

# North Central chat

OCTOBER 2016



## A message from the Regional Landcare Coordinator

Hi everyone,

It'd be hard to start this edition of the Chat without mentioning the flooding rains that have swept across the catchment in the past couple of weeks.

It has certainly been a tense time watching the forecast while the creeks and rivers rise around many of the regional townships. Keeping in touch with the Landcare & farming community has been integral to understanding the movement of water across the catchment and also provides important stories and imagery of crop inundation, stock movement and bubbling soils trying to take in the moisture.

If you are concerned about your property during rain or flood events, be sure to access the latest information through the Vic Emergency website <http://emergency.vic.gov.au/respond/> or call 132500. If in an emergency, call Triple Zero (000).

The rain didn't dampen my paperwork load, ensuring I stayed in the office and completed the 2016-17 Community Grants assessment process. Successful applicants will soon be officially announced, after which, groups and individuals will begin to receive letters and contract paperwork to get their amazing projects going.

Thank you to everyone who submitted an application and for the feedback about SmartyGrants. I continue to welcome all feedback from applicants, to improve the grants process from application to acquittal.

Late September was full of all things Landcare, the 30 years of Landcare celebration event invitation began circulation and Mandy and I headed down to Melbourne for the 2016 National Landcare Conference. I was thrilled to see so many local

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*A flurry of water along the Loddon River at Newbridge on September 9.*

Landcare faces in attendance. Read more about the conference in the news section.

Looking ahead, on October 11 the Landcare Network Facilitators and Network Chairs will have a meeting in Castlemaine to discuss key topics of interest and opportunities for partnerships between the Landcare networks, groups and CMA.

I hope you enjoy this issue of the Chat and look forward to celebrating with you at the '30 years of Landcare' event on October 15, please get your RSVP's in soon.

Enjoy the read,

### Tess Grieves

Regional Landcare Coordinator

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## News...

### Regional Floodplain Management Strategy

#### Have your say on Floodplain Management

**Since the 2010-11 floods, work has been done to improve flood mapping, flood warning systems and community flood awareness for specific towns, but as a region, there is still work to be done. Community consultation is the first step in developing a regional strategy for floodplain management.**

A series of community 'drop in' sessions will be held in early October to capture your knowledge about local flood risks.

We want to know what's important to you, so we can work together to decide on the level of flood mitigation we want and can afford as a community.

#### How can I get involved?

Look for advertising in local papers to see where and when we will be in your area. Attend one of the community 'drop in' sessions and share your knowledge with us. Bring along any maps, photos, stories or other relevant material.

#### Where can I get more information?

[www.nccma.vic.gov.au](http://www.nccma.vic.gov.au), phone: 03 5448 7124 or email: [floodplain@nccma.vic.gov.au](mailto:floodplain@nccma.vic.gov.au)

**The Regional Floodplain Management Strategy is a partnership project between the North Central CMA, local councils and VicSES.**

### Launch of Eucalypt Australia

**A new player is set to join the ranks of champions of the environment with the launch in Inglewood next month of Eucalypt Australia.**

Planned for 14 October at Inglewood's Blue Eucy Museum, the event aims to boost interest in the body's active grants program and its range of projects, headed by the annual National Eucalypt Day.

The organisation behind Eucalypt Australia is the Bjarne K. Dahl Trust, opened for business in Melbourne in 2009 to promote the awareness, knowledge and appreciation of Australia's iconic eucalypt trees.

Bjarne Klaus Dahl (1898-1993) was a Norwegian who migrated to Australia at the age of 30 to work for the Forests Commission of Victoria.

## 2016 National Landcare Conference News & Highlights

Held in Melbourne to mark the 30 years of Landcare anniversary from September 21-23, 2016, the conference highlighted the vital role Landcare plays in soil regeneration, sustainable agriculture and environmental restoration.



**Gardening Australia host Costa Georgiadis was the Master of Ceremonies and even took time for a very cheesy photo with yours truly! #plantnerdsunite**

As this was the first conference I have attended, I was really excited about the networking opportunity with other Landcarers from across the country as well as learning from those groups doing amazing work closer to home.

Key messages, themes and quirky comments from the conference included:

**Saving and restoring our soils should be a matter of national priority.**

- "If you eat, you're a farmer and if you're a farmer, you're a Landcarer"
- "How about we develop a Ministry of Soils and Compost!"

**30 years of Landcare, where to now?**

- "Change the vibe of Landcare. Younger generations don't want an ongoing commitment or to be on a committee, they want an adventure, an experience"
- "Get a health check, a group health check. Everyone's time is valuable, so create good governance and build up group capacity to achieve common goals"

Overall the conference was a wonderful opportunity to network and reengage with why we do what we do, which was summed up perfectly by Costa, "*We might not change the world but we can make things a little bit less worse*".



In 1948, he became Chief Land Purchasing Officer with APM Forests and played an important role in the establishment of the paper and pulp mill at Maryvale in Gippsland.

Dahl developed a deep affinity with the Australian bush and left his entire estate to the Forests Commission, to be used for the conservation of eucalyptus trees and education of the public.

The Trust has already given out over \$1 million in grants to about 80 projects across Australia and this will continue with Eucalypt Australia.

This year, the Trust will make available a total of \$130,000, with up to \$15,000 offered for any one successful application. Chief Executive Officer Dr Bram Mason said he was expecting around 100 people at the Inglewood launch. "We'll also be launching the Eucalypt Australia website on the day and promoting our fourth National Eucalypt Day in 2017, this day involves many partner organisations including the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria and Zoos Victoria.

"We chose Inglewood as a venue to recognise in the Loddon area the efforts of former grantees and environmental organisations and to link in with Bosisto's and the eucalyptus oil industry so prominent in the region."

National Eucalypt Day is held on 23 March each year – the birthday of Bjarne Dahl.

For more information, visit [www.dahltrust.org.au](http://www.dahltrust.org.au)

### Keep Australia Beautiful Award Finalists

The Mt Pleasant Creek Catchment Landcare Group has been recognised for their work at the Toolleen Wayside Stop, Echuca's St Mary's Primary School has been recognised for reducing the school's waste and Campaspe Shire's partnership with Ellwaste to reduce waste going into landfill has also been rewarded.

The Landcare group in Toolleen has created a lovely place for travellers and locals to rest and explore the local area. Weed control, a new walking path, installation of a flora and history board and revegetation have all enhanced the area on the Northern Highway and provided a key point of interest for the community.

St Mary's Primary School employed a sustainability educator at the start of the school year. As a result of this, the school has set up a garden, compost and chook yard to help educate students in sustainability.



The finalists were recognised at a presentation at the Echuca library in September. We wish them all the best for the State Awards on October 15.

### HAVE YOUR SAY: National Landcare Programme stakeholder survey



**"Not another survey!" I hear you say but this one is vital for the future of the National Landcare Programme which funds the Regional Landcare Facilitator role, community grants and many large scale NRM and Sus Ag projects across our region.**

The Australian Government invites you to provide feedback on the National Landcare Programme through an online survey. The survey should take no longer than 20 minutes to complete and your responses are confidential.

The National Landcare Programme is a key Australian Government commitment that supports communities to protect the environment, manage our natural resources and deliver sustainable agriculture outcomes across Australia. The Australian Government is undertaking a review of the National Landcare Programme to ensure it is effective, efficient and continues to target natural resource management priorities.

The survey can be accessed at the following link: <https://environment.au.citizenspace.com/biodiversity-conservation/nlp-stakeholder-survey>

If you have any queries on the survey or would like a hard copy version of the survey, please send an email to [NLP@artd.com.au](mailto:NLP@artd.com.au) or contact Ms Erum Rasheed from ARTD Consultants on 02 9373 9918.



## Test and Tag- better the devil you know

Article by Will Honybun, North Central CMA

**In Gunbower Forest, carp are a threat that has the potential to limit progress towards achieving the ecological objectives of the forest. Carp impact on water quality, the establishment of aquatic vegetation, and provides competition with native fish populations, inhibiting their recovery.**

To better understand the way carp move between the floodplain and Murray River at Gunbower Forest, the CMA has recently engaged fish ecologists from Arthur Rylah Institute (ARI) to conduct electrofishing surveys and insert acoustic and PIT tags into carp to monitor their movement.

Surveys were conducted at sites where carbon rich water from the floodplain was observed flowing back into the river, acting as an attractant for fish. A total of 40 carp were successfully captured, tagged and released which will help show when and where the fish move during the flood recession.

Survey data also found a number of Golden perch, Silver perch and Murray cod, indicating that these fish are also attracted to the floodplain water as a food source. This is the first time Golden perch has been observed on the floodplain which is significant as it shows that they do move on and off the floodplain to utilise resources.



**ARI scientists are researching for a solution to managing carp in Gunbower Forest**

We hope the information gathered will help us better understand how carp behave during flood events. This information will be useful as we develop our carp management strategy and look

at long term management options for carp in Gunbower Forest.

## Funding received for furry, feathered and floristic friends

In September 2016, ninety eight successful projects were announced as recipients of the Victorian Governments Round Two - Threatened Species Protection Initiative Community Volunteer Action Grants.

Congratulation to recipients from the North Central region, including:

- **Loddon Plains Landcare Network:** Restoring a key habitat corridor for the Bush Stone Curlew on the Calivil Creek, Yarrowalla
- **Mount Korong Eco Watch:** Rewilding Korong Ridge – Pest species eradication: feral fox, cat and rabbit control
- **Strathallan Family Landcare:** Gliders along the Campaspe
- **Woodend Landcare:** Filling in the Black Gum Gaps along Five Mile Creek
- **Donald and District Landcare Group:** Protecting Buloke Woodlands 2016
- **Campaspe River & Land Management Group:** Australian Anchor Plant-protection; propagation; revegetation in the Campaspe catchment
- **Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation:** Dja Dja Wurrung Caring for County - *Pimelea* conservation
- **Kara Kara Conservation Management Network:** Action for threatened species in Victoria's western goldfields
- **Moolort Landcare Inc:** Moolort Plains Remnant *Pimelea spinescens* and VVP Grassland Awareness Raising & On-ground Conservation
- **St Arnaud Field Naturalist Club Inc:** Protection and Recruitment of the Wax Garden Reserve's threatened Buloke and Goldfields *Grevillea* colonies
- **Connecting Country** (Mount Alexander Region) Inc: Boosting Bulokes and Diamond Firetails in the Muckleford valley and surrounds of central Victoria
- **Northern Bendigo Landcare Group:** Huntly Streamside Reserve Biolink

See more at:

<http://delwp.vic.gov.au/environment-and-wildlife/conserving-threatened-species-and-communities/threatened-species-protection-initiative#sthash.isOU6eH5.dpuf>



## Landcare Gateway Launched

### The new and improved Victorian Landcare Gateway is up and running.

Whilst RLCs have been actively trying to keep group contacts up to date, the new gateway allows you to easily edit your page and contact information to keep it current.

The gateway is the go to place for all Landcare Groups, in particular for new people looking to join a group in their local area. Please take the time to have a look and update your content. You can also include a link to your website or Facebook page, if that is more suitable for your group.

Visit the gateway today:

<https://www.landcarevic.org.au/>

## Wild Families- Fun tools to engage families in nature

Victorian National Parks Association has been working with the Macedon Ranges Shire and Woodend Landcare to produce a Wild Families Brochure/Activity Pages for the Macedon Ranges region.

These activity pages are about connecting families of all ages with their local environment and highlighting some of the annual Landcare activities that appeal to kids and adults alike so they can get involved.

**EXPLORE & LEARN**

**WILD SPOT- MACEDON RANGES**

The Macedon Ranges are full of amazing places to explore and discover. From the rolling hills and valleys, to the ancient forests and mountains, there are so many beautiful places to explore. The Macedon Ranges are a special place to visit and explore. They are a beautiful part of our natural heritage and offer a range of experiences for everyone.

**EXPLORE MORE**

Check out the Macedon Ranges National Park for more information. Find a walk or picnic spot that's just right for you. Make sure you have a map of the area and a list of things to see and do. Share your experiences with your family and friends.

**WILD CREATURE SUGAR GLIDER**

Sugar gliders are a unique gliding mammal that live in the forest canopy. They are able to hang upside down and glide between trees. They are a member of the marsupial family and are found in the Macedon Ranges. They are a highly social mammal and live in small families of up to seven adults. Sugar gliders climb in trees together, with their bodies hanging together as a team of eight. Their elongated bodies, stretched together, help them to hang upside down and glide between trees. Sugar gliders make a number of different calls including a soft chirp like 'beep' to warn of potential predators.

**Spending time in nature can help improve self-esteem and mood for children and adults!**

**WILD FAMILIES**

Our story

Illustration and coloring by Lisa Brown, Tereza & EDD

working at the CMA, going back to planting sites from 2006 in the Axe Creek catchment, to a project creating bio links in rural subdivisions.

The photos speak for themselves, combining CMA funding and landholder complementary planting, the bio links are really showing their vital function in the cleared and fragmented rural landscape.



Image above from 2006 & below from 2016



## Events...

### 30 Years of Landcare celebration

Invitations will be arriving in mailboxes across the catchment for the upcoming celebration event. Please get in touch if you would like a copy and ensure you contact (03) 5448 7124 or email [info@nccma.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@nccma.vic.gov.au) to RSVP.

## Decades make the difference

Whether you're involved in Landcare, or simply a land manager yourself, no doubt you've planted a tree or two in your time.

CMA Project Manager, Adrian 'Panda' Martins has recently taken a look back over his 15+ years of



## Rabbit Buster Workshop- Malmesbury

Malmesbury District Landcare Group in conjunction with Biosecurity Officer, Martin Deering from Agriculture Victoria, is hosting a free community rabbit control meeting.

Landowners will be provided with the latest information on European rabbit control methods. A contractor will be providing a practical demonstration of rabbit control techniques on a nearby site.

**When:** Saturday 22 October from 10.15 am

**Where:** CFA Malmesbury, Mollison Street, Malmesbury

**RSVP:** Rob Burdett by 19 October  
[robninaburdett@gmail.com](mailto:robninaburdett@gmail.com) or 0409 410 151

## Landcare through the Lens; The Big Picture in Central Victoria



Friends of Bald Hill Reserve present 'Where does Bald Hill Reserve Fit In?' by award winning photojournalist & Facilitator of the Upper

**Campaspe Landcare Network, Sandy Scheltema.**

The presentation will be followed by a walk in Bald Hill Reserve after the rains led by Carolyn Robb. A delicious homemade afternoon tea will also be provided.

**When:** Sunday 2 October 2pm to 4pm

**Where:** Kyneton Clay Target Club Rooms  
 281 Pipers Creek Road Entrance

**RSVP:** Friday 30 September 2016 to  
 Carolyn Robb- (president) - 0439 080 952 or  
 Email [carolynrobb52@gmail.com](mailto:carolynrobb52@gmail.com)  
 Caroline McDowall (secretary)-0407 051 771 or  
 Email [mcdoan@bigpond.com](mailto:mcdoan@bigpond.com)

## Get along to a Carp Catch near you!

**The North Central CMA is hosting several Carp Catch events on Sunday 16 October.**

Register on the day and be eligible for Biggest Catch and Biggest Bag prizes.

## Campaspe River events

**When:** Sunday 16 October 12.00 noon -3.00 pm. A BBQ lunch is provided at 12.00. Judging will commence at 3.00

**Where:** 5 hubs along the river; Axedale, Elmore, Rochester, Strathallan & Echuca

**RSVP:** North Central CMA on (03) 5448 7214

## Kerang event

**When:** Sunday 16 October. 9.00am – 1.30pm. A BBQ lunch is provided at 12.30. Judging will commence at 1.00

**Where:** Loddon River, Wyndham St, Kerang.

**RSVP:** North Central CMA on (03) 5448 7214

**For all event information visit:**

[http://www.nccma.vic.gov.au/Media\\_and\\_Events/Events/index.aspx](http://www.nccma.vic.gov.au/Media_and_Events/Events/index.aspx)



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

This year's National Water week's theme is 'Water - life - growth' encouraging sound water practices and investment in all water sources to ensure we don't exhaust our current sources in potentially challenging times ahead

North Central Waterwatch will again be partnering with Coliban Water and the City of Greater Bendigo, getting local schools together at the Bendigo Botanical Gardens on Tuesday October 18, which is sure to be a fantastic day.

## Courses and Resources...

### Loddon Murray Leadership Scholarships

**Two scholarships are available to residents of the Loddon Murray region involved in environmental activities and/or sustainable agriculture to take part in the 2017 Community Leadership Program.**



Two scholarship are available to residents of the Loddon Murray Region involved in environmental activities and/or sustainable agriculture to take part in the 2017 Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program.



[www.cllm.org.au](http://www.cllm.org.au)

Applications are now open. The program runs between February and November each year and accepts up to 25 participants annually who reflect the diversity of the communities living and working within our region.

Each of the 20+ program days are held in a different part of the region effectively showcasing rural communities, towns and major regional centres, as well as visits to Melbourne and Canberra.

Through the program, participants are able to explore a wide range of issues that encompasses social, cultural, environmental, technological and economic aspects of our region; and continually develop and build on their skills and knowledge, and ultimately their confidence as a community leader. Within twelve months of graduation participants are required to complete a community project and report on its outcomes.

Don't miss this exciting opportunity to take advantage of a scholarship for the 2017 program intake. Visit:

<https://cllm.org.au/lmclp/applications/>

## 2017 Victorian Rural Women's Awards are open now

Applications for the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation's 2017 Victorian Rural Women's Awards are now open for women in the community who are passionate and have the potential to make a real difference.

The Rural Women's Award, proudly sponsored by Agriculture Victoria, are Australia's pre-eminent award for rural women. It recognises and supports emerging women leaders who have the potential to make a greater contribution to primary

industries and rural communities.

The award offers a \$10,000 bursary to each state and territory winner and provides the resources to bring to life a project or initiative that will benefit rural industries and communities.

For more information or to apply, please visit [www.rirdc.gov.au](http://www.rirdc.gov.au), or contact Victoria's Award Coordinator on 03 8392 7119 or [Tracey.Butcher@ecodev.vic.gov.au](mailto:Tracey.Butcher@ecodev.vic.gov.au)

Applications for the Victorian Rural Women's Awards close on **Monday 31 October 2016**.

## Grants and Funding...

### 2017 Science and Innovation Awards

**Applications are now open for the 2017 Science Awards. If you're 18-35, this is your chance to apply for a grant of up to \$22,000 (inc GST) to fund your project on an innovative or emerging scientific issue that will benefit Australia's primary industries.**

The Hon. Barnaby Joyce, Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, launched the 2017 Awards which encourage young scientists, researchers and innovators with original projects that will contribute to the ongoing success and sustainability of Australia's agricultural, fisheries and forestry industries. The Science Awards have already helped more than 210 young Australians make their ideas a reality and showcase their talent to the world.

There are 11 industry Science Award categories open for applications: cotton; dairy; established, new and emerging rural industries; fisheries and aquaculture; grains; health and biosecurity; meat and livestock; pork; red meat processing; viticulture and oenology; and wool.

Winners of the industry category Science Awards are then invited to apply for the Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources Award, which provides additional funding for an extended research project.

**Interested? Here are the next steps, visit [Science and Innovation Awards - Department of Agriculture and Water Resources](#)**

## You're invited

GOING  
BACK TO  
WHERE  
LANDCARE  
STARTED

*You're invited...*



NORTH CENTRAL  
Catchment Management Authority  
*Connecting Rivers, Landscapes, People*

*Celebrating*  
**30**  
YEARS



LANDCARE  
IN VICTORIA  
since 1986



VICTORIA  
State  
Government

Printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper.  
Photo © S. Scheltema

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### Dear Landcarer

Landcare has reached another milestone. 2016 marks the 30th anniversary of the movement from its humble beginnings in north central Victoria in 1986. You are invited to join in the 30 years of Landcare celebration event.

Catch up with friends for dinner at the Lamartine Hotel in St Arnaud, with guest speaker Rob Yule OAM, Chair of Australian Landcare International. If you have some extra time, a bus tour prior to dinner will visit unique local Landcare project sites.

I look forward to celebrating this wonderful occasion with our passionate Landcare community.

Warmest regards,

*Fees Griener*

Regional Landcare Coordinator



#### WHEN

Saturday October 15 2016  
3.00pm; optional bus tour leaves  
Lamartine Hotel  
6.00pm-9.00pm @ Lamartine Hotel

#### WHERE

Meet at Lamartine Hotel, Alma St.  
St Arnaud. (Street parking)

#### WHAT'S ON

Tour local Landcare project sites,  
ending at the St Arnaud Grey Grass-  
Tree enclosure followed by a cocktail  
dinner by the fire with music and  
guest speakers.

#### DRESS

Smart casual with a Landcare twist  
(closed shoes for farm visits)

#### RSVP IS ESSENTIAL

Wednesday 5 October 2016.  
Contact North Central CMA on  
03 5448 7124.