

North Central chat

MAY 2014

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

A message from the Regional Landcare Coordinator

Hi everyone,

Have you read the autumn edition of the Victorian Landcare and Catchment Management magazine? If not, you probably should! The theme of issue 60 is Landcare Support and I was thrilled to see so many contributions from north central Victoria. If you don't receive a hard copy of the magazine don't worry, you haven't missed out. The magazine is always available online at the Victorian Landcare Gateway:

www.landcarevic.net.au/resources/magazine/vic.

I suggest you boil the kettle, make a cuppa and get comfortable, as it's always a great read!

In the April edition of the newsletter in the events section, you may have noticed the 'Trees for Mum' event advertised for Mother's Day in Woodend? Well I am pleased to say that the event, now in its third year, was a huge success. The Woodend Landcare Group managed to conjure up some spectacular weather in Woodend, which is no mean feat for their tree Trees for Mum event. Almost 300 people travelled to Woodend to plant a local native species at the newly opened Rotary Community Exercise Track, near Buffalo Stadium. The project was supported through a Victorian Landcare grant. It is truly amazing what you guys can achieve with a small amount of funding!

On Saturday 10 May I jumped on a bus with a few other community members and made the trip north to Koondrook for the 3rd Annual Water Science Forum. It was an early start but it was definitely worth missing a sleep in for. It was great to hear from such great speakers that are clearly passionate about the work that they do. To find out more about the day check out Cass Davis's Waterwatch section. Also, just so you know, we recorded all of the presentations on the day. So hopefully by the June edition of this newsletter the videos from the day will be uploaded on YouTube so you can watch the forum from the comfort of your home.

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Before I sign off there are two things I need to remind you about. The first is the 'Supporting Landcare in North Central Victoria' survey. It will be hitting inboxes and mailboxes in early June. Can you please make sure your group completes the survey - there will be some great prizes up for grabs! The second is the 2014-15 Victorian Landcare Grants are coming soon so it's best to start thinking and planning your project applications.

Until next time,

Jodie Odgers

Regional Landcare Coordinator
North Central Catchment Management Authority
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Weed of the month...

Bulb

WILD GARLIC

Allium vineale



(Crow Garlic, Field Garlic)

Description: An erect perennial which smells strongly of onions. It grows from a bulb up to 1 m tall.

Flowers: White, pink or greenish, on short stalks formed in terminal heads.

Leaves: Slender, cylindrical, hollow and becoming channelled on one side. Emerging from lower part of stem.

Stems: Erect, cylindrical, unbranched, sheathed for part of its length.

Bulbil (small bulbs): Bulbils form at the top of the stem. They are brown, smooth and shiny.

Note: Will contaminate meat and milk products if eaten by stock. Spreads from seed, bulbs and bulbils. Spread by stock, vehicles, machinery and in farm produce.

Regionally Controlled Weed Annual



CONTROL OPTIONS



VECTOR OF SPREAD

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News...

Hipwell Road Channel opens

Gunbower Forest has been allocated 66 Gigalitres of environmental water which is critical to ensure the forest continues its recovery following the millennium drought. This year the newly constructed Hipwell Road Channel is being used to deliver water into the forest for the first time.

The millennium drought was broken in 2010 by the large, prolonged natural flooding which inundated over 9,000 hectares (ha) of the forest.

The forest also received natural flooding in 2011 and 2012, resulting in the forest receiving three consecutive years of flooding.

Following the floods, no environmental water was delivered to Gunbower Forest in 2013 to allow a drying event.

“The drying phase has been important to reduce carp numbers in the forest wetlands and prepare the forest for the first operation of the Hipwell Road Channel,” said Anna Chatfield, North Central CMA’s Gunbower Forest Project Manager.

Ms Chatfield said there is little water remaining in the forest, including in permanent wetlands which have either receded to small residual pools or completely dried.

Delivering environmental water to the forest is important to fill the wetlands and flood the River Red Gums to ensure their water needs are met.



Permanent wetland, Reedy Lagoon, with only a residual pool remaining, November 2013. Photo: North Central CMA.

The Hipwell Road Channel enables environmental water to be delivered to the forest on a scale not possible before.

The watering will inundate almost 5,000 ha of the forest, filling 80% (over 1,000 ha) of the wetlands. Filling the wetlands will allow the wetland plants to germinate, grow and provide habitat and food for birds, fish, frogs and other animals.

“Testing of the Hipwell Road Weir off-take regulator and channel will also be part of the environmental water delivery, as well as testing the new fish lock and vertical slot fishway,” said Ms Chatfield.



Hipwell Road offtake regulator. Photo: Trevor Powis.

Access to Gunbower Forest

The flooding of almost 5,000 ha means that access within Gunbower Forest will be restricted between June 2014 and January 2015.

If travelling in Gunbower Forest when it is flooded observe track closure signs to ensure you and your companions stay safe. It is an offence to travel on a closed track within the State Forest and National Park. You can be fined if you disregard track closure notices within Gunbower Forest.

The North Central CMA, Parks Victoria and the Department of Environment and Primary Industries will work closely together over the coming months to ensure availability of up-to-date information about Gunbower Forest access.

For the latest forest access information contact:

Gunbower State Forest access contact DEPI www.depi.vic.gov.au or 136 186

Gunbower National Park access contact Parks Victoria: www.parkweb.vic.gov.au or 13 19 63

The ‘Gateway to Gannawarra’ Centre (90 King George St, Cohuna) will also have up-to-date access information, including flood inundation maps.

Despite some tracks being closed, access will still be available to some of the popular camping and fishing areas along the Gunbower Creek and the Murray River. The environmental watering will bring the forest to life making it a great time to visit! Locals and visitors to the region are encouraged to make the most of the fishing, camping, canoeing, bush walking and bird watching opportunities.

Cultural mapping project complete

Gunbower Forest Traditional Owners, Barapa Barapa, along with North Central CMA staff battled some hot weather over summer to complete three weeks of cultural field surveys within Gunbower Forest.

The team worked with archaeologist Dr. Colin Pardoe and plant ecologists Damien Cook, Doug Froid and Kate Bennetts to identify, record and map important traditional food, fibre and medicine plants and cultural heritage such as scar trees, shell middens and earth mounds.



Sharnie and Tom record a site using Differential GPS.

“The short time on Country was a walk in the footsteps of the Barapa Barapa Traditional Owners,” said North Central CMA Project Officer Robyn McKay.

“It’s important to record the significant cultural sites in the forest that are evidence of how the forest has been used by Barapa people for generations. It was a great opportunity for everyone to share their knowledge and stories of Gunbower Forest,” said Mrs McKay.

The information collected during the surveys will be used by Barapa Barapa people to document their rich cultural association with Gunbower Forest.

An interview with Joel Salatin

Transcribed by Joel Spry, Project Manager, North Central Catchment Management Authority.

I was lucky enough to be able to interview Joel Salatin, who Time Magazine called ‘the world’s most innovative farmer’, while he was in Australia. Our discussion hit on many topics surrounding where agriculture (and society) has found itself, the future of farming, traditions and health. The Polyface ‘the farm of many faces’ website is well worth a look - www.polyfacefarms.com.

At a recent event you were asked about the vegetarianism/animal welfare movement and your farms stance on animals. You said “I love animals; we should eat more of them”. Have you got any comments about vegetarianism and also about the impact on the environment as in removing the herbivores and the natural processes of ecology?

“In my book, ‘Folks, this ain’t normal’, I spend a lot of time articulating the historical place of the herbivore. We know (through historical observations and recordings by early explorers) that Australia used to have megafauna - huge herbivorous and marsupial critters - along with 18% soil organic matter and a hydration with streams, springs and water. Deep soils, rich and verdant - it was spectacular. The land degradation now is really hard to imagine. The other thing that we have to deal with of course is that there has been a lot of damage from overgrazing and from improper use of herbivores.

The whole thing is to try to recreate in a person’s mind the historical role of the herbivore, which was as a biomass pruner, to prune the biomass back, to restart the fast accumulation cycle between infancy and senescence. If the plant is overgrazed, in infancy and undergrazed to senescence, both of those extremities shut off the chlorophyllic/photosynthetic engine. And that’s why there aren’t any places in the world, except maybe Antarctica, that don’t have a herbivore, because it’s the herbivore that’s necessary to sustain life. It’s the pruner to restart this fast biomass accumulation cycle.

Most people, certainly if they have read the UN’s Long Shadow report and things by the radical environmentalist community, are completely jaundiced, not realising that all those reports are based on an anti-natural role of the herbivore. Feeding it grain, feeding it dead cows, chicken manure, chicken feathers, overgrazing, are all completely unnatural. A type of non-movement oriented type of thing where animals just continuously graze. It’s ok to have fences, but if you have fences, you break down the migratory patterns.

You have got to re-introduce that type of migratory movement within your fences. It is trying to again, to differentiate the historically normal role of the herbivore and predation, with the abnormal role that humans have assumed for that herbivore. Now we can take the technology we have (such as electric fencing) and re-mimic that historical role. Guess what? We can re-hydrate the landscape, sequester carbon, we can do some amazing, wonderful things. In fact it’s the most efficacious tool to do so, but you are not going to do it the way the studies and the data, that support the anti-herbivore agenda, assume.

The full interview transcript is available on request by contacting me via email: joel.spry@nccma.vic.gov.au.

Upgrades to Barkers Creek Reservoir - Harcourt Rural Modernisation Project

Coliban Water has commenced a series of essential works at Barkers Creek Reservoir as part of the Harcourt Rural Modernisation Project..

Ken Laing, Manager Infrastructure Delivery at Coliban Water, said, “Barkers Creek Reservoir is an important part of the supply network for the new piped rural system and water quality was a concern.

“To improve the water quality that will be supplied through the new pipes, pumps and filters of the new rural network we need to construct a floating arm offtake that will take water from the surface of the reservoir, where water quality is better, rather than from the bottom which is currently the case.

“Following the 2010/11 floods silt build up at the bottom of the storage has been an issue,” Mr Laing said.

The Barkers Creek Reservoir inlet structure will also be constructed, as well as repairs to hydraulics on an existing outlet valve. In order to complete these works, the reservoir will be drained and closed to the public for up to three months.

“These works are essential for the completion of the Harcourt Rural Modernisation Project.

“To complete these projects we will need to drain the reservoir and conduct a controlled release of water to Barkers Creek.

“The release commenced in the second week of May with approximately 1,200 megalitres released over a six week period.

“Water quality will be monitored in Barkers Creek during this time.

“We have liaised with the North Central CMA, Fisheries and the EPA in the planning for this project and will be working with them as the project progresses,” Mr Laing said.

The reservoir will then be gradually refilled.

“Once the works are complete we will commence refilling the reservoir from our Coliban catchment storages located near Kyneton, via the Coliban Main Channel.

“Refilling will be a gradual process to minimise water quality impacts.

“Our water security position is strong, with the storage to be partially refilled in time for the 2014/15 rural water supply season,” Mr Laing said.

Further information on the Harcourt Rural Modernisation Project, including the works at Barkers Creek Reservoir, can be found on the Harcourt Rural Modernisation Project page on the Coliban Water website www.coliban.com.au.

Rural landholder feedback drives North Central CMA efforts

Future investment in natural resource management will be strongly influenced by a rural landholder survey being undertaken by the North Central Catchment Management Authority (CMA).

The confidential survey is currently being posted to a random sample of 2,000 landholders across north central Victoria.

North Central CMA CEO, Damian Wells, said feedback received through the survey would underpin the organisation’s planning and investment.

“We know how passionate landholders are about the environment, including their rivers, wetlands and native vegetation. This research is about deepening our understanding of that passion and identifying where we can most effectively target our efforts to ensure greatest return for the environment,” Mr Wells said.

The survey, independently conducted by the highly-regarded Professor Allan Curtis and his team at Charles Sturt University, invites participants to share their thoughts on a range of social, economic and environmental issues affecting land management.

Questions cover topics such as soil health, weeds, waterway health and more general matters, including farm planning and the ways in which land owners prefer to receive information.

“We know from experience that successful on-ground outcomes are directly linked to how well we work with and listen to landholders,” Mr Wells said.

“If we’re to effectively dovetail our efforts with those of landholders, we need to hear their voice clearly – this survey is a tremendous means by which to do that. I do encourage anyone who receives the survey to fill it in.

“We’re looking forward to getting the results and to reporting on the outcomes. While the strong confidentiality built into the survey means information will only be available to us on a region-wide basis, it will provide a baseline for our ongoing efforts,” Mr Wells said.

The results of the survey will be reported later this year.



Snaps of the month!

The Gunbower Key Asset Protection project team has been working in partnership with the University of Western Sydney (UWS) to undertake turtle monitoring research on Gunbower Island. The UWS research project coincides with the North Central CMA project's annual fox baiting program, part of which involved remote sensor camera imagery to better understand the movement and feeding habits of foxes and their impact on turtle populations.



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



Hello everyone,

I hope you are all keeping warm when heading down to your monitoring sites to collect your samples this month. It has been a very busy month here; we launched the North Central Waterwatch Short Film, released of the North Central Waterwatch Waterbirds Field Guide, hosted the 3rd Annual Water Science Forum: A Focus on Waterbirds, and we are now engaging schools across the region in salinity studies.

Over the coming months we will continue to work on the North Central Waterwatch Strategic Support Plan. The aim of this plan is to provide strategic direction for the program over the next five years (2015-20). I will be engaging the North Central Catchment Management Authority (CMA) family, along with you; our Community Water Quality Monitors. We will be engaging River Detective schools, Landcare groups, Victoria Waterwatch, stakeholders and partners. It is a very exciting time as we set out to engage and support communities in participating in water quality monitoring programs that help protect and enhance our environment and contribute to natural resource management.

Upcoming activities:

- Review of the Waterwatch program
- Macroinvertebrate Environmental Flows (VEFMAP) monitoring - Lower Loddon River
- Preparing the Platypus roadshow with the 'Caring for the Campaspe' project
- Preparing the National Water Week events 19-25 October 2014

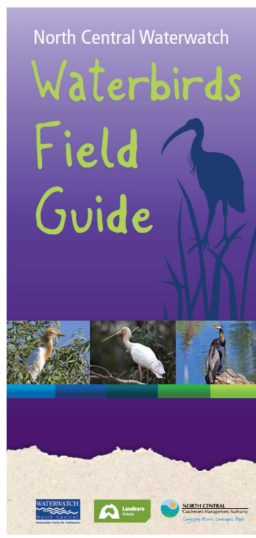
I hope you enjoy this month's contribution from Waterwatch. Until next time,

Cass Davis

Regional Waterwatch Coordinator
North Central Catchment Management Authority
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Phone: 03 5448 7124

Waterbirds! The Field Guide UPDATE

The North Central Waterwatch Waterbirds Field Guide has been published. Over 400 copies of the guide have been distributed to Waterwatch monitors, Landcare groups and organisations across the region. We are already getting some great feedback about how great the guide is.



North Central Waterwatch - Short Film Launch

Over the past 12 months, we have been working on the North Central Waterwatch Short Film: Celebrating 21 Years of Waterwatch. I'm sure you have all heard about it! At the start of May, three events were held across the region to showcase our community volunteers and their contribution to natural resources management. The film itself explored why some of our Community Water Quality Monitors are actively involved in the program and what drives them to continue their contribution over the time. Vera Lubczenko (Founder of Waterwatch in Victoria) explains how the program was initiated in the state; while Damian Wells (CEO, North Central CMA) highlights the importance of the program to the organisation and to the future of natural resource management planning in the future.

The film was a great opportunity to engage with volunteers and thank our local communities for their ongoing hard work.

Watch this short film celebrating countless Waterwatch volunteer hours clocked up over 21 years. Find out how Waterwatch began, how volunteering works and what makes it great.

Grab yourself a cuppa and check out the short film here:

www.nccma.vic.gov.au/Water/Waterwatch/index.aspx

Waterbirds Forum a great success!

On Saturday 10 May 2014, the 3rd Annual Water Science Forum: A Focus on Waterbirds 2014 took place in the Koondrook Cricket Club rooms. Over 55 community members attended the event to hear from four world class speakers about the secret lives of north central Victoria's waterbirds. The event was a hit, and we received some really great feedback from the community, who also received a copy of the new North Central Waterwatch Waterbirds Field Guide. The event was held in partnership with the Gunbower Forest Key Asset Protection project, The Living Murray program and the North Central Landcare Program.

Matt Herring, Wildlife Ecology, has been working on waterbird and wetland conservation since the late 1990s. Matt was invited to present on the topic of Agriculture and Waterbird Conservation. Matt discussed how migratory birds have recently left the country to breed in the northern hemisphere. He went on to explain how waterbirds are becoming dependent on farm dams as their natural systems decline. He gave insight into the importance of vegetation in and around wetlands for breeding waterbirds and discussed the role vegetation cover (density) and height plays in providing important habitat for certain species.



The four guest speakers answer questions at the Waterbirds Forum in Koondrook.



Inka Veltheim, an ecologist with 20 years' experience in fauna survey and management issues then discussed why monitoring and data collection is important and how it contributes to waterbird conservation. She shared her knowledge of how wetlands are in decline; explaining that this is partly due to conversion of natural wetlands to farm dams or cropping land, and that these practices have contributed to the loss of connectivity across the state. Inka highlighted the important need for research to be undertaken to better understand the conflicts between land use, development and waterbirds.

Anna Chatfield, Gunbower Forest Project Manager, is working to restore regular flooding to Gunbower Forest. Anna was invited to discuss the colonial waterbird breeding in the Gunbower Forest and the role of environmental flows. Anna described how Gunbower Forest supports a diversity of wetland types that are permanent and semi-permanent. She went on to explain the important cycle of wetlands, how they have a wet and drying regime and how this enables them to become highly productive, providing feeding and breeding habitat for waterbirds.

Jim Radford, Bush Heritage Australia, manages ecological research and monitoring programs across its 35 reserves covering nearly one million hectares. Jim was invited to present on identification of waterbirds found in north central Victoria. He explored the different habitats and how they relate to the type of bird you might be looking at. For example, out on the open water you are likely to find fish-eating birds such as pelicans, swans and ducks. In shallow open water (marshes, edges and swamps) you may find herons, egrets, spoonbills, avocets, stilts and shovelers. Jim discussed the best methods for identifying waterbirds. Look out for the shape of its body (is it plump or slender?); the size (relative to pigeon, duck, goose); its bill (shape, length and colour); the legs (length and colour); eye colour; neck to body ratio; does it have plumage, and what is the habitat it occupies?

Events

Grazing innovation forums highlight soil health

Innovative approaches to profitable pasture management will be the focus of two free forums to be held in the Maryborough and St Arnaud areas.

The forums, hosted by the North Central CMA, will examine breakthrough Australian approaches including 'pasture cropping', a technique involving the sowing of cereal crops directly into native perennial pastures to achieve long-term farm profitability.

Forum presenters will include Colin Seis, who has 20 years of experience in applying the systems being discussed, and Graeme Hand, who will speak on regenerative agricultural methods.

North Central CMA's Joel Spry said the forums were an opportunity for producers to hear how improving soil health drives profitability, lowers seasonal risk and addresses the causes of weeds and perennial pasture decline.

"There's now lots of evidence and on-farm outcomes to prove the merits of the systems Colin and Graeme are advocating. However, we recognise it's difficult for producers to find that information in one place, let alone have the time to read up on it all," Mr Spry said.





“We’re keen to break through the haze of the language too. Some refer to this approach as regenerative farming while others have called it sustainable farming. If you’re a producer the thing you’re looking for is healthy soil. The more you’re doing to care for your soil, the more you are doing to ensure the ongoing profitability of your business.”

Maryborough area - Wednesday 4 June 2014

10.00 am – 4.00 pm at the Bowenvale Hall, with a farm visit.

St Arnaud area - Thursday 5 June 2014

10.00 am – 4.00 pm at the Paradise Hall, with a farm visit

Please RSVP by Tuesday 3 June for catering purposes and directions (lunch included)
Phone (03) 5448 7124 or email
info@nccma.vic.gov.au.

Kara Kara CMN hosts a community seminar

Join the Kara Kara Conservation Management Network (CMN) for a community seminar in St. Arnaud.

Topics and speakers:

- ‘Lichens and mosses - jewels of the forest’ by Dr Graeme Ambrose, zoologist and recently retired lecturer in environmental management at Federation University, Ballarat. Graeme also has a strong interest in behaviours, ecology and botany.
- ‘The Big Twitch’ and other birding tales by Sean Dooley, comedian, author, birdwatcher and editor of Australian BirdLife magazine. Hear Sean’s entertaining presentation about his birding adventures, including his quest, in 2002, to achieve the record for seeing the most Australian bird species in a single year.

When: Friday 6 June 2014

Time: 10 am for 10.30 am start

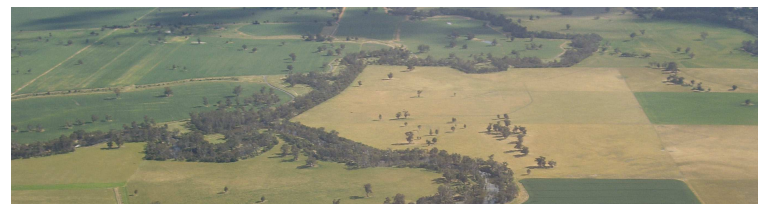
Venue: Community Meeting Room, St Arnaud Town Hall precinct, St Arnaud (behind the Library).

Sponsored by Parks Victoria and the Wimmera Regional Library, this free event includes a light lunch. Bookings are required by 2 June for catering purposes to 0428 160 297 or karakaracmn@gmail.com. All welcome.

Why bother about biodiversity on farms?

Explore the benefits of biodiversity on private property in a farming landscape at this community seminar.

Featuring ecologist David Baker-Gabb who will discuss ways in which biodiversity makes a contribution to sustainable farm productivity. He will use specific examples including the presence of native trees and pollination by bees and birds.



Local Landcare guru Bill Twigg (2013 Regional DEPI Sustainable Farm Practices Award recipient) will recount the first hand benefits he has enjoyed following his efforts to revegetate areas of his properties at Serpentine and Bears Lagoon.

Local presenters from the Loddon Plains Landcare Network, the Wedderburn Conservation Management Network and the North Central CMA will outline their efforts to improve on-farm biodiversity in the area, including the Kooyoora Connections Project.

When: Sunday 8 June 2014

Time: 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Where: Wedderburn Motel
43-49 High St, Wedderburn

RSVP: Wednesday 4 June with any dietary requirements to LPLN Facilitator, Anthony Gallacher on 03 5446 9249 or by email facilitator@lpln.org

This is a free event with afternoon tea provided.

This project is supported by the Loddon Plains Landcare Network, through funding from the Australian Government with support from the North Central Catchment Management Authority and the Wedderburn Conservation Management Network.

Baynton Sidonia Landcare Bus Tour of Local Trees

In response to popular demand, the Baynton Sidonia Landcare group is offering the community another bus tour of local trees on Sunday, 22 June with the spotlight this time on isolated mature paddock trees.

Local sawmiller and dedicated tree grower, Peter Stone, along with Ian Higgins of the North Central Catchment Management Authority's Kyneton Woodland Project, will lead the tour.

The tour is the culmination of a project the Landcare group has been working on for the last two years to protect mature isolated mid-paddock trees in the district. During the last Baynton Sidonia Landcare bus tour in 2012, the plight of mid-paddock trees was very clear.

"We found it devastating to see these fine old trees in the middle of paddocks with cattle camped directly under them compressing the soil and depositing far more dung than the tree can cope with because, all too often, these trees provide the only shade for stock in the paddock. And rarely did we see any young trees coming up nearby ready to take over the big old tree's role when, inevitably, it dies," commented Peter Stone.

"So the Landcare group applied for funds to protect at least a few of the big old trees on our farms. That has now been done and the bus tour will take people to have a look at a couple of these projects as well as more generally discussing the role of trees in the landscape. And we will also include the ever-popular theme of helping people improve their ability to recognise the various species of tree we have growing in our district."

When: Sunday 22 June 2014

Time: 11:00 am – 4:00 pm

Venue: Baynton Hall

Darlington Road, Baynton

Bookings are essential and can be made by contacting Clare on 03 5423 4152 or emailing clare@knco.net. Lunch will be provided and the day is free to participants.

The tour is funded by the Kyneton Woodland Project and a Victorian Landcare Grant and coordinated by Baynton Sidonia Landcare group.

Courses and resources

Landcare training workshops in June

Several workshops have been organised through the Victorian Landcare Program and are part of a training package for Landcare support staff.

The last three workshops are not fully booked by Landcare support staff so the remaining places are now available to community Landcarers.

Recruitment & Succession Planning

Date: Thursday 5 June

Time: 10:00 am – 3:30 pm

Venue: Mortlake

The workshop will cover strategies for attracting new members to groups, how to motivate and re-energise groups, and how and why groups/networks should develop succession plans.

To be delivered by Jen Lilburn from Kismet Forward.

Funding

Date: Wednesday 11 June 2014

Time: 9:30 am – 3:00 pm

Location: Wangaratta

The workshop will include funding application writing, meeting funding criteria, developing project proposals, creating an accurate budget, how to pursue other sources of funding, how to attract stakeholders, business development and contracts and negotiation skills with corporates.

To be delivered by Kerry Anderson from Words by Kerry Anderson.

Negotiation & Conflict Resolution

Date: Tuesday 17 June 2014

Time: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Location: Bairnsdale

You will learn about the practical application (in a Landcare context) of mediation and negotiation processes that enable parties to reach their own agreements. To be delivered by Dave Munday & Liz Brown from Future Creation.



Bookings: To book contact Karen Brisbane (Landcare Corporate Partnerships Facilitator) via email karenb@gbcma.vic.gov.au or phone 03 5820 1134 to book your preferred workshop. Karen will confirm your booking and provide details about the venue etc. Please book ASAP, as bookings are being done on a first-come-first-served basis.

Catering: lunch will be provided at all workshops. When booking, please provide details about any special dietary requirements.

Cost: Free. However, participants will have to cover any travel and accommodation costs that they may incur to attend the workshops.

Sign up for the Macedon Ranges Shire Council Environment eNewsletter!

The Macedon Ranges Shire produces a monthly eNewsletter that is jam-packed full of information about events and local environment updates. It is one of the easiest ways to find out what's happening in the Macedon Ranges and hear about ways that you can take action to help!

To subscribe head to: www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/Waste_Environment/Get_Involved/Subscribe_to_our_eNews

Or email wterry@mrsc.vic.gov.au for more information.



Funding

Landcare Australia Limited (LAL)

Landcare Week Grow Grants - will award 25 recipients grants of up to \$1,000 each. These grants aim to help groups increase the number of volunteers participating in Landcare, with a focus on supporting group events that are held in Landcare Week 2014. Please note events must be held during the month of September 2014. For details see: www.landcareonline.com.au/25years

Planting the Future Junior Landcare Grants - will award 25 recipients grants of up to \$1,000 each. These grants aim to foster and encourage the next generation of Landcarers and will be awarded to groups who to implement Junior Landcare projects that demonstrate Landcare's commitment to protecting, restoring and sustainably managing Australia's natural environment and its productivity. For more details go to: www.juniorlandcare.com.au/plantingfuture.

Applications for both grants close - 13 June 2014.

Groups have until 30 June 2015 to complete their projects.

Yates Creative Gardening Grants

Yates and Junior Landcare are encouraging schools to get creative in the garden.

In celebration of the 25 years that Landcare Australia has been working with the Landcare community, Yates is proud to award 25 grants of up to \$1,000 each to schools and youth groups who can demonstrate innovative ways of creating a garden within their school or community.

Grants will be awarded to the most innovative, sustainable and environmentally conscious entries.

So get out of the garden bed, be inventive, imaginative, create and educate!



How to apply:

1. Head to: www.juniorlandcare.com.au/grants-2/yates-creative-gardening-grants
2. Download and read the 'Yates Junior Landcare Creative Gardening Grants 2014' Focus & Criteria document.
3. Download and complete the 'Yates Junior Landcare Creative Gardening Grants 2014' application form.
4. Register your group or school on the National Landcare Directory (www.nld.landcareaustralia.com.au). If you are already registered, please ensure that your details are up-to-date.

Email your application form to: grants@landcareaustralia.com.au before COB on Friday 4 July 2014.

