

# LPLN News



LODDON PLAINS LANDCARE NETWORK



## Issue 2. September 2012

### What's on...

#### 12 September

East Loddon Landcare  
Inaugural General Meeting  
7pm-8.30pm, Four Posts Hotel,  
Jarklin

#### 15-16 September

Kooyoorra Wildflower Show  
9.30am-4pm, Rheola Hall, Rheola

#### 30 September

Salisbury West and Loddon Foothills  
Field Trip. 11am-4pm

#### 5-7 October

Friends of Terrick Terrick National  
Park Open Weekend  
Starts 7pm Friday 5<sup>th</sup> at Davies  
Homestead



### Ministerial visit to the LPLN

The State Minister for Environment The Hon Ryan Smith MP visited the Loddon Plains Landcare Network (LPLN) area on Wednesday the 25<sup>th</sup> July. Arriving aboard a coach with the North Central Catchment Management Authority (NCCMA) Board, the Minister paid a visit to the Loddon Vale Landcare Fishing Platform project on Serpentine Creek at Durham Ox.

NCCMA Board member and LPLN President Laurie Maxted spoke about the Fishing Platform project and this was followed by lunch up the road at the Maxted family homestead.

Over lunch the LPLN Facilitator, Anthony Gallacher spoke about the progress of the network to date, including the success of the workshops run in May and the advancement of the GOANNA project with the support of The Norman Wettenhall Foundation.

The LPLN Committee of Management would like to thank the State Government for its support of the network through the Victorian Local Landcare Facilitator Initiative and the Victorian Landcare Grants Program.

A special thanks to the Maxted family for a delicious lunch.

Above left to right: James Williams (NCCMA Board), Anthony Gallacher (LPLN Facilitator), The Hon. Ryan Smith MP (Minister for Environment), Sarah Meredith (Ministerial Advisor). Photo: Mal Brown

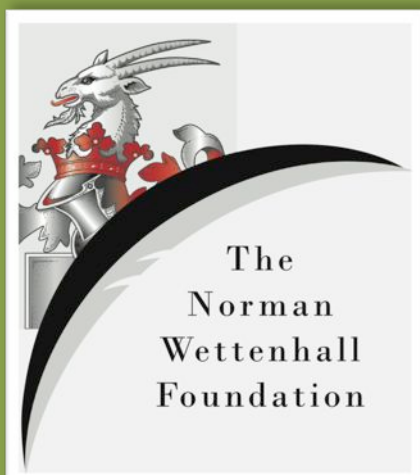
Left: NCCMA Board at fishing platform. Photo Anthony Gallacher

## The Norman Wettenhall Foundation

The Norman Wettenhall Foundation (NWF) has been a key partner for the Loddon Plains Landcare Network, being instrumental in the development of the LPLN biodiversity blueprint, which is almost ready for publication.

This partnership continues with the Network receiving a further \$30,000 from NWF to develop project plans and scope out priority projects for landscape restoration in the area.

The LPLN Committee of Management would like to thank The Norman Wettenhall Foundation and its Board of Trustees for their ongoing support.



## Salisbury West & Mt Korong Landcare – Farming for Sustainable soils

The combined Salisbury West and Mt Korong Landcare Groups Farming for Sustainable Soils project is in its second year of trials funded through the Federal Governments Caring for Our Country funding.

The groups have been busy with the project, addressing a variety of issues with ground cover maintenance, stubble retention, shelterbelts and soil tests.

Two paddock walks have been held to examine the pasture varietal site at Salisbury West, one of half a dozen paddock scale demonstration sites. Late in August a crop walk was conducted from Powlett to Korong Vale, discussing yield prediction, crop nutrient requirements, stubble retention and moisture retention in trial paddocks.

"Green Haystacks" are managed for grazing while providing shelter and biodiversity across the landscape. These salt bushes, acacias and trees are planted in fenced blocks turning unproductive land into grazing opportunities for sheep.

Ongoing independent soil tests have identified the need for remediation techniques trials in 2013 on all soil types in order to address hard panning and anaerobic soils.

Article by Jean McClymont & Anthony Gallacher



Pasture trial day – germination at the Condliffe trial paddock.  
Photo: Jean McClymont

# Loddon Vale Landcare Fishing Platform Opening

A gathering of people enjoyed ideal weather on Fathers Day for the opening of the Loddon Vale Landcare Fishing Platform on Serpentine Creek at Durham Ox.

Attendees were greeted with the sounds of country music provided by Peter Sheahan and wife Evelyn, with the fishing platform acting as an ideal stage.

The gathering heard from Laurie Maxted and guests including Loddon Shire Mayor Geoff Curnow and North Central Catchment Management Authority CEO Damien Wells, before the Hon Peter Walsh MP officially opened the Platform, casting a line into the Serpentine Creek.

After the plaque unveiling and some tree planting, the group relocated down the road to the Durham Ox Hall, where they enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by the Maxted family.

The platform is a culmination of a large effort by the Loddon Vale Landcare group and many others.

Loddon Vale Landcare President Laurie Maxted emphasised the extensive community involvement in the Fishing Platform project. “Grateful thanks to the North Central CMA, Loddon Shire, Morsons for the monument, Alan Gerard Stringer and Paul Henderson for constructing the Shed, Minister Walsh for opening the platform and Loddon Plains Landcare for their contribution” Mr Maxted said. “This is the Victorian Government’s fishing licence revenue at work,” Mr Maxted said.

“A special thanks to all the Loddon Vale members who helped out at the working bees and to Averil Harris for all the behind the scenes work. It’s certainly pleasing to see it already being used” Laurie Maxted said.



Photos by Anthony Gallacher.  
Top: Sheahans provide some country music entertainment.  
Middle: Minister Walsh casts the first line into the Serpentine Creek  
Bottom: Crowd watches the launch proceedings  
Left: Signage in the Fishing Platform shed

## East Loddon Landcare Pub Night

East Loddon Landcare had its first gathering on Wednesday 15th August at the Four Posts Hotel, Jarklin. There was a great turn out with 20 people attending. Bill Twigg chaired the meeting. Anthony Gallacher from the Loddon Plains Landcare Network also helped out with proceedings and talked about the network, fielding answers for questions about Landcare.

The Inaugural General Meeting for the group is on the 12th of September at the Four Posts Hotel, Jarklin.

Thanks to Bill Twigg for organising the evening and to all who came along!

Photo by Anthony Gallacher: East Loddon Landcare Pub night attendees



## Groups prepare for Naturally Loddon Festival Events

Friends of Kooyoora, Friends of Terrick Terrick National Park and Salisbury West Landcare are all busy preparing events as part of the Loddon Shire 'Naturally Loddon' Festival.

This year the annual Kooyoora Wildflower Show and Terrick Terrick National Park Open Weekend are once again running, offering a range of hands on activities to showcase the Loddon Shire environment including indigenous flora displays, wildflower tours, bird walks and guest speakers.

For more information visit the Loddon Shire website at:  
[www.loddon.vic.gov.au](http://www.loddon.vic.gov.au)

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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