

LPLN News



LODDON PLAINS LANDCARE NETWORK



Issue 5. March 2013

What's on...

12 March

Terricks Ridge Landcare – future focus meeting
7pm Pyramid Hill Golf Club.

14 March

NCCMA Future Farming Expo
Yarrawalla Town Hall, Yarrawalla
9am-4pm.

15 March

Benefits of Bugs Workshop
Serpentine Bowls Club
10am-1.30pm

19-21 March

Farm Chemical Users Course –
Inglewood Community Resource
Centre

22 March

Farm Chemical Users Refresher
Course – Inglewood Community
Resource Centre

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at our website! www.lpln.org*

Busy start to the year

It has been a busy start to the year for the network. The distribution of the “Blueprint for Action” is well under way. The response from people, both within the network and further afield has been very positive. If your group has yet to receive their copies, please notify me of your next meeting so I can get along to present the copies to the group.

The LPLN website is also fully functional. Available at www.lpln.org the website will be a valuable resource for the network. I would like to encourage network members to “subscribe” their email address to the website. This will allow you to receive information about events and opportunities when they arise, so you don't just read about them afterwards in the next newsletter!

I will be attending a Peer Group Mentoring introduction workshop being run by the Norman Wettenhall Foundation at the end of March. The Peer Group Mentoring Program is a successful model developed by Otway Agroforestry Network, which has enabled them to employ landholders as part of their project. These landholders, or peers, talk to other landholders about joining projects and planting out corridors or riparian zones within the network area, as well as other things like agroforestry. If your group has individuals that are interested in such a program we can get a one and a half day training run by the Otway Agroforestry Network here to implement such a program. Get in touch.

Anthony Gallacher, Landcare Facilitator

Grant Opportunities

A reminder about current grant opportunities available:

- 2013 Caring for Our Country Community Landcare Grants – applications close soon! 5pm 20th March 2012
- The Biodiversity Fund Carbon Farming Initiative projects – applications close 2pm 10 April 2013
- FRRR Small Grants for Small Communities - 2013 Round 23 applications close 5pm 2nd April
- Coles Junior Landcare Grants – partner with a school! Round 2 close Friday 10th May 2013

Looking ahead grant opportunities may include:

- 2013 Caring for Our Country Community Environment Grants
- 2013 Communities for Nature Grants
- Victorian Landcare Grants 2013/2014

The Loddon Plains Landcare network is available to act as a sponsor for groups if required. Your Landcare Facilitator is available to assist with any grant writing and can help with preparation of information prior to the release of specific grant rounds.

Please get in touch for assistance in project planning. Contact details at the end of the newsletter.

East Loddon Landcare Carbon Farming evening success

The East Loddon Landcare Carbon Farming Evening, run on the 30 January in conjunction with the North Central Catchment Management Authority was a great success.

The Jarklin pub was packed out with 45 attendees, most from the wider community wanting to learn about the opportunities that the Carbon Farming Initiative might present. With such interest, unfortunately individuals had to be turned away due to full capacity!

Ben Keogh explained the basics around Carbon Farming, the realities of the initiative and the short and long-term benefits.

Many thanks to Ashley Beven from the NCCMA who assisted in organising the event and to Ben Keogh for his user-friendly presentation.

Keep a look out for further opportunities to learn about Carbon Farming, including the Future Farming Expo.

Photo: Ben Keogh speaks to audience at the Jarklin Pub



NORTH CENTRAL
Catchment Management Authority
Connecting Rivers, Landscapes, People



Regional Landcare Facilitator

Hosted by North Central Catchment Management Authority
for the North Central region

Fiercely fighting Rabbits

February is “Rabbit buster month” for the Fairley Bael Bael Sandhill Lake Landcare group. Farmers in the area come on board to partake in this annual baiting program. The program is co-ordinated by John James C.M.A. and Nick Hunter, Joudi Enterprises (local contractor). They dangle the carrot so to speak, giving the incentive “buy one bucket of 1080 oats and get one free”.

This year has been another hugely successful program by vastly reducing the elusive bunny. 60 x 10kg drums of oats were handed out on the day, one drum covers approximately 3 to 5 kms of trail.

Since the 2011 flood event, rabbits and fox’s have exploded into areas not normally inhabited. The explosion in numbers is not helped with fewer mosquitos to spread the mixo virus and also more grass cover for loose rabbits.

Our local shire has put aside money to support Landcare and landowners by employing Joudi enterprises to remove harbour and rip warrens along roadways. It is an essential part of the program to follow up and rip warrens to destroy the rabbit’s breeding ground.

This is the best time of the year to bait before the autumn break, so Hop To It and good luck!

Article by President Colin Gitsham and Secretary Glenice Ficken

Photo by Glenice Ficken: Fairley Bael Bael Sandhill Lake Landcare hunting rabbits.



Future Farming Expo

The North Central CMA is hosting a *free* 2013 Future Farming Expo at the Yarrowalla Hall. The Loddon Plains Landcare Network will also be putting our new Blueprint for Action on display with the public launch of the booklet and a stall at the event.

*Yarrowalla Hall, Yarrowalla VIC
9 am to 4 pm (Lunch provided)
Thursday 14 March*

Further information available on the North Central CMA’s website www.nccma.vic.gov.au.

RSVP to NCCMA by 5.00 pm
Tuesday 12 March on
(03) 5448 7124 or email
info@nccma.vic.gov.au.

Benefits of Bugs

The North Central CMA, with local support from the Loddon Plains Landcare Network, is pleased to host a visit to by Dr. Saul Cunningham from CSIRO, speaking on ‘Bugs and biodiversity on the farm: Maximising the benefits’.

*Serpentine Lawn Bowl Clubrooms,
Serpentine
10am-1.30pm (Lunch provided)
Friday 15th March
Free event*

RSVP to NCCMA by Tuesday 12 March on 03 5448 7124 or email info@nccma.vic.gov.au.

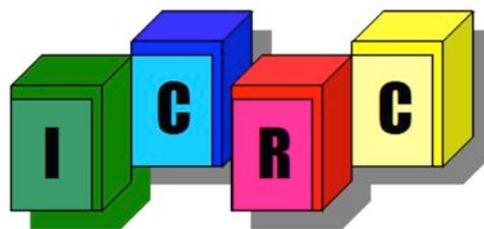


In Safe Hands Toolkit

Conservation Volunteers Australia with the support of the Australian Government through the Caring for our Country program, are pleased to present the 'In Safe Hands Toolkit'. The toolkit has been updated and is available as a download at the website www.insafehands.org.au. All groups are strongly encouraged to head to the website and download the toolkit.

Conservation Volunteers Australia is also conducting a workshop series to assist people in the use of the 'In Safe Hands Toolkit'. There is a workshop to be run in Bendigo on the 16th of May. This workshop will be at the DSE office in Epsom from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm. Workshop registration occurs in the process of downloading the 'In Safe Hands Toolkit'.

This opportunity to get a free copy of 'In Safe Hands Toolkit' and Training is *for a limited period*. The training comes at no cost to participants, however numbers will be limited. You are encouraged to book early to avoid disappointment in missing out on a place at the workshop.



Chemical Users Course

The Inglewood Community Resource Centre (ICRC) in conjunction with Bendigo TAFE, is running two Farm Chemical Users Courses in Inglewood in March. The two courses available are:

- ***Farm Chemical Users Course: 19th, 20th & 21st March 2013***
- ***Farm Chemical Users Refresher Chemical Risk Management: 22nd March 2013***

Both courses will be run at The Royal Hotel, 67 Brooke St, Inglewood. Registrations close 14th of March 2013. Contact Anthony Gallacher for a registration form (details below).

The Loddon Plains Landcare Network supported spots are full. If you would like to be put on the waiting list in case of a drop out or illness get in touch.

Individuals are still able to register for the course at full fee - \$480 for the 3-day course, \$215 for the refresher.

To be put on the e-list for the LPLN News, please subscribe your email via the LPLN Website: www.lpln.org

If you have meetings, events or other news that you would like to see in the next issue, contact Anthony Gallacher, Landcare Facilitator.

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Partners and supporters of the Loddon Plains Landcare Network:



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