

LPLN News



LODDON PLAINS LANDCARE NETWORK



Issue 17. July 2015

Wheel Cactus working bee volunteers at Mt
Buckrabanyule

What's on...

Coming up

NCCMA Victorian Landcare Grants.
Opening soon...

26 July

Wheel Cactus working bee,
Buckrabanyule, 1pm – 4 pm.

3 September

East Loddon Planting Day, Calivil
Recreation Reserve, Calivil
10am - 2 pm.

11 September

LPLN Planting Day on the Calivil Creek,
Yarrowalla West Road Yarrowalla
10am - 2pm.

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*Securing healthy
landscapes on the Loddon
Plains*

Landcare Network

Well the last few months have flown by with the Network rolling full steam ahead on a myriad of new projects and on-going activities. Victorian Landcare Grants from the North Central CMA are due to be released shortly, so get those project ideas out and start gathering the information for applications.

It has been excellent to see the momentum build in tackling Wheel cactus across the area with the Network assisting in maintaining a coordinated approach, so local groups can push to get on top of this weed. The turnout at the Wheel Cactus Program Launch in April is testament to the community will to get out and tackle Wheel Cactus.

Ground preparation works have begun on the Calivil Creek in Yarrowalla in preparation for planting this spring and direct seeding next Autumn.

The beginning of the Landscape Change in the Upper Loddon Catchment Green Army project hosted by the Network has been an exciting culmination of months of preparations with partner organisations to develop a work plan for our team who have hit the ground.

Lastly I will be taking a few weeks annual leave from 20th July to 7th of August so if you need assistance in preparing applications or anything else, get in touch before I go.

Anthony Gallacher, Landcare Facilitator

Nest box monitoring equipment on its way

The Loddon Plains Landcare Network was successful in its application for a Loddon Shire Community Grant to purchase nest box monitoring equipment for the Network.

This project will build on the previous program, to increase the capacity of the Landcare Network and local community to accurately and purposefully monitor the wildlife in the nest boxes. This will be done through purchasing a nest box inspection camera and extension pole. The nest box inspection camera will eliminate any dangerous ladder work involved in monitoring nest boxes and improve monitoring efficiency and timing, providing an excellent opportunity for community involvement and volunteer monitoring.

The project will involve the local Landcare and community members through an education workshop on how to use the equipment. The Network will partner with the Wedderburn Conservation Management Network to deliver the workshop, which will include a bus trip to the different nest box sites across Wedderburn, including Hard Hills Reserve and other Landcare sites wider afield.

If you are interested in getting involved in a future monitoring project, please contact Anthony Gallacher



Green Army team hits the ground

The Green Army team for the Landscape Change in Upper Loddon Catchment Project hosted by the Loddon Plains Landcare Network has hit the ground around the Loddon Plains and Upper Loddon Catchment.

The team of 9 participants (pictured) began their on-ground work at a decommissioned Eucy harvesting site that is being restored as part of a trial by the Wedderburn Conservation Management Network. Participants got to work with shears and loppers cutting regrowth and laying the matter on contour bands to help improve water retention and build up organic matter at the site. They have since moved on to work with Bush Heritage Australia at Nardoo Hills and the Loddon Plains Landcare Network targeting Wheel Cactus at Mt Buckrabanyule.

The Green Army is an Australian Government initiative that taps into local knowledge to meet local environmental challenges. The Loddon Plains Landcare Network has partnered with other leading organisations in the region to deliver this project including Connecting Country, Wedderburn Conservation Management Network, Bush Heritage Australia, Trust for Nature and the North Central Catchment Management Authority. The team will work for 23 weeks with these organisations on activities ranging from weeding and revegetation to fencing and erosion control.

To find out more, visit www.environment.gov.au/green-army

The Landscape Change in Upper Loddon Catchment Project is supported by the Australian Government's Green Army Programme and the Loddon Plains Landcare Network.



Photo: Green Army participants in Wedderburn.



Ground preparation underway on Calivil Creek

Ground preparation is underway on the Calivil Creek at Yarrowalla as part of the Network's *Calivil Creek – Trees for restoring biodiversity values* project.

The Network was successful in obtaining a grant through the Australian Government's 20 Million Trees Programme to restore 65 ha of degraded Black Box woodlands (Riverine Chenopod Woodland) along the Calivil Creek in Yarrowalla. This project was developed through the GOANNA Project thanks to the ongoing support the Network receives from The Norman Wettenhall Foundation.

Local schools and Landcare groups will help plant 3560 tubestock along the creek, which will be complemented with 16km of direct seeding. Keep an eye on the website for upcoming community tree planting days that will take place down the track as part of the project.



If you would like to participate in a planting day in September, please contact Anthony Gallacher on 0447 095 501 or email facilitator@lpln.org.

A planting day with East Loddon P-12 College is planned for Friday 11th of September and volunteers to help plant and supervise are most welcome. 10am – 2 pm.

Free lunch provided.

Wheel Cactus control equipment available for Landcare groups

The Loddon Plains Landcare Network has Wheel Cactus control equipment that can be borrowed by groups free of charge to undertake Wheel Cactus control in their area. Please contact the LPLN Facilitator to make use of this. Please note an induction on the use of equipment can be provided.



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.

Wheel Cactus program continues after launch

The Loddon Plains Landcare Network launched its 2015 Wheel Cactus Control Program at Mt Buckrabanyule on Sunday 19th April. Ron Kerr Jr from Dja Dja Wurrung provided a Welcome to Country before the Loddon Shire Mayor Cr Gavin Holt officially launched the program with Landcare Facilitator Anthony Gallacher (see right).

Armed with spear guns and hoes, 25 volunteers tackled an infestation along a drainage line during the afternoon, making significant headway on many cactus specimens. Ian Grenda from the Tarrengower Cactus Control Group also provided a demonstration on the use of Dacoonate versus Glyphosate as a Wheel Cactus treatment.

Thanks to all who attended the launch and assisted in making it a success. The Network will continue to run working bees with the assistance of the Wychitella District Landcare Group to tackle Wheel Cactus at Mt Buckrabanyule and surrounds.

The Kamarooka Landcare group undertook roadside working bee on Wheel Cactus with the support of the Network in June, with plans to continue the fight in that district also.

The event was funded through a Communities for Nature Grant from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and supported by the Loddon Shire and Buloke and Northern Grampians Landcare Network.

Photos from the launch and subsequent working bees: left Loddon Shire Mayor Gavin Holt with Landcare Facilitator Anthony Gallacher; middle Beth Mellick The Norman Wettenhall Foundation stabbing cactus; right Kamarooka Landcare Group 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:

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

Funding partners and supporters of the Loddon Plains Landcare Network:

