

North Central Chat

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



June 2021

A message from the Acting Regional Waterwatch Coordinator

Hello everyone,

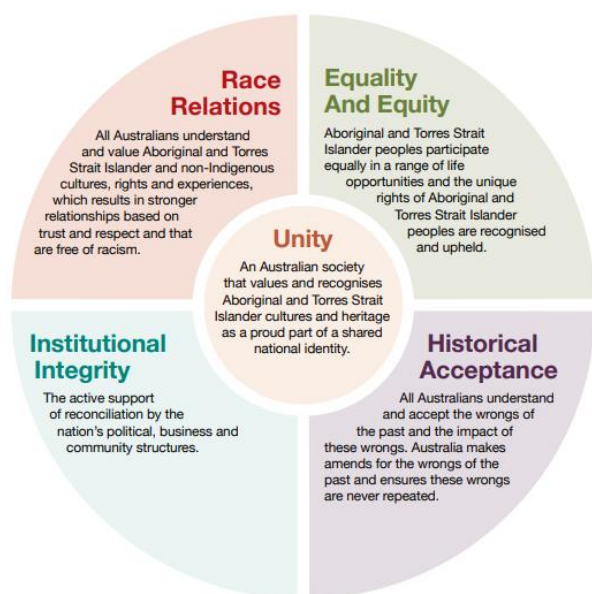
In Tess's absence for a few days leave, you have me to present this month's Chat.

It's National Reconciliation Week.

I live on Dja Dja Wurrung Country and pay my respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

Djaara people have been the custodians of these lands for many thousands of years. I am fortunate enough to walk and work together on Country with many incredible Aboriginal people who I have learned so much from and am incredibly inspired by.

I work towards contributing to Reconciliation by living and promoting the Five Dimensions of Reconciliation:



The Five Dimensions of Reconciliation (source: reconciliation.org.au)

A great starting place to learn more is the [State of Reconciliation in Australia Summary report](#)



National Reconciliation Week runs from May 27 to June 3 with a great range of events, a film festival and discussions being hosted nationwide.

For more info and to get involved, visit: [National Reconciliation Week 2021](#).



Also, its Saltwatch week. See the events page for more info and how to get involved.

Enjoy the read,

Britt Gregory

Acting Regional Waterwatch Coordinator

North Central CMA

Phone: 03 5448 7124

Email: britt.gregory@nccma.vic.gov.au

Connecting rivers, landscapes, people

The North Central Catchment Management Authority (CMA) acknowledges Traditional Owners and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples within the region, their rich cultures, spiritual connection to Country.

www.nccma.vic.gov.au



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News...



2021 Victorian Landcare Awards

Nominate now, closing soon!

The State and Territory Landcare Awards are coordinated nationally by Landcare Australia, with each state and territory coordinating their own awards ceremony. The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning through the Victorian Landcare Program coordinates the Victorian Landcare Awards ceremony.

In addition to the eight national award categories, Victoria awards additional categories which are independently sponsored at a state level.

The awards are a celebration of the significant work undertaken by groups, networks and individuals who contribute their time and care to the conservation of Victoria's land, water and biodiversity.

Nominate yourself or another Landcarer or group today!

Landcare Australia advise that the Victorian nomination period is as follows:

- Opens Apr 26, 2021
- Closes Jun 30, 2021

Eight national award categories are now open for nominations:

- Australian Government Individual Landcarer Award
- Australian Government Partnerships for Landcare Award

- Australian Government Landcare Farming Award
- Coastcare Award
- Landcare Community Group Award
- Woolworths Junior Landcare Team Award
- KPMG Indigenous Land Management Award
- Young Landcare Leadership Award

The 2021 National Landcare Conference

International Convention Centre, Darling Harbour, Sydney (WITH ONLINE OPTIONS)

WEDNESDAY 4 TO FRIDAY 6 AUGUST, 2021

The 2021 National Landcare Conference and Awards will be hybrid events with registration for online participation FREE for registered Landcarers.



Online delegates will have access to live streaming, recorded plenary and stream sessions, speaker presentations, networking opportunities and other conference resources via Landcarer.

For more info and to register:

[National Landcare Conference and Awards](https://www.nccma.vic.gov.au)

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Communities Caring for Catchments

Twenty Five Years of Volunteering

A huge congratulations and very special thanks to Rob Loats who has been our longest serving North Central Waterwatch volunteer.

Back in 1996, keen fisherman Rob was frustrated the fish weren't biting at the Donald angling club's long-term favourite spot in the lower Avon-Richardson River. Locals kept telling him the water looked fine, so all must be good. He wasn't so sure.

Rob says "I took a couple of samples of the water along to the Wimmera Mallee Field Days and had it tested at the Waterwatch tent. *"It was the highest salinity levels they had seen for the entire field days. I have been monitoring ever since"*.

When we asked Rob what he loves about being involved in the Waterwatch program, Rob said *"I now monitor the Little Murry River as part of the Native Fish Recovery Plan. I love getting out and doing my testing, it's always interesting to observe what is going on."*



Rob Loats, Waterwatch Volunteer for 25 years!

As we didn't get to formally recognise their contribution in 2020, I would also like to acknowledge the following contributions:

15 years of volunteering:

Geoff McLeod
Cathy McCallum (now retired)
Melanie Watts (past staff member!)
George and Anne Perkins

Five Years of volunteering:

Barbara James
Keith Neaves
Lyn Grocke
The Laing Family

Many thanks to each of you for your extensive contribution and commitment to monitoring the health of our region's precious waterways.

We have more than 60 volunteers monitoring almost 80 Waterwatch sites. From Swan Hill, to Woodend, Donald to Rochester and everywhere in between; without your efforts, this water quality monitoring simply would not happen.

We are so thankful to have such a dedicated community with so many people keeping a watchful eye on our waterways and wetlands right across the catchment.

Great work team!



Britt Gregory
Acting Regional Waterwatch Coordinator
North Central CMA
Phone: 03 5448 7124
Email: britt.gregory@nccma.vic.gov.au

Water Storages Update

Region	Water Storage	% full at 27 April	% full at 26 May
Murray Storages	Dartmouth Dam	63.76	↑63.91
	Hume Dam	43.08	↑44.74
	Third Lake	49.03	↓47.27
	Reedy/Middle Lk	95.93	↓87.74
	Kangaroo Lake	96.42	↓92.46
	Kow Swamp	76.16	↓74.43
	Lake Boga	69.48	↓68.75
	Lake Charm	88.77	↓86.31
Loddon Storages	Cairn Curran Res	38.53	↓37.67
	Tullaroop Res	41.80	↓40.06
	Laanecoorie Res	41.00	↓40.14
Bullarook Storages	Newlyn Res	71.95	↓69.58
	Hepburns Lagoon	64.69	↑66.77
Goulburn Storages	Lake Eildon	57.24	↓55.32
	Waranga Basin	33.53	↑37.11
Campaspe	Lake Eppalock	35.82	↓34.78
Coliban Water Storages	Upper Coliban Res	83.40	↓77.20
	Lauriston Res	88.00	↑95.00
	Malmsbury Res	21.5	↓20.70

Source:
www.g-mwater.com.au/water-resources/catchments/storage-levels
www.coliban.com.au/about-us/reservoir-levels



Upcoming events and special days

June	
Mabo Day	3 June
World Environment Day	5 June
International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing	5 June
World Oceans Day	8 June
World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought	17 June
July	
Plastic Free July	July
NAIDOC Week	4-11 July
Schools Tree Day	30 July
World Ranger Day	31 July
August	
National Tree Day	1 August
Landcare week	4-6 August
National Science Week	14-22 Aug
Keep Australia Beautiful Week	16-22 Aug
World Humanitarian Day	19 August

Sustainable Ag snippet...

Two North Central CMA regenerative agriculture groups invited Dick Richardson to present to them about, regenerative grazing. Dick has had more than 20 years' experience in holistic management and grazing principles and has a passion for nature and the symbiotic relationships with nature. The workshops were attended by more than 40 people with all of them keen to learn more about improving grazing practices and soil health. The day started with discussions on soil health and landscape function, Dick does not use technology to present, instead he does a lot of drawing using butchers' paper to explain the connections between soil, energy, plants, and soil biota. His demonstrations worked quite well in explaining the historic aspect of how the landscape and plants evolved.



Dick Richardson talking to one of the participants.

After lunch participants were quite keen to get out in the paddock. There were lots of discussion on the pasture species, grazing patterns, soil and animal manure. Dick brought his shovel to have look below the soil surface, the main focus was on the plant roots and the difference between the soil structure where there were living roots and no roots. The difference with the soil structure around the plant roots was quite visible with the soil clinging to the plant roots and forming small clods. The group also observed the animal manure in the paddock, taking note of the formations of different manures. Dick discussed animal manure and mentioned

that the manure formation is a good indicator of the animal's diet.



Dick Richardson discussion on animal manure.

Participants enjoyed the day with many questions being asked throughout the session and also taking home some practical skills they can perform on their own properties.

Courses & Resources...

National Soil Strategy

The National Soil Strategy sets out how Australia will value, manage and improve its soil for the next 20 years.

The Strategy highlights three overarching goals:

- prioritise soil health
- empower soil innovation and stewards
- strengthen soil knowledge and capability

Actions to address these goals will ensure that soil continues to contribute to agricultural productivity, environmental sustainability, and economic growth – now and into the future.

More information available at:
<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/ag-farm-food/natural-resources/soils/national-soil-strategy>

Events...



Reconciliation Week - Central Victorian Indigenous Film Festival



The Central Victorian Indigenous Film Festival is back in 2021 to celebrate National Reconciliation Week.

Experience a range of films, videos, activities and discussions in local venues and online. This year's festival showcases an exciting range of Indigenous films, documentaries and videos starring and telling stories about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people

[Click here for the full program.](#)

Tabilk Mooroopook (Spirit of Country) celebration at Booladj Kiarp Boolealong (Creeks Meet)

Talks from Koorie perspectives around Spirit of Country and a celebration of Tabilk Mooroopook Indigenous Landcare Group and Creeks Meet site

Liarga Balug clanlands, Castlemaine. Reconciliation Week Koorie led Landcare, Landcarers and friends event.

Saturday 29th May
10am to 1pm

A series of short presentations from speakers will include:

- Uncle Rick Nelson
- Uncle Ron Murray

- Kath Coff (Nalderun CEO)
- Ian Higgins (Friends of Campbells Creek Landcare Group) and others

An Indigenous plant display from Frances Cincotta (Newstead Natives and Newstead Landcare) will be onsite.

A tasting menu will be available via catering gurus Murnong Mamas.

BBQ lunch fundraiser will be provided by Nalderun-gold coin donations.

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/tabilk-mooroopook-spirit-of-country-celebration-at-booladj-kiarp-bolealong-tickets-154358820387>

2021 Women of Wool Lunch



Tickets to the 2021 Australian Sheep and Wool Show luncheon The Women of Wool are now on sale, and this year's event promises more great speakers, fantastic company, fashion and a return to comedy.

With the final line-up of special guests and presenters to be announced in coming weeks, organisers can't wait to host this event again, and you're invited to join in at the Bendigo Showgrounds.

Tickets include gate entry to the show, a two-course luncheon with beverages included, inspiring presenters and entertainment, plus access to all of the show's vendors, fashion parades, the Festival of Lamb and craft areas.

When: Friday July 16, 2021, 12pm - 2.30pm
Where: Bendigo Exhibition Centre at the Bendigo Showgrounds
Cost: \$120 per person
RSVP: online via [Women in Wool lunch](#)

Tomorrow Farmer

BCG is hosting this event with funding from FRRR's In a good place due to farmer feedback regarding the consequences poor communication can have on the farm business, the bottom line, safety and mental health.

When: 16 June 2021, 9am-3pm

Where: Birchip Leisure Centre

Cost: free

RSVP: [Tomorrow Farmer – Birchip Cropping Group \(bcg.org.au\)](#)



BOM Webinar - Winter 2021 climate and water update

Join climate experts for an update on temperature, rainfall and other conditions to date, and an in depth look at the outlook for winter 2021. Register now to learn how the Bureau's climate and water information can help you make important decisions for the season ahead.

When: June 3, 2021 11am

Where: online

Cost: free

RSVP: [Webex Events \(classic\)](#)



NLIS database training webinar – June

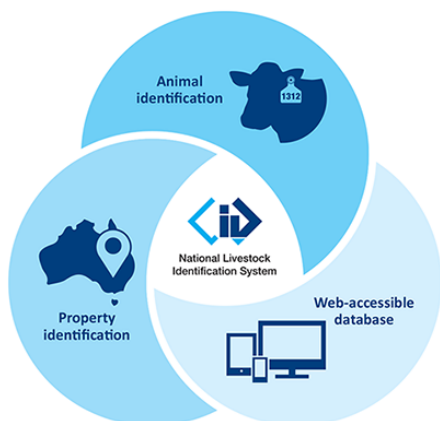
Agriculture Victoria is delivering interactive online training sessions for livestock producers using the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) database. Participants will learn about the Victorian traceability system, tour the NLIS database features and how to complete a Property to Property (P2P) transfer.

When: 26th May 2021, 10-11am

Where: online

Cost: free

RSVP: [NLIS database training webinar – June | Events | Support and resources | Agriculture Victoria](#)



23 - 29 MAY 2021

Get involved in Saltwatch Week!

Saltwatch is an environmental monitoring program that helps communities understand the salinity problem in our waterways. It began in 1987 and is Australia's longest-running citizen science program.

Snapshot monitoring provides a great opportunity to assess the condition of our waterways at a particular point in time. The collaborative efforts of the many participants creates a picture of salinity across the state can show changes in salinity hot spots over time, illustrate the effects of climatic changes such as drought, and may even pick up long term trends.

Being involved is easy and anyone can participate.

For more info go to [the Saltwatch webpage](#)

Funding opportunities...

2021 Victorian Landcare Grants

CLOSING SOON

The 2021 Victorian Landcare Grants are open until Wednesday, June 16

The Victorian Government is providing \$2.55 million funding to support Landcare and environmental volunteering groups and networks for on-ground works, education, and capacity building projects that protect, enhance, and restore our land and natural environment.

Groups and networks can apply for up to \$30,000 for projects that protect, enhance, and restore Victoria's land and environment. Support grants of up to \$500 are available to help with administration and running costs.

The annual group health survey is part of the application process for the 2021 Victorian Landcare Grants, but groups who are not applying for a grant are also strongly encouraged to complete the survey.

The information provided by this annual survey is vital for understanding the health of groups across Victoria and is used in Catchment Management Authority and Victorian Government planning, reporting and communications.

For everything related to the VLG process, contact Regional Landcare Coordinator, Tess Grieves: 0438 357 874 or tess.grieves@nccma.vic.gov.au

Applications close Wednesday 16 June. Go to [Landcare | North Central CMA](#)



Applications close: 16 June 2021

On-farm Energy Assessments

Expert advice on how to reduce energy use, improve energy efficiency and manage energy costs.



On-Farm Energy Assessments analyse on-farm energy use (electricity, gas and diesel) and identify opportunities to make energy savings, improve output volumes and convert to renewable energy sources.

The assessments are conducted by registered, independent experts and are available free of charge to eligible primary producers.

On-farm energy assessments form part of the Victorian Government's Agriculture Energy Investment Plan (AEIP) and are a requirement for the On-farm Energy Grant program.

Assessment applications close Wednesday 15 July: [Agriculture Energy Investment Plan | Business Victoria](#)