

LPLN News



LODDON PLAINS LANDCARE NETWORK



The new Landcare ute on site at the Calivil Recreation Reserve

Issue 20. February 2016

Driving Landcare in 2016

What's on...

29 February

Salisbury West Landcare Group meeting 7.30pm Powlett Hall

3 March

LPLN Committee of Management meeting, 5pm Shire Offices Serpentine

18 March

Central Victorian Biolinks Alliance Glider Symposium. 9.30am – 3pm Seymour Club, Seymour

19/20 March

Friends of Kooyoora Family Fun Day

5-7, 8 April

Chemical Users Course, Inglewood Community Neighbourhood House

14 April

North Central Catchment Management Authority Future Farming Expo – Swan Hill

www.lpln.org

Securing healthy landscapes on the Loddon Plains

Happy New Year. It's hard to believe that it is already the end of February.

Exciting news for Landcare in the region, with the Loddon Plains Landcare Network investing in a ute to assist in activities and transport for Landcare projects. Decked out with a lockable canopy, it is ideal for transporting tree seedlings or other project materials.

It was great to see so many groups successful in funding from various State Government initiatives late last year. New projects for Fairley Bael Bael Sandhill Lake Landcare, Friends of Terrick Terrick National Park, Loddon Vale Landcare, Mt Korong Eco-watch, Northern Plains CMN, and Wedderburn CMN will bring in over \$75,000 in on-ground works to the region this year.

The LPLN has also secured a new Green Army Project to commence in May this year. Once again we have partnered with other organisations in the region to build a diverse and interesting program of works for the new crew to undertake.

Further small grant programs are currently open including FRRR Small Grants for Rural Communities and public education in agricultural landscapes from The Norman Wettenhall Foundation, which open March 29th. See page 2 for further details.

Keep an eye out for information on events coming up in 2016 including nest box monitoring and bird monitoring workshops, as well as other educational activities.

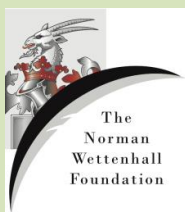
Anthony Gallacher, Landcare Facilitator & GOANNA Project Worker

Public education in agricultural landscapes – Grants available

The Norman Wettenhall Foundation have a new grant scheme for the promotion of public education in agricultural landscapes in Victoria.

Grants can go to groups working on sustainable land management issues: community education materials, trials, workshops, research and monitoring.

For more information contact Beth Mellick on beth@nwf.org.au or 03 5472 1316.



Small Grants for Rural Communities - FRRR

The Small Grants for Rural Communities is the longest running and broadest program FRRR offers, opening twice per year.

Grants of up to \$5,000 are available for projects and activities that offer clear public benefit for communities in rural, regional or remote Australia. Priority is given to communities of 10,000 or fewer.

Applicants must be not-for-profit community organisations with an ABN or incorporation certificate.

For more information visit: <http://www.frrr.org.au/grants/small-grants-for-rural-communities-round29>

Round 29 is now open and applications close 5pm Thursday 24th March 2015.



Boxthorn control continues in Loddon Vale in 2016

The Loddon Vale Landcare Group are continuing to tackle Boxthorn in their area. A Community Landcare Grant from the North Central CMA will allow farmers to continue to control this weed in a coordinated fashion during 2016.

Boxthorn is a fast growing invasive species that, if left untreated, spreads quickly. Seeds may germinate year round and early root growth is rapid, ensuring young plants are competitive. Boxthorn is a declared noxious weed in North Central Victoria, listed as a Regionally Controlled Weed. Landholders have the responsibility to take *all reasonable steps to prevent the growth and spread of Regionally Controlled Weeds* on their land.

Contractors engaged by the Loddon Vale Landcare Group have been out to high priority sites in the district, using various methods to tackle the noxious weed. This complements the actions undertaken by dozens of Landcare members on their properties.



Photos from top: Boxthorn infestation; TMC Enviro Contractors on site; Boxthorn puller.



Green Army to return in 2016

With the success of the 2015 Green Army project, the Loddon Plains Landcare Network submitted, and has been successful in an application to have another Green Army team return to the district in the second half of 2016.

The Network is partnering with the North Central Catchment Management Authority, Wedderburn CMN and Bush Heritage Australia, with Manpower Group to once again be the Service Provider for the project.

Project activities will include:

- Seed collection techniques,
- Malleefowl line searches,
- Direct seeding,
- Pest plant and animal mapping.
- Wheel Cactus control,
- Tree planting and revegetation
- Fencing



The Green Army is an Australian Government initiative that is a hands-on, practical environmental action programme that supports local environment and heritage conservation projects across Australia.

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

New bird monitoring database

As part of the Loddon Plains Community Bird Monitoring Project, the Loddon Plains Landcare Network has invested in a new computerised database to allow for simple storage and analysis of bird monitoring data, collected by volunteers at the Network's 45 survey sites.

The Network received a grant from The Norman Wettenhall Foundation for education and community resourcing, which has funded the database development.

Data from the first two years of this long-term monitoring program are available on the LPLN website at:

<http://www.lpln.org/goanna-project/community-bird-monitoring-project/bird-monitoring-data/>



Landcare Trailer

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

The trailer assists 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.

Introducing Mt Korong Eco-watch

Mt Korong Eco-Watch (MKEW) is an ecologically minded community group that has a long-term commitment to landscape wide conservation. MKEW is affiliated with the Wedderburn Conservation Management Network (WCMN) and the Loddon Plains Landcare Network (LPLN). Many of MKEW members own interconnected properties adjoining Mt Korong Nature Conservation Reserve (NCR) and are passionate about conservation and the surrounding local communities. Some of these properties are a mixture of remnant vegetation and revegetation from direct seeding that used local mid-story and over-story plant species. Most have conservation covenants and are referred to collectively as the Korong Ridge Conservation Estate.



Mt Korong, home to the Korong Ridge Conservation Estate

MKEW's long-term vision for the Korong Ridge Conservation Estate is to create a rich, biodiverse conservation property. The emphasis is landscape-wide conservation and restoration of biodiversity, including long-term threatened-species management, to be achieved through community engagement, involvement and education. Our hope is to be involved with the local community, engage with people and reconnect them with nature.

The Korong Ridge Conservation Estate already makes an important contribution to conserving some of the regions native vegetation communities, including Low Rises Grassy Woodland, a vulnerable Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC) and Hills Herb-rich Woodland, which is a depleted EVC. The Korong Ridge Conservation Estate provides habitat for many native animals and plants that depend on these communities, but years of stock grazing have taken an ecological toll leaving a paucity of many of the elements that give an ecosystem structure and resilience.

MKEW is proposing to increase the local biodiversity, by re-introducing many of these important habitat foundations to both enable and encourage the return of the local threatened species. The introduction of nest boxes and understorey vegetation will be undertaken to provide some of the elements required to restore, enhance and "re-wild" this once extensive and biodiverse, woodland ecosystem.

Recently, with the sponsorship from the WCMN and funding through DELWP, we moved a little bit closer to achieving these aims. MKEW successfully applied for two grants that will contribute to us reaching this goal. One grant is for the provision of indigenous understorey tube-stock to be planted across the conservation estate. The second grant is for the construction of a nursery, so that we may become self-reliant in the production of indigenous understorey plants for the ongoing restoration of this precious ecosystem. We will enhance the habitat of Korong Ridge with targeted understorey planting of locally provenanced species, with a focus on increasing diversity and an underlying emphasis on endemic threatened plant species.

Like **Korong Ridge Conservation Estate** on Facebook and find out more:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1625495864346111/>

Partnerships help trial Silverleaf Nightshade management

A core infestation of Silverleaf Nightshade (SLN) in North Central Victoria has brought together several Landcare organisations and local government to trial effective management techniques for the weed.

Silverleaf Nightshade (also known as Whitehorse Nettle) is a common summer growing noxious weed that has caused problems for many farmers over a long period. It is an introduced perennial that can dominate pastures and cropping areas. It can reduce crop yields by as much as 20 - 40% by taking moisture and nutrients over summer and autumn that could otherwise be used by the following crops. SLN is both a Weed of National Significance (WoNS) and a Regionally Controlled Weed in North Central Victoria.

Murrumbidgee Landcare (MLi) through NSW Department of Primary Industries have a National project funded by Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) and the Australian Wool Industry (AWI) to implement on farm and roadside trials of the perennial weed by evaluating a "Dual Action" approach to controlling the weed, which involves applying herbicides and conducting stem counts, to measure the effectiveness. The Dual Action approach aims to stop flowering of the weed early in the growing season, followed by targeting of rootstock later.

A chance meeting following a Silverleaf Nightshade information session at the 2014 National Landcare Conference in Melbourne led to Loddon Plains Landcare Network (LPLN) Facilitator Anthony Gallacher organising two Silverleaf Nightshade workshops in Calivil and Mysia in February 2015 with Murrumbidgee Landcare to garner interest for rolling out trials in the area. Support from East Loddon Landcare Group and other farmers in the region has garnered 30 participants.

"The local knowledge, networks and support provided by the local Landcare Facilitators are so critical to promote awareness of this invasive weed and to encourage interested farmers to participate in the SLN trials" said Karen Herbert, Project Officer, Murrumbidgee Landcare.

Subsequently, trial sites on farms and roadsides have been set up across 50 locations the Loddon Shire, to be monitored over 18+ month period. The Loddon Shire has also provided support for SLN trials on roadsides, assisting both through providing roadside works permission and contributing through their roadside weed funding from the State Government to tackle Regionally Controlled Weeds. Vic Roads have also supported this project through establishment of 3 SLN trial sites, with support from the MLI project officer.

On farm demonstrations carried out by farmers will compare current research with the standard practices. The information about different control practices used in each area will be analysed and used to refine the best management practice adapted for the local region.

For more information, contact Anthony Gallacher via email at facilitator@lpln.org or Karen Herbert kherbert@mli.org.au.



Friends of Kooyoora Family Fun Day

We have plenty of activities organized for this weekend.

On Saturday 19th March we will have a camp out at the Melville Caves Camp Ground. Arrive any time during the day. BYO food, drink and camping gear. We will look at doing a night walk/spotlight and have some fun camp fire activities with an early morning walk to listen to the morning chorus of birds. Also a good opportunity for some sunset / sunrise photography.

On Sunday March 20th we will meet at the Melville Caves Picnic Ground at 10.30am for our popular Easter egg hunt and family fun. There will be craft activities, insect collection and ID activities, with plant and bird experts on hand for all your questions.

BYO picnic lunch.

BUT WAIT THERE'S MORE.....

We will be launching our Butterflies of the Kooyoora Ranges field guide produced with funding through our Local Landscape Enhancement – Wings over Kooyoora grant through the Victorian Government. This booklet will be on sale for \$10 and I know they will sell quickly. Don't miss out. Be there to get yours. We will also have copies of our butterfly tick sheet so you can begin to tick off the butterflies you see out in the bush and in your garden.

Don't forget to get those cameras out and start clicking to enter the 2016 Wildflower Show photographic competition. With open, U18 and U12 sections of landscape, flora and fauna categories, everyone is able to take part.

Visit www.kooyorafriends.org.au for details on future activities and information.



Drought Employment Crew undertake Wheel Cactus control

The North Central CMA released EOI's for Drought Employment Crew projects before Christmas. The program is funded through the State Government of Victoria as part of a multi-million dollar drought package for the state. The Network submitted an EOI for Wheel Cactus control at Mt Buckrabanyule in partnership with the Wychitella and District Landcare Group. The EOI was accepted and the crew started with 2 weeks work on the mountain in late January.

Chemical was supplied by local landholders providing 10 drums of Glyphosate for the crew to continue work on this noxious weed. This effort follows 3 programs run by the Loddon Plains Landcare Network targeting Wheel Cactus in 2015 including a Green Army Team and two community working bee projects.





Central Victorian Biolinks Alliance

Glider Symposium

18th March 2016

Seymour

Seymour Club, 1 Elizabeth St, Seymour,
Vic, 3660

9.30 am – 3.00 pm.

Glideways:

Glider conservation knowledge, practice and collaboration in Central Victoria

Sharing expert knowledge and practical experience to build capacity for increased glider conservation in Central Victoria.

- 3 Glider researchers speaking about latest knowledge on glider ecology and conservation practice
- Successful example Glideways projects in NSW
- 8 - 10 Central Victorian community conservation groups presenting their glider conservation work
- Synthesis and discussion around strategic whole-of-landscape approaches to increasing glider conservation in Central Victoria

Followed by the Official Launch of the Central Victorian Biolinks Initiative by Professor Kate Auty, 2014 VC Fellow Melbourne University and Former Vic Govt. Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability.

- Program information: <http://www.centralvicbiolinks.org.au/glideways/>
- Register: by March 10th
- Cost: \$10 online registration and payment; \$15 at the door <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/glider-symposium-tickets-21289526547>
- For further information, contact Sophie Bickford: sophie@centralvicbiolinks.org.au





Inglewood Community
NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

CHEMICAL USER X 3 DAYS
REFRESHER X 1 DAY

This course comprises 2 Units of Competency
AHCCHM303A Prepare and apply chemicals
AHCCHM304A Transport, handle and store chemicals

Participants in this program will be assessed against the requirements of these Units. To obtain the ACUP a copy of the Statement of Attainment issued by the RTO following the course should be forwarded along with the required application form to the Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI).

This course is an approved and appropriate training program for the ACUP is Agricultural Chemical Skill Set (AHCSS00002)

- WHEN:** **TUESDAY 5TH APRIL 2016 x 3 DAYS - CHEMICAL USER**
FRIDAY 8TH APRIL 2016 x 1 DAY - REFRESHER
- WHERE:** **33 BROOKE STREET, INGLEWOOD 3517**
- TIME:** **9.00am TO 4.00am**
- COST:** **\$480.00 PER PERSON - CHEMICAL USER**
\$300.00 PER PERSON - REFRESHER (Minimum of 6 people.
Course will not proceed if less than 6 enrolments are received)



RTO: **AST** *Access Skills Training* **TOID: 4603**

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED - BYO LUNCH
TO ENROL, CONTACT THE

ADMINISTRATION TEAM FROM ICNH ON 5438 3562 OR
EMAIL: info@icnh.org.au



OPEN: 9am to 4.30pm MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY - 33 Brooke Street, Inglewood. 3517
Contact reception staff on 54 383 562 or email info@icnh.org.au to find out more.

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:

