

North Central chat

MAY 2018

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

A message from the Regional Landcare Coordinator

Hi everyone,

I've had a rather sheltered month of meetings, so didn't get out and about as often as I'd like. I did however spend a few days graciously soaking up the autumn air in Glenlyon for the first of two Chemical Users Courses for Landcare. Ten Landcarers completed the course, funded through the Victorian Landcare Program and delivered through Bendigo Tafe. The second booked out course will be in Kyneton. Given the high levels of interest, we will look to fund more courses in the 2018-19 year, so keep a lookout for these dates.

Mentioning the coming financial year is always a reminder to reflect on what the CMA Landcare Team has delivered across the region over the past 12 months. Darren and I have begun preparing reports back to the Victorian and Australian Governments, showcasing the North Central community's commitment, interest and knowledge exchange focussed on NRM and sustainable agriculture. We experienced fantastic participation numbers at our key annual events such as 'Chicks in the Sticks' (Walkers Lake) and the Future Farming Expo (Donald) as well as amazing landscape transformations from projects delivered through the Community Grants program.

Reports and data from the past four years of Landcare delivery, including community grants, will be collated and presented in the forthcoming North Central Landcare Support Plan, which is a key document demonstrating the CMA's commitment to supporting landcare across the catchment. The updated plan is due for release in July.

July just so happens to be the beginning of my extended leave. I'm travelling over to WA for an adventurous three-month break. During this period, CMA staff will be backfilling the RLC role,

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Friends of Cornish Hill members Margie and Freja enjoy Chemical Users Training at Glenlyon

supported by Darren, as he continues in the *newly named* role of Regional Agricultural Landcare Facilitator (RALF).

Finally, the 2018-19 Victorian Landcare Grants are expected to open in the near future. Groups and networks will receive notification and details of the application process which will be online via SmartyGrants.

Enjoy the read,

Tess Grievs

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News...

Good news for Governance

On April 18, I crossed the border and headed to Euroa for a Governance Training workshop hosted by Goulburn Broken CMA.

The session was brilliantly delivered by Justice Connect, a non-for-profit law organisation, and was tailored for Landcare with a focus on governing a community organisation.

Whilst governance can sometimes be 'too hard' or 'too boring' a topic for committees to get engaged in (*and who can blame them!*), I came away with some great insights from the session which I thought I'd share;

- **Do you know your rules?** When was the last time your committee looked over the rules (*or constitution*). The rules set out the purpose of the group which should be reflected in decision making and implementation of actions.
- **It is important committees focus on Governance and Management?** Smaller Landcare groups members will be doing both roles, so setting time aside at meetings with your 'Governance' hat on is vital to ensure your group remains lawfully compliant to operate.
- **Committee culture is key.** Having a culture by which committee members are encouraged to question, investigate and disclose conflict is healthy and responsible. Committee members are legally responsible for ensuring the organisation operates within the law and legal duties.

Groups don't have to deal with everything at once, prioritising what are the most important actions that need to be taken (e.g. financial reconciliation, OHS issues, employment arrangements) and then acting, is crucial. Inaction is as much of an issue itself.

Landcare groups are certainly not expected to know the law, which is why Justice Connect provide really useful and informative guidance documents on their website for not-for-profit organisations. Visit:

<https://www.iusticeconnect.org.au/our-programs/not-for-profit-law>

A [FREE governance health check](#) is also available for a limited time!

Vale Terry Simpson

It with great sadness that the Buloke and Northern Grampians Landcare Network advised us of the death of Terry Simpson from Winjallok.

Terry, as an advisor on the Land Protection Council to the Honourable Joan Kirner (then Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands with the Victorian State Government) was instrumental in bringing about the partnership between community based Landcare and the Victorian State Government to protect our natural resources.

It was on Terry's property at Winjallok on Tuesday November 25th 1986, that the Landcare Program was officially launched by Joan.

Landcare was originally intended as a program to involve farmers in land protection projects (hence the significant Victorian Farmers Federation involvement led by Heather Mitchell) but so successful has this grass movement become in delivering on-ground works and landscape change it has evolved far beyond that - from its beginnings at Winjallok, the Landcare Program has now grown to become a national and international movement involving people from all walks of life.

As a former Board member of the North Central Catchment Management Authority, Terry continued to be a strong advocate for Landcare and was particularly vocal about its origins as a farming movement and the need for it to continue to be of relevance and value to farmers given they had primary responsibility for managing somewhere near 70% of our landscapes – a sentiment shared by the Network

Our condolences to Terry's family and to his confidant, Jenny.

Vale Terry.

If you would like to know more about Terry and Landcare, please read this online article dated 2013:

<http://www.moffittsfarm.com.au/2013/11/01/23-years-on-father-of-landcares-fundamental-message-is-worth-re-reading/>

Towards a Healthy Little Coliban River~Tylden's Plant Propagators

Article by Brendan Smith, Tylden Landcare Group.

The grade five and six class along with the grade prep class of Tylden Primary School recently participated in a Tylden Landcare program.

This part of the program involves the school in the Integrated Catchment Management Plan for the Coliban River system operated by the North Central CMA and Coliban Water; growing indigenous plants for revegetation along the Little Coliban River during 2018.

With the help of parents, staff and Tylden Landcare Group, children from the school spent time "pricking out" small plants from seedling trays and placing them into forestry tubes. The plants will then be kept for further growing and hardening off before planting along the river later this year.

James Stewart of Tylden Landcare and a recent graduate from CSU said "The students have enthusiastically embraced the program and have propagated indigenous trees, shrubs and grasses. Seed has been collected from local indigenous plants because these are most suited to local environmental conditions. The students are very aware that indigenous vegetation offers food and homes for native animals, prevents soil erosion and keeps the air clean. These plants will be planted along the Little Coliban River as part of the Coliban system Integrated Catchment Management program."



Photo: James with students of Tylden Primary School propagating seedlings for the Little Coliban River.

James added that Tylden students have played a role in Landcare projects over the years and that many of these plants will be planted along the Little Coliban River. Plants included Eucalypts, Acacias, Cassinnias and Lomandras.

Tylden Landcare is working with landholders along the Little Coliban River and the North Central CMA to protect and rehabilitate the Little Coliban to ensure a healthy water supply for farms and all users of the Coliban water storage system. The Little Coliban is a tributary of the Coliban River and contributes water inflow to the Upper Coliban Reservoir. A clean, healthy catchment ensures clean, healthy water for the future.

Along with parents, school staff assisted students on the day and said, "The senior students did a great job of passing on their plant propagation skills to the younger students!"

Joint Management Plan for Dja Dja Wurrung People



The Andrews Labor Government has released the first draft management plan for the Dja Dja Wurrung People - central to the cultural identity and well-being of Victorian Traditional Owner communities.

The draft plan translates the aspirations of the Dja Dja Wurrung People for their Country, and incorporates their traditional knowledge, culture and practices into the joint management of the parks and reserves.

The plan symbolises the partnership between the Dja Dja Wurrung People and the Government – and is only the second plan of its kind in Victoria.

In 2013 six parks and reserves in central Victoria were transferred into Aboriginal Title to be jointly managed by Dja Dja Wurrung people, Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal and the Labor Government.

The parks and reserves under Aboriginal Title are



Hepburn Regional Park, Paddys Ranges State Park, Kooyoorra State Park, Wehla Conservation Reserve, Greater Bendigo National Park and Kara Kara State Park.

The Dhelkunya Dja Land Management Board was appointed to develop a Joint Management Plan in partnership with, and on behalf of, the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation and the Victorian Government for the parks and reserves under Aboriginal Title.

The parks and reserves will continue to be open for the enjoyment of the public and will protect and conserve significant cultural and environmental sites.

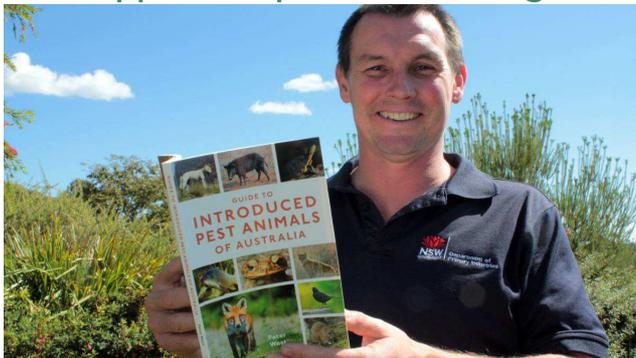
Traditional Owners and public land managers are working together in partnership, to share knowledge and skills and incorporate Traditional Owner culture into the joint management of parks and reserves.

The Government is supporting Traditional Owner interests through the *Traditional Owner Settlement Act*, which underpins Victoria's innovative model for joint management and recognises the ongoing connection of Traditional Owners to the land.

Comments on the plan can be made by visiting the [Dhelkunya Dja Land Management Board's website](#)

Courses and resources...

Feral app now a published field guide



In a modern-day twist, a popular app is now available as a book to help land managers and community groups identify and manage introduced pest animals.

NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) researcher and author, Peter West, said demand for a hard-copy version of the Field Guide to Pest Animals of Australia app drove publication of the new Guide to introduced pest animals of Australia.

"This handy, practical book identifies 60 introduced pest animal species, including 27 mammals, 18 birds, nine freshwater fish, four reptiles and two amphibians," Mr West said.

"The guide contains descriptive information to identify each species in the field, including distinctive physical characteristics, size, weight, colouration, diet, breeding behaviour, habitat preferences, and information about footprints, dung and animal calls.

"Each species profile is accompanied by practical management options, maps and high-quality photographs.

"The guide also contains a number of emerging high-risk pest species, which may pose a significant threat to our natural environment, economy, agriculture and human health.

"We expect farmers, land managers, pest animal controllers, teachers, students, field naturalists and wildlife ecologists to benefit from the guide."

The new guide, developed through a Centre for Invasive Species Solutions project, is available for purchase from CSIRO Publishing, with the still-popular app free to download for iOS devices.

This story [Feral app now a published field guide book](#) first appeared on [Bega District News](#).

Victorian Young Farmers Advisory Council

Expressions of Interest are now open for interested 'young' farmers to be a part of the Agriculture Victoria's Young Farmers Advisory Council.

[The council](#) will consist of eight members with a balance of representation by gender, industry, region and profession. Collectively, membership will include skills in farm management, agribusiness, finance, youth issues, education, networks, international markets and regional development

The council provides a strong voice for young people in Agriculture. The council also serves to develop the sector leaders of tomorrow.

This is an important opportunity to have the interests of young farmers in your industry and community represented.

The [Expression of Interest](#) closes 11 May 2018



Communities Caring for Catchments

Hi All,

It's getting cooler! Let's hope some much needed rain comes with this change of weather. Our water storages need a good top up and so do our tanks at home.

April has been a busy month, while we haven't had lots of events, there have been some changes in our team, lots of planning for the future, some new meetings attended and a couple of days off for the school holidays.

I am excited to share with you that I have recently taken on a new role as Ramsar site coordinator. I will be working on this project one day per week to ensure monitoring data is captured and will be working with DELWP to improve the Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) processes for our significant Ramsar sites. I will still be coordinating North Central Waterwatch four days per week. I am looking forward to taking on this new project and the journey ahead.

This means Sophie (who is currently working on our state-wide River Detectives program) will now be working one day a week on the North Central Waterwatch program. Sophie will be focusing on the regional River Detectives program and will be the key contact for any school related enquiries. Sophie is keen to learn the ins and outs of our wonderful Waterwatch monitoring program, so I will be keeping her up to date with all matters Waterwatch.

Upcoming events include planning for River Detectives pop-up workshop, Waterwatch Victoria's annual Saltwatch Week 2018, 25 years of Waterwatch celebration and 'Ask the Expert' webinars for our River Detective schools.

To find out more about our upcoming events or how to get involved in Waterwatch, please read on or give us a call.

Cass Davis

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Have you done your water quality testing for April?



River Detectives- Workshop

Training is available for groups, schools and educators who wish to join the River Detectives program, or need some handy reminders on monitoring.

The 'Water for me. Water for you' workshop is run in partnership with Coliban Water on **Monday May 7 from 3.30pm in Castlemaine**. For more details about the event visit www.riverdetectives.net.au or email riverdetectives@nccma.vic.gov.au

Water Storage - April update

The table below indicates the current storage levels in our water storages and is updated daily, this information is taken from Goulburn Murray Water: www.g-mwater.com.au

Catchment	Storage name	% full April 2018
Campaspe	Lake Eppalock	63.96
Loddon	Carin Curran Reservoir	56.87
	Tullaroop reservoir	58.12
	Laanecoorie Reservoir	39.13



25 Years of Waterwatch

For 25 years the Victorian Waterwatch Program has been connecting local communities with waterway health and sustainable water management issues.

Through the Waterwatch Program, citizen scientists are supported and encouraged to become actively involved in local waterway monitoring and on ground activities.

In 2018 Waterwatch will be hosting a series of events across Victoria to say thank you to the hundreds of citizen scientists who volunteer their time to help monitor and protect local waterways.

We are planning to host a small event with volunteers in June 2018. Volunteer recognition certificates will be awarded and can you believe we even have some 10 years of service certificates to be handed out! Wow – go North Central Waterwatch!

Please keep a look out for your invite.

'Ask the Expert'- virtual learning for schools

On Tuesday 5 June, Tiana Peterson will give a presentation on platypus from 11.30*am

Register via www.riverdetectives.net.au (under the what's happening page) or email riverdetectives@nccma.vic.gov.au for more details. **note the change of time*

Saltwatch Week

We invite schools, volunteers and community members to help us get a snapshot of how salty (the salinity) of our waterways are during Saltwatch Week.

During May 20-26, volunteers and River Detectives schools will receive information shortly about how to record your results (and a logon to use). We encourage you to test several water samples outside your normal site. If other community members are interested in participating please contact the North Central CMA on (03) 5448 7124.

Events...

Duan talk (*no that's not a typo*)

Did you know that Duans wag their tails when excited and purr when they sleep?

Did you know Duan is the Dja Dja Wurrung name for Brush-tailed Phascogale?

Makarrata Garden Tarrangower invite you to come along to learn about the secrets of the Brush-tailed Phascogale (Duan).

Hear about a new project using chainsaws to create artificial nesting sites for the threatened Brush-tailed Phascogale in central Victoria.

Speaker William Terry from Southern Cross University will present his local research into this fascinating species - managing the impacts from development and urbanisation on the Brush-tailed Phascogale in the modified landscape of central Victoria.

When: Thursday May 3, 7.00-8.00pm

Where: Maldon Neighbourhood Centre cnr Church and Edwards Streets Maldon

RSVP: via www.forestkeegel.com

Serrated Tussock Field Day: Diggers Rest

The Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party (VSTWP) is hosting a Best Practice Management Serrated Tussock Field Day on Saturday May 5 in Diggers Rest.

The event will involve spraying demonstrations, grazing and pasture management experts and will inform the community of the threat serrated tussock poses and how to best mitigate the threats.

When: Saturday, May 5 at 9:30am - 12:30pm

Where: 93 Watsons Rd, Diggers Rest VIC 3427, Australia

RSVP: 0422 605 953 or email info@serratedtussock.com



Nestboxes for Wildlife

Join Miles Geldard and Connecting Country in McKenzies Hill for an afternoon workshop on the design, construction, installation and monitoring of nest boxes for wildlife.

<http://www.wildlifeneboxes.com.au/>

When: Sunday, May 6 at 12pm - 3:30pm

RSVP: Connecting Country (03) 5472 1594 or email info@connectingcountry.org.au

Camp Out on the Mount 2.0

Due to the severe weather warnings last weekend, Connecting Country has rescheduled the 2018 Camp Out on the Mount!



The new date is Friday 11 May (starting late afternoon after school) to Saturday 12 May (finishing late afternoon).

A new schedule for all the activities and more details will be coming out soon, but please save this date in your diaries if you'd like to come.

All the details will be available <https://connectingcountry.org.au/news-events/>



Turtles time to shine

In celebration of World Turtle Day (23 May), Turtles Australia is hosting two events at Lake Charm and Kangaroo Lake.



Each event will include a free sausage sizzle, turtle displays and volunteer survey along the lakes.

When: Saturday 19 & Sunday 20 May, 2018

Event 1: Saturday May 19 from 11:00 am for Turtle talk and display. From 12:30 pm free sausage sizzle followed by a volunteer survey of Lake Charm turtles and nesting sites.

Event 2: Sunday May 20 from 12:30 pm for free sausage sizzle followed by a volunteer survey of Kangaroo Lake and turtles and nesting sites.

Where: Meet at Lake Charm Primary School

RSVP: Graham Stockfeld turtles@iinet.net.au or phone 0405 530 372.

Important 'days' in May

- International Composting Awareness Week - 6th to 12th
- OZWater'18- 8th to 10th
- World Parks Week- 10th to 18th
- World Migratory Bird Day- 12th
- National Volunteer Week- 21st to 27th
- International Day for Biological Diversity- 22nd
- World Turtle Day- 23rd
- National Sorry Day- 26th



Trees for Mum

Trees for Mum is an annual event, set up to plant trees to honour and celebrate the lives of those mums who have passed away.

In partnership with Landcare Australia, Trees for Mum has grown to be a free national event inviting children of all ages to celebrate their mum and the beauty of life, by planting a tree in her honour.

Locally, the Campaspe River and Land Management Group will be providing river bottle brushes for planting along the Campaspe River, Kyneton on Sunday May 13.

“Why not pay tribute to your Mum and help in our regeneration of the Campaspe River. It’s a beautiful gesture and a great experience to share with family and friends. Bring along gardening gloves, a trowel and sturdy shoes and enjoy the autumn colours of our beautiful Botanic Gardens and create a living legacy for your mum. Morning tea will be provided.” said Peter Harding, President of the Campaspe Valley Land Management Group

When: Sunday, May 13 at 10am- 12 noon

Where: Pig Pens, Kyneton Botanic Gardens (via McKenna Drive, or if on foot via Campaspe River Walk)

Look out for a local landcare event near you or visit <https://landcareaustralia.org.au/trees-for-mum/> for more information.

Landcare Victoria Incorporated (LVI) Corangamite Forum



Registrations are now open for the next LVI Forum to be held in the Corangamite region, on the Bellarine Peninsula.

Theme; ‘Learning with others’

Learning between landholders has always been Landcare’s strength. In this Forum we look at how we’re learning from each other, and how we can do that better. In an era of slim budgets, learning from each other delivers knowledge that fits what we need, but we need to build connections as we go.

When: Friday 25 May to Sunday 27 May, 2018

Where: Camp Wyuna, Queenscliff

For further information and draft programme <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VKYRZ2W>

Funding opportunities...



Your community. Your decision.

Pick My Project is a community grants initiative, with \$30M available to fund local projects. Come up with an idea, vote for your favourites and make your community an even better place to live.

From May 2018, all you'll need is a project idea to improve your neighbourhood and an eligible partner such as a registered community organisation, school or local council to help deliver your idea.

Victorian residents aged 16 and over will be able to submit their idea for consideration under the program. For participants under 18, parent or guardian approval will be required.

Projects can cost \$20,000 and \$200,000. Funding will be spread across the state, giving every community the chance to benefit.

For more information and to register for email updates visit: <https://pickmyproject.vic.gov.au> and [join the Facebook Page.](#)