

NORTH CENTRAL CMA

2009/2010 Second Generation Landcare Grants

GUIDELINES



NORTH CENTRAL
Catchment Management Authority

These Guidelines include:

- **Overview of the 2009/2010 Grants Program**
- **A guide for groups completing the application form for the:**
 - **Group Maintenance Grant;**
 - **Promotion & Education Grant; or**
 - **Major Integrated Project Grant**

Applications *strictly* close: 5pm Friday 23rd October 2009.

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Overview of Second Generation Landcare Grants

1.1 Introduction

The Second Generation Landcare Grants (SGLG) program was established in 2000/01 through the consolidation of the Land Protection Incentive Scheme (LPIS), Landcare Partnerships Initiative, Tree Victoria, Rabbit Busters and Weeds Initiative funding. It provides an opportunity for Landcare and other community groups to undertake an integrated approach to natural resource management (NRM) issues through the one application process.

The *Victorian Action Plan for Second Generation Landcare* (2002) forms the basis of the Department of Sustainability and Environment's (DSE) Victorian Landcare Program. The Second Generation Landcare Grants Program is one of a number of strategic programs from DSE's Natural Resources Branch which aims to improve stewardship of Victoria's rural landscape.

In 2009/10, the Victorian Landcare Program will again make available State government funding through the SGLG for community projects with a deliberate emphasis on ***"strengthening and building the capacity of the community to undertake Natural Resource Management"***. Continued investment in the SGLG program will help to meet future economic, environmental and social challenges and ultimately achieve the vision for Landcare in Victoria of Healthy Landscapes – Sustainable Communities.

1.2 Grants available

The North Central Catchment Management Authority (CMA), in administering the SGLG program, is offering three different categories of grant. The table below summarises these grants and how funding has been allocated.

Funding Type
<p>Group Maintenance – maximum \$500</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Administrative assistance for expenses such as insurance costs, not directly related to projects.
<p>Promotion & Education –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">In-Group Education & Capacity Building Grant - maximum \$1,000 (may be funded in conjunction with a Major Integrated Project)Community Education, Training &/or Awareness Grant (including Junior Landcare, Salinity education) – maximum \$2,000
<p>Major Integrated Project – maximum \$10,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Native vegetation protection, enhancement or establishment (can include threatened species habitat, waterways/wetlands)Salinity/erosion mitigation works (erosion works will require CMA approval)Pest plant (weed) managementPest animal (e.g. rabbit) management <p>Plus compulsory:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Education/awareness of project works & results (i.e. promotion, publicity &/or displays; or demonstrations of new techniques).

1.3 The Grants Process

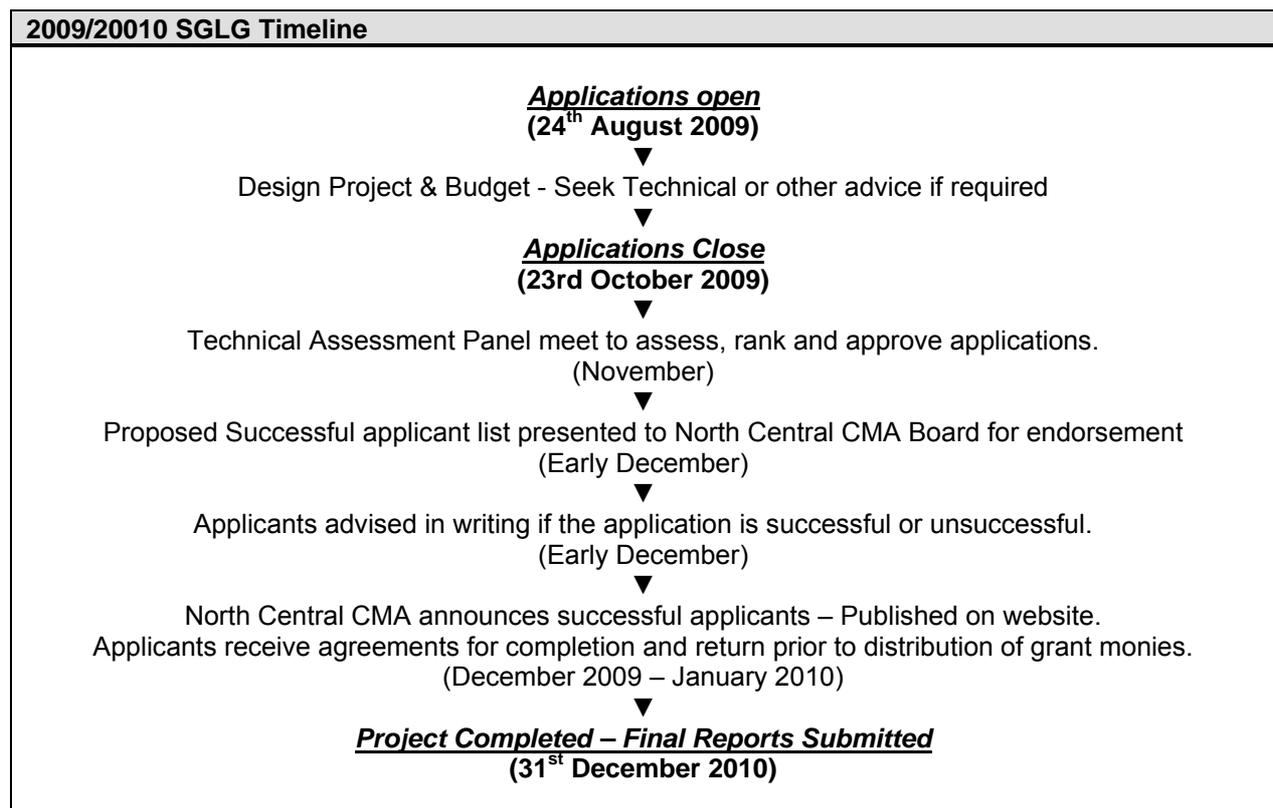
1.3.1 Timeframe and Ranking

The North Central Catchment Management Authority (CMA) is now accepting applications for the 2009/10 Second Generation Landcare Grants Program. The closing date for all applications is **5pm Friday 23rd October 2009**.

Applications will be assessed, ranked and approved by the Second Generation Landcare Grant Technical Assessment Panel (TAP) at the beginning of November 2009. Ranking will be on the basis of how well the application meets the stated criteria in these guidelines. Where there are more applications than funds available, some projects that receive a lower ranking may not be funded. The North Central CMA reserves the right to fund projects from sources other than SGLG, including negotiating changes to the project outputs and delivery.

The North Central CMA Board will sign off on the successful applications, announce the sign-off via advertisements, and post successful applicants' names on the North Central CMA website. All applicants, successful or unsuccessful, will be notified in writing by the North Central CMA after Board approval. An agreement form will accompany the letter to successful applicants, asking applicants to sign, date and return to the North Central CMA. **Failure to return this form in a timely manner may result in the funding being reallocated.** Upon receipt of the agreement form the relevant funds will then be distributed.

Projects must be capable of completion, including submission of the Final Report, by the **end of December 2010**.



1.3.2 Reporting

Groups receiving a Second Generation Landcare Grant will be required to lodge a **Final Report as soon as the project has been completed**. If your project is successfully funded we will advise you at the time of funding what information is required to enable you to complete the final report. The information required in the application form to develop your project and the budget are a good guide.

The Final Report **must** be lodged with the North Central CMA by the **31st of December 2010**. This form allows the North Central CMA to fulfil its obligations to report to the State Government. If the North Central CMA is unable to report on your project to the State Government, it will jeopardise the CMA's ability to obtain future funding for Landcare and community groups. **Random audits of projects will be conducted to ensure that reporting has been accurate.** Unspent funds must be returned to the North Central CMA and may only be carried over to the next year with prior written approval from the North Central CMA.

Groups that have not lodged 2008/09 (or previous) final reports are eligible to apply for 2009/10 funding, however, if their application is successful grant monies will be withheld until the 2008/09 (or previous) final report is received.

If a group requires an extension for a past project, they will need to submit a written request to the North Central CMA for approval. If approved, some groups may be eligible to receive monies for the new SGLG project whilst finalising the previous project.

Guide for Applicants

2.1 General Criteria

Grants are only available to incorporated, non-profit community groups (or groups sponsored by an incorporated organisation) that are involved in natural resource management for community benefit on private land or leased Crown Land. 'Community Groups' include Landcare, Committees of Management, 'Friends of' groups, Indigenous Communities, Field Naturalists/Plant groups, golf clubs and sporting associations. Schools and local governments are eligible where they can demonstrate that they are partnering a Landcare or other non-profit incorporated community group.

To ensure that funds are distributed equitably across the region the North Central CMA will consider all relevant government funding received by Landcare groups when distributing Second Generation Landcare Grants. As such the North Central CMA reserves the right to negotiate project amendments with the applicant and align projects with additional funding available beyond the Second Generation Landcare Grants.

Project proposals that contribute to DSE's *Natural Resources Branch* key outcomes will be considered favourably. These are as follows:

- Improved sustainable land management and soil health
- Improved condition and extent of native vegetation
- Recovery of degraded land
- Reduced impact of dryland salinity
- Capable communities engaged in land management that protects, enhances and restores the regions natural assets

Project proposals that contribute to objectives of the Second Generation Landcare Grants program will also be considered favourably:

- Strengthening investment in Landcare
- Providing support to community groups to participate in integrated NRM projects
- Providing a catalyst for changing land management practices
- Allowing community groups to operate at their optimum level
- Supporting volunteers and community capacity to contribute to healthy landscapes
- Helping people manage the land through skills development and knowledge transfer
- Recognising regional diversity
- Promoting and protecting biodiversity values

For all projects priority will be given to those that:

- Demonstrate how gains achieved during the project will be secured and maintained
- Maximise the number of plants established or area treated per dollar of grant funds spent (i.e. low cost plants, direct seeding, low cost fencing or other efficiency measures)

- Include promotion, publicity and/or displays and demonstrations of new techniques (where applicable).

Promotion and Education and Major Integrated Projects must:

- Demonstrate a positive contribution to biodiversity protection and enhancement
- Provide measurable public benefit rather than individual private benefit
- Address the priority issues identified by the CMA at a regional level (in the Regional Catchment Strategy, Regional Landcare Support Strategy)
- Have a nominated project manager
- Demonstrate that relevant statutory requirements have been complied with
- Demonstrate a matching contribution of at least \$1: \$1. This may be an in-kind or cash contribution (refer further details below).
- All materials and publicity associated with the Second Generation Landcare Grants program must have reference to the 'Victorian Government's Second Generation Landcare Grants program'.

Second Generation Landcare Grants cannot be spent on:

- Project administration only;
- The purchase of capital item/s greater than \$3000 in total (to be eligible capital items must be less than \$3000 and contribute directly to the delivery of the project)
- Staff, other than the nominated project manager
- Primarily commercial tree crops e.g. agroforests or plantations (except for demonstration purposes where there is a clear public benefit)
- Provision of incentives where statutory requirements exist and the primary benefit is private
- The hire of equipment owned by organisations or group members (this can be shown as contribution in-kind)
- Poisoning or fumigation methods for pest animals, e.g. rabbits. However, poisoning and fumigation can be funded by the landholder and these costs can be included as an in-kind contribution where it compliments the project.

2.1.1 Group Contributions

The total amount of group contribution must equal or be greater than the grant sought. Contributions may be in cash or in-kind:

- In-kind contributions are those that are other than cash. For example, group labour associated with on-ground works; or time spent on project implementation (e.g. organising/coordinating/liaising; paperwork; etc).
- Cash is the actual cash contribution that landowners will provide to match grant funds. Project management, coordination, fencing and vegetation establishment can be matched with in-kind, cash or a combination of both.

N.B. In the case of weed or rabbit projects on private land the group's/landholder's contribution must be entirely cash and at least 50% of the total project cost.

2.1.2 Standard rates for budget items and in-kind contributions

The following indicative costings should be used in your application:

- Group labour – \$25 per person per hour;
- Fencing materials – up to \$4.50 per metre;
- Tubestock plus guard – \$1.50;
- Other items not listed here will be considered in terms of cost effectiveness. Cost effectiveness may affect the ranking of an application.

The following is a guide to assist in calculating the in-kind labour hours associated with project activities:

- Tree planting: approximately eighty trees per person per day on flat terrain with mattocks and hand watering (without ripping)
- Fencing: approximately one kilometre of plain or hinge joint wire (not including end assemblies or gates) per team of two or three people per day.

N.B. These figures are intended as a guide only; labour hours will vary depending on factors such as equipment, skill level, terrain etc.

2.2 Group Maintenance grant (maximum \$500)

2.2.1 Information about the Group Maintenance grant

The \$500 grant provides general assistance to small community groups through the provision of money for expenses. Expenses could include insurance costs, stationery & postage, ink cartridges, post office box hire, and telephone etc. Funds may not be spent on equipment purchase or hire. The fund will help to help maintain groups, and can be granted without having to be related to a project funded under a Second Generation Landcare Grant.

Only those groups that are primarily involved in Natural Resource Management AND who do not receive a Major Integrated Project Grant are eligible to apply.

2.3 Promotion & Education grants

2.3.1 Information about the Promotion & Education grants

Eligible groups can use the Promotion & Education grants for two different purposes:

- In-Group Education & Capacity Building (maximum \$1000)
- General Community Education, Training &/or Awareness. That is, educating the community outside of the group (maximum \$2000).

2.3.2 Specific Criteria

Group Capacity Building

Up to \$1000 can be used 'within-group' by community groups **principally involved in Natural Resource Management** to:

- increase group participation
- raise public awareness about their group and its activities
- undertake training to improve the group's skill-base.

Community Education

Up to \$2000 may be used by groups to:

- present a community education forum on natural resource management (NRM)
- use demonstration sites to conduct surveys, monitoring and evaluation of focal areas such as remnant vegetation/habitat and revegetation sites
- native plant or Ecological Vegetation Class identification
- produce educational material concerning an NRM issues in their area, for example newsletters, maps, displays, videos, brochures, community murals
- signs for demonstration sites.

Themes could include

- Junior Landcare (e.g. planting, weeding, survey & monitoring, habitat etc)
- Waterways or wetlands management
- Terrestrial or riparian vegetation management
- Threatened species habitats
- Creating/enhancing habitat for native species
- Sustainable landscapes
- Salinity education and so on.

Applicants are encouraged to use their imaginations!

Junior Landcare

Junior Landcare groups can apply for funds to implement on-ground works, i.e. planting native vegetation and weed control. Appropriate technical advice should be sought in relation to projects and applications must be endorsed and signed by a mentor Landcare group who will be responsible for overseeing the project. Please contact the North Central CMA with support in determining the Landcare Group nearest you.

Salinity Education

The Victorian Community Salinity Grants Scheme was established in 1986 to help raise awareness and understanding of salinity. The North Central Catchment Management Authority now administers the North Central Community Salinity Grants Scheme under the Second Generation Landcare Grants

Grants are available for salinity education and demonstration projects undertaken by schools, farmers and community groups. The scheme encourages projects that are related to regional land and water management plans and strategies.

Themes for Salinity Education could include:

- Salinity awareness programs (e.g. newsletters, maps, displays, videos, brochures, community murals, farm walks, signs for demonstration sites)
- Salinity education programs (e.g. conferences, field days, training)
- Watertable Watch programs (e.g. purchase of equipment, bore monitoring, producing newsletters).

New ideas and projects are always welcome.

- Projects must contribute to awareness and education of salinity issues.
- Projects must be located in areas that have significant or emerging salinity problems.

2.4 Major Integrated Project grant (maximum \$10,000)

2.4.1 Information about the Major Integrated Project grant

Non-profit incorporated community groups or local government may apply for a grant of up to \$10,000 for integrated natural resource management projects. Applicants should refer to the 'General Criteria' (section 2.1 p.5 in these guidelines) and the 'Specific Criteria' below.

Themes for your application for this type of grant must address at least two of the following components:

- Native vegetation protection, enhancement or establishment (can incl. threatened species habitat, waterways/wetlands)
- Salinity/erosion mitigation works
- Soil health
- Pest plant (weed) management (woody weed projects must have a revegetation component)
- Pest animal (e.g. rabbit) management

Please try and encompass:

- Education/awareness of project works & results (i.e. promotion, publicity &/or displays; or demonstrations of new techniques).

Projects must have associated strategic/action plans with realistic targets

2.4.2 Specific Criteria

Project Management and Training:

The projects may have 10% of the total project budget allocated to project management duties related to the project. A further 5% or \$500 of each project budget **may** be allocated for the provision of relevant and appropriate training for the Project Manager, provided that the person is a member of the group.

Fencing:

Fencing costs can be applied for where the works ensure the protection and enhancement of remnant vegetation and waterways. Boundary fencing will not be funded. The cost of fence erection and maintenance must be met by the landowner or group; this will be the in-kind contribution and should equal or exceed the cost of fencing materials. Fencing materials will be funded up to \$4.50/metre. As a general guide to calculating in-kind labour hours, a two to three person team could complete approximately one kilometre of fencing per day, on flat terrain and not including end assemblies – this figure will vary according to equipment, skill level, terrain etc.

Payments to fence waterways will only be considered if the setback (that is, the distance from the top of stream bank to the fence) is a **minimum of 10 metres** (on average). Fencing costs for biodiversity corridors will only be considered if the corridor is a **minimum of 30 metres** wide.

Vegetation Enhancement or Establishment:

Vegetation enhancement or establishment must be in accordance with the *Vic Veg Best Practice Management for Native Vegetation Website* <http://dev.vicveg.nrms.net.au/vvHome.aspx> and the *North Central Native Vegetation Plan* should be used as a reference. A copy of the Plan will be available either via the website at www.nccma.vic.gov.au or by contacting the North Central CMA on (03) 5448 7124.

The cost of planting is the responsibility of the landowner/group; this can be the in-kind contribution and should equal or exceed the cost of the plants/seed etc. A species list must be attached to the application, including the proposed number of seedlings/ kilos of seed of each species to be used. Please refer to the Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC) Benchmarks available on the Department of Sustainability and Environment website at www.dse.vic.gov.au for a guide to appropriate indigenous flora species for your area.

The following must be considered (where applicable) in regard to vegetation projects:

- Ensure other vegetation communities are not adversely impacted upon.
- Projects must use indigenous (naturally occurring in the area) species – both plants & seed – must be used, except in situations where changed conditions (e.g. salinity) necessitate the use of non-indigenous species.
- Species used must include a range of understorey/groundcover species in addition to overstorey species.
- Projects that involve corridors for wildlife **must have a minimum width of 30 metres**. Anything less is unlikely to be funded through this program.
- As a general rule amenity plantings will not be funded.
- Ongoing monitoring and management of projects is essential. Where possible a vegetation and faunal assessment of the site should be undertaken at the beginning and completion of the project.
- To be successful applications must demonstrate that pest plant and pest animal issues have been considered.

Take on only what you can achieve within your group's capacity, considering time constraints and ongoing management.

If existing native vegetation species might be affected by your proposal, check with your local council first to see whether you need a permit or if there are other restrictions/requirements.

Visit the North Central CMA website www.nccma.vic.gov.au for information about native vegetation in your area.

Be aware that native fauna may be involved in your project works area. Contact your local DSE office for advice.

Priority will be given to projects that:

- Have high biodiversity outcomes
- Address the relevant section(s) of the North Central Regional Catchment Strategy and North Central Native Vegetation Plan
- Maximise the number of plants established or area treated per dollar of grant funds spent (i.e. low cost plants, direct seeding, low cost fencing or other efficiency measures)
- Promote, publicise or display and demonstrate new techniques.

Weed Control:

- Groups can only generally apply for funding to control weeds listed in the attached weed list, and should target priority weeds across substantial areas of private rural land. However, discretion can be applied if seen as necessary/desirable by the North Central CMA and the Pest Management Officer, where there is a clear public benefit.
- The weed's contribution to habitat needs to be considered in order to determine appropriate treatment. For example, Boxthorn, Gorse and Blackberry are often used as nesting sites or protective cover for native birds. In these cases, staged removal and/or stem injection (and left in place) is preferred, and could be planned over a number of consecutive projects. At the very least, in most cases involving woody weed removal, applicants are advised that applications should include an allowance for the cost of revegetation, and specify the revegetation proposed. Your Pest Management Officer can use discretion in this requirement where removal of a small number of woody weeds amongst dense shrubby native cover will not adversely impact on the habitat of the site.
- As a general rule, a minimum of **50%** cash contribution of the total herbicide/ contractor costs must be met by the landholder where works are carried out on private land.
- As with fencing and vegetation establishment, group labour for weed control can be costed at \$20/hr and included in the group's contribution to the project.
- Where groups propose to do their own weed control using chemicals requiring an ACUP, participants **must** hold a current ACUP license.
- Generally, projects should target a maximum of two priority weeds.
- Funding for control of weeds on roadsides will only be considered where adjoining Landholders are actively controlling weeds on their private property (in the group control area), and where local councils are involved in the project.
- Applications for weed control must complete the Participating Landholder List, showing the names, addresses and consensual signatures of those property owners participating in the project. Groups must ensure that at least 80% of property owners within the group control area are willing to participate in the project (NB. a landowner who already has the target species under control and agrees to maintain this level may be included as a participant).
- Applicants should consult their local shire weed action plans where possible when developing weed control projects.

Examples of contribution arrangements:

- Where a registered contractor is hired on private land (costs include labour and herbicides) the landholder will be entitled to an incentive equal to 50% of the total contractor costs.
- Where a landholder hires a spray unit (from a commercial outlet), purchases the herbicide and treats the weeds on his property himself, the landowner will be entitled to an incentive equal to 50% of the spray unit hire and the herbicide costs.
- Where a landholder purchases the herbicide and treats his weeds using his own spray unit then the landowner is entitled to an incentive equal to 50% of the herbicide costs.

Rabbit Control:

The North Central Regional Catchment Strategy's priorities for rabbit management are to capitalise on the impact of the Rabbit Calicivirus Disease, support committed local community groups, and achieve the objectives of the North Central Rabbit Action Plan.

Funding assistance is available for up to 50% of the cost of plant hire for warren and harbour destruction activities where biodiversity benefits can be clearly demonstrated.

The following **must** be considered in regard to rabbit control projects:

- The use of 1080 provides only a short-term reduction in rabbit populations and will not be funded as part of the rabbit control program. Fumigation activities will not be funded. However, baiting and fumigation costs can be included as an in-kind contribution to complement works such as warren ripping or harbour removal.

- Groups seeking on-going funding must demonstrate the extent of previous works and the commitment of the group to maintain the control efforts.
- Applications for rabbit control must complete the Participating Landholder List, showing the names, addresses and signatures of those property owners participating in the project. Groups must ensure that at least 80% of property owners within the group control area are willing to participate in the project by initiating new on ground works or by maintaining their current control of the rabbits involved (i.e. a landowner may have the rabbit population under control or eliminated on their property and so agrees to maintain this level of control for the project).

A complete list of Pest Management Officers appears at the end of these guidelines. Please contact the relevant person for your area if you need questions answered or your project has potential for compliance work to be done in conjunction with it.

If Control projects are within Carpet Python areas, advice should be sought from DSE Epsom, telephone (03) 5430 4444. Carpet Pythons are known to use rabbit warrens for shelter.

Fumigation is not normally supported. However exceptions may be made on public land in circumstances where traditional harbour destruction is not an option (e.g. high biodiversity value or unsuitable terrain). A registered contractor must be used to fumigate using Chlorpicrin®. Fumigation costs may be included as an in-kind contribution where rabbit control is an integral part of the overall project.

APPENDIX A – Regional Application Support Workshops Locations and Venues

**21 September,
KERANG, Memorial Hall,
5pm-6pm**

To be followed by dinner and the Regional Catchment Strategy Renewal Workshop 6pm to 9pm where the Regional Landcare coordinator will be available to provide advice on developing projects.

**23 September,
CAMPBELLS CREEK, Community Centre,
7pm-9pm**

**29 September
ST ARNAUD, St Arnaud Shire Hall,
5pm-6pm**

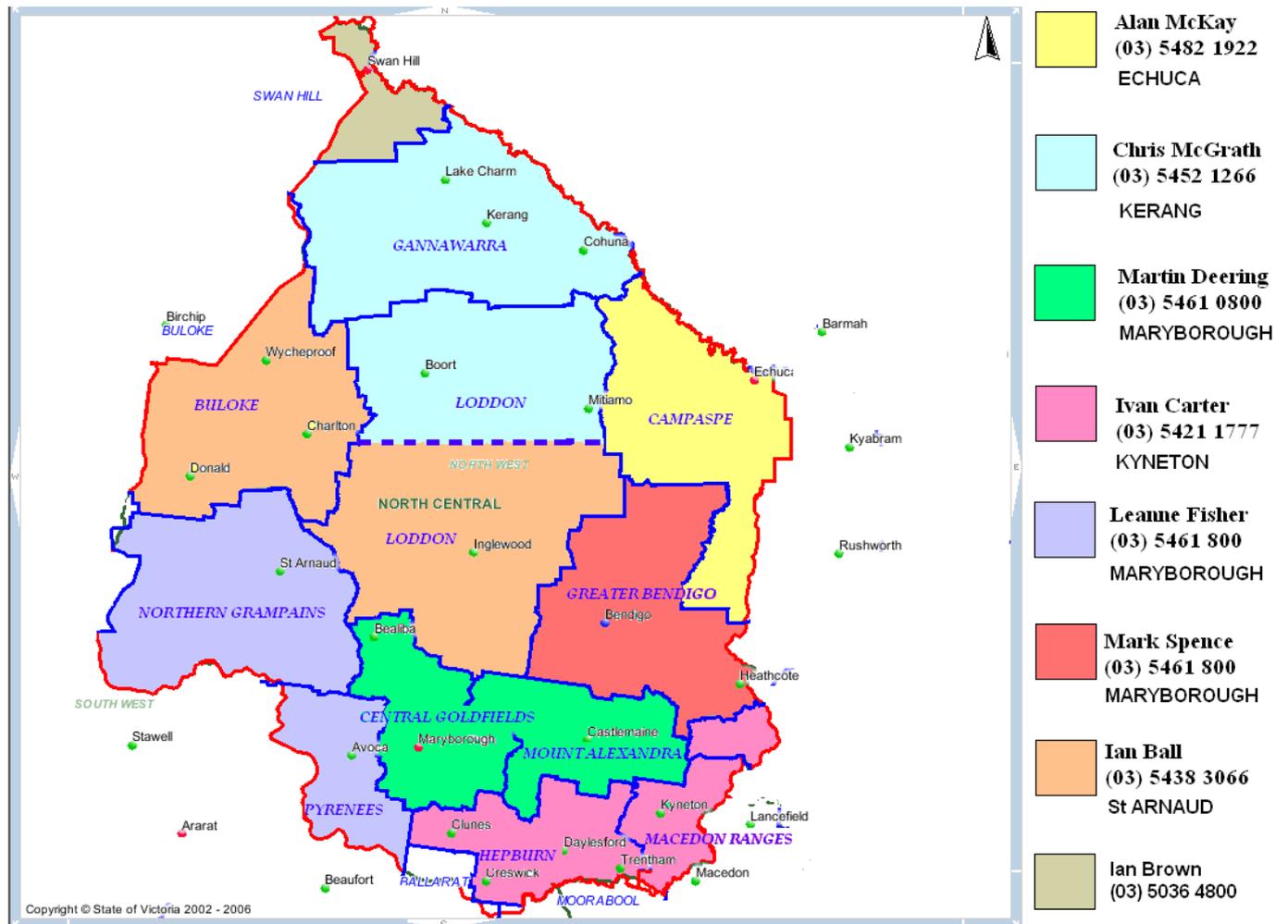
To be followed by dinner and the Regional Catchment Strategy Renewal Workshop 6pm to 9pm where the Regional Landcare coordinator will be available to provide advice on developing projects.

**1st and 2nd of October
HUNTLY North Central CMA Office
9am and 4pm**

The North Central CMA Regional Landcare Coordinator, Jennelle Carlier will be available to help develop projects or other days by appointment.

APPENDIX B – Contact Details

Pest Management Officers Contacts List



**SECOND GENERATION LANDCARE GRANTS 2009-10:
WEEDS LIST FOR THE NORTH CENTRAL REGION**

New and Emerging Weeds

Common Name	Botanical Name
Arrowhead	<i>Sagittaria graminea</i>
Californian Thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>
Chilean needle grass	<i>Nassella neesiana</i>

Regional Priority Weeds

Common Name	Botanical Name
Blackberry	<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>
Boneseed	<i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera ssp. monilifera</i>
Gorse / Furze	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>
Serrated tussock	<i>Nassella trichotoma</i>

Local Priority Weeds

Common Name	Botanical Name
Boxthorn	<i>Lycium ferocissimum</i>
Bridal creeper	<i>Asparagus asparagoides</i>
Cape broom	<i>Genista monspessulana</i>
Cape tulip (1 leaf)	<i>Homeria flaccida</i>
Cape tulip (2 leaf)	<i>Homeria miniata</i>
Hardhead Thistle /Russian knapweed	<i>Acroptilon repens</i>
Horehound	<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>
Paterson's curse	<i>Echium plantagineum</i>
Prairie Ground Cherry	<i>Physalis viscosa</i>
Silver-leaf nightshade	<i>Solanum elaeagnifolium</i>
Spiny burr grass/Gentle Annie	<i>Cenchrus longispinus</i>
Spiny rush	<i>Juncus acutus</i>
St John's wort	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>
Wheel cactus	<i>Opuntia robusta</i>
Wild garlic	<i>Allium vineale</i>