

LPLN News



LODDON PLAINS LANDCARE NETWORK



2014-2015 LPLN Committee of Management at the Landcare Link-Up

Issue 14. November 2014

What's on...

26 November

Northern Plains CMN AGM, 6.30pm
Gunbower Hotel.

1 December

Wedderburn CMN monthly meeting,
1pm Wedderburn Community House.

3 December

Loddon Plains Landcare Network
Committee of Management meeting,
5pm Serpentine.

9 December

Green Army Round 2 Applications close
2pm.

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*Securing healthy
landscapes on the Loddon
Plains*

November update

It has been a busy couple of months with plenty of events and grant applications drawing the primary focus for the Network over the last several weeks.

The Network has engaged over 100 people at events during October, including through the bird monitoring bus trip, farm forestry workshop, Landcare Link-up and Stock Condition workshop with DEPI Land Health. It has been great to see the level of attendance at all these events, with plenty of positive feedback about the topics and experiences. Read on to find out more.

Congratulations to Loddon Vale Landcare Group on receiving a VLG grant to go towards controlling boxthorn in their area. The Wedderburn Conservation Management Network was also successful in getting a Communities for Nature grant to protect spring soaks in the Goldfields area. All the best with these projects.

Finally welcome to Colin Gitsham (Fairley Bael Bael Sandhill Lake Landcare) who has joined the Network's Committee of management at this years AGM.

All the best for the remainder of the year and harvest season. Hopefully summer 2015 isn't too harsh on us.

Anthony Gallacher, Landcare Facilitator



Photos from top: Andrew Lang presents on bioenergy at the Farm Forestry Workshop, Kamarooka Education Centre; Farm forestry participants in the Kamarooka plantation; Ian Rankin (NUFG) demonstrates new thinning equipment; Terricks bus trip participants at Mt Terrick Terrick; Chocolate lilly, Terrick Terrick National Park.

The future for farm forestry shines bright

The Network hosted a farm forestry workshop at the Kamarooka Education Centre and demonstration site on the 12th of October.

24 attendees heard from Andrew Lang from the World Bioenergy Association, who spoke about woody biomass to energy prospects for the future. The potential for bioenergy was aptly demonstrated in examples from Beaufort Victoria and New Zealand.

Phil Dyson (Northern United Forestry Group) demonstrated the monitoring being undertaken by the group in measuring ground water levels under the Kamarooka plantation.

Ben Boxhall (wood4good) outlined the considerations of design in plantation layout and the implications for thinning and harvesting.

Ian Rankin (Northern United Forestry Group) capped off the afternoon with his new thinning tool, felling several trees in the plantation that required thinning to reduce competition amongst the timber trees.

Bus trip showcases Terricks bird monitoring

The Network ran a bird monitoring bus trip in conjunction with the Terrick Terrick National Park Activities Weekend on the 5th of November. The bus trip showcased some of the bird monitoring sites that are part of the Loddon Plains Community Bird Monitoring Project.

Attendees heard from local bird monitoring participants Keith Stockwell and Betty Waterson and visited sites on the Bendigo Creek and within the National Park itself.

The LPLN Facilitator Anthony Gallacher outlined the efforts of the Network to gain baseline bird data from the area through the project and participants got to put their own hand to spotting birds at the different sites.

Thanks to those who attended.

Both events were funded through the Australian Government's support of the Network's GOANNA Project Education Program.



Australian Government

Landcare Network “links up”

Members of the Loddon Plains Landcare Network affiliate groups “linked-up” for a night of sharing, networking and socialising on the banks of the Loddon River, Serpentine on October 17.

The night began with the LPLN Annual General meeting that saw the election of the 2014-2015 Committee of Management, as well as reports from Laurie Maxted (President), Jean McClymont (Treasurer), Anthony Gallacher (Landcare Facilitator) and Beth Mellick (The Norman Wettenhall Foundation).

The AGM was followed by dinner supplied by the Lions Club of Inglewood, which gave attendees the opportunity over the meal to share their Landcare success stories and works of the past year. It was great to hear the discussion about happenings from the different groups.

The Network’s member groups were well represented at the evening with 55 attendees entertained by poetry and local musicians and into the evening. Thanks to everyone who attended and made the evening such a success.

Photos: Landcare Link-up attendees on the banks of the Loddon River.



Have you seen this weed?

The Loddon Weed Control Committee is seeking sightings of **African Lovegrass** across the Loddon Shire. As yet it is only recorded in a small area in the Shire.

If you know of any infestations please pass the location onto Anthony Gallacher at facilitator@lpln.org.



Donate today!

Deductible gift recipient (DGR) status allows you to donate to the Network. The Network and our public fund, the Loddon Plains Landcare Network Charity Fund are on the Register of Environmental Organisations. Donations to the public fund over \$2 are now eligible for a tax deduction under the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

If you would like to make a contribution to the public fund to support the Network’s GOANNA Project, visit the donation page on our website at

www.lpln.org/donate/

Contributions will go towards GOANNA Project activities such as revegetation, remnant protection and bird monitoring data collection.

Salisbury West Landcare learn about stock condition

Salisbury West Landcare members engaged in some stock condition monitoring at the Stock Condition Workshop on October 29th, run through the DEPI Land Health Program.

Participants heard from Jane Court who outlined condition scoring and using the condition information for undertaking different management techniques for individual sheep.

Rachael Holmes discussed ram and ewe health with the farmers, emphasising the need for lambs to come from healthy stock, not just a healthy ewe.

The day ended with a look at ground cover maintenance over the coming months.

Participants then discussed the day over a BBQ. Thanks to all those who attended.

Photo: Salisbury West farmers assess stock condition



Wheel Cactus Program

The Wychitella District Landcare Group with the help of the Loddon Plains Landcare Network is undertaking a series of working bees to tackle Wheel Cactus at Mt Buckrabanyule.

The first Wheel Cactus working bee was held on November 9, with 16 cactus killers taking to a 9ha paddock to remove the scattered specimens through stem injection and physical removal. The new equipment for the project has been funded through the Loddon Shire and DEPI and is available for use by member groups.

The program will continue in 2015 with a launch day and several more working bees to help tackle this noxious weed.

This project is funded through a Communities for Nature Grant from the Department of Environment and Primary Industries.

Photo: Wheel cactus treated and marked at the working bee.



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:

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