

North Central chat

JULY 2013

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

A message from the Regional Landcare Coordinator

Hi everyone,

This month I have been on the phone, emailing and meeting up with Landcarers to discuss Victorian Landcare Grant applications. There are a lot of really fantastic ideas out there and lots of groups keen to undertake projects in 2013-14. Don't forget that Victorian Landcare Grants is not the only place where you can access funds throughout the year; most groups are eligible to apply for other State and Federal funding sources, some groups can tap into philanthropic funding and there is also corporate sponsorship opportunities out there - you just need to find them. Please don't hesitate to call me if you are putting together a grant application. I am more than happy to run my eye over the application and having sat on various grants panels I might be able to give you some helpful tips and pointers!

Thank you to all of the groups and networks that completed the 'Supporting Landcare in North Central Victoria' survey. Disappointingly we didn't get a great response, but I understand groups don't always meet frequently so it was tough to complete. Don't worry if you have filled in the survey but never got around to returning it - it's not too late! Pop it into the post and we will enter it into our database - better late than never...unfortunately, at this late stage you cannot be in the running to win a copy of the *Field Guide to Australian Birds* because it has already been won by McKenzies Hill Action and Landcare Group and Pipers Creek Landcare Group. Congratulations guys, the books are in the post!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jess Benjamin, Landcare Facilitator for the Upper Campaspe Landcare Network for all her hard work. Jess is finishing up to have her second child - all the best Jess! The network was busy recruiting over the past month and has just announced Tanya Loos as the new Landcare

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Facilitator. Tanya has a solid background working in natural resource management, is an avid field naturalist and is a bit of a biodiversity guru - welcome Tanya!

Two quick things before I sign off. I will be taking a few weeks leave over July and August, so if you have any urgent matters please contact the North Central CMA reception on 03 5448 7124. Also, there won't be an August edition of the North Central chat, the next edition will be in September.

Until then take care,

Jodie Odgers

Regional Landcare Coordinator
North Central Catchment Management Authority
PO Box 18 Huntly, VIC 3551
Phone: 03 5448 7124

Weed of the month...

Weeds Identification Guide - North Central Victoria.

Herb

BRIDAL CREEPER

Myrsiphyllum asparagoides



(African Asparagus Fern, Bridal Veil Creeper, Smilax)

Description: A climbing herb with an extensive tuberous root system.

Flowers: Greenish-white, 8-9 cm diameter and appearing in leaf axils in August and September.

Leaves: Glossy green, alternate and oval with pointed tips. Usually 1-4.5 cm long and 0.5-1.6 cm wide.

Stems: Slender, twining and up to 3 m long.

Fruit: A round berry 6-10 mm diameter. Green, turning red and sticky when mature.

Note: Highly competitive and invasive in natural bushland and orchards. Climbs on and chokes understorey species. Spreads from seed and root tubers.

Restricted Weed

Weed of National Significance

Perennial



CONTROL OPTIONS



VECTOR OF SPREAD

J F M A M J J A S O N D

-17-

News...

Overseas Landcare fund launched an Australian Landcare International and Victorian Landcare Council Initiative

Landcare’s expansion worldwide will be accelerated by a small projects fund initiated in mid-June. The Overseas Landcare Fund (OLF) was recently launched in St Kilda’s EcoCentre by the Victorian Landcare Council (VLC) and Australian Landcare International (ALI). The fund is the latest initiative in the community-based land management change movement, now working in over 20 countries around the world.

From its beginnings in central Victoria in the 1980s, Landcare has spread across Australia and internationally. The Landcare network operates in Germany, Iceland, New Zealand, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Fiji, the United States of America, Canada and 12 African countries. Japan, Jamaica and the Democratic Republic of Congo are next on the agenda.

Parliamentary Secretary for Trade, Kelvin Thomson MP, said nine projects were ready to receive support from the new Overseas Landcare Fund. These include revegetating land in the Congo, enhancing food security in Tanzania and the Philippines, extending a tree nursery in Java, wetland conservation in Nigeria and soil conservation in Jamaica.

ALI chairman Rob Youl said the fund will run with the Victorian Landcare Council to provide grants of up to Au\$500 for overseas projects.

“It’s amazing how far A\$500, to us a modest amount, can go to help small overseas communities improve their farming and local environment.”

Mr Youl said Landcare’s eTree experience has shown that, with good management and networking, Australian travellers and expatriates and various non-government organisation partners can be enlisted to guide individual projects.

OLF seed funds come from the Victorian Landcare Council, Australian Landcare International, the Victorian financial group bankmecu, private donors and several Landcare networks.

“In future, Victoria’s Landcare groups will be invited to choose which potential OLF applicants to invest in and encouraged to maintain contact from then on,” Mr Youl said.

“Thanks to Computershare and its landscape change program, eTree, we have some experience in this arena.”

“Over the last five years Computershare financed small projects in Nigeria, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Tonga,” he said.

He added that Landcare’s eTree experience has shown that, with good management and networking, Australian travellers and expatriates and various non-government organisation partners can be enlisted to guide individual projects.

“Couple this with contact between groups themselves and we believe we can generally ensure or confirm projects are completed.”

“The Landcare concept helps too, as it empowers communities to make their own decisions and manage budgets collectively, Mr Youl said.

VLC chairman Terry Hubbard said a key goal of the OLF is to encourage donor Landcare bodies to develop a sister-group relationship with their overseas counterparts. “That way we can learn from each other,” he said.

Also at the OLF launch were ForestAction Nepal chair Prof Hemant Ojha, Albert Park MP Martin Foley, Japanese Landcare representative Tomomi Maekawa, Friends of Westgate Park vice-president Tony Flude and Paula Havelberg from St Kilda EcoCentre. A website is being developed to enable donors to select and connect with projects of their choice.

For more information contact Rob Youl at: Australian Landcare International, 113 Nelson Road, South Melbourne, Vic, 3205; phone 03 9699 2725 or robmyoul@gmail.com

What is a rock chute and how does it work?

Rock chutes are considered when accelerated channel incision and release of sediment causing water quality deterioration cannot be reduced by the planting of vegetation alone.

Where local streambed instabilities or head-cuts are migrating upstream, resulting in bed deepening, these can be addressed through a

grade control program such as rock chutes coupled with revegetation. Rock chutes coupled with revegetation have proved to be one of the most successful incised stream rehabilitation techniques.

A short clip of a rock chute in action on the North Central CMA website was taken at a site located on a private property off Evans Road, west of Tarnagulla. The rock chute, originally constructed in 2005, is located within an unnamed tributary of Magpie Creek in the Loddon River catchment.

The January 2011 flood event greatly exceeded the flows for which the rock chute was originally designed to handle. Damage to the rock chute included scour and slumping of the left and right batters and shifting of rock from the chute face into the downstream waterway.

The key objectives for rehabilitation of the site utilising Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) funding were to:

- Stabilise the structure and waterway by addressing the failed rock chute; and
- Progressive reduction in the amount of sediment, suspended solids and turbidity originating from the tributary to the downstream receiving waterway

Replacing the existing rock chute involved removal of the existing rock material and excavating to a solid foundation, followed by construction of the new rock chute and levees to direct flow evenly over the structure.

The North Central CMA engaged Alluvium Consulting to redesign the rock chute and Platypus Environmental Services to complete the reconstruction in May 2013.

To see a rock chute in action go to the following link on the North Central CMA website: www.nccma.vic.gov.au/Media_and_Events/Multi-media/Works_in_Action/index.aspx.

The video clip demonstrates the functioning of the rock chute following the first significant flows it received shortly after construction. It shows the levees effectively directing flow into the structure and the stream energy dissipating as water descends the structure.

Our Culture, Your Culture

During NAIDOC (National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee) Week the North Central CMA launched *Our Culture, Your Culture* a short film created by staff members Dan Arnold and Trent Gibson. The film was shown on the big screen at Bendigo's Star Cinema in Eaglehawk prior to the screening of *Lousy Little Sixpence*.

You can view the short film on the North Central CMA website at:

www.nccma.vic.gov.au/Media_and_Events/Multi-media/Our_Culture_Your_Culture/index.aspx

Snaps of the month!

This month's snaps of the moth were taken by Aldo Penbrook, a member of the Northern Bendigo Landcare Group.



Aldo recently checked the nest boxes he had constructed and installed in consultation with Parks Vic and Department of Environment and Sustainability back in 2011. The boxes are in the Bendigo Regional Park, West of Bendigo and are monitored for activity. Although the boxes were primarily for Phascogales they seem to be a good fit for this family of Sugar Gliders who have moved in and claimed the boxes as their new home!

Sugar Gliders (*Petaurus breviceps*) are small nocturnal marsupials that can glide up to 90 meters. They construct their nests in hollows using leaves (as demonstrated in Aldo's pictures) and give birth in July and August with a litter size of two. The common name refers to their preference for sugary nectarous food but they are omnivores, meaning they eat both plants and animals.



Keep the pictures coming - email them to jodie.odgers@nccma.vic.gov.au.

Events

Environmental Flows on the Loddon Information Sessions

The North Central CMA invites you to attend an upcoming informal Information Session.

Understanding environmental flows, their purpose and how they are delivered can be a complicated subject.

The North Central CMA in partnership with the Department of Environment and Primary Industries, Victorian Environmental Water Holder and Goulburn-Murray Water are keen to provide an easy to understand explanation of how environmental flows are planned, what benefits they have for the river ecology and how you can provide feedback to the North Central CMA about their delivery.

Choose an information session that is closest to you:

Bridgewater Monday 26 August
Loddon Memorial Hall

Baringhup Wednesday 28 August
Community Hall

Durham Ox Friday 30 August
Memorial Hall

Time for all events is 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm with light nibbles provided. Please RSVP to info@nccma.vic.gov.au or phone 03 5448 7124 by Friday 23 August.



Hello everyone,

I am very excited to announce this year is 20 Years of Waterwatch!

After some investigations into the history of Waterwatch this is what I have discovered so far: The National Waterwatch program was developed by the Commonwealth Government in 1993 by a team based in the Sustainable Water section of Environment Australia, as there were growing concerns for the quality of water in our rivers and creeks.

Thousands of hours of volunteer time has since gone into monitoring the health of our waterways throughout Victoria, also partnerships and ownership of our local waterways within communities has grown significantly.

In the north central Victoria region the first five community water quality monitoring tests were taken on 27 July 1994 in the Campaspe Catchment. Since then the north central Victoria region has seen over 500 sites monitored with hundreds of community volunteers taking part in the program.

Today the North Central Waterwatch program supports 60 Community Volunteers who monitor 110 waterways, 240 Primary School aged students through the River Detectives program and over 1,600 community members through a range of awareness raising events.

This milestone is very exciting and a huge achievement!

I hope you enjoy reading this edition's Waterwatch update.

Until next time,

Cass Davis

Regional Waterwatch Coordinator
North Central Catchment Management Authority
PO Box 18 Huntly, VIC 3551
Phone: 03 5448 7124

Celebrating 20 years of Waterwatch

The North Central CMA team would like to thank the thousands of volunteers, school groups, landholders and communities that have been involved in the program over the last 20 years - we look forward to another 20 years of Waterwatch in the north central Victoria region!



Meet the monitors Jan and Fred Watts

Jan and Fred Watts live in Dunolly and monitor four sites; two sites along Burnt Creek, their dam at home and since the floods in 2011, they now also monitor the water quality of Bells Swamp. The couple has volunteered with the North Central Waterwatch program for six years, taking their first sample on 27 February 2007.





To view Jan and Fred's data go to: www.vic.waterwatch.org.au and simply search for the site you would like to see data for:

Site 1 - BUR490 (Burnt Creek)

Site 2 - BUR480 (Burnt Creek near silo)

Site 3 - DDW001 (Big dam on Watts property)

Site 4 - BEL001 (Bells Swamp Brooms Lane - Bells Road Crossing 2012)

NAIDOC Week celebrations 2013

NAIDOC Week is a celebration of the traditions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and is an opportunity to recognise the contributions of many Indigenous Australians in various fields. This year the focus was on celebrating 50 years since the presentation of the first Yirrkala Bark petition to the Federal Parliament. To find out more about the Yirrkala Petitions go to: www.naidoc.org.au.



It's time to check our equipment

The State Quality Assurance Quality Control (QA/QC) Program will take place in September 2013 and aims to produce regional and state wide reports on the quality of data generated by monitors and coordinators across Victoria.

The objectives of the QA/QC program are to:

- Demonstrate and evaluate the accuracy competencies of Standard 3 and 4 Waterwatch monitors and coordinators.

- Ensure coordinators are confident in their methods of analysis and of the results they produce.
- Provide feedback to coordinators about their region's performance so that they can continually improve.
- Evaluate coordinator's and monitor's physical and chemical parameter testing.

Courses and resources

Volunteering for community resilience

Join Volunteering Victoria at their very special *Rural and Regional Forum: Volunteering for community resilience*, to be held at Bendigo's Capital Theatre on **Monday 29 July**.

Regional Victorians beat their city cousins hands down when it comes to volunteering (with a volunteering rate of 45% compared to Melbournians' at 32%). And Australian folklore is replete with stories of communities banding together to overcome challenges – natural disasters, economic busts and social malaise.

So it's to the region of Bendigo that Volunteering Victoria will go in the search of what nurtures that core of a resilient community – a volunteering culture.

Join Volunteering Victorian and Bendigo Volunteer Resource Centre, to explore how volunteers make (and keep) communities resilient. What's old, what's new, what the future holds – and how to tackle the challenges and opportunities for volunteering in rural and regional Victoria.

This carefully designed event provides a platform to learn, share and network. It combines local knowledge, local practices and the 'best of' expertise in the ways we volunteer across all sectors (health, sport and recreation, community and emergency services, local government and volunteer resource centres) and volunteer managers from organisations large and small.

Key sessions

Trends, issues and challenges for volunteering in rural and regional Victoria: A panel event exploring changes and how to address them including Maree Edwards, MP for Bendigo West; Julie Pettit, CEO of Volunteering Western Victoria and representatives from the emergency services, sport and higher education.

Youth Volunteering: Building a volunteer workforce: Facilitated by Victoria's Youth Governor Oliver Tripodi, this panel brings together the leader and a youth volunteer from organisations including SYN Media, Australia Red Cross, Lead On Australia and sport.

Disaster preparedness, response, recovery and relief: Harnessing the local volunteers for disaster resilience: Facilitated by Victoria's Fire Services Commissioner and Volunteering Victoria Board member, Craig Lapsley, and featuring Anne Leadbeater OAM, Murrindindi Shire Council, and David Booth, Manager Flood Recovery, Moira Shire Council.

Workshops and special interest sessions on:

- Engaging Indigenous and culturally diverse communities in volunteering.
- Rethinking volunteer programs – structures and management.
- Social Media and how to use it to engage current volunteers, attract new ones and position your organisation.

Registration and program details will be available from the website www.volunteeringvictoria.org.au.

To register your interest now and guarantee a place, email training@volunteeringvictoria.org.au.

National Landcare Webinar – Grow your social media skills

Are you involved in Landcare and interested in knowing more about the benefits of using Facebook and Twitter?

If so, Landcare Australia has the ideal webinar (internet based seminar) for you. Join them on Wednesday 31 July at 12 Midday (AEST) for a free hour long webinar which will demonstrate how and why Landcarers are currently using Facebook and Twitter, and help guide you along the way to building successful and engaging social media profiles.

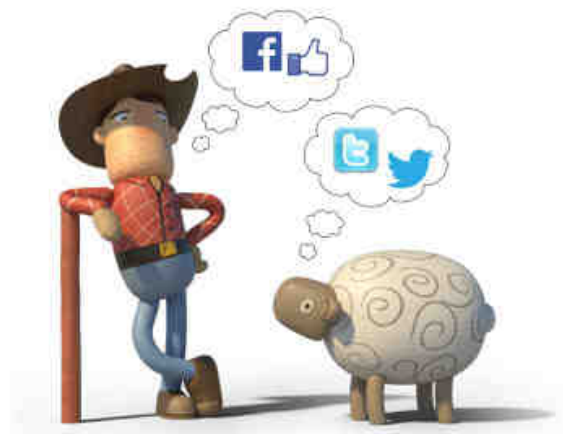
You will hear from a number of presenters who work within the Landcare movement and have experience managing relevant social media profiles. They will talk through some of the reasons why you may want to get involved in social media, what the benefits and opportunities are, and discuss examples of existing Landcare profiles. You will also have the ability to submit

questions and interact with the presenters along the way.

Whether you currently have a social media presence or are simply thinking about dipping your toes in the water, this will be an hour well spent.

You might also be interested in downloading the **social media manual** which focuses on helping groups get the most out of Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

For more information, or to register for the webinar, go to the Landcare Australia website www.landcareonline.com.au. If you register and cannot make it on the day, a link with access to a recording of the webinar will be sent to you after the event.



Social Media manual for groups

Landcare Australia has launched a social media manual to help groups get the most out of Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. The manual is for members of the Landcare community who are thinking about starting to use social media, or who have been using it for a while but would like to learn more. With information on how to engage followers, create content, and interact with other social media users, we hope this manual will be a useful resource for the Landcare groups, networks and organisations out there who want to get social!

Go to: www.landcareonline.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/social_media_kit.pdf

Landcare Week 2013 – Landcare is for Everyone

With Landcare Week 2013 fast approaching, this year Landcare Australia is taking the opportunity to spread the message that **Landcare is for Everyone.**

Landcare Australia have developed a kit of promotional resources for all groups and networks to use which will allow you to promote your Landcare Week events and activities within your local communities using the branding from the popular **LIFE – Landcare is for Everyone** campaign.

Branded artwork for flyers and posters is available for download and can be edited to include your own event and contact details. There are also web tiles, an email signature and a template media release. Landcare Ambassador, Jack Thompson, has very kindly recorded a 30 second radio ad which can be distributed to local radio stations to help promote the week.



This year Landcare Week will take place 2 – 8 September and Landcare Australia would encourage anyone who is planning an activity or event to add it to their Landcare **events calendar**. Simply fill in the online form and your event will be approved and online within a few days.

You can also share a story about your group, or a stand-out project you've been involved in or even post an ad looking for new volunteers to come on board.

Landcarers everywhere are working together to maintain the health of their local environments, but the time has come for everyone to help maintain the balance of **LIFE** by becoming

involved and thinking about their actions every day and the impact they have. Encourage people in your local community to get involved with Landcare and get involved with LIFE during Landcare Week 2013!

For more information head to the Landcare Australia website www.landcareonline.com.au and click on the article 'Landcare Week 2013 – Landcare is for Everyone.'



Mount Alexander Volunteer Network - Marketing Tools 101

Help strengthen your marketing plan by gaining skills in key design and promotion tools. Learn how basic graphic design, website design, using Facebook and creating e-newsletters can help spread the word about your community group, cause or event. Basic computer skills required. Training is customised for the community sector and includes tips, templates and pointers in how to maximise your marketing results. Two sessions per topic with hands-on homework will allow you to put your newly acquired skills to test. You can pick and choose individual topics.

Join us on Wednesdays from 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm at Continuing Education, Templeton Street, Castlemaine. Cost is \$25 for two sessions with light supper provided. To book please email: mavn@outlook.com.

E-newsletters 101 - use free online programs to create eye-catching newsletters, monitor their effectiveness and manage your contact lists. 31 July and 7 August

Websites 101 - learn how to create your own website and understand the basics of good online design and content. 14 August and 21 August

The Community Training Program is funded by the Department of Planning and Community Development and the Mount Alexander Shire Council.