

North Central chat

AUGUST 2019

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

A message from the Regional Landcare Coordinator

Bonjour everyone,

A big thank you to the Landcare and Waterwatch teams for keeping the train on track while I was on leave. I must say it was a big relief to arrive home after the record European heatwave.

July was, as always, a big month with NAIDOC week and National Tree Day activities across the catchment. I couldn't attend any of the local events but celebrated with some 'forest bathing' during a walk with friends atop Mount Alexander, which was lovely.

The annual call for Victorian Landcare Grants closed in June, with more than 80 applications submitted from across our region. Once the assessment process is completed, groups will be notified of their success.

Nominations for the 2019 State & Territory Landcare Awards opened in May, and the North Central Landcare team was well prepared with potential nominees. We submitted three nominations in the following categories: Australian Government Individual Landcarer Award (*Nominee: Margie Thomas, Friends of Cornish Hill*), Australian Government Partnerships for Landcare Award (*Nominee: Strathallan Family Landcare & Squirrel Glider Sanctuary*), Australian Community Media Landcare Community Group Award (*Nominee: Malmsbury & District Landcare Group*). Best of luck to all the north central nominees, I'll report back after the Government House ceremony on August 30.

This month, we are thrilled to be hosting the inaugural North Central Intrepid Landcare Retreat in Castlemaine. Twenty-five budding leaders will enjoy a weekend of action-packed fun, connecting with the landscape and local Landcare 'legends'. I can't wait to be a part of this event.

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National Tree Day provides the perfect conditions for planting the Landcare seed with all ages.

Finally, we're not far away from National Landcare Week (September 1-7). Please send your planned activities through to us to help promote and celebrate all that we do as a Landcare community.

Enjoy the read,

Tess Grieves

Regional Landcare Coordinator

North Central Catchment Management Authority

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News...

National Tree Day success

July 28 was National Tree Day, and what a great weekend of weather it was for tree planting.

Four officially registered events were held across the City of Greater Bendigo region. Community members young and old, experienced and first timers came together to enjoy the annual event.

Longlea and District Landcare Group reported another successful year. "Over 700 trees planted at the Axedale River Reserve. Special thanks to the 70+ people who turned up, especially the Strathfieldsaye Scout Group!"



Northern Bendigo Landcare Group held an event at the Huntly Streamside Reserve, hosting "60 awesome community members smashing out the planting of 700 native grasses, shrubs and trees on a beautiful winters day."

Managing the Mynas

Article by North Bendigo Landcare Group

Common mynas, or Indian mynas, as most people know them, are sometimes described as rats of the sky, and with good reason!

There is a way to lessen their impact in the Bendigo region, thanks to The City of Greater Bendigo, and the Northern Bendigo Landcare Group. Thanks to a grant from the City, the Landcare group is now the proud distributor of Myna traps, which can be purchased by contacting the group, or emailing landcarevsmynas@gmail.com. The traps are an ingenious design to allow humane trapping of the birds. The trap is baited with dry cat food, and the size of the opening prevents the trapping of

magpies and other native birds.

Common mynas are an introduced species that have gradually spread along the eastern seaboard, happy to follow highways, and displace our beautiful native species from tree hollows and nestboxes. This can be most frustrating for the landholder, particularly if they have gone to lengths to put up nest boxes for Eastern rosellas, sugar gliders, and other hollow dependent species.



Other measures that should be undertaken to discourage mynas include restricting access to a food source. This may mean feeding your pets such as cats and dogs inside and buying a poultry pedal feeder. This has other benefits also, such as reduced feed costs, and less rodents.



The above images show both the common, or Indian myna, and our native noisy miner. It is important not to confuse them with our native, though sometimes pesky noisy miner.

The aim of the project is to educate the community about the impact of the birds and ultimately saturate the Bendigo region with approximately 600 traps, bringing about an eventual reduction in numbers. If this sounds like something that you would like more information

on, please email us on the above-mentioned email address, or contact us through the Northern Bendigo Landcare Group website or Facebook page. The traps are \$50 each.

What is the plan for the North Central Landcare Program 2019-20?

Darren and I continue in our respective Landcare support roles over the coming 12 months.

The focus for Darren, as the Regional Agricultural Landcare Facilitator is to increase landholders' awareness and adoption of land management practices that improve and protect the condition of soil, biodiversity and vegetation. In addition, Darren works with farmers and industries to create and utilise market opportunities related to provenance and sustainable production services.

Darren is also working with the CMA's Regenerative Agriculture Project supporting community-led, facilitated groups to undertake trials, engage with experts and most importantly connect local communities of practice. The project generates locally relevant solutions, knowledge exchange opportunities and supportive conversations with people interested in regenerative agriculture practices.

My role as Regional Landcare Coordinator continues to focus on advocacy for and support of Landcare groups, networks and environmental volunteers.

My role acts as a conduit for other government agencies, business and industry groups to connect to local Landcare action. I also focus on the social connectivity of Landcare, linking those with a budding interest in Landcare to their relevant group or network.

Along with nine other RLC's based in CMA's across the state and the Victorian Landcare Program staff within DELWP, we form the Victorian Landcare Team meeting quarterly in Melbourne to collaborate, advocate and celebrate the growing umbrella of Landcare across Victoria.

This coming 12 months will see the North Central Landcare Team deliver;

- Quarterly meetings with Landcare Network Facilitators.
- Six monthly meetings with Landcare Network Chairs, CMA Board Chair and CEO.
- Design and deliver soil health and land management events such as field days, workshops and training events.
- Devolve the Victorian Landcare Grants and support Landcare groups delivery of funded projects.
- Deliver professional development training events for Landcare Facilitators.
- Communicate grant funding opportunities and support groups and individuals with applications (*where appropriate*) and;
- Focus on supporting greater inclusion of Aboriginal people and Traditional Owners in Landcare across north central.

If your group or network has an idea for a training event or workshop to be hosted in your area, why not get in touch and chat about it with us.

We are catchment-wide support staff, and we're always looking for opportunities to work across the catchment. We regularly partner with our neighbouring CMAs, Agriculture Victoria, DELWP and many other partners, so there are great opportunities to collaborate, share and gain new knowledge and skills when we work together.

2017-18 Landcare Snapshot

With the 2017-18 funded Landcare Grant projects acquitted in December 2018, data collation was undertaken, and we now have a regional summary of Landcare action and investment from 2017-18.

Some of the highlights include;

- 242 new Landcare members
- Almost 60% of groups are using an NRM plan to guide their activity
- More than 70% of groups reporting their group health as moving forward or rolling along.
- 41,622 hours of volunteer hours contributing to Landcare action
- More than 150 community NRM groups remain active across the north central Region.

For a copy of the 2017-18 North Central Landcare Report Card visit:

http://www.nccma.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/publications/landcare_report_card_2017-18_final.spreads.pdf





What's appin'ing along the Bannacher Creek?

Article by Phil Slessar, North Central CMA
Environmental Water Reserve Officer

We like to call the Bannacher Creek the hidden treasure of the lower Loddon floodplain. It is a creek that is an extension of Pennyroyal Creek, which is in turn one of two extensions of the Serpentine Creek. Pennyroyal Creek flows north-north west across the floodplain and meets Bannacher Creek near Appin South.

As it flows a bit further north Bannacher Creek opens out to become a wide shallow watercourse. North of Appin South (not called Appin!) the creek delivers water to an area of wetland with a range of habitat types. Both areas are in good condition, with healthy stands of tall marsh, red gums and lignum. This provides great potential habitat for Australasian bittern, and a range of water birds (including nesting cormorants) have been observed. There is also a couple of very enthusiastic landholders who would love to see the area protected and enhanced.

About this time last year, I knocked on every door on the lower Loddon floodplain to talk to landholders about putting water for the environment down Bannacher Creek and sought Deeds of Agreement to do just that. Unfortunately, while most were keen to see this happen, a few landholders weren't as keen on the idea and there were absentee landholders who we were unable to contact. All in all, we couldn't progress our plan to deliver water for the Bannacher Creek and wetland environments.



Over the ensuing period we tried to find a way to get this watering done, including investigating a circuitous route via the channel system. Enter GMW, with some excess irrigation water to

dispose of, we said "we'll have that in the Bannacher, thanks". A total of 700 ML flowed down Pennyroyal over a couple of weeks in May 2019, and our patch of paradise again sprang to life.

While probably not the optimum time to water, in this instance beggars could not be choosers, and we are particularly grateful to Emily at GMW who saw the possibilities. According to one landholder water does tend to hang around long enough, so let's hope it stays around to provide those conditions for some bird breeding this year.

Here at the North Central CMA we have become very passionate about this little gem, and in the past twelve months our Catchment Restoration Officers, Tracey and Anthony, have done a power of great work engaging with landholders and gradually more farmers are getting on-board to protect their bits of private frontage.



The tree lined sections of the creek are experiencing a 'baby boom', hosting an abundance of cormorant nests and chicks. Photo North Central CMA





21st celebration at NUFG

Article by NUFG Member Phil Dyson.

The Northern United Forestry Group (NUFG) has turned 21! We are celebrating with an open day on the NUFG Saltland Reclamation Project on Sunday October 6 and invite you to join us.

Twenty-one years ago, way back in 1998 a bunch of farmers from across northern Victoria came together under the direction of Ben Boxshall. At that time Ben was a farm forestry advocate and extension officer with the Department of Agriculture in Bendigo. The group took its name from a local football club that was in decline. In the early 2002 they sent themselves off to complete Melbourne University's Master Tree Growing course led by passionate tree grower and forest scientist Rowan Reid, and local earth moving contractor and farmer Ian Rankin. Ian was appointed the first chair of the group, and both he and Ben supported many of the original farmers establish hardwood plantations across northern and north central Victoria.

Upon completing the Master Tree Growing course, the group was ready for a challenge; within their midst there was a significant opportunity; over 600 hectares of land degraded by dryland salinity at Kamarooka. Against the odds the group came up with an approach that saw the establishment of twenty hectares of mixed eucalypt and acacia plantations together with large areas of old man saltbush. The plantations were established along the margins of the most saline land and the saltbush was planted on the severely degraded land.

In the absence of traditional seasonal waterlogging, courtesy of climate change, the trees thrived over shallow groundwater two thirds as salty as the ocean. Proving experts wrong, by 2007 the trees had begun to lower the groundwater. Now, some sixteen years after they were established healthy eucalypt plantations tower over twelve metres above the saline land and continue to exhibit strong growth. In consequence the groundwater has now fallen by more than seven metres. The saltbush, on the other hand, whilst showing strong growth in the early years partly succumbed to the waterlogging experienced through record breaking rains and flood in 2010. The plantation has shown how land can be rehabilitated and offer additional benefits of timber, firewood, stock shelter, saltbush fed lamb and native seed production.



Eucalyptus plantation established on saline land in 2005.

Over almost two decades of the NUFG putting the site on show, several thousand people have visited. It has become iconic in south-eastern Australia and many international and national scientists, tree growers, universities, other tree growers and others have experienced it.

The 21st birthday celebration in October is an opportunity to visit the Kamarooka Saltland Reclamation site and see first-hand how this unproductive land has been transformed. Hear about NUFG experiences in exploring the science, establishing plantations, and the pluses and minuses that flow from the saltbush experiences. The day will also be an opportunity to experience the cohesiveness of the group and learn of the things that have kept them active over the years.

The day will begin at 11am with a tour of the site with opportunities to inspect the plantations, hear about some of the science the group has explored, and listen to stories that include some of the challenges and highlights that flow out of the NUFG experiences. The tour will be followed by a free barbecue lunch and the opportunity to chat to NUFG members. All welcome, with RSVP for catering purposes to nufg@nufg.org.au. Directions to the site will be given following RSVPs



To learn more please visit www.nufg.org.au/



Hello everyone,

What a nice treat to see the sunshine over the past couple of days, although I don't feel like winter has been around for all that long, others would disagree, excited for the arrival of spring air.

We spent most of July writing our end of financial year reports! However, we did manage to get out and about and had some fun!

Rohan and Britt attended the NAIDOC Week Kids day activities where they took along Waterbugs for children to explore. With hundreds of children in attendance the day was a huge success.

We hosted a workshop with our River Detectives who monitor Bendigo Creek, the aim of the workshop was for the students to create a vision for Bendigo Creek to share with the Reimagining Bendigo Creek project working group and steering committee. Students heard from Mark Stubbs, Project Manager, City of Greater Bendigo, Aunty Marilyne Nicholls, Dja Dja Wurrung Elder and Mark Toohey, Team Leader, City of Greater Bendigo about the creek.



Image: River Detectives, reimagining Bendigo Creek workshop

Students were then asked to start brain-storming their ideas for the creek and will present their vision at the next meeting.

The Waterwatch Team has been keeping busy, Britt met with the new Healthy Coliban Catchment Citizen Scientists to train volunteers in water

quality testing, to find out more about this project read A Healthy Coliban Catchment - Citizen Scientists are monitoring change.

Rohan headed out on his first adventure to meet with our RiverScan citizen scientists in Kerang and headed along to visit their monitoring sites.



Image: NAIDOC Week kids day

During August we will be focussed on Reimagining Bendigo Creek workshops; collecting mystery samples and delivering our upcoming Quality Assurance and Quality Control (QAQC) workshops; delivering activities as part of the Passions and Pathways program for youth and delivering the 'Ask the Expert' Webinar for our River Detective Schools, the theme for August is frogs!

Finally, a reminder that it's National Science Week (10-18 August). If you're out and about testing water quality, please send us a photo of you at your site and a brief story to include in the next edition of the North Central Chat.

Stay warm!

Cass Davis

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QAQC Week 2019 is coming up again!

What is QAQC Week? QAQC is Quality Assurance and Quality Control week. Every year in August, Waterwatch volunteers come together to have their equipment and methodologies checked and to make sure we are collecting reliable water quality information that meets the Waterwatch Victoria standards so we can keep our data at a confidence level that can be used by anyone!



At this stage, we plan to visit these locations;

Wednesday 14 August at St. Arnaud 10.30am – 1pm (Country Kitchen – Lunch provided) with Cass.

Thursday 15 August, North Central CMA Boardroom, Huntly 6pm – 8.30pm (Pizza provided) with Britt.

Tuesday 20 August, Castlemaine (TBC Ray Bradfield Rooms with traditional Veggie lasagne), 6pm - 8.30pm with Cass.

Please let Cass Davis know if you are available by emailing: cass.davis@nccma.vic.gov.au

A new army of Citizen Scientists were recently recruited to keep watchful eye on their local waterways in the Upper Coliban catchment.

The Healthy Coliban Catchment Project aims to improve water quality in the region, a critical water supply catchment for more than 130,000 residents of Bendigo, Castlemaine and Kyneton. The high priority Coliban River, Kangaroo Creek and the Wombat Forest, and adjoining tributaries, are at risk by a drying climate and peri-urban development in this popular tree-change destination. The long-term project is focused on improving overall catchment health by controlling weeds, installing riparian fencing, providing off-stream watering for stock and establishing vegetation. The project also aims to engage and empower the local community through capacity building programs, this is where citizen science comes in.

The Health Coliban Citizen Science program kicked off recently with an event at the (newly renovated) Lauriston Hall. Eight enthusiastic locals have put their hand up to volunteer their time, with a special mission; to establish a baseline of water quality data for the Healthy Coliban Catchment project and to become better informed custodians of the catchment. Project officer Britt Gregory said *“understanding this baseline is really important for on-ground works programs. A team of volunteers contributing regular, important scientific information means we can get a much broader picture of water quality and catchment health. There is so much ground to cover - we simply can't do it alone”*.

As the Healthy Coliban Catchment Project progresses, not only will we be able to track the project success more easily, but we will have a great bunch of knowledgeable local custodians

helping to spread the word about the importance of caring for their local waterways.

The first get together for the group included training in water testing equipment, allocating monitoring sites and an opportunity for volunteers to share their reasons for wanting to get involved:

“I have some time available, I want to gain more knowledge and help with collecting data”

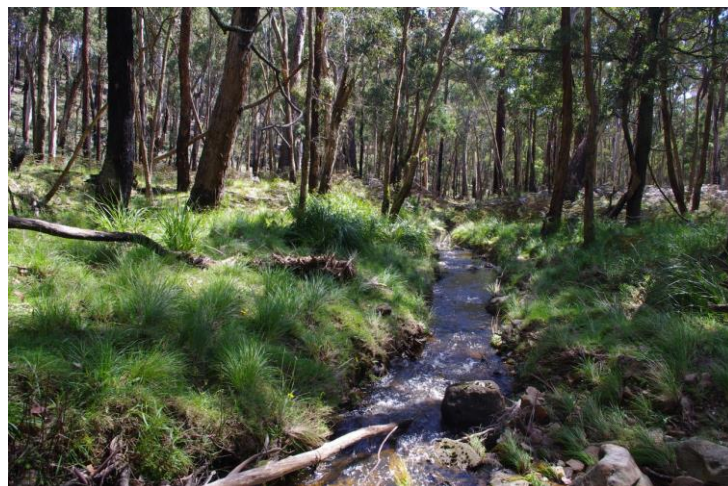
“I'm a curious person and keen to stay involved to see what will happen (with water quality and catchment improvements)”

“I'm keen to be involved in an on-ground project and to learn more about our local waterways and the catchment”

“I am optimistic for improvement and keen to advocate for change”

“I feel it's my responsibility to care for the condition of the rivers. I would love to see more people in more places swimming!”

The Waterwatch team are really pleased to have even more passionate locals on-board. By working together with the community, we can only have better project and environmental outcomes.



Upper Kangaroo Creek, Wombat Forest. Photo: North Central CMA

Working together to create curriculum

During April and May 2019, an exciting new partnership project began between River Detectives, Waterwatch Victoria, Melbourne Water and Victoria University.

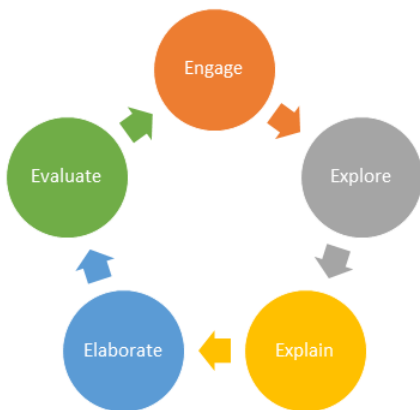
In its first year, Masters Students (Primary Teaching) were tasked with developing a practical online unit of work for primary school teachers. Each student group then presented their work to



a panel of judges, with the top three winning works to be shared on the River Detectives website.

Waterwatch Victoria initially provided a list of suggested topics; areas with currently limited available resources. This allowed the students to prepare works with links to Victorian School Curriculum that would also prove useful beyond the assessment task, a win-win for all involved.

Groups of students worked together to develop their works, with each consisting of five lesson plans- following each stage of the '5E Instructional Model' (Engage, Explore, Explain, Elaborate, and Evaluate). This was followed by presentations to the panel made up of Victoria University lecturers, Waterwatch and Melbourne Water staff and Department of Land Water and Planning (DELWP) officials. Peer-assessments also took place.



The 5E Instructional Model

The top three lesson plans; Mosquito Madness, Water Quality and Exploring Surface Water Tension with Water Striders, will soon be made available online for use by schools involved in the Statewide River Detectives program.

The project provided a great example of how funds can be leveraged through good partnerships. Dr Efrat Eilam from Victoria University said the collaboration was very positive for her students *“The added value to our students is evident from their feedback. They feel that our collaboration allowed them to become better primary science teachers, more immersed in their community and in their local environment. These gained knowledge and skills they will take with them, wherever they teach”*.

Sasha Wells (Statewide Waterwatch Facilitator) says, *“the Waterwatch River Detectives Vic Uni Presentation event was a great success! The standard of presentations was outstanding and*

left us all very inspired to think of the future learnings and opportunities to come from this partnership”.

So, what’s next for this successful partnership? The project team is already planning next year’s topics flagged to include habitats, environmental flows, photo point monitoring and Aboriginal Culture. A new research topic around pre-service teachers being better connected to their local environment is also on the cards.



Vic Uni Students and the project team. Photo: Ferne Millen Photography

Upcoming events and special days

August	
National Science Week	10-18 August
International Youth Day	12 August
Keep Australia Beautiful	19-25 August
September	
National Wattle Day	1 September
National Waterbug Blitz	Sept, Oct, Nov
National Biodiversity Month	September
National Landcare Week	2-8 September
Threatened Species Day	7 September
Sustainable House Day	16 September
World Car Free Day	22 September



October	
National Waterbug Blitz	Sept, Oct, Nov
World Habitat Day	2 October
National Walk to Work Day	Sept, Oct, Nov
World Food Day	16 October
National Gone Fishing Day	20 October
National Water Week	21 – 27 October
Aussie Backyard Bird Count	21 – 27 October

Water storages update

Early winter rain has seen some storage levels increase this month:

Region	Water Storage	% full at 24 June	% full at 23 July
Murray Storages	Dartmouth Dam	64.23	↓62.72
	Hume Dam	21.60	↑ 31.25
	Torrumbarry Weir	93.72	- 93.72
	Third Lake	96.94	- 96.94
	Reedy/Middle Lake	91.37	↑ 93.04
	Kangaroo Lake	97.97	↓ 96.54
	Kow Swamp	79.12	↓ 78.02
	Lake Boga	71.36	↑ 71.48
	Lake Charm	90.28	↑ 92.44
Loddon Storages	Cairn Curran Reservoir	33.35	↑ 41.92
	Tullaroop Reservoir	41.49	↑ 55.66
	Laanecoorie Reservoir	25.50	↑ 98.00
Bullarook Creek Storages	Newlyn Reservoir	54.54	↑ 101.22
	Hepburns Lagoon	37.74	↑ 56.08
Goulburn Storages	Lake Eildon	37.46	↑ 38.93
	Waranga Basin	41.42	↑ 44.37
Campaspe	Lake Eppalock	36.04	↓ 37.10

Coliban Water	Upper Coliban	66.70	↑ 77.6
	Lauriston	80.00	↓ 78.7
Storages	Malmsbury	16.50	↑ 24.60

Sources: www.g-mwater.com.au/water-resources/catchments/storage-levels

www.coliban.com.au/site/root/water_security/reservoirs

Courses and Resources...

Volunteer Managers Mentoring Program~EOIs for 2020

Volunteering Victoria's Volunteer Managers Mentoring program brings together experienced senior leaders of volunteers with entry-level managers of volunteers. This program offers both professional and personal development opportunities for passionate individuals seeking to develop their skills and careers.

The objective of the program is to strengthen the volunteering sector, build the capacity of its members and foster networking and relationships. Volunteering Victoria endeavours to support the development of specialist skills and knowledge in the volunteering sector through collaboration and the exchange of insights, experience and wisdom.

Expressions of interest for the 2020 mentoring program will *open in December 2019*.

<https://www.volunteeringvictoria.org.au/professional-development/volunteers-managers-mentoring-program/>



2019 Young Farmers Scholarships

On June 27, the Minister for Agriculture, Jaclyn Symes announced the 2019 Upskill and Invest - Young Farmers Scholarships open for applications.



To ensure young people continue to develop the skills they need to build successful careers in agriculture, the Victorian Government is investing \$500,000 in the scholarship program over the next four years.

Up to \$10,000 is available per scholarship. Each recipient is eligible to receive up to \$5,000 to support their training and study (Upskill), followed by up to \$5,000 to put their new skills into practice (Invest).

Scholarships are available to young farmers aged 35 and younger with at least two years on-farm experience.

Since 2015, the scholarship program has successfully supported 50 young farmers to develop their skills across a range of agriculture sectors.

Applications close at 5pm on Friday 9 August 2019. To find out more visit vic.gov.au/youngfarmers or email youngfarmer.coordinator@ecodev.vic.gov.au

Help us shape the future of irrigation farming

The Loddon Campaspe Irrigation Region Land and Water Management Plan is your chance to shape government funding opportunities that help you on your farm.

We want to find out what the local irrigation farming priorities are and help our communities get them funded. Whether it's farm planning, building knowledge and stewardship to help with decision making, innovating and supporting new technology or helping you with land-use and capacity questions, we know the benefits of getting the best information possible. Our Land and Water Management Plan is your voice to government. By helping us identify the local priorities, you can be part of community action.

Workshop Dates:

- Tuesday 27 August – **Swan Hill** 10-12pm, Swan Hill City Council Offices
- Thursday 29 August – **Pyramid Hill** 10-12pm, Pyramid Hill Memorial Hall
- Thursday 29 August - **Boort** 1.30-3.30pm, Boort Lawn Tennis Club
- Tuesday 3 September – **Kerang** 10-12pm, Kerang Bowling Club

- Tuesday 3 September - **Gunbower** 1.30-3.30pm, TBC

To register your interest in attending, please click the following link

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/shaping-the-future-of-irrigation-farming-tickets-66970968971>

For further information, please contact Mandy Coulson, North Central CMA, P: (03) 5440 1807 or Mandy.Coulson@nccma.vic.gov.au

Events...

Storing more carbon in your soil

NSW DPI are hosting a Soils Network of Knowledge webinar, presented by soil researchers Susan Orgill.

This month's webinar will cover the intricacies of building soil carbon by good practices, innovative practices and by growing more biomass. Listen in to find out what you can do to build soil carbon, and the part soil type, climate, soil biology and land management play.

When: Friday 9 August 2019, 9.30 AM

Where: Online

RSVP: To register for this webinar [click here](#) or visit the NSW DPI website.

Head to Inglewood for a FREE training day!

Expand Your Impact is a program to support you to grow your success. Come along to an inspiring full-day workshop for you to expand your ideas, projects and local solutions.

THEME: Caring for Climate

Whether you are a volunteer, business owner, employee, entrepreneur, government agency, community leader, interested individual or any of the above, all are welcome to attend.

This event is part of Ramp Up Resilience, a series of thoughtful programs about climate, how it impacts us and what we'll do about it. Delivered by Make a Change Australia in partnership with generous supporters. Find out more: www.makeachange.org.au/ramp-up-resilience

When: Thursday 8 August, 10am – 4pm



Where: Inglewood Neighbourhood House, 20 Verdon St, Inglewood

RSVP: Participation is FREE; however, places are limited. Book now: bit.ly/expand-impact



Having a healthy and strong mind is important for everyone in the community.

This event in Cohuna will deliver a 1hr session on mindfulness, followed by a discussion to help identify the best ways to introduce mindfulness to your networks.

When: Sunday 15 September, 1.00-2.30pm

Where: Cohuna Bowls Club, Cohuna

RSVP:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/mindfulness-cohuna-murray-phn-community-advisory-council-event-tickets-64511758406>

Girls, get those gumboots ready!!!



North Central CMA, Wimmera CMA and Project Platypus Upper Wimmera Landcare are pleased to announce that the 2019 Chicks in the Sticks will be held on Saturday 26 October at Moonambel Gap Olives.

Tickets will go on sale in the coming weeks via Eventbrite, so keep an eye on the CMA Social media channels and your email inbox if you are keen to come along.

Where have all the Greater Gliders Gone?



Image by Jannico Kelk

Upper Campaspe Landcare Network and Macedon Ranges Shire Council are hosting discussion about the threatened greater glider with mammal experts Peter Menkhorst and Jemma Cripps.

Hear about the findings of a recent citizen science project to search for greater gliders, brush-tailed phascogales and powerful owls in the local region. An interactive session with audience participation will follow

When: Saturday 31 August, 3pm-4.30pm

Where: Newham Mechanics Institute, 1292 Rochford Road

RSVP: Booking are required via mrsc.vic.gov.au/environment-events

Free plant pressing workshop

Ever wondered how to preserve plant cuttings and turn them into a piece of art?

In a special workshop, botanist Karen Muscat will show participants the artistic method of pressing plants. Karen will demonstrate how to select a good specimen and how to prepare it, as well as the materials required, labelling and pressing. Participants are invited to bring samples from their own gardens.

When: Wednesday 14 August, 6.30pm-8pm

Where: Woodend Library, Forest Street

RSVP: Booking are required via mrsc.vic.gov.au/environment-events

Funding opportunities...

Growing Victoria's Botanic Gardens grants program

The Growing Victoria's Botanic Gardens grants program is an initiative of the Victorian Government to enhance the botanic gardens across Victoria with grants to eligible gardens and projects. The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) is delivering the grants program to assist botanic garden managers to adapt to climate change, maintain valuable plant collections, improve amenities for the community and support local tourism development.

The program will:

- Rejuvenate Victoria's botanic gardens by upgrading and enhancing the physical assets and amenities of the gardens and by growing the gardens' important role in research, conservation and education.
- Address the risks posed by climate related rainfall and temperature changes.
- Support practical community action for Victoria's botanic gardens.
- Improve public amenity and create lasting and visible improvement.
- Foster greater enjoyment of the environment.
- Assist botanic gardens to be innovative in meeting increased visitation and changing community needs.

Round One 2019:

- Applications open: 26 June 2019
- Applications close: 7 August 2019, 5:00 PM

Round Two 2020:

- Applications open: June 2020
- Applications close: July 2020

Grants between \$20,000 to \$300,000 will be awarded.

For more detailed information on the Growing Victoria's Botanic Gardens grants program, including project eligibility, grant assessment criteria, application process and funding conditions please refer to the [Growing Victoria's Botanic Gardens funding guidelines](#).

On-Farm Energy Assessment

Supports farms to replace energy inefficient equipment, install more energy efficient systems and enable own-generation capacity.

On-farm energy assessments analyse on-farm energy use (electricity, gas and diesel) and identify opportunities to make energy savings, improve output volumes per energy unit, and convert to renewable energy sources. The assessments will make recommendations tailored to the type and size of farms.

An on-farm energy assessment will be a prerequisite for the future on-farm energy grants.

Go to www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/agenergy, read the guidelines, fill in the application form and attach your applicable energy bills.

Apply early so you don't miss out. Visit: <https://www.business.vic.gov.au/support-for-your-business/grants-and-assistance/agriculture-energy-investment-plan/On-Farm-Energy-Assessment>

