

# LPLN News



LODDON PLAINS LANDCARE NETWORK



Issue 15. February 2015

The sun sets on these cacti at Mt  
Buckrabanyule

## What's on...

### 5 February

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

### 18 February

Stock Containment and Biosecurity  
Field Day, Powlett Plains, 10am – 1pm

### 25/26 February

Silverleaf Nightshade Workshops, 9am  
– 12pm, Mysia and Calivil.

### 4 March

North Central CMA Future Farming  
Expo, 8.30am – 4pm, Moama.

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website: [www.lpln.org](http://www.lpln.org)*

*Securing healthy  
landscapes on the Loddon  
Plains*

## 2015 Outlook

Happy New Year. I hope that the Christmas and New Year break was relaxing and enjoyable bringing in new energy to Landcare for the year ahead.

We've got plenty of events and projects to sink our teeth into including more Wheel Cactus working bees so we can see more treated cacti like the ones pictured above at Mt Buckrabanyule.

The Loddon Weed Control Committee will continue to meet this year forming a collaborative approach to the many weed issues in the Loddon Shire and implementing ways to improve group and community capacity to tackle the weeds.

We were very pleased to be among the successful applicants for a 20 Million Trees grant which will help us get over 10,000 trees and shrubs into the ground in 2015/2016 through the Calivil Creek revegetation, as part of the GOANNA Project.

You can read more about these events and projects as well as many more in this newsletter.

Also a reminder that if your group requires some assistance in planning for 2015, particularly if you are seeking funding, I am available to discuss the options or attend a meeting to join the brainstorming.

Anthony Gallacher, Landcare Facilitator



Photos from top: Silverleaf Nightshade flower; Silverleaf Nightshade fruit; Fencing installed in 2014 as part of the Calivil Creek Restoration Project; Scoping of the Calivil Creek – Trees for biodiversity values project in Yarrowalla with DEPI staff; Area to be planted on the Calivil Creek through 20 Million Trees project grant.

## Silverleaf Nightshade Workshops

Landholders who are interested in learning quality management techniques for tackling the weed Silverleaf Nightshade (also known as Whitehorse Nettle), are encouraged to register for one of two *free* field days being run in the Loddon Shire on the 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> February 2015.

The days will feature up to date research and advice on management of this common summer growing weed, as well as information on how to participate in on farm trials for control of the weed.

NSW DPI researcher Dr Hanwen Wu and Murrumbidgee Landcare project officer Phil Bowden will present detailed information on Silverleaf Nightshade and answer questions from participants about the best control options for the local area. Field days include:

Rothacker's Property  
384 Mysia East Road, Mysia  
25<sup>th</sup> Feb 9am – 12pm

Welsh's Property  
48 Woods Road, Calivil  
26<sup>th</sup> Feb 9am – 12pm

To register your interest please contact Anthony Gallacher on (03) 5446 9249 or [facilitator@lpln.org](mailto:facilitator@lpln.org) by Monday 23rd February. Please include any dietary requirements for catering as lunch will be provided.

*These events are funded by the Meat and Livestock Association through the New South Wales Department of Primary Industries, Murrumbidgee Landcare and the Graham Centre for Agricultural Innovation and hosted by the Loddon Plains Landcare Network.*

## Network secures project grant for Calivil Creek revegetation

The Loddon Plains Landcare Network is one of 57 projects that has secured a 20 Million Trees Grant from the Australian Government's 20 Million Trees Programme.

The grant of \$53,064 will go towards revegetating 65 ha of degraded Black Box Woodlands along the Calivil Creek, Yarrowalla. The project includes the planting of 3560 seedlings, 16km direct seeding and community planting days with local schools. The Network secured project funding for the fencing of the area through DEPI in Kerang.

The project is a significant step for the Network and will roll out over 2015-2016.

## Other Network projects for 2015

### **Wheel Cactus Control Program**

This project involves a community based program to control outbreaks of Wheel Cactus on private land on Mt Buckrabanyule. Wheel Cactus (*Opuntia robusta*) is a Weed of National Significance. Outbreaks of the weed in the region require a community approach to tackling the weed, which inhabits over 1000ha in the Buloke Shire.

The Loddon Plains Landcare Network will work with the community to run cactus control days on local properties once every couple of months. The main methods for controlling the weed are stem injection with glyphosate and removal of seedlings with hoes.

Each community day will consist of a volunteer safety induction, then 3 hours of work controlling cactus. Days will conclude with lunch and cuppa to thank volunteers for their time and effort.

### **Bird Monitoring**

The community bird monitoring project will form a baseline for ongoing data collection to observe trends and changes in bird numbers and biodiversity. Monitoring is undertaken at 45 sites across the Network's area ranging from high quality remnants to isolated corridors.

Data is collected by local community volunteers every season through the 2 hectare, 20 minute bird survey methodology, which will continue throughout 2015. The Network has 1 year worth of data collected from 2014 surveys. There are ongoing opportunities for volunteers to join the monitoring.

## Stock Containment Field day

Learn some tips for assessing stock health and farm biosecurity when using stock containment.

**Rachael Holmes** (District Vet, DEDJTR) will discuss stock health in containment; **Jim Moran** (Biosecurity Officer, DEDJTR) will outline key steps for farm biosecurity; **Erica Schelfhorst** (Livestock Officer, DEDJTR) will discuss finishing lambs; **Jim Younghusband** (local farmer) will show his stock containment yards, outline their construction and benefits

Free event. BBQ lunch. **Wednesday 18th February, 10am-1pm.** Jim Younghusband's Property, 1166 Inglewood North Road, Powlett Plains, 3517.

Please let John Vanston know if you will be attending on 0407 805 529 or [jsvanston@activ8.net.au](mailto:jsvanston@activ8.net.au)

## Landcare Facilitator Program review

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (formerly DEPI) will be undertaking a review of the Landcare Facilitator Program for the state of Victoria in the first half of this year.

The Loddon Plains Landcare Network is keen to contribute to this review, and would like to hear perspectives from the Network's member groups about ongoing support and any further recommendations regarding our local Landcare Facilitator.

Any feedback and letters of support can be directed to the Loddon Plains Landcare Network's Secretary Michael Moore via post to PO Box 65, Wedderburn, VIC, 3518 or email to [emandem@iinet.net.au](mailto:emandem@iinet.net.au).

## 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/](http://www.lpln.org/donate/)

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

## Hybrid Fairy Wren stumps observers

LPLN bird monitoring volunteers required some back up expertise from bird experts, in order to nail the identity of a mysterious Fairy-Wren residing with a flock of Superb Fairy-Wrens at Thunder Swamp, Dingee.

Initially thought to be a Splendid Fairy-Wren well out of its range, closer inspection in November and the later sighting of another species on the other side of the swamp revealed a unique story.

The little bird (pictured below) is now believed to be a hybrid Superb Fairy-Wren and White-winged Fairy-Wren owing to the distinctly broken black markings on the head/nape, a deeper blue plumage and pale wings.

*Photo by Greg Licence: The mystery Hybrid Fairy-Wren at Thunder Swamp.*



## Future Farming Expo

***It's back! The North Central CMA, in partnership with Goulburn Broken CMA and Murray Landcare, is proudly hosting the third annual Future Farming Expo.***

Discover the latest farm research and innovation from experts, scientists and industry colleagues.

Share ideas with like-minded farmers who are looking to take their farm businesses to the next level.

Learn about regenerative farming practices that enhance soil health and long-term profitability from soil scientist Declan McDonald. Declan will be one of the expo's key speakers and will showcase his 25 years experience with an innovative presentation.

Concurrent sessions this year will feature a diverse range of topics including the latest in climate science and what it means for you, irrigation upgrade success stories, value adding through stacking livestock enterprises, online marketing and the new strain of calicivirus.

**When:** Wednesday 4 March 2015

**Time:** 8.30 am to 4.00 pm

**Where:** Rich River Golf Club Resort, Twenty Four Lane, Moama NSW 2731

**RSVP:** Places are strictly limited, RSVP is essential **E:** [info@nccma.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@nccma.vic.gov.au) or **P:** 03 5448 7124

To view the flyer head to <http://northcentral.landcarevic.net.au/>.

*The expo is a free event brought to you by the North Central CMA, Goulburn Broken CMA and Murray Landcare through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme and Regional Landcare Facilitator projects.*

Subscribe your email via the LPLN website at [www.lpln.org](http://www.lpln.org) to receive notification of the latest news. For contributions for the next issue, send to Anthony Gallacher:

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

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