

ground cover



NORTH CENTRAL
Catchment Management Authority
Connecting Rivers, Landscapes, People

www.nccma.vic.gov.au

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

July 2011

A message from the Regional Landcare Coordinator

Hi everyone,

The Victorian Landcare Grants for 2011-12 closed on Monday 27 June, and we received a lot of applications, as was expected. There are plenty of fantastic applications and I have a sneaking suspicion that many of those who attended the Community Grant Writing workshop last month benefitted by putting pen to paper in this funding round. Looking through the applications you can see that many of them have been well planned and groups have read the Regional Guidelines thoroughly.

In terms of what happens to the applications now.... All of the applications have been collated so that they can go through the assessment process. The Standing Grants Committee made up of North Central Catchment Management Authority (CMA) representatives, CMA board members, North Central CMA Natural Resource Management Committee (NRMC) members, a Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) representative and a Department of Primary Industries (DPI) representative will read and assess the applications against the criteria set out in the Regional Guidelines. The committee will then meet and they will score and discuss each of the applications. Once the successful applications have been determined the Landcare team in Melbourne will be notified. We are aiming to notify all successful and unsuccessful applicants in August by post; and the agreement forms will be processed and sent out in September 2011.

Staying on the grant theme, I have had a few calls from groups that are keen to do their reporting for the 2010-11 Second Generation Landcare Grants- very impressive! We are currently reviewing the reporting template that we have used in the past, and you will notice that there are some changes to the form. The form will again be pre-populated with the activities that your group planned. So stay near your group letterbox, as the 2010-11 Second Generation Landcare Grant final reports will be in the mail at the end of August- reports are due 30 September 2011. If you need an extension you need to let me know in writing as soon as possible!

Do you know what NAIDOC is? It stands for National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) and the acronym is now the name of the week itself that celebrates the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC week is held in July every year and we have just celebrated it in Bendigo (3 to 10 July). The week was full of activities for people of all ages; NAIDOC is an opportunity for all Australians to acknowledge the significant contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in shaping this nation. This year the theme was **'Change – the next step is ours'**.

THIS MONTH'S CONTENTS

NEWS	page 2
EVENTS	page 4
COURSES & RESOURCES	page 6
FUNDING NEWS	page 7



*Smoking Ceremony at the Department of Primary Industries office in Bendigo for NAIDOC week.
Photo: Jodie Odgers, North Central CMA.*

Don't forget that the Federal Government's Caring for our Country Community Action Grants are open until Monday 1 August 2011.

Warm regards,

Jodie Odgers

Regional Landcare Coordinator

North Central Catchment Management Authority
PO Box 18 Huntly, VIC 3551
Phone: 03 5448 7124
Email: jodie.odgers@nccma.vic.gov.au

NEWS

All the hard work is worth it...

Sometimes it is difficult to see instant changes in the landscape. Landcare and North Central CMA projects do make a positive difference, but generally, it takes a little time to see the fruits of our labour! This photo of a Powerful Owl, listed as Threatened, was taken at the start of July above a contractor's ute, adjacent to the Loddon River at Newstead. The owl was roosting in trees planted by the local Landcare group about 14 years ago. The North Central CMA is currently undertaking a willow removal and revegetation project at the site in partnership with the local Landcare group.



Powerful Owl. Photo by Nick Layne.

Prior purchasing 1080 reminder

To avoid frustration the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is reminding farmers to ensure they have a 1080 endorsed Agricultural Chemical Users Permit (ACUP) prior to attempting to purchase 1080 baits. The 1080 endorsed ACUPs are issued by DPI and must be produced to a chemical reseller before baits can be supplied. There have been a number of farmers that have recently been refused access to the baits because they did not hold the appropriate authorisation.

Farmers looking to obtain a 1080 endorsed ACUP must have successfully completed both an AgVet Chemical Users Course and a 1080 specific training course. Both training courses are usually available at the local TAFE or other training provider.

For more information on the use of 1080 baits for pest animal control go to www.dpi.vic.gov.au/1080.

Northern Plains CMN hit the world wide web

The Northern Plains Conservation Management Network (NPCMN) was established in 2005 with the aim to bring together all those involved with and interested in the management and conservation of grasslands and grassy woodlands in the north central area. You can now find them on the web www.northernplainscmn.com.au.

The target area for the NPCMN encompasses the Patho Plains (Mitiamo, Pyramid Hill, Echuca and Gunbower) and the Avoca Plains (Quambatook, Bael Bael and Mystic Park). These boundaries are flexible and can be adjusted to include additional areas if required.

The NPCMN has evolved into a forum where land managers (public and private); researchers (e.g. PhD students); local government (including Shire of Campaspe, Shire of Loddon, Shire of Gannawarra); and Natural Resource Management (NRM) agencies (including Department of Sustainability & Environment; Department of Primary Industries; Parks Victoria; Trust for Nature; North Central Catchment Management Authority) come together to discuss biodiversity topics and share stories about the management of these depleted ecosystems. Guest speakers often feature at quarterly meetings and a newsletter – *Plains Talk* – is also circulated quarterly. To find out more, head to their website.

Can you grow Australia's heaviest Watermelon?

Landcare Australia and Yates have launched the 2011 Junior Landcare Challenge - registrations are now open!

- The challenge is open to all children aged 16 years and under living in Australia
- Registration is free
- Each registration will receive **one** packet of Yates Candy Red Watermelon seeds
- Registrations must be entered online: www.juniorlandcarechallenge.com.au
- Seeds are posted by Yates early October
- Once the watermelon has reached maturity, entrants log on to the website and upload the weight of their watermelon along with a photo
- The winner is determined by weight, and if there is a tie it will be determined by circumference (Winning watermelon is verified by a Yates or Landcare representative)
- There are two categories:
 1. Individuals/Families
 2. Schools/Groups



Junior Masterchef winner Isabella Bliss and her twin sister Sofia, Junior Landcare ambassadors for this campaign.
Photo: Landcare Australia Ltd.

Children can grow their watermelons at home or at school and will need to care for their plants during the hot summer weather. Once their watermelon has reached maturity, they will need to log onto the Yates Junior Landcare Challenge website to upload the weight of their melon and their favourite watermelon photograph. There will be a creative photo category as part of the challenge, so everyone can be in with a chance of winning a prize!

In 2010 the Yates Junior Landcare Sunflower Challenge was incredibly successful with over 66,000 children around Australia taking part in a competition to grow the tallest sunflower.

Register for your free seeds and participate in the Yates Junior Landcare Watermelon Challenge. Simply go to www.juniorlandcarechallenge.com.au Registrations close on Sunday 25 September and the winners will be announced on 5 March 2012.

For more information please contact Stephanie Wulf, Public Relations Coordinator, Landcare Australia on stephanie.wulf@landcareaustralia.com.au or (03) 8631 7800.

Landcare Week September 5-11

Landcare Australia is promoting Landcare Week group activities and encouraging the community to donate themselves to their local group and lend a hand.

We are directing people to our website www.landcareonline.com.au to find a group or an event in their local area using the Find A Local Events section on the home page or Find A Local Group link to the National Landcare Directory (make sure you are registered).

If you have a Landcare Week group activity we would like to promote it so people in your local area can volunteer or contact you for more information, please send information to Melissa.whitelaw@landcareaustralia.com.au.

Landcare Australia is looking for interesting stories to be published in the Landcare in Focus magazine and to pitch to other media outlets for Landcare Week. Please send information about your project or group activities to Melissa.whitelaw@landcareaustralia.com.au.

Landcare Australia will promote Landcare group activities in Victoria with an advertising supplement in the **Sun Herald and Sunday Age on 4 September 2011.**

This is an opportunity to attract volunteers to your group regardless of whether you are located on the coast or in the country.

You can be a Landcare, Bushcare, 'Friends' Of', Coastcare, Dunecare, Rivercare group or any volunteer group working on environmental issues in your local community.

What they need from you to appear in this advertising supplement:

- Group name
- Date of activity
- Time
- Brief description of activity
- Where volunteers meet you
- What volunteers need to bring with them
- Contact name and number for further information

Deadline for this information is Friday 19 August 2011.

Landcare Victoria has a Facebook page.

Are you on Facebook? Landcare Victoria is! With more than 750 million active user's world wide, Facebook is a social networking site. Landcare Victoria now has its own page which is updated regularly with news and activities. It is just another way of promoting the great work Landcarers are doing. If you are a Facebook user look up Landcare Victoria and join the group.



Boort and Woodend Integrated Weed Management Workshops

The Australian Government's Regional Landcare Facilitator Project hosted Integrated Weed Management workshops in Boort and Woodend during the last week of June. Professor Brian Sindel from the University of New England presented the workshops, sharing his twenty years of knowledge, research and experience in weed ecology and management.

The workshop covered a broad range of topics including: understanding your weeds, weed spread and detection on farm, why integrated weed management, and implementing integrated weed management. However the main 'take home' messages from the workshop were the three 'secrets' of successful weed management:

1. Diversity – combine a series of weed control measures, with each one placing different constraints on weed growth, reproduction and spread.
2. Deliberation – have a weed management plan based on an understanding of weed ecology.
3. Diligence – you need to stick at weed management, as weeds themselves are very persistent and readily spread.

Presentation notes and resources from the workshops are available on the Victorian Landcare Gateway website at www.northcentral.landcarevic.net.au/resources/workshop-material.



Professor Sindel explained how Nutgrass (Cyperus rotundus) is the World's worst weed, as it produces 53,000 tubers/m2.
Photo: Google images.

EVENTS

Sutton Grange and Axe Creek celebrate 25 years of Landcare and National Tree Day

Sutton Grange and Axe Creek Landcare Groups are hosting a joint National Tree Day planting on Sunday 31 July from 9.30-4.30 and you are invited! The Axe Creek Landcare Group were successful in securing a Federal Government Community Action Grant and part of this project is the creation of a biodiversity corridor linkage between the Coliban Main Channel and a spring fed tributary of Axe Creek on the northern slopes adjacent to Mt Alexander. The corridor is 1km long and 30m wide, the Landcare Groups are planning to plant out the strip with 3,000 plants on National Tree Day.

The site will be signed from the Sutton Grange/Mandurang Road at Greys Road and also at the Sutton Grange Road/North Harcourt Road junction near MacLeans Orchards. Access to the site is off the North Gap on Mt Alexander, through Gate 43 at the Coliban Main Channel. Follow the signs along the track for about 1km.

Lunch will be cooked by the Strathfieldsaye Lions Club and has been sponsored by the North Central CMA recognising that this year signals 25 years of Landcare in Victoria.

We would love to see you there but please come prepared for all weather. Boots and wet/cold weather gear is essential. Bring your favourite tree planting materials, mattock, hammers, gloves etc. Children are most welcome.

There is plenty of work for everybody with a variety of jobs to get done. Please RSVP (for catering purposes) to Tamsin Byrne (Project Manager Sutton Grange Landcare Group) on 03 5439 5581, David Merrick (Axe Creek Landcare Group) 03 5439 6488 or Jodie Odgers (North Central CMA) 03 5440 1883.



Three fascinating field trips

Written by Connecting Country

This year's Connecting Country Education Program treated participants to three fascinating field trips around the Mount Alexander Shire.

In May, Phil Dyson from the North Central CMA provided an insight into how landscapes are formed, with his geology and soils tour. From the anticlinal fold in Lyttleton St in Castlemaine to the top of Mt Alexander, we learnt about the main rock types in the Mount Alexander Shire landscape and how these were formed. We observed how geology, soils and vegetation interact to produce differing impacts on land use.

'The bush is more than just bush' was the theme of our Yellow Box Woodland tour with Paul Foreman (Bush Heritage) and Ian Higgins (North Central CMA) in June. At an idyllic woodland site tucked away in the Irishtown forest, we learnt how to recognise different vegetation communities and habitat characteristics. Ian and Paul highlighted that the disturbance history of local vegetation communities is different, which means some are more rare and more damaged than others.



Damien Cook highlights the wetting and drying cycle at the Moolort Wetlands. Photo: Connecting Country.

Elaine Bayes (BRIT and Department of Sustainability and Environment) and Damien Cook (Australian Ecosystems) inspired all participants with their knowledge of, and passion for, waterways and wetlands, at our final field trip. We followed the Loddon River from Glenluce to Newstead learning how to assess waterways and observing how land use changes as you move downstream. At the Moolort Wetlands we saw the abundance of birds, and other aquatic plants and animals, which have been thriving over the past few months; after these areas filled with water for the first time in over a decade.

Connecting Country would like to send a huge thanks to all participants, our wonderful presenters, and especially to Deirdre Slattery who developed the program.

This year's education program is not over yet! We have two more free evening talks on the bill. Arn Tolsma from the Arthur Rylah Institute will talk about the role of fire in Box Ironbark Forests on 25 August. The history of Forest Creek and its impact on the landscape will be explored by Robyn Ballinger on 8 September. These events will be held at the Campbell's Creek Community Centre and kick off at 6.30pm with soup provided by the Growing Abundance Project. For more information, visit the Connecting Country website www.connectingcountry.org.au or email info@connectingcountry.org.au, or call 5472 1594. For catering purposes, bookings are essential.

Woodland Birds & Native Orchids - Indicators of landscape health

The Kara Kara Conservation Management Network is hosting a Community Seminar 27 July from 9.45am at the McDonald Hall (St Arnaud Town Hall), 40 Napier Street, St Arnaud. The morning will include a session on the Regional Catchment Strategy by North Central CMA's Rohan Hogan, a presentation by Julie Whitfield (Department of Sustainability and Environment) on Local Woodland Birds and a session on Woodland Birds for Biodiversity Project with Birds Australia's Chris Tzaros. The morning will conclude with a light lunch and opportunity to chat.

Please RSVP by 25 July 2011 (for catering purposes) to either Kevin Spence on 0408 353 966 or Jane Holt on 03 5496 3220.

Sustainability Group Open Gardens - Macedon Ranges

During the winter months garden produce is low, so in place of the regular home produce exchange on the first Saturday of every month, the Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group (MRSG) has opened select local, representative and inspirational gardens to the public. Come along 6 August from 10am-12pm to visit new gardens, meet local gardeners, exchange knowledge and ideas and be inspired!

Meet in the permaculture garden at the back of the Woodend Neighbourhood Centre - 47 Forest St Woodend from 9.30 thru 10.30 to get an address and directions to the garden. An entrance fee of \$5 will be charged if you are not yet a member of MRSG, or become a member on the day and they will waive the fee. A gold coin donation is welcomed from members.



Victoria's mallee country needs your help - join Project Hindmarsh

The Project Hindmarsh Community Planting Weekend is on 20 and 21 August and organisers are putting the call out for volunteers who want to get their hands dirty. This is your chance to be part of a habitat restoration project that has been restoring degraded ecosystems in one of the most cleared parts of Australia for more than a decade.

To register for the event and your information kit visit the Hindmarsh Shire Council website www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au.

Open week - Annual Friends of Terrick Terrick National Park

On Friday 30 September, Saturday 1 and Sunday 2 October 2011 the Friends of Terrick Terrick National Park are hosting an Open weekend. As has been the case for the past five years, this year's open weekend will be the first weekend of October, from 4pm Friday 30 September to 2pm Sunday 2 October - so if you aren't into the AFL grand final then head to Terrick Terrick!

This is a great opportunity to see local grasslands flora with expert interpretation, hear great speakers and enjoy some great company. For more information about the open weekend contact Keith Stockwell on stocky@mcmedia.com.au or 03 5480 9254.

'Naturally Loddon' - A wonderland in Spring Festival

In its second year, the Naturally Loddon festival brings together new and existing events to promote our beautiful environment and to highlight the biodiversity, natural assets and cultural heritage of the Loddon Shire.

The month long festival, starting on 1 September and finishing 2 October, is for all ages with a variety of fun, interactive and educational events that showcase the great Loddon outdoors. To view the festival events go to the Loddon Shire web site www.loddon.vic.gov.au and scroll down to the bottom of the home page and click on the "Naturally Loddon" logo.

COURSES & RESOURCES

Box Ironbark Ecology Course - Nagambie, 10 - 14th October 2011

For those interested in gaining a general understanding of ecological processes and principles - register for five absorbing days of field studies in the heart of Box Ironbark country! This five day residential course commences on Monday 10 October and concludes on Friday 14 October, 2011.

Topics include:

- Distribution and history of the ecosystem, including indigenous use and post settlement impacts.
- Introductory sessions on geomorphology, soils, fauna and vegetation communities.
- Flora and Fauna of the region - how to read the landscape, search for and identify the plants, reptiles, birds, mammals and invertebrates that inhabit Box Ironbark communities.
- Detailed study of ecological interactions between landscape, soils, plants and animals and implications for management.
- Survey skills and project planning.

Accommodation will be shared in comfortable on-site units at the Nagambie Lakes Leisure Resort with en suite facilities. Catering is inclusive of all meals. The course fee for 2011 is \$1,400 (plus GST) which includes accommodation, meals, and transport, instruction and course notes. Under the FarmReady program, primary producers and indigenous land managers are eligible for a reimbursement of the costs associated with attending this course. Please contact the Course Convenor (details below) for more information. The course is limited to 30 participants.

For all enquiries contact Kim Wilson (until the 5 September) on kim.wilson@dse.vic.gov.au or (03) 5784 0623 or Kate Stothers (from 5 September 2011 onwards) on kate.stothers@dse.vic.gov.au or (03) 5761 1572.

The course is proudly supported by the City of Greater Bendigo, Caring for Our Country, Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority, Shire of Strathbogie, North Central Catchment Management Authority and the Federal Government's FarmReady Program.



Weed Detection and Control on Small Farms

The North Central Landcare team has some copies of the *Weed Detection and Control on Small Farms* booklet. The booklet is a great resource for small farm owners and new landholders. It discusses the importance of controlling weeds; the principles of weed detection (where and when to look for weeds on the farm, how to identify an unknown plant and what to do when a new weed outbreak is found); weed control responsibilities; and methods appropriate to small farm owners; guidelines for responsible herbicide use and accreditation; and available weed control assistance. If you would like a copy contact the North Central Landcare team on Landcare@nccma.vic.gov.au.

FUNDING NEWS

2011-12 Community Action Grants Round closing Monday August 1 2011.

Community groups can now apply for small grants to help fund local environmental and sustainable agriculture projects - there is \$5 million available through the 2011-12 Community Action Grants round.

Grants of between \$5,000 and \$20,000 are available to help local community groups undertake activities such as planting trees; revegetating landscapes; rehabilitating dunes; removing weeds; controlling pests; holding field days; recording traditional ecological knowledge; and improving sustainable land management practices.

Individuals are not eligible for Community Action Grants and projects must be completed within 18 months. Importantly the Community Action Grants can be used for on ground works or capacity building within the community.

Community Action Grants are part of the Australian Government's Caring for our Country initiative.

Applications for the 2011-12 Community Action Grants will **close Monday 1 August 2011**. More information on grants, including how to apply, is available at www.nrm.gov.au or by calling 1800 552 008.

Got gorse?

The Victorian Gorse Taskforce 2011-12 Community Support Grants Project is now open for business. The VGT is now accepting project proposals from community based organisations with a view to providing funds where these help to implement the Victorian Gorse Control Strategy; align to project guidelines; and demonstrate a commitment to achieving long-term gorse control. Proposals will be accepted up until Friday 5 August 2011.

All of the required information can be found at www.vicgorsetaskforce.com.au/news/community_support_grants_201112.

Junior Landcare Grants - Round 2 closing soon

The third round of Junior Landcare Grants for this year is closing soon! Coles has been providing School Garden Grants of up to \$1,000 to schools and youth groups to help create gardens in their grounds or community; such as bush tucker gardens, water wise gardens or veggie gardens. More information at www.juniorlandcare.com.au/grants-2.

Round 3 of the Coles School Garden Grant closes Friday 5 August, 5pm (EST).

2011-12 Healthy Parks Healthy People Grants

The 2011-12 Healthy Parks Healthy People Grants for community groups are now open.

Parks Victoria's ability to continue to protect and improve our parks, bays and waterways relies on the support of friends groups, volunteers and other community groups. Community group grants are one of the ways that we develop and support projects; benefit the areas we manage, and the health and well-being of volunteers and their communities.

Prospective CMN applicants are asked to contact their local Parks Victoria CMN liaison contact and to collaboratively develop a project proposal. The 2011-12 Healthy Parks Healthy People Grant guidelines are on the Parks Vic website www.parkweb.vic.gov.au. Type *Healthy Parks Healthy People Grants* into the search box to find the grants page.

Applications close 4pm Friday 12 August 2011.



Grants to Voluntary Environment, Sustainability and Heritage Organisations (GVESHO)

The Grants to Voluntary Environment, Sustainability and Heritage Organisations (GVESHO) program helps eligible community based organisations to value, conserve and protect Australia's natural environment and historic heritage, and to promote sustainability by assisting with their administrative costs.

Grants provided through the program may be used to assist with salaries and salary on-costs for executive and administrative staff; office accommodation rental; electricity, gas, phone and other similar charges; essential office supplies and equipment; staff and volunteer training; photocopying and printing costs; and travel costs incurred on behalf of the organisation.

All applicants should read the guide before submitting an application. You can access the GVESHO guide and application form at www.environment.gov.au/about/programs/gvesho/index.html.

Your signed and original application form must be received at the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities in Canberra by 5pm (AEST) on Friday 29 July 2011.

If after reading the guide you have any questions, or have trouble accessing the guide and/or application form, please contact the GVESHO program team on email gvesho@environment.gov.au or telephone (02) 6274 2422.

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 or phone reception on 03 5448 7124.



NORTH CENTRAL
Catchment Management Authority
Connecting Rivers, Landscapes, People