

# ground cover



**NORTH CENTRAL**  
Catchment Management Authority  
*Connecting Rivers, Landscapes, People*

www.nccma.vic.gov.au

November 09

*Keeping  
you up-to-  
date with all  
the Landcare  
news*

## *A message from the Acting Regional Landcare Coordinator*

Hi everyone and welcome to the second edition of our newsletter. So far we have had some positive feedback, but please keep the comments coming – we're keen to know if this information is useful for our groups, and if there's anything else you'd like us to include in future issues.

In this edition, we've included updates on all of the Landcare networks operating in our region – thanks to all networks that contributed. If you're thinking of starting up a network, or finding out more about existing ones in the region, then please email us here at [landcare@nccma.vic.gov.au](mailto:landcare@nccma.vic.gov.au), or call us on 5448 7124 for more information.

Many groups are probably wondering where the Second Generation Landcare grants process is at. We received a total of eighty grant applications this year, all of which have been assessed by our technical assessment panel (made up of North Central CMA staff, North Central CMA Board and Natural Resource Management Committee members and Department of Primary Industry Pest Management Officers). Recommendations from the technical assessment panel will be presented to the North Central CMA Board for endorsement in early December, after which successful groups will be notified about their applications – so stay tuned. We are keen to reduce the turnaround time for payment this year, so that groups can get on with planning and organising their projects. Thanks to all those groups that put in time to develop great applications – your efforts were all seriously considered!

And finally, for those of you who haven't filled in your Landcare Census forms, believe it or not, you still have time! The deadline for returns has now been extended to Christmas Day 25 December – pre Christmas drinks and survey filling out, anyone? All groups that have returned a Census will go in the draw to win \$500 worth of tools (of their choice) for their group. If your group has lost or mislaid its census forms, then please contact me and we can send you out another copy.

Warm regards,

*Melanie Taube*

Acting Regional Landcare Coordinator

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*Get well soon!*

Long time Landcare stalwart, Jean McClymont, from Salisbury West Landcare Group, is recuperating after falling and breaking her leg. We all wish Jean a speedy recovery.



## COURSES

### *Spread the weed word*

Weed control is Landcare core business, but sometimes it feels like our good work is wasted due to the apathy or ignorance of a few landholders and gardeners. So groups who would like to be more proactive in their communities may find the upcoming 'What Does Your Garden Grow?' Train-the-Trainer workshop useful.

Designed especially by the Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Australian Weed Management for 'weed professionals', including Landcare group members, it will provide you with knowledge, resources and tools to help you educate gardeners and the general public about the huge impact of weeds on both the environment and farm productivity.

The one-day course in Bendigo is on Tuesday 24 November from 9am to 3pm (venue to be advised). The cost is \$200, which covers tuition, lunch and morning tea, and the resource kit. Organisers are also inviting groups to host their own workshops.

For more information, to discuss hosting a workshop or to register for the Bendigo workshop, contact Annette Beer on (02) 6938 1671 or email [Annette.beer@industry.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Annette.beer@industry.nsw.gov.au) or contact Caroline Selway or Kristy Roche at DPI Bendigo on 5430 4405.

### *New weed ID resource*

The folks at the CRC for Australian Weed Management have also come up with a new interactive DVD called 'Environmental Weeds of Australia', designed to help you to positively identify suspicious and mystery plants. It is easy to use, and you don't have to be a computer expert or a botanist.

It contains thousands of images, descriptions, a search engine, a key, and links to website information on control and management – all in plain English. The cost is \$59 and you can view sample pages at <http://www.cbir.uq.edu.au/software/enviroweeds>

To help people learn to use the DVD and other plant identification tools, a one-day training course 'What Pesky Plant is That?' will be held in Bendigo on Wednesday 25 November. The cost is \$200, which includes lunch, morning and afternoon tea and a copy of the DVD. Participants are invited to bring along their mystery plants for identification.

For more information, to register for the workshop or to purchase a DVD contact Annette Beer on (02) 6938 1671 or email [Annette.beer@industry.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Annette.beer@industry.nsw.gov.au) or contact Caroline Selway or Kristy Roche at DPI Bendigo on 5430 4405.

### *Land and horses*

While Gisborne is out of our region, you might want to encourage horse-owning friends or neighbours to get to this informative one-day workshop on managing horses on small properties.

Well-known horse educator and author Jane Myers will cover property design, water protection, conservation and supply, manure management, trees and plants, pasture and grazing management and other topics.

It's on Sunday 29 November 2009, from 9am to 3pm at the Gisborne Mechanics Hall. Cost is \$45. Or contact Jane to discuss holding a workshop in your area. To book email [atwycross@gmail.com](mailto:atwycross@gmail.com) or contact Jane at [www.equiculture.com.au](http://www.equiculture.com.au)

### *Calling young farmers*

Young people working on dairy farms, orchards or in horticulture enterprises or related service industries are invited to attend a fun and interactive two-day workshop in Shepparton designed to improve communication and presentation skills.

This is an opportunity for young people to learn how to recognise their abilities and build on them, gain confidence, build teamwork and develop networks of like-minded people.

It's on 23 and 24 November at Shepparton TAFE. For more information, visit [www.gotafe.vic.edu.au](http://www.gotafe.vic.edu.au) or phone 1300 468 233.

### *eFarmer is now free*

The FarmReady grants scheme has approved eFarmer training courses and that's good news for those interested in learning how to use this web-based farm planning tool.

Through eFarmer you can map your property and gain access to a range of on-line resources. The program can help farmers identify priorities, plan, record and monitor inputs and outputs, create a farm plan and keep paddock histories, among many applications.

Bioplanning Australia's eFarmer training course usually involves four or six sessions, and farmers are eligible for reimbursement of the full cost of \$750. Courses are run on a needs basis, with a minimum of six participants required.

More details at <http://www.bioplanning.com.au/courses/efarmer-registration>



## NEWS

### *A look into the future*

There were plenty of good ideas to take away from the 'New Roles for Landcare' forum, organised by the State Landcare Team's Landcare Network Readiness Project and held in Melbourne in September.

While the issues of climate change, water, food systems and energy are added to a pressing agenda of land degradation and biodiversity decline, it was encouraging to hear Andrew Campbell, one of the founders of Landcare and former director of Land and Water Australia, say that Landcare has "come a long way in 20 years" and that other OECD countries would "love to have an asset like (community grass-roots) Landcare".

So much for the accolades, but we all know we are in challenging times, for the future of our environment, our farming systems, our rural communities – and our Landcare movement. As Andrew said, "the opportunities are immense, the imperative is urgent".

The full proceedings are available on the Victorian Landcare Gateway website. Items which may be of particular value to groups and networks in North Central Victoria include Bass Coast Landcare Network's Robbie Gray on working with developers who want to offset the clearing of native vegetation; Morag Mackay (Bass Coast again) on land stewardship and payment for ecosystem services; Matt Reddy's take on carbon markets from the perspective of Carbon Advantage (formerly CarbonSMART); Heytesbury and District Landcare Network's tips on keeping corporate sponsors happy; and Leesa Ridley's presentation on the 'new' types of volunteers and how to attract them. Andrew Campbell is both wise and provocative, and is always worth a read.

Go to <http://www.Landcarevic.net.au/resources/conference/network-readiness-forums-2009/new-roles-for-Landcare-forum>

### *New Pest Plant and Animal Strategy*

In line with the recent development of a new state policy framework for invasive species management, the North Central CMA is preparing an invasive plants and animals strategy to replace the outdated North Central Weed and Rabbit Action Plans.

The new strategy will provide guidance for the management of terrestrial and freshwater weeds and vertebrate pests across all land tenures, and identify areas requiring coordinated action to protect the region from the entry, establishment or spread of animal or plant pests.

It has been developed in the context of the new biosecurity strategy for Victoria, which recognises that it is not feasible or cost-effective for government to enforce or fund the control of **all** declared noxious species.

A draft will be available for public comment in early 2010. For more information contact Wendy Shea at the North Central CMA on 5448 7124.

### *Your group and community health*

Landcare groups care for people as well as the land, and many are having an increasingly important role in fostering and encouraging emotional and physical wellbeing in their local communities.

There are a couple of helpful websites where you can check out how your group can work with local health providers and your community to address health, wellbeing and safety issues, promote health awareness and even host health education workshops.

The Primary Care Partnerships website provides a one-stop-shop for Landcare groups to link up with health issues and actions. Go to <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/pcps/>. Or have a look at the health programs for farming families on the Sustainable Farm Families and the National Centre for Farmer Health web site at <http://www.sustainablefarmfamilies.org.au/home>

### *Indigenous heritage and you*

There are many landholders around the region who are proud to have Aboriginal cultural heritage on their properties such as scar trees and cooking mounds. But some people are still scared and worried about what might happen if they report sites or objects on their land.

One of the roles of North Central CMA's Indigenous Facilitator Mark Pietzsch is to support and advise Landcare groups (and individuals) about their projects' potential and actual cultural heritage management needs, and to visit properties to help identify cultural heritage sites.

Mark says only Crown Land, and not private properties, can be subject to Native Title claims. He says that while many common Landcare activities and projects do not require a Cultural Heritage Management Plan, it is important for groups proposing works to determine the requirement for a plan.

Under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006, it is an offence to do an act that will harm, or is likely to harm Aboriginal cultural heritage, except in accordance with a Cultural Heritage Permit or an approved Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP).

A Cultural Heritage Permit must be sought if a proposed activity will harm or is likely to harm any Aboriginal cultural heritage that cannot otherwise be avoided. The most harmful activities are large-scale use of excavators and other digging machinery. Traditional Landcare activities do not often trigger the need for a CHMP.



It is easy to incorporate some simple checks into your project planning. On the Aboriginal Affairs Victoria (AAV) website you can access easy to use maps and a planning tool. If a CHMP is not required, the next step is to apply to search the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register, and the forms are also on the AAV website.

If you would like to learn more about what to look out for, the website also has some great mini posters with images and descriptions of Aboriginal places and objects found across Victoria.

If a cultural heritage site or item is found, it should not be moved and it must be reported to AAV. If you discover or uncover any item before, during or after the activity, it is important to respect and not harm sites and items that are very meaningful and important to Indigenous people.

Mark is encouraging Landcarers in our region to talk with him (or AAV) about their projects, and to contact him for hands-on assistance with identifying sites and planning requirements, particularly if a CHMP is required. A fact sheet available from North Central CMA outlines all the steps you need to take according to the law.

For further information go to [www.aboriginalaffairs.vic.gov.au](http://www.aboriginalaffairs.vic.gov.au) or contact Mark Pietzsch on 5440 1897 or 0434 730 536 or email: [mark.pietzsch@nccma.vic.gov.au](mailto:mark.pietzsch@nccma.vic.gov.au) or contact AAV's Dr Diana Smith or Anne Lambert on 5430 4665 or email [anne.lambert@dpced.vic.gov.au](mailto:anne.lambert@dpced.vic.gov.au)

### *New drought package*

The Victorian State Government has announced a new \$47 million drought assistance package, which includes a new \$13.5 million farm improvement grants scheme to assist farmers to make infrastructure improvements.

Some farmers, including those in the northern irrigation region, will be eligible for two-for-one co-investment grants of \$2,000 for infrastructure improvements such as replacement pipes or other capital improvements to items such as silos. Eligible farmers in other areas will be eligible for one-for-one grants of \$1,000 for similar improvements.

Under the \$9 million water rate rebate scheme, which has the same eligibility criteria as last year, the government will pay up to the first \$1,000 of water bills for all irrigators and stock and domestic farmers who are receiving less than 30 per cent of their water entitlements as of 1 December. Irrigators whose water bill is more than \$1,000 will receive an additional 50 per cent rebate on the balance above \$1,000.

Other key elements of the package include municipal rates subsidies of up to 30 per cent for eligible farmers; water rate rebates for farmers who receive less than a 30 per cent allocation from 1 December; drought extension support, including specialised advice and information for farmers in the northern irrigation region; one-off \$1,500 cash grants (one per apprentice) under the Drought Apprentice Retention Bonus; \$1.6 million to VicRelief and Foodbank; and a personalised financial counselling case management service for farmers in northern Victoria.

For more information go to <http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/drought> or call the Drought Information Line on 136 186

### *Fire plans for livestock*

Following the horrific events earlier this year, many of us are much more aware of the importance of having a fire plan, and the Department of Primary Industries is reminding people to include valuable livestock in that plan.

One of the most important aspects of a farm fire plan is to identify areas that can be used as refuges for stock, depending on weather conditions.

Examples of safe areas include paddocks with green summer crops or lucerne, ploughed paddocks, bare paddocks and areas near dams or swamps. Stockyards with a sprinkler system can also be effective.

Horse owners should remember that gear such as rugs, halters and fly veils can melt in a fire and further injure their animals in the process.

### *Get engaged*

'Community engagement' can be as simple as talking with people, listening to their views and inspiring them to take certain actions – and that's something Landcare groups do all the time!

Some groups do community engagement well; others wish they could do it better. An example of good community engagement might be convincing all the landholders in a specific area to tackle a particular weed. Community engagement might include kitchen table conversations, a letterbox drop, a public meeting or a discussion with a group of neighbours.

We all know that the more people join in our Landcare efforts, the better our project outcomes will be. Good community engagement also builds relationships with your community and neighbours, enhances your group's reputation, increases your understanding of issues beyond your group members, and leads to more effective partnerships and networks.

If you are not satisfied with your efforts to get people on board, or find your traditional approaches are not working, it might be helpful to check out some new ideas, tools and strategies.

The Victorian Government's Community Engagement Network has produced three booklets that provide an overview of community and engagement, how to plan an engagement strategy, and the various options for communication, consultation and

feedback that can form part of an engagement strategy. You can download them for free at

<http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/dse/wcmn203.nsf/Home+Page/8A461F99E54B17EBCA2570340016F3A9?open>





### *Hot topics on the net*

The Future Farm Industries CRC newsletters address topics that are relevant to many of our region's farmers and landholders – and they can be accessed for free on the net.

As well as the newsletters Salt, Focus on Perennials and Future Farming, there are 'prospect' booklets for perennials, salt land, integrated forestry on farms and lucerne, and publications covering subjects as diverse as oil mallee, biodiversity in the paddock and the mallee harvester project.

Just a few interesting selections include: Focus on Perennials newsletter: Joint venture agroforestry (October 09), Managing native perennial pastures and harvester design (June 09) and Saltbush and the EverGraze program (March 09); Future Farming: Summer feed gap (December 08) and Fodder shrubs (June 08).

Go to [www.futurefarmcrc.com.au/publications](http://www.futurefarmcrc.com.au/publications)

### *Emissions and enterprises*

The Australian Farm Institute has released the FarmGAS greenhouse gas emissions calculator, an on-line tool that enables farmers to model both the financial and greenhouse gas implications of decisions about different farm enterprises.

You can use it to estimate your farm's annual emissions, both at the individual enterprise activity level and for the farm as a whole, and to examine the financial impacts that different greenhouse mitigation options may have on farm business profitability.

You can create scenarios on-line to help you estimate the financial and greenhouse implications of changing the enterprise mix or production options.

Use of the calculator is free and you can access your information at any time. Note there are no calculators yet for dairying (or cotton or rice production). To access the calculator and users' guide go to <http://www.farminstitute.org.au/>

### *Speak before it's too late*

Too often Landcarers find their voices only after 'the horse has bolted'! So have your say now about the Australian Government's Australian Framework for Landcare, which will guide Landcare's direction over the next 20 years.

Have a look and comment on the paper Community Landcare Speaks: Realising our Future – The Beginnings of an Australian Framework for Landcare. Submissions close soon – 13 November. Comments can be emailed or posted.

We will keep you informed about any further opportunities for discussion. A draft report will be presented at the National Landcare Forum, to be held in South Australia in March next year. Go to [www.landcarefacilitator.com.au](http://www.landcarefacilitator.com.au)

You can also join the discussion at the Landcare Speaks blog. Last time I looked only 18 people had posted comments – not a true reflection of how much Landcarers care! Go to <http://landcarespeaks.wordpress.com/about>

## NETWORK UPDATES

### *Connecting Country*

Only a few months after being officially incorporated, the Connecting Country initiative in Mount Alexander Shire is hitting the ground running, with a large Australian Government Caring for our Country project underway. Krista Patterson-Majoer was recently appointed as project manager.

The unique landscape-scale Connecting Country initiative aims to increase, enhance and restore biodiversity across the Mount Alexander Shire in partnership with a wide range of groups and agencies, including more than 30 Landcare groups.

It is the original brainchild of the Friends of the Box Ironbark Forests, and the initial planning phase – which included detailed mapping of historic on-ground works and regional environmental assets, and production of a landscape blueprint – was supported by the Norman Wettenhall Foundation.

The Caring for our Country project aims to increase the population of the vulnerable Brush-tailed Phascogale (Tuan) across the region. The focus is on improving the condition of existing Tuan habitat and increasing connectivity between core habitat areas by increasing the extent of remnant Yellow Box vegetation communities.

Krista reports that Connecting Country is offering assistance to landholders interested in helping animals like the Phascogale by protecting the vegetation on their properties through the BushTender program and a range of community projects led by local Landcare and Friends groups.

Connecting Country is also running a long-term community-based monitoring strategy, a woodland restoration education program and other awareness-raising events, as well as installing 400 nest boxes.

To find out more about Connecting Country or to check out the interactive mapper, visit the website at [www.connectingcountry.org.au](http://www.connectingcountry.org.au) or contact Krista on [krista@connectingcountry.org.au](mailto:krista@connectingcountry.org.au) or 0466 012 030.

### *Mid-Loddon Landcare Network and Mid Loddon CMN*

Judy Crocker reports that the Mid-Loddon Landcare Network and Mid-Loddon Conservation Management Network (CMN) have finalised their Caring for our Country projects, with highlights being the Mid-Loddon sub-catchment action plan.

This documents 10 years of project work (and great achievements) and provides planning for future projects, the population supplementation proposal for the bush stone-curlew and a rationale for ecological thinning in the Box Ironbark forests.



In partnership with DPI a soil health management plan pilot for two farms in the sub-catchment has been documented, and has provided valuable information to assist future rehabilitation of farmland remnants.

In partnership with DSE, the Mid-Loddon CMN has also begun predator-proof fencing a nine hectare Bush Stone-curlew habitat site and begun the second year of a six-month continuous fox baiting program in the local forests and surrounding private land.

The partnership with the Bendigo Regional Institute of TAFE continues, with students recently installing 30 wildlife nest boxes in remnants close to and in the Shelbourne Nature Conservation Reserve. These will be monitored twice annually.

Judy says community interest in the rehabilitation of Red Gum Forest wetland at Eddington has taken a leap forward with the formation of the new Eddington Landcare Group, which aims to rehabilitate the well-known forest wetland and provide a pleasant bird watching walking track.

The Mid-Loddon CMN Ranger has provided support by GPS mapping the enormous number of rabbit warrens in this area and a plan for rabbit eradication is in the pipeline. North Central CMA will support the group by assisting with a planting project along the river.

Judy is pleased to report that the Kangeraar and Murphy Creek Landcare groups have 'risen from the ashes' to move forward with some planned joint projects, supported by the Mid-Loddon Network members.

### *Buloke and Northern Grampians Landcare Network*

Kevin Spence reports that the Buloke and Northern Grampians Landcare Network

is busy rolling out its Australian Government Caring for Our Country project 'Working on Woodlands and Wetlands in Buloke and Northern Grampians with Landcare and the Community'.

This exciting project will increase by 500 ha the area of high value remnant vegetation protected through stewardship payments, covenants and management agreements; and

increase by 100 ha the area of remnant vegetation managed to improve species diversity and density through protective fencing, stock exclusion and grazing management.

Another key objective is to establish a conservation management network in the Upper Avoca region, supported by local community groups and organisations such as Trust for Nature.

Other outcomes of the project will include restoring and building vegetation connectivity, replacing missing vegetation elements such as understorey, fostering natural regeneration, pest plant and animal control over 150 ha, installation of off-stream watering points and bank stabilisation works.

The project will also support sustainable farm practices that contribute to improvements in land, water and vegetation quality by engaging the community, facilitating the transfer of knowledge and providing opportunities for skills development.

It will also work with the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation and the Barengi Gadjin Land Council to provide opportunities for Indigenous people to undertake Work on Country, and assist in the identification and protection of Indigenous cultural heritage.

In other news, two network member Landcare groups, Jeffcott North and Birchip, have applied to the Australian Government's Community Action Grant Program for funding to support projects that will extend the linkages of native vegetation that the groups have been working on for more than 10 years.

In response to Landcare groups' and communities' concerns about climate change and peak oil, the network has also applied to Sustainability Victoria's Sustainability Fund to start up the Transition Towns movement in Buloke Shire.

If funded, 'Transition Buloke' project will foster the development of practical and affordable solutions to deliver long-term shifts towards more sustainable behaviour and action at the grass-roots community level. Outputs will include workshops, forums and an expo, energy descent plans and individual projects by Landcare and other community groups.

Kevin says the network and steering committee are continuing to refine the processes and systems that will assist it to become a strong network supporting its independent, autonomous members to work together constructively.

### *Loddon Plains Landcare Network*

Mal Brown reports that following the announcement that shire-based Landcare Coordinators would no longer be funded by the Australian Government, some Landcare group members in the Loddon Shire began exploring alternative support models.

This has led to the formation of the new Loddon Plains Landcare Network. Forty-two members of the Loddon Landcare community attended the discussions initiated by Mal that led to the formation of a working group.

A fundamental principle of the network is that all groups must fully retain their individual identities. The other agreed principles recognise that the network provides a critical mass of like-minded people in a defined geographic area who will have greater opportunities to:

- Achieve connectivity across the network's landscape via both vegetation corridors and cultural heritage trails
- Recognise, value and share local knowledge about both the natural environment and sustainable farming practices



- Share the diverse skill base that all members bring
- Attract public and private funding for on-ground works to improve the condition of the natural environment that are critical to the goals of both the broader network and the individual groups
- Participate in research trials across different landscapes.

Working group participants included representatives from Loddon Vale, Yando and Salisbury West Landcare groups, East Loddon Landcare Group, Northern United Forestry Group, Wedderburn Conservation Management Network and Kamarooka Landcare group.

In September it was decided that the network should have a working group and an executive. Subsequently, the elected office bearers are Mal Brown (Chair), Penny Wall (Deputy chair), Michael Moore (Secretary), and Jean McClymont (Treasurer).

The network intends to apply for funding and the next meeting of the working group will be held at Durham Ox on 20 November and include a tour on the Serpentine Creek. For more information visit <http://loddonplainslandcarenetworknews.blogspot.com/>

(Mal Brown is also Chair of North Central CMA's Natural Resource Management Committee.)

## FUNDING NEWS

### *Just for starters*

New Landcare groups are always welcome anywhere. At the same time groups in many areas are recognising the value and benefits of being part of a Landcare network as well.

The state Landcare team's Volunteer Recruitment Initiative Landcare Start Up Grants are available to support new groups and networks, and to support groups and networks that are reactivating after a recess period of more than 12 months.

Landcare groups in the North Central CMA region can receive \$600 to assist with group start-up costs, while networks are eligible to receive \$1,200 to assist with their start-up costs. These costs might include incorporation, insurance and venue hire, maps, and administration expenses such as photocopying, laminating, faxing, phone costs and computer hire. Funds must be used within 12 months.

Groups must maintain records of expenses, retain all receipts for purchases, and have insurance prior to holding any events, including meetings.

Here's an opportunity to get networked without additional expense. Or if you know of any moves to start up a new Landcare group, let the organisers know this support is available.

These grants are available on an on-going basis. For more information and application forms, contact Regional Landcare Coordinator Melanie Taube on 5440 1883 or email [melanie.taube@nccma.vic.gov.au](mailto:taube@nccma.vic.gov.au)

### *Boost for organics*

The organic food sector is set to receive a boost through a new scheme recently launched by the Victorian Government, which will offer \$400,000 in grants to the sector as part of its Future Farming Strategy.

The Support for Organics Grant Program aims to foster a more productive, competitive and sustainable organic sector, and to encourage production, consumption and export of Victoria's organic products.

Examples of project objectives include building capacity for future growth, increasing the awareness of consumers and producers, encouraging exports, developing supply or value chain capacity, developing leadership and business skills, and demonstrating innovative products and/or processes.

Proposals that are eligible for funding must address at least one of the program objectives and one of the key priority actions, and must demonstrate a clear benefit to rural and regional Victoria.

Food businesses (including industry organisations), regional development organisations, local governments, education and training providers, science and research institutions and state government agencies are eligible to apply.

The program will run until June 2011 and applications are accepted at any time. Note that prior to submitting an application you must discuss it with an officer from Regional Development Victoria.

For more general information on the program go to [www.business.vic.gov.au](http://www.business.vic.gov.au). To discuss a potential project, contact your nearest Regional Development Victoria office: Bendigo on 5442 4100, Ballarat on 5320 5900 or Shepparton on 5821 1811, or project officer Rowena Camm on 5623 5046, email [rowena.camm@rdv.vic.gov.au](mailto:rowena.camm@rdv.vic.gov.au)

### *Funding information web sites*

[Australian Government's Water for the Future funding.](http://www.environment.gov.au/water/programs/index.html)  
<http://www.environment.gov.au/water/programs/index.html>

[Landcare Australia Ltd grants and special offers.](http://www.landcareonline.com)  
[www.landcareonline.com](http://www.landcareonline.com)

[Grantslink.](http://www.grantslink.gov.au)  
[www.grantslink.gov.au](http://www.grantslink.gov.au)

[DAFF grants and assistance.](http://www.daffa.gov.au/about/grants_and_assistance)  
[www.daffa.gov.au/about/grants\\_and\\_assistance](http://www.daffa.gov.au/about/grants_and_assistance)

[DEWHA grants and funding.](http://www.environment.gov.au/about/programs/index.html)  
[www.environment.gov.au/about/programs/index.html](http://www.environment.gov.au/about/programs/index.html)

[FRRR grants.](http://www.frrr.org.au/currentprojects.asp)  
[www.frrr.org.au/currentprojects.asp](http://www.frrr.org.au/currentprojects.asp)