



Mid Loddon Landcare Network News

*Mid Loddon-CMN & West Marong, Upper Spring Creek,
Ravenswood Valley, Nuggetty, Baringhup, Eddington
Landcare Groups & other community friends*



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MEETINGS & EVENTS - 2015

Upper Spring Creek Landcare Group – Join the History & Spring walks –

Sunday 13th at 10.00am – 12.00noon through the Lockwood Cemetery

Sunday 20th at 10.00am on the McMillan/de Groot property. BYO lunch.

Check out the wildflowers, birds, reptiles and fungi. Also visit the property's habitat area that has been protected against herbivore and predator invasion.

Upper Spring Creek Landcare Group

Meeting held at the Lockwood South Primary School at **8.00pm** on Tuesday 8th September

Agenda: Citizens science

West Marong Landcare Group

Meeting to be held at 8.00pm on Tuesday 20th October 2015 at the Woodstock Hall.

Agenda: TBA

Baringhup Landcare Group - next meeting to be held at 7.30pm at the Baringhup Hall Supper room on Monday 5th October . 2015

Agenda: Terry White - Climate Change

Nuggetty Land Protection Group next meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 7th October at the winery meeting room.

Eddington Landcare Group- meet in the Red Gum Forest seasonally - Spring meeting will be held at the Eddington store .TBA

Ravenswood Valley Landcare Group.

Next meeting to be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 30th September 2015 at the North Harcourt Hall.

Claiming the Date?

The Mid Loddon Network Landcare Groups Annual dinner will be held on Thursday 12th November . Venue and speaker to be announced.

Mid Loddon Landcare Network Management Committee Meeting

To be held at the Lockwood South Primary School at 7.30pm on **Monday 28th September 2015.**

Agenda: Ross Colliver from the Victorian Landcare Council will return for a brief recap session to gather information for the next Vic Landcare Council meeting to be held at Paynesville. **Followed by a general meeting** covering current group's projects updates, new funding available.

Rabbit Buster Roadshow with Dr Tarnya Cox

Date: 16th September.

Time: 6.00pm – light supper provided

Venue: Belvoir Park Golf Club
77 Belvoir Park Road Ravenswood.

Agenda: Information session will cover - Invasive animals CRC Boost project-RHDV (pathogenic calicivirus)

- Integrated rabbit management
- Landholder participation in the Boost project
- Case studies from local Landcare Groups and land managers
- Where to next- the future release of a new strain of RHDV
- Rabbit Buster Month campaign

Tarnya is leading the national scientific research campaign to reduce the devastating agricultural and environmental impact of rabbits. She will also discuss current research to find a new strain of Calicivirus and efforts to improve the biological control of rabbits.

Invasive animals Biosecurity manager, John Matthews will also join the roadshow sharing years of practical rabbit management expertise.

Congratulations to one of our Landcare and community volunteers – Jenny Steele, who is a recipient of a Victorian State Senior Achievers' Award.

Quote from Jenny “As we know, Landcare members would be pretty thin on the ground if it wasn't for us older people. Representing the “tip of the iceberg” as far as older volunteers are concerned is really nice.”

West Marong Landcare Group's Tree Planting Field Days

A successful event was held with landcare group members and Bendigo Tafe CALM students at the Hepburn/Ralton Neivandts Road property to complete the planting enhancement of an eroded gully connecting two properties.



Tafe students hard at work

Our planters were provided with a wonderful BBQ lunch by Glenda Ralton with the students then being provided with a lesson in using a direct seeding machine, by Greg. The day finished with a visit to erosion control methods and structures that are now part of an ongoing farm revegetation program.

A second smaller planting event was completed a few days later at the Elmsford Road, Langley property. This was attended by a small band of local landcarers to assist Grant and Lisa to begin their planned property landscape revegetation program. Once again our planters were treated to a great BBQ lunch

These events were sponsored by GJ Gardner Homes via a 'Fifteen Tree' project.

Numbers were few but experienced



The Baringhup Landcare Group's Direct Seeding training event was held at the properties of Rob, Kerrie and Ben Jennings and Ross & Hannah Dohnt, where drainage line erosion sies are being protected and revegetated, creating further corridor connections for wildlife habitat and crop/stock shelter. There was a good turn up of members who were instructed in the art of direct seeding large areas of revegetation, including how to use the Network's direct seeding machine, so that members could proceed with seeding on their own properties in the future. Members enjoyed a social gathering over a BBQ lunch on a hill top in Ross and Hannah Dohnts recently protected remnant woodland.



A lesson in direct seeding for the Baringhup Group

Use with Care

REWE press release in German: www.rewe-group.com/de/newsroom/pressemitteilungen/1422.html

The 350 'toom Baumarkt DIY' stores belonging to the REWE Group will carry no glyphosate-containing products later than September 30, 2015. From Monday such products cannot be re-ordered for the stores.

By the end of 2013 toom Baumarkt had begun to switch the range and had removed about 60 percent of glyphosate-containing products from sale. Toom Baumarkt offers its customers alternative environmentally acceptable products. Thus toom Baumarkt was well ahead of the upcoming decision on the extension of the EU approval for glyphosate.

“As a responsible company, it is important to regularly review our entire range and seek to protect the environment and nature with alternative and more sustainable options. Toom Baumarkt is constantly and consistently developing a more sustainable portfolio of products,” explains Dominique Rotondi, General Purchasing Manager for toom Baumarkt.

Customers of toom Baumarkt DIY stores with garden centers are offered a number of possibilities to combat insect pests, fungus and diseases without the use of chemical agents. Those interested can discuss pest issues with qualified staff and can read further information about alternative plant protection on the Internet here. The co-operative REWE Group is one of the leading trade and tourism groups in Germany and Europe. In 2014 the company generated a total turnover of more than EUR 51 billion. The REWE Group, founded in 1927, has 330,000 employees and 15,000 stores in 12 European countries. In Germany in 2014 approximately 228,000 employees in 10,000 stores generated sales of 37 million euros

The World Health Organization's cancer agency IARC has published a report which caused a huge worldwide response, when they announced earlier this year that the World's most sold herbicide, glyphosate, is a probable human carcinogen.

The IARC reached its decision based on the view of 17 experts from 11 countries, who met in Lyon, France, to assess the carcinogenicity of 5 organophosphate pesticides.

Since the IARC report was released in March 2015 many countries have been looking at possible bans on glyphosate-based herbicides and Sri Lanka even announced a complete ban. Supermarkets across Europe have also removed glyphosate-based herbicides from their shelves

Centre for Development Policy –
A discussion paper - released August 2015

'From vicious to virtuous cycles: a sustainable future for Australian agriculture'

The underlying resource base of Australian agriculture has been gripped in a cycle of decline for decades.

Executive summary

The success and vision of farmers who have embraced regenerative land management practices highlights vast potential for a more productive and sustainable future for Australian agriculture.

The July 2015 *Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper* makes it clear that the competitiveness and sustainability of Australia's agricultural sector will be pivotal to our future

growth and wellbeing. Agriculture is becoming ever more important as the mining boom recedes and as transformational change in Asia creates a new wave of opportunities for our rural commodities and communities.

An agricultural sector that prioritises value over volume can make a lasting contribution to Australia's growth and prosperity. This would offer a new and sustainable competitive edge for Australia's food and fibre products, while entrenching Australia's farmers as effective and trusted stewards of Australia's treasured landscapes, natural resources and ecosystems. There is disconnect between these exciting opportunities and the environmental, social and economic trends evident in past and present performance.

The starting point for this discussion paper is a harsh reality: the underlying natural resource base of Australian agriculture has been gripped in a cycle of decline for decades. The commodity markets in which Australian agriculture competes reward firms that deliver high-volume, low-cost produce to consumers, but are largely blind to the condition of the vital soil, water and other ecological resources that underpin agricultural production. The illusion of abundance masks a self-reinforcing long-term decline in the very natural resources upon which the sustainability of agriculture depends.

To make ends meet in a period of volatile prices, variable output and weakening resource condition, many farmers are compelled to adopt or persist with practices and technologies that maximise near-term production at the expense of further depletion of natural resources. We describe this as the 'vicious cycle'.

The operation of this cycle over several decades has meant that individually rational and well-intentioned producer, supply chain and consumer decisions have added up to collective outcomes that unwittingly, but systemically erode the environmental, human and social resources needed to sustain a thriving agricultural sector

Grazing Management for Sheep Production

Observe Sheep Behaviour to Help Grazing Management

Observing grazing animals can provide the livestock producer with valuable information on the quantity and quality of the forage available to

the animals. Observation is perhaps the most important tool for making grazing management decisions. With a little practice, a producer can become adept at "eyeballing" the approximate amount and quality of forage being consumed by his livestock.

Ruminant animals graze wherever and whenever forage is available, therefore, a producer can say that he does practice "grazing management". Grazing occurs either by design, when controlled by a knowledgeable manager, or by default, when animals are allowed to graze on their own without regard for plant and animal requirements.

A livestock producer must visit his pastures frequently, not only to check the animals, but also to check the forage. This allows the producer to monitor what is happening with the pasture and to anticipate and correct any potential problem before it results in reduced livestock performance.

A grazing management plan must be designed with both plant growth and animal performance in mind. For long-term sustainability, there must be a balance between plant and animal requirements.

Plant growth is maximized when they are "harvested" (or grazed) at maturity, but at that point the forage quality is low and animal performance may suffer because the nutritional needs of the animal are not met.

Animal performance is maximized if the plant is grazed while it is actively growing (i.e. producing high-quality feed), but repeated, uncontrolled grazing will result in animals selectively consuming the highly nutritious and palatable plants while leaving the unpalatable ones. Over time, this will cause the disappearance of desirable plants (called decreasers) and the predominance of less desirable and undesirable ones (called increasers and invaders).

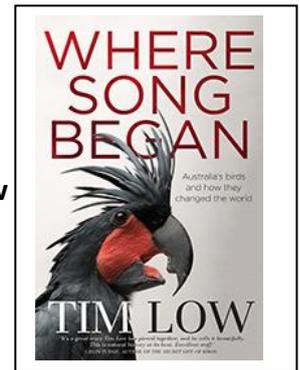
Some points to consider when observing animals and interpreting their grazing behaviour are:

- less time is spent grazing when forage is plentiful and of good quality; more time is spent grazing when quantity or quality is limited;

- herd animals tend to graze as a group when forage is plentiful and as individuals when forage is scarce;
- a well-established browse line indicates excessive grazing pressure (a browse line is a well-defined height to which browse such as leaves, twigs and woody growth has been removed by animals);
- midday grazing during hot weather indicates that forage is limited.

Book of the Month:

**Where Song Began -
Australia's Birds and How
They Changed the World**
by Tm Low



Renowned for its unusual mammals, Australia is a land of birds that are just as unusual, just as striking, a results of the continent's tens of millions of years of isolation.

Compared with birds elsewhere, ours are more likely to be intelligent, aggressive, and loud, to live in complex societies, and are long lived. They are also ecologically more powerful, exerting more influences on forests birds.

But unlike the mammals, the birds did not keep to Australia; they spread around the globe. Australia provided the world with songbirds and parrots, the most intelligent of all of all bird groups. It was thought in Darwin's time that species generated in the Southern Hemisphere could not success in the Northern, an idea that proven wrong in respect of birds in the 1980s but not properly accepted by the world's scientists until 2004 - because says Tim Low, most ornithologists live in the Northern Hemisphere. As a result, few Australians are aware of the ramifications, something which prompted the writing of this book.