

# North Central chat

FEBRUARY 2013

*Keeping you up-to-date with all the Landcare news  
& now with a splash of Waterwatch*

## A message from the Regional Landcare Coordinator

Hi everyone,

Summer is almost over and it has certainly been a hot one! As I write this newsletter I am listening to the rain - and what a welcome sound! I hope you all shared in some of this downpour, I think we would all agree that it came just at the right time.

Since the last newsletter we have hosted the quarterly state funded Landcare Facilitator meeting. The meetings are a great opportunity for the eleven facilitators that work at the grass roots level to get together and share their ideas and discuss working together. At the last meeting we heard Anthony Gallacher from the Loddon Plains Landcare Network talk about the network's Biodiversity Blueprint and their new website. Anthony has also written an article which features in this newsletter called 'Creating a Blueprint for Action'. Be sure to check it out.

Some of you may have also seen an article that featured in The Age on Sunday 17 February titled 'Last chance to save an odd bird indeed'. The article, written by John Elder, who also took the photo of the curlew to the right, talked about a new ecological program being run in schools around the Bendigo area. The Save our Stone-Curlews campaign, facilitated by Judy Crocker, encourages the entire community to keep an eye and an ear out for the endangered curlews that call the Box-Ironbark Forests home. By raising the awareness of the curlews and their plight, the schools program educates children about the Box-Ironbark Forests and the other critters that call it home. To read the full article head to The Age website [www.theage.com.au](http://www.theage.com.au) and search for the title of the article.

March is a busy month and there are plenty of events happening across north central Victoria. Check out the events section of the newsletter for all of the details.

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Is your group thinking about applying for a Federal Government Community Landcare Grant? There is a call for small grants between \$5,000 and \$50,000 (GST exclusive) to help local community-based organisations and groups, take on-ground action. I am happy to review applications if you need a hand.

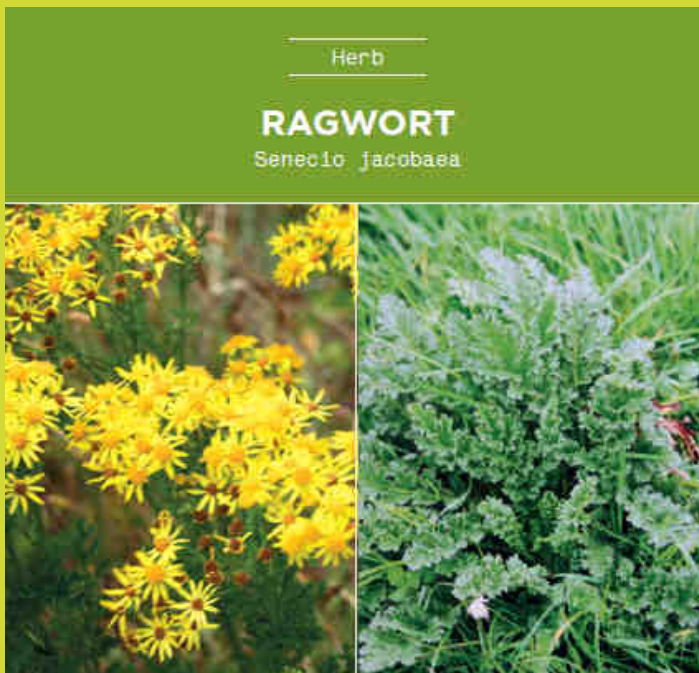
Take care,

**Jodie Odgers**

Regional Landcare Coordinator  
North Central Catchment Management Authority  
PO Box 18 Huntly, VIC 3551  
Phone: 03 5448 7124

## Weed of the month...

Weeds Identification Guide - North Central Victoria.



### (St James Wort, Tansy Ragwort)

**Description:** Short-lived, can flower twice a year producing 250,000 seeds from a large plant.

**Flowers:** Bright yellow in colour. In large clusters at the end of the branches. Each flower head is 2.5 cm in diameter with 12-15 petals surround it.

**Leaves:** Can range from dark green with few hairs to pale green with a downy appearance. Rosette leaves can grow up to 35 cm long; stem leaves shorter and more wrinkled.

**Stems:** Can either grow single or several stems from the crown, branched at the top of the stem. Purple or reddish at the base near the crown.

**Note:** Causes death in stock through liver damage, seed can remain viable for 8-16 years.

Restricted Weed



CONTROL OPTIONS

Perennial



VECTOR OF SPREAD

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

## News...

### Creating a Blueprint for Action

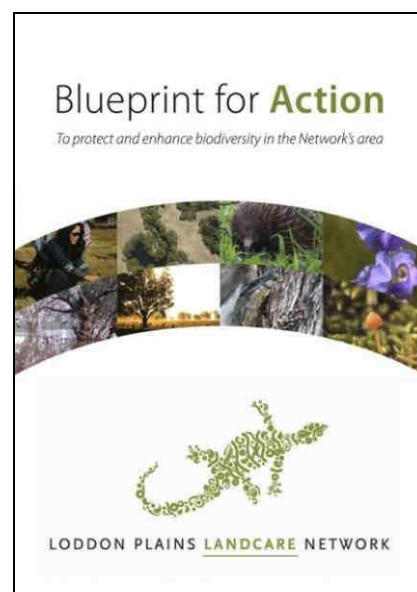
By Anthony Gallacher

For the Loddon Plains Landcare Network (LPLN), it has been two years of work putting together a strategic vision that has resulted in our recently published "Blueprint for Action". Through words, maps and photos the Blueprint for Action outlines the network area, our focus, biodiversity elements and potential future landscape restoration projects, as part of the networks GOANNA Project - "Group Organised Action Nurturing Natural Assets".

The Blueprint for Action will be shown as a 'business model' to potential public and private sector investors to demonstrate that the LPLN thinks strategically about landscape restoration and improving environmental outcomes.

As the Landcare Facilitator for the LPLN, I have had the privilege to assist a passionate Landcare community to complete their vision document over the past 12 months, thanks to the Victorian Local Landcare Facilitator Initiative.

The process was varied, with my role ranging from running workshops to gather project ideas, to mapping, proofreading and to-ing and fro-ing with the graphic designer to get a booklet design that fits the network. Such is the diversity of experience that presents itself as a Landcare Facilitator.







To coincide with the completion of the Blueprint for Action, I facilitated the development of a brand new website for the network. The website enables a greater online presence, providing a medium to easily access the Blueprint for Action - our bimonthly newsletter - and managing the LPLN blog.

Now we have turned our focus to the process of developing larger scale project proposals, including revegetation corridors, to implement across our region from projects listed in the Blueprint for Action.

We have a central reference for the network in hand and a vision we can be most proud of. Now our task is making sure this is truly a Blueprint for **Action**.

The progress of the network would not have been possible without the ongoing support of the Norman Wettenhall Foundation, the Victorian Government through the VLLFI and the North Central Catchment Management Authority.

**To download a copy of the Blueprint for Action or for further information about the Loddon Plains Landcare Network, visit our website at [www.lpln.org](http://www.lpln.org).**

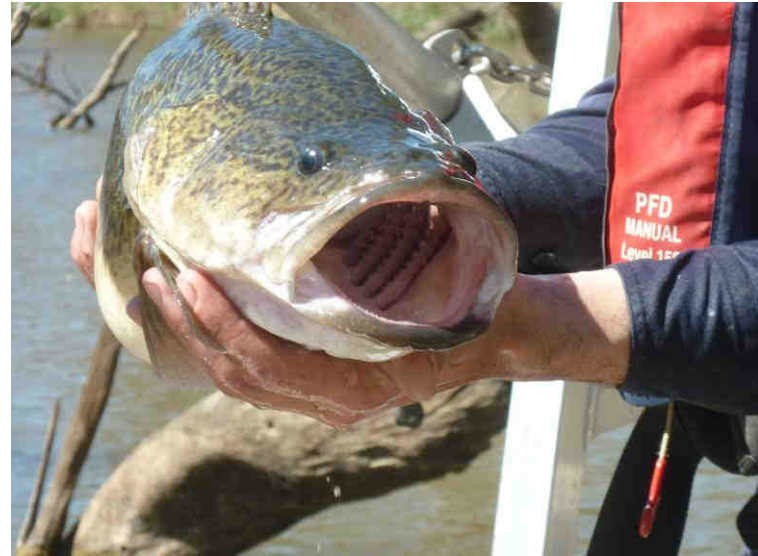
## Do your Yellow Pages never see the light of day?

Are you one of those people who ditches your Yellow and White pages into the recycling bin as soon as they arrive on your doorstep? Or do you banish them to a cupboard never to see the light of day until the annual changeover? If so, there is a perfect solution. You can opt-out of receiving them. This will save you the trouble of recycling them and hopefully save a heap of trees to boot. It's really easy... simply visit [www.directoryselect.com.au/action/home](http://www.directoryselect.com.au/action/home) and select the Cancel option or call 1800 008 292.

## Snaps of the month!

This month we have a couple of photos taken by Dion Lervasi who was undertaking the annual environmental flows fish monitoring survey on the Loddon River. Dion, an aquatic ecologist, routinely surveys a particular site and has done so over the last five years. They catch the fish by using boat electrofishing. Immediately after the floods Dion and his team were unable to access the site with the boat due to fallen trees. Two years after the flood they have been able to get back and survey.

Post flood they have collected some of the highest densities of Murray Cod that Dion has seen. Prior to the floods they collected 1-2 Cod per year, after the floods they have captured 6-7 Cod. These results suggest that the floods have facilitated fish movement - great for the fish and the health of the Loddon River.



Murray Cod, *Maccullochella peelii*.



Golden Perch, *Macquaria ambigua*

For more information on these and other native fish species head the North Central CMA website [www.nccma.vic.gov.au](http://www.nccma.vic.gov.au). Please keep sending your snaps to [jodie.odgers@nccma.vic.gov.au](mailto:jodie.odgers@nccma.vic.gov.au).

## Events

### Maintaining the Momentum

The Charlton, Donald and Natte Yallock soils' groups invite you to attend their 2013 Sustainable Soils Forum. They are proud to present a comprehensive program with experts on the subjects of weather and climate; soil microbiology and soil health; wind erosion and stubble management; and carbon farming. This Forum is open to the public and all interested persons are most welcome.

**Date:** Tuesday 12 March 2013

**Time:** 8.30 am - 2.30 pm

**Where:** Donald Golf Club - Sunraysia Hwy, Donald

Guest speakers include:

- Ben Keogh - Australian Carbon Traders  
*Carbon Farming*
- Dr Chris Pittock - Farm Services, DPI  
*Stubble Management and Wind Erosion (includes a demonstration using wind machines and collectors)*
- Jane Bunn - WIN News weather presenter  
*Weather Forecasting and Understanding Changing Weather Patterns*
- Elise Wenden - Fruition Nutrition  
*Soil Microbiology and Soil Health*

Morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea and refreshments provided.

**RSVP** by Tuesday 5 March 2013 to Melanie Watts on 0408 170 737 or [aronmelanie@harboursat.com.au](mailto:aronmelanie@harboursat.com.au)

The forum is delivered under the North Central CMA's 'Farming for Sustainable Soils' project - an initiative supported by the Commonwealth Government's 'Caring for our Country' program.

### Victorian Farmers Federation - Generation F event, Bendigo

Gen F gives young people the chance to have their say on the issues affecting the next generation of food and fibre producers in Victoria, and provides a great social and networking opportunity at the same time.

The morning tea will provide an overview of the outcomes of the Gen F campaign to date, and look at issues such as:

- What are the barriers to working in Agriculture?
- Are there adequate returns of young people to invest in Ag?
- Are there adequate networking opportunities and organisations for young agricultural graduates?
- Can careers in Agriculture be held in the same esteem as careers in other industries such as Mining, Medical, Finance and Accounting?

**Date:** Wednesday 13th March 2013

**Time:** 8:30 am - 10:30 am

**Where:** Quills Restaurant Lakeside Resort - 286 Napier Street, Bendigo

Entry is free for YAPs/VFF members, non-members \$10. Morning tea included.

Places are limited so RSVPs are essential! For more info call Ailsa on (03) 9207 5563 or email [agibson@vff.org.au](mailto:agibson@vff.org.au). Be part of the next generation of Food and Fibre. Generation F.

### Future Farming Expo- How will you be farming in 2030?

The North Central CMA invites you to attend the 2013 Future Farming Expo and explore new ideas in farm management.

Keynote presentations include 'Understanding the weather' with Jane Bunn, WIN News weather presenter and meteorologist, and 'Regenerative agriculture' with local farmer Darren Doherty.

You can then select the topics that most interest you, with four sessions running concurrently on a broad range of topics: seasonal climate drivers, accessing global markets, biochar, succession

planning, holistic grazing management and many more. Sessions will include both presentations from expert speakers and practical demonstrations.

**When:** Thursday 14 March 2013

**Time:** 9 am to 4 pm (Lunch provided)

**Where:** Yarrowalla Hall, Yarrowalla South Road, Yarrowalla VIC

**Cost:** Free Event

To reserve your place please RSVP to the North Central CMA by 5 pm Tuesday 12 March on (03)5448 7124 or email [info@nccma.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@nccma.vic.gov.au).

## The Benefits of Bugs

### Bugs and biodiversity on the farm: maximising the benefits

Join Dr Saul Cunningham, a CSIRO scientist researching the fascinating world of invertebrates and their relationships with us through land use.

Dr Cunningham's recent work in Australia is particularly relevant in the face of changing land use and with the imminent threat to pollinators from the Varroa mite.

**If you are a farmer or have an interest in conservation, this workshop is one you don't want to miss!**

Join in this workshop to:

- Learn more about the interactions between insects and plants.
- Understand who the 'good guys' are and ways to manage your landscape to protect them.

**When:** Friday 15 March 2013

**Time:** 10.00 am – 1.30 pm (Lunch provided)

**Where:** Serpentine Lawn Bowl Clubrooms, Loddon Valley HWY, Serpentine

**Cost:** Free event

**RSVP:** North Central CMA by Tuesday 12 March 2013 on (03) 5448 7124 or email [info@nccma.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@nccma.vic.gov.au).

## Friends of the Box-Ironbark Forests

Walks are on the third Sunday of every month between March and October. Meet at 9.30 am outside 30 Templeton Street, Castlemaine and car pool to the start of the walk. Bring water, morning tea and lunch for all walks.

Walks normally finish mid-afternoon. Non-members welcome and there is no cost to participate.

Walks are cancelled on Total Fire Ban days in the area. For more information ring Bronwyn Silver (03) 5475 1089 or Julie Hurley (03) 5472 5082.

### Upcoming walk - Sunday 17 March

Explore Maldon Historic Reserve, walking from the Gowar School ruin up to Smiths Reef dam for morning tea, then Spur Track along the line of the Muckleford Fault. Beautiful forest with understorey wattles, grasses and many other plants, and some interesting mining sites. Walk might be shortened to 6kms if weather is very hot – otherwise it's 8.5km. For more information ring Chris Johnston (03) 5476 2457 (weekends only).

To find out more about the Friends of Box-Ironbark Forest go to their website [www.fobif.org.au](http://www.fobif.org.au). There is a page that lists all of their upcoming walks.

## Gunbower Island Week 18-23 March

Gunbower Island Week is a milestone event, bringing together North Central CMA staff and the local community to celebrate the unique values of the local area.

Many organisations and community groups work together with the North Central CMA to ensure that the vibrant health of this unique landscape continues to flourish for future generations.

Gunbower Island Week celebrates the North Central CMA's long-term investment in the Gunbower Island area, working with the community to protect and improve the local environment through integrated research, environmental flows and best farm practices.

The week-long event is an opportunity to find out more about the North Central CMA's work, but also for the community to share their knowledge and experiences of the local area with North Central CMA staff in a friendly, informal environment.



### History of Gunbower Forest - Monday 18 March

Come and join us for a fascinating insight into Gunbower Forest. Learn about the forest's rich history from logging to bird watching.

**Time** 11.00 am – 1.00 pm

**Venue:** Gateway to Gannawarra Visitor Centre, Cohuna.



*Photo courtesy of Cohuna and District Historical Society.*

### Irrigation Farm Walk - Tuesday 19 March

Come and look at the pipe and riser system upgrade made possible through Goulburn-Murray Water's (G-MW) Irrigation Modernisation Project. Meet staff from Department of Primary Industries, G-MW and the North Central CMA who will be onsite to answer your questions. Talk to the company that supplied and installed the system.

**Time:** 11.00am – 12.30pm

**Venue:** Gary Wight's dairy farm - 6819 Murray Valley Highway, Cohuna

### 2nd Annual Water Science Forum: A Focus on Fish - Friday 22 March

**Time:** 10.00am – 3.00pm

**Venue:** Cohuna Memorial Hall, 23 - 25 King Edward St, Cohuna

Come along and find out about local fish populations, including research across Gunbower Creek, Pyramid Creek and lower Loddon River. Learn about the impact of the recent blackwater event and how populations are recovering in the Edward- Wakool system. Have your say on what needs to be done to ensure strong native fish populations into the future.

### Hipwell Road Construction Tour - Saturday 23 March

#### Tour Group 1

Depart: 10.15 am Return: 12.00 pm

#### Tour Group 2

Depart: 1.15pm and Return: 3.00pm

**Pick up/Drop off point:** Gateway to Gannawarra Visitor Centre, Cohuna.

Come and see the construction works underway at Hipwell Road. Participants will hear from staff to understand how the works will benefit Gunbower Forest.

The Lions Club will provide a BBQ lunch in Garden Park, Cohuna between 12.00 - 1.00pm. Staff from North Central CMA and G-MW will be available to answer questions about the works at Hipwell Road.

**RSVP** [info@nccma.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@nccma.vic.gov.au) by Thursday 14 March for catering purposes.

If you are attending the Flooding for Life: Hipwell Road Construction Tour please reply and indicate your tour group preference due to limited places.

### Fungi Workshops Autumn 2013

The Victorian Fungi Workshops are running again this autumn with a variety of seminars, workshops, forays and feasts on offer. Further information can be found at [www.alisonpouliot.com](http://www.alisonpouliot.com) or contact Alison directly at [alison@alisonpouliot.com](mailto:alison@alisonpouliot.com). All bookings are managed by the venues so please contact them directly to reserve your place.





### WOODEND – Saturday 6 April 2013

#### *Fungi – An Introduction to a Curious Kingdom*

This workshop will introduce participants to the diversity and curiosities of the fungi kingdom. It includes an interactive and illustrated seminar exploring the major fungal groups, tips for fungus identification and a discussion of the natural and cultural history of fungi. After lunch we will make an exciting foray into local forests to search for species of interest. Many fungal specimens will be displayed, discussed and examined during the workshop.

**Time:** 10:30 am – 4:30 pm

**Cost:** \$75

**Bookings:** (03) 5427 1845 or  
[reception@woodendnh.org.au](mailto:reception@woodendnh.org.au)

### WOODEND – Sunday 7 April 2013

#### *The Bizarre & the Beautiful – A Deeper Exploration of a Curious Kingdom*

This workshop will take participants deep into the fungi kingdom with a close look at the major characteristics used to identify fungi in the field. The workshop includes an illustrated seminar, a display of local specimens, an interactive specimen identification session and a foray into local forests. Participants are encouraged to bring along specimens for the identification session.

**Time:** 10:30 am – 4:30 pm

**Cost:** \$75

**Bookings:** (03) 5427 1845 or  
[reception@woodendnh.org.au](mailto:reception@woodendnh.org.au)

### TRENTHAM – Thursday 18 April 2013

#### *Fungi of the Wombat Forest*

This seminar introduces participants to the amazing diversity of the Wombat Forest's fungi. The region is recognised as a fungal hotspot and hundreds of species ranging from the familiar mushroom to the more bizarre forms of those shaped like corals, cups, clubs, jellies, lattice balls and even starfish have been documented. The importance of fungal conservation will also be covered. Wombat Forestcare is promoting the importance of this group of organisms through a new guide – 'Fungi of the Wombat Forest and Macedon Ranges'. The guide includes photographs of 108 of the more familiar local species as well as information about identification. It will be available for sale on the night. This seminar is open to all WFC members and supporters.

**Time:** 7pm

**Cost:** Gold Coin Donation.

Further information  
[info@wombatforestcare.org.au](mailto:info@wombatforestcare.org.au)

### TRENTHAM – Saturday 20 April 2013

#### *Fungi – An Introduction to a Curious Kingdom*

This workshop will introduce participants to the diversity and curiosities of the fungi kingdom. It includes an interactive and illustrated seminar exploring the major fungal groups, tips for fungus identification and a discussion of the natural and cultural history of fungi. After lunch we will make an exciting foray into local forests to search for species of interest. Many fungal specimens will be displayed, discussed and examined during the workshop.

**Time:** 10:30 am – 4:30 pm

**Cost:** \$75

**Bookings:** (03) 5424 1354 or  
[trentham@ourneighbourhood.org.au](mailto:trentham@ourneighbourhood.org.au)

### TRENTHAM – Sunday 21 April 2013

#### *The Bizarre & the Beautiful - A Deeper Exploration of a Curious Kingdom*

This workshop will take participants deep into the fungi kingdom with a close look at the major characteristics used to identify fungi in the field. The workshop includes an illustrated seminar, a display of local specimens, an interactive specimen identification session and a foray into local forests. Participants are encouraged to bring along specimens for the identification session.

**Time:** 10:30 am – 4:30 pm

**Cost:** \$75

**Bookings:** (03) 5424 1354 or [trentham@ourneighbourhood.org.au](mailto:trentham@ourneighbourhood.org.au)

### CRESWICK – Saturday 27 April 2013

#### *Fungi - An Introduction to a Curious Kingdom*

This workshop will introduce participants to the diversity and curiosities of the fungi kingdom. It includes an interactive and illustrated seminar exploring the major fungal groups, tips for fungus identification and a discussion of the natural and cultural history of fungi. After lunch we will make an exciting foray into local forests to search for species of interest. Many fungal specimens will be displayed, discussed and examined during the workshop.

**Time:** 10:30 am – 4:30 pm

**Cost:** \$75

**Bookings:** (03) 5345 2356 or [creswick@ourneighbourhood.org.au](mailto:creswick@ourneighbourhood.org.au)

### CRESWICK – Sunday 28 April 2013

#### *The Bizarre & the Beautiful - A Deeper Exploration of a Curious Kingdom*

This workshop will take participants deep into the fungi kingdom with a close look at the major characteristics used to identify fungi in the field. The workshop includes an illustrated seminar, a display of local specimens, an interactive specimen identification session and a foray into local forests. Participants are encouraged to bring along specimens for the identification session.

**Time:** 10:30 am – 4:30 pm

**Cost:** \$75

**Bookings:** (03) 5345 2356 or [creswick@ourneighbourhood.org.au](mailto:creswick@ourneighbourhood.org.au)



## Waterwatch

Hi everyone,

North Central Waterwatch is already well into a busy year. The Waterwatch monitors Picnic by the River Event held on 22 February with special guest speaker Frank Steele was a huge success. Frank talked about being involved in Landcare and how important it is to him to get involved in community programs like Waterwatch.



In March we are hosting the second North Central Waterwatch *Annual Water Science Forum*. This year's focus is native fish. We have secured some great guest speakers, including fish researchers Clayton Sharpe and Justin O'Connor. Limited places are available. See page 6 for more information and make sure you register ASAP!

The River Detectives schools program starts in March. Nicole Howie has joined the Waterwatch team and will deliver activities to eight schools in the region. Welcome Nicole!





Waterwatch has been investigating how we can meet the demand for the River Detectives program and deliver it to more schools across the region. See page 9 to find out about one possible solution.

I hope you enjoy the read!

Until next time,

### Cass Davis

Regional Waterwatch Coordinator  
North Central Catchment Management Authority  
PO Box 18 Huntly, VIC 3551  
Phone: 03 5448 7124

### Farewell to Steve Buckland

It's time to say goodbye to one of our dedicated Waterwatch monitors, Steve Buckland. Steve joined the Waterwatch program in September 2007 monitoring the water quality of Lake Tom Thumb, Eaglehawk.

We would like to say thank you to Steve for volunteering his time to collect samples from the lake and wish him all the best in his new adventures.

### River Detectives need your help!

The North Central Waterwatch program is seeking *Expressions of Interest* from Landcare Groups to deliver the *River Detectives* program on behalf of Waterwatch to schools in their region. North Central Waterwatch will provide the interested Landcare Groups with support to apply for funding through various grant opportunities to enable the groups to purchase the appropriate resources (Resource manual, Waterwatch Kits and Macroinvertebrate Kits) necessary to deliver the program. If your grant application is successful

the Waterwatch program will train your Landcare Group representatives in how to deliver activities to schools.

If this is something you might like to get involved in please contact Cass Davis for more information.

### Water for the Environment

Water for the environment is more commonly known as an environmental flow (Eflow). Eflows are any managed change in water flow pattern intended to maintain or improve the health of a river or wetland and with the aim of achieving key ecological objectives including fish movement and breeding, improvement in water quality and riparian vegetation health and enhancing bird breeding, feeding and roosting opportunities.

In the North Central CMA region there are a number of sites that receive Eflow's. They are:

- Campaspe River downstream of Lake Eppalock
- Coliban River downstream of Malmsbury Reservoir
- Loddon River downstream of Cairn Curran Reservoir
- Boort District Wetlands (Lakes Boort, Leaghur, Yando, Meran and Little Meran)
- Bullarook (Birch's) Creek downstream of Newlyn Reservoir
- Central Murray Wetlands
- Wimmera Mallee off-stream wetlands
- Gunbower Forest

#### What is a summer or low flow

Usually delivered in February, summer or low flows generally provide a continuous flow through the channel. This may either maintain the flow above a 'cease-to-flow' event or provide habitat as a change from 'high flows'. The benefits include connecting in-stream habitats and can have benefits for other system users, such as providing water for livestock (VEWH 2013).

Summer low flow freshes have been delivered to the Loddon River, downstream of Loddon weir and the Campaspe River, below the Campaspe siphon, north of Rochester.

Round Lake also received a 'top up' to maintain salinity and water levels for the Murray Hardyhead. 'Murray Hardyhead is a small native fish species listed as Endangered under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*'.

## Courses and resources

### Seed Collection Workshop

Wedderburn CMN is inviting you to attend a seed collection workshop with Lindsay Ezard from Active Seeds P/L.

Come along, get some tips from an expert and find out about:

- equipment you might need
- seed collection techniques
- how to tell if seed is ripe
- transporting seed
- preventing rot
- Preparing seed for germination

**When:** Friday 22 March 2013

**Where:** Cnr Pole Rd & Vogle Roads, Gowar East at 10 am OR meet at Jacka Park, Wedderburn at 9:15 am.



Don't forget your hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, water bottle and sturdy shoes. A light lunch will be provided

RSVP by Friday 15 March to Karly Learmoth.  
mobile: 0429 356 285  
email: [karly.learmonth@dse.vic.gov.au](mailto:karly.learmonth@dse.vic.gov.au).

### Call for nominations - United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA) 2013 World Environment Day Awards

This year the UNAA is pleased to announce the two new Prime Minister's Awards and the Swinburne University of Technology Award (see below).

Businesses, local governments, community organisations, individuals, schools and the media are invited to nominate in the following Award categories:

- New - Prime Minister's Environmentalist of the Year Award (Entry Deadline Monday 22 April)
- New - Prime Minister's Young Environmentalist of the Year Award (Entry Deadline Monday 22 April)
- New - Swinburne University of Technology Excellence in Sustainable Product Design Award
- NSW Office of Environment and Heritage Sustainability Leadership Awards
- Virgin Australia Community Award
- Biodiversity Award
- Business Awards
- Environmental School Award
- Excellence in Sustainable Water Management Award
- Green Building Award
- Local Government Awards
- Media Award for Environmental Reporting
- Sustainability Education Award

Nominations close on Monday, 22 April for the two Prime Minister's Awards - For all other categories nominations close Wednesday 1, May 2013.

Winners will be announced at the Awards Presentation Dinner to be held on Friday, 7 June 2013 at the Park Hyatt Melbourne.

For more information and to enter, visit [www.unaavictoria.org.au](http://www.unaavictoria.org.au)

## Funding news

### Caring for our Country Community Landcare Grants are open

The Caring for our Country Community Landcare Grants are now open for applications for \$5,000-\$50,000. These grants build on the previous Community Action Grants, with a focus on sustainable farming and fisheries, agricultural innovation and community capacity building.

Grants between \$5000 and \$50 000 (GST exclusive) are available to help local community-based organisations and groups take on-ground action as well as build their capacity and skills, while contributing towards program outcomes to:

- increase the percentage and area of farming entities that have adopted sustainable land management practices to increase productivity and improve the quality of ecosystem services delivered to the broader community from their land, whilst building their resilience to climate change
- increase the percentage of fishing and aquaculture entities that have adopted sustainable and low environmental impact management practices to increase productivity
- increase the number and area of farming and fishing entities that have trialled innovative practices for improved natural resources management
- increase the percentage of farming and fishing entities and land managers improving their knowledge and skills in managing our natural resources to deliver ecosystem services.
- increase the capacity and confidence of regional community leaders, including women, young people, Indigenous Australians and culturally diverse communities involved in agriculture or fisheries production and the protection of natural resources, and
- increase engagement and participation by regional communities, including Landcare, professional farming, industry and other community groups or individuals, in activities to manage natural resources.

For more information on eligibility and to submit a Community Landcare Grants application, visit the Caring for our Country website [www.nrm.gov.au/funding/agriculture/clg/index.html](http://www.nrm.gov.au/funding/agriculture/clg/index.html) or call 1800 552 008.

Online applications close at 5pm AEDT **20 March 2013**.

### Mazda Foundation Grants - endangered flora and fauna projects

Mazda Foundation grants support community-based not for profit organisations that deliver projects aimed at the preservation of specific endangered flora and / or fauna within Australia.

Applicants must have Deductible Gift Recipient Status or be endorsed as Income Tax Exempt (check your ABN record at [www.abr.business.gov.au/Index.aspx](http://www.abr.business.gov.au/Index.aspx) to confirm).

Applications close **31 March 2013**.

For more information go to [www.mazdafoundation.org.au/IDofProject.htm](http://www.mazdafoundation.org.au/IDofProject.htm) or call (03) 8540 1800.

