

LPLN News



LODDON PLAINS LANDCARE NETWORK



Issue 3. November 2012

What's on...

14 November

Salisbury West & Mt Korong
Farming for Sustainable Soils dinner
7pm Bridgewater Hotel, Bridgewater

29 November

Secrets to Successful Groups Training
10am-3pm Department of
Sustainability and Environment,
Bendigo

19 December

Communities for Nature Small
Grants Round - Closes



Northern Plains CMN joins the LPLN

The Northern Plains Conservation Management Network (NPCMN) is the newest group to become a member of the Loddon Plains Landcare Network.

The NPCMN works with communities, government agencies and non-government organisations within the regional landscape to protect, enhance and promote grassland and woodland ecosystems. This is done through recognising and supporting a workable balance between biodiversity conservation and sustainable farming. The network administers and promotes the implementation of land management techniques such as pest plant and animal control, fencing and revegetation with the aim of increasing habitat quality and extent.

The NPCMN focal ecological communities are the nationally critically endangered *Natural Grasslands of the Murray Valley Plains* and the nationally endangered *Buloke Woodland of the Riverina and Murray-Darling Depression Bioregions*.

"We are very much looking forward to forging a strong and inspired partnership with the LPLN into the future to help secure and manage our remaining native flora and fauna."
Beau Kent, NPCMN Facilitator

Photo 2012-2013 LPLN Committee of Management

Left to right from back: Fred Belli, Laurie Maxted, Chris Rothacker, Andy Hay, Anthony Gallacher (Facilitator), Jean McClymont, Michael Moore, Ian Penny. Absent: Bill Twigg.

Goldfields Bridal Creeper Bash

The Loddon Plains Landcare Network has been successful in its application for a Project Grant in the 2012/2013 Victorian Landcare Grants Program. The grant allows the Network to develop a Bridal Creeper control and community awareness project, targeting two infested sites in Bridgewater and Inglewood.

Part of the project includes a Chemical Users Training Course run in early 2013, available for members of the LPLN. Members who are happy to volunteer in the spraying of Bridal Creeper at the two sites will receive a subsidised spot in the Chemical Users Training Course thanks to the grant.

Please get in touch with Anthony Gallacher if you want more information on the project, or to register your interest in doing the training.

Photo: Bridal Creeper



Friends of Terrick Terrick National Park - Open Weekend

The Friends of Terrick Terrick National Park held their annual Open Weekend of the park on the 5th-7th of October. The weekend was part of the 2012 Naturally Loddon Festival.

Over 40 people attended the weekend at various stages, with some new memberships among the members renewing theirs again for 2012-2013.

Based at the historic Davies Homestead, attendees were treated to various talks on the Friday evening, including Helen Stevens local history presentation.

Weekend activities included the removal of old animal exclusion plots and fallen fences, weeding around the meeting complex, preparing tree guards to be installed later this month, and seedlings planted last year were checked for their progress.

A total of 27mm of rain fell over the weekend, which resulted in the program being slightly modified from expected and may have kept attendance down. However the weekend was still a success despite the damp weather!

Congratulations to the Friends of Terrick Terrick National Park committee and volunteers who put a tremendous amount of effort into organising the event each year.



Photos by Jill Millsom: Helen Stevens local history talk (top left); Retrieving animal exclusion plots (top right); wildflower display (bottom).

Field Trip to Salisbury West and the Loddon Foothills

15 boarded the bus at Bridgewater for the tour of Salisbury West and the Loddon Foothills as part of the Naturally Loddon Festival on 30 September. The tour showed the works of the Salisbury West Landcare Group fitting with the festival aims to promote the natural environment, biodiversity and cultural heritage in the Loddon Shire. The group heard commentary from local knowledge brokers Jean McClymont, Phil Dyson and John Penny.

Tourers were treated to beautiful sites around the area including the Loddon River, Serpentine Weir, and Salisbury West, as well as the significant Indigenous Cultural Heritage Site at Powlett Swamp.

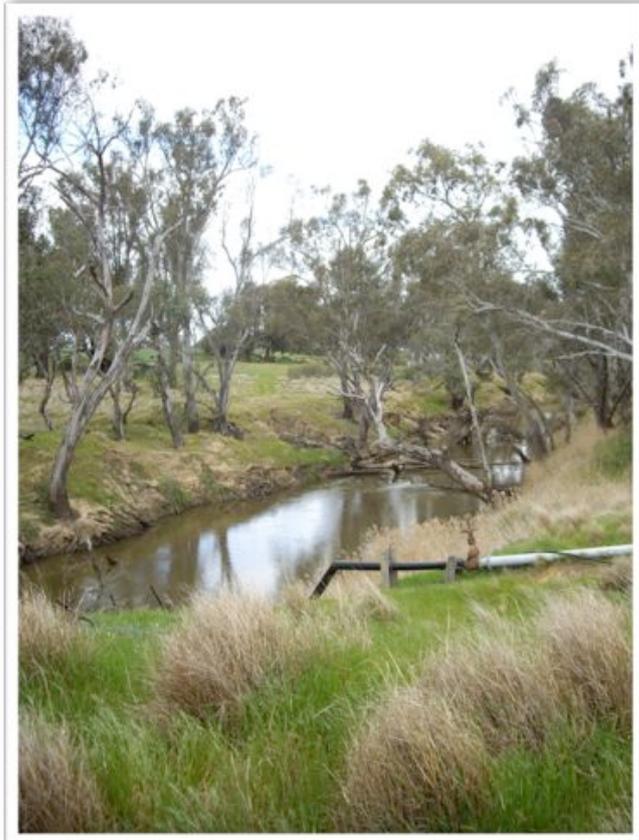
The remarkable achievements of the Landcare group were plain to see (in shelterbelts, green haystacks and in fencing of the Loddon River) but also more nuanced in the works done in regards to soil sustainability, farm works, crop and pasture rotations.

At one point a snappy snake gave the group a fright, reminding us that spring has arrived in our natural wonderland.

Many thanks to Jean McClymont for organising the trip and to the State Government Victorian Landcare Grants and the North Central Catchment Management Authority for funds to run a most enjoyable day.

Thanks also to the Loddon Shire for promotion and running of the Naturally Loddon Festival.

Photos by Anthony Gallacher. Crop talk with John Penny (top); Salisbury West stop (middle); Loddon River (bottom)



Secrets to Successful Groups Training - Bendigo

The Farm Tree & Landcare Association are running a "Secrets to Successful Groups" training session in Bendigo on Thursday 29th of November 2012.

The Department of Sustainability and Environment is supporting ten sessions across Victoria to assist Landcarers to improve the capacity and health of their groups and networks.

Each session will cover several topics out from the following:

- Legal duties and governance
- Employment and employer responsibilities
- Effective decision-making
- Health and Safety
- Managing the books
- Volunteer recruitment and succession

Sessions are open to all Landcare groups, Friends of groups and anyone else in the community involved in Landcare. The session is free with lunch and refreshments provided!

A link to the flyer can be found on the LPLN blog.

To RSVP email ftla@vff.org.au or call 03 9207 5527 and include your top 3 preferred topics.

Salisbury West Aerial Flight Photos

Photos by Anthony Gallacher. Plane at Bendigo Airport (top); Loddon River and Serpentine Creek (bottom)



To be put on the e-list for the LPLN News, please send Anthony your email address.

Likewise if you have meetings, events or other news that you would like to see in the next issue contact Anthony.

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