become involved.

I look forward to supporting you all as river detectives educators and citizen scientists, and the outstanding contributions you make.

Keep up the good work!

Britt Gregory, Project Officer





Premier's Sustainability Awards

Article and images taken from the Premier's Sustainability Awards website.



On 22 July Minister, Lily D'Ambrosi, announced the finalists in this year's Premier's Sustainability Awards 2018. The Premier's Sustainability Awards comprises ten award categories, and we are excited that two of the finalists are from the North Central CMA region.

The category for Built Environment has seen City of Greater Bendigo, Lovell Chen, Nicholson Construction - Bendigo Soldiers' Memorial Institute Passive House being nominated. The heritage-listed building that houses the Soldiers' Memorial Institute is believed to be the first government building in Australia built to passive house standards - the world's leading standard in energy efficient construction to read.



In the Environmental Justice category, it's wonderful to see GWMWater (Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water Corporation) working with Dja Dja Wurrung - south west loddon pipeline through a Memorandum of Understanding. In 2016 GWMWater received permission to develop the 1,300 kilometre south west loddon pipeline, which would cut through the Country of the Dja Dja Wurrung clans. The Memorandum of Understanding has laid the foundation for a cooperative partnership.



To find out more about these awards [click here](#)

Dust Activity

Article by NSW Government DustWatch team

Dust activity in July 2018 is the highest recorded since 2005. With sites averaging seven hours of dust.

On Tuesday 17 July 2018 very strong westerly winds, with gusts exceeding 90km/h, caused increased dust activity in the South Australian and Victorian Mallee.

The significant dust storm that occurred was clearly visible on the satellite images. It travelled east, affecting air quality in the Greater Sydney Metropolitan area.

In the north central Victoria there are two dustwatch stations; one at Kamarooka and one at Wycheproof. These sites have recorded low hours of dust. This means our paddocks are maintaining good groundcover which reduces wind erosion across the catchment,

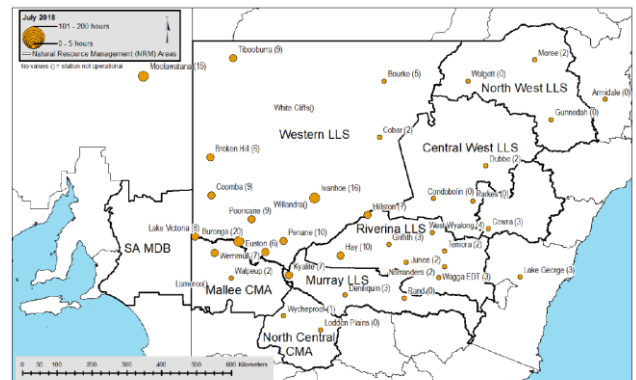


Figure 2: Hours of dust activity (number in brackets) at each DustWatch site in July 2018

Community-based wind erosion monitoring across Australia

Get your Deadly Treadlys out. It's time to Trial the Harcourt Mountain Bike Trails at La Larr Ba Gauwa Park

Article and images taken from the DELWP Loddon Mallee Facebook page.

What are you doing this weekend? Why not check out the mountain bike trails near Harcourt? Enjoy 34 kilometers of world standard mountain bike trails that take advantage of the Park's stunning views and natural granite features. The Park has everything from a leisurely beginners loop to long cross-country rides and technically challenging trails featuring chutes, berms, drops, jumps and rock gardens.



To download a trailmap [click here](#)

More information about the trails is also available on the More to Explore App and the Trailforks App.

Finally Caught on Camera! Malmsbury River Detectives Platypus

*Article by Britt Gregory, North Central CMA.
Images by Chris Bromley, Malmsbury Landcare Group.*

The River Detectives (aka the Malmsbury Ramblers) has known for some time there is a resident platypus at their monitoring site. They've been monitoring the site for four years and are understandably excited on days when they get to visit the river. Their excited chatter is probably the reason they haven't yet spotted their shy platy.



A couple of weeks ago volunteer River Detectives Educator Chris Bromley, managed to get some photos of the elusive creature. "I've been trying for years now to get a photo, with no luck" he said. "When I got these two photos I was so wrapped, I went to the school the same day to show the kids. The photos aren't great quality, but at least now we have a record".

Around ten years ago, the North Central CMA undertook a willow removal program at the then choked out site. Since then, the community has worked hard to keep these and other weeds at bay and the site has vastly improved. "Following willow removal, the site looked dreadful" said Chris "but

now the revegetation is well established and a lot of water plants came back by themselves. The waterhole is around two meters deep, and now the site provides great habitat for a lot of species". Chris often sees rakali (water rat) foraging and paddling among the fringing vegetation.



Coliban River Malmsbury - before and after

Chris also recorded his platypus sighting using the North Central CMA's NatureBlitz App, meaning this record will be shared with the Australian Platypus Conservancy and with the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas.

NatureBlitz App can assist with identification, provide more information on a species and provides an easy way for the community to contribute to science and natural resource management. Contributing fauna reports provides valuable information. Land managers are also able to access and use this information to inform their management decisions.

Let's hope the Malmsbury River Detectives get to see their resident platypus again this year, that is of course if they can keep the noise down!



Landcare Australia is Caring for Those that Care for the Land



To find out how to support Landcare Australia through the Landcare Drought appeal [click here](#)



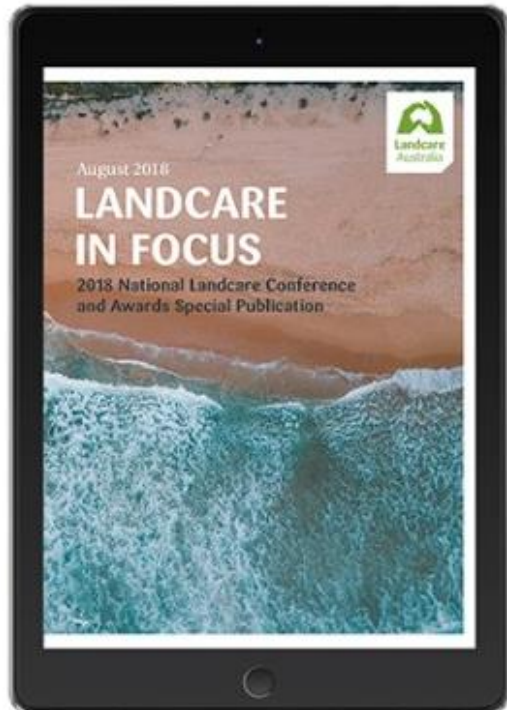
Water Storage - August update

Spring is finally here, with the sun warming our backs and promoting growth in our veggie gardens! While the outlook for rain fall across the catchment is likely to be drier than average. Our water storage levels remain around 80 -90% in the Murray storages while the Loddon storages on average are around 60%, I looked back at last year's storage levels and it appears to be a similar pattern.

Region	Water Storage	% full at August 2018
Murray Storages	Torrumbarry Weir	100.02
	Third Lake	99.94
	Reedy/Middle Lake	96.71
	Kangaroo Lake	94.37
	Kow Swamp	79.53
	Lake Boga	74.02
	Lake Charm	90.47
Campaspe	Lake Eppalock	61.82
Loddon Storages	Caim Curran Reservoir	54.84
	Tullaroop Reservoir	56.74
	Laanecoorie Reservoir	41.88
Bullarook Creek Storages	Newlyn Reservoir	78.48
	Hepburns Lagoon	65.67

Landcare in Focus - 2018 National Landcare Conference and Awards Special Publication

Article from Landcare Australia eNews



Welcome to the first digital-only edition of Landcare in focus. This issue is a special publication showcasing the 2018 National Landcare Conference and Awards. You can read about the exciting program planned and meet all 65 award finalists. With interactive links and a device-responsive design, it's never been easier to read the Landcare in Focus online!

To read this special edition of Landcare in Focus [click here.](#)



Events

Perennial Pasture Systems (PPS) 10th Annual Conference



Image by Darren Bain

When: Wednesday 12 September 2018

Time: 8.45 am sharp

Where: Conference at the Gum San Chinese Heritage Centre, 31-33 Lambert St, Ararat VIC 3377

To register: Tickets can be booked on try booking:- <https://www.trybooking.com/404375> or contact Project Manager, Rob Shea, 0438 521 357.

The PPS group is continuing to bring productive and sustainable pasture research and extension to the region and the annual conference forms a vital part of the group's calendar.

This year's conference is taking a theme around lifting farm profitability through productive pastures and management systems and is titled "PPS 10 years on; looking back and moving forward". President Tony Roberts explains "We have lined up a range of quality speakers for the day as well as a visit to a highly productive PPS member farm."

This year's seminar speakers include - leading economist Dr Bill Malcolm from Melbourne University looking at the question of pasture improvement, does it pay? Dr Belinda Hackney from NSW Dept of Agriculture will be explaining the possible reasons behind underperforming legumes. Cameron Allan from Meat & Livestock Australia will be outlining a brief look into the future of the sheep meat industry. Leading farmers: Shaun Beasley, Bairnsdale and Henry Goode, Kingston SA. will also discuss in plain english how to bring productive sustainable pasture together on farm.

The Friends of Terrick Terrick invite you to their Naturally Loddon Spring Festival

The Friends of the Terrick Terrick National Park invite you to a free weekend of activities in Terrick Terrick National Park.

A series of events will be held from 2pm Friday 5th October to 1pm Sunday 7th October 2018.

Weekend activities include: guided mini-coach tours of the park, climb Mitiamo Rock, evening presentations, guided wildflower walks, birding sessions, static displays and native plant displays on offer.

All activities are based at (or leave from) the Davies homestead site, Mitiamo-Kow Swamp Road, in the grassland section of the park.

BYO food and camping equipment. Morning & afternoon tea supplied.

To find our more, call 5480 9254

Chicks in the Sticks: Giving Voice to a Vision



Don't forget to register, tickets are selling fast!

When: Saturday October 20, 2018

Time: 10.00am - 2.30pm

Dress: Your favorite frock and native flora accessory (*Dressing up is fun, however please dress for the weather and your own comfort).

Cost: \$25.00 (includes ticket fee & GST) for women of central Victoria (drinks at bar prices).

Where: M.V Mary Ann, Riverboat Dock, Watson St, Echuca VIC 3564.

RSVP: Book online [here](#) OR contact the North Central Catchment Management Authority on (03) 5448 7124 for more information.



The Upper Landcare Campaspe Network Invites you to the Launch of the Citizen Science and eDNA Monitoring Project



Photos © Zoos Victoria, Sharon Wormleaton, Ann Killeen

The UCLN is undertaking an exciting project using citizen science and eDNA technology to determine the presence of platypus and rakali in the Campaspe and Coliban Rivers within our Landcare Network boundaries.

Come along to the launch of this exciting project using citizen science and eDNA technology to determine the presence of platypus and rakali in the Campaspe and Coliban Rivers. Help us create a key planning blueprint for future waterways management and platypus conservation efforts in the region. Learn from experts from the Australian Platypus Conservancy about these distinctive iconic animals and how we can protect their habitat.

Where: Campaspe River, end of Mill St (Jennings St end) Kyneton

When: Friday 26 October 2018

Time: 1.30 pm

For more information or to RSVP please contact uclandcare@gmail.com or michael.w.nott@gmail.com



Courses and Resources....

Applications open: 2019 Waterway Management Twinning Program



Applications for the 2019 Waterway Management Twinning Program, which are now open, are an opportunity for Landcare facilitators, coordinators and project officers.

Who can apply: the Victorian Waterway Management Twinning Program is open to all Victorian professionals currently involved in the management and protection of Victoria's waterways. Other than the scholarship positions, priority will be given to staff members of Catchment Management Authorities and projects that implement the Water for Victoria and the Victorian Regional Riparian Action Plan.

What's it about: the Twinning Program provides mentoring and professional development opportunities for people involved in the management and protection of Victorian waterways. The Program provides a fantastic opportunity to create new networks, enhance waterway management project, share wisdom and develop both professionally and personally.

Throughout the nine-month program mentors will work with their mentees to further develop an existing or developed waterway management project. In addition, all participants come together on three occasions throughout the program for professional development workshops facilitated by Dr Siwan Lovett, Director of the Australian River Restoration Centre.

Mentees and Mentors: are sought from a diverse range of disciplines and roles. Three mentor/mentee partnerships will involve fully funded scholarships:

Aboriginal Scholarship - a mentee scholarship for an Aboriginal person involved in the protection and management of Victoria's waterways.



Landcare/Community group scholarship – a mentee scholarship for a member of a not-for-profit organisation involved in the protection and management of Victoria's waterways.

River Basin Management Society Scholarship – a mentee scholarship for a River Basin Management Society member involved in the protection and management of Victoria's waterways.

How many places are available: 20 places in total will be offered in 2019, creating 10 mentor/mentee partnerships.

Applications close: 5 pm Monday 15 October 2018

For further information and to apply: please visit www.twinningiswinning.com.au for the guidelines and application forms for mentors and mentees.

Note: in 2017 Landcare Facilitators James Nelsson (Loddon Plains Landcare Network) and Kerstie Lee (Up2Us Landcare Alliance) participated in the Program.

Questions: contact Dr. Jan Barton, Program Coordinator (5571 2526 or j.barton@ghcma.vic.gov.au) or Dr. Siwan Lovett siwan.lovett@arrc.com.au (02) 6247 7997 or go to <http://www.twinningiswinning.com.au/twinning-is-winning-2019-applications-now-open/> to submit an online query.

Funding News.....

\$20 million funding available for grants for Australian Volunteers.

The Federal Department of Social Services has \$20m in funding available for grants to volunteers.

Funding between \$1,000 to \$5,000 is available for purchase of equipment, transport, training and background screening of volunteers.

Applications must be submitted by 2pm Tuesday 18 September.

More information, grant guidelines and details of how to apply can be found here <https://www.communitygrants.gov.au/grants/volunteer-grants-2018>

On-farm energy grants



You can now apply for an on-farm energy grants at agriculture.vic.gov.au/agenergy

The grants provide support to farmers to replace energy inefficient equipment, install more energy efficient systems and enable own-generation capacity.

Farmers are encouraged to apply early, as grants are available to eligible primary producers until March 2020 or until available funding is exhausted (whichever comes first).

Any farmer wanting to access one of the grants needs to have had an approved on-farm energy assessment.

Find out more about application guidelines and the free on-farm energy assessments at agriculture.vic.gov.au/agenergy or take a look at the following factsheets:

If you have any questions please call the customer service centre on 136 186.

