



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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Contact information : c/- Secretary, PO Box 2197 Bendigo DC. Victoria

blog: uslandcare.org.au

MEETINGS & EVENTS – 2016

Upper Spring Creek Landcare Group

Special events with Senior Mycologist Dr Teresa Lebel from the Royal Botanical Gardens

All groups welcome

Field Walk in the Shelbourne Nature Conservation Reserve, Newbridge Road signed.

10.00am Tuesday 12th September

To monitor the return of small mammals such as Tuans and Sugar gliders

We will be checking nest boxes with our nest box camera and gathering scats to establish the health of our small populations and also what their current diets are. The field morning will include how to collect, what to collect, checking for spores, trials that can be tried and how to monitor. Please dress appropriately and BYO food and drink.

An evening event will be held at

7.30pm on Tuesday 12th September at the Lockwood South Primary School

Agenda: Teresa Lebel will be sharing her knowledge of the diets of our small mammals, which include fungi. We will also be observing the scats gathered through microscopes.

Bird call ID training walk with Ben Goonan, in the Shelbourne Nature Conservation Reserve (signed on the Newbridge Road)

Sunday 25th September at 8.00am

Wear strong shoes, and bring binoculars if you have them.

Baringhup Landcare Group -

Next meeting to be held at 7.30pm at the Baringhup Hall Supper room on Monday 3rd October 2016

Agenda: TBA

Spring Open Gardens event – to raise much needed funds for the Bush Stone-curlew captive breeding program

Sunday 9th October. Final details in the October Newsletter.

Two gardens have been offered and we are hoping for several more?

Mid-Loddon Landcare Network Management Committee

The meeting will be held at **7.30pm on Monday 31st October** 2016 at the Lockwood South Primary School

Agenda: Final General meeting for 2016

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

This event is a must for all landholders in the Valley who are interested in how their valley was formed and what impact it continues to have on current and future land management. Copies of the 'Geomorphology of the Ravenswood Valley East of the Calder' will be available at the meeting.

Nuggetty Land Protection Group

Landcare Open Day on Sunday 11th September from 10.00am to 1.00pm

Meet at the Maldon Cemetery,

Maldon/Shelbourne Road, Maldon

See woodland birds and pull out Boneseed, walk on 'The Commons' in Maldon.

Learn about (and perhaps see) some woodland birds with Tanya Los, Woodland Birds Coordinator, Connecting Country.

Hear about Boneseed, a Regional and National Prohibited weed and help us pull out small Boneseed plants as we walk.



Boneseed

Nuggetty Land Protection Group next meetings
Held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 5th October at the Winery meeting room.

West Marong Landcare Group

Meeting to be held at **8.00pm** on Tuesday 18th October 2016 at the Woodstock Hall.

Agenda: Speaker TBA

Eddington Landcare Group- meet seasonally.
Next meeting will be held at the Eddington store or in the Red Gum Forest to share morning tea with current group activities. TBA

Project reports:

Nest Box Program:

The Brush-tailed phascogales (Tuans) and Sugar Glider Nest Box project is expanding in the Shelbourne NCR, with the help of two dedicated volunteers- Devi Shanty & Craig Mildwater. Although the condition of the forest is improving in the thinned areas it will be many years before the trees develop suitable hollows for nesting birds and small mammals. Another fourteen boxes have been installed and GPSd with another 16 still to go. Devi and Craig will be organising a monitoring program to check on how quickly they become occupied and by whom.



Our landcare Groups appreciate the support provided by our Citizen Science volunteers – as do our small furry and feathered friends looking for homes.

Save our Bush Stone-curlews Project

The Big Give Crowd Funding Program organised by the Community Foundation for Central Victoria, raised a much appreciated \$475.00. Many thanks to the organisers and the contributors. The Curlew pair donated by Neville & Jan Lubke at Jindera, NSW, have arrived and are settling into their new enclosure situated at the property of Ken & Karen Laing. They are a proven breeding pair so we are hopeful they will produce eggs and chicks when they have settled in to their new surroundings.



Checking out their new enclosure

*Our sculptured metal garden art Curlews will be available at \$50.00 from next week.

Ravenswood Valley Landcare Group Field Day



The successful soil health Field Day held at the property of Bob & Shirley Draper with Soil Scientist Christian Bannan, was attended by twelve local landholders, all keen to learn more local soils. There was also some unexpected results.

The first soil pit showed how some areas in the granite landscape can consist of very deep sand

and other areas have deep boggy clays quite close to the surface. All participants gained much knowledge about local soil conditions and best practice soil management, including the need to build more organic matter. Time was spent both listening and questioning Christian, while observing the soil pits.

The group also had the experience of extracting Christian's bogged vehicle when it subsided into the granite hillside several times.



Much pushing by members failed, but Bob's trusty old tractor saved the day!

The replacement of Red Gums has begun at Ravenswood



Bob ready for action

Bob Draper received his first allocation of trees provided by Vic Roads and were planted by Bob & Shirley to provide a visual and sound buffer against the Calder highway roadworks.

'Water Watch' Program to begin in Ravenswood

The North Central Catchment Management Authority Regional Water Watch Officer Cass Davis will provide the necessary equipment and arrange training for our new water watch volunteer Craig Mildwaters to begin a Water Watch Program in Ravenswood. The aim is to establish water quality testing of the Bullock Creek & tributaries above and below the Calder Interchange construction which will link to the

established water watch program at Lockwood South.

Vic Roads are adding to the information by supplying the results of their current ground water monitoring.

It is hoped that in the future a Ravenswood Landcare Group member may be interested in being trained to take over the position.

Sheep Management Workshop

The very successful workshop with San Jolly, a scientist from South Australia, was attended by twenty five farmers from the West Marong, Baringhup & Ravenswood Valley Landcare Groups. San once again provided an enormous amount of information about sheep & pasture management.

The second day was also well attended and members toured recently built sheep containment yards at Doug Curnow's, Brad & Brian Comer's, and Col & Doug Jennings and also looked at the site for new container yards at Howard Hepburn's and Lachie Raltons farm. San provided further advice on installing containment yards and managing sheep in containment. Trial crop/pasture sites are being organized with the results studied at the next workshop to be held in Autumn 2017.

San offered to provide additional advice to members as required via email or phone and her contact details have been passed on to those attending.



Inspecting Col & Doug Jennings containment yards

Words of Wisdom from Children's books:

The moment you doubt you can fly, you cease forever to be able to do it.

Peter pan – Jim Barrie

National Tree Day was celebrated by a planting event at the Lockwood South Primary School with plants provided by the Upper Spring Creek Landcare Group.



Busy little planters

Central Vic Apiarist Group visit Shelbourne

A large group of their members toured the Shelbourne Nature Conservation reserve restoration site in August. They were impressed with the condition of the soil and the vegetation regeneration in the thinned catchments.



Regeneration of understory and ground covers

This is the second apiarist group to show interest in the landcare group's Box Ironbark Forest restoration method.



The group enjoyed morning tea in the forest

Mid Loddon Landcare Network Committee

recently met with two members of the Victorian Landcare Council – Ross Colliver and Dr Kaye Rodden. Tess Greives, regional landcare coordinator also attended.

All Network Landcare Groups were well represented and were also joined by the new Loddon Plains Network Facilitator James Nelsson. A light hot meal supplied by our local caterers was enjoyed by all.

Groups shared their current projects and goals and showed just what diverse and active groups we have still functioning well in the mid Loddon area.

Kaye & Ross then shared what their VLC roles are and how much effort was being put into promoting to the government the importance of continued support for Landcare.

They are also hoping that there will be an increase in members joining the Council from the North Central Region?

Historical stories.

The River Which was Made From Tears

Once there lived a great hunter who found a giant brolga with a broken wing. At first the hunter felt frightened and tried to run away, but then he felt sorry for the brolga so he went up to the brolga and asked kindly how the wing was broken. The brolga told the hunter his story and as he did so great tears fell from the brolga's large sad eyes. The tears fell into the tracks he had made while he crawled along in pain, and each tear was as big as the water of a billabong. They turned into fresh cool water and formed a river, flowing very fast along the brolga's tracks.

After he had told his story, the poor brolga died of sorrow and woe and the hunter rose into the sky and became the Morning Star, where he watches over the poor brolga. The river, which was made from the brolga's tears, is called the Giddy River today and is not far from Yirrkala in the Northern Territory.

As told by Irene Lama-Lama. Source: 'Kwork Kwork the Green Frog and other tales from the Spirit Time'. 1977.