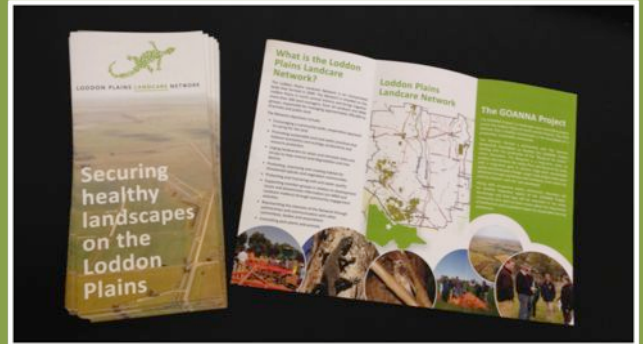


LPLN News



Issue 9. November 2013

The new brochures for the Loddon Plains Landcare Network have arrived

What's on...

27 November

Northern United Forestry Group meeting. 8pm Raywood Hotel.

4 December

Friends of Terrick Terrick National Park gathering. 6.30pm Pyramid Hill Hotel.

5 December

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

7 December

Inglewood Alive Festival Landcare Stall. Brooke St, Inglewood.

Sign up for email updates at our website:

www.lpln.org

Facilitator update

As expected the last couple of months has flown by. Between grant report writing, AGMs, weed events, planning days and stalls, it is fair to say it has been a busy spring.

The Network has received our new brochures (see above photo). The brochures provide a brief outline of the Network, our area and the GOANNA Project. Ideal for Landcare stalls or for handing out at events, please get in touch if you would like some copies.

Not everything is stopping over summer, with the East Loddon Landcare Group running a compost trial supported by Compost Victoria, the North Central CMA and DEPI. The pilot trial with the group will begin this summer, with a compost field day to be held next year. Keep an eye out for the date!

Under the DEPI Land Health Program, there are opportunities for groups to hold events with DEPI speakers available for certain topics of interest on improving productivity while maintaining the natural resource base. If your group is interested in exploring this opportunity, please get in touch.

All the best for everyone who is coming into harvest. Since this is the last newsletter for the year, I wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and look forward to the New Year.

Anthony Gallacher, Landcare Facilitator

Pyramid Hill College Fete Landcare Stall

The Loddon Plains Landcare Network along with the Friends of Terrick Terrick National Park hosted a Landcare stall at the Pyramid Hill College fete on the 1st of November 2013.

The stall featured many Landcare materials including the Network's new brochure, weed guides, stickers and fridge magnets. Free trees and native plants were available to families thanks to generous donations from Neangar Nursery and Gannawarra Trees.

Thank you to members of the Friends of Terrick Terrick National Park for taking the time to volunteer for the stall. If your group is interested in hosting a stall and would like to display Landcare products please get in contact with our Landcare Facilitator to arrange pick up.

Photo: Anthony Gallacher, Landcare Facilitator hosts the Landcare stall at Pyramid Hill College Fete.



*Have you visited our
website?*
www.lpln.org

Goldfields Bridal Creeper Bash News

The Inglewood Landcare Group with assistance from the Loddon Plains Landcare Network undertook spraying of Bridal Creeper at the Inglewood Morning Star Reserve in early October.

The 39 acre public reserve in Inglewood formed the basis of the Network's Bridal Creeper project. Training in chemical use in March allowed the volunteers to undertake the spraying with the assistance of a works crew.

The Network also hosted a Weeds Night in Inglewood as part of the project. Attendees heard from three speakers including the Network's Facilitator Anthony Gallacher, Jeroen van Veen from Bush Heritage and Ian McLauchlan from the Loddon Shire, who all talked about various local weed issues.

The project was funded through a State Government Victorian Landcare Grant from the North Central Catchment Management Authority. Many thanks to all those who got involved.

Photos: Weeds Night (top); Bridal Creeper spraying crew at the Morning Star Reserve (bottom)



LPLN committee visit to Mt Buckrabanyule

The Loddon Plains Landcare Network Committee of Management had a change of pace for their last meeting, visiting Mt Buckrabanyule located on the western edge of the Network's area.

The Committee members were joined by locals from the Wychitella District Landcare Group, who explained the history and spread of Wheel Cactus (*Opuntia robusta*) on the mountain.

The Wheel Cactus is an invasive noxious weed, which is now listed as a Weed of National Significance (WoNS). The Committee had a first hand inspection of the current state of Wheel Cactus on the mountain and a clear view of the ability of the weed to spread along roadsides and private property.

The Network aims to assist the local Landcare group to develop strategies to halt the spread of the Wheel Cactus and empower the group to tackle the infestation.

Photos: LPLN CoM discuss the spread of Wheel Cactus with locals from Wychitella District Landcare on Mt Buckrabanyule (top); Wheel Cactus Flower (bottom).



Support from The Norman Wettenhall Foundation

The Loddon Plains Landcare Network have once again been fortunate to receive on-going support from The Norman Wettenhall Foundation, receiving 2 grants to continue work on the GOANNA Project.

A \$30,000 grant will go towards the continued full time employment of the Network's Facilitator to continue development of large project proposals.

A \$10,000 grant will go towards a woodland bird biodiversity monitoring project in the Network's area.

"We are very fortunate to have the on-going support of The Norman Wettenhall Foundation, which allows us to work towards a healthier landscape on the Loddon Plains", said Anthony Gallacher, Facilitator of the Loddon Plains Landcare Network.



*Find out more about
The Norman
Wettenhall Foundation
at www.nwf.org.au*

Plains-wanderer sighted in Park at Friends of Terrick Terrick open weekend

Unlike the 2011 and 2012 open weekends, this year's activities weekend was blessed with fine weather.

During a grassland fauna survey on the Friday night, a pair of Plains-wanderers was observed. Only one other individual Plains-wanderer has been recorded in Terrick Terrick National Park since the heavy rains two summers back.

Highlights of this year's activities weekend included a mini-bus tour to the historic Mount Hope station, nature walks led by Matt Comer, astronomy with members of the Bendigo Astronomical Society and sheep-shearing by Russell Shawcross.

Ian Bartels showed some of the wonderful raptor photographs he has taken over recent years. Ian used a cherry-picker to enable him to get good shots of Wedgetailed Eagle chicks.

Audrey Dickins gave a wonderful presentation about the flora and fauna of Gunbower Island. Audrey showed some outstanding photographs of animals such as Antechinus. Like Ian, Audrey also showed us some of her wonderful photographs of birds.

Mark Tscharke gave a presentation on a recent trip to Diamantina National Park. The aim of the trip was to see if Plains-wanderers were present in Diamantina or Astrebla Downs national parks. Mark was accompanied by a number of others, including his son, Mark Antos, and Russell Shawcross.

Two new committee members were elected at our annual general meeting. Dave Allen is a local farmer whose family has long resided in the area. The other new committee member is Jenny Emandson. Jenny recently moved from Mackay and purchased a property close to the Park. A pilot, Jenny was attracted to the property by its airstrip and hangar.

Over a kilometre of unwanted, degraded fencing was removed and a number of indigenous shrubs were planted. Unfortunately, owing to time constraints and a lack of volunteers, we were unable to reroute a walking track as planned.

By Keith Stockwell, Friends of Terrick Terrick National Park



Friends of Terrick Terrick National Park open weekend photos:

Top by David Dickson: Volunteers removing wire from Terricks East

Middle by Keith Stockwell: Activities weekend visitors inspecting wildflowers

Bottom by David Dickson: Shearing demonstration with Russell Shawcross

Friends of Kooyoora activity

This activity didn't quite turn out as planned, but instead ended up a very enjoyable and interesting day for other reasons. The purpose of the day was to work on control of wheel cactus infestations in the park. We headed off towards the Glenalbyn block. I remember one of my very first interactions with FOK about six years ago was working on the wheel cactus in that area and there was a lot of it. On Sunday, we had to look hard to find some, and although the largest concentration was scattered along the fence line adjoining private property, it is a testament to the ongoing work on this invasive species that we found so few plants.

Having dealt with them, we moved on, and took the opportunity to stop and admire notable plant specimens. Marj alerted us to a beautiful stand of *Brunonia australis* (blue pincushions) in full flower right beside the road. A wedge tail eagle lifted off from just in front of us as we approached this site, and we discovered he had been dining on a sulphur crested cockatoo. We also looked at a site where *Myosotis australis* (Austral Forget Me Not) had been flowering, and pulled out Patterson's curse plants while we were there.

The weather was getting warmer so we visited the site of the leek and horned orchids. As we were walking towards the area Jeanette gave a loud startled shriek, and I was immediately looking out for a snake. But no, she was alerting everyone to Maxima! Maxima! It took me a little while to work out that it was not a snake that she was so excited about but a *Pterostylis maxima* (Rusty Hood) orchid. Many photos were taken, and Jim demonstrated how to get the best angle to photograph orchids. Marj and Jim attended to the Wheel cactus that we have noted near Spiers track, and we headed home in several directions from that point.

By Annette Robertson



Photo by Annette Robertson:
Friends of Kooyoora November activity – stabbing Wheel Cactus

Subscribe your email via the LPLN website at www.lpln.org to receive notification of the latest news.

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

Email: facilitator@lpln.org
Phone: (03) 5446 9249
Mobile: 0447 095 501

Partners and supporters of the Loddon Plains Landcare Network:

