

# North Central chat

MARCH 2013

*Keeping you up-to-date with all the Landcare news  
with a splash of Waterwatch*

## A message from the Regional Landcare Coordinator

Hi everyone,

This is quite possibly my favourite time of year because eating ridiculous amounts of chocolate is socially acceptable! I have just managed to squeeze in the March edition of the newsletter before the well deserved break. I hope the Easter bunny or bilby, whichever you prefer, treats you well and you get to enjoy some quality time with family and friends.

March has been busy, busy, busy to say the least! There has been a plethora of events across north central Victoria on just about every topic imaginable. It is fair to say we have been spoilt for choice. I was involved in two North Central CMA organised events, the 2013 Future Farming Expo at Yarrowalla and the Native Fish Forum at Cohuna.

The Future Farming Expo, held at Yarrowalla on Thursday 14 March had something for everyone. The calibre of speakers was fantastic. More than 150 people turned out to hear keynote speakers Jane Bunn and Darren Doherty (*pictured right*). Jane talked about the accuracy of weather forecasts and provided everyone with a better understanding of weather terminology while Darren discussed 'Regenerative agriculture' and ran a session on kitchen gardens. The concurrent sessions covered everything from social media and soil pits to seasonal forecasts and accessing global markets.

To find out about what was presented at the Native Fish Forum in Cohuna read the Waterwatch section of the newsletter.

Take care,

**Jodie Odgers**

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

## This Month's Contents:

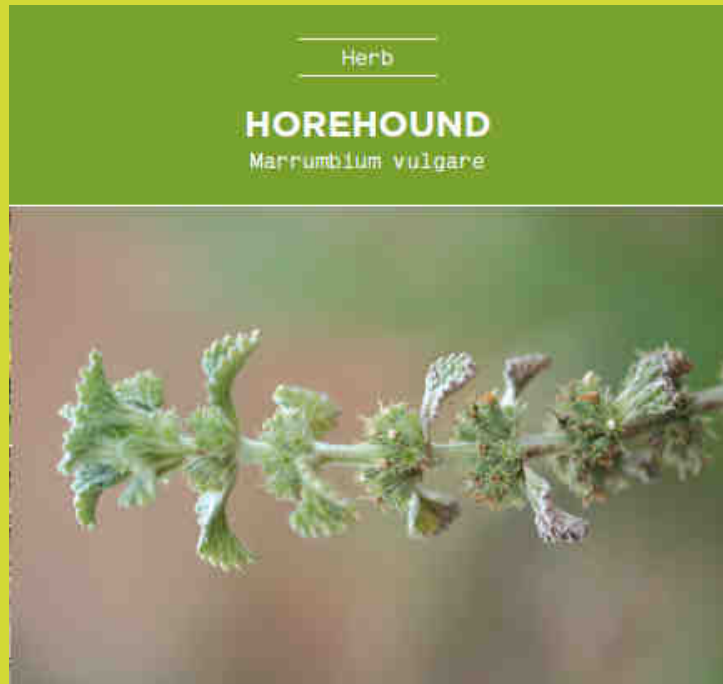
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**STOP THE PRESS:** *the beautiful photo of a curlew that featured on the front page of the February newsletter wasn't taken by John Elder it was actually taken by local Fred Brunings. Apologies Fred!*

## Weed of the month...

Weeds Identification Guide - North Central Victoria.



### (White Horehound)

**Description:** An erect bushy herb to 75 cm tall.

**Flowers:** White, 6–10 mm long, formed in dense rounded clusters surrounding the stem at the nodes. Flowers from summer through to autumn.

**Leaves:** Blue/green with a silvery appearance due to hairs on top and woolly underneath. Crinkled and leathery, rounded up to 7 cm diameter. Edges slightly serrated and veins sunken on the upper surface.

**Stems:** Woody at the base, covered with dense hairs and much branched at the top.

**Note:** Widespread weed of pastures, roadsides and cropping fringes.

Regionally Controlled Weed

Perennial



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

## News...

### Victorian Climate Change Adaptation Plan released

Victoria’s first Climate Change Adaptation Plan sets out how the Victorian Government is managing the risks of a changing climate to our assets, essential infrastructure and services such as our waterways, our transport systems, and our healthcare and emergency response systems. It was tabled in Parliament by the Minister for Environment and Climate Change, the Hon. Ryan Smith MP, on 19 March 2013.

This first adaptation plan focuses on government preparedness. It will help Victoria to minimise the costs of any potential impacts, and to harness any opportunities that could arise from changes in our climate.

The plan recognises that we all have a role to plan for increasing our resilience to climate risks – all levels of government, business and communities – and provides guidance on roles and responsibilities.

The plan sets out six key strategies to build Victoria’s climate resilience, providing a new framework for adaptation planning across the Victorian Government:

- Managing risks to public assets and services
- Managing risks to natural assets and natural resource-based industries
- Building disaster resilience and integrated emergency management
- Improving access to research and information for decision making
- Supporting private sector adaptation
- Strengthening partnerships with local government and communities.

The *Victorian Climate Change Adaptation Plan* can be downloaded from [www.climatechange.vic.gov.au/adapting-to-climate-change/Victorian-Climate-Change-Adaptation-Plan](http://www.climatechange.vic.gov.au/adapting-to-climate-change/Victorian-Climate-Change-Adaptation-Plan).

## A Great Time to Take Out the Trash!

After some lovely soaking rain and the chance to finally enjoy some last minute summer storms, the clouds parted to make way for a glorious day to 'Clean up Australia'. This year Longlea and District Landcare Group teamed up with Goulburn-Murray Water for its latest local environmental project; Clean Up Australia Day.

On Sunday 3 March 2013, people all over Australia took to our Streets, Parks, Creeks and Lakes to participate in one of 6,566 registered Clean Up Australia Day sites. Volunteers across our district converged on Lake Eppalock to take on many of our most foul environmental threats... litter, garbage, waste, refuse, rubbish, trash... we took them all on!

Goulburn-Murray Water has a 'carry in, carry out' policy in place around most of the Lake after the previous rubbish bins were abused with dumping of inappropriate rubbish and destroyed by vandals. It is the responsibility of all the visitors to the Lake to take their rubbish home and dispose of it appropriately. Please leave the site clean and tidy for everyone to enjoy.

Goulburn-Murray Water kindly supported this event by supplying a 3 metre skip bin for all the weird and wonderful items we collected from the site. Over 20 large bags of loose rubbish were collected from around the 1500 metre section of the Lake. All of the rubbish left behind by previous Lake visitors can be easily disposed of in household waste and recycling services. Although one litterer kindly left one of our volunteers a gold coin donation for their clean-up efforts.



All those who visit Randalls Cove and Strath Bay areas of Lake Eppalock (behind the Kimbolton Kiosk) can now enjoy a rubbish free shoreline thanks to the commitment of the generous volunteers who came along to lend a hand. A big thank you to all that were involved on the day.

If you see any littering or illegal dumping, record as much detail as possible and report it to the EPA on 1300 372 842 or fill out a Litter Report Form via the EPA website:

[www.epa.vic.gov.au/get-involved/report-litter](http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/get-involved/report-litter).

Together we can keep Australia beautiful.

For more information about Longlea and District Landcare Group please contact the Secretary: Paul Somerville. Write to C/- Post Office

Junortoun 3551 or email [ps.kh@bigpond.com](mailto:ps.kh@bigpond.com).



For more information on Goulburn-Murray Water and Lake Eppalock please call (03) 5826 3500 or visit [www.g-mwater.com.au](http://www.g-mwater.com.au).

## New Path Opens Up Lushington Hill Bushland Reserve for All to Enjoy

In February more than 40 folks aged from 2 to 90+ gathered to celebrate the creation of a walking path at Lushington Bushland Reserve in Martin St, Castlemaine.

McKenzie Hill Action & Landcare Group used a \$2,450 Parks Victoria grant to create the meandering path. It is anticipated that the path will lead to more locals appreciating the reserve and judging by the attendance at the official opening this should prove to be the case.

Many agreed that the path, which meanders through the lower reaches of the reserve, has already made it much more accessible.

The path was opened by local children cutting red ribbons at each end of the path. This was followed by a walk along the path, though not everybody was content with a single circuit - one two-year old managed six laps and wanted more! A BBQ meal was then enjoyed at the new picnic tables.

Landcare members have worked tirelessly under the leadership of president Jan Hall in conjunction with Parks Victoria and the Shire of Mount Alexander to transform what was once a heavily weed infested bit of bush into a beautiful and useable section of National Park. McKenzie Hill Action and Landcare Group began removing Spiny Rush, Gorse and Blackberry from the Reserve about five years ago. Many working bees, plantings and waterings later have resulted in a really beautiful area with picnic tables, information boards and seats at a number of locations along the path. The path creation was part of Stage 1 and there are future plans to open up and promote the interesting geological features evident in the upper reaches of the reserve. There is still much weeding and revegetation to be done and new members are most welcome to join in creating a beautiful bushland reserve and educative resource for the enjoyment of all - for now and for future generations. The group believes in enjoying their work and fostering a vibrant, social aspect. Contact Jan Hall on 03 5470 5556.



## Focus on Forest Soils

The Goldfields of central Victoria have quite a reputation when it comes to soil - 'a reputation for not having any'. And if you've ever planted out your garden with a 'Castlemaine Shovel' (otherwise known as a crow bar), then you'll know it is often a well-deserved one. But, as participants in Connecting Country's 'Forest Soils' workshop found out recently, a range of soils do still occur throughout the shire - albeit with less depth and fertility than would have occurred prior to the gold rush era.

The workshop was held over two consecutive Sundays in February. On the first weekend, Dr Lesley Hodgson from Latrobe University introduced participants to the geology of our region and the process by which soils are created over long periods of time. She also taught participants how to undertake field measurements of the texture, pH and colour of soil at different depths. Participants examined soil from an area of sedimentary country above Moonlight Flat and also from an area of granite-derived soils at nearby Faraday. The soils were found to be quite different in texture, and were surprisingly acidic at both locations.

The second day of the workshop initially investigated the relationship between soils and vegetation. Following a ridgeline near Glenluce, local ecologist Damien Cook led participants from the dry, shallow soils at the top of a hill down to the much deeper soils along the creek. Damien pointed out how the composition of plant species changed as the soil changed; short, spindly trees and lots of shrubs at the top of the hill and large straight trees with a grassy understorey occurring down the bottom. The type of soil, depth of soil, and associated availability of water were the most important factors driving which plants grew where in the forest.

Local resident Doug Ralph then lead participants on a meandering walk along Fryers Creek (near Irishtown) and showed them a diverse array of sites which clearly illustrated the effects that gold mining and gravel extraction have had on our soil. Dredging and sluicing in the early 20th Century has left deep erosion gullies, and in many places the topsoil was completely removed or washed away - right down to the bedrock. On a brighter note, Doug also told us how he has witnessed the natural regeneration of much of this landscape since he was a boy. Large areas that were once completely devoid of vegetation are now covered

in Wirilda and other acacias that have regenerated from the soil seed bank; fertile topsoils are being created again.

The forest soil workshop was part of Connecting Country's 2013 Education Program. See the Education Program 2013 on the Connecting Country website for more details ([www.connectingcountry.org.au](http://www.connectingcountry.org.au)).

## Have you seen this weed?

**Article featured in AgScene Thursday 21 March 2013**

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is on the lookout for Scotch Thistle (pictured on the following page) in the North Central CMA region.

DPI knows of one confirmed infestation in the Loddon valley near the township of Logan.

DPI Biosecurity Officer Barton Roberts said Scotch Thistle was a highly invasive annual or biennial herb which posed a significant threat to agriculture and the environment if left untreated.



"The plant is unpalatable and can reduce a farm's carrying capacity," Mr Roberts said.

"If existing Scotch Thistles are not treated and they become well established, pastures may be overrun as the large leaves smother its competitors.

"Scotch Thistle is a regionally prohibited weed in the North Central CMA region, meaning its

distribution is considered limited but it has the potential to spread further.

"It is therefore very important to determine the full extent of infestations of Scotch Thistle in the region so DPI can plan management actions with the long-term aim of eradication.

"In other parts of Victoria there are infestations of Scotch Thistle ranging from 50-100 hectares, with some over 200 hectares in size.

"If left untreated Scotch Thistle has the potential to spread across the south west of the North Central CMA region, into the Inglewood, St Arnaud, Avoca and Maryborough areas."

Scotch Thistle can grow to two metres, with one main stem and numerous branches and broad spiny wings.

Flowers are purple or mauve and leaves are spiny with dense white woolly hairs on the underside.

Scotch Thistle is often confused with other thistle species, especially Spear Thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*).

The most obvious difference is the leaf and stem appearance. Scotch Thistle is covered with a mat of white hairs giving it a white appearance. Spear Thistle has dark green leaves giving it a darker appearance.

If landowners believe they have sighted Scotch Thistle, they are encouraged to contact the DPI call centre on 136 186.

Further information on Scotch Thistle is available at [www.dpi.vic.gov.au/weeds](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/weeds)



## Snaps of the month!

If you are interested in what the Loddon River looked like in 1872 here it is, the image is from 140 years ago and is held by the State Library of Victoria. The description is "Looking along river surrounded by bushland, man and child sitting in a row boat near the bank with fishing poles made of sticks."



Below the image is a 2013 picture of the same site photographed by Loddon River Advocate, Paul Haw, from Boort. Paul located the site just downstream of Bridgewater. Thanks Paul.



Please keep sending your snaps to [jodie.odgers@nccma.vic.gov.au](mailto:jodie.odgers@nccma.vic.gov.au).

## Events

### Newstead Landcare Group present Bird Photography – Tips and techniques, with Chris Tzaros

As well as providing some practical information on the topic, the presentation will showcase some of Chris' breathtaking images. All are welcome to attend - gold coin donation to the Newstead Landcare Group appreciated.

**Date:** Thursday 25 April

**Time:** 8:00 pm – 9:00 pm

**Location:** Newstead Community Centre

### Mapping great change: the landscape of central Victoria 22 March – 16 June 2013

*Mapping great change: the landscape of central Victoria* is an exhibition that encourages a deeper understanding of the literal, cultural and historical foundations of the central Victorian region. The exhibition explores significant historical and cultural changes occurring upon and within the land following the advent of European occupation in the early 1800s. Historical maps tell of a landscape radically transformed by agriculture, mining and mass settlement and illuminate layers of complex stories underpinned by the specific geological composition of the area and its rich resources.

Along with short films from the series *The Map and Remembering* directed by Gerry Gill, Lecturer, Sociology and Aboriginal History, La Trobe University, Bendigo, important cultural artefacts from the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation collection will be on display. In addition, the exhibition will include traditional surveying equipment and look at the role of surveyors and colonial map making in the squatting, mining and agricultural phases of settler history.



An extensive program of free and low cost events will run in conjunction with the exhibition; Sunday 17 March, [Creative Landscapes: Family Fun in the Forest](#) with acclaimed local artist John Wolesley and the Bendigo Family Nature Club; Friday 12 April & 31 May, [Walking the land: tours on Country](#) with Dja Dja Wurrung people; and a series of evening and lunchtime talks including Tuesday 26 March, [Bendigo Creek: past, present and future](#) and Tuesday 9 April, [Native Title: a journey toward land justice](#).

Follow the links to find out more about these programs, call the Gallery on 5434 6088 to book and visit [www.bendigoartgallery.com.au](http://www.bendigoartgallery.com.au) for more great programs and events!

## A Precious Place: Views from the Wombat Forest

*Photographic Exhibition - Opening Friday 26 April 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm*



Exhibiting until Thursday 9 May at the Trentham Neighbourhood Centre Corner of High and Market Streets.

Amateur or professional photographers - Submit your favourite images of our wonderful Wombat to help us make our show a success.

Please drop up to three images, ready to hang into the Trentham Neighbourhood Centre between 10:00 am and 3:00 pm on Friday 26 April. Early submissions can be dropped at the Centre from Monday 22 April. Please include your name, the title of the image and a price if applicable.

Please email [info@wombatforestcare.org.au](mailto:info@wombatforestcare.org.au) for a registration form.

For enquiries contact Lois 03 5424 1 629 or Judy 03 5424 1 575 or email [info@wombatforestcare.org.au](mailto:info@wombatforestcare.org.au).

## Change of date - Upper Campaspe Landcare Network's Blueprint workshop

Due to a number of groups being unable to make the date, the Upper Campaspe Landcare Network's Blueprint workshop that was planned for Sunday 17 March has been rescheduled to 2pm Sunday, 28 April, at Barfold Hall.

The workshop in Woodend went really well, with lots of information and ideas being shared. The success of these workshops really depends on those attending, and with a number of groups being unable to attend the March meeting the network thought that it was best to reschedule. It's a busy time of year, and they are hoping the new proposed date will suit people better.

Please give Mel Husada a call on 03 5423 2823 or 0402 811 162 if you have any queries about the workshop, or the development of the Blueprint.

## Reminder - Fungi Workshops Autumn 2013

The Victorian Fungi Workshops are running again this autumn with a variety of seminars, workshops, forays and feasts on offer. Further information can be found at [www.alisonpouliot.com](http://www.alisonpouliot.com) or contact Alison directly at [alison@alisonpouliot.com](mailto:alison@alisonpouliot.com). All bookings are managed by the venues so please contact them directly to reserve your place.

### WOODEND - Saturday 6 April 2013

*Fungi - An Introduction to a Curious Kingdom*

**Time:** 10:30 am - 4:30 pm

**Cost:** \$75

**Bookings:** (03) 5427 1845 or [reception@woodendnh.org.au](mailto:reception@woodendnh.org.au)

### WOODEND - Sunday 7 April 2013

*The Bizarre & the Beautiful - A Deeper Exploration of a Curious Kingdom*

**Time:** 10:30 am - 4:30 pm

**Cost:** \$75

**Bookings:** (03) 5427 1845 or [reception@woodendnh.org.au](mailto:reception@woodendnh.org.au)

**TRENTHAM – Thursday 18 April 2013***Fungi of the Wombat Forest***Time:** 7pm**Cost:** Gold Coin Donation.

Further information

[info@wombatforestcare.org.au](mailto:info@wombatforestcare.org.au)**TRENTHAM – Saturday 20 April 2013***Fungi – An Introduction to a Curious Kingdom***Time:** 10:30 am – 4:30 pm**Cost:** \$75**Bookings:** (03) 5424 1354 or[trentham@ourneighbourhood.org.au](mailto:trentham@ourneighbourhood.org.au)**TRENTHAM – Sunday 21 April 2013***The Bizarre & the Beautiful – A Deeper Exploration of a Curious Kingdom***Time:** 10:30 am – 4:30 pm**Cost:** \$75**Bookings:** (03) 5424 1354 or[trentham@ourneighbourhood.org.au](mailto:trentham@ourneighbourhood.org.au)**CRESWICK – Saturday 27 April 2013***Fungi – An Introduction to a Curious Kingdom***Time:** 10:30 am – 4:30 pm**Cost:** \$75**Bookings:** (03) 5345 2356 or[creswick@ourneighbourhood.org.au](mailto:creswick@ourneighbourhood.org.au)**CRESWICK – Sunday 28 April 2013***The Bizarre & the Beautiful – A Deeper Exploration of a Curious Kingdom***Time:** 10:30 am – 4:30 pm**Cost:** \$75**Bookings:** (03) 5345 2356 or[creswick@ourneighbourhood.org.au](mailto:creswick@ourneighbourhood.org.au)**Growing organic fruit workshops**

This series of fun, information packed, and hands-on workshops will teach you how to grow organic fruit at home with confidence, and save you money. Hugh and Katie Finlay from **Grow Great Fruit**, in partnership with **Collingwood Children's Farm**, are running six half-day workshops that can be done separately, or together making up a short course covering all aspects of home fruit growing.

The six workshops are running at two venues - Mt Alexander Fruit Gardens (MAFG) in Harcourt, central Victoria; and Collingwood Children's Farm (CCF) in Melbourne. With four different times for each workshop, you can mix and match times and venues to suit yourself.

**Yearly Fruit Tree Planner**

If you only get to one workshop, this is the one that can make most difference! Follow a fruit tree

through a year, and build a **Seasonal Management Plan to help your fruit trees be fruitful, healthy, and productive for life.**

**MAFG:** Thursday 2 May and Sunday 2 June**CCF:** Saturday 20 April and Friday 31 May**Building Healthy Soil**

Healthy soil is the basis for healthy food, and is the immune system of your garden. You'll meet soil microbes, **learn ways to build healthy soil and** simple soil tests to do at home - so be prepared to get your hands dirty!

**MAFG:** Sunday 5 May and Friday 24 May**CCF:** Saturday 20 April and Friday 31 May**Worm Farms and Compost Tea**

Learn how to create supercharged soil **that uses less water, stores carbon and grows disease-resistant plants using compost tea to multiply the benefits of worm castings. Take home plans for a worm farm and compost tea brewer.**

**MAFG:** Sunday 5 May and Wednesday 5 June**CCF:** Thursday 18 April and Sunday 12 May**Pest and Disease Control**

Get the knowledge to identify and treat common pests and diseases of fruit trees, plus learn key principles behind a biodiverse garden that is less likely to attract problems. Includes hands-on experience making organic sprays.

**MAFG:** Sunday 28 April and Friday 24 May**CCF:** Thursday 18 April and Sunday 12 May



### Pruning Deciduous Fruit Trees

This workshop covers basic principles of pruning and establishing a tree in the productive 'vase' shape that suits most backyards. **You'll get skills and confidence to keep your deciduous fruit trees productive and healthy for life.**

**MAFG:** Thursday 2 May and Sunday 2 June

**CCF:** Wednesday 8 May and Sunday 23 June

### Grow Your Own Fruit Trees

Learn how to grow trees from seed or cutting, preserve heritage varieties and graft rootstocks or existing fruit trees.

**MAFG:** Sunday 28 April and Wed 5 June

**CCF:** Wednesday 8 May and Sunday 23 June

Workshop bookings & details:

[www.workshops.growgreatfruit.com.au](http://www.workshops.growgreatfruit.com.au).

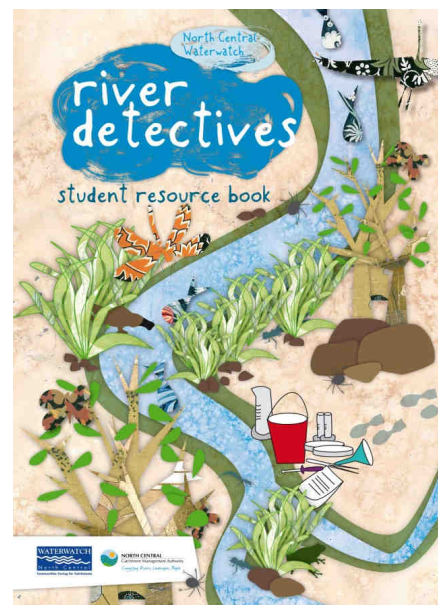
**Note: Spaces are limited due to the hands-on nature of the workshops.**



Hi everyone,

March has been a very busy month for Waterwatch with lots of exciting events and programs being delivered. The new River Detectives manual has finally been printed to accompany the 2013 River Detectives school program which is now in full swing. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Water Science Event held in Cohuna on 22 March was a success, equipping all participants with lots of information about the science behind native fish behaviour.

I am so pleased with how the new River Detectives manual looks and we are already receiving some great feedback from schools and students about the manual.



I hope you enjoy reading this 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

## Meet Cathy McCallum

Cathy started with the Waterwatch program as a community Waterwatch monitor in 2005, not long after becoming involved in the Local Landcare group. Cathy monitors a site on the Loddon River downstream from Lawrence's Bridge in Baringhup.



Once Cathy became familiar with the techniques used to test the water quality in the Loddon River she arranged for Baringhup Primary School to become involved in the North Central Waterwatch River Detectives program.

Waterwatch has been a catalyst for change in Cathy's life in the country. Firstly her interest in doing things which provides a scientific based process and an outcome is most satisfying. Cathy says, "I was so happy to be part of a team of community monitors and working with the team leader who has always provided me with a sense of doing something worthwhile.

"Since the Baringhup Primary School has become involved with the Waterwatch monitoring program a number of the students have become proficient in the testing procedure and even more have become engaged with the river. They now have a connection with the river environs that I believe was not there prior to becoming River Detectives.

"In both 2010 and 2011 the River Detective students were an extremely capable bunch of kids and I was encouraged by their enthusiasm and intelligence. As a result of their interest we

submitted articles for the local weekly newspaper, The Tarrangower Times, illustrating aspects of their Waterwatch work, the testing data and their experiences of the river. The articles were well received."

When asked what Cathy enjoys most about the Waterwatch program she said:

**Me:** Actually going to the river and setting up the equipment and taking time to do the test.

**Students:** Observing their enthusiasm and keenness to do the tests and write up the data.

**Me:** Comparing the monthly and yearly results

**Students:** Their improvement in testing and efforts to keep the river site clean.

## Our River Detectives Get Wet with Water Science

Throughout the year Waterwatch runs three main River Detective activities in schools - Water Science, Saltwatch Week and Macroinvertebrate studies.

In March, eight schools from across north central Victoria got involved in our Water Science Activity. This activity has been developed to meet the following AusVELS Domain and (Level): Science (F-6), Humanities (F-6), Civics and Citizenship (F-6).

### What is Water Science?

Gathering information about our rivers and creeks contributes to a bigger picture of our waterway health and to the community's broad understanding of our natural environment.

By participating in the River Detectives program, students help to keep our local rivers, streams and creeks healthy. River Detectives are actually scientists who conduct chemical and physical tests to help determine the health of the local creek or river.

### What did we test for?

Students tested a range of parameters including Electrical Conductivity, Turbidity, pH, Reactive Phosphorus, Water and Air temperature.



Each month students will complete these tests and fill in a Water Quality Results sheet which are then entered into the online Waterwatch Victoria database, found at <https://vicdata.waterwatch.org.au>

### **Native Fish Forum improves recreational fishers understanding of the science behind fish behaviour**

The 2nd Annual Water Science Forum: A Focus on Fish held in Cohuna on 22 March proved a hit with participants.

Around 45 community members turned out from across the region to hear from expert fish ecologists such as Clayton Sharpe, Justin O'Connor, Anthony Conallin and Ivor Stuart. There were some great discussions had on the day, including discussions around the great Murray Cod and the fact that they aren't known to eat dogs! – thanks Jodie for reminding me about that!!

We also learnt that that the male Murray Cod looks after the eggs while the female heads off to find a new partner!

**Copies of the presentations made on the day will soon be available on the North Central CMA website.**

## **Courses and resources**

### **In Safe Hands Toolkit & Safety Management workshop**

In Safe Hands is a Safety Management System designed for community groups in practical conservation. The content and processes have been adapted from Conservation Volunteers Australia's own system and is based on 30 years of knowledge and experience in managing volunteers in practical conservation. Recent enhancements and access to this toolkit and workshop opportunities for Landcare and other community groups has been made possible through funding from the Australian Government's Caring for our Country initiative.

All groups who wish to use the manual must register their details, via the registration process on the website ([www.insafehands.org.au](http://www.insafehands.org.au)), to receive the In Safe Hands Toolkit, workshop updates, content updates and support.

Registrations will be open until 30 June 2013.

#### **The Comprehensive Manual covers**

- Occupational Health and Safety policy
- Safety Management and Guidance notes
- Risk assessment information and format
- Induction for volunteers
- Set of proforma documents to address all aspects at the work site.

#### **Training**

Training workshops will be offered in select locations across the country from February to July 2013.

Workshop registration occurs in the process of downloading the In Safe Hands Toolkit.

**Location:** Bendigo  
Department of Sustainability and Environment  
Taylor St Epsom

**Date:** Thursday 16 May

**Time:** 9.15 am - 12.30 pm.

The training comes at no cost to participants. People are encouraged to book early.



A training DVD will also be available in 2013.

Additional workshops are available on request. Email [insafehands@cva.org.au](mailto:insafehands@cva.org.au) for details.

Visit [www.insafehands.org.au](http://www.insafehands.org.au) to download the In Safe Hands Toolkit and to register to attend a workshop.

## New LIFE website needs your input!

**Does your group need some new volunteers or maybe you have a one-off project that requires some additional support? Have you been involved in a great project and would like to share your story? Or maybe you want to promote your next event?**

The LIFE website has been updated to include a range of free branded resources that can be used by groups who would like to promote their activities using the LIFE campaign. You will find editable posters and flyers, as well as artwork for stickers, email signatures, and more.

You can now also actively search for volunteers by posting an ad on the new LIFE Jobs Board. It's free and easy to use and will help get the word out there to people who want to get involved in Landcare.

The new LIFE Stories section is all about sharing the fantastic stories that are out there in the Landcare community. Simply submit your 300 word story and a video or photo to accompany it and it will be shared for everyone to enjoy.

The Landcare events calendar has been given a makeover and you can now submit your event details online by completing a simple form.

Visit [www.landcarelife.com.au](http://www.landcarelife.com.au) to see how you can get involved with LIFE!



## Trees for Mum

*Trees for Mum* is a series of Mother's Day memorial tree-planting events, originally created for members of the community whose mothers had passed away. The events have since evolved into celebratory tree planting events for all mothers and take place annually on the second Sunday in May – Mother's Day in Australia.

If you are planning on hosting a *Trees for Mum* event, please be sure to email your event details to [admin@treesformum.com](mailto:admin@treesformum.com) and [events@landcareaustralia.com.au](mailto:events@landcareaustralia.com.au) to ensure that your event is added to the national *Trees for Mum* events calendar.

More information on *Trees for Mum* is available from [www.treesformum.com](http://www.treesformum.com) or through its Facebook page.

## Funding news

### 2013 Coles Junior Landcare Garden Grants

Since 2008 the Coles Junior Landcare Garden Grants program has been providing grants of up to \$1,000 to schools and youth groups to help create gardens in their grounds or community, such as bush tucker gardens, water wise gardens or veggie gardens.

These programs encourage students to learn about the environment through "outdoor learning" and interaction in developing their own school gardens.

- **Round 1:** Closed
- **Round 2:** Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May, 5pm (AEST)
- **Round 3:** Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 5pm (AEST)

**Please note all applicants will be notified about the outcome of the application via email one month after the round closing date.**

To download the application form, guidelines and criteria go to [www.juniorlandcare.com.au/grants-2/coles-grant](http://www.juniorlandcare.com.au/grants-2/coles-grant).

All schools, kindergartens, daycare centres, and youth groups (e.g. Scouts) are eligible to apply for a Coles Junior Landcare Garden grant.

## Funding of \$16 million is available under Volunteer Grants 2013

Volunteer Grants 2013 recognises the valuable work of Australia's volunteers. This initiative forms part of the Australian Government's ongoing commitment to organisations whose volunteers assist disadvantaged communities and encourage inclusion of vulnerable people in community life.

Funding of \$16 million is available to support and encourage volunteering. Eligible not-for-profit community organisations can apply for grants between \$1,000 and \$5,000 to:

- Purchase portable, tangible, small equipment items to help their volunteers
- Contribute to the reimbursement of fuel costs for their volunteers who use their own car to transport others to activities, deliver food, assist with medical appointments or help people in need
- Contribute to the reimbursement of transport costs incurred by volunteers with disability who are unable to drive
- Contribute to the cost of training courses and/or undertake background screening checks for their volunteers.

Funding is limited and applications will be assessed and prioritised according to how strongly they meet the selection criteria. The selection criteria, eligibility requirements and other essential information about Volunteer Grants 2013 are provided in the Volunteer Grants 2013 Application Guidelines which can be downloaded at [www.fahcsia.gov.au](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au). Go to Grants & Funding > Current Funding > the link for this grant is listed under OPEN.

All completed online applications must be received by **Wednesday 24 April 2013 at 5pm AEST**.

For more information contact the Volunteer Grants hotline on **1800 183 374** between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm, Monday to Friday. Alternatively email [vg2013@fahcsia.gov.au](mailto:vg2013@fahcsia.gov.au).

