



# Our Natural Resource Management Committee

The Natural Resource Management Committee (NRMC), appointed through a public process with membership endorsed by the Board, is a community advisory group to the North Central CMA Board. The committee provides a local community perspective to the North Central CMA on its planning, community engagement activities and works.

The NRMC advises on:

- appropriate engagement mechanisms for projects
- direction and focus for the Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS)
- identifying annual priorities for investment
- reviewing the community engagement aspects of projects
- developing and implementing a community engagement strategy

The NRMC meets monthly, with the committee touring project areas to gain a better understanding of specific projects. During the year, an investment meeting is scheduled for the committee to provide input to the investment process.

NRMC members reflect a broad geographic spread from across North Central Victoria, incorporating a wide range of skills and experience. The current membership provides the North Central CMA with strong links into community networks, including farming groups, small businesses, environmental and sustainability groups, local government, water services committees, recreational fishing, as well as Landcare and Waterwatch networks.



*Charlie Gillingham,  
Chair*

Charlie was elected by the Board to chair the newly formed NRMC in February 2012. An irrigation and dryland farmer from Lake Charm, Charlie is a former member of the Loddon Campaspe Irrigation Implementation Committee. He is the current chair of the Torrumbary Water Services Committee. Charlie is enthusiastic about encouraging greater community participation in all natural resource management issues. He sees his role as an important one in guiding the committee to provide the North Central CMA Board advice from a community perspective to ensure the delivery of enduring natural resource management outcomes for the region.



*Ron Cosgrave,  
Deputy Chair*

Ron operates a small farming enterprise at Smeaton in the upper catchment and is a member of Landcare. Ron is an active community member having been a member of the committee since its inception and who has a dedicated interest in natural resource management, with a strong passion towards water quality and river health.



*Diane Bunnett*

Diane has been a dryland farmer for over 30 years at Derby near Bridgewater, growing grain and prime lambs. She is an active community member involved in a number of rural and conservation networks. Diane is keen to lend her knowledge and passion to the NRMC. As an ongoing member of the committee Diane views her role as working towards preserving the assets in the catchment and to increase community awareness of the North Central CMA.



*Dianne Bowles*

Dianne became more aware of the importance of natural resource management when the 2010-11 floods affected her area in Mead, near Kerang. As a community member of Victoria's Murray-Darling Basin Plan Advisory Group, Gannawarra Shire Flood Recovery and President of the Cohuna Secondary College School Council, Dianne is much attuned to community issues.



*Richard Carter*

Richard's passion for community and natural resource management is evident by his commitment to many community groups, including his position as 3rd Lieutenant and crew leader with Mollongghip Rural Fire Brigade and also Communications Officer for the Creswick Group of Brigades. His passion also reaches to his small part-time farm of berries. Richard has a particular interest in the health of the Loddon River but is also very keen to learn and share is knowledge of how to care for all waterways in the region.



*Ken Coates*

Ken is a mixed farmer from Natta Yallock producing grain, wool and prime lambs. Ken was Chair of the Loddon Campaspe Dryland Irrigation committee and is currently Treasurer of his local Landcare Group of which he has been actively involved since its inception. Ken is an ongoing committee member and sees his involvement on the NRMC as vital in providing input into programs resulting in the general health and well-being of the catchment for all users.



*David Jones*

David has been a member of the committee for the past four years. Residing in the Sedgwick area David's passion for community groups continues to inspire. David was formally the Mayor of Bendigo (2005-06), is a member of the Bendigo Sustainability Group, Landcare, Bushlinks, Field Naturalists and was selected as a presenter of Al Gores infamous 'Inconvenient Truth'. David is passionate about educating the community to better understand how their actions can impact on the natural environment.



*Sebastian Klein*

Sebastian is enthusiastic about natural resource management and creating positive outcomes for the region. He is a student of ecological agriculture and a member of Wombat Forestcare and the Northern United Forestry Group.

Sebastian is current (2012-) Mayor of the Hepburn Shire Council. His membership on the committee further enhances his commitment to the community and the natural environment.



*Rob Loats*

Rob is a dryland primary producer from Laen and an active member on a number Victorian Fisheries Committees. He is also a past member of the Avoca-Avon Richardson Implementation Committee. As an ongoing NRMC member, Rob hopes to help identify and implement community-identified restoration projects that provide long-term benefits for the regional community; especially projects that enhance our rivers, floodplains and wetland systems.



*Allison Long*

Allison is a primary producer in the Macedon Ranges Shire. Together with her husband she operates a Braunvieh beef cattle enterprise near Carlsruhe where they also breed free range poultry and pigs. Allison brings a wealth of knowledge to the committee having worked in the natural resource management sector and understands the importance of strong community involvement. She is a member of her local Landcare Group and current Chair of the Upper Campaspe Landcare Network



*Ron Murray*

Ron Murray, a Wamba Wamba descendent, lives on Jaara country at Yapeen. Ron is well known in the area and has worked as an Aboriginal Advisor to the Victoria Police and a client service officer for the Victoria Aboriginal Legal Service. Ron is passionate about the river health, having grown up on a 250,000 acre station on the Murrumbidgee River. Ron believes it is important to provide an Indigenous perspective on water and land management issues and to have Aboriginal knowledge and voices heard.



*Shane O'Loughlin*

Shane brings a wealth of experiences to the NRMC as a member of the Laanecoorie Foreshore Committee of Management and a past member of North Central CMA Loddon Campaspe Dryland Implementation Committee. Shane sees the role of the committee to continue to have the issue of chemical residue and pollutants entering our waterways addressed. Together with well-researched on ground programs and inclusive community participation, he is confident a sustainable future for our region's important waterways and wetlands can be achieved.



*Colin Smith*

Colin and his family reside in the Junortoun area. He has extensive experience in project management and a strong passion for healthy soils and farming sustainably. With over 30 years combined experience with the Department of Primary Industries and other natural resource management agencies Colin's knowledge adds value to the committee.



*Denis Watts*

Denis and his family, in the Yeungroon area, are committed to conservation and to date have planted 30,000 trees on their property. Denis is a member of the Victorian Farmers Federation, Secretary of Coonooer Bridge CFA and treasurer of the Coonooer Bridge Hall committee. He has had ongoing involvement in soil conservation since the mid 1960's and continues to be passionate about natural resource management issues.

