



# North Central chat

NOVEMBER 2016

## A message from the Regional Landcare Coordinator

Hi everyone,

WOW, we hit the 30 year Anniversary of Landcare and what a celebration we had, returning to the birthplace of Landcare on a wonderful sunny Saturday on October 15.

I would like to sincerely thank everyone involved for making the St Arnaud event such a success and credit the incredible speakers who really engaged people in their local projects and the history of the area; Debra Saxon-Campbell (Kara Kara CMN), Anne Hughes (St. Arnaud Field Naturalists), Kevin Spence (Local Landcare Facilitator) and local farmer Tom Small from Tottington woolshed. Guests were also thrilled to hear from dinner guest speakers Grant Sims (Sims Pastoral) and Rob Youl (Australian Landcare International). Further stories and photos from the event are in the News section.

In the past month, we held a joint Landcare Network Chairs and Facilitators meeting in Castlemaine, discussing effective engagement strategies and communication tools to reach the local Landcare community. I also attended the National Interpretation Conference in Canberra. It was a delight to be surrounded by people who are as passionate as I am about creating memorable experiences for people to engage with the environment around them.

In relation to the 2016-17 Community Grants, all documentation for the National Landcare Program funded grants (16) and Regional Riparian Action Plan funded grants (12) have been distributed and funding is now being devolved. The official announcement in relation to the Victorian Landcare Grants funded projects and maintenance grants is pending but shouldn't be far away.

Looking forward into November, as the weather

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warms up and hay harvesting is in full swing, so too are community events. The CMA is hosting a range of exciting events every week and local Landcare groups have an amazing array of activities, so be sure to check out what is on in the Events section this month.

The warmer weather also brings about some not so nice surprises, and as I look down at my arms, I'm sure I'm not the only one covered in mosquito bites. It is a timely reminder that as we head out into the paddocks, bushland, forests and rivers, particularly with groups, to be vigilant with repellent, snake bite kits, water and sun protection. These amenities will make time outside much more bearable and practical for you and your groups.

*Enjoy the read,*

**Tess Grieves**

Regional Landcare Coordinator

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## News...

### Celebrating 30 years of Landcare

**St Arnaud turned on the weather on October 15 with 65 Landcarer's from across the ages setting off on a bus tour visiting local project sites and farms taking a genuine step back in time.**

Starting from the gorgeous Lamartine Hotel, the first stop was the Kara Kara National Park where Kara Kara Conservation Management Network member Debra Saxon-Campbell spoke about the incredible process the group has made in a relatively short period. Formed in 2010, the KKCMN has undertaken a huge range of citizen science programs within the national park and surrounds, dedicated to the protection of the significant patches of remnant Box-Ironbark forest and woodland in the area and the threatened



species they support.

Touring Paradise (*yes Paradise!*) was inspiring. Buloke and Northern Grampians Landcare Facilitator, Kevin Spence grabbed the mic and began the commentary; highlighting the many faces and philosophies that began this movement we are all a part of. As we travelled into Winjallock, the birthplace of Landcare, we drove past 'Stricta Hill' where it all began and discussed the innovative methods Winjallock Landcare Group used to direct seed and establish shelter belts along the eroding gullies, which are still holding strong and functioning well today.

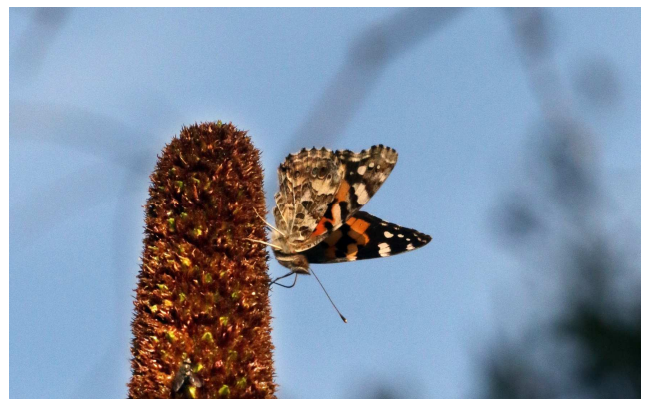
Arriving at Tom Small's property 'Tottingham', the group was delighted to be invited into the oldest working woolshed in Australia. It just so happened that we arrived on the exact anniversary of the woolshed's first shearing back in 1845, talk about timing!

Tom discussed the property's heritage, the farming operation he manages and the value adding and innovations he is embedding into his mixed farming enterprise. From wool, cropping and agroforestry, Tom had many lessons to share.



**Tom Small shared Tottingham's heritage and how he is taking lessons from the past to shape his farms bright future.**

Returning to St Arnaud for a well-earned drink, the final site visit was to the amazing Grey Grass Tree enclosure in View Point Track, a protective fencing project St Arnaud Field Naturalists completed in partnership with Parks Victoria. The group enjoyed local wines, stunning flowering grass trees and an abundance of butterflies.... and mosquitos, I am still itching but the site was well worth it.



Returning to the hotel and joined by more guests, the celebrations continued, hosted by CMA Chairman David Clark, Rob Youl discussed the history of Landcare, the transport of the Landcare philosophy internationally and called for greater resourcing to local facilitators, who are key to ensuring our natural resources are protected into



the future.

Grant Sims was an amazing addition to the evening, taking time to step away from cutting hay to make the tip from Pine Grove. From the get-go, Grant had the whole room engrossed in his favourite topic...dirt. It was certainly obvious, why this man was awarded the 2015 Weekly Times Young Farmer of the Year award. Grant's passion for all things soil from no-till and rotational cover cropping practices, including radishes and sunflowers, to soil microbial activity and all things worms was inspiring and infectious, in the best way possible.



I've said it before, farmers exude the very essence of what it means to be a Landcarer, and the whole celebration event showcased the commonality of values shared between community groups, primary producers and land managers working to protect and enhance natural assets including soils, waterways and biodiversity.

May the next 30 years of Landcare be as progressive and enjoyable as we all work to protect the legacy of the past and implement the variety of emerging Landcare ideas into the future.

*Thank you to John Childs for capturing these photos from the day, very much appreciated.*

## 30 Years of Landcare Awards

**By invitation and hosted by the Victorian Landcare Program (DELWP), the 30 years of Landcare Anniversary Awards is being held on November 25 in Melbourne.**

Finalists for the three award categories will receive their formal invitation in the post. I wish the best of luck to our north central nominees and look forward to announcing award recipients in the next edition of the Chat.

## Newham warmly welcomes Professor David Karoly

**Article by Jim Sansom, Newham Landcare Group**

Almost everyone accepts the fact of climate change.

There are many people however, who balk at the notion that human activity is a major contributing factor to the changing world climate.

It is true that the global climate is not a static thing and the geological record shows great swings down the ages, from vast ice sheets to periods when steamy tropical jungles accommodated dinosaurs in swampy environments.

However, as Professor David Karoly pointed out in his recent talk to the Newham Landcare Group, humans have been lucky that the past 8 to 10 thousand years have had a relatively stable climate. This is the period of gradual development of human civilizations.

Natural factors causing changes in climate are known as forcings. Things like changes in the Earth's orbit, variations in the sun's brightness and a slight wobble of the earth's axis have been carefully studied and well documented by scientists and data from deep ice cores and ancient lake sediments have confirmed a certain regularity in these large-scale forcings.

What is new is the variation from the predicted pattern that can't be explained by natural forcings.

Climate modelling is the technology enabling an assessment of the degree to which human activity (especially burning of fossil fuels since the early 1800's) is affecting a change in climate.



Professor Karoly's academic background as a mathematician puts him in a good place to combine the huge amount of data from observed atmospheric measurements to construct a meaningful climate model.

One animated graphic in his talk showed increasing global temperature from the early 1800s as a series of concentric circles. Successive circles with larger diameters indicated where the temperature would reach an increase of 1.5 degrees and then 2 degrees.

The alarming thing about this graph was the accelerated pace at which we are rapidly getting to these bigger circles!

Professor Karoly reminded us that humans are creating this problem and it is humans that can do something about it!

But what?

We have to move away from the burning of fossil fuels (especially coal) as the main source of energy for human activity. Ninety percent of remaining coal must be left in the ground if humanity is to avoid dangerous warming to 2 degrees.

Lively discussion followed with many questions and valuable ideas about what could be done. Every one of the one hundred or so people attending Professor Karoly's talk were invited to fill in a card saying what they thought might be achieved in the community.

Some 78 different ideas were put forward and are in the process of being collated to guide meaningful action within our communities.

## 2016 Inspiring Women in Agriculture course kicks off

**This year's 'Inspiring Women in Agriculture' accredited short course kicked off with excitement for 2016. Twenty-one rural women, hungry to take their ideas to the next level, have come together to learn new skills, build networks and be inspired.**

After three days, the women have used the course as an opportunity to network and share ideas. With a good cross section from industries sprawled across the north central region, there has been much chatter and learning about beef and grain production, sheep, wool, cropping, dairy, horticulture, poultry, calf rearing, produce, events and accommodation.

Day one was most eventful, with a full day of understanding self, values, personality styles and networking. Participants were taken through understanding personality styles in detail, including designing a network map and learning about maintaining networks. The women were then able to participate in network introduction such as speed dating and leadership.

Using leadership skills learnt from the day, participants were then tasked to organise the evening networking dinner, designed to give participants access to inspiring leaders in an informal and comfortable environment. A big thank you to Melissa Neal, (Past Inspiring Women in Agriculture participant), Katie Finlay, (Mt Alexander Fruit Gardens), Marg Allan, (Regional Director, Loddon Mallee Region), Lauren Andrews, (Regional and Rural Affairs Strategist for Bendigo and Adelaide Bank), and Dianne Bowles, (North Central CMA Board Member) for willingly attending as special dinner guests. In addition to learning more about a specific interest area, the networking dinner also provided participants with an opportunity to practice their networking skills.

Day 2 started with reflections on the networking dinner that immediately reinvigorated participants. Topics for day 2 and 3 included characteristics of a successful business, strategic planning (vision, situation analysis), spheres of concern, influence and control, analysing risk in business and goal setting. Coupled with a visit to a local leading business to Mt Alexander Fruit Garden, participants gained an in-depth understanding of growing a successful business.





With three days complete, participants are beginning work on developing their own action learning project, which provides an opportunity for them to put theory into practice, explore how they might take their agricultural business to the next level and set plan to achieve their goals.

Day 4 will follow in November, with final participant presentations on their own action-learning project in front of a target audience. Day three reflections highlighted the way the course has not only inspired women in agriculture, but also formalized many of the participant's dreams.

### Unleashing the potential of irrigation delivery streams for native fish: Re-snagging Box-Pyramid Creek

**Peter Rose - Project Officer, North Central CMA**

The North Central CMA's Native Fish Recovery Plan is a large-scale and long-term plan that aims to create a world-class fishery in the Gunbower and lower Loddon region. Ten years of fish ecology research on the Murray River has revealed irrigation delivery streams and associated habitats have a huge potential to support thriving populations of native fish with the ability to become a functional part of the Murray River ecosystem. The Gunbower and lower Loddon region has the foundations for excellent recreational fishing, but key elements of flow, connectivity and habitat need to be improved for the system to reach its full potential.

Box-Pyramid Creek is a critical conduit in the system, providing the longest unregimented section between the Murray, Little Murray and Loddon Rivers and nursery areas such as Kow swamp. In the late 1960s, Box-Pyramid Creek was dredged and de-snagged, and recent habitat mapping has confirmed it has extremely low instream woody habitat (IWH). Despite this, irrigation flows provide a strong attraction for large bodied fish such as golden and silver perch to move into the system. A recent fish survey of the creek found it supported large and healthy native fish populations and almost all of the fish identified were concentrated amongst the little remaining woody habitat.

There are many factors that dictate the success of a re-snagging program including the type and complexity of timber used, where it is located in the stream, and how it is orientated. Timber that contains hollows, root balls and a complex overlapping structures extending into different depths of the stream profile can support a greater

### Welcome, may I take your bags?

Fish hotels or 'havens' will be installed as part of the Native Fish Recovery Plan along Box-Pyramid Creek.



Thanks to the amazing help of local Kerang volunteers a series of fish hotels, or cod condos, as some like to call them, have been built providing a rest area for fish in high flow events and a refuge from predators.

Native fish also like to use the havens as spawning sites and are territorial markers for some species.

Fish havens also promote algae and bacteria growth, which attracts invertebrates (water bugs), an important part of the fish food web.





abundance of different species of fish than a simple straight log. For example, a study by Kohen & Nicol (2014) found trout cod used large woody habitat further from the bank than Murray cod and golden perch preferred wood higher in the water column.

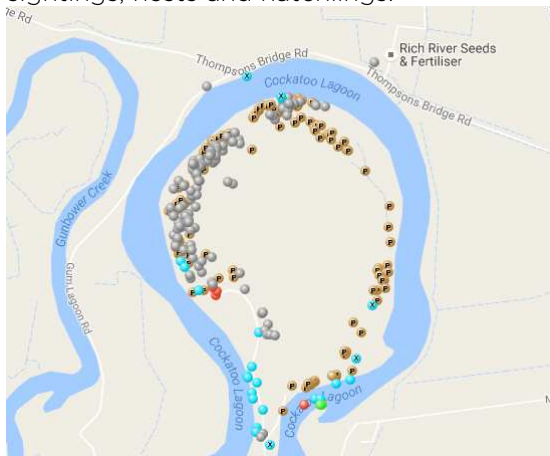
North Central CMA recently installed six IWH complexes in Box Creek funded through a recreational fishing grant. Preliminary surveys indicate native fish are using the woody habitat (see photo of Murray cod sampled from under one of the snags). A further 34 IWH complexes are planned to be installed in the creek between Hird Swamp and the Kerang Weir pool in the coming year. These IWH complexes consist of 5-10 overlapping logs and/or root balls that mimic the complexity of a fallen tree. Hydraulic modelling is being undertaken to ensure there is no increased risk of flooding or a reduction in irrigation water delivery efficiency due to the installation of the IWH structures. Furthermore, logs are secured to the streambed to prevent downstream movement of timber during high flows.

North Central CMA is also working with the community to construct 'fish havens' to be installed in the Loddon River downstream of Kerang Weir (see photo). In support, Goulburn Murray Water is also undertaking a resnagging program in the Little Murray River as part of the GMW connections project.

## November is Turtle Month

Turtles are on the move in November as they attempt to leave the safety of the water to lay their eggs.

The TurtleSAT app has been heavily utilized by citizen scientists in our region, shown below at Cockatoo Lagoon near Gunbower, to map turtle sightings, nests and hatchlings.



## Help to stop the spread of Wheel Cactus in Victoria

The Tarrangower Cactus Control Group (TCCG) has received funding from the Norman Wettenhall Foundation to employ a project officer. Max Schlachter will raise awareness of the threat posed by Wheel Cactus across Victoria and map its current distribution at a statewide level.



Wheel Cactus (*Opuntia robusta*) spreads very easily and is extremely difficult to kill. It invades pastures, roadsides and bushland, becoming so dense that land becomes almost completely inaccessible. Unfortunately, there is no biological control agent that will successfully control Wheel Cactus.

It is a big task, and to make this project successful the group needs to get in contact with as many regional Victorians as possible, with a request for information on Wheel Cactus infestations.

As a Landcare or Friends Group you can help make this project a success by:

- Asking members of your group to respond to the request for information on Wheel Cactus locations in your area by emailing a photograph and location details (to the nearest locality) of any Wheel Cactus plants to [mschlachter@outlook.com.au](mailto:mschlachter@outlook.com.au).
- Co-hosting a field day in March/May 2017 to raise awareness of the issue and demonstrate control techniques to landholders in your region.

*Please note: this project will not record any details about individuals or property addresses.*

If you have any questions or would like further information email Max at [mschlachter@outlook.com.au](mailto:mschlachter@outlook.com.au)



## Hello everyone,

I hope you are well and enjoying spring and the beautiful array of wildflowers blooming across the catchment, what a wonderful display on show this year!

I think it's safe to say there are many exciting things happening with Waterwatch at the moment. I don't even know where to start!

October – well, we started October with a discussion around the development of a Waterwatch Data Report, the recruitment of Sophie (read more below) to the Waterwatch team, a River Detectives facilitator training workshop, a National Water Week with 100 primary school students and we co-hosted the annual Campaspe Carp Catch event! October was a month full of amazing adventures.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Sophie Pritchard to the North Central Waterwatch program as the River Detectives project officer.

Sophie will be working three days per week - Monday to Wednesdays. Sophie will use her experience and knowledge in education and community engagement to build on the wonderful resources and lesson plans that have been developed by many amazing people over the past 15 years for the River Detectives program.

Sophie will be the key contact for the State-wide River Detectives Pilot program and will work closely with North East, Corangamite and Wimmera CMAs so they can deliver the River Detectives program to schools in their region. I am excited about the journey ahead and the knowledge, passion and experience Sophie brings with her to the program.

We have a whole bunch of events on offer during November; please read more to find out what's on offer and how to get involved!

## What's happening in November?

**You, Me Biodiversity Talk – John Gooderham  
The Waterbug Company**  
When: 5th November 2016  
Time: 2.30 – 4.30 pm  
Where: Trentham Community Hall

**ALT Training – John Gooderham, The Waterbug Company**  
When: 6th November 2016  
Time: 9.30 – 3.30 pm  
Where: Baringhup, Loddon River

**Native Fish Recovery Program's - NatureBlitz event 2016 – Limited places available**  
When: 7-11 November 2016  
Time: All day over 5 days  
Where: We will be staying at Tree Tops and taking participants to a range of sites along Box-Pyramid Creek and the Loddon River.

**River Detectives, Professional Development Training workshop**  
When: 16<sup>th</sup> November 2016  
Time: 4.15 – 6.15 pm  
Where: Daylesford Dharma School, 11 Perrins St, Daylesford VIC 3460

If you have any questions about any of our events, please feel free to call.

## Cass Davis

**Regional Waterwatch Coordinator**  
North Central Catchment Management Authority  
Phone: 03 5440 1863  
Email: [cass.davis@nccma.vic.gov.au](mailto:cass.davis@nccma.vic.gov.au)



## River Detectives training!

As part of the River Detectives School Program we spread the love of 'water bugs' by helping teachers with knowledge, resources, ideas and equipment.

On Wednesday 12 October teachers gathered at the North Central CMA Huntly office to learn the ins and outs about macro invertebrates from Cass. This included how to take a successful water sample of macroinvertebrates, how to identify them, how to record and count the numbers



which is all connected to determining the quality of the water being tested.

Teachers were told they could borrow equipment from North Central CMA to use for the topic, and shown how to use the River Detectives website to gather more information for delivering the lessons in the classroom, as well as interactive recording locations – which stores the data from month to month, year to year.

“I have just joined the North Central CMA and it was a great experience for me to see teachers being inspired to take these ideas back to their schools”, Sophie, North Central CMA Waterwatch.

Due to the River Detectives Programs great success in north central Victoria, it is being trialled at a statewide level across the region throughout 2017. If you would like to be involved in the development and ongoing success of the program please contact Sophie Pritchard, [sophie.pritchard@nccma.vic.gov.au](mailto:sophie.pritchard@nccma.vic.gov.au) or 03 5440 1847.

### Become a Citizen Scientist and help protect your local waterway

Collecting samples from your local creek, river or stream provides vital information about the health of our precious waterways.

This information can be used by land managers, Landcare groups, industry partners, scientists, students or researchers to ensure our ancient waterways are here well into the future to provide habitat for fish, frogs, waterbugs and many other animals.

Creeks, river and streams also provide important cultural, recreational and economic benefits to local communities and it is important we maintain their health for future users.

To find out how you can get involved, please call Cass Davis on 03 54401863 or email [cass.davis@nccma.vic.gov.au](mailto:cass.davis@nccma.vic.gov.au)

### Campaspe Carp Catch 2016

The North Central CMA organised the Campaspe Carp Catch fishing competition along the lower reaches of the Campaspe River, from Axedale to Echuca. The event was held on Sunday 16 October to align with National Gone Fishing Day.

The event is a fun way to highlight the impact of carp on our waterways. Carp are a major component of the Murray-Darling Basin’s fish population and cause significant damage to rivers, wetlands and the natural environment.



The Caring for the Campaspe River project in partnership with the Waterwatch program and with the support from community organisations such as the Echuca Moama Landcare, Strathallan Family Landcare, Axedale Our Town – Our Future and Rochester and District Angling Club, held a fun and informative Campaspe Carp Catch day. Funding for the event was in part provided by Victoria’s peak recreational fishing body VR Fish.

Four of the five hubs along the Campaspe River were open for registration (Echuca hub cancelled due to risks in Murray River reaching peak flow).

Results from the day:

Hub	Participants	Carp	Native fish
Axedale	57	3	1 golden perch
Elmore	69	16	0
Rochester	14	0	3 Murray cod 1 golden perch
Strathallan	29	1	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>3 Murray cod 2 golden perch</b>

Prizes were handed out for the Best Catch and the Biggest Bag.





It was a fun day, and participants took home the message that introduced fish, like the carp, can damage our waterways and crowd out communities of our magnificent native fish species.

### National Water Week 2016: WATER|LIFE|GROWTH

National Water Week makes a splash across Australia in October every year, inspiring individuals, communities and organisations to work together to build community awareness and understanding around water issues and opportunities for growth and innovation.

Over the past five years, North Central Waterwatch has partnered with the City of Greater Bendigo and Coliban Water to deliver an event during National Water Week (16 - 22 October 2016) to collaboratively raise awareness of this precious resource.

Three primary schools from across the North Central CMA region were invited along to the event to participate in a range of activities from studying discovering native birds and aquatic

fauna to learning all about what's in our water? This year's event was extra special as Geoff Williams from the Australian Platypus Conservancy allocated time from his busy schedule to visit the event and talk the children about Water rats (Rakali), the Aussie Otter!

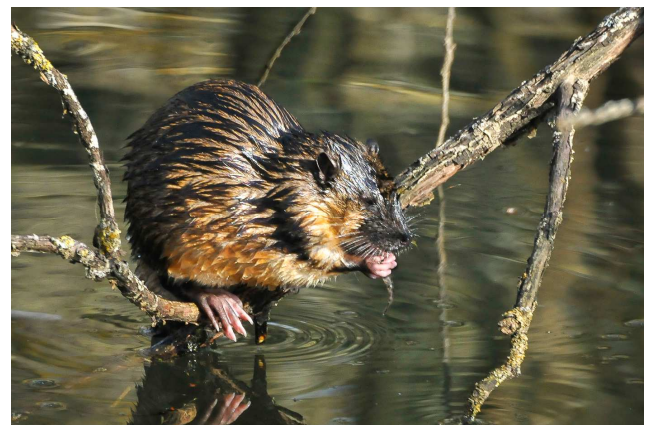
Geoff spoke about why the water rat is often referred to as the Australian otter as its presents with very similar features to the otter, it has small ears, flat nose with its nostrils at the side, BIG whiskers and a flat head. He also spoke about how the water rat has 3-4 offspring and their large diet; they are not fussy eaters like Platypus!

Students also had the opportunity to meet some native birds in the aviary with Brad Crème and learnt about different animals that rely on a water sources with Miles Geldard. Rob Krober from Coliban Water also spoke to the students about water quality and showed different samples of water to demonstrate that water isn't always, as it seems.



### Have you seen a Rakali?

The Australian Platypus Conservancy is currently conducting a community-based survey of the status and distribution of the water-rat in Victoria with assistance from the Norman Wettenhall Foundation.





If you have seen a water rat, please go to: <http://www.platypus.asn.au> to report your sighting and help the Australian Platypus Conservancy gather the information they need to raise awareness and protect this beautiful native rat.

## Events...



**FarmHER is the theme for the 2016 Chicks in the Sticks event, to be held at Mount Mitchell, in Lexton on November 25.**

Event details and all ticket sales (\$25 pp) are online via: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2016-chicks-in-the-sticks-farmher-tickets-28542953743>

The popular event, as always, is a first in best-dressed event, so please secure your place ASAP.

We are so looking forward to seeing another amazing array of frocks and gumboots for what is sure to be an incredible evening.

## 2016 Rabbit Buster Roadshow



The Rabbit Buster Roadshow will bring Dr. Tarnya Cox (Invasive Animals CRC) and John Matthews (Manager of Biosecurity Dept. Agriculture Victoria) back to the north central

CMA region from Nov 14-16. See flyer on the back of the Chat for all the details. Register online at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2016-rabbit-buster-roadshow-registration-28824685410> or call the North Central CMA to book into a session near you (03) 5448 7124.

## Kerang Catch a Carp Day

**The postponed event has a new date, Sunday November 20.**

Register on the Loddon River at Wyndham Street, but fish anywhere you want.

Prizes for Best Catch and Biggest Bag. Lunch at 12.30pm and judging at 1pm.

For more details, call the North Central CMA on (03) 5448 7124.



## Courses & Resources...

### Community Consultative Committee

The North Central CMA has 11 community representatives, appointed by the Board, from across the catchment to bring community perspectives to CMA projects. *Who are they?* I am often asked, so here are the Community Consultative Committee (CCC) members, who meet bi-monthly and welcome your input and perceptive on CMA related issues;

- John Cable (Glenlyon)
- Ken Coates (Natte Yallock)
- Ron Cosgrave (Smeaton)
- Alan Denehey (Woodend)
- Rebecca Edwards (Harcourt)
- Ted Gretgrix (Strathfieldsaye)
- Ron Kelly (Kerang)
- Rob Loats (Donald)



- John Nelson (Boort)
- Colin Smith (Junortoun)
- Deborah Webster (Sailors Gully)

Find out more about these valuable community members at:

[http://www.nccma.vic.gov.au/About\\_Us/CCC/index.aspx](http://www.nccma.vic.gov.au/About_Us/CCC/index.aspx) or email member directly via [name.surname@nccma.vic.gov.au](mailto:name.surname@nccma.vic.gov.au)

## Willow management factsheet out now

**DELWP Water and Catchments team has drafted a revised willow management factsheet for Victoria.**

The factsheet was developed in response to community concerns about the way willow management is conducted in Victoria. As well as explaining the 'how, why and what' about willow management in Victoria, it also stresses the need for good community consultation about proposed willow control programs.

You can find it online at:

<http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/water/rivers-estuaries-and-wetlands/implementation-and-monitoring/managing-willows-in-victoria>



## Did you do your yard count?

**The annual Aussie Backyard Bird Count occurred 17-23 October and 1,480,434 birds were counted!**

655 species were recorded and almost 45,000 checklists from passionate birders to first time citizen scientists.

A tally of the top 10 sighted birds will be collected soon by Birdlife Australia, so we will have to wait and see which feathered friends' takes out the 2016 award.

## Funding...

### Wildlife Rehabilitator Grants

**The Victorian Government values the work and achievements of Victoria's volunteer wildlife rehabilitators, and through the Wildlife Rehabilitator Grants Program provides funding to increase standards of wildlife care.**

The 2016 round of the Wildlife Rehabilitator Grants Program is now open and closes on **Friday 18 November 2016.**

The program will provide \$170,000 in grants of up to \$2,000 each to support volunteer wildlife rehabilitators.

Funds will be made available to cover costs for:

- attending appropriate education and training (including attendance fees for the 2016 Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference);
- purchasing general infrastructure and other equipment to assist with the operation of their facilities; and
- purchasing approved personal protective clothing and equipment for wildlife rescues;
- purchasing consumable items (e.g. feed, petrol and medical supplies).

Apply online via DELWP's SmartyGrants page:

<https://delwp.smartygrants.com.au/wrg2016> or visit the website for all information:

<http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au/environment-and-wildlife/wildlife/wildlife-rehabilitation/wildlife-rehabilitator-grants?remap=delwp.vic.gov.au/wildlife-rehabilitator-grants>

### REPORTING REMINDER

**All 2015-16 funded Community Grant reports and mapping are due NOVEMBER 18.**

**Please get in touch with Tess Grieves should you require any assistance to complete your reports.**



# Rabbit Buster Roadshow with Dr. Tarnya Cox November 14-16, 2016



Are you a property owner or Landcare member working to manage rabbits?  
Wondering what to do next?

The North Central CMA is pleased to bring Dr Tarnya Cox (Invasive Animals CRC) back to the region to present the 2016 Rabbit Buster Roadshow:

**Information sessions will cover:**

- Invasive Animals CRC Boost project- RHDV (pathogenic calicivirus).
- Integrated rabbit management.
- Landholder participation in the Boost project.
- Case studies from local Landcare groups and land managers.
- Where to next – the future release of a new strain of RHDV.
- 2017 Rabbit Buster Month campaign.

Tarnya is leading the national scientific research campaign to reduce the devastating agricultural and environmental impact of rabbits. She will also discuss current research to find a new strain of Calicivirus and efforts to improve the biological control of rabbits.

In addition, Agriculture Victoria Invasive Animals Biosecurity manager John Matthews will join the roadshow sharing years of practical rabbit management expertise

A local Landcare group or network will host each session and share their story on rabbit management. An abundance of information and rabbit-management resources will be available for participants to take away from each session.

*Register now to hop on board this unique opportunity.*

## Roadshow Information Sessions

Wycheproof Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November  
6.00 pm with light supper provided  
Wycheproof Town Hall

Smeaton Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November  
12.00 noon with light lunch provided  
Smeaton Bowls Club

Newstead Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November  
6.30 pm with light supper provided  
Newstead Community Centre

Serpentine Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November  
8.30 am Breakfast BBQ provided  
Serpentine Bowls Club

Kerang Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November  
6.00 pm with light supper provided  
Kerang Tennis Clubrooms

Cost: Free, with light meals provided

RSVP: For catering purposes please RSVP to the North Central CMA on (03) 5448 7124 or online via

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2016-rabbit-buster-roadshow-registration-28824685410>

