



# North Central chat

**FEBRUARY 2019**

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

## A message from the Regional Landcare Coordinator

Hi everyone,

Welcome to the first edition of the North Central Chat for 2019. Thank you for your ongoing readership of our vibrant little newsletter now in its seventh year as 'the Chat'. It is certainly a joy bringing it to you every month.

I trust you enjoyed a break over the summer, spent time with family and friends and ate far too much good food, or perhaps that was just me!

Returning to work in early January, I enjoyed a quiet few weeks preparing for Landcare support activities for 2019. Before June 30, we will host another Northern Rivers Roundup event in March to provide training and peer supported learning to the 11 Landcare Network Facilitators in our region alongside North East and Goulburn Broken CMAs Landcare support staff. Landcare Networks will also continue regular meeting with North Central CMA through the Chairs and Facilitators sessions.

I am looking forward to supporting groups with their community events and promotion, including attending the 'This Farm needs a Farmer' field day on February 24, as well as taking on some new challenges assisting with group strategic planning which should be very interesting.

I continue my role on the Victorian Landcare and Catchment Magazine editorial committee, the latest [Summer 2019](#) edition hits mailboxes as I write and features a story on our region's premier Landcare women's event, Chicks in the Sticks.

In late 2018, I was asked to be a part of the Advisory Group for the Youth Engagement Initiative as part of the Ag Vic Weeds and Rabbit project. The initiative is working towards boosting youth engagement across Victoria to engage young people in established invasive species management and to promote the significant opportunity to strengthen community-led

News	2
Events	6
Course & Resources	10
Funding News	11
Rabbit Buster Month feature	12



Muckleford Catchment Landcare preparing tubestock guards during their recent Bassett Creek restoration project.

approaches to invasive species management. A workshop is being planned in the coming months to generate youth focussed engagement initiatives and share learnings from those having success.

The recent 2017-18 Landcare Grant reporting data will inform the next Landcare Repot Card which I am looking forward to collating and promoting through our investor networks to demonstrate the value of Landcare in our region.

Finally, I wish to reiterate our interest in visiting your project sites and attending Landcare events as we learn so much from being out in the field with groups. Please keep Darren and I in mind as calendar dates fill up with Landcare activities.

Enjoy the read,

**Tess Grieves**

**Regional Landcare Coordinator**

North Central Catchment Management Authority

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## News...

### 2019 Victorian Landcare Award nominations

**It's time to start thinking about those humble volunteer groups and individuals who deserve the recognition (and a bit of embarrassment) as we start gathering nominations for the Victorian Landcare Awards.**

Categories and criteria details are coming soon and are likely to be much the same as the 2017 award categories which included;

- o Individual Landcarer Award
- o Partnerships for Landcare Award
- o Sustainable Farm Practices Award
- o Landcare Network Award
- o Landcare Community Group Award
- o Junior Landcare Team Award
- o Indigenous Land Management Award
- o Young Landcare Leader Award
- o Urban Landcare Award

I have a nominee shortlist worked up and would love to help anyone thinking of nominating with their submission, so please get in touch. 2017 saw North Central snag three award wins, so can we go just as well if not better in 2019? More details will soon be available on the Victorian Landcare Gateway.



## Congratulations and Thank You!

**We've had a bit of movement in Landcare support staff over the past few months, so we wish to acknowledge the efforts of two of our Network Facilitators as they take on new challenges.**

Loddon Plains Landcare Network Facilitator and GOANNA Project Worker James Nelsson has recently been appointed to a role at Trust for Nature.

James was welcomed into the Landcare Network and broader North Central Landcare Facilitators team in 2016 and has been instrumental in driving many on-ground projects including protection works at the Kamarooka wetlands and cactus control Mt Buckrabanyule. As significant, has been James' passion and commitment to growing community skills capacity during his time as facilitator through workshops and training sessions including GIS mapping, using new technology and strategic planning.

*James said "I have really enjoyed this role and appreciated the opportunity that the Loddon Plains Landcare Network has provided me. I have been made to feel very welcome by the various Landcare groups across our Network, and in the process, I made some wonderful friendships. I also believe that I have made a valuable contribution to this role and our local environment"*

Also moving on is Kara Kara Conservation Management Network Facilitator John Boadle, who is retiring after more than six years in the role. During that time, John was instrumental in helping the Kara Kara CMN to establish itself in the St Arnaud region, engaging with local landholders and the wider community in a variety of projects aimed at creating and improving habitat for native wildlife.

Fundamental to John's achievements was the extensive network of contacts he established during a long career in soil conservation, which saw him working closely with landholders to provide advice on soil and land usage issues.

On behalf of North Central CMA and the Landcare team, I wish to sincerely thank James and John for their contribution to Landcare. They haven't been able to get far though, as both were swiftly asked onto their respective Committees of Management. *Landcare... the gift that keep giving!*

*Landcare is certainly better for it.*

Photo: James Nelsson (pictured at top right alongside mentor Adrian Martins) and John Boadle



## Regenerative Agriculture Project update

*North Central CMA Sustainable Agriculture Project Manager, Felicity Harrop*

### **The NLP2 funded Regenerative Agriculture project is progressing well with community groups in Normanville and Raywood.**

Group activity plans have been developed, to be completed by June 2019. The groups have applied for and successfully received funding through the National Landcare Program 2 (NLP2) and North Central CMA to undertake soil testing, install soil moisture and weather monitoring stations and undertake on farm demonstrations with supporting workshops and events. These activities will support the NLP2 outcomes of increasing awareness and adoption of land management practices that improve and protect the condition of soil, biodiversity and vegetation and adapting to a changing climate. Further information on workshop and event dates will be forthcoming.

The North Central CMA is in the process of planning for the next four years of the project where a further four Regenerative Agriculture community groups will participate to support local farmers to increase their understanding and knowledge of soil management, to trial options for improving soil health, and protect and enhance farm biodiversity and native vegetation are 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 upcoming soils masterclasses and workshops in Lockington area are supported through funding from this NLP2 project. Find out more in the Courses & Resources section on Page 10.**

### **From Propagators to Planters**

*Tylden Landcare Group President, Brendan Smith*

### **Throughout 2018, Tylden Landcare Group partnered with Tylden Primary School to propagate plants for use along the Little Coliban River.**

Senior students helped the younger students to prick out tiny seedlings for planting later during 2018. Recently these now grown seedlings were taken to the Little Coliban River and planted, watered and guarded to improve vegetation along the river.

Grade 2, 3 and 4 students made the revegetation a whole school program by planting the indigenous trees, shrubs and grasses along the riparian area, along the floodplain and up into the nearby bushland. The students knew one end of the river is connected to other areas along the river and they have now participated in a program that has connected the riparian area of the river to the floodplain which is also connected to the surrounding bushland. Rivers have longitudinal connections upstream and downstream and rivers also have lateral connections throughout the whole catchment.



**Students of Tylden Primary School planting seedlings they grew for the Little Coliban River.**

A catchment wide project supported by the North Central Catchment Management Authority and Coliban Water aims to improve the Coliban catchment condition so that water to our storages can be more reliable in terms of quality and quantity. Works may include weed control, fencing and improvements in the diversity and extent of indigenous vegetation along the river that is being carried out by Tylden Landcare with help from students, parents and staff at Tylden School.

The planting took place along the Little Coliban at Campaspe Downs and Stuart Davie of PGL Campaspe Downs said; "Plants included a range of seedlings usually found along and adjacent water courses and into bushland in our region." Stuart added the students are very aware that indigenous vegetation offers food and homes for native animals, prevents soil erosion, keeps the air clean, helps keep our water catchments secure, and that native vegetation can connect our rivers to our landscapes.

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 clean, healthy catchment with clean, healthy water for the future.

School staff assisted students on the day and said, "The students did a great job of planting along the river and now we feel we have contributed to the ongoing, future health of the Little Coliban River".

## Froggatt Award goes cactus

**Congratulations to the 2017 Fairfax Media Landcare Community Group Award winners Tarrangower Cactus Control Group who recently won a Froggatt award.**

What on Earth is a Froggatt award you ask? The awards are given to those who have made a major contribution to protecting Australia's native plants and animals, ecosystems and people from dangerous new invasive species.

The Tarrangower Cactus Control Group has gone to extraordinary lengths to turn the tables on wheel cactus, a weed that escaped gardens in the 1960s and began taking over local bushland,' Invasive Species Council CEO Andrew Cox said when announcing the award.

The group was highly commended for its submission in the 2018-19 Victorian Landcare Grants and were funded by the North Central CMA to introduce an additional tool, the Cochineal bio-control insect, to use with current methods to establish a multi-pronged strategy to control wheel cactus control. A new integrated approach will decrease the spread of wheel cactus, increase landholder participation in control activities and provide a more sustainable and long-term strategy.

Read more of their award win via:

<https://connectingcountry.org.au/tarrangower-cactus-warriors-honoured-again-with-national-froggatt-award/>

## Mapping –an important step in protecting Landcares legacy

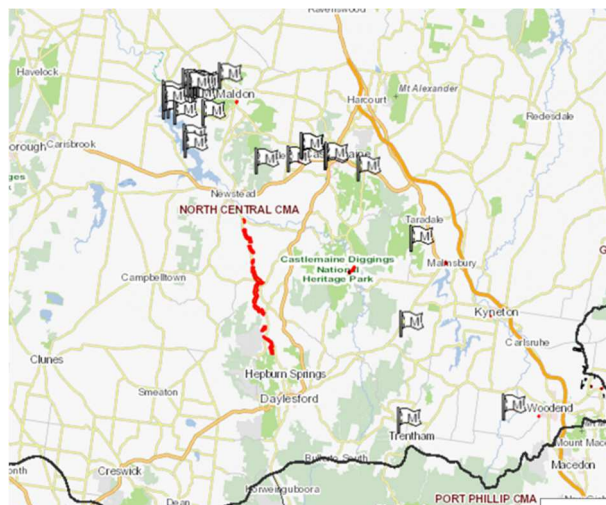
**With a new year comes new developments. Landholders wishing to alter or remove native vegetation are required to seek permission whereby revegetation was conducted using public funding, such as Landcare works.**

The [native vegetation removal regulations](#) are managed by DELWP, and in recent weeks I was

very pleased to have received several requests to investigate if Landcare funding was used to revegetate some properties. Mapping has been the key tool when defining publicly funded works and protecting Landcare efforts.

The mapping the CMA asks for during grant reporting informs this process, as does any funded project work conducted in partnership between Landcare and the CMA. In addition, I used the information that Landcare groups themselves have populated on the Landcare Historical NRM works layer of the iMap system, which I have promoted in several editions of the Chat.

We are often asking ourselves how Landcare works can be protected into the future to achieve their intended environmental function, so ensuring you take the time to accurately map and record funded works is one method by which Landcare activity can survive beyond landholder and policy changes. I've said it a lot, but If it isn't mapped, it's like it never happened.



20 years of Landcare funded riparian works at Jim Crow Creek were mapped during an iMap training session in 2017.

iMap training workshops are available and users improvement suggestions for iMap are always welcome. Please get in contact with me if you're interested in a workshop for your group in 2019.

## Stories sought for winter 2019 issue — Landcare and health feature

**The winter 2019 issue of the Victorian Landcare magazine, to be published in early June 2019, will feature stories on Landcare and health.**



Stories are sought on all aspects of health including group health, physical health, mental health, and of course the health of the environment we are working to protect, enhance and restore.

Magazine readers are keen to learn about the successes of different projects, as well as what has worked, and the insights and reflections of your group/network along the way.

The magazine fills up very quickly so please contact the editor as early as possible (i.e. well before the contribution deadline) to discuss your story ideas. It's usual by the contribution deadline for the magazine to already have a full quota of stories. Guidelines for writing are also available.

Stories need to be sent to the editor by **Thursday 21 March 2019**.

Please send your stories to:  
Carrie Tiffany (Editor)  
Victorian Landcare and Catchment Management magazine  
Email: [editorviclandcare@gmail.com](mailto:editorviclandcare@gmail.com)



**Hello everyone,**

I hope you've all enjoyed a wonderful festive season with loved ones.

At the time of writing this I've only been back on deck a few days; I still can't quite believe it's already 2019. After a typically very busy spring and beginning to summer for the Waterwatch team, it was nice to have some downtime with friends and family over the break. My family and I spent most of our time exploring the North East CMA region. It was surprisingly hot, so we spent much of this either up in the mountains or swimming in lovely crystal-clear rivers.

Prior to Christmas, the Waterwatch team spent time planning for the 2019. We are pumped and ready, but boy is there a lot to achieve.

We have three new Citizen Science projects to kick off; Castlemaine Urban Waterways, Bendigo Creek and Healthy Coliban Catchment. If you are keen to get involved, look out for more details on

these projects as we put the call-out for participants shortly.

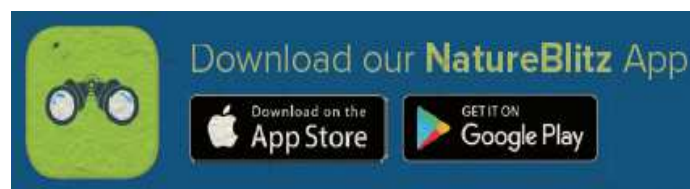
Our Citizen Science programs provide opportunities for community members to contribute in waterway-management and biodiversity-enhancement projects, which underpin a safe and secure water supply. Getting involved helps to build knowledge of waterway health, creates a sense of custodianship of your local waterway and contributes important scientific information. With training and support, participants will monitor the ecological health of these waterways by undertaking water quality and waterbug monitoring.

Don't forget to keep recording your fauna sightings on NatureBlitz. This important information is fed back to the Victorian Wildlife Atlas, which in turn feeds into the Atlas of Living Australia, so any information you contribute is widely shared and used.

All the best for a great start to the year.

### **Britt Gregory**

Waterwatch Project Officer  
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0428 551 598  
[britt.gregory@nccma.vic.gov.au](mailto:britt.gregory@nccma.vic.gov.au)



### **Water Storages Update**

With continued limited inflows, most storage levels over the summer have continued to decrease:

Region	Water Storage	% full at 15 Jan 2019
<b>Murray Storages</b>	Torrumbarry Weir	100.02
	Third Lake	101.51
	Reedy/Middle Lake	98.37
	Kangaroo Lake	93.66
	Kow Swamp	82.12
	Lake Boga	91.60



	Lake Charm	88.14
<b>Campaspe</b>	Lake Eppalock	47.73
<b>Loddon Storages</b>	Cairn Curran Reservoir	41.07
	Tullaroop Reservoir	47.31
	Laanecoorie Reservoir	37.63
<b>Bullarook Creek Storages</b>	Newlyn Reservoir	70.96
	Hepburns Lagoon	56.29

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

## River Detectives Update

Thanks to those educators who completed the end-of-year survey. This helps us to better understand how we improve support for our schools and educators to get the most from the program. It also helps to improve our systems and processes for a streamlined program.

Registrations for the 2019 River Detectives program were open for the last few weeks of the school year; we have 17 schools registered across the north central region and 94 state-wide. This is a slight decrease from last year, so if you missed this opportunity to register and would like to do so, please get in touch as soon as possible at [RiverDetectives@nccma.vic.gov.au](mailto:RiverDetectives@nccma.vic.gov.au)

We have some great professional development and virtual learning sessions planned this year and look forward to supporting Educators to deliver an even better program in 2019.

## Save the Date; Upcoming Waterwatch Volunteer Training



Waterwatch is hosting Data Portal and Data Interpretation training for our volunteers to better understand the data they are collecting, what happens with it after its uploaded to the portal and how it is used. We also plan to develop a new methods manual early in 2019. Invitations will soon be

circulated to North Central monitors, so keep an eye on your inbox.

**When:** February 26, 2019

**Where:** North Central CMA.

## Events...

### 2019 Breakfast with the Birds



Join us at Lake Murphy for an early morning of bird watching, expert speakers and a light breakfast. After recent deliveries of water for the environment, the wetland has become home to thousands of waterbirds including Australasian bittern.

This year, participants will have to the opportunity to hear from Matt Herring of Murray Wildlife who has a wealth of waterbirds experience.

**When:** Sunday 3 February 2019 – 5am to 10am

**Where:** The event will be held at Lake Murphy, Dingwall. Due to limited car parking space, please enter the wetland from Bott Road and follow the signs to the carpark. Participants will be transferred by bus from the car park to the site

**RSVP:** Registration is essential and places are limited. Please register [online](http://www.nccma.vic.gov.au/natureblitz-app) by 1 February or by contacting the NCCMA on (03) 5448 7124 or [info@nccma.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@nccma.vic.gov.au)

Why not download our Citizen Science app in preparation for this event? Look for NatureBlitz in your app store, or go to: <http://www.nccma.vic.gov.au/natureblitz-app>

## Atlas of Living Australia Forum

The Atlas of Living Australia is a collaborative, national project that collects biodiversity data from multiple sources and makes it freely available and usable online.

This forum has been organised by Hepburn Shire and the Victorian Gorse Taskforce to explore the potential of the ALA for local weed and other environmental projects.

Two sessions are on offer;

**Session 1; Atlas of Living Australia – in the field**



An interactive session for how to use the ALA in the field. This session will be of interest for those individuals, groups and contractors who need to map the occurrence of native or exotic plants or animals and/or have a database for their environmental monitoring data.

### Session 2; Atlas of Living Australia- as a planning tool

Learn how the ALA can be used by individuals and groups to plan, manage and document natural resource management projects and for project design, strategic planning and policy development at landscape scales. This session will focus on how you can use the ALA for weed control, biodiversity management, local government planning, etc.

**When:** 4 February 2019

- **Session 1:** 10am - 1 pm
- **Lunch and Display:** 1 pm - 2pm
- **Session 2:** 2pm - 5pm

**Where:** Victoria Park, Corner Ballan Rd & Burrall St, Daylesford

**RSVP:** You can choose to book for Session 1 or Session 2 or both sessions. Lunch is provided. Please advise dietary requirements

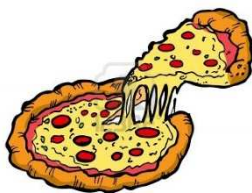
Bookings essential <https://www.trybooking.com/ZZSO> or call Hepburn Shire on 5348 2306

### Pizza Party in the Park

**Are you a young person?**

**Do you want to help care for our land and the environment ?**

**Do you like pizza?**



Connecting Country and North Central CMA Landcare are teaming up to host a *Pizza Party in the Park*. Share the news and come along to chat about starting an Intrepid Landcare Group for young people aged 18-35. Pizza & music provided, BYO drinks. Call or text 0418 428 721 for more information.

**When:** Saturday 9 February 2019, 7:00-9:00pm

**Where:** Castlemaine Botanical Gardens (near the rotunda)

### Bush Tucker – 2 Day Workshop



**Hosted by Castlemaine Community House, spend two days with local bush tucker expert, Aunty Julie, as she introduces you to the diverse edible native plants, fruits and herbs of Australia.**

The workshop includes morning & afternoon tea, plus lunch, over both days. A unique learning experience, sure to ignite your interest in creating with local ingredients

**When:** Saturday 2 and Sunday 3 March, 10am – 3pm

**Where:** Castlemaine Community House, 30 Templeton Street, Castlemaine.

**Cost:** \$200 full price or \$180 Early Discount (only available until 1st February)

**RSVP:** Places are limited! Book now via <https://www.cch.org.au/workshops/bush-tucker-2-day-workshop>

### Planning support program for small-scale pig and poultry producers

**The Victorian Government has established a planning support program to assist small-scale pig and poultry producers obtain a land use planning permit according to the [2018 planning reforms for animal industries](#).**

The support program includes workshops and grants. The workshops will help producers prepare their planning permit application and identify on-farm works, advice and other activities that may be required to support the application. The workshops will also provide producers with information on how to manage environmental,



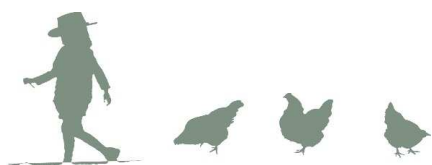
amenity and biosecurity risks.

The grants will help producers with costs related to obtaining a land use planning permit. Producers must attend a workshop to be eligible for a grant.

**Bendigo:** Thursday 21 February

**Daylesford:** Tuesday 26 February

**RSVP:** Register to attend via <http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/livestock/2018-planning-reform/planning-support-program-for-small-scale-pig-and-poultry-producers>



**Join a Citizen Science team to help collect water samples along the Coliban and Campaspe rivers for DNA testing to find out more about these iconic animals and how we can protect them.**

This is an exciting project to learn about the distribution of platypus in our area, as part of a broader nationwide study being undertaken by expert platypus ecologist Josh Griffiths from EnviroDNA.

The results will contribute to future waterways management and platypus conservation efforts in the region.

**When:** Wednesday 27 February, 9am – 4pm

**Where:** Kyneton Mineral Springs Picnic Area, Burton Avenue, Kyneton. (Please bring your lunch, water and wear long pants, boots, hats.)

**RSVP:** [Register online](#) or contact [michael.w.nott@gmail.com](mailto:michael.w.nott@gmail.com) or [uclandcare@gmail.com](mailto:uclandcare@gmail.com)

## Landcare Victoria Inc. Biannual Forum

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

**When:** 29 - 31 March 2019

**Where:** Norval Lodge and House, Halls Gap.

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



## Change starts with you- 2019 Clean Up Australia Day events

**In 1989 an 'average Australian bloke' had a simple idea to make a difference in his own backyard — Sydney Harbour. This simple idea has now become the nation's largest community-based environmental event, Clean Up Australia Day.**

You can [get involved](#) in a clean-up day as a Business (February 26), a Youth or School group (March 1) or local Clean Up Australia Day events (Sunday 3 March)



## Regional Round tables

**Regional Roundtables were initiated to provide an opportunity for a broad range of groups and individuals across the region to connect with each other and in doing so:**

- Communicate their priorities in relation to the environment
- Convey their environmental achievements so far, i.e. what they have been doing
- Identify mutual areas of interest
- Brainstorm opportunities in relation to these interests i.e. future projects and collaboration including resources required and the role of the North Central CMA
- Begin working relationships or build existing relationships further.

In November 2017, the CMA held three Regional Roundtables in Campbells Creek, Kerang and Donald. Over seventy people shared their experiences and ideas over the three meetings. A summary of the events and a progress update on actions undertaken to date are available on the CMA website at

<http://www.nccma.vic.gov.au/regional-catchment-strategy#node-1676>.

Given the success of the Roundtables we're running them again. This year the three Roundtables will be held across the catchment. Details will soon be confirmed via the [North Central CMA website](#)

The CMA and partners including Water Corporations, DELWP, Agriculture Victoria and Local Government welcome the opportunity to learn from and share with our community current and future NRM priorities and activities.



**This Farm Needs A Farmer will be hosting its 2nd annual field day on Sunday 24 February 2019 and it will be an event not to be missed.**

There will be more exhibitors, along with demonstrations, speakers, roving farmers who you can approach and ask all the questions you have about anything regarding your property. So, if you are a Tree Changer who has made the move to a rural property and looking for inspiration, help, guidance or just a plan - come and be part of the day.

*Be sure to come visit the CMA Landcare Team alongside Macedon Ranges Shire Council on the day.*

**When:** Sunday 24 February 2019 at 10:00am

**Where:** Kyneton Showgrounds  
184-194 Mollison Street, Kyneton, VIC 3444

**Cost:** General Admission - \$15      Child - Free (Under 16)  
Family - \$30 (2 Adults, up to 4 children under 16)

**RSVP:** Get your tickets via the [TFNAF website](#)



## Courses and Recourses...

### Soils Masterclasses and Workshop: Dig deeper into Regenerative Ag

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

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

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

Due to the limited places in these sessions, bookings are limited to one participant per farming business. If others from the same farming business would like to attend they will go on a waiting list.

Find more details on Nicole and the Masterclasses at:

<https://www.vicnotill.com.au/events/event/soils-masterclasses-workshop-dig-deeper-into-regenerative-ag/>

PLACES ARE LIMITED. Contact Penny to register on 0402 216 267 or [penny@vicnotill.com.au](mailto:penny@vicnotill.com.au)

### Does the price tag stop you doing Landcare work?

Basalt to Bay Landcare Network have worked with the ATO to produce simple, easy to read guides to help farmers get the rebates they are entitled to for doing landcare works.

Tax Rebate factsheets related to Fire preparedness and prevention, Shelterbelts, Tree farming and forestry and Landcare expenses can be found [online here](#)

### Last chance to swap your old opera house nets!

The Victorian Fisheries Authority advised in Mid-January that the last batch of wildlife-friendly open-top lift nets have just been sent out to participating tackle stores.

Before you rush in-store, get on the phone and call your nearest tackle store to check if they've arrived or are still in stock, as they go fast!

Find your closest participating store: <https://vfa.vic.gov.au/recreational-fishing/changes-ahead-for-yabby-fishing-gear/yabby-net-swap-program>

From 1 July 2019, the Victorian State Government will ban the use of opera house nets in all waters, both public and private.





## Funding opportunities...



### Community Grants

Through the Community Grants Program, council offers financial support to not-for-profit community organisations for projects, events, exhibitions and more, which contribute to the municipality, supporting council's vision *"Being strong, supportive, vibrant and sustainable."*

Community grants are available two categories:

- Community Support- up to \$4,000
- Events- community (up to \$1,000), minor (up to \$3,000) & major (up to \$5,000)

Community Grants Program timeline

Round 1	
March	applications open
mid-April	applications close
June	successful applications advised
July	funds presented

Visit the [Campaspe Shire Grants webpage](#) for guidelines and application forms.



### Funding rounds

**FRRR deliver the Strengthening Rural Communities program which accepts applications year-round.**

At this stage, only the Small and Vital tier will be available, with the Larger Leverage tier to open in August 2019.

#### 1. Small and Vital grants

Small and Vital grants are all about meeting an immediate small-scale need within a community, or for giving a boost to a larger initiative.

- The Small and Vital grants provide funds of up to \$10,000.
- Applications are accepted year-round via our online application system and awarded quarterly.

Applications Open 19 February. Applications must be received by 26 March for funds to be awarded in June.

Visit FRRR's website to apply:

[https://www.frrr.org.au/grants/strengthening\\_rural\\_communities](https://www.frrr.org.au/grants/strengthening_rural_communities)

### Community Climate Change (3CA) Grants

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

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

The Community Climate Change program will support projects that:

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

Two categories of projects will be funded:

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

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

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



## Rabbit Buster Month



Each February marks 'Rabbit Buster Month', an educative campaign following on from the success of the 1990s, Rabbit Buster and serves as a reminder to plan for and act on rabbit control.

North Central CMA led a series of Rabbit Buster Roadshow events prior to the release of RHDV1 K5 and, pleasingly the virus is actively affecting rabbit populations according to the [Centre for Invasive Species Solutions Boost Updates](#).

### QUICK STATS

#### RHDV1 K5 officially released at 382 locations nationwide

- 373 community-run release sites
- 9 intensively monitored releases sites
- Some registered sites did not release due to low rabbit numbers, timing or poor weather conditions.

#### 42% observed reduction in rabbit numbers post release (based on data from 191 release sites)

- Through laboratory analysis, RHDV1 K5 rabbit deaths confirmed in every state and territory, except NT.

Rabbit biocontrol can be most beneficial if applied as part of an integrated and complementary pest management approach. You can view the video series of best practice rabbit control and conventional control techniques via PestSmart - [www.pestsmart.org.au/pestsmart-rabbit-control-video-series](http://www.pestsmart.org.au/pestsmart-rabbit-control-video-series)

#### Need a helping hand? Where are the words of wisdom?

We are fortunate to have many experienced 'bunny busters' across our region who would be more than happy to have a conversation about controlling the 'wicked problem' that is the rabbit.

The [Victorian Rabbit Action Network mentors](#) dubbed the "A Team of Rabbit control in Victoria" are recognised experts in rabbit management and community-led action. As a group, they provide expertise and insights from community, industry and government perspectives.

VRAN's "Leaps and Bound" Learning Network promotes a collaborative, community-led approach to rabbit control, and several North Central Landcarers have been a part of that program.

For all VRAN related enquiries and to be put in touch with your local experts contact VRAN Executive Officer, Heidi Kleinert [heidi.kleinert@ecodev.vic.gov.au](mailto:heidi.kleinert@ecodev.vic.gov.au)

Otherwise, having been involved in several Rabbit Buster roadshows and supporting Landcare groups focussed on rabbit control, I am always a point of contact too.



The burrow remains the strongest point in a rabbits defensive armour. *Destroy the warren, destroy the rabbit.*

