

# 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

September 2011

## A message from the Regional Landcare Coordinator

Hello everyone,

Spring is in the air and the bush is alive with colour! I was out in the State Forest surrounding Bendigo the other weekend looking for orchids and I was lucky enough to stumble across a few. If you get the chance to have a wander, then do it and don't forget to take your camera. We are always keen to hear from you if you manage to get a snap of something out of the ordinary!



**Waxlip Orchid *Glossodia major***. Photo: Courtesy of Jodie Odgers

Successful Victorian Landcare Grant recipients have now been notified and agreements have been posted - check your mail box. We have allocated \$332,009.60 of grants this year which is just over \$32,000 more than last year. We were again oversubscribed which is a testament to the north central Landcare community and your level of enthusiasm to take on new projects. Given that we were oversubscribed, yet again, the North Central Landcare Team has a strong case to apply for more funding in the 2012-13 Grants Program.

There has been plenty of news on the Landcare front this month with Minister Ryan Smith announcing the 60 new facilitator positions. Make sure you read the article in the news section to find out about this opportunity. We also opened the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Landcare Grants. Each group on our database has been mailed and emailed a copy of the guidelines and an application form. I have had a few phone calls from groups keen to apply for the grants and the project ideas have been great so far. Go to the '**Funding**' section of this newsletter for more information.

We are also busy planning lots of events over the coming months. One to watch out for is the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event that will coincide with the birthday of Landcare in Victoria. More details to come...

## THIS MONTH'S CONTENTS

NEWS .....	Page 2
EVENTS .....	Page 4
COURSES & RESOURCES .....	Page 6
FUNDING NEWS .....	Page 7

The *Growing sustainable communities - 25 years of Landcare Conference* will be held at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) on Tuesday 15 November. The conference is open to all Landcarers from across the state. Check out the article in the '**Events**' section of the newsletter to find out how to register.

Some of you might have read an article in the Weekly Times on 14 September 2011 by Emma Field titled 'Landcare fails to attract youth'. The article focused on a Landcare Australia survey highlighting that the movement is failing to attract young people. Fifty one per cent of those surveyed described the average age of the volunteers in their group to be over 50, and retirees was the most prevalent occupation, which accounted for 68% of the responses. The survey also found 98% of the 653 volunteers surveyed were concerned for the future of Australia's natural resources.

The North Central CMA's Landcare team is planning to hold some events next year that may help groups to recruit new members, including these elusive young ones. If your group has been successful in recruiting new members, tell us how. We would like to share these success stories.

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

### Coalition to deliver 60 new Landcare facilitators

*From the Minister for Environment and Climate Change, Wednesday, 21 September 2011*

Minister for Environment and Climate Change, Ryan Smith, today announced that Landcare groups across Victoria can now apply for one of the Victorian Coalition Government's 60 new Landcare facilitator positions.

"Landcare facilitators will play a crucial role in supporting on-ground natural resource management projects, building local capacity, undertaking community engagement, and monitoring project progress," Mr Smith said.

Mr Smith said that Landcare groups could apply for a fixed grant of up to \$50,000 per year toward funding for the facilitator position.

"With this funding the Victorian Coalition Government thanks Landcare for the outstanding contribution each participant makes to our parks, agricultural land, rivers, wetlands, coasts and more," Mr Smith said.

"We recognise and acknowledge the work of these dedicated volunteers and groups devoted to making sure Victoria's natural environment is protected and restored for future generations to enjoy.

"Where possible, the positions will be recruited from within local communities in order to tap into local knowledge and understanding of issues.

"The Victorian Coalition Government is delivering on its election commitment to invest \$12 million over the next four years to support Landcare coordinators and help local community volunteers protect and restore Victoria's environment."

For all support material, applications and how to apply please visit [www.landcarevic.net.au](http://www.landcarevic.net.au) or phone 136 186.

**Applications for the Victorian Local Landcare Facilitators Initiative close on 23 October 2011.**

### Looking at the Fire Record

*Written by Bronwyn Silver, Connecting Country*

A solid crowd of about 80 rocked up to the second talk in the Connecting Country 2011 education program at Campbell's Creek on 25 August.

Dr Arn Tolsma gave a deeply engaging account of fire history in Australia, and in particular the south eastern corner of the country. He showed evidence from analysis of peat cores that over thousands of years until about 1800 the incidence of fire

has varied according to climate, not from human action. The incidence of fire increased dramatically in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In particular there is little evidence of widespread Aboriginal burning. Early settler witness accounts of Aboriginal fires are extremely vague, and suggest that it was limited in extent, and largely confined to grassland and grassy woodland.

On the subject of our region, he referred to the 1853 Selwyn map, which showed that river and creek lines were open and grassy, but ridge country was wooded with scrubby box and stringybark: in other words, the idea that the forest was open country before settlement is false. He showed that there is no strong evidence that Box Ironbark environments must have fire to regenerate. Using the concept of 'tolerable fire intervals' he argued that fires at intervals of a minimum of 20 and a maximum of 50-100 years might be beneficial for these environments. Any use of fire should be carefully planned with very clear objectives established after site, vegetation and fire history analysis.

Dr Tolsma emphasised that he was speaking of fire as a management tool for the environment, a separate issue from the use of fire as a fuel reduction method. It is clear from his talk, however, that fuel reduction zones burned, say, every five years, will suffer ecological damage. This is consistent with the position of DSE fire managers, who frankly admit that 'asset protection zones' are 'sacrificial zones', ecologically speaking.

Dr Tolsma is co author of the DSE/CMA publication *Ecological burning in Box Ironbark forests* (2007). See the Connecting Country website ([www.connectincountry.org.au](http://www.connectincountry.org.au)) for links to this publication.



Dr Arn Tolsma. Photo: Courtesy of Connecting Country

### Field days exploring alternative grazing options

80 farmers and community members attended field days held at Lake Charm and Marnoo during early September. The field days explored the benefits of native grasses and forage shrubs in farming systems.

Guest speakers included Graeme Hand, CEO of Stipa Native Grasses Association Incorporated. Stipa was formed by farmers to promote the profitable management and use of native grasses. Graeme discussed the need to maintain ground cover at all times of the year in order to maintain nutrient cycles and soil health. He also highlighted the importance of resting paddocks to give native grasses a chance to recover and plant matter to decay.



**Graeme Hand talking to the group at Marnoo in the paddock.**  
Photo: Courtesy of Ashley Beven.

Dr Jason Emms, SARDI Senior Research Scientist for the Enrich Program, based in South Australia, also presented. Enrich aims to explore the use of shrubs as a perennial feedbase for innovative and profitable grazing enterprises. Jason discussed how native woody forage perennials can offer out-of-season feed, allow deferred grazing of annual pastures and improve animal health. He also emphasised the importance of incorporating a diversity of shrub species, as there is no 'silver bullet' plant species that can do everything on their own.

Presentation notes and resources from the workshops will shortly be available on the *Victorian Landcare Gateway* website at [www.northcentral.landcarevic.net.au/resources/workshop-material](http://www.northcentral.landcarevic.net.au/resources/workshop-material).

Both field days were part of the Australian Government's *Regional Landcare Facilitator* project, which is hosted by the North Central Catchment Management Authority for the North Central region. The Lake Charm field day is supported by the CMA's *Adopting Sustainable Farming Practices*, which is funded by the Australian Government's Caring for our Country initiative.

## Loddon Plains discover some gems

Written by Michael Moore, Loddon Plains Landcare Network

At 9.05am on Sunday 11 September the Loddon Plains Landcare Network (LPLN) bus trip set off up the Loddon Valley Highway. Some forty assorted souls boarded the comfortable coach bound for Bill Twigg's farm – *Nil Desperandum*. Bill

talked about how he and his wife, Gwen, had inherited the farm forty years back and at that time it was in need of some TLC. The following years saw Bill and Gwen lavish time and effort on improving the farm with special emphasis on environmentally friendly farm practices. The results were visible as we toured the farm. One of the jewels in the crown of their achievements is Bill's creation of an artificial wetland from what was originally a dry flat paddock. The wetland has been created from scratch but is now a wonderfully verdant environment.

After morning tea and light refreshments the group set off further north towards Durham Ox and a stretch of the Serpentine Creek where the Maxted family have a fine homestead. Our host for this part of the trip was Laurie Maxted who has farmed for many years in this area. Laurie, a staunch environmentalist, regaled the group with aspects of the historical development of the area and indicated some of the thousands of trees planted on his farm. Upon arriving at the homestead half of our group boarded the Maxted punt for a cruise on the fairly sluggish water of the creek. This boat trip gave us fine views of the flora and fauna that make up the riparian habitat. Many species of birds were viewed and wondered at. A fine lunch followed – a change around of groups then we were off on the last leg of our journey.

We arrived at Tang Tang Swamp to be informed by Ian Hocking and Mal Brown that this wetland was ranked the sixth most important wetland out of four hundred in Victoria for the breeding of the endangered Brolga and one of five such aquatic ecosystems in the Loddon River catchment. The area is used by many species of birds and not surprisingly has a long history of aboriginal use. There is also evidence of early pioneer huts. Unfortunately, due to pressure of time we could not go into the swamp but managed to glimpse aspects as we drove round the perimeter.

The tour proved to be very successful with many favourable comments including, that it was informative to see successful farmers as living proof that profitable, productive, sustainable and environmentally friendly farm enterprises can result in the creation of resilient long-term habitat and increasing landscape connectivity.

## Get focused on ferals!

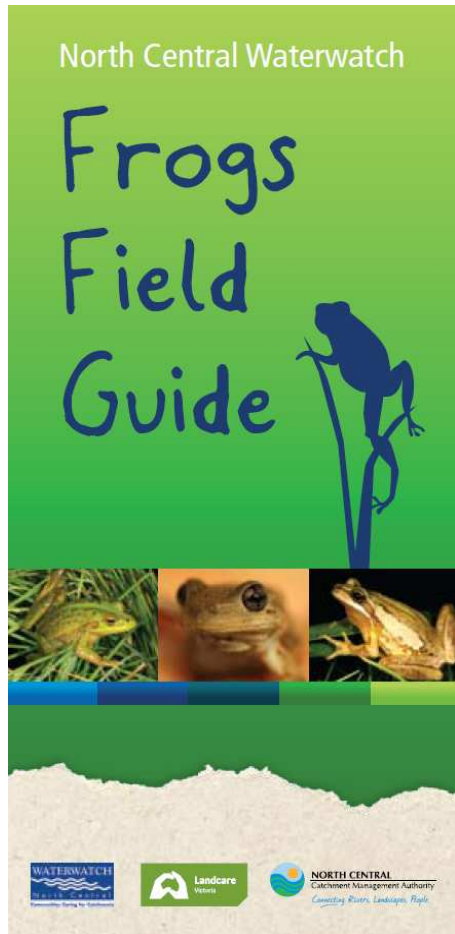
Vertebrate pests occur in all parts of Australia, causing major damage to crops and agriculture, native bushland, rivers and waterways, and even sporting fields and beaches. Many private and public land managers spend considerable time and resources managing the impacts of pest animals which also cause significant social impacts among rural and urban communities. Already this year, farmers have suffered losses as a result of the devastating impacts of mice, wild dogs and feral pigs on crops and livestock, with more damage expected to come this spring. There are also ever increasing reports of pest problems in urban zones especially due to foxes, rabbits and deer.

To help raise awareness about pest animals and illustrate the damage that is being done across the country by pest animals, the Invasive Animals CRC (IA CRC) is running it's first-ever 'Feral Photos' photography competition. They are looking for your photos showing pest animals in their habitat, the damage caused by pest animals and also photos that exhibit the various control methods that are available.



The Invasive Animals CRC Natural Resource Management Liaison Officer, Jessica Marsh hopes the photo competition will remind landholders, environmental staff, volunteers and members of the public about the widespread presence of pests and the importance of keeping a record of pest animal sightings and damage. "I hope the competition encourages people to get out there and see what is happening in their environment and to get creative about how they can record and report on pest animals in their area."

Photos provide strong visual evidence of pest animal impact and if used continuously, can help land managers and government agencies to monitor changes across the landscape. There are great prizes up for grabs so make sure you visit [www.invasiveanimals.com/feral-photos](http://www.invasiveanimals.com/feral-photos) or contact Jessica for an entry pack [jessica.marsh@industry.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jessica.marsh@industry.nsw.gov.au)



## EVENTS

### Echuca West Field Day

Industry experts and local farmers will discuss the benefits of native pastures, agroforestry, sandalwood and revegetation in farming systems at a free field day to be held in Echuca West. Guest speakers will include:

- **Graeme Hand**, CEO of Stipa Native Grasses Association Incorporated: *Maximising Production from Native Grasses.*
- **Stephen Murphy**, Ecologist and Author of 'Recreating the Country': *Sustainable Design of Revegetation that Integrates Conservation with Production.*
- **Rowan Reid**, Senior Lecturer in Farm Forestry at the University of Melbourne and Coordinator of the Australian Master TreeGrower Program: *Trees on Farm for Shelter, Conservation and Profit.*

A tour of three on-farm demonstration sites will follow the presentations with plenty of opportunity for discussion.

**Where:** Ko-Warra Native Grasses Nursery  
537 Echuca-Mitiamo Road, Echuca VIC.

**Date:** Thursday 13 October 2011

**Time:** 9.30 am to 4.00 pm (Lunch provided)

**RSVP:** North Central CMA by 5 pm Tuesday 11 October 2011 on (03) 5448 7124 or email [info@nccma.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@nccma.vic.gov.au).

### It's all about frogs!

The North Central CMA invites all frog enthusiasts to the launch of the North Central Frog Field Guide. Guest speaker, Ray Draper, will talk about the frogs found in the north central catchment. Ray has over 40 years of experience with amphibians and has monitored Growling Grass Frogs throughout western Victoria for the last 35 years.

**Where:** Andersons Mill, Smeaton

**Date:** Sunday 16 October 2011

**Time:** 10am – 12 noon

**RSVP:** North Central CMA by 5 pm Tuesday 11 October 2011 on (03) 5448 7124 or email [info@nccma.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@nccma.vic.gov.au)

Come along to the launch, learn about these magnificent creatures and get your own copy of the field guide!

### Are there Platypus in your local creeks?

The North Central Catchment Management Authority (CMA) Landcare and Waterwatch teams in partnership with the Glenlyon and Newstead Landcare Groups would like to invite you to a night all about Platypus.

The Australian Platypus Conservancy will present an illustrated talk about these amazing creatures and how you can help monitor them in the Loddon River system.

#### GLENLYON

**Date:** Monday 14 November 2011

**Time:** 6.30pm–8pm (including a light supper)

**Venue:** Glenlyon Community Hall, Glenlyon

#### NEWSTEAD

**Date:** Tuesday November 2011

**Time:** 6.30pm–8pm (including a light supper)

**Venue:** Newstead Mechanics Institute, Newstead



**Geoff Williams holding a platypus trapped at Malmesbury during surveys in 2011.** Photo: Courtesy of Jodie Odgers.

This is a great opportunity not to be missed! So come along and learn more about the habitat and biology of this unique animal. The event is free to attend and everyone is welcome.

Please RSVP by 5pm Friday 4 November 2011 to [info@nccma.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@nccma.vic.gov.au) or telephone (03) 5448 7124, indicating that you wish to attend the Newstead Platypus information session and outline any dietary requirements.

This information night is presented as part of the North Central CMA's Upper Loddon and Campaspe project, Victorian Landcare Program and North Central Waterwatch.

## Growing sustainable communities- Landcare conference

The *Growing sustainable communities – 25 years of Landcare 1986-2011* conference will be held at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Tuesday 15 November.

Registrations open at 9.00am and the day will conclude with a networking event at 5.30pm.

The conference invites Landcarers and supporters to come together for a day of exciting presentations and interactive sessions and provides the opportunity to:

- share successes over 25 years with inspiring stories of landscape change
- learn about growing the landcare movement in the next 25 years
- meet landcarers and likeminded people from around the state.

**Guest speakers include** Andrew Campbell and John Williams.

There is a small registration fee for the conference.

Type of registration	Fee inc. GST
Full time Landcare and agency staff	\$110.00
Part time Landcare and agency staff	\$55.00
Volunteers	\$27.50

Numbers are limited and some quotas apply to ensure that everyone has the best possible opportunity to attend.

Register before **Friday 7 October** to have the best chance of securing your place.

You can register online at the Landcare Gateway [www.landcarevic.net.au/](http://www.landcarevic.net.au/) or download the registration form from the website. Conference organisers recommend the online registration as it is quick and easy to use.

For more information contact David Rooks on 03 5952 3331 or email [enquiries@eventsupport.com.au](mailto:enquiries@eventsupport.com.au).



## Annual Friends of Terrick Terrick National Park - 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 30th September to 2pm Sunday 2nd October even though this year's AFL grand final is to now to be played on that weekend.

This is a great opportunity to see local grasslands flora and fauna with expert interpretation, to assist with some park maintenance, hear great speakers and to enjoy great company.

For more information contact Keith Stockwell on 03 5480 9254 or email [stocky@mcmedia.com.au](mailto:stocky@mcmedia.com.au).



## COURSES & RESOURCES

### Diploma in Conservation and Land Management

Are you employed or wishing to gain employment in the Conservation and Natural Resource sector?

Are you interested in furthering your skills?

Does any of the following apply to you?

- Completed previous NRM studies (or equivalent), or
- Relevant industry skills and experience, or
- Just about to finish your undergraduate degree or
- Not sure, speak to us!

Have you considered a program in which you work on projects within the industry, get recognised for your prior skills and experience and can complete some of your studies in an off-campus mode?

The Bendigo TAFE Diploma of Conservation and Land Management (CLM) are developed to prepare students for positions in industry, local government and government departments.

Key study areas:

- Parks and Environment Management.
- Management Planning.
- Restoration Project Management.
- Pest Plant & Animal Management.
- River/Catchment Management.
- Flora & Fauna Assessment.
- Regulatory skills and certificates.

This program provides students with tangible vocational opportunities being aligned to formal qualifications and has given industry the opportunity to work with future graduates.

Part-time, focusing on selected skills sets (e.g. restoration, community engagement, or rivers) can be undertaken instead of the full Diploma if required. Limited places are available.

For those new to the industry, we will also be providing information on the Certificate IV CLM program (delivered as first year of the diploma) as well.

#### INFORMATION SESSION

**Date:** Thursday 27th October 2011

**Time:** 5.30pm

**Location:** Arrival Centre, Charleston Road Campus.

For more information phone 03 5434 1601 or refer to the Bendigo TAFE website ([www.bendigotafe.edu.au](http://www.bendigotafe.edu.au)) for maps.

### Growing healthy forests- Farm forestry research seminar

The DPI invites you to the sixth seminar in our farm forestry research seminar series.

This free seminar will be a great opportunity to hear the latest research in forest design and management for healthy, productive trees.

The impact of pests, diseases and water availability will be discussed along with opportunities to boost nutrient availability and biological controls. Importantly, the seminar includes a situation update on the myrtle rust fungus.

**Date:** Friday 28th October 2011

**Time:** 10.15 am for 10.30am start - 3.00pm

**Venue:** DPI Attwood, 475 Mickleham Road

**Cost:** Free with lunch provided

**RSVP:** 19th October 2011

Contact Rhodey Bowman, DPI Tatura on 03 5833 5957 or [dpi.forestry@dpi.vic.gov.au](mailto:dpi.forestry@dpi.vic.gov.au) for more information and to RSVP.

### Invitation to a Short Course in Grass ID and Management

Expressions of Interest are now being accepted for the short course in **Grass identification and Management**. The two-day course will cover:

- Native and introduced grass species identification.
- Grass indicator species for ecological health and conservation values of grassy areas.
- Grass management for conservation and agriculture.

The course will be presented by ecologist Dr Graeme Lorimer and will involve a mixture of lectures and hands-on experience in the laboratory, as well as a field trip to the Kinypanial Grassland Reserve, south-west of Terrick Terrick.

Sponsorship is available for Landcare members and farmers in the North Central CMA region. For all other participants the course cost is \$250 per person. *Places are strictly limited.*

To request a copy of the Expression of Interest Form please contact the North Central CMA reception on (03) 5448 7124 or [ashley.beven@nccma.vic.gov.au](mailto:ashley.beven@nccma.vic.gov.au).

**When:** Friday 18 and Saturday 19 November 2011.

**Time:** 9.30am to 5.00pm (lunch provided).

**Where:** Bendigo Regional Institute of TAFE (BRIT), Charleston Road Campus, Bendigo.

Expression of Interest should be submitted to the North Central CMA by 5pm Monday 17 October. It can be submitted by mail to PO Box 18, Huntly 3550 or via email to [ashley.beven@nccma.vic.gov.au](mailto:ashley.beven@nccma.vic.gov.au).





## So you have a problem with Gorse...

The Victorian Gorse Taskforce, was formed in 1999 as the Ballarat Region Gorse Task Force, and has now evolved to become known as the Victorian Gorse Taskforce (VGT). The group was the result of a concerned community and driven by local Landcare groups and municipalities. There were some general perceptions amongst concerned community members that:

- There was a lack of acceptance by landholders of the responsibilities for control of gorse
- There was a perception that gorse is a government problem
- Agencies were not being proactive in weed control and only responding to complaints
- There was a reluctance to prosecute those who refuse to comply with weed control directives
- There was a lack of concern from public land managers.

The primary role of the VGT is to oversee the coordination and implementation of the Gorse Control Strategy.

The VGT has traditionally focused its efforts across three Catchment Management Authority (CMA) regions – Corangamite, Glenelg Hopkins and North Central.

Now, with the group evolving to a more state-wide focus it is anticipated that many more regions across the state will become familiar with the VGT.

The VGT have funding available to groups throughout the year, to find out how to access funding go to [www.vicgorsetaskforce.com.au/](http://www.vicgorsetaskforce.com.au/) for more information.

## So you have Blackberry too...

Blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus aggregate*) is one of the twenty Weeds of National Significance (WONS) in Australia due to its high level of invasiveness, potential for spread, and economic and environmental impacts. At least 14 different but closely related species of blackberry are naturalised in Australia.

In Victoria it is one of the four State Priority Weed species. It is a Regionally Controlled species in all Catchment Management regions except the Mallee, which means that landowners in these regions must take all reasonable steps to control the growth and spread of blackberry on their land in accordance with the *Catchment & Land Protection Act, 1994*.

The Victorian Blackberry Task Force (VBT) was formed in 2001 as a result of community support for blackberry control. The VBT is one of four Victorian Community Weed Model Groups working in partnership with the Department of Primary Industries and Department of Sustainability and Environment to deliver community weed control programs.

The state-wide taskforce constitutes representatives from:

- local government
- catchment management authorities
- Landcare and community groups
- Victorian Farmers Federation
- Victorian Catchment Management Council
- Department of Primary Industries
- Department of Sustainability and Environment
- Parks Victoria.

The VBT delivers services that provide for the sustainable development of Victoria's primary industries and protect biodiversity assets for the benefit of the Victorian community, both now and in the future.

The VBT works in partnership with those who directly manage the natural resource base including rural landholders, public land managers and local government.

The VBT have funding available to groups throughout the year, to find out how to access funding go to [www.vicblackberrytaskforce.com.au/](http://www.vicblackberrytaskforce.com.au/) for more information.

## FUNDING NEWS

How will your group celebrate?

- 25th Anniversary Landcare Grants  
now open

Community groups in North Central Victoria interested in enhancing or protecting the natural environment have until Monday 10 October to apply for funding courtesy of the Victorian Government's 25th Anniversary Landcare Grants.

To celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Landcare, the Victorian Government has announced \$60,000 of funding to assist local community groups.

The grants will encourage groups to bring members of their community together to celebrate their achievements and provide an opportunity to talk to others who may be interested in becoming involved with Landcare.

The grants of \$1,000 - \$5,000 (ex GST) are for groups to hold events and undertake on-ground activities that will benefit the health of the region's land, water and biodiversity - a mandatory component of the funding.

For the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Landcare Grants Guidelines and Application Form go to the Landcare page on the North Central CMA website [www.nccma.vic.gov.au](http://www.nccma.vic.gov.au) or contact North Central CMA on 03 5448 7124.



## BE NATURAL Landcare Grant Round 2011

BE NATURAL cereals and snack producers are supporters of Landcare and are keen to tackle local environmental issues. They have opened a community grants program which is currently offering funding of up to \$5,000 to 25 groups to continue work on an ongoing project.

For groups to be eligible for this grant round then they will not have received funding for the project in question in the past 12 months; and are encouraged to find innovative ways of attracting volunteers to their group or project.

The BE NATURAL Landcare grant round is open until the 10 October 2011, and all information, criteria and application forms can be found on [www.landcareonline.com.au](http://www.landcareonline.com.au)



## Assisting schools to flourish after floods

If your school experienced loss or damage to its student gardens during recent floods it is likely that you are eligible to apply for the Newman's Own Foundation Junior Landcare Garden Reconstruction Grant.

Any school, kindergarten, daycare centre or youth group (e.g. Scouts) are eligible to apply for the Junior Landcare grant of up to \$1,100 (including GST).

This grant is not for the creation or establishment of school gardens but specifically for the reconstruction of damaged gardens.

Applications close 5pm Friday 14 October 2011.

For further information please refer to the Victorian Landcare Gateway website for the Guidelines and Application Form: [www.northcentral.landcarevic.net.au/resources/community-grants](http://www.northcentral.landcarevic.net.au/resources/community-grants).

## Box-Gum Grassy Woodlands grants now open

The North Central CMA is seeking landholders in the Mid Loddon Catchment area (that's roughly from Serpentine to Ravenswood) interested in caring for Grey Box, Yellow Box or White Box Grassy Woodlands on their properties under the Box-Gum Grassy Woodlands project.

Financial assistance is available through a devolved grants program for onground works of fencing and revegetation on private land.

Revegetation works may include vegetation corridors to link remnant areas or the enhancement of existing vegetation. Applications close on 8 November.

For more information contact Robyn McKay on 03 5448 7124 or see the notice board on the North Central CMA website [www.nccma.vic.gov.au/](http://www.nccma.vic.gov.au/) to download identification information or a copy of the guidelines and application form.

Grassy Woodlands would once have been widespread throughout south-eastern Australia. Now, very little remains and what is left is small isolated patches on private land.

In a mosaic of cleared land, these patches can be important refuges for a variety of plants, animals and woodland birds but may be lost within the next century without our help.

## Bjarne K Dahl Trust grants now open

The Bjarne K Dahl Trusts Small Grants Program is currently calling for applications up to \$15,000. The principal purpose of this program is the protection and enhancement of eucalypts as a significant aspect of the natural environment and the provision of information or education about eucalypts.

Through small grants the Trust will provide support to the community for the undertaking of eucalyptus education, promotion, cultivation, establishment and conservation.

Grants are capped at \$15,000 and are generally made for up to a 12-month period - timeframes may be flexible depending on grant seeker's needs and the approval of the Board of Managing Trustees.

The requested amount may be part of a project budget of any size- but for projects where only part of the budget is requested, the Trustees may decide to request proof that other funds have been secured before funding is released.

Applications close 4 November 2011.

Further information can be found on their website (<http://dahltrust.org.au/grants>) or contact 03 8648 6510.