



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 – 2016

Upper Spring Creek Landcare Group

Next meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 9th August at the Lockwood South Primary School

Agenda: Ben Goonan will be presenting the results of his bird monitoring in the Shelbourne NCR.

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 with other regional Landcare Groups also 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 Event

Soil health Field Day with Soil Scientist Christian Bannan will be held on Friday 2nd September, commencing at 9.30am at the property of Bob & Shirley Draper.

Ravenswood Valley Landcare Group.

Next meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 28th September 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 3rd October 2016

Agenda: TBA

Nuggetty Land Protection Group next meetings Held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 4th September 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:

Grant support available for farm projects. Preparation for Sheep Workshop with San Jolly the following day.

Eddington Landcare Group- meet seasonally Spring 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

There will be ample time for a question and answer session.

Some facts about Victoria's Important Sheep Industry

Victoria is Australia's largest lamb and mutton producing state. Sheep meat and wool production occurs across all regions of Victoria but is concentrated in the Warrnambool and South West regions, North West, Hume and Bendigo regions.

The sheep meat and wool industry is Victoria's third second largest agricultural industry by value, with a gross value of agricultural production of around \$1.54 billion in 2013-14. The gross values of sheep meat and wool production were \$957 million, and \$585 million, respectively. Victoria also has a small industry producing sheep milk for use in making cheese and yoghurt. There is no bulk pick up of milk, so producers must deliver it themselves to one of about eight cheese factories around the state.

Sheep production systems are extensive. Intensive sheep meat and milk production systems are common in overseas markets and it is anticipated that interest in these systems will increase in Australia.

Victorian sheep meat production has been increasing over the last two decades. In 2014-15, 225 kilotonnes of lamb (carcase weight) was produced and Victorian sheep meat exports were valued at just over \$1 billion. At 30 June 2014, Victoria had 15.4 million sheep.

The industry recognises that management of soil health and groundcover is essential to increase or maintain productivity of pastures and to reduce nutrient loss from grazing systems whilst groundcover is critical to reduce soil loss and consequent loss of nutrients and sediment into catchment systems

Join our Citizen Science Program by submitting interesting &/or rare photos

Promoting our local countryside and productive farming enterprises.

Do you carry your camera (or phone) with you as you work around your properties so that you can record any unexpected happenings and sights that can be shared with landcare friends and the wider community?

Our Landcare Website will be up and running very soon. Do you realise that many journalists check all landcare websites for unusual/interesting

stories to share through online and hard copy media?

So send me your photos and I will either add them to our blog and website or in some instances with your permission to a local journalist. We hope to organise another photography workshop with Alison Pouliot next year - just for our farmers.

And remember the subject matter is much more important than the photographer's expertise.

Jcroc22@gmail.com.

Rabbits on the Run in Ravenswood;

Following the Ravenswood Valley Landcare Groups successful Rabbit Control promotions earlier in the year, a Contractor supported rabbit eradication program using the fumigation and rabbit hole back- fill method, has begun on all properties and roadsides surrounding and radiating out from the Ravenswood Interchange.



Destructive rabbits

Landholders have been busy mapping their rabbit warrens and working with the Wilkins environmental Services Contractor to learn a greater understanding of rabbits and how best to develop an ongoing control program on their properties. The Group are hopeful that by controlling the rabbits, together with current seasonal conditions there will be a large amount of natural regeneration of eucalypts occurring during the coming summer months.

The Group's rabbit control initiative is being supported by Vic Roads with a hope that natural regeneration and planned revegetation around the interchange area will have a greater success rate and begin the process of replacing the large number of red gums recently removed.

To improve the health of many of the large old eucalypts on the surrounding properties, rabbits are also being removed from their roots structures



Many trees like this have warrens amongst their roots.

Bush Stone-curlew Report

Another Captive Curlew Breeding Enclosure has been constructed at the property of the Laing family at Lockwood South.

Check out the Bendigo Addy's Saturday 6th edition- online & hard copy versions.

And read about the latest Captive Curlew Breeding enclosure being constructed at a local property and the plans for more.



**Bendigo Big Give – Give where you live
Central Victoria's Community Giving Day on
Chuffed.org - August 10st to September 1st
Please support our Bush Stone-curlew captive
breeding and release program**

How our native birds got their colours:

(Another indigenous dreamtime story)

Back in the Dreamtime (Alcheringa) all the bird tribes were the same colour, and that was black. One day the Peaceful Dove caught his foot on a sharp prong of wood on a broken off tree branch. The Dove called out piteously for help, and all the other bird tribes heard his cry and came to the place where the Dove lay. The Dove was in great pain and his foot had swollen up. The other birds gathered and provided shelter for him with their wings. Some brought water for him to drink and some bathed his foot with water. All except Crow, who was in a bad mood

and was angered by the attention the other birds were giving the little Dove.

Crow harangued the other birds and told them that they were wasting their time, the Peaceful Dove was done for. And indeed the foot was festering and swelling more all the time. But the other birds paid the Crow no heed, and finally they had had enough of him and chased him away. Then the Galah had an idea. She rushed forward and bit the Dove's swollen foot with her sharp, hooked beak. The Dove cried out in pain and a myriad of colours, all the colours in nature flowed out of the Dove's foot and splashed all over every bird gathered 'round.

Some got only a little colour, and some got one or two colours only. Some were splashed with many colours, and the Rainbow Lorikeet was splashed with a so much colour that he looked like the rainbow itself!

The Galah was splashed with rosey pink and grey, and the little Peaceful Dove was almost drained of colour till he was a light mottled grey-brown. And so it was that all the bird tribes got their beautiful coloured plumage, except for the selfish, bad-tempered Crow who remains in his original black to this day.

Peaceful Dove



The Peaceful Dove is a small, sturdy dove, with a long graduated tail and wedge-shaped wings. The eye-ring, eye and cere (the soft parts above the bill) are all blue-grey. The upper body is mainly brown-grey, with dark barring. The head and lower throat is a softer grey, with dark scallops. The throat is white and lower body pinkish. The feet are a deep pink. They are usually seen in pairs or small parties, never far from water.

Peaceful Doves forage on the ground in open,

bare areas, in paddocks, beside roads and in gardens. They feed mainly on small seeds of grasses and sedges, and sometimes small insects. They need to drink at least twice a day. Peaceful Doves place their nests in trees or shrubs, including in garden and street trees. They build a small, flimsy platform of twigs, grasses and roots, which is built by both parents. Both parents also feed the young, with 'crop milk' or small seeds. Their flight is direct, low to the ground and undulating. Their call is very distinctive and is the source of one of their common names, 'Doodle-Doo'. They also may be called the Placid, Zebra or Barred Dove.

Vale to long term Upper Spring Creek Landcare member -

Max Jackman:

Family, friends and Landcare members celebrated the life of Max Jackman recently at the Golden Square St Marks Anglican Church and he now rests in the historic Lockwood Cemetery which he had recently assisted to be fenced and the Upper Spring Landcare Group members have begun to restore, in partnership with the Lockwood Cemetery Trust.

During the service long time Landcare friend Max Stevens joined family and friends sharing stories about Max's interests and community work. Max's final wish was to request that donations to the work of landcare replace floral tributes at his funeral and these gifts have been used to set up an ongoing fund to support the Bush Stone-curlew breeding program. Many thanks to Max's family for supporting this initiative.



All future donators of \$50.00 and over, to the Save Our Bush-stone Curlews program, will be provided with the opportunity to receive an

exclusive to landcare and numbered, life-sized garden art Curlew silhouette sculpture. Hopefully these sculptures will continue to remind people about the loss from our communities of not only the Curlews but all the other native wildlife that has already been lost, or are in danger of being lost for future generations. We would like to thank Honeybee Metal Works for their support.

Can ants detect rain before it arrives?

There is no scientific literature on the subject. While it's possible ants can detect barometric pressure better than we can, the only evidence of this is stories and urban legends that never come with an identification of the species. In other words, nothing trustworthy or usable. One idea.

Perhaps ants can predict the coming of rain the same way as people? .A few days before a change with good rainfall arthritic knees can become quite painful. Now imagine those thousands of worker ants we see running along rough ground often carrying a heavy load and being bumped by other ants and such. Each has about six knees subject to damage resulting in arthritis. So with a change approaching there will be hundreds of them complaining and not going to work. When the queen sees that she immediately calls for all the fit workers to start the job of carrying the food, eggs etc out and up the nearest stump or post to avoid the coming flood.. . interesting thought??

Words of Wisdom:

We are the dominant creatures on this planet and we can choose to wipe out most of the species just by continuing on our present course of accelerating population growth and accelerating resource use. To save wildlife requires positive action; it requires changes in life style and changes in our general way of thinking (or not thinking). We must heed the maxim "Think Globally, Act Locally" and realize we are bound with all other forms of life in one gigantic ecosystem. Neatness is the enemy of wildlife! Logs and litter on the ground can provide food such as insects, fungi etc for wildlife and nutrients for our native trees and bushes.