

# ground cover



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

www.nccma.vic.gov.au

March 2011

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

## *A message from the Regional Landcare Coordinator*

Hi everyone,

Where is the year going? We are now well into March and yes it will be Landcare Grant time before you know it! The grants have had a name change, so you will no longer hear the term 'Second Generation Landcare Grants', they are now called the Victorian Landcare Grants. We will have more information about the program in the next edition of Groundcover but in the meantime please start thinking about what your group could do in 2011-12.

The Landcare community has been busy over the last month and there is a great article in the 'News' section by the Baynton Sidonia Landcare group about their night with bats. Plus there is no shortage of events throughout the region over the coming months – look at the 'Events' section to find out if there is an event near you (and don't forget to let us know of any other relevant events for our next edition).

February has been full of meetings and events for me. I went to the Sustainable Living Festival in Melbourne where the State Landcare team hosted a marquee for three days. The event was a great opportunity to expose the people of Melbourne to the Landcare movement. Many were surprised to find out that there are so many groups across Victoria doing such a wide range of activities – and plenty of groups in Melbourne too... All the more reason to get your group on the Victorian Landcare Gateway!

Cass Davis, the North Central Catchment Management Authority (CMA) Waterwatch Coordinator and I attended the launch of the Kara Kara Conservation Management Network at Teddington Reservoir near Stuart Mill. It was a beautiful day and an even more beautiful location to have a BBQ and to launch the network. There was a great turn-out from both community members and industry representatives, including Bush Heritage, Parks Victoria, local council and the North Central CMA.

Last week I attended a State Landcare Team meeting in Traralgon. Along with all of the usual State Landcare business, we also had the opportunity to get out and meet several groups in the West Gippsland Catchment. Two groups caught my interest in particular. The first were a group born out of a 'Lifestyle' village for retired people. The group's focus was revegetating and restoring an area adjacent to the village but they were also about to start a Waterwatch program to monitor their local waterway. It just goes to prove that age is only a number! The second group was the Latrobe Catchment Landcare Network (LCLN); they have developed a Biolink Strategy where one of the outcomes is a series of practical Landcare guides.

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*Farm dam near Neerim in West Gippsland that has been enhanced by the planting of native vegetation. Photo: Courtesy of Tracey McRae, Corangamite CMA.*

The guide that I managed to get my hands on was the 'Enhancing your Farm Dam' which is about to go to print. The guide is full of fantastic information on how to enhance your dam so that it is a place of habitat, refuge and food for local wildlife, whilst still maintaining its role in the productivity of the farm.

Until next time, warm regards!

*Jodie Odgers*

Regional Landcare Coordinator

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## *Support and Thanks to our Landcare Community*

The recent flood events have resulted in major losses and very difficult times for many landholders across North Central Victoria. The thoughts of the North Central Catchment Management Authority (CMA) Board, Natural Resource Management Committee and staff are with our communities as the flood waters subside and response and recovery continues. We are one of several organisations involved in floodplain planning, flood response and food recovery activities. In order for everyone to better understand our specific responsibilities, we have developed a new section on our website dedicated to 'Flood Information'. Visit [nccma.vic.gov.au](http://nccma.vic.gov.au) for more information.

North Central CMA has had staff on-duty throughout every flood event to support the Victorian SES in the Incident Control Room with flood behaviour and flood extent advice based on the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) weather and river height predictions. Many areas in the upper catchment were affected by severe flash flooding and many areas in the lower catchment have endured extended flood durations which have been extremely challenging. As I write this, flood water is still being pumped from flood affected areas in Benjeroop at the bottom of the Loddon River Catchment.

North Central CMA has already committed approximately \$1.2 million of State Government funds to flood response and flood recovery activities including clearing major debris blockages in our waterways. We have flood pegged and surveyed 25 towns to capture flood extent information as well as captured aerial imagery to inform future planning. Most of the region's flooding was the largest or very near to the largest on record. We are in the process of preparing a multi-million dollar flood recovery proposal to national funding sources to repair and reinstate key river protection infrastructure such as riparian fencing. Subject to receiving this funding, we are hoping to work with many flood affected landholders to achieve a better long-term alignment for this riparian fencing to avoid the impact of future floods.

We are also in the process of compiling a pictorial history of the recent flood events. We would like you to send us your photos from the 2010/2011 flood events with a clear description of the image and even any anecdotes you would like to share about your flood experience. Visit [nccma.vic.gov.au](http://nccma.vic.gov.au) for how to send us your images. We are aiming for the content of the pictorial history to be dominated by photos sent to us from the community. In the first instance, this will be a web-based pictorial history and subject to funding we hope to print hard-copies and make them widely available later in the year.

The North Central CMA is fully committed to our ongoing support for the tireless efforts of our Landcare community. We appreciate your volunteered time, enthusiasm and dedication to improving the natural environment across our unique and diverse region of Victoria. Everyone involved in Landcare creates a lot of value for the people in local communities, other Victorians and beyond. We are actively seeking funding to support Landcare groups to reinstate environmental protection works that the groups have implemented throughout the catchment that have also been damaged by floodwater. Like some of our own projects, some Landcare groups may need to re-think how we tackle some projects so we can aim to make our environmental investments more resilient to extreme events like floods. If your Landcare group's projects have been affected by the recent floods we would like to hear from you. Please contact Jodie on 03 5440 1883.

We will keep you informed on the progress of the funding proposals we are putting forward to State and Federal sources.

*Damian Wells*

CEO, North Central CMA

## NEWS

### *Baynton Bat night a great success*

**By Clare Claydon Baynton Sidonia Landcare Group**

More than a hundred people – adults and children – crammed into the Baynton Hall on Saturday 19 February to hear Dr Lindy Lumsden talk about bats. And they were not disappointed.

Dr Lumsden claimed that few people realise that bats are in nearly every environment in Australia; and in significant numbers. She said that we should value our bats more because they provide free insect control as well as pollination and seed dispersal services. Many species of bat eat up to half their body weight each night in insects. She said “Bats are the unsung heroes of the insect control world. Yet most people don’t even know that they are there!”

After Dr Lumsden’s fascinating and informative talk and a delicious BBQ, catered for by Burke and Wills Winery, participants went outside to witness the release of 17 wild bats that Dr Lumsden had caught locally the previous night. Each ‘releaser’ (mostly children) donned a glove and then held the bat on their palm until the bat was ready to fly. As each bat took off, a spotlight followed it, and this enabled the participants to gain a better idea of what a bat looks like in flight.

Dr Lumsden told the audience of some of the extraordinary characteristics of these unique flying mammals, including:

- Bats have the ability to go into torpor (temporary hibernation) and drop their body temperature from 40 degrees to just 10 and their heart rate from 1000 beats per minute to 10 and take just one breath an hour;
- Bats give birth to very large young: up to 30 per cent of the mother’s bodyweight;
- Bats can fly up to 30km nightly to feed, and some may also migrate up to 1000 km; and
- Fossil bats of 65 million years ago are essentially the same as present day bats – the model was correct way back then.

Jenny Elson, member of Baynton Sidonia Landcare group, commented that “the kids loved the bat night. It is fantastic that they are interested, and we need to nurture that!”

This event was funded by the North Central Catchment Management Authority and was organised by Baynton Sidonia Landcare group in conjunction with the Redesdale Fire Land Management Group.



**Isla Byrne and Rosie O'Sullivan releasing a bat**  
 Photo: Courtesy of Emma Jimson, Baynton Sidonia Landcare Group

### *Farm Tree and Landcare Association (FTLA) Annual Forum*

The North Central CMA Landcare team ventured down to Melbourne at the end of February to the FTLA Annual Forum and AGM. Alexandra Gartmann, CEO of Birchip Cropping Group (BCG) and member of the Australian Landcare Council (ALC), opened the forum with her presentation on ‘Landcare - the old, the new and the yet to be thought of’. She discussed her role with BCG, her past experiences with Landcare and her role as a representative for the ALC. The ALC is the key advisory body to the Federal Government, and Alex highlighted that as a representative she is keen to get feedback from the Landcare community about the direction of Landcare and what the future opportunities are.

Professor Allan Curtis presented and spoke about the results of the Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) surveys he conducted in Victoria in 2009. Karen Alexander, team leader for the Victoria Naturally Alliance, also ran a session on the findings of their projects that investigated the ability of local environmental groups to market themselves and attract a wider audience to help with nature conservation work.

### *2011 Landcare Photography Competition*

The Victorian Landcare and Catchment Management Magazine’s 2011 Landcare Photography Competition is open now and you can upload your entries on the Gateway at [www.landcarevic.net.au/resources/magazine/vic/2011-landcare-photography-competition](http://www.landcarevic.net.au/resources/magazine/vic/2011-landcare-photography-competition) or by emailing or posting it to the Landcare Magazine.

The competition was announced recently in the magazine’s 50th issue. Entries are invited in three categories: sustainability, water and ‘what Landcare means to me’. There will be a general prize in each category and prizes for primary and secondary students.

### *New Connecting Country Coordinator*

Connecting Country has appointed a new Project Coordinator, Chris Timewell. He will be starting on Monday 28 March and will be at the Connecting Country Reference Group meeting to meet the local Landcare community in the Mount Alexander Region. Chris has a strong environmental background and is an active member of the Castlemaine Field Naturalists Club.





### *Review of Caring for Our Country*

Have your Say! The review of the Caring for our Country (CfoC) initiative has commenced. The review will look at the effectiveness of the program, achievements to date and will explore options for natural resource management (NRM) delivery in the future.

An important part of the review will be consulting with Australia's NRM stakeholders. The views and experiences of CfoC's partners and stakeholders are an essential part of informing the review and will help identify program improvements that are practical and focused.

In addition, specific feedback from the recipients and applicants of CfoC funding regarding the outcomes of investments will help tell the CfoC story and inform the review.

A public discussion paper is now available to start the ball rolling. Submissions are invited until Friday 20 May 2011. For information on the review or if you want to share your views on the initiative go to [www.nrm.gov.au/review/index](http://www.nrm.gov.au/review/index).

### *Print and design resources available for Landcare groups*

Landcare Australia has partnered with EnviroPrint to offer an easy way for Landcare groups to order printed materials and promote the Landcare volunteer work amongst the community. For more information go to Landcare Australia's website [www.landcareonline.com.au/?page\\_id=3032](http://www.landcareonline.com.au/?page_id=3032).

### *Don't forget to return your 'Supporting your group survey' and 'Finding your group on the web' information*

It is too late to win the prizes... sorry guys! BUT we still want you to return the forms please. The first form, 'Supporting your group survey', helps us keep track of your groups' health and also what activities and support you need. The second form, 'Finding your group on the web', will provide us with information that you want us to put on the Victorian Landcare Gateway about your group to help spread the word and to try and drum up further support and membership.

## COURSES & RESOURCES

### *Autumn Fungi Workshops*

Join Ecologist and Environmental Photographer, Alison Pouliot, as she holds an autumn series of Central Victorian Fungal Ecology Workshops.

Whether you're interested in identifying, photographing, learning about the species you can safely consume, or you just wish to enjoy an autumn forest 'stroll of discovery' through this extraordinary kingdom, then these workshops are for you – and given the amazing summer rains, we can expect a bumper display of fungi this season.

Join Alison for a foray deep into our local forests for an illustrated journey into a little known world.

### **2011 Fungal Ecology Workshops**

Saturday 23 April and Sunday 24 April - **Daylesford**  
Bookings: 03 5348 3569 or [daylesford@ourneighbourhood.org.au](mailto:daylesford@ourneighbourhood.org.au)

Saturday 30 April and Sunday 1 May - **Woodend**  
Bookings: 03 5427 1845 or [reception@wnci.com.au](mailto:reception@wnci.com.au)

Saturday 7 May and Sunday 8 May - **Creswick**  
Bookings: 03 5345 2356 or [creswick@ourneighbourhood.org.au](mailto:creswick@ourneighbourhood.org.au)

Saturday 14 May and Sunday 15 May - **Trentham**  
Bookings: 03 5424 1354 or [trentham@ourneighbourhood.org.au](mailto:trentham@ourneighbourhood.org.au)

Saturday 28 May and Sunday 29 May - **Wedderburn**  
Bookings: 03 5494 3542 or Michael at [emandem@iinet.net.au](mailto:emandem@iinet.net.au)

### **2011 Fungal Ecology Seminars**

Thursday 21 April - **Daylesford**  
Bookings: 03 5348 3569 or [daylesford@ourneighbourhood.org.au](mailto:daylesford@ourneighbourhood.org.au) - The cost for this seminar is \$10.

Thursday 26 May - **Castlemaine**  
Bookings: 03 5472 1594 or [info@connectingcountry.org.au](mailto:info@connectingcountry.org.au) - No cost for this seminar.

For full workshop details visit [www.alisonpouliot.com](http://www.alisonpouliot.com) or contact Alison via email at [alison@alisonpouliot.com](mailto:alison@alisonpouliot.com).



## Connecting Country Ecology Program

Connecting Country's Ecology Program is part of an exciting year ahead for those interested in the natural environment of the Mount Alexander Region.

A series of field days about Geology and Soils, Yellow Box Woodlands, and Rivers and Streams will be held early in the year. There will be a cost for this part of the program.

The very popular speaker evenings will be held later in the year. These will cover a range of topics including fungi, fire and cultural heritage. They are free events and are open to anyone interested in ecology.

This course complements a number of other community events happening throughout the year including Connecting Country monitoring workshops, FOBIF Sunday walks, Castlemaine Field Naturalists Club talks and walks, a Eucalypt Identification workshop, the Castlemaine Landcare Indigenous Food and Fibre workshop, a Chilean Needle Grass Mapping workshop, National Tree Planting Day, Sustainable Soils field day, DSE's Box-Ironbark ecology course and The North Central CMA Native Grass ID workshop.

For more information please go to [www.connectingcountry.org.au](http://www.connectingcountry.org.au) or telephone Connecting Country on 03 5472 1594.

## EVENTS

### Timber and Farm Forestry Opportunities

The Baynton Sidonia Landcare Group are hosting the fifth event in their highly successful seminar series funded by North Central Catchment Management Authority. The 'Timber milling and farm forestry opportunities' seminar will look at the opportunities in utilising farm trees and growing timber as a crop.

The seminar on Saturday 2 April will start at 9.30am at the Baynton Hall. The day will include a bus tour to look at local trees, a talk on how to get the most out of your timber and a demonstration of milling. The day will be led by local tree guru and Baynton farmer, Peter Stone.

The event is free and everyone is welcome. To reserve a place call Clare on 03 5423 4152 by Wednesday 30 March.



## Riddells Creek local food fair

Much of the food we consume is transported over large distances. This is only possible because of an abundance of cheap oil. However, as oil supplies reach their peak, this resource will become increasingly expensive and so will the goods it is used to transport.

At the Riddells Creek Local Food Fair on Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 March, you can sample the delights of locally produced, low 'food-mile' food, whilst enjoying the atmosphere of the farmer's market.

David Holmgren, co-originator of the permaculture concept, will be on hand to discuss the ideas that led to creation of the Transition Town movement. Join David as he launches 'Transition Town Riddell'. Su Dennet will share her knowledge about growing and sourcing food locally, and Rosemary Stevenson – heritage seed curator – will teach you more about seed saving: why it is important and how to do it.

Let Celebrity Chefs show you how to prepare a 'local' feast, then share in a 'local' lunch. And if that's not enough, come along and learn more about preserving produce, composting, permaculture and a whole lot more...

Garden-lovers won't miss out either, with Open Food Garden Tours on offer. And with local musicians on hand to entertain you, why not make it a day out for the whole family!

The fair will be hosted at the Riddells Creek Primary School. For more information please email [foodfair@riddellfarmersmarket.com.au](mailto:foodfair@riddellfarmersmarket.com.au).

## Welcome to the fabulous world of fungi in the Malmsbury District

Malmsbury District Landcare Group member and native plant enthusiast, John Walter, will first look at the role of fungi species in the environment and their impact on our everyday life, before taking a closer look at the many unusual forms and colours found amongst our local fungi.

The 2010 fungi season was an exceptional one and the presenter photographed over 250 fungi species in just four locations over a three month period. In some locations, over a dozen different species could be easily identified in just one square metre.

Join Malmsbury District Landcare members for an up close look at the fabulous fungi of the district on Thursday 7 April from 7.30pm at the Malmsbury Town Hall. RSVP for catering purposes to John or Sue Walter on 03 5423 9383 or email [john.walter2@bigpond.com](mailto:john.walter2@bigpond.com).

### When the weeds won't die!

With all the rain over summer weeds are thriving. The two workshops at Kyneton and Toolleen are a great opportunity to learn practical information about weed management that you can put to use on your property. Guest speaker Michael Walsh from the Australian Herbicide Resistance Initiative in WA will talk about integrated weed management and herbicide resistance. Representatives from the Department of Primary Industry (DPI) will explain the weed classification of State prohibited, regionally prohibited and regionally controlled. There will also be a session on weed identification so make sure that you bring along that weed that you can't identify. The Kyneton workshop will also include a session on biological control with DPI's Greg Lefoe. Greg will explain what biological control is and why we do it before focusing on the biocontrol of gorse and brooms (English and Cape). Workshops are free.



**Michael Walsh from the Australian Herbicide Resistance Initiative in Western Australia walking through a crop.**

Photo: Courtesy Michael Walsh from the Australian Herbicide Resistance Initiative WA.

#### Kyneton

Red Brick Hall, 23 Yaldwyn Street  
 Wednesday 23 March  
 10.30am - 1pm, lunch will be provided

#### Toolleen

Toolleen Recreation Reserve  
 Thursday 24 March  
 8.00am - 11.00 am, BBQ breakfast provided

RSVP for catering purposes by Monday 21 March to North Central CMA by emailing [reception@nccma.vic.gov.au](mailto:reception@nccma.vic.gov.au) or calling 03 5448 7124. For more information call Ashley Beven, Regional Landcare Facilitator on 03 5440 1864 or email Ashley at [ashley.beven@nccma.vic.gov.au](mailto:ashley.beven@nccma.vic.gov.au).

### Mamunya Photo Exhibition

Bold Café Gallery at 146 Duke Street, Castlemaine will host an exhibition of photos highlighting the remarkable beauty of our local woodlands as part of the Castlemaine State Festival from 1 – 10 April. The exhibition will be on display from 10.00am to 4.30pm daily. The photos have been selected from the Friends of the Box-Ironbark Forests website gallery: [www.fobif.org.au](http://www.fobif.org.au).

The exhibition continues a tradition the 'Friends' started in 1999 with their first Mamunya festival. The word Mamunya comes from a Dja Dja Wurrung (local Indigenous group) chant, 'pata, mamunya, jirarunga,' meaning, 'wait a while, don't touch it, growing up.' Goldfields woodlands were devastated in the nineteenth century and their regeneration has been a long and remarkable story. This exhibition celebrates that regeneration.



**Tawny Frogmouth, Walmer**

Photo: Courtesy of Bronwyn Silver,

### 2nd Annual North Central Regional Soils Forum

Following the success of the inaugural event in 2010, North Central CMA's Farming for Sustainable Soils project will host the 2nd Annual North Central Regional Soils Forum on Thursday 7 April at The Bendigo Club, 22 Park Street, Bendigo.

Once again, the forum is a free community event, with focus this year on exploring the impact of population growth on soil over the coming four decades and how market and financial forces influence the health of our regional soils.

The forum aims to bring farmers, Natural Resource Management (NRM) policy makers, academics and the broader public together to consider current and future pressures on our regional soils, and to reflect on the efforts of community groups aiming to achieve sustainable soil management.

The forum will also consider climate change, contemporary farming systems, economic circumstances that place pressure on the land, and will look at opportunities for





improved plant cover, improved soil carbon sequestration, and the potential to improve soil resilience in an altered climate.

Registration starts at 8.30am, with a 9.00am welcome and opening. Food and refreshments will be provided throughout the day and the forum will finish at 4.30pm. There will also be the opportunity to attend an evening dinner at \$25 per head following the forum, which will also tie in with the following day's Farm Forestry and Firewood Machinery Expo (see below), of which the North Central CMA is sponsoring.

The North central CMA had an overwhelming response in 2010 and once more places are strictly limited, so you are urged to confirm your attendance as soon as possible, with registration closing by COB Friday 1 April.

For more information and to RSVP for the event and/or the dinner, please contact the North Central CMA on 03 5448 7124 or [info@nccma.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@nccma.vic.gov.au). Further information will be made available on the North Central CMA website [www.nccma.vic.gov.au](http://www.nccma.vic.gov.au) as details are finalised.

### *Newham Harvest Festival*

The Newham Harvest Festival is a follow up to the highly successful sustainability conference and workshop held last year. This year's one day event on Saturday 9 April will emphasise food production and harvesting, and will include a broad range of practical demonstrations including: beekeeping and honey production; wine & beer production; bread making; probiotics; cheese making; preserving; and storing food. And for those just starting the journey toward a sustainable lifestyle, there will be hands on tips for setting up your own veggie garden from scratch, what to grow as well as when – and how – to harvest.

TV presenter and local garden guru, Stephen Ryan will be on hand to open the festival and the community orchard (and mosaics) at the rear of the Mechanics Hall.

The event will begin at 9.30am at the Newham Mechanics Institute Hall and the Newham Primary School on Rochford Road at Newham. Entry is by gold coin donation. For more information contact Fran on 03 5427 0661 or Sue on 03 5427 0065.

This event is supported by the Newham Community Planning Group, the Newham Landcare Group and Newham Garden Club.

### *Farm Forestry and Firewood Machinery Expo*

The Northern United Forestry Group (NUFG) is hosting the Farm Forestry and Firewood Machinery Expo in Huntly on Friday 8 April. There will be a large number of exhibitors to answer all of your questions and demonstrations with the latest farm forestry and firewood machinery. Ian Rankin, NUGF president, will be one of many exhibitors who will demonstrate farm-scale machinery for thinning and harvesting farm forestry plantations. The workshop program will include a discussion on bioenergy. Entry for the day will be \$5 per car.

Supporters of the expo include the City of Greater Bendigo, Victorian Department of Primary Industries, Australian Forest Growers, the North Central Catchment Management Authority and Trees Victoria.

### *Wander the Wanderers Plain*

Join Trust for Nature and North Central CMA at Wanderers Plain on Sunday 10 April, 20km west of Kerang, for a tour of grasslands and wetlands. Trust for Nature purchased Wanderers Plain in 2010 with support from the National Reserve System and State Government. It is an 1895ha grassland property with extensive wetland areas. The property is home to some of Australia's most threatened grassland and grassy woodland species, such as the Swainson pea and Grey-crowned Babbler. Nathan Wong and Eris O'Brien, the Trust's grassland experts will lead a tour of wetland areas that have been recently flooded for the first time in living memory on the property. Visitors will see a huge diversity of wetland plants and grasses, birds and insects on the tour. The tour will start at 10:30am followed by lunch with the opportunity to look around the property afterwards. Meet at the corner of Lalbert-Kerang Road and Lake Charm-Quambatook Road (at this intersection there will be signs to direct you to Wanderers Plain). Please bring stable foot wear, sunscreen, insect repellent and a hat. This event is free to attend and lunch will be provided. Bookings are essential, contact Nathan Wong by Friday 1 April 2011 on 0458 965 329 or email [nathanw@tfn.org.au](mailto:nathanw@tfn.org.au).



## FUNDING NEWS

### *Loddon Small Community Grant*

The Loddon Shire Council is aware of the importance to the community of recreational and service organisations and is committed to assist with the provision of a range of facilities and opportunities, which enable residents of the municipality to enhance and improve their quality of life. Loddon Small Community Grants may help local organisations and groups to 'get off the ground' with assistance in initial capital outlay.

Through the Loddon Shire Council's Community Grants Scheme, organisations who demonstrate projects which: Identify a community need; Develop opportunities not currently available for residents within the municipality; Improves or enhances an existing facility; Enables utilisation by other groups and clubs; Demonstrates broad community benefit, both long and short term; Involve a degree of self-help and club commitment; Provide an economic benefit to the community; Have received limited prior funding assistance (from Loddon Shire Council); Demonstrate an efficient use of resources; and are considerate of the need to provide access for all i.e. (disabled access) may be eligible.

Funding is on a dollar for dollar basis with the Council contribution not exceeding \$5,000 (for amounts over \$1,000 organisations must be incorporated. Projects must be within the municipal boundary and must not be considered as being the responsibility of other government / statutory bodies, i.e. Education Department. Requests cannot be for funds to cover recurring costs such as utility charges, insurance, administration or be seen as the responsibility of the participant. For further information or an application form, please contact the Loddon Shire Council on 03 5494 1200 or visit their website at [www.loddon.vic.gov.au](http://www.loddon.vic.gov.au).

### *Celebrating women in Landcare*

Landcare Australia acknowledges the vital contribution and role women play in Landcare, in rural and urban communities. To support projects that build the capacity of women, the Australian government is providing the Recognising Women Farmers Grant. Applications close on 28 March 2011. For more information or to get an application form visit the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry website [www.daff.gov.au](http://www.daff.gov.au).

### *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.*



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