



Mid Loddon Landcare Network News

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



NEWSLETTER VOL. 22 - No. 6 July 2016 - Incorporation No: A0061417V

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MEETINGS & EVENTS – 2016

Upper Spring Creek Landcare Group

Next meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 12th July at the Lockwood South Primary School

Agenda:

Speaker - Steve Williams sharing his knowledge about Moths and their life cycle and a National Citizen Science program currently being developed.

August meeting presentation from Ben Goonan.

Mid Loddon Landcare Network Management Committee Meeting

Next General meeting will be held at 7.30pm on **Monday 25th July 2016** at the Lockwood South Primary School.

Agenda:

Annual reports and/or updates from member groups.
State Grant information and project planning.
Planning for event with Victorian Landcare Council and other regional group members in August

Mid-Loddon Landcare Network Management Committee Event.

An event commencing with a light meal will be held at **6.30pm on Monday 29th August 2016** at the Lockwood South Primary School
Victorian Landcare Council (VLC) members Kaye Rodden & Ross Colliver and also a representative from the FTLA and other regional Landcare Groups will be joining our members

Agenda:

- Sharing Landcare groups' projects now and future
- What the VLC is doing/plans to do to support Landcare
- What Mid Loddon and other Groups might do to strengthen Landcare in NC region, with VLC support.

Ravenswood Valley Landcare Group.

Next meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 27th July 2016 at the Harcourt Hall.

Agenda: Phil Dyson presenting Groundwater in the Ravenswood Valley

Baringhup Landcare Group -

Next meeting to be held at 7.30pm at the Baringhup Hall Supper room on Monday 1st August 2016 -

Agenda: TBA

Nuggetty Land Protection Group next meetings Held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 3rd.August at the Winery meeting room.

West Marong Landcare Group

Meeting to be held at **8.00pm** on Tuesday 16th August 2016 at the Woodstock Hall.

Agenda: TBA

Eddington Landcare Group- meet seasonally
Winter meeting will be held at the Eddington store and share a coffee break. TBA

Sheep Management Workshop

West Marong /Baringhup/Nggetty/Ravenswood landcare Groups and other wider Community farming community.

Presenter: San Jolly from SA.

Where: Laanecoorie Hall

Time: 9.30am - 4.00pm

When: Wednesday 17th August

Farm visits by San on Thursday 18th August

Agenda: Topics to be discussed – Sheep containment, Ewe lambing nutritional needs, current seasonal worm burdens, feed testing, crops grown for stock feed trials, pasture and much more

Ample time for a question and answer session.

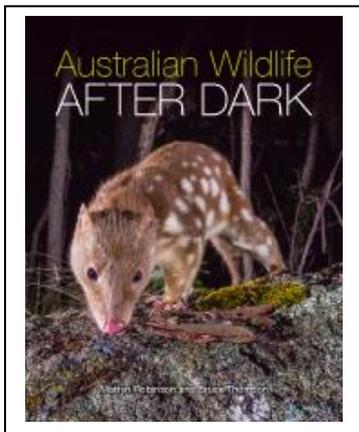
Many local wildlife species have either disappeared or are severely threatened and close to extinction, without the community even knowing of their existence, as many are only out roaming, either looking for food or a mate, when we are all inside keeping warm and watching TV, or sleeping etc.

Our evening & night time wildlife include, Bush Stone-curlews, Powerful Owls & other Owl species, Dunnarts, Antechinus, Brush-tailed phascogales, Possums, Wallabies

Book of the Month:

Australian Wildlife After Dark

Martyn Robinson & Bruce Thomson, Australian Museum
Available from CSIRO Publishing \$35.00



Australia is a land of many unique animals, some of which are active only during the cooler evening and night-time and so are rarely seen. These are the after dark animals so widespread yet so little noticed by humans, whether in our backyards, the arid desert, woodlands or rainforest.

Australian Wildlife After Dark brings this hidden fauna into the light. The after dark fauna includes a surprising diversity of familiar (and some not-so-familiar) species, from cockroaches, moths and spiders through to bandicoots, bats and birds – and then some. Each example is described in a unique, friendly style by Martyn Robinson, familiar to many Australians through his frequent media appearances on ABC Radio and in *Burke's Backyard* magazine, and Bruce Thomson, an internationally renowned wildlife photographer and bat researcher. The book includes stunning photography and boxes that highlight selected topics, such as the 'windscreen wiper' eyelids of geckoes and the strategies used by night-time plants to attract pollinators. Also included are

practical tips on finding nocturnal wildlife, a glossary of scientific terms and a short bibliography.

Reports:

Save our Bush Stone-curlew Project & Promotional events..



Another wonderful photo by Greg Licence of our pair of breeding Curlews

North Central CMA Water Watch Seminar

photos below – Participants visited the Curlew enclosures, protected areas and the Shelbourne Forest restoration site.





Frank & Jenny Steele with Tess, our Regional Landcare coordinator and Cass, the Water Watch Coordinator from the CMA who organised the seminar and field trip

A wildlife corridor extension -

Bendigo Tafe students are assisting with the revegetation and fencing on the Gill property. The first stage of adding understory plants to the creek line was organised by Nathan earlier this week. Nathan and fellow class mates planted 40 indigenous shrubs. This will be followed by a 1000m fenced corridor of direct seeded trees and shrubs, creating another linkage westwards from the Shelbourne Forest.



The recent rain made digging and planting much easier than past years.

Facts:

- Did you know that Crested Pigeons eat the seeds of Paterson's curse plants?
- Insectivore species worth encouraging to your gardens and farmland, include – Magpies, Ravens, Kookaburras, Swallows, Willy Wagtails, Hooded Robins, Crested Shrike tits, Flame Robins and many more, who eat copious

amounts of Termites, Beetles, Ants, Mosquitoes, Flies, Moths, Foliage Insects, Scale, Bugs, Aphids, Insect Larvae, Spiders, Caterpillars, Crickets & Worms.

Bird of the Month: The Eastern Rosella

These technicolour parrots are well known in Australia, their vivid hues enriching trees, gardens, parks or soup tins! The name Rosella is said to be derived from 'rosehill parrots'; Rose Hill, Sydney, being where they were first seen by white people.

A Dreaming about Rosella is one of tragedy which triumphs with love as the ultimate victor. A couple run away together; although she is promised to a wirrinin (magic man) who wreaks his revenge and kills her man. She is so in grief the jealous wirrinin goes to strike her. The Great Spirit intervenes and she is instantly transformed into the first Rosella. She then flies off to the Land of the Dead to reach her lover before he crosses into it. In a race against time, she reaches him. Today, Rosellas still mate for life.

West Marong Landcare Group Meeting:

Due to the severe weather, the June meeting was moved from the Woodstock West Hall to the warmth of Bill & Irene Punton's kitchen. Many thanks to Bill and Irene for welcoming members. Christian Bannan, our local soil scientist was the speaker and provided members with a full report about the recent soil pit days held at Woodstock West and Baringhup.

Christian's take home message was -

“The full depth of top soil including the hard pan must be friable, well-structured and yielding a large volume of plant roots to improve production by increasing Water Use Efficiency, nutrient availability and access to subsoil moisture. Incorporation of organic matter and improvements in soil physical structure throughout topsoil layers are management practices that should be considered. Combining an intensive cropping program with livestock production provides an opportunity to build organic matter by plant roots and above ground residues to improve soil condition and productivity.”

Building the capacity for soils to retain soil moisture.

The water-holding capacity of soil depends on good structure, and that requires careful management, particularly in the wetter months. In healthy soil - characterised by a loose, crumbly texture - there are small particles of earth separated by pores that allow space for gases and the easy flow or absorption of water.

Soil is also composed of minerals from weathered rock, decaying organic matter and living organisms such as fungi, earthworms and mites. Plants have access to the nutrient-rich water and cycled nutrients in the soil made available by the microorganisms.

When soil is wet, it is more easily compacted by vehicles, animals and even heavy pedestrian traffic. The process of compaction pushes soil granules together into bigger aggregates and in doing so pushes out the much-needed space for both water absorption and gases required for healthy organic processes.

The second green revolution:

The green revolution of the 1960s delivered vast increases in food production, averting famines and political instability across the world. There are now urgent appeals for a second green revolution to make food more sustainable, involving climate-adapted crops, healthier soil and reduced chemical inputs. Sadly, incentives on offer for agri-tech firms mean our hopes of achieving such a revolution are under grave threat

The economic landscape of agricultural research is radically different to that which enabled the first green revolution. Today, it is overwhelmingly driven by an international private sector, whereas in the past government-funded institutes would develop and distribute better crops and farming techniques.

Adding Trees - A Prescription for Health, Happiness and Fulfilment

National Tree Day is on Sunday July 31st.

New research by Planet Ark and sponsored by Toyota, released in the lead up to National Tree Day, examines how time in nature enhances and grows the key areas in life that Australians consider the most important for a fulfilling life –

health, happiness, learning, relaxation and relationships.

The report presents the results from studies published in peer-reviewed journals and Planet Ark's National Survey, finding that nature helps make people happier, healthier, brighter, calmer and closer. The surveys included in the report used internationally-recognised scales to measure the connection to nature and happiness of participants. With people spending more and more time tethered to screens and devices, there's never been a greater need to add nature to our lives.

The report titled *Adding Trees - A Prescription for Health, Happiness and Fulfilment*, found:

- Just 10 minutes' relaxing outside is enough to significantly reduce blood pressure.
- Time in nature reduces a person's chance of developing a range of diseases, including diabetes by 43%, cardiovascular disease and stroke by 37% and depression by 25%.
- Nature induces positive feelings through a number of physiological mechanisms, including activating the brain's dopamine reward system.
- Students who take part in outdoor learning programs perform better in reading, writing, maths and science, with 77% of teachers reporting student improvement in standardised tests.
- A strong connection to nature makes people more likely to feel passionate about relationships with their friends and family.

Words of Wisdom:

Every truth passes through three stages before it is recognised.

In the first it is ridiculed
In the second it is opposed
In the third it is self-evident

Arthur Schopenhauer 1788-1860