



LODDON PLAINS LANDCARE NETWORK

GOANNA Project Investment Prospectus

*Opportunities to invest in conservation projects across
northern Victoria's Loddon Plains*



Loddon Plains Landcare Network

This prospectus provides options for conservation-minded citizens or corporations to invest in the Loddon Plains Landcare Network's landscape restoration project, the GOANNA Project.

The GOANNA (Group Organised Action Nurturing Natural Assets) Project is the Network's flagship partnership project with The Norman Wettenhall Foundation (NWF). It is a landscape-scale restoration project designed to protect and enhance biodiversity across the Loddon Plains.

The Loddon Plains is rich in natural assets. It is home to a diverse range of flora and fauna, along with rivers, creeks and wetlands that have supported aboriginal communities for thousands of years and still today sustain important water-dependent ecosystems.

It is also an area recognised for its high quality agricultural production based around grain and fodder crops, lamb and wool production, dairying and horticulture. The Loddon Plains Landcare Network recognises that a healthy environment is fundamental to a thriving agricultural sector and a sustainable community.

With financial assistance from The Norman Wettenhall Foundation, the Network has produced a BLUEPRINT for the long-term conservation of biodiversity in the network area - to be achieved through coordinated, large-scale landscape restoration projects.

A series of large-scale projects, developed in conjunction with member groups, are being scoped using a process called 'INFFER' (the Investment Framework for Environmental Resources). In addition to the proposed on-ground works, community education is a vital component of the GOANNA Project. Workshops and field days will be extended to the wider community wanting to learn more about the importance of biodiversity in sustainable farming systems.

Deductible Gift Recipient Status

The Network and our public fund, the ***Loddon Plains Landcare Network Charity Fund*** are now on the Register of Environmental Organisations. Donations to the public fund over \$2 are eligible for a tax deduction under the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

For more information about the Network and the GOANNA Project please visit our website at www.lpln.org

This prospectus is provided for your use, but the Loddon Plains Landcare Network and its employees do not guarantee that this publication is without flaw of any kind, or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on information in this publication.

Protecting the Calivil Creek

Riparian zones provide rich ecosystem services and valuable habitat for wildlife. The Loddon Vale Landcare Group and local Yarrawalla landholders value environmental stewardship and are keen to see the Calivil Creek riparian zone protected from ongoing agricultural activities that encroach on and damage the habitat. This project sees the installation of 2.7km of fencing to complete the final section of a 7km stretch of the Calivil Creek that will protect the riparian zone from stock and agricultural intrusion. Stage 1 of the creek has already been fenced off to protect existing habitat, with a view to improve connectivity in the landscape and create a buffer from surrounding stock areas.

Key species: Black Box (*Eucalyptus largiflorens*)

Cost: \$24,200

Timeline: 1 year.

Status: Pending. Stage 1 fencing complete.

Manager: Project Worker, Loddon Plains Landcare Network

Sponsors: The Norman Wettenhall Foundation (Coordination funds via Landcare Facilitator)

Promotion: Local newspapers, through the Network and The Norman Wettenhall Foundation.

How will success be measured?

- Successful erection of 2.7km of fencing

Community: This project occurs on three private landholder properties and is the precursor to revegetation of the creek.

Plans in place: Fencing of Stage 1 of the Calivil Creek corridor has been undertaken through support from the Department of Environment and Primary Industries, Kerang. Local contractors who undertook the first stages will be used to erect the fencing. Following fencing, funds for revegetation will be sought.

Expertise / experience in this field: The Network holds a significant amount of knowledge with regards to revegetation and planting from experienced Landcare members, including on the Committee of Management.

Support: Loddon Vale Landcare Group, The Norman Wettenhall Foundation



Photo: Fencing of Black Box Woodland

Restoring Black Box along the Calivil Creek

Black Box are very slow growing, knarled trees that are important for wildlife, but do not regenerate well after disturbance. Following die off from over irrigation and flooding last century, the Calivil Creek lost this vital source of habitat. The Loddon Vale Landcare Group and local Yarrowalla landholders are keen to see the Calivil Creek Black Box areas restored. This project sees the replanting of 75 ha along a 7km fenced off area of the creek to restore the Black Box stands, whose loss would be more or less permanent without intervention. The long term aims are to improve connectivity in the landscape and create a buffer from surrounding stock areas. Revegetation will be completed through a mix of plantings and direct seeding involving Landcare volunteers and contractors.

Key Species: Black Box (*Eucalyptus largiflorens*)

Cost: Stage 2 = \$50,000

Timeline: 2 years.

Status: Pending grant funds to implement Stage 2. Fencing required for Stage 2 prior to revegetation.

Fencing already complete for Stage 1 (48 ha), with revegetation commencing in 2015.

Manager: Project Worker, Loddon Plains Landcare Network

Sponsors: The Norman Wettenhall Foundation (Coordination funds via Landcare Facilitator)

Promotion: Local newspapers, through the Network and The Norman Wettenhall Foundation.

How will success be measured?

- 27 ha revegetated
- 90% establishment of seedlings and successful direct seeding.
- 2 planting days

Community: Community planting days will be run in conjunction with the local schools and Landcare groups. This will be a great opportunity for students to learn tree planting skills and learn the importance of community work and leadership.

Plans in place: Fencing of the Calivil Creek corridor has been undertaken through support from the Department of Environment and Primary Industries, Kerang. The Network has recently received a 20 Million Trees grant to undertake revegetation of Stage 1. The local Landcare Group are the main proponents of the project and will assist contractors in the necessary ground preparation works. Local trees will be sourced from the Neangar Nursery and other local enterprises where required to fill the order.

Expertise / experience in this field: The Network holds a significant amount of knowledge with regards to revegetation and planting from experienced Landcare members, including on the Committee of Management.

Support: Loddon Vale Landcare Group, The Norman Wettenhall Foundation



Photo: Restored Black Box woodland

Increasing Grey-crowned Babbler habitat on Bendigo Creek

Locals value the Bendigo Creek for its function as a wildlife corridor, its importance for bird life (including habitat for the endangered Grey-crowned Babbler) and its aesthetics. Enhancing creekside habitat through the completion of the corridor along Bendigo Creek between Terrick Terrick National Park and the nationally significant Kow Swamp, will provide a new corridor in the landscape, as well as expanded habitat areas along the creek. There are several families of the charismatic Grey-crowned Babbler residing further up the creek in intact areas, whose offspring will benefit from the expanded habitat.

Key species: Grey-Crowned Babbler, Black Box (*Eucalyptus largiflorens*)

Cost: \$200,200

Timeline: 2-3 years.

Status: Pending.

Manager: Project Worker, Loddon Plains Landcare Network

Sponsors: The Norman Wettenhall Foundation (Coordination funds via Landcare Facilitator)

Promotion: Local newspapers, Friends of Terrick Terrick National Park members, Northern Plains Conservation Management Network members, through the Network and The Norman Wettenhall Foundation.

How will success be measured?

- Successful erection of 9.7km of fencing
- Revegetation of 17 ha to enhance existing habitat and
- Extension of the corridor along the creek from Terrick Terrick National Park to Kow Swamp.
- Bird monitoring sites will be established in the new corridor to measure changes in bird numbers

Community: The community will be involved in planting days for tubestock including local schools. Informative workshops will be run to complement the project themes and to increase awareness across the project area.

Plans in place: This project has been scoped and run through a project assessment form. Landholders have all been approached. This project includes funds for a project worker to manage the project including all contractor works.

Expertise / experience in this field: The Network holds a significant amount of knowledge with regards to revegetation and planting from experienced Landcare members, including on the Committee of Management.

Support: Friends of Terrick Terrick National Park, Northern Plains Conservation Management Network, The Norman Wettenhall Foundation



Photo: Bendigo Creek area already restored

Cleansing the Mountain

Wheel Cactus is a major threat to the natural resource base and agriculture in the Loddon Plains Landcare Network's area. This project will target severe infestations through working bees at Mt Buckrabanyule. Working bees aim to get a group of participants working in designated areas to knock down mature Wheel Cactus using stem injection and physical removal of small plants.

This project would suit a corporate sponsor who wishes to undertake volunteer days and team building exercises while contributing to protecting the natural resource base.

Key Species: Wheel Cactus (*Opuntia robusta*)

Cost: \$20,000 annually

Timeline: Ongoing project.

Status: Pending grant funds to implement

Manager: Landcare Facilitator, Loddon Plains Landcare Network

Sponsors: The Norman Wettenhall Foundation (Coordination funds via Landcare Facilitator)

Promotion: Local newspapers, through the Network and The Norman Wettenhall Foundation, roadside signs.

How will success be measured?

- Target infestation die off rate and participation rates from volunteers

Community: This project will run alongside community working bees that already take place at the mountain and surrounding area.

Plans in place: The Loddon Plains Landcare Network has been working closely with the Wychitella District Landcare Group and Parks Victoria to develop strategies to tackle the infestation. The Loddon Weed Control Committee for the Loddon Shire will oversee and provide advice on the project.

Expertise / experience in this field: This is a new project for the Loddon Plains Landcare Network, however we have support from experienced community groups via The Norman Wettenhall Foundation and the Tarrengower Cactus Control Committee as advisors.

Project support from: Parks Victoria, Wychitella District Landcare Group, North Central CMA



Photo: Wheel Cactus spread at Mt Buckrabanyule

Nestboxes for Kids Program

The Loddon Plains Landcare Network holds education of young people as one of the core purposes of the Network. Exposure to nature and an understanding of conservation, as well as the learning of practical skills are all ways in which the Network sees young people gaining an important understanding of the environment. Partnering with local schools and building a long term relationship with teachers are important ways to increase community engagement and implement Junior Landcare activities. This project provides a simple and effective means of engaging school students in practical activities painting nextboxes and learning about the creatures that will use them.

Cost: \$4,000 per annum

Timeline: 1 year.

Status: Pending grant funds to implement and communication with selected schools

Manager: Landcare Facilitator, Loddon Plains Landcare Network.

Sponsors:

Promotion: Local newspapers, through the Network and The Norman Wettenhall Foundation.

How will success be measured?

- Completion of 40 nest boxes
- Mounting in local areas.
- Successful involvement of students at a local school through painting the nest boxes
- Student involvement in post-mounting monitoring using a camera on a pole

Community: This is an excellent cross organisation community project involving schools, Men's Sheds and Landcare groups/Network.

Plans in place: This is the third time the Network will run this project with local schools and Men's Shed. All experience from the last two programs will be fed into the current reiteration.

Expertise / experience in this field: The Network has already undertaken 2 stages of this program through a pilot with the Bridgewater-Inglewood Men's Shed and Bridgewater Primary School (2012-2013) and stage 2 with the Wedderburn Men's Shed/Wedderburn College and East Loddon College (2013-2014).

Support: Men's Sheds, local schools and Loddon Shire Council who funded stage 2.



Photo: Nestboxes for Kids Program stage 2 at East Loddon College 2014

Enhancing the Kamarooka Wetlands

The Kamarooka Wetlands complex is of high local and regional value. The wetlands support the endangered Brolga species with recent sightings of breeding pairs in two of the larger swamps. There is a variety of wetland types with a diversity of vegetation communities sitting within a large alluvial floodplain connected to the Bendigo and Myers creeks. These creeks and the floodplain feed into the nationally significant Kow Swamp. This project will enhance these wetlands systems through fencing to protect and revegetation as well as on-going monitoring of Brolgas and birdlife.

Key species: Brolga (*Grus rubicunda*)

Cost: \$2,600,000

Timeline of project: 5 years.

Status: Project scoped by the North Central CMA. Pending grant funds to implement.

Manager: Project Worker, Loddon Plains Landcare Network

Sponsors: The North Central CMA would be a key partner in this project. The Norman Wettenhall Foundation.

Promotion: Local newspapers, North Central CMA, through the Network and The Norman Wettenhall Foundation.

How will success be measured?

- Erection of 60km of fencing.
- Revegetation of 65 ha to enhance existing habitat.
- Completion of 10 watering points.
- 200 ha of pest plant and animal treatment.
- Bird monitoring sites will be established in the project areas to measure changes in bird numbers following protection.

Community: The community will be involved in planting days for tubestock including local schools. Informative workshops will be run to complement the project themes and to increase awareness across the project area. Bird monitoring volunteers will be involved in surveying the sites for bird numbers pre and post project works.

Plans in place: This project has been scoped and run through the INFFER project assessment form. Landholders have all been approached. This project includes funds for a project worker to manage the project including all contractor works.

Expertise / experience in this field: The North Central CMA will provide expert advice and act as a partner on this project.

Support: Kamarooka Landcare Group, Bendigo Creek Floodplain Group, The Norman Wettenhall Foundation



Photo: Dunns Swamp, Kamarooka

Supporting farmer peer mentoring

The Peer Group Mentoring Program will provide on- property, practical and on-going advice to participants to manage projects that deliver productivity and biodiversity outcomes. This is done through training experienced farmers and locals from the local community, then paying them to work alongside local farmer participants and other property owners, to explore ideas and implement projects that address natural resource management issues on their property.

Key feature: Peer group mentoring program

Cost: \$20,000

Timeline: Pilot 12 months. Ongoing depending on establishment and availability of ongoing funds

Status: Pending grant funds to implement

Manager: Landcare Facilitator, Loddon Plains Landcare Network

Sponsors: The Norman Wettenhall Foundation (Coordination funds via Landcare Facilitator)

Promotion: Local newspapers, through the Network and The Norman Wettenhall Foundation.

How will success be measured?

- The program is measured in the short term by the number of landholders who successfully join the program (aim of 6 for year 1).
- Long term the project will be measured by changes in the landscape – actual on-ground outputs undertaken (such as tree planting) by participants in the Peer Group Mentoring Program.

Community: This project will involve education of the community through identified knowledge gaps and assisting landholders to achieve the outcomes they desire for biodiversity and agroforestry on their properties.

Plans in place: 8 prospective mentors undertook “peer group mentoring training” in July 2013 with the Otway Agroforestry Network. The mentors are people experienced in tree planting, conservation and soils for the Loddon Plains Landcare Network area.

Expertise / experience in this field: This is a new project for the Loddon Plains Landcare Network, however we have support from experienced community groups via The Norman Wettenhall Foundation and the Otways Agroforestry Network who will provide support and guidance in the setup of the program.

Support: The Norman Wettenhall Foundation and Otway Agroforestry Network (Program setup training already provided - \$6,000)



Photo: Mentor training

Wheel Cactus Biological Control Trial

The Loddon Plains Landcare Network recognises that pest plant and animal control requires an integrated and often innovative approach to control. This project is an important trial and data collection project investigating the effectiveness of a biological control agent on Wheel Cactus at Mt Buckrabanyule. The project aims to set up 3 comparison sites to judge the effectiveness and spread of the cochineal scale insect compared with stem injection and doing nothing. 15 quadrats (5 per treatment site) will be set up on the mountain to determine the outcomes, which will be monitored over several years.

Cost: \$10,000

Timeline of project: 1 year. Ongoing depending on establishment success and availability of ongoing funds.

Status: There is currently a wait on the sourcing of the biological control so that enough insects can be obtained for the trial. Pending grant funds to implement.

Manager: Landcare Facilitator, Loddon Plains Landcare Network

Sponsors: The Norman Wettenhall Foundation (Coordination funds via Landcare Facilitator)

Promotion: Local newspapers, through the Network and The Norman Wettenhall Foundation, roadside signs.

How will success be measured?

- Success of the trial will be measured in knowledge gained of the effectiveness of the biological control at the trial release sites over a 5 year period.
- Data collection on percent infection of plants, pads on plants, and photo point monitoring of the plots to show effects long term.

Community:

Plans in place: The Network has a small patch of the control agent on the mountain to grow up a population for release and use in the trial. The Loddon Plains Landcare Network has been working closely with the Wychitella District Landcare Group and Parks Victoria to develop strategies to tackle the infestation.

Expertise / experience in this field: This is a new project for the Loddon Plains Landcare Network, however we have support from experienced community groups via The Norman Wettenhall Foundation and the Tarrengower Cactus Control Committee as advisors.

Support Parks Victoria, Wychitella District Landcare Group, North Central CMA

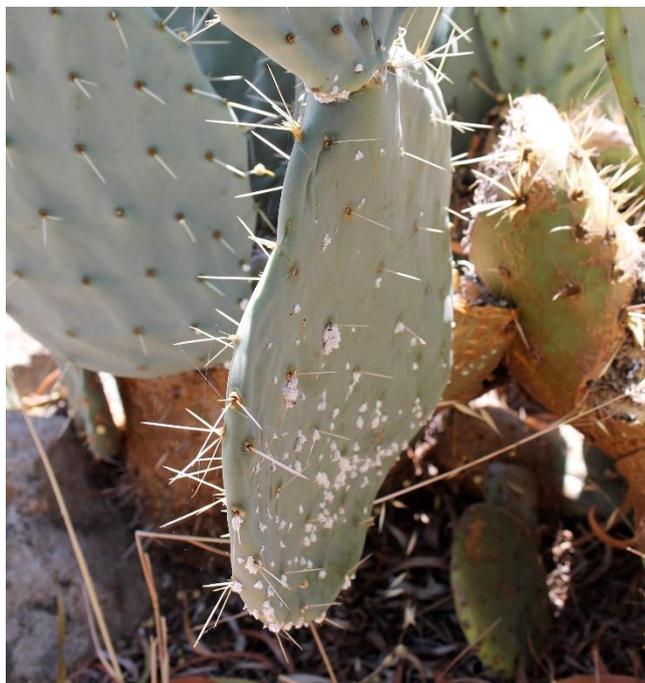


Photo: Cochineal Scale insect on Wheel Cactus