

# North Central chat

October 2018

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

## A message from the Waterwatch project Officer

Hello everyone, and welcome to the October North Central Chat.

Along with Tess, Cass is now also on leave (whale watching on the east coast). Tess and Cass are due back in early October. Cass introduced me in the last Chat - I'm the Project Officer working on the Waterwatch and River Detectives programs. I'm thoroughly enjoying the new role. Cass and I make a great team and we are passionate about delivering quality citizen science programs. It's great to be working in this space again.

How wonderful is spring! The orchids are starting to flower, the birds are tending to nestlings, the sun is shining and soon we will be putting our clocks forward an hour for daylight savings (Sunday 7 October). I have been loving getting into the garden on the weekends, but not loving the weeds so much!

We are currently busy planning seven training sessions and events for Waterwatch Monitors, Citizen Scientists and River Detectives Educators in mid-October.

National Waterbug Blitz, Australia's first Nationwide waterway monitoring event, is coming to a town near you! Events will occur from the 14<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> October across north central Victoria at four locations: Kangaroo Flat (Bendigo), Campbells Creek and Daylesford and Smeaton, to find out more to go to page 5.



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Image taken from the Biolinks Alliance website

There are so many wonderful events happening in October, if you haven't already done so, jump on and register for the annual Chicks in the Sticks event being held in Echuca or head along to the Upper Landcare Campaspe Networks launch of the Citizen Science and eDNA project information session on the 26 October! And if that isn't enough, choose from one of six locations along the Campaspe River for the annual Campaspe Carpo Catch event!

Read more great stories, news and events in this month's edition of the Chat.

Enjoy the read,

**Britt Gregory**

**Waterwatch and River Detectives Project Officer**

North Central Catchment Management Authority

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## News...

### GrowNotes Alert: A free App to help Ag farmers save time and money!

Article and images taken from the Grains Research and Development Corporation website.



GrowNotes Alert is a free Australia-wide notification and information service to help save cropping farmers and the agricultural industry time and money. GrowNotes Alert delivers urgent, actionable and economically important alerts on the specific incidence of costly disease, pest and weed outbreaks, and biosecurity emergencies, tailored to your needs.

Be the first to know about costly diseases, pests and weeds in your area

Save time and money by understanding and actioning issues immediately upon notification

Notifications come directly from expert pathologists, entomologists, weed scientists Australia-wide

Subscribers nominate specific farm locations/zones and crop types

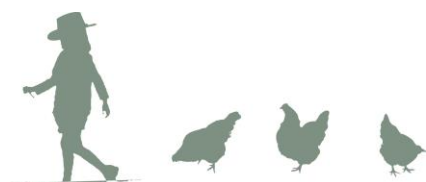
Only receive notifications you have signed up for

Keep abreast of other areas and outbreaks via the app, Twitter, the web portal, SMS and voice message

Developed jointly by GRDC and DEDJTR

Builds upon GRDC GrowNotes, directly linking to key information sources such as eXtensionAUS, Pestfax, Pestfacts, The Beatsheet, Plant Health Australia, CropPro, MyCrop and other key industry resources, such as [www.grdc.com.au](http://www.grdc.com.au)

To find out more about this App [Click Here](#)



### Quality Assurance and Quality Control, ensuring our citizen science data meets the Victorian Standards

The Waterwatch Victoria annual Quality Assurance Quality Control (QA QC) events are over for another year.

These important sessions give us extra confidence in the data collected by our team of Waterwatch volunteers by testing equipment accuracy and methods used to gather water quality data.

This program sets a standard approach to ensure that the data can be used in a broad range of applications and in natural resource management decision making. It's a bit of fun too, testing mystery samples and seeing how close all the results are.

Events were held at Huntly and St Arnaud, both were well attended by our dedicated volunteers.

Reports will be made available shortly to those who participated in QAQC testing this year.

### Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants

Article and images taken from Landcare Australia website



On 3 September 2018, the Victorian Government announced \$413,115 of funding to 109 eligible projects for the 2018 Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants - delivered in partnership with Landcare Australia.

**Congratulations to the seven schools and pre-schools in the North Central CMA region who received Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants.**

The grants, of up to \$5,000 each (excl GST) will support Victorian primary and secondary schools, kindergartens, preschools, childcare centres, scouts and guides and other youth groups, including specialist schools and groups working with culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

Successful projects are supporting the younger generation to protect biodiversity through on-ground action, to help improve and restore habitat for Victoria's native plants and animals, and also through educational activities that involve and



engage young people in valuing and actively caring for Victoria's natural environment.

[Click Here](#) for a list of all 109 schools and other organisations who were successful 2018 Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity grant recipients.

If you have any questions regarding the program, please contact our grants team on [grants@landcareaustralia.com.au](mailto:grants@landcareaustralia.com.au)

## Need proof that keeping stock out of our waterways is good for the environment?

*Darren White, North Central CMAs Environmental Flows Project Manager tells us why.*

As part of the Victorian Environmental Flows Monitoring and Assessment Program (VEFMAP) a number of grazing exclosures on the Campaspe River have been installed. This was done to ensure there was no grazing from stock, macropods, rabbits, etc. on the vegetation and to provide opportunity for germination of native species as a result of inundation.

This site has been fenced off for more than 12 months and only receives periodic grazing, there has been a marked response.



The aim of this project is to deliver a high flow that will inundate the exclosure, drowning out the terrestrial (non-native) grasses in readiness for another spring growing season.

Currently the Lake Eppalock outlet is going full noise to deliver our spring high flow in the Campaspe River.

The exclosure plot (image below) is now under the influence of this spring high flow. As you can see the flow is designed to inundate to the entire plot to the top of the fenced area.



The water will be held at this level for six days to drown out the terrestrial weeds and promote germination of native species that should reside in this section of the river bank. As the weather warms up, VEFMAP ecologists will resurvey the site to document the impact of this flow.

Stay tuned for the results of this story!

## AgriFutures Rural Women's Award

*Article and images taken from AgriFutures Australia website.*



The AgriFutures™ Rural Women's Award is Australia's leading award acknowledging and supporting the essential role women play in rural industries, businesses and communities. The Award provides a platform to inspire and support Australian women to use and develop their skills to benefit their industries and communities.

Over the past two decades, the Award has gained a significant profile, and is recognised as a program of influence among parliamentarians, industry, media and Award alumni. Each state and territory winner receives a \$10,000 bursary for innovative ideas and projects, access to professional development opportunities and alumni networks.



AgriFutures Australia is committed to the future growth and advancement of the Award as a means of identifying, celebrating and empowering women. The Rural Women’s Award is one of many AgriFutures Australia initiatives ensuring our rural industries prosper now, and into the future.

To find out more [Click Here](#)

### National Waterbug Blitz in schools

*Britt Gregory, North Central CMAs Waterwatch and River Detectives Project Officer.*



Many of our River Detectives schools will be participating in the first ever National Waterbug Blitz.

In the lead up to this, we’re lucky enough to have John Gooderham, ecologist and co-author of The Waterbug Book, coming along to help us to deliver Professional Development workshops for educators, to prepare them to deliver their own Waterbug Blitz sessions with their students.



Existing River Detectives educators should have already received an invite, but any new teachers or educators planning to sign up for the River Detectives program next year are also welcome to come along. You can register by clicking on the link to the Bendigo, Campbells Creek or Daylesford event on the events page.

*John is very engaging and entertaining, they’re sure to be fun and lively Professional Development sessions to prepare you for this exciting upcoming event.*

### Water Storage – September update



Our storage levels are maintaining capacity as at 12 September 2018.

Region	Water Storage	% full at July 2018
Murray Storages	Torrumbarry Weir	100.02
	Third Lake	97.32
	Reedy/Middle Lake	98.62
	Kangaroo Lake	95.87
	Kow Swamp	85.02
	Lake Boga	80.53
	Lake Charm	92.68
Campaspe	Lake Eppalock	61.52
Loddon Storages	Cairn Curran Reservoir	54.84
	Tullaroop Reservoir	56.74
	Laanecoorie Reservoir	40.25
Bullarook Creek Storages	Newlyn Reservoir	87.43
	Hepburns Lagoon	73.34



## Events.....

### National Waterbug Blitz events

*Image provided by Peter Rose, North Central CMA*



In spring each year, Australians are encouraged to become citizen scientists and investigate how healthy their local waterways and wetlands are by exploring and identifying what waterbugs they contain.

The first ever National Waterbug Blitz will have scientists and citizen scientists working together to look at river health on a local and national scale.

After each National Waterbug Blitz an interpretive annual report and map of river health across the nation is created by freshwater ecologists. The report helps catchment managers better maintain or improve the condition of waterways.

#### Why get involved?

- Learn about freshwater ecosystems and waterbugs
- Get outdoors and spend time in nature discovering and exploring our waterways
- Find out if the waterways you care about are healthy
- Contribute to data sets that can help us improve the condition of our rivers and wetlands.

Join North Central Waterwatch and John Gooderham, freshwater ecologist and co-author of *The Waterbug Book*, to learn all about freshwater creatures! Already know a bit about waterbugs? Come along and refresh your macroinvertebrate identification skills, and possibly see some new taxa.

The training day is suited to all citizen science participants, Waterwatch Coordinators and agency partners. No previous experience in sampling and identification is required. The training will use Agreed Level Taxonomy (ALT) macroinvertebrate methods as the standard approach that is used by Waterwatch volunteers across Victoria.

Choose from one of the workshops available below:

#### National Waterbug Blitz – Kangaroo Flat

**Where:** Number 7 Reservoir Park, Granter Street Kangaroo Flat

**When:** Monday 15 October 2018

**Time:** 10.00 am - 1.30 pm

**Costs:** Free event, lunch is provided.

**To register:** [Click here](#) or call 03 5448 7124

#### National Waterbug Blitz – Campbells Creek

**Where:** Campbells Creek, Campbells Creek Swimming Pool Reserve, Midland Highway (across the road from Thrifty - Bears Hardware - see map below)

**When:** Tuesday 16 October 2018

**Time:** 10.00 am - 2.30 pm

**Costs:** Free event, lunch is provided.

**To register:** [Click here](#) or call 03 5448 7124

#### National Waterbug Blitz – Sailors Creek

**Where:** Tipperary Springs Road, Daylesford

**When:** Wednesday 17 October 2018

**Time:** 10.00 am - 2.30 pm

**Costs:** Free event, lunch is provided.

**To register or find out more:** [Click here](#) or call 03 5448 7124

#### Birchs Creek – Waterbug assessment (field work with CMA staff and introduction to Waterbugs)

**Where:** Andersons Mill, 9 Alice Street, Smeaton

**When:** Tuesday 30 October 2018

**Time:** 10.00 am - 2.30 pm

**Costs:** Free event, lunch is provided.

**To register or find out more:** [Click here](#) or call 03 5448 7124

**What to bring:** If you have them, gumboots / waders, waterbug ALT guide and magnifying glasses. Bring your camera and smart phone. Download the Waterbug App from your App store prior to the event.

To find out more about National Water Bug Blitz go to: <https://www.waterbugblitz.org.au/>



### Campaspe Carp Catch is on again!



### Chicks in the Sticks: Giving voice to a vision



#### Don't forget to get this date In your calender!

When: Saturday October 20, 2018

Time: 10.00am - 2.30pm

Dress: Your favourite frock and native flora accessory (\*Dressing up is fun, however please dress for the weather and your own comfort).

Cost: \$25.00 (includes ticket fees & GST) for women of central Victoria (drinks at bar prices).

Where: M.V Mary Ann, Riverboat Dock, Watson St, Echuca VIC 3564.

RSVP: Book online [here](#) OR contact the North Central Catchment Management Authority on (03) 5448 7124 for more information.

### The Upper Landcare Campaspe Network invites you to the launch of their new Citizen Science and eDNA monitoring project

Come along to the launch of this exciting project using citizens science and eDNA sampling to determine the presence of platypus and rakali in the Campaspe and Coliban Rivers. Hear from keynote

speakers Dr Melody Seran and Geoff Williams from the Austrlain Platypus Concervancy.

Where: Campaspe River, end of Mill St (Jennings st end) Kyneton

When: Friday 26th October 2018

Time: 1.30 pm

For more information please contact [uclandcare@gmail.com](mailto:uclandcare@gmail.com) or [michael.w.nott@gmail.com](mailto:michael.w.nott@gmail.com)

### Macedon Ranges calls for a new youthful Landcare Tribe



Are you 18-35 and passionate about the environment? There's no better time to be living in the Macedon Ranges than now. Intrepid Landcare in partnership with Upper Deep Creek Landcare Network and Macedon Ranges Shire Council is bringing an epic Intrepid Landcare Leadership Retreat to the the Macedon Ranges over the weekend of the 26th-28th of October in Riddells Creek.

An opportunity for young people to seek inspiration, skills and support, the Intrepid Landcare Leadership Retreat has been delivered in a number of locations across Australia resulting in highly motivated teams of young people who go out and drive opportunities in Landcare, which they create for other young people in their community.

When: 26th 28th October

Where: Riddells Creek, Victoria

To attend the Macedon Ranges Intrepid Landcare Leadership Retreat, fill out an application form via the Intrepid Landcare website and follow Intrepid Landcare on Facebook for live updates about the retreat.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/landcareintrepid/>

Website: [www.intrepidlandcare.org](http://www.intrepidlandcare.org)

Event link: <https://intrepidlandcare.org/events/macr/>

## Funding News.....

### On-farm energy grants



You can now apply for an on-farm energy grant at [agriculture.vic.gov.au/agenergy](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agenergy)

The grants provide support to farmers to replace energy inefficient equipment, install more energy efficient systems and enable own-generation capacity.

Farmers are encouraged to apply early as grants are available to eligible primary producers until March 2020 or until available funding is exhausted (whichever comes first).

Any farmer wanting to access one of the grants needs to have had an approved on-farm energy assessment.

Find out more about application guidelines and the free on-farm energy assessments at [agriculture.vic.gov.au/agenergy](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agenergy) or take a look at the following factsheets:

If you have any questions please call the customer service centre on 136 186.

### Recreational Fishing Grants Program

Every year the Victorian Government, through the Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Account, disburses revenue derived from the sale of Recreational Fishing Licences to projects that will improve recreational fishing in Victoria.

Since its inception in 2001, the Recreational Fishing Grants Program (RFGP) has funded over 600 projects, worth more than \$21 million throughout Victoria. The RFGP comprises three separate programs including:

- A Small Grants Program that is continually open to fund small projects (up to \$5,000 - GST Exclusive)
- A Large Grants Program (for projects from \$5,001 to \$100,000 - GST Exclusive)
- A Commissioning Program for large priority projects (generally in excess of \$100,000).

RFL revenue will continue to be provided for fish stocking. For ALL fish stocking proposals contact

The Victorian Fisheries Authority on (03) 5770 8045 during normal business hours.

### 2019 Science and Innovation Awards



Grant applications are now open for the 2019 Science and Innovation Awards for Young People in Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. If you're 18-35, this is your chance to apply for a grant of up to \$22,000 to fund your project on an innovative or emerging scientific issue that will benefit Australia's primary industries.

The Hon. David Littleproud MP, Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, launched the 2019 Awards.

The Science Awards encourage young scientists, researchers, innovators and others active in the agriculture sector who have an original project 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 230 young Australians make their ideas a reality and showcase their talent to the world.

There are thirteen industry Science Award categories open for applications: cotton, dairy, eggs and poultry (layers), established, new and emerging rural industries, fisheries and aquaculture, forest and wood products, grains, health and biosecurity, meat and livestock, pork, red meat processing, viticulture and oenology, and wool. Each category includes a \$22,000 grant and is generously supported by the research and development corporations and industry organisations as our Science Award partners.

Interested? [Click Here](#) to find out the next steps!





# PHOTO COMPETITION

Are you a keen photographer? If so, we'd love to see your photos of Gunbower Forest during this year's water for the environment event.

Theme:

**FLOODING FOR LIFE**



### CATEGORIES:

- Gunbower Forest - landscape
- Gunbower Forest - close-up
- Junior photographer (16 years and under)

Entries will be exhibited at the Big Cohuna Festival Farmers and Maker's Market on Sunday 4 November 2018, with nominations taken for the People's Choice Award.

### HOW TO ENTER:

Send your photos, high resolution JPEG or PNG, by email to [info@nccma.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@nccma.vic.gov.au) with Gunbower Forest Photo Competition written in the subject line for a chance to win some great prizes.

**Competition closes  
5pm Friday 14 October**

Please include in your email the name of the photographer, date and location the photo was taken, contact phone number and age of the entrant (if entering the under 16-year-old category).

For additional information please call Pam Beattie from the North Central Catchment Management Authority on 0427 879 040.