

# ground cover



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

[www.nccma.vic.gov.au](http://www.nccma.vic.gov.au)

October 10

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

## *A message from the Regional Landcare Coordinator*

Hi everyone,

It has been an amazing couple of months, particularly weather-wise. The downpour that was experienced on the first weekend of September brought flash flooding to parts of North Central Victoria. The North Central Catchment Management Authority's (CMA) flood response team were kept very busy playing an important role in supporting the SES with flood information by preparing maps and data to predict a range of flooding scenarios. There were many photos taken during the floods but it was the ones from the air that showed the sheer magnitude of water and the area affected.



**The Avoca River breaking its banks at Charlton**  
Photo: Courtesy Adrian Martins, North Central CMA  
(for more flood photos, please visit [www.nccma.vic.gov.au](http://www.nccma.vic.gov.au))

One of the outcomes of the floods is that many of our reptile friends have been woken up early! Snakes would usually remain in torpor until mid October but the flooding has literally washed them out of their hiding holes and they are on the move. I have spoken with several people who been cleaning up after the floods and many have stories of snakes surprising them! So be careful...

Coinciding with spring we have hosted three native vegetation identification workshops. We had a great response and people travelled from far and wide to attend the workshops which were held in Rochester, Castlemaine and Inglewood. We even had a waiting list for the Castlemaine workshop so we are hoping to run another one down in the region in the next few months. The workshops were jam packed with information on plant families, identification techniques and the online tools available. Participants did a great job in taking in all of the information. The feedback from the workshops was very positive. Thanks to all those who attended.

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There has again been movement in the Landcare team here at the CMA. We have said goodbye to Jessica Barnes, our Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) graduate who was on placement with us for the past five months. Jess has moved on to her final graduate placement with DSE in Box Hill. She did a fantastic job during her time at the CMA and we were very sad to see her go. On a brighter note we have appointed the role of Regional Landcare Facilitator to Ashley Bevan. Ashley will join the Landcare team in early November and will be based out of the CMA's Huntly office. She has been working as an agronomist for the past few years and has great experience working with landholders. Ashley's role will focus on increasing Landcare group's linkages and promoting sustainable agriculture and land management.

Until next time, warm regards!

*Jodie Odgers*

Regional Landcare Coordinator

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## NEWS

### *Locusts and floods*

Many people in the region have been asking the question 'Have the floods had an impact on the locusts?' The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) and Victoria's Plague Locust Commissioner Gordon Berg have stated in response to this issue that the recent rain and flooding was unlikely to have a significant impact on locust numbers this spring, and that farmers and landholders need to remain vigilant. Floods this year in New South Wales and Queensland did not appear to affect locust eggs. Typically egg beds are buried up to 10 centimetres underground. The DPI will do further monitoring of sites that are now affected by floods to see if there has been any impact on eggs.

### *Donate yourself to the land*

'If you're going to donate anything, donate yourself to the land.' That is the key message of the new Landcare volunteering campaign released by Landcare Victoria and Landcare Australia Limited during Landcare Week last month. The community service announcement – which includes a television ad, radio, print and online advertising – encourages people to become involved with the Landcare movement by lending a hand, and includes a cast of Landcare volunteers in a range of landscapes doing their bit for the environment.

To watch the ad – the first ever of it's kind for Landcare – visit Landcare TV at <http://www.youtube.com/user/LandcareEducation>.



### *Australian Framework for Landcare released*

The Australian Framework for Landcare has now been released. The Framework aims to provide a foundation for the future development and growth of Landcare to strengthen the movement into the future. The Framework process has undergone a number of consultations with the Landcare community over the past year and a half with the next phase of the Framework being the development of an action plan that will be overseen by the Australian Landcare Council on behalf of the community.

To find out more or to download a copy of the framework visit [www.landcarevic.net.au/news/nlf-release](http://www.landcarevic.net.au/news/nlf-release).

### *Hepburn Shire springs into action for our environment*

Acknowledging the importance of adapting to a changing climate, Hepburn Shire Council has recently appointed a Sustainability Coordinator to lead the Environment and Sustainability department. Jill Berry has already commenced work in the new role and will be focusing on a variety of projects to identify and prioritise sustainability and climate change activities with improved integration across council strategies and plans, and the wider community.

With a wide range of experience in urban and regional development and environmental management in local government, Jill will bring a fresh skill set to the shire. With a keen interest in climate adaptation and sustainable development Jill is pleased to be a part of future initiatives with Landcare and looks forward to working with the groups for a more sustainable Hepburn. Contact Jill at [jberry@hepburn.vic.gov.au](mailto:jberry@hepburn.vic.gov.au).

### *Native Vegetation Identification sessions*

The Landcare team at North Central CMA hosted three native vegetation identification workshops across the region last month. The community sessions were held at Rochester, Castlemaine, and Inglewood. These workshops were arranged in response to the *Supporting your Group* surveys which indicated there was a need for a greater understanding of native vegetation and how to identify it. Participants were taken through basic spotting characteristics of common plant families, detailed identification techniques, the importance of Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs) and also how to use some handy online tools to assist in understanding the native vegetation in the region. Given the huge response to the workshops, with the Castlemaine workshop booking out within a week of the sessions being promoted, there is scope for similar sessions to be organised in the future. If you would like to be informed when these sessions are arranged please email your name, contact details and locality to [landcare@nccma.vic.gov.au](mailto:landcare@nccma.vic.gov.au) or phone North Central CMA on 03 5448 7124.



**Native Vegetation ID training session in Castlemaine.**  
Photo: Courtesy Jess Barnes, North Central CMA/DSE

### Myrtle Rust warning

Whilst many landcarers have been learning more about how to spot and identify native vegetation, including plants from the Myrtaceae family, it comes at a time where Victorians have also been put on red alert after the outbreak of a disease in NSW that could affect eucalypts, melaleucas, tea trees and other Myrtaceae family trees and shrubs. The discovery of myrtle rust on six commercial plant properties means that there is the potential risk of disease that could threaten our precious native vegetation and biodiversity and Victorians are being asked to keep a look out for any signs of the disease. Any rust noticed on Myrtaceae species should be reported. Please call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on Freecall 1800 084 881. For more information on Myrtle Rust visit the 'Pests, diseases and weeds' section of the DPI website at [www.dpi.vic.gov.au](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au).

### Is your group looking for labour?

The Loddon Prison Works Crew is available and may assist your group with onground works. The crew, made up of eight members, has fencing and revegetation experience. The crew costs \$400 a day and is happy to work within a 60km radius of Castlemaine. Taking into account travel time, the crew can work up five hours per day. If you are interested in getting the crew to work with your group please contact Rodney Phillips the Landmate supervisor on 0418 381 537 or [rodney.phillips@justice.vic.gov.au](mailto:rodney.phillips@justice.vic.gov.au).

### Woodend Landcare Working with Woodend Scouts

**A PARTNERSHIP THAT CAN BE VERY PRODUCTIVE**  
By Jo Clancy

Woodend Landcare has had some joint activities with our local Scouts several times in the last six years. In 2004, when we had a major planting day, many Scouts and their parents were among the helpers. In recent times we have helped some Venturers do environmental/community work that they need to perform to achieve their qualifications.

Now we're going to do something more specific. Thanks to Jenny Johnson, Group Leader of the 1st Woodend Scout Group, Landcare and the Scouts will be working together to weed, clear, and plant an area near the Creek just behind the Scout Hall. The Scouts themselves will have "ownership" of that area, and will be able to look after it, and probably have their group's name put on a sign nearby.

Our Committee thinks this is a really good idea, for many reasons: it gives these young people a place to be proud of and to care for; it encourages them to care for the environment they themselves live in; they learn some really practical skills; and, best of all, in the future we could have a bunch of young citizens available to take over our Landcare Group when we oldies are ready to retire – and some of us are more ready to retire than others!

As always, when a range of people are involved in this sort of organising it can take a while to get dates that suit everybody but at least two days, one in October and one in November, are set aside for special working bees, and 250 plants have been ordered to be ready for planting. We're looking forward to helping these lively young people use their energies constructively and it's not impossible that we can learn a thing or two from them as well!

### Indigenous Plants of Castlemaine and Surrounds

By Beth Mellick

The Castlemaine Field Naturalists Club has produced a very useful laminated guide called 'Indigenous Plants of Castlemaine and Surrounds'. The guide lists 100 of the most common indigenous plants of the area with colour photos. It includes climbers and creepers, herbs and grasses, orchids and shrubs. The guide also includes some of Leon Costerman's excellent illustrations of leaves and fruit of trees around the box and ironbark forests. The guide was produced for bushwalkers, farmers, tourists, and anyone who loves the land. It is small enough to put in your back pocket and take with you into the bush, or to leave in your glovebox. The guides were distributed free to Landcare groups in the Mount Alexander Shire and are now available for sale at the Tourist information centre in Castlemaine. Inquiries to Beth Mellick at The Norman Wettenhall Foundation on 03 5472 1316



**Castlemaine Field Naturalist Club members looking at the guide at the official launch.** Photo: Courtesy Beth Mellick



**Using the guide to identify a Leopard Orchid.** Photo: Courtesy Beth Mellick



## Victoria's Volunteering Portal

Victoria's Volunteering Portal is the new gateway to volunteering information, tools and resources for the Victorian public, and for Victorian community sector organisations. This is a whole of government portal and has now got the ability to integrate with other websites as a volunteer matching service – and this is where you come in!

The Landcare unit in DSE is working to integrate this site to the Victorian Landcare Gateway, and are encouraging all groups across the state to ensure that their contact details are up to date and that any upcoming volunteering activities are loaded up on their page. Once the integration has taken place Landcare volunteering opportunities will appear on this volunteer portal, which should greatly increase your group's exposure to a wider audience to gather further volunteering support for your group.

If you need some help with using the Gateway, training is available for groups who request it. This is highly recommended to ensure your group makes the most of what this portal has to offer! To arrange Gateway training, please contact Jodie Odgers (Regional Landcare Coordinator) on 03 5440 1883 or email [jodie.odgers@nccma.vic.gov.au](mailto:jodie.odgers@nccma.vic.gov.au). Victoria's Volunteering Portal can be accessed at [www.volunteer.vic.gov.au](http://www.volunteer.vic.gov.au).

## Have your say about Invasive Plants and Animals in our region

There is an opportunity for the Landcare community to comment on the draft Invasive Plant and Animal (IPA) strategy for North Central region. The strategy (formerly PPA – Pest Plants and Animals) has been developed by the North Central CMA with the input of partner natural resource management agencies and the community. The strategy sets out clear goals and actions for invasive species management over the next five years in our region. It outlines high-risk invasive species and priority natural assets under threat from invasive species in North Central Victoria, and highlights the importance of coordinated action and community engagement in tackling invasive species.

To obtain a copy of the draft strategy, a link will soon be available on the front page of the North Central CMA website [www.nccma.vic.gov.au](http://www.nccma.vic.gov.au). Comments can be emailed to [reception@nccma.vic.gov.au](mailto:reception@nccma.vic.gov.au) or posted to the North Central CMA PO Box 18, Huntly 3551. Comments are due by Friday 22 October.

## Quambatook farmers make sense of change

By Sheri Streilein

Farmers made up the majority of the 35 people who attended the Quambatook AgFutures forum in August. Specifically targeting the farming community, the forum was made possible by the DPI AgFutures Project, the Gannawarra Shire Council and the Quambatook Landcare Group. Agronomist Dale Boyd, DPI Echuca, spoke about DPI's 2010 Spring Locust Preparedness, Planning and Response.

A major focus of the locust response strategy is to raise the awareness of the legal requirement for landholders to report and treat locusts on their own property. This is supported with a 100 per cent rebate for eligible landholders on the purchase cost of insecticides used to treat Australian Plague Locusts. Eligible landholders include commercial, small-scale and lifestyle farmers in the 22 shires identified with heavy locust egg bed infestations.

Social Researcher Roger Wilkinson, DPI Epsom presented information on demographic trends and farm futures in the Quambatook area and surrounding districts. Recent demographic trends were discussed and compared with trends from 20-30 years ago. The age of farmers in the area has been rising steadily, which is reflected in other Victorian farming communities. After the speakers, a workshop session was facilitated by Senior Irrigation Agronomist Damian Jones, DPI Kerang, that encouraged participants to discuss the information presented and, most importantly, how it affected them as individuals.

Participants were encouraged to think "outside the square" and, in doing so, ideas were discussed from many different angles. The workshop covered many different issues relating to demographic trends as well as barriers and benefits to population changes in the area. Discussion sessions are an important component of AgFutures events as participants take away information and ideas they understand and can relate to. These sessions assist participants in making better informed decisions for their future in agriculture.

Sheri Streilein can be contacted on 03 5450 9564 or at: [sheri.streilein@dpi.vic.gov.au](mailto:sheri.streilein@dpi.vic.gov.au).

## Do you have news...?

What has been happening in your local area? How did the floods affect you? Do you have any news or a story to tell? Do you have some amazing or interesting photos that you would like to share? Is there anything that is missing from *Groundcover* that you would like to know more about? Please send through your stories, thoughts, ideas, and feedback to [landcare@nccma.vic.gov.au](mailto:landcare@nccma.vic.gov.au). Your feedback is essential to making *Groundcover* a success for you – the Landcare community!

# COURSES & RESOURCES

## VicVeg Online

At the native workshops held last month, participants were introduced to a fantastic online resource called VicVeg Online. This website, developed by Ian Higgins at the North Central CMA, aims to help you read the landscape and understand the native vegetation of your area. It provides information about individual species including photos, distribution, description, tolerances and adaptability, productivity, interactions with indigenous fauna, as well as a host of information relating to revegetation. The site also provides information at a broader scale about Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs) and bioregions. To find out more and to have a go yourself, visit [www.vicveg.net.au](http://www.vicveg.net.au).



The screenshot shows the VicVeg Online website interface. It features a grid of images related to native vegetation and a navigation menu. The main content area is divided into four sections: 'ABOUT VICVEG ONLINE', 'PLANTSCAPES', 'PLANT SPECIES', and 'TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES'. Below the content, there is a row of logos for various partner organizations including mallee, North Central, Natural Heritage Trust, and Victoria.

## Landcare information notes

A newly updated set of Landcare information notes are now available online. These simple and easy to follow notes are available to assist groups in all matters related to group formation, management, funding, communications, planning and project management with more topics to be made available shortly. To access these notes visit the 'Resources' section of the Landcare Gateway at [www.landcarevic.net.au](http://www.landcarevic.net.au).

## Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program

Applications are now open for the 2011 Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program. If you are committed to your community and the wider region then this program is for you. Over a 10-month period (average two days per month) this sponsored program valued at \$7,000 explores central and north west Victoria and includes study tours to Canberra and to Melbourne. For more information, please visit: [www.lmclp.org.au](http://www.lmclp.org.au). Applications close on 31 October 2010. Further information and application forms for the 2010 program visit [www.lmclp.org.au](http://www.lmclp.org.au) and follow the links, or contact 03 5498 3270 or 0409 983 270.



## EVENTS

### *Calling all environmental photographers!*

An *Environmental Photography* workshop is being held at the Woodend Neighbourhood Centre on 15 and 16 October. It is aimed at those working in environmental management, Landcare, environment rehabilitation, as well as landholders and students, or anyone interested in documenting the natural environment. The workshop will cover the principles of photography in the context of environmental subjects and also cover the use of photography as a scientific tool for documenting environmental change in a technique known as Photopoint Monitoring. For more information about the workshop, contact Alison Pouliot on 0439 764 344 or at [alison@alisonpouliot.com](mailto:alison@alisonpouliot.com). For bookings contact the Woodend Neighbourhood Centre on 03 5427 1845. To see some of Alison's work, visit [www.alisonpouliot.com](http://www.alisonpouliot.com).

### *Comfortable Farms*

Would you like to learn more about riparian management, the establishment of habitat and biodiversity corridors, sequestering CO<sub>2</sub> in plants and soil, or sustainable pasture management? If your answer to the above questions is 'yes' then you may be interested in attending the 'Alternatives to Grazing' workshop being held in Romsey on Saturday 23 October. The workshop program includes discussion around farm forestry, revegetation, carbon dioxide sequestering, and sustainable soil management, with a farm walk at the end of the day to see some of these things in practice. Places are strictly limited so bookings are essential. For workshop details and to RSVP contact Viki Spedding from Upper Deep Creek Landcare Network at [speddingmv@gmail.com](mailto:speddingmv@gmail.com) or telephone 03 5789 1237. Alternatively contact John Robinson at [johnrobinson54@gmail.com](mailto:johnrobinson54@gmail.com) or 03 5782 0184.

### *Water Week activities at the Shire of Campaspe*

On 24 October landcarers are invited to come along on a morning bike ride from Koyuga Hall to Kanyapella Basin. There will be a lunch break at the hall at around 1.00pm on conclusion of the ride. In the evening from 4.00-6.00pm at the Kyabram Fauna Park there will be a tour of the wetlands, a talk about the birds in the area along with giveaways and a BBQ for dinner. If you would like to know more about these events contact Rhonda Day on 03 5481 2804 or email [r.day@campaspe.vic.gov.au](mailto:r.day@campaspe.vic.gov.au).

### *Australian Environmental Law - How it protects ecological communities and what this means for you*

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) is the Australian Government's main environmental law. It protects matters of national environmental significance such as nationally threatened species and ecological communities. A number of nationally threatened ecological communities occur in Victoria, including the Grey Box Grassy Woodlands.

Officers from the Australian Government's Department of Environment will be in Bendigo on Tuesday 26 October at Bendigo Public Library Lecture Theatre, 259 Hargreaves Street, Bendigo to answer questions around how ecological communities get listed as threatened under the EPBC Act, how the EPBC act works, and how the Department can work with community to comply with the Act. The session will run from 7.30 to 9.30pm and is aimed at land owners, Landcare groups, Friends groups, Naturalists, and others concerned about conservation of nature.

Further information on the EPBC Act is available from the Department's website: [www.environment.gov.au](http://www.environment.gov.au). If you are planning to attend the session could you please send an email to [fraserds1@hotmail.com](mailto:fraserds1@hotmail.com). These information sessions have been organised by The Bendigo Field Naturalists Club and the Bendigo and District Environment Council and are supported by the City of Greater Bendigo.

### *Spring into Nature*

This is an annual event for people to visit Trust for Nature properties and covenantors' properties for guided walks and activities - similar to the Open Garden Scheme. The open properties are chosen for their conservation values and picturesque landscapes and views. It's a major opportunity for visitors to see these protected private properties, and learn a little something on the way. It's also wildflower season, and with good rains this year, there's never been a better time to take a tour on one of these fabulous properties. The North Central event will be held at Pine Grove from 10.30am on Saturday 23 October 2010. Check out [www.trustfornature.org.au](http://www.trustfornature.org.au) or contact Tim Read on 03 5472 1672 for details.



## *Are you interested in native vegetation, biodiversity and landscape change?*

We certainly live in a dynamic and ever-changing landscape. Over the past four years a team of researchers from the DSE Arthur Rylah Institute and Charles Sturt University, in collaboration with the North Central Catchment Management Authority have been unraveling a fascinating story of how our local landscapes have changed over time.

Many local landholders and extension staff have contributed to this research by providing knowledge, historical information and insights into the factors influencing changes in native vegetation across the Castlemaine district. They have generously given their time and access to properties. This has been crucial to the success of the research project and enabled a very interesting story to emerge.

The research team is now in a position to share the final results of the project by inviting your participation in a seminar and field based workshop.

This event will be held at the Newstead Community Centre on the Pyrenees Highway at Newstead on Thursday 28 October from 9.30am to 3.00pm. Lunch will be provided.

The day will include presentations, discussion and a field visit to one of the properties involved in the project. Please RSVP to Geoff Park 0418 138 632 [geoff.park@nccma.vic.gov.au](mailto:geoff.park@nccma.vic.gov.au). For more information on Landscape Logic visit [www.landscapelogic.org.au](http://www.landscapelogic.org.au).

## *Red Gum Parks forum*

Victoria's magnificent red gum forests are unique wetlands and home to a huge variety of plants and animals. While they are now protected in a series of parks, they are still in grave danger. Without a secure and reliable water supply they will not survive. To learn more, please see details about an upcoming forum to be held at The Capital Performing Arts Centre, 50 View St, Bendigo on Thursday 28 October from 6.00-7.30pm.

Speakers will include:

- Dr Terry Hillman, former CEO of Murray-Darling Freshwater Research Centre (TBC).
- Prof Henry Atkinson, Monash University and Yorta Yorta elder.
- Dr Paul Sinclair, Australian Conservation Foundation.
- Kim Chalmers, Chalmers Wines.

The forum is hosted by Environment Victoria, in association with Australian Conservation Foundation, Friends of the Earth, The Wilderness Society and Victorian National Parks Association. For more information and to RSVP, please email [admin@environmentvictoria.org.au](mailto:admin@environmentvictoria.org.au) or phone 03 9341 8100.

## *Learn about vegetation response to fire and discover the details of fire behaviour and fuel*

With the fire season not far away, Greening Australia is once again holding Fire Ecology workshops, this year in Raglan (near Beaufort). If you're interested in understanding more about fire ecology, the events will focus on: fire behaviour; different plant species' response to fire; requirements for controlled burns; and the community fireguard program. Plus there will be a field visit to a burn site after lunch. Expert speaker Kevin Tolhurst will provide an insight into fire and vegetation response, as well as research into fire behavior and fuels. DSE will discuss the requirements for burn programs, including for asset protection and ecological purposes, and the CFA will introduce the community fireguard program with a focus on the impact of fire on individuals and communities.

The workshops are free and include a BBQ lunch, but there are limited places, so registration is essential! Head to the Raglan Hall (Beaufort-Elmhurst Rd, 9kms north of Beaufort) on Thursday 28 October. The event starts at 9.30am. To register contact Anna Carrucan at Greening Australia on 03 5231 6913 by the Friday 22 October.

## NETWORK NEWS

### *Shire of Campaspe*

**By Rhonda Day**

We had a huge Landcare Week, 6 to 12 September, in the Shire of Campaspe. It began with the display of photograph entries taken through the Shire of Campaspe environmental calendar 2011 photographic competition. Funding for this and five informative and fun events between August 2010 and April 2011 was gained through the Victorian Recruitment Initiative. We had 101 entries from 28 different entrants (each entrant was able to submit up to five entries) in the photographic competition, which had to be to the theme "what the environment means to you". 20 photos were chosen to be used in the 2011 calendar, which will feature important environmental dates, tips and will acknowledge the photographers. The calendar will be available in November.

Wednesday was the annual Wattle Day celebrations at Wyuna. Unfortunately, due to the rising Goulburn River and the recent wet conditions, the Wyuna River Reserve was not visited this year, but instead the festivities were held at the Wyuna Hall. About 60 local senior citizens were treated to entertainment and afternoon tea among centre pieces of wattles!

Friday was supposed to be the annual Campaspe Landcare bus tour, however due to the floods around the Violet Town and Benalla areas, the trip was postponed. It is now most likely to take place in the first half of November.

Saturday saw the annual Echuca Landcare Group street stall in Hare Street Echuca. The group had displays, giveaways and spoke to interested persons about joining their local Landcare group!

Another project that has been happening since mid April has been in conjunction with local St Josephs' College Echuca Victorian Certificate Applied Learning (VCAL) students. The five students have mapped the bridal creeper on the western side of the Campaspe River between Warren Street and Ogilvie Avenue. The report they compiled was used as a basis for a Community Action Grant submitted online several weeks ago, with the aim of doing some form of control on this area of bridal creeper. The group presented their findings to 25 shire, Landcare and school representatives. They did a fantastic job!

### *Loddon Plains Landcare Network*

**By Penny Wall via the Loddon Plains**

Blog: [www.lplnnews.blogspot.com](http://www.lplnnews.blogspot.com)

Eighty-six people turned out for the Inaugural Loddon Plains Landcare Network gathering on Saturday 4 September at the Serpentine Hall. The night was sponsored by the Inglewood and District Community branch of the Bendigo Bank. The attendees enjoyed a meal prepared by the East Loddon Lions Club and also music by Kinja. Ron Murray and Sarah James make up Kinja and provide a unique combination of Indigenous Australian culture (fantastic didgeridoo playing) with Celtic singing and fiddle playing. We also heard a dreamtime story handed down by Ron's ancestors.

It was great to see such good attendance given the difficult driving conditions due to the amount of rain that fell over the weekend. A planting day had also been planned for the Saturday, but had to be postponed due to the weather conditions (see below). The planting day was going to be an opportunity for city people to come out and volunteer their time to plant trees. The event was also part of the Loddon Shire's month long festival of activities showcasing the natural environment of the Loddon Shire called *Naturally Loddon: A Wonderland in Spring*.



**Enjoying the dinner.**

Photo: Courtesy Mal Brown,  
Loddon Plains Landcare Network



### Northern United Forestry Group's "Last Child in the Woods" Sunday 26 September

As part of the *Naturally Loddon* Festival, the Northern United Forestry Group (NUFG) hosted a children's day at their Kamarooka project site. Thanks to sponsorship from the City of Greater Bendigo's Child-Friendly City initiative, participants caught a bus from Bendigo and "Goldie" the dog delighted the little ones. Over 70 people enjoyed the sunshine and the wattles, while taking part in a nature trail activity and BBQ. The day was inspired by Richard Louv's book "Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder" in which psychologists report that connections with nature help to protect the psychological wellbeing of children.



Goldie and friends

**On the trail** Photo: Courtesy Mal Brown, Northern United Forestry Group.



### Loddon Plains Landcare Network Planting Day

If you like the rewarding feeling that comes from planting trees, you're welcome to join the friendly people of the Loddon Plains Landcare Network on 16 October for their planting day. Planting will commence at 11.00am at four sites - Serpentine, Wedderburn, Durham Ox and Jarklin. Lunch is provided. BYO water bottle and hat. Please contact Penny Wall [apwall@aussiebroadband.com.au](mailto:apwall@aussiebroadband.com.au) for site allocation and directions. Feel free to end the day with a meal at the Jarklin 'Four Posts' Hotel, Loddon Valley Highway (own expense of course).

### Silverleaf Nightshade Field Day

The Loddon Plains Landcare Network is conducting a farm visit and field day at Calivil on 28 October on controlling Silverleaf Nightshade, with guest speaker Dr Rex Stanton from Wagga. Venue is still to be confirmed but to register your interest and for more information, please email Penny Wall [apwall@aussiebroadband.com.au](mailto:apwall@aussiebroadband.com.au).



## FUNDING NEWS

### *Bushfire recovery grants announcement*

During Landcare Week last month the Brumby Government announced more than \$1.5 million in bushfire recovery grants for the 'Recycling for Recovery' project for Landcare groups in bushfire affected areas. The money was raised through the recycling of metal collected during the cleanup of properties after the 2009 Victorian bushfires.

'Rebuilding communities is vital to healing the environmental and emotional wounds in areas that were affected by bushfires. Restoring the environment helps communities by reconnecting people with the landscape they know and love,' Mr Brumby said at the announcement.

To learn more about the announcement or to check out the list of recipient visit [www.premier.vic.gov.au/component/content/article/11777.html](http://www.premier.vic.gov.au/component/content/article/11777.html)

### *Protection of Box-Gum Grassy Woodlands on private land*

The North Central CMA is seeking landholders or Landcare groups within the Mid Loddon catchment area interested in protecting Box-Gum Grassy Woodlands on private property to apply for funding. Funding has been made available through the Federal Government's 'Caring for our Country' (CfoC) initiative. Grants are available for onground works such as fencing and revegetation, by the landholder or a contractor. In-kind contribution is not required. For further information or to download an application form visit the North Central CMA website [www.nccma.vic.gov.au](http://www.nccma.vic.gov.au). Applications close on 1 November 2010. For assistance in completing application or to discuss eligibility call Robyn McKay on 03 5440 1876.

### *Junior Landcare grants announced*

The third round of Junior Landcare grants were announced last month. To have a look at the list of lucky recipients visit the Landcare Australia online website at [www.landcareonline.com.au](http://www.landcareonline.com.au).

### *R.E. Trust grants*

The R.E. Trust Grants favour projects that are innovative, attract enthusiastic volunteers, have plans to become self-supporting, and are action based. Priority is given to:

- Projects which are designed to address difficult social and environmental needs.
- Requests for small grants to enable smaller community organisations to begin or continue to make a positive difference in their communities.

The trust supports the purchase of high conservation value land and nature conservation. Grants may be sought for periods of up to three years in duration. The Ross Trust has no formal closing dates for the submission of applications. Applications will usually be considered at a meeting of Trustees within six to eight weeks after an application has been received by the Trust. For more information contact Margarita Sagris on 03 9690 6255, email [information@rosstrust.org.au](mailto:information@rosstrust.org.au) or visit [www.rosstrust.org.au](http://www.rosstrust.org.au).

### *Calling all bush guardians*

Bush Guardians is a community based small grants program that aims to protect threatened flora and fauna from the impact of weeds and pests. The program encourages volunteer groups to propose, manage and undertake onground works on public land. The total funding available for DSE grants statewide in 2010-2011 is \$260,000.

For further information, please contact Mary Camilleri at Bendigo DSE on 03 5430 4676. Priorities for threatened flora and fauna protection will be determined in consultation with your local DSE officers. The 2010/2011 application form and guidelines are now available on the DSE website [www.dse.vic.gov.au](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au). Applications close on 30 November 2010.

### *Get your 'Ground Cover' direct*

*The newsletter you are reading is for ALL members of Landcare and Friends groups in our region. If you would like to receive it directly, rather than via your group, jump on our direct email list. All you have to do is send an email request to [landcare@nccma.vic.gov.au](mailto:landcare@nccma.vic.gov.au) or phone reception on 03 5448 7124.*



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