

# North Central chat

SEPTEMBER 2012

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

## A message from the Regional Landcare Coordinator

Hi everyone,

I thought I would start off by saying a big thank you to everyone who provided feedback about our newsletter- the new name and look was very well received. The first edition wasn't completely perfect (it was my first time using this new template) but hopefully this edition will be closer to the usual standard!

At the start of September I was very fortunate to bid farewell to chilly Bendigo and head north to the National Landcare Conference in Sydney. For three days I mixed with some pretty amazing people from all over Australia who all shared a passion for Landcare and conserving their environment. I heard some great community groups present about a whole range of projects including restoring grasslands, conserving the South-eastern Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo and adventure Landcare (Landcarers that go rafting while killing weeds!). My favourite speaker was the one and only Dr David Suzuki. He was very popular and I think we all could have listened to him for hours. His presentation, along with some of the other speaker's presentations, will be available on the National Landcare Conference website [www.daff.gov.au/landcareconference](http://www.daff.gov.au/landcareconference) for you to download.

In the centre of Sydney I boarded the light rail to experience urban Landcare first hand. At the first stop we met a member of the Pyrmont Ultimo Landcare group. The group manages a small area bordered by the light rail - an area about to be developed for housing and a busy road. The relatively small area managed by the group faces many challenges including vandalism. Nevertheless the small committed group of volunteers meet twice a week to weed the area by hand. It just goes to show that Landcare can exist right in the middle of Australia's biggest city! On the tour we also visited Federal Park near Glebe Foreshore to see some of the great work the

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council has been doing in partnership with the Rozelle Bay Community Native Nursery. Working together they are restoring native species and their habitat in a recreational reserve (pictured above).

It has been a hectic end to the month with the 2012-13 Victorian Landcare Grants agreement forms now finalised and hopefully now in the letterbox of the successful groups. It is also that time of year when final reporting is required. 2011-12 Victorian Landcare Grants Final Reports are about to be distributed - groups will be required to complete reporting before any more funding can be distributed.

Until next time,

**Jodie Odgers**

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



## News

### Have your say on weeds and pest animal legislation

**The Victorian Coalition Government is inviting public input on new legislation that will strengthen Victoria's defence against weeds and pest animals.**

Agriculture and Food Security Minister Peter Walsh said the Coalition Government was considering new legislation to modernise Victoria's approach to fighting weeds, pest animals and other threats to the food and fibre sector and environment.

"The proposed *Invasive Species Management Bill* would strengthen Victoria's ability to prevent new, high risk species becoming established," Mr Walsh said.

"It would ensure there are no gaps in the range of invasive species covered by Victoria's biosecurity legislation and introduce provisions to reduce the risks associated with increased movements and trade.

"It would also help to eradicate new high risk invasive species, and contain and reduce the spread and impact of pests already blighting the Victorian landscape."

Mr Walsh said an increase in overseas trade and travel, changing land use and different consumer expectations meant the current Victorian legislation required updating.

"The range of pest species covered by existing legislation is not comprehensive enough," Mr Walsh said.

"Past amendments to the noxious weeds and pest animal provisions under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* have not kept up with the need for evolving policy and approaches to biosecurity over the years.

"New invasive species management legislation would provide the flexibility to efficiently and effectively respond to biosecurity threats and achieve greater alignment with national policy."

Mr Walsh said a discussion paper outlining a framework for potential new invasive species management legislation was now available on the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) website.

*Article continues page 3...*

## Weed of the month...

Each month we will feature a weed from the new 'Weeds Identification Guide - North Central Victoria'. It may not be a weed found in your neighbourhood but it is always good to be familiar with those that are listed within the North Central Catchment Management Authority (CMA) area.

Shrub

# CAPE BROOM

*Genista monspessulana*





**(Montpellier Broom, Canary Broom)**

**Description:** An erect evergreen shrub growing to 3 m tall and reproducing by seed.

**Flowers:** Bright yellow, pea like and about 1.2 cm long. Appearing late winter through spring in clusters of up to 9 in leaf axils and branch ends.

**Leaves:** Shortly stalked and made up of 3 leaflets which are hairy underneath. Middle leaflet longer than others.

**Stems:** Erect, woody and ridged. Finely hairy. One main stem with many branches.

**Fruit:** Silky black or brown pods containing 5-8 seeds which are ejected on hot days in summer.

**Note:** Spreads readily through seed ejection. Forms dense stands excluding other vegetation.

Restricted Weed



CONTROL OPTIONS

Perennial



VECTOR OF SPREAD

J F M A M J J A S O N D

The discussion paper is available at [www.dpi.vic.gov.au/invasive-species-discussion-paper](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/invasive-species-discussion-paper).

Feedback is invited through written submissions by Friday 5 October 2012. Requests for a hard copy of the discussion paper, together with questions and comments, can be made by emailing [Invasivespecies.Consultation@dpi.vic.gov.au](mailto:Invasivespecies.Consultation@dpi.vic.gov.au).

## Surplus FREP Equipment for sale

**The North Central CMA has a range of equipment left over from the Flood Recovery Employment Program (FREP) that are surplus to its requirements.**

The surplus equipment is being offered for sale to Landcare Groups, Landcare Networks, or other incorporated community-based NRM or environment groups in the North Central CMA region.

The equipment comprises three registered trailers each with numerous items suitable for on-ground works.

A large quantity of tree guards will be provided free with each successful bid.

Please contact Jodie Odgers for a complete list of the equipment in each trailer on 03 5440 1883.

A condition of the sale is that the equipment will not be 'on-sold'.

Bidding closes 5.00 pm Monday 15 October 2012.

The trailers can be inspected at the North Central CMA's Huntly office between 9.00 am and 12.00 noon on Wednesday 10 October 2012.

## The Elphinstone Land Management Association (ELMA) officially opens its Arboretum

**During Landcare week in September, ELMA had a planting and maintenance day at its Indigenous Arboretum. With funds from the 25th Anniversary Landcare Grants program, ELMA was able to put in some plants, spray some weeds, tidy up the previous year's plantings, erect a sign, hold a launch, and also have a lovely catered lunch.**

The Arboretum was opened by Mount Alexander Shire Councillor Christine Henderson. Around 30 Landcare members came on Fathers' Day to help out and be involved in maintaining the local Arboretum.



The Arboretum is the only one of its kind in the Mount Alexander Shire. The main aim is to showcase indigenous plants that grow well in Elphinstone, as well as providing shelter to the playground at the local hall and recreation ground. Seed has been collected from the area and grown by Francis Cincotta at Newstead Natives. During the floods a lot of our initial plantings drowned, but with a second major planting, the Arboretum is starting to really come together and we hope to see some excellent results within the next 5-10 years.

For queries, contact ELMA President, Robyn Fearey [robynfearey@bigpond.com](mailto:robynfearey@bigpond.com)

## Victorian Landcare Program Strategic Plan released

**The Minister for Environment and Climate Change Ryan Smith has released the Victorian Landcare Program Strategic Plan, which will guide the Victorian Government's key program of support to strengthen Landcare, i.e. the Victorian Landcare Program.**

The Victorian Landcare Program, managed by the Department of Sustainability and Environment, will provide targeted support to help Landcare groups and networks achieve five key functions – operate effectively, engage the community, collaborate, do on-ground works and tell the Landcare story. The Victorian Government, in partnership with the Landcare community, will continue working to achieve the goal of the Victorian Landcare Program, which is to have a shared responsibility for a healthy environment.

To read or download the Victorian Landcare Program Strategic Plan go to this link [www.landcarevic.net.au/resources/landcare-policy/victorian-landcare-program-strategic-plan-1/victorian-landcare-program-strategic-plan/view](http://www.landcarevic.net.au/resources/landcare-policy/victorian-landcare-program-strategic-plan-1/victorian-landcare-program-strategic-plan/view).

## Get involved with Landcare - Get involved with L.I.F.E.

Landcare is celebrating the strength and breadth of the grass-roots movement through an exciting and colourful new campaign called L.I.F.E. – Landcare Is For Everyone.

The campaign uses 3D animation to illustrate the diversity of Landcare, demonstrating how working to preserve the land sustains the very species that live on it, and the variety of different ways that people can get involved.



Whether you live in a city or a one pub town, on the beach or on a station, in the Top End or the Island State, L.I.F.E. is designed to give you ideas on what you can do or how you can join others in caring for the land and our environment, because after all, the land is the reason we exist and the reason we continue to survive.

L.I.F.E. is about people across Australia getting involved in Landcare in their everyday lives.

Landcare is L.I.F.E. Landcare Is For Everyone.

For more information or to view the community service announcement, visit [www.landcarelife.com.au](http://www.landcarelife.com.au).

## Events

### Campaspe Valley Landcare Spring 2012 Walk 'n Talk

Walk and see the wildflowers, including rare orchids, on this Trust for Nature property. Also see the exclusion areas that Mike has set up to protect the indigenous flora from rabbits, hares, wallabies and kangaroos.

The Walk 'n Talk will be held at Mike Jones Barfold property (64 Mill Road, Barfold) on Sunday 21 October.

The morning will begin at 10.00 am with a bacon 'n egg breakfast before setting off for the walk at 10.30 am.

Numbers will be limited for this event. Please RSVP if interested to:

Phillip Don on 03 5423 4182 or [mrdon@westnet.com.au](mailto:mrdon@westnet.com.au)

Or

Mike Jones on 03 5423 4232 or [mikejones@harboursat.com.au](mailto:mikejones@harboursat.com.au)

### Up-coming Bush Business Breakfast

**Tickets are now on sale for the second installment of the very popular Bush Business Breakfast series for 2012.**

The theme for the October breakfast is 'a corporate approach to conservation' with special guest speaker, Bob Welsh. Bob has 30 years of experience in business strategy, and was the founding Chief Executive of VicSuper, now one of Australia's fastest growing multi-employer public offer superannuation (pension) funds. Bob is now a world renowned leader in sustainable investing and in placing sustainability at the core of business strategy.

Bob was the founding Chairperson of the Investor Group on Climate Change Australia and New Zealand and is a pioneer in fostering the development of low-carbon investment strategies. His work in this area was recognised internationally when he was awarded the annual Sustainability Leadership Pioneer Award in Zurich, Switzerland. In 2007, Bob was recognised by the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative for his outstanding contribution within

the pension funds sector. Bob is currently the Executive Director of Sustainability Advisers, a Melbourne-based strategic consultancy firm.

**Date:** Thursday 25 October 2012

**Time:** 7.00 am for 7:15 am start to 9.00 am

**Where:** RACV Club, 501 Bourke Street, Melbourne

**Cost:** \$65 per ticket, \$600 for a table of 10

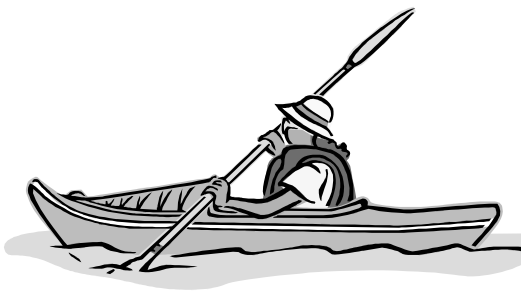
*Includes hot, plated breakfast*

Book online at [www.trybooking.com/BWQT](http://www.trybooking.com/BWQT) or contact (03) 8631 5888 for further information.

## Wetlands and Waterwatch- Discover Gunbower Creek by Canoe

**Come and join us for an afternoon of exploring the Gunbower Creek - a fun and interactive learning experience for the whole family with a focus on the local ecology, plants and animals.**

Discover some of the lesser known inhabitants of Gunbower Creek with our North Central Waterwatch Regional Coordinator and be a part of the exclusive launch of the new North Central Waterwatch Fish Field Guide. The Guide is a fantastic resource that highlights the varied fish species of north central Victoria. All participants will get to take home their very own copy of the Fish Field Guide!



This is a **FREE** event with afternoon tea and refreshments supplied.

**When:** Saturday 3 November 1:30 pm – 5:00 pm

**Where:** Apex Park Cohuna. Travel over the bridge into Cohuna Island Road and on the right hand side you will find us on the lawn by the water's edge.

**Please bring:** Participants should wear clothing suitable for the weather on the day, including hats

and sunscreen. Please wear wet weather gear if it looks like rain. Remember to bring your own water bottle. Participants are not expected to get too wet but are advised to bring a towel and a change of clothes just in case. You may also like to bring a camera and binoculars (dry bags will be supplied during canoeing).

*No canoeing experience is necessary; a basic level of fitness for a gentle one hour paddle is required (canoes and safety equipment are supplied). School age children are welcome but must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.*

**Registration is vital as places are strictly limited! REGISTER NOW to avoid disappointment by phoning (03) 5448 7124.**

Please **RSVP** by Tuesday October 30.



## Courses and resources

### Calling all Landcare professionals

**Victorian Landcare Forum - living and learning together on Tuesday 30 October and Wednesday 31 October in Geelong.**

This event will be a great opportunity for all Victorian Landcare professionals to come along to learn, share and collaborate together in many workshops, field trips and networking opportunities.

All the details can be found on the Victorian Landcare Gateway page – see the link below.

Please note registrations close 5.00 pm Friday 28 September 2012 and any remaining places will be made available to the Landcare community.

[www.landcarevic.net.au/resources/conference/2012-forum](http://www.landcarevic.net.au/resources/conference/2012-forum)

For any queries please contact Tracey McRae on 03 5232 9100 or [landcare\\_forum@ccma.vic.gov.au](mailto:landcare_forum@ccma.vic.gov.au)

## Back by popular demand - Native Grass ID Short Course

**Would you like to improve your grass identification skills? Are you interested in learning more about managing native grasses?**

Expressions of interest (EOI) are now being accepted for two short courses in native grass identification:

- Industry Course – Wednesday 14 and Thursday 15 November, Bendigo
- Landholder Course – Friday 23 and Saturday 24 November, Bendigo.

Presented by local botanist and ecologist Paul Foreman, the courses will involve lectures and hands-on experience in the laboratory, followed by a field trip on the second day.



For further information please view the flyer and EOI form on the North Central page on the Victorian Landcare Gateway website

<http://northcentral.landcarevic.net.au/resources/upcoming-events>

Places are strictly limited! EOIs should be submitted to the North Central CMA by 5.00 pm Monday 15 October 2012.

## Applications are now open for the 2013 Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program

The Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program (LMCLP) aims to develop community leaders through an annual program which builds on participant skills, knowledge, ability and

understanding, so they can make a positive difference in their community.

The program aims to:

- Increase participant's knowledge, skills, self-awareness and confidence;
- Develop leadership and community skills through active participation and interaction with dynamic leaders;
- Challenge ideas, beliefs and values;
- Increase awareness of regional issues, opportunities and innovative ideas; and,
- Provide access to an influential network of community leaders and resources across central and north-west Victoria and beyond.

Participants are being sought from a wide range of backgrounds from across central and north-west Victoria.

This is truly a program for **EVERYONE** who cares about their community and the region, so please join us for the experience of a lifetime!

Visit our website –

[http://www.cllm.org.au/lmclp\\_recruit.htm](http://www.cllm.org.au/lmclp_recruit.htm) - for full details and a downloadable application form, or contact Melinda Mann, LMCLP Coordinator on 03 5483 7551 or by email at [program@cllm.org.au](mailto:program@cllm.org.au).

## Funding news

### Mount Alexander Shire Community Grants - Open

**The Mount Alexander Shire's Community Grants Scheme opened on 29 August and all groups wanting to fund an environmental project in the Shire are encouraged to apply. The 'Sustainability and Environment' grant will fund projects between \$500 and \$3,000.**

A few key points about these grants:

- They are quite flexible in terms of what types of activities they will fund.
- The main priority is that projects 'support the implementation of Council's 'Environment Strategy 2010-2014'. It would therefore be well worth taking a look at the Strategy, specifically the parts relevant to your project. For most Landcare projects, this will be in the 'Land & Biodiversity' section.



- Projects that support the implementation of the Shire's Roadside Conservation Management Plan 2012 -2017 will also be highly regarded. Once again, a quick look at the relevant section of this plan would be useful.

All applicants are encouraged to contact Kylie Stafford, Council's Natural Environments Officer, to discuss their project prior to sending in an application. Kylie works on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and can be contacted through the Council's reception desk on 03 5471 1700.

If you have a great project idea that exceeds \$3,000 contact Kylie to talk about your idea - it may still be fundable.

Links to the relevant council strategies can be found in the 'Environment' section of the Council's website.

Application forms and Guidelines are available from the Council Offices at 25 Lyttleton Street, Castlemaine or on the website [www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au](http://www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au).

## Grab a garden grant - \$50,000 in funding up for grabs for community groups

**If you're interested in getting a local environmental project off the ground, like a community garden, greening an urban space or inner-city veggie patch, the Be Natural Landcare Grants could be just for you.**

Twenty grants of up to \$2,500 are available for volunteer community groups to work on projects such as building local community gardens or creating indoor edible gardens within community centers, while aiming to have more volunteers involved across community oriented environmental projects.

Be Natural Cereals and Snacks first partnered with Landcare Australia in 2010 and over the past two years has supported 34 local environmental projects that has seen groups of volunteers tackle a variety of local issues.



Projects funded through last year's Be Natural Landcare grants program include a revegetation project on Queensland's Gold Coast undertaken by BeachCare and the erection of a walking track by Cremorne Coastcare group to protect a coastal area in Tasmania. The construction of shelters for possums and gliders in Victoria by Pentland Hills Landcare and the revegetation of disturbed land by the Hunter Wetlands Centre in New South Wales were also projects that received funding through the partnership.

The Be Natural Landcare Community Gardens grants are available to any community environmental volunteer group. Applications open on Monday 27 August and close on Friday 26 October.

More information about the grants, criteria and application forms can be found at [www.landcareonline.com.au/be\\_natural\\_landcare\\_grant](http://www.landcareonline.com.au/be_natural_landcare_grant).

