

# North Central Chat

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



May 2022

## A message from the Regional Landcare Coordinator

Hi everyone,

Last month was filled with what felt like a return to Landcare. I was involved in weekly Landcare workshops, field days, and conferences, which is so motivating and empowering after the past few years and the impact restrictions have on volunteering.

The Landcare Facilitators groups were invited onsite by Berrimal farmer Stephen Poole. After taking over the farm from his father, Stephen took up the opportunities on offer in the early 2000s to work with the CMA, via National Salinity Action Plan funding, to engage local-contractor expertise and better his land. He used the public funding on offer to control his farm's growing erosion and pasture management issues.

Remarkably, Stephen has maintained annual photo points from the beginning of the project, initiated by the earth works contractor. Having photo documentation over the course of 20+ years is worth its weight in gold. We saw the story of the landscape unfold from bare, bone-dry paddocks to meticulous earthworks and fencing installation, revegetation and pasture establishment, the impact of the 2010 flooding, to ultimately eventuate into a productive biodiverse farm.

Stephen's take-home messages, which I thought were so powerful for others looking to do the same type of thing, were:

*You don't have to compromise – you can have biodiversity and a productive farm. This is it we have it right here, alongside one another.*

*It doesn't take long. In 20 years, these paddocks are unrecognisable. That is a manageable goal for most farmers.*

*Investment from governments should be revisited and celebrated. This is a place to be shared with others. Anybody that wants to see it can come to the farm, to see what the public dollar can achieve.*



Loddon Plains Landcare Network Facilitator Danny Pettingill demonstrating wheel cactus (*Opuntia robusta*) control methods at a recent wheel cactus workshop held at Buckrabanyule

Just a hop and skip down the road at Wedderburn, I joined the catchment's cactus warriors at a community workshop. Community Landcare and landholders were well represented, with government agency leaders present to make a collective commitment to continue the wheel cactus conversation and the establishment of the Loddon Invasives Committee (LIC).

And in the final week of April, we co-hosted Cascade Connections, which I've written an article about in the News section.

Enjoy the read,

Tess Grievs

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## Connecting rivers, landscapes, people

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

[www.nccma.vic.gov.au](http://www.nccma.vic.gov.au)



## News...

### Seeds of knowledge sown through local Landcare

Kerang Landcare Group President Angela Hird

#### “Every seed I plant is a wish for tomorrow”, Costa of Gardening Australia

There are lots of reasons people get involved in seed collection. Everything from growing food for the table, flowers for the vase, to flora for the birds and the bees. Regeneration starts with understanding how plants grow back. Murray Mallee Landcare Network held a recent seed collection workshop, presented by Dan Frost of Seeding Victoria, to share knowledge and skills with interested locals and Landcarers on all facets of seed collection, cleaning, storage, and quality control.

Dan took us through a series of examples of different types of fruits and seeds, handy tools, and practical advice to get us started. Then we took a walk around the Lake Charm Hall garden for a show and tell.



While our focus was on local seed collection for Landcare or mass planting, the learnings are totally relatable to the home garden. Examples shared were locally growing trees, shrubs, and annual wildflowers that produce seed or fruit and are easy to collect.

- Collecting seed from different areas helps share the DNA of plants and strengthens regrowth and crop quality for the future.
- **Ethical considerations** – Flora Bank Collection Guidelines are available at [www.florabank.org.au](http://www.florabank.org.au). Also land manager permission, legalities collecting on private or public land.
- **Sustainable harvesting** – the 10% rule to avoid over-collection by leaving seed for natural regeneration and food for birds and animals.
- **Right plant - right area from an ethical view**– eg plants in some areas are considered pest species,

effect of breaking the confines of the planting zone through animal, bird, water or wind spread.

- **Only collect mature seed** and usually the best time is the hottest or coldest time of the year, the end of the fruiting season. Study the seasonal cycle of the plant to understand the flowering and fruiting cycle by observing the plant throughout the year and in different plantings.
- **Seeds can emerge** straight after flowering and can also take years to mature. Seeds can sit and wait to germinate for the right conditions for years. Waiting for a range of natural events like rain, temperature range, fire, flood, frost, animal digestion, ground disturbance, leaf litter etc.



Once the seed is collected, sift out all the litter, dry the seed on trays before storing to ensure there's no remaining damp or moisture, and store seeds in airtight containers or brown paper bags, depending on the type of seed.

Seed cleaning regimes vary between types of seed. For example, annuals such as daisies, grasses and herbs can be stored and planted with the head intact and don't require fine sifting. While seeds in fruity pods or capsules like pumpkin, native apricot, or ruby saltbush should be well cleaned and dried and not stored in airtight containers.

It was a great day had by all. Our thanks to Murray Mallee Landcare Network facilitator Ted Ryan for arranging the day and to Dan for the presentation. We all learned heaps. If you would like to know more feel free to contact Ted for help, or he may direct you to the nearest Landcare group - Fairley Bael Bael, Lake Charm, Kerang, Macorna, Tresco etc.

Kerang Landcare Group has created a seedbank at Kerang Neighbourhood House where people can share all kinds of seeds such as herbs, vegies, flowers, natives etc at no cost. Contact Anne Thompson [keranglandcare@gmail.com](mailto:keranglandcare@gmail.com) for information.

## New update of the Advisory List of Environmental Weeds in Victoria

**DELWP has just published the [Advisory list of environmental weeds in Victoria 2022 - go to Weed risk ratings](#).**

The *Advisory List of Environmental Weeds in Victoria* (advisory list) is a useful resource to help prioritise environmental weeds for management activities. The advisory list was last updated four years ago (2018) and provides non-statutory advice to Victorian public land and biodiversity managers.

In this update, various taxonomic issues have been resolved and some entries removed (for a variety of reasons). Despite there being 34 new species added, the increase in weeds on the list overall is 24 species since 2018. This takes the total list to 1,810 vascular and non-vascular plant species. Of these 1,251 are environmental weeds (an increase of 16 since 2018).

Some of the new species added to the advisory list include: neem (*Azadirachta indica*); toothed spurge (*Euphorbia davidii*); stinking hellebore (*Helleborus foetidus*); spotted hawkweed (*Hieracium maculatum*); smooth or Amazon frogbit (*Limnobiium laevigatum*); petite liquorice (*Plecostachys serpyllifolia*); and succulent spiderwort (*Tradescantia crassula*).

A review of the scores and risk ratings for about 180 species was undertaken, including: coast capeweed (*Arctotheca populifolia*); soldiers (*Lachenalia aloides*); and South American Mexican clover (*Richardia humistrata*).

**Victorian environmental weed risk database:** ([Weed risk ratings](#)) is a spreadsheet that contains scores from Victorian weed risk assessments.

There is also an early-invader seasonal newsletter, other weed management tools, and a social media presence online via these links:

[Facebook Group – Early Invader Weeds Victoria](#)

[Early invader manual & tools](#)

[Subscribe to the free “Early invader weeds update” newsletter](#)

[Webinar recordings – Weed management after fire](#)

Note - the Advisory List of Environmental Weeds in Victoria has been maintained by DELWP's Biodiversity Division at Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research in collaboration with Forest, Fire and Regions

through the Weeds at the Early Stage of Invasion Project, funded by the Weeds and Pests on Public Land Program.

## Have your say on the future of Landcare in Victoria

### Participate in our online workshop or survey

Landcare Victoria is leading the development of a new Landcare plan for Victoria, and we need your input.

The plan is intended to create a road map for the future growth and development of community landcare in the state. The engagement opportunities, facilitated by Projectura, are the first phase in the plan's development.

They will inform a report on issues and opportunities, reflecting the broad opinions of the Landcare community and stakeholders, and will provide the foundation for the development of the strategic plan in the second half of 2022.

### How to have your say

#### Online workshop

Take part in the online workshop on Wednesday 11 May 2022, from 5pm to 7pm, to join the Landcare community and have your say. [Click here to register](#)

#### Online survey

This survey will inform an issues and opportunities report that reflects the opinions of the Landcare community and stakeholders, and will provide the foundation for the development of a strategic plan in the second half of 2022. The survey should take about seven minutes to complete. [Click here to complete the survey](#)

As a member of the Landcare community, your feedback and input is vital for shaping Landcare in Victoria's future, so we would appreciate your time and contribution.



## 2022 Cascade Connections

**On April 27 and 28, Landcare Network Facilitators, Coordinators and project staff came together for the 2022 Cascade Connections professional development event in Wangaratta, themed Inspire, Negotiate, Collaborate.**

This is the fourth event of its kind, which we coordinate alongside the Regional Landcare teams of North East, Corangamite and Goulburn Broken CMAs, to foster a network of peer-support and deliver training sessions.

We began our session with a beautiful Welcome to Country ceremony at the stunning Mullinmur Billabong with Yorta Yorta man Damien Saunders. These wetlands have been passionately restored by Wangaratta Landcare and Sustainability. They provided the group with a tour of their activities and learning centre.



After several hours onsite, we returned to the conference venue and opened Pandora's box. This was an activity designed to allow for more peer-to-peer learning which was a request from prior event feedback. All members at a table had five mins to highlight a project using an object or two to assist the storytelling. The aim of this activity was to increase the number of peer learnings each participant was exposed to and engage everyone in the process of presentations.

After a recharge, a networking dinner was held, featuring two Landcare Q&A panels facilitated by Kerstie Lee. The first panel included Landcare professionals and the second featured directors of agencies and peak body organisations such as DELWP, Landcare Victoria and CMAs. The conversations centred around the value of Landcare, the support needed to assist with challenges, and visioning for Landcare by asking panellists to think about how Landcare will contribute to their region in 2050. It was such a powerful and insightful conversation which brought together decision makers, change makers, visionaries, and pragmatists.

We were joined by Resolution Education's Nathan McDonald on day two, who presented two workshops on conflict resolution, a topic of interest highlighted by a training needs survey of Landcare support staff.



These events provide such a swell of ideas, inspiration and direction. It's a joy to bring these events together with my colleagues and, more importantly, to know how valued and appreciated they are by the Landcare professionals we create them for.

## Celebrating World Bee Day 2022

**Let's celebrate together, raise awareness, and do something good for bees.**



The main purpose of World Bee Day events is to spread awareness of the significance of bees and other pollinators for our survival. Simply proclaiming World Bee Day does not do much for bees and other pollinators; the main work of safeguarding their existence still needs to be done. World Bee Day, advocated for through the When Bee Foundation, is an excellent opportunity to put bees at the centre of the national conversation for a day and encourage actions that create more bee-friendly landscapes.

Beekeepers and nature conservationists are united in encouraging improved conditions for bees to build pollination security and to safeguard our food security.

A recent [Gardening Australia](#) episode features a fantastic video on giving native bees a home in your garden with easy DIY bee hotels and, as importantly, a video on how to attract bees, butterflies, and other pollinators and pest controllers.

Locally, Landcarers around the North Central region are a buzz with pollinator protection projects. Upper Campaspe Landcare Network recently presented to the Landcare Networks forum about their Pollinator Corridor project which involved establishing a research partnership agreement with Dr Mark Hall and Western Sydney University. Mark presented a one-hour pollinator and native plants webinar for the Landcare community in

November, 2020, which is accessible [online here](#). Read more about how the Upper Campaspe Landcare Network is sampling, surveying, and happy snapping incredible imagery and data related to the often unseen world of pollinators via: [Pollinator survey methodology | Upper Campaspe Landcare](#)



A busy native bee on matted flax lily (*Dianella amoena*) © John Walter.

Join in celebrating World Bee Day – 20th May 2022.

### World Turtle Day - May 23

Article by Turtles Australia President, Graham Stockfeld

**World Turtle Day began in America in the year 2000 by American Tortoise Rescue. It marks the beginning of the Northern Hemisphere’s turtle season. For us in Australia, it marks the end of our season, particularly in southern Australia.**

Turtles the world over face many similar threats including habitat loss, nest predation, over harvesting and pollution. The main threat to turtles in the North Central CMA region is fox predation and road trauma.

Turtles Australia has been working on Gunbower Island for more than 10 years, protecting turtle nests to help prevent fox predation. This has resulted in many hundreds of hatchlings being released into the Gunbower Creek and lagoons on Gunbower Island. The CMA has supported Turtles Australia’s work from the very beginning.

As this is the end of the breeding season, we will look back at our efforts from November 2021 to now. We protected 32 nests belonging to seven Murray River and 25 broad-shelled turtles. Most of these are a result of local community members informing us of nesting on their property. We released 79 broad-shelled and 49 Murray River turtle hatchlings. In addition to those numbers, many more hatched and left the nests by themselves.



Nesting broad-shelled turtle.

We have had three schools join us in our work: Cohuna High, Templestowe College and Bendigo TAFE. We also assisted Latrobe University students in their turtle research.

Turtles Australia cannot overstate the importance of the community support we receive from the residents of the Gunbower Island area. They kindly allow us onto their properties, call us when they see turtles nesting, help by protecting nests until we can attend, control foxes on their land, and watch over protected nests for up to a year, and for simply making us welcome.



Wendy Rowsell with a hatchling from a nest she found and protected in 2021.

Further information is available via [turtlesaustralia.org.au](http://turtlesaustralia.org.au) and [1millionturtles.comturtlesat.org.au](http://1millionturtles.comturtlesat.org.au)



## A very special volunteer hands over her Waterwatch baton

Cathy McCallum is one of the longest contributing Waterwatch volunteers in the North Central CMA region. And when it came to handing over her Waterwatch sampling kit, it had to go to someone who loved the Loddon River as much as she did.

Cathy, a retired teacher from Baringhup, has been an active water quality monitor for 17 years and it was her connection to the school that led to her finding teenage brothers from Baringhup, Blayne and Tadgh, who are as passionate about river health as she is.

The Baringhup Primary School (now closed) had a fortunate location being only a short walk to a lovely spot on the Loddon. Much to the delight of the students, getting their feet wet and climbing the ancient gnarly red gums was a part of the educational experience when visiting the river.

*"It was so great to see the kids learning to take managed risks, climbing trees and things. It's such an important part of learning, and regularly being in nature allows that," Cathy said.*

The whole school would visit the site monthly, as part of the River Detectives program, an initiative of North Central Waterwatch to better connect young people to nature.

Now in secondary college, Blayne and Tadgh participated in the River Detectives program with Cathy for several of their primary school years. Blayne in particular is a keen angler and has his sights set on a career in the fisheries industry. He knows the importance of good water quality and they're both excited to take over the reins and follow in the footsteps of Cathy as Waterwatch volunteers, keeping a watchful eye on the health of the Loddon in their patch.

Over the years Cathy has seen positive changes to the site. The local Landcare Group has cleared the reserve of gorse and cape broom and have done extensive revegetation. Not only is the site now environmentally better off, but is a nicer place for locals to spend time in

nature. Now a popular barbecue, fishing, and swimming spot, the local community all pitches in to keep the site clean, inviting, and well cared for. Due to Cathy's ongoing contribution and regular monitoring, we also know that water quality at the site continues to improve.

Cathy said being involved in the Waterwatch and River Detective program since 2005 was a special part of her teaching years.

*"When the school was open and I was teaching, I loved being able to transfer my skills and my love for the river and seeing how engaged the kids were when we were there. It's thrilling to know that these boys are still involved and that I can hand the baton over knowing it will continue to be in good hands.*

*"My Waterwatch years were very happy years indeed and I will miss this time but so pleased the younger generation has taken up the work, it gives me hope for the future."*



Photo: Cathy officially hands over the kit to the next generation.

Congratulations and thank you Cathy for your outstanding contribution and commitment to the Waterwatch and River Detectives programs, for your passion for river health and for inspiring the next generation.

Britt Gregory

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North Central CMA

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**Water Storages Update**

Region	Water Storage	% full at 25 Mar	% full at 22 Apr
Murray Storages	Dartmouth Dam	92.93	↑93.25
	Hume Dam	95.00	↓86.00
	Third Lake	NA	NA
	Reedy/Middle Lk	97.16	↓93.61
	Kangaroo Lake	93.12	↑98.94
	Kow Swamp	86.94	↑93.79
	Lake Boga	85.18	↓80.97
	Lake Charm	93.37	↑96.02
Loddon Storages	Cairn Curran Res	63.64	↓54.19
	Tullaroop Res	71.27	↓62.88
	Laanecoorie Res	38.38	↑46.50
Bullarook Storages	Newlyn Res	85.44	↓71.55
	Hepburns Lagoon	77.10	↓68.23
Goulburn Storages	Lake Eildon	83.76	↓77.18
	Waranga Basin	61.12	↓42.94
Campaspe	Lake Eppalock	51.79	↓48.54
Coliban Water Storages	Upper Coliban Res	92.40	↓91.00
	Lauriston Res	92.90	↓86.60
	Malmsbury Res	47.50	↓20.70

[www.g-mwater.com.au/water-resources/catchments/storage-levels](http://www.g-mwater.com.au/water-resources/catchments/storage-levels)

[www.coliban.com.au/about-us/our-reservoirs](http://www.coliban.com.au/about-us/our-reservoirs)

**Upcoming Events and Special Days**

May	
Composting Awareness Week	1-7 May
World Migratory Bird Day	14 May
World Bee Day	20 May
International Day for Biological Diversity	22 May
World Turtle Day	23 May
June	
World Environment Day	5 Jun
World Oceans Day	8 Jun
Sustainable Gastronomy Day	18 Jun
July	
Plastic Free July	1-13 Jul
Schools Tree Day	29 Jul
World Ranger Day	31 Jul
National Tree Day	31 Jul

## Sustainable Ag Snippet...

We had an enjoyable couple of days hosting John and Jemma who work in the Regional Landcare Program (RLP), based in Canberra. For their visit I organised several farm tours with farmers involved in the North Central CMA Regenerative Agriculture Project.

It was great to get out to see what activities the farmers have trialled and listen to their achievements and what they have learnt from the program. A common theme among the farmers was learning to manage their grazing practices and maintain ground cover. The seasonal conditions over the past couple of years have made this easier but they may need to have a long-term plan for drier times.

Multi-species cover crops were being used by most farmers we visited. Although their objectives may have been different, they all were aiming for better soil health and soil function. Feed gaps using multi-species crops were another aspect considered by some farmers. They have trialled summer and autumn sowing to provide feed when it is most required.

The groups monitor their soils and pastures conducting regular tests using penetrometers and brix meters. These tools assist farmers to conduct practical tests and contribute to making informed decisions and support them to improve their soils.



Jemma using the penetrometer at Deane Belfield's property.

The farmers were enthusiastic to highlight their achievements about being involved in the project. They could see over time the practices put in place would provide benefits to their soil and improve production and carrying capacity. John and Jemma enjoyed meeting up with some of the farmers involved in the project and inspired by the passion shown by the farmers.



Jo Conlan talking to John and Jemma about her farming practices.

The Regenerative Agriculture project will work with the farmer groups involved in the project over the next 12 months before it concludes in June 2023.

If you would like to know more about the project, you can contact Felicity Harrop at the North Central CMA [felicity.harrop@nccma.vic.gov.au](mailto:felicity.harrop@nccma.vic.gov.au)

## Digging Deeper for Soil Health Project Opportunity for Landholders

### Expression of Interest

**The North Central CMA, in collaboration with Agriculture Victoria, has a new project called Digging Deeper for Soil Health.**

Spring is the perfect time to dig a little deeper and investigate what's really happening under your growing crops, pastures, vines and plants!!! This Spring we would



love to work with you and your networks to deliver activities to help build your understanding of the current soil condition, the value of soil data and how to use this data for future decision making to improve soil health and productivity.

**Half day workshops** are open to all farmers and land managers in the North Central CMA region.

**Host a workshop** with a soil pit or **host an in-paddock demonstration** on your property. In paddock demonstrations could be a fertiliser comparison or a soil amendment assessment, let us know what you would like to try.

If you would like to know more about the workshops or project, please contact Felicity Harrop at the North Central CMA [felicity.harrop@nccma.vic.gov.au](mailto:felicity.harrop@nccma.vic.gov.au)



**To submit an expression of interest (EOI), please follow the link below to complete your details**

<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6838955/Digging-Deeper-into-Soil-Health-Workshop-Registration>



## Victorian Gorse Taskforce- Community Grants Program now opened

**The Victorian Gorse Taskforce (VGT) is calling for grant applications for their 2022/2023 Small Community Grants Program.**



### \$5,000 IN GRANTS AVAILABLE

The VGT are interested in supporting groups, starting from just two landholders, who are genuinely willing to control gorse and stay on top of it.

Grants are available to community groups e.g. Landcare or Friends of Groups. Private landholders groups of two or more may also apply.

Funding is available for gorse control on private land only.

**Grants open** 21 April 2022

**Grants close** 28 May 2022

### For more Information

Contact the VGT Executive Officer on 0417 593 250

Email us at [info@vicgorsetaskforce.com.au](mailto:info@vicgorsetaskforce.com.au)

Visit [www.vicgorsetaskforce.com.au](http://www.vicgorsetaskforce.com.au)



## Courses & Resources...

**NATIONAL** 16-22 MAY 2022  
**VOLUNTEER**  
 Better Together **WEEK**

Join Volunteering Australia as Australia celebrates National Volunteer Week 2022.

**National Volunteer Week is a chance for all of us to celebrate and recognise the vital work of volunteers and to say thank you.**

Together, through volunteering, we are changing communities for the better. We are Better Together.

Volunteering Australia says “Resources will be available for everyone to use leading up to and during NVW. We encourage all volunteer-involving organisations to proudly promote the upcoming celebrations and use the resources widely to help increase the awareness of the vital role volunteers play in our lives. #NVW2022 #BetterTogether”

The rate of volunteering through an organisation or group in Australia fell sharply from 29.5 per cent in 2019 to 24.8 per cent in 2020. A study on the impact of COVID-19 on volunteering found that only slightly more than half (56.4 per cent) of those who stopped volunteering in 2020 resumed in the 12 months leading up to April 2021, despite the easing of lockdowns and social distancing restrictions in many jurisdictions in Australia at that time.

The number of people who volunteered online increased from 8.5 per cent in 2019 to 17.3 per cent in 2020. Further, of those who indicated that online volunteering was available in their organisation or group, 75.6 per cent participated in online volunteering.

In relation to Landcare specifically, the most recent (2021) Group Health Survey data showed that in the 12 months to June 2021, Victorian Landcarers recorded:

- 4617 new members joined landcare
- More than 389,000 hours were volunteered to landcare action valued at over \$15.5M
- 67 per cent of groups are “moving forward” or “rolling along”. 17 per cent rated themselves as Trailblazers.



Monash University Biological Society volunteers help control wheel cactus as part of an annual Cactus Camp.

National Volunteer Week is a fantastic annual reminder to reflect on why we volunteer, celebrate what we do, revisit the mission or values of the groups you're involved in, and enjoy the successes that come from volunteering.

Happy National Volunteer Week!



**National Reconciliation Week is all about your events**

**Every year workplaces, schools, early learning services, community groups, reconciliation groups, and people right across the country host a whole range of events.**

National Reconciliation Week (NRW) is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

The dates for NRW are the same each year; **27 May to 3 June** when hundreds of events are held. Find your closest event wherever you are in Australia, via the [NRW Events page](#).

## Events...



**The Victorian Fishing Authority invites youngsters to Kennington Reservoir for a chance to catch a new hobby in a safe and supportive environment with help from experts.**

Eight fishing clinics will be run throughout the day, with each session running for one hour. They're led by Vic Fish Kids ambassador Lee Rayner.

All equipment provided including fishing rod. Each child that participates will receive a free rod to use for the clinic and take home to continue their fishing adventure!

There will be 15 kids per session. We will be adhering to COVID-safe guidelines.

**When:** Sunday 1 May from 10am to 4pm

**Where:** Kennington Reservoir, Bendigo

**Cost:** FREE

**RSVP:** To register for a free fishing clinic, go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/.../vic-fish-kids-bendigo>

**Junior Landcare Webinar: Using the New Learning Activities on First Nations Perspectives**

**In conversation with Junior Landcare Ambassador Costa Georgiadis, First Nations Educator and Wiradjuri man Adam Shipp, and Landcare educator and facilitator Sam.**

This is a professional development event for educators and Landcare facilitators.

The webinar will focus on the new series of curriculum linked learning activities focussing on all Australians developing a deeper understanding of First Nations perspectives.

As educators, feeling confident to respectfully and comprehensively address First Nations' perspectives in our teaching is vitally important.

The session will be facilitated by Junior Landcare education consultant Sam Harrison and speakers include Junior Landcare Ambassador Costa Georgiadis and First Nations Educator and Wiradjuri man Adam Shipp.

**When:** Tuesday 17 May 2022 from 4pm

**Where:** ONLINE

So that you can participate in the live chat and ask questions, it is recommended that you attend Landcare Australia webinars through the [Landcarer platform](#)

**Register via:** [Junior Landcare Webinar: First Nations perspectives learning activities - Landcare Australia Landcare Australia](#)



**North Central CMA invites you to come celebrate the 10-year Caring for the Campaspe project.**

Learn more about river flow management, river vegetation and fish. Be inspired by local angler stories, hear about the Mid-Murray Fish Recovery Project, with fishing gear giveaways (courtesy of Trellly's Outdoor)

Dinner and supper provided. All CMA events are COVID-19 safe events and proof of vaccination is required

**When:** Tuesday 31 May, 5pm to 8.30pm

**Where:** Rochester Racecourse Recreation Reserve (4Rs), corner Diggora and Echuca Roads, Rochester

**RSVP:** Via [EventBrite](#) by Friday 27 May or call the North Central CMA on 5448 7124 for more information

## Cohuna Carp Catch

**Join the North Central CMA Team and celebrate World Fish Migration Day as part of the Cohuna Farmers & Makers market.**

Register on the day to be in the running for prizes. All bait is supplied, with bank fishing only. Adults require a current Victorian Recreational Fishing Licence to participate.

The event also includes:

- Turtles Australia and Native Fish Australia displays
- "Ask me about Waterbugs" with Waterwatch
- Kids' colouring competition
- Hear about our Native Fish Recovery Project and what we're doing to bring back native fish

**When:** Sunday 22 May, 9am to 1pm

**Where:** Garden Park, Cohuna, 90 King George St, Cohuna VIC 3568

**What to bring:** Rods, hats, water bottles, closed shoes and sunscreen. All CMA events are COVID-19 safe events, proof of vaccination is required.

## Funding opportunities...

### BushBank private land restoration and protection

**The Victorian Government is seeking expressions of interest from suitable organisations which can deliver an ambitious program to revegetate and restore at least 20,000 hectares of native habitat across private land in Victoria.**

The Victorian Government is investing \$30.9 million to revegetate and restore at least 20,000 hectares of native habitat across private land in Victoria through its [BushBank program](#).

Expressions of interest are open for suitable organisations which can deliver this part of the program, bringing in co-investment and helping private landowners tap into financial incentives available through land restoration and carbon markets.

The successful delivery partner will recruit landowners to participate and also play a role in the delivery of works, involving the planting of millions of trees and shrubs to become habitat for native species.

This work is part of the Victorian Government's \$77 million BushBank program to revegetate and restore natural environments across Victoria.

#### How to apply

There are two stages for applicants:

Stage 1: Submit an expression of interest (EOI) to be a delivery partner.

Stage 2: Develop a Project Implementation Plan in consultation with DELWP and Trust for Nature.

Applicants must read the program guidelines [BushBank private land restoration and protection - Open call to market to select a delivery partner that details eligibility requirements \(refer to section 3.2\), program specifications and the EOI process and rules](#). These can be accessed below under [Application documents and supporting information](#).

**EOI's close on May 30 2022**

### BushBank First Peoples grants

**The BushBank program supports Traditional Owner participation in land restoration and carbon markets, including grants to build capacity and capability and for projects involving on-ground activities.**

Traditional Owners are important partners in the BushBank program, with opportunities to lead and participate in habitat restoration and carbon markets. \$14.5 million will be available via grants to support Aboriginal self-determination and Traditional Owner participation in restoration and carbon markets.

Applications are now open for the first round of grants totalling \$7 million over four years. The grants are designed to address biodiversity loss, climate change and to improve the capacity of Traditional Owners to participate in healing Country, carbon markets and to practice self-determination.

The grants are consistent with [Pupangarli Marnmarnepu](#), DELWP's Aboriginal Self-Determination Reform Strategy, providing opportunities for First Peoples organisations to increase their ability to achieve self-determination and economic independence through internal capacity building or undertaking on-ground activities that align with their aspirations for Country.

Two funding streams are available for eligible Traditional Owner Corporations:

1. Foundational grants to build capacity and capability with a maximum request of \$75,000 per application for projects delivered over a maximum of two years.
2. Place-based project grants for on-ground activities with a maximum request of \$500,000 per application for projects delivered over a maximum of four years.

[Further information including the grant guidelines and application forms](#) can be found below under Application documents and supporting information.

**Applications close on May 15, 2022**