

LPLN News



LODDON PLAINS LANDCARE NETWORK



Issue 8. September 2013

A newly erected nestbox at the
Bridgewater Primary School

What's on...

3 October

LPLN Committee of Management Meeting. 5pm, Serpentine Shire Offices

4 – 6 October

Friends of Terrick Terrick National Park Open Weekend. Davies Homestead

16 October

Loddon Plains Landcare Network Weeds Night. 7.30pm, Inglewood.

20 October

Friends of Kooyoora Powlett trip. 10.30am, Inglewood Town Hall

23 October

Bendigo Creek Floodplain Group Weed Night. 7.30-9pm Dingee Hotel.

24 – 25 October

NCCMA Native Grasses ID Course, Kerang.

12 – 13 November

NCCMA Native Grasses ID Course, St Arnaud.

Landcare Facilitator update

As usual it has been a busy time of year for the Landcare Network and member groups. It has been great to get out and about, be it putting up nestboxes or attending AGMs, and to hear of all the achievements of the past 12 months.

The Naturally Loddon Festival is in full swing with four events hosted by LPLN groups. I hope you take the chance to read through all that has been happening, and check out those events still to come.

Congratulations to the Wedderburn CMN and the North Central CMA for successfully obtaining funds for the Kooyoora Connections project in the Wedderburn area. The five-year project is a significant investment within our area, revegetating and protecting remnant vegetation along the Sunday Morning Hills.

I recently attended the Box Ironbark Ecology Course in Nagambie. As expected the course lived up to its reputation, providing a broad range of knowledge on geology, soils, plants and animals of the Box Ironbark forests. It was great to hear from well renowned experts in the various fields and network with other people from NRM organisations.

Anthony Gallacher, Landcare Facilitator

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www.lpln.org*

Nestboxes for Kids

The Network has been undertaking a trial nestbox project with the Bridgewater Primary School and Bridgewater/Inglewood Men's Shed. The Men's Shed have constructed 40 nestboxes for the Network to put up for local wildlife.

Anthony Gallacher did a presentation on nestboxes with the students at Bridgewater Primary School. The students were all very attentive and interested in the nestboxes.

Half a dozen nestboxes were then erected in trees on the school grounds in August. The nestboxes will be monitored for wildlife and it is hoped the students will be able to see the nestboxes in action.

The Network has received a Community Grant from the Loddon Shire to extend the project to other schools and areas in the Shire. The Network will work with member groups to determine the construction of further nestboxes for particular species and suitable sites.

Many thanks to Ian Penny for his hard work in obtaining timber for the nestboxes and working with the Men's Shed to put the nestboxes together. Thanks also to Gordon Tonkin, Principal at Bridgewater PS for his enthusiasm.

Photo: Presentation on nestboxes with the students at Bridgewater primary school.



Loddon Plains Landcare Network bus trip

14 attendees toured Landcare sites around the Loddon Plains Landcare Network area on Saturday the 21st of September for the Network's 2013 bus trip. The weather was ideal for the trip.

At Bridgewater Primary School the group looked at nestboxes that form part of a Network project that brings together the Inglewood-Bridgewater Men's Shed and the Primary School.

Gordon Pickin from Inglewood Landcare discussed the aspirations of their group for the Morning Star Reserve at a stop in Inglewood, and the need to eradicate Bridal Creeper from the Reserve.

Ian Penny demonstrated the success of fencing works along the Loddon on his property in Salisbury West. The group then enjoyed lunch by the Loddon River on Bill Twigg's property at Serpentine.

In the afternoon, Chris Rothacker demonstrated his direct seeding and fencing of remnant efforts on his property in Mysia. Lastly, Laurie Maxted outlined the revegetation works on his property at Durham Ox.

The bus trip was part of the 'Naturally Loddon: A Wonderland in Spring Festival' and was made possible through funding from the Australian Government's Caring for our Country.

Many thanks to all the Landcare members who gave their time to demonstrate their efforts.

Photo: Bus trip attendees at Mysia.



2013 Victorian Landcare Awards - winners

Congratulations to Bill and Gwen Twigg and The Norman Wettenhall Foundation for their successes at the 2013 Victorian Landcare Awards in Melbourne on the 28th of August 2013.

Bill was the recipient of the Regional DEPI Sustainable Farm Practices Award for the North Central region. As a local farming and Landcare guru, Bill continues to sit on the LPLN Committee, bringing a valuable voice to the table. Well done Bill.

The Norman Wettenhall Foundation was the recipient of the Partnerships with Landcare Award. The Loddon Plains Landcare Network is very fortunate to have a partnership with NWF on our GOANNA Project. The Network would like to congratulate NWF on the well-deserved recognition of this award, and look forward to continuing to work with NWF to achieve important landscape changes across the Network area.

Photos: Top – Bill and Gwen Twigg with North Central CMA representatives. Bottom – Beth Mellick and Geoff Park from The Norman Wettenhall Foundation with their nominators from the Yarram Yarram Landcare Network.



Landcare Facilitator awarded Leadership Development Grant

The Norman Wettenhall Foundation has awarded the LPLN facilitator Anthony Gallacher with their very first Leadership Development Grant.

“The grant is designed to assist leading figures in the conservation movement with their professional development” said Elizabeth Mellick, Executive Director of the Norman Wettenhall Foundation.

“The Trustees of the Foundation believe Anthony to be an outstanding recipient of the grant, he is exactly the sort of person that needs to be supported and encouraged to stay active in his chosen field.” Ms Mellick said.

Anthony will use the grant to gain more local ecological knowledge, attend facilitation workshops and expand his skills to help him better support the Loddon Plains Landcare Network in their GOANNA Project.



Have you visited our website?

www.lpln.org

Wildflower Show

The Friends of Kooyoora hosted another successful Wildflower Show on September 14 & 15 at the Rheola Hall. With approximately 130 local native specimens on display, the hall was full of colour and aroma.

Cr Geoff Curnow, Mayor of Loddon Shire officially opened the Show on Saturday. The bus tours were very popular again, with two new tours being added this year. On Saturday morning Brian Wheelhouse took a historic tour of Wehla and on Sunday Malcolm Cousland led a bird watching tour. Jim Irving again filled the bus with his wildflower wanderings.

An evening program was also added this year with Julie Whitfield, (DEPI Biodiversity Officer) giving a talk on local native orchids and butterflies and then the Bendigo Astronomy Club took us on a tour of the night skies.

The photographic competition was well entered and voting in many categories was very close, a testament to the fantastic photographers around.

By Wendy Murphy

Photo: Wildflowers on display at the Rheola Hall



Wedderburn CMN Photographic Exhibitions

The Wedderburn CMN has recently concluded two successful photographic exhibitions held in separate venues within the town.

The first exhibition, entitled the Weird and Wonderful Wildlife of Wedderburn was held in the Coach House Gallery during the month of July and attracted 324 visitors including primary and secondary students from Wedderburn College.

The second exhibition, held on the 7th and 8th of September as part of the Naturally Loddon Festival, celebrated the tenth anniversary of the inception of the Wedderburn CMN. This exhibition saw forty-two interested visitors wonder at the fantastic wildlife photographs of local flora and fauna.

Both exhibitions had as their objectives the provision of information on the sheer diversity of local flora and fauna and the promotion of their conservation by the local community. Both exhibitions involved photographs taken by local photographers, including some great shots by younger enthusiasts.

Parks Victoria contributed to the exhibitions by making available their fascinating displays of animals and their *mystery boxes*, which caused quite a stir when unsuspecting visitors were invited to place their hand into the boxes and guess the nature of the contents!

Information concerning local threatened species and the past, present and future work of the Wedderburn CMN was on display and occasioned numerous enquiries.

By Michael Moore

Photo: WCMN photographs on display at the exhibition



Friends of Terrick Terrick National Park Open Weekend

The Friends of Terrick Terrick National Park Open Weekend is on again. Spanning the 4-6 of October, the weekend is packed full of available activities and speakers. The gates are to be opened by 3pm on Friday the 4th and free camping sites will be available.

Activities include:

- sheep shearing demonstrations,
- coach tours to various parts of the park,
- a display of indigenous plants,
- bird watching,
- grassland and forest walks,
- working bees,
- evening presentations, including an astronomy session

For more information contact Friends of Terrick Terrick National Park Secretary Keith Stockwell on stocky@mcmedia.com.au or phone (03) 5480 9254.

Native Grass ID Course – Expressions of Interest open

Expressions of interest (EOI) are now being accepted for a short course in native grass identification. This interactive course will involve lectures and hands-on experience in the laboratory, followed by a field trip on the second day.

The course will be presented by local botanist and ecologist Paul Foreman, who has over 20 years experience in land management and nature conservation in Victoria.

Kerang: Thursday 24 & Friday 25 October, Kerang Learning Centre, 35 Victoria St

St Arnaud: Tuesday 12 & Wednesday 13 November, St Arnaud Community Resource Centre, 85 Napier St, St Arnaud

Time: 9.30am—5pm (Lunch provided).

Cost: **Free event**

The course is open to farmers, rural property owners and Landcare members in the North Central CMA region.

For more information contact the North Central CMA on: 03 5448 7124 or email info@nccma.vic.gov.au. Applications to North Central CMA close **5 pm Monday 14 October 2013**.

Bendigo Creek Floodplain Group WEEDS NIGHT

What do you need to think about to reduce weed problems this summer? Chat to the agronomist for independent advice, bring a bagged weed sample for identification and learn more about native pastures.

Wednesday 23 October

Dingee Hotel

7.30pm – 9.00pm

Attendees will receive a free native pasture seed sample (numbers limited).

No charge - supper included

Enquiries to Robyn McKay 0417 100 818

Friends of Kooyoora Powlett trip

For the next outing Friends of Kooyoora will be visiting sites around the Powlett area for the October meeting.

Sunday 20 October

Inglewood Town Hall

10.30am

Meet at the Inglewood Town Hall and the group will car pool from there to the sites.

BYO lunch and drinks as well as sturdy footwear. Anyone is welcome to join in the day, especially if you know of a fantastic site to visit.

Contact Wendy Murphy for more information on 0417 338 578 or email gropergully@activ8.net.au

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Loddon Plains Remnants project – Expressions of Interest open

Do you have piece of land with a patch of vegetation that would benefit from protection?

The Loddon Plains Landcare Network is seeking landholders interested in caring for native vegetation on their properties. Works could include fencing off a small patch for tree regrowth, linking significant tree patches with corridors, or fencing off a treed creek line. The Network is developing a remnants project with a view to gaining financial assistance towards protection of quality remnant habitat in the Network area.

If you are interested you can download an Expression of Interest form from our website at:
www.lpln.org/goanna-project/forms/

Workshop series

Keep an eye out for the Network's 2013/2014 Workshop Series, coming soon. Workshop topics include:

- Native vegetation and your property
- Native grasses and pasture management
- The benefits of bugs
- New age technology – iPads, farming apps, computers and online mapping for farming and conservation

To keep up to date on when the workshops will be run, visit our website and subscribe your email address.

2013/2014 Committee of Management

The Network would like to welcome Cr Colleen Condliffe on board the LPLN Committee of Management for the 2013/2014 year.

Cr Condliffe is an active participant in the Salisbury West Landcare and is the councillor for the Inglewood ward of the Loddon Shire.

All other positions remain the same as the 2012/2013 Committee of Management. The Network would like to thank all Committee members for their ongoing service.

To be put on the e-list for the LPLN News, please subscribe your email via the LPLN website: www.lpln.org

For contributions for the next issue, send to Anthony Gallacher:

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Partners and supporters of the Loddon Plains Landcare Network:

