

LPLN News



LODDON PLAINS LANDCARE NETWORK



Trees in the ground along the Calivil Creek at Yarrowalla were planted by East Loddon P-12 College students

Issue 19. November 2015

What's on...

15 November

Geoff Beilby Talk, Friends of Kooyoora, Rheola Hall, 10.30am – 12.30pm.

29 November

WCMN Ephemeral Soaks Field Day, Melville Caves Picnic Ground, 10.00am – 2.00pm.

3 December

LPLN committee meeting and Christmas break up, Dingee Pub 6pm – 8pm.

7 December

Sustainable Agriculture Small Grants close. National Landcare Programme. 2pm.

9 December

Australian Government Volunteer Grant applications close. 2pm.

www.lpln.org

Securing healthy landscapes on the Loddon Plains

Landscape change actions continue

Another action packed newsletter is available for you to browse. Once again it has been an extremely busy time of the year, with great gains on the ground across the Network.

One of the highlights was the planting day with East Loddon students on the Calivil Creek. It is great to get young people involved in our activities with excellent opportunities for them to learn about their local environment. East Loddon Landcare also got the students involved with planting on stage 2 of their Calivil Recreation Reserve Restoration project.

It was great to have the Green Army team enthusiastically participate in the Landcare efforts in our region including Wheel Cactus control and tree planting. The help has been greatly appreciated by participating groups as the project draws to an end.

The Network finished the second of two Wheel Cactus Control projects that have run over the past 12 months. Working with the Wychitella District Landcare Group to target the cactus at Mt Buckrabanyule, the project successfully ran 6 working bees and re-engaged the local community with 100 attendants at the working bees over the course of the project.

The Sustainable Agriculture Small Grants Programme is open from the Federal Government, a great opportunity for community action to improve agriculture in our area. I can assist groups to fill in an application or workshop any ideas for projects. Read on for more information on what has been happening.

Anthony Gallacher, Landcare Facilitator & GOANNA Project Worker

Network begins new Landscape Restoration Project

The Loddon Plains Landcare Network has been successful in receiving a grant from the North Central CMA to begin our Terrick Terrick National Park to Kow Swamp project.

The project is one of the Network's portfolios as part of the GOANNA Project, supported by The Norman Wettenhall Foundation.

The project centres around extending the riparian corridor along the Bendigo/Mt Hope Creek, important habitat for the endangered Grey-crowned Babbler that resides upstream nearby.

The grant is the first stage in the project and will deliver 2km of fencing and 6 hectares of revegetation to the creek's riparian zone.

The Network will partner with local member groups to help deliver the project including the Friends of Terrick Terrick National Park, Terricks Ridge Landcare and the Northern Plains Conservation Management Network.

For more information on the project or to register your interest in assisting in working bees in 2016, contact the project worker Anthony Gallacher.



Photo: In-tact riparian habitat on Bendigo Creek

Calivil Creek tree planting success

The Loddon Plains Landcare Network in partnership with the Loddon Vale Landcare Group and East Loddon P-12 College undertook a planting day on September 11th at the Calivil Creek in Yarrowalla, as part of the Calivil Creek – Trees for restoring biodiversity values project.

80 students from years 5-8 got in to nature's classroom on the Calivil Creek at Yarrowalla to learn tree planting, leadership and teamwork skills for the day. With the help of DEDJTR staff, the students planted 1600 trees across 2 sites along the creek. Local Landcare members assisted in watering and guarding of the trees.

The students' efforts were followed up by the Green Army Team, who planted a further 2000 trees the following week on adjacent sites.

Thanks to all those who participated and assisted on the day.



Photos from top: Tree planting with students; Landcare volunteers watering; Green Army Team planting trees.

Supported by the Australian Government's 20 Million Trees Programme (part of the National Landcare Programme) and the Loddon Plains Landcare Network.

Sustainable Agriculture Small Grants round – NOW OPEN

The Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, the Hon Barnaby Joyce yesterday announced that applications were open for the National Landcare Programme Sustainable Agriculture Small Grants Round 2015-16. Grants ranging between \$5500 and \$55,000 (GST inclusive) are now available to increase industry capacity and support the adoption of productive management practices.

A range of activities may be eligible, including:

- field days workshops, conferences
- demonstration events or workshops
- training or skill development sessions
- community information or education sessions
- development of decision-making tools
- development of new information channels within the current knowledge system
- conducting surveys.

This small grants round supports the implementation of the Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper. Applications are invited from a range of entities, including farming systems groups, community groups and individuals to undertake projects across a variety of agricultural industries, across a variety of agricultural industries, including cropping, livestock, dairy, horticulture, pastoral, aquaculture and fisheries.

Please note Applications will close 2.00pm (AEDT) Monday 7 December 2015

For more information, telephone 1800 283 940 or visit: www.nrm.gov.au/agsmallgrants. If you need more information you can contact **Mandy Coulson** Regional Landcare Facilitator, North Central Catchment Management Authority by phone **03 5440 1864** or email mandy.coulson@nccma.vic.gov.au.

For assistance in filling out an application or to workshop project ideas, contact Anthony Gallacher on 0447 095 501 to organise a meeting as soon as possible.



Landcare Trailer

The Loddon Plains Landcare Network has purchased a new trailer for Landcare in the Loddon region.

The trailer will assist the Network and member groups to effectively and safely transport goods required for projects or events.

Network member groups can access the trailer for their own events or project activities by getting in touch with the Network's Landcare Facilitator. See back of newsletter.



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.

Wedderburn Landscape Restoration Tour

By Kate Lee

On Sunday 13th September, a glorious spring day, a bus tour set off from Wedderburn Community Centre to visit sites that have recently been the focus of Wedderburn Conservation Management Network (WCMN) and Loddon Plains Landcare Network (LPLN) conservation works.

First stop on the tour was an Ephemeral Soak near Melville Caves at Mt Kooyoora. It is one of many soaks near Mounts Korong and Kooyoora being monitored under WCMN's Ephemeral Soaks Project. Michael Moore from WCMN outlined how ephemeral soaks are home to many interesting plants that have to survive extended wet periods interspersed with long dries. At the Mt Kooyoora soak we saw a population of Prickly Tea Tree augmented in recent weeks by tube stock planting by the Green Army (part of the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme) and protected against grazing pressure by a fence around the soak perimeter.

Stop number two was a beautiful Buloke woodland at Fentons Creek, now protected by a Trust For Nature Covenant as part of the Kooyoora Connections Project. Bush Heritage's Jeroen van Veen told us that the property, now separated from adjoining grazing land, holds one of only a few good quality stands of Buloke in the area.

On our way back to Wedderburn we stopped at one of Loddon Plains Landcare Network's 45 Community Bird Monitoring Sites. Anthony Gallacher from LPLN explained that the project funded by The Norman Wettenhall Foundation involves local volunteers conducting 20 minute bird surveys each season, along their particular transects (crossing 2ha). They submit their data to Anthony to be compiled to observe changes in bird populations, which can be found on the LPLN website.

After lunch was enjoyed at Hard Hill reserve Wedderburn, then we wandered across to a nest box made by Wedderburn Men's Shed and mounted 3 metres up a Grey Box trunk. Anthony Gallacher demonstrated how to use the LPLN's new nest box monitoring camera, which has a light and is on the end Newsletter of the Wedderburn Newsletter of the Wedderburn Conservation Management Network – October 2015 Conservation Management Network Network News Conserving Biodiversity 2 of a long pole. Nothing but leaf litter seen this time, but the camera will be available to use in a new monitoring initiative in 2016.

The tour bus next took us to Old Boort Rd where the WCMN, with the Green Army, has been restoring an old eucalyptus harvesting site. Michael Moore showed us how the dense Blue Mallee monoculture has been broken up by wide strips ripped along contours, mulch laid along the strips and seed of various species planted. It is a first step to recreating a biodiverse habitat for Malleefowl.

Our last stop was at the base of Mt Buckrabanyule, where in recent years the dreaded Wheel Cactus has taken hold. Wychitella District Landcare and the Green Army, supported by Loddon Shire and LPLN are attacking Wheel Cactus with increased resolve, and it was remarkable to see the before and after effects of Cactus stabbing (with glyphosate) on either side of the road.

Thanks to Michael, Anthony and Jeroen for showing us some of the great conservation work going on in the Wedderburn area.



Loddon Plains “links up” in 2015

The Landcare Network once again held a great social evening for Landcare members across the Loddon Plains to “link up”.

Gathering in Boort on October 9th while storm clouds rolled in, a tour around the lake was cut short, but Paul Haw enthralled the crowd with local stories indoors instead.

Reports from outgoing President Laurie Maxted and Landcare Facilitator/GOANNA Project Worker Anthony Gallacher, showed the tremendous amount the Network achieved and progressed in 2014/2015. Jean McClymont presented the Treasurers report with the Networks accounts to the meeting, showing a healthy balance.

The AGM saw Andy Hay elected as the President for the Network in 2015/2016, with Laurie Maxted resuming the role of Vice President. The Network farewelled Bill Twigg from the Committee after many years of his excellent contributions and look forward to his continued input through his local Landcare group.

Dinner was provided by the Boort Netball ladies and appreciated by all. The AGM was followed by an insightful presentation on birds by Geoff Park, renowned for his Natural Newstead blog about birds. Some light entertainment with Maurie Geerish on the squeeze box topped off a wonderful evening. Thanks to all who attended.



Top: Landcare Link-Up attendees at Boort October 9th 2015

Bottom: Maurie Geerish entertains the crowd on his squeeze box

Volunteer Grants – NOW OPEN

The Australian Government is inviting organisations to apply for Volunteer Grants through an open process under the Strengthening Communities – Volunteering sub-activity. Funding is expected to be offered to around 5,700 organisations as a result of this process, with grants to be paid by 30 June 2016.

Volunteer Grants enable community organisations to apply for grants of up to \$5,000 to purchase small equipment items to assist their volunteers, assist with the reimbursement of fuel costs incurred by volunteers (and transport costs for volunteers with disability who are unable to drive), and contribute towards the cost of training courses and background screening checks for volunteers.

Go to <https://www.dss.gov.au/grants/grants/funding-open-for-application/volunteer-grants-2015> for more information and to download an application form.

Applications close at 2:00pm, Wednesday 9 December 2015.

For assistance in filling in an application form contact Anthony Gallacher.

Photo:

Loddon Vale Landcare Group reflect on another year of volunteer achievements. The group enjoyed their AGM at the fishing platform on the Serpentine Creek, Durham Ox.



Green Army project celebrates success

The *Landscape Change in the Upper Loddon Catchment* Green Army Project concluded in early November after 6 months. The project achievements were celebrated by participants and partner organisation members with a BBQ and thank you speeches from Glen Terry and Mark Woods (Manpower Group), and Project Manager Anthony Gallacher (Loddon Plains Landcare Network).

The project was a joint venture by the Network with Connecting Country, Wedderburn CMN, Bush Heritage, North Central CMA and Trust for Nature, encompassing 16 sites and a variety of activities. Activities included fencing, tree planting, seeding, weed control and erosion control, from areas around Wedderburn down to Castlemaine.

Many thanks to Manpower Group as the Service provider and Mark Woods as an excellent Team Supervisor. The Network wishes participants all the best with their future endeavours including study and employment.

With the success of this project, the Loddon Plains Landcare Network is awaiting the outcome of an application to have another Green Army team return to the district in the second half of 2016.



Photo: The Green Army team, from left to right: Kate, Lucas, Mark Woods (Team Supervisor), Kieran, Luke, Chris.

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:

