



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. 9 October 2016 - Incorporation No: A0061417V

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

blog: uslandcare.org.au

MEETINGS & EVENTS – 2016

Baringhup Landcare Group -

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

Agenda: Reports and funded project planning

Nuggetty Land Protection Group next meetings

Held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 5th October at the Winery meeting room.

Agenda: General Meeting

Upper Spring Creek Landcare Group -

Next meeting to be held at 7.30pm at the Lockwood South Primary School on Tuesday 11th October 2016 **Agenda:** General meeting

West Marong Landcare Group –

Next meeting to be held at 8.00pm at the Woodstock Hall on Tuesday 18th October 2016

Agenda: TBA

Ravenswood Valley Landcare Group.

Next meeting will be held at 6.30pm on Wednesday 30th November 2016 at the Harcourt North Hall.

Agenda: Christmas BBQ

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: 2016 Reports and Plans for 2017
Planning for the Annual Network Dinner
Final meeting for 2016

***Ravenswood Valley Landcare Group welcomes a new Water Watch volunteer Craig Mildwaters
More about Craig and his work in the next Newsletter.***

Rainfall recording at Shelbourne

West Marong Landcare Group member, Irene Punton has continued a family tradition of recording local rainfall and now has a total of 60 years of data. Irene reports that our 2016 rainfall up to 30th September has been 500ml with another 40ml fallen since then.

30 Years of Landcare in Victoria Celebrations

Landcare has reached another milestone.

2016 marks the 30th anniversary of the movement from its humble beginnings in north central Victoria in 1986. You are invited to join in a 30 years of Landcare celebration event.

Catch up with Landcare friends for dinner at the Lamartine Hotel in St Arnaud, with guest speaker Rob Yule OAM, Chair of Australian Landcare International. If you have some extra time, a bus tour prior to dinner will visit unique local Landcare project sites.

The North Central CMA Landcare team are delighted to invite you and your Landcare group members to the '30th Anniversary of Landcare Celebration event'

WHEN: Saturday October 15 2016

3.00pm; optional bus tour leaves Lamartine Hotel 6.00pm–9.00pm @ Lamartine Hotel

WHERE: Meet at Lamartine Hotel, Alma St. St Arnaud. (Street parking)

WHAT'S ON: Tour local Landcare project sites, ending at the St Arnaud Grey Grass-Tree enclosure followed by a cocktail dinner by the fire with music and guest speakers.

DRESS: Smart casual with a Landcare twist (closed shoes for farm visits) **RSVP IS ESSENTIAL** by Wednesday 5 October 2016.

Contact North Central CMA on 03 5448 7124.

Spring Open Gardens event – to raise much needed funds for the Bush Stone-curlew captive breeding and release program. Our local community volunteer run breeding program is currently the only attempt to save our Curlews from extinction in Victoria.



Sunday 9th October.

Garden 1- Karen McMillan & Tony de Groot
Meet at 10.00am Casuarina Lane Granite Hill Top – a natural wildflower property, for a guided tour through wildflowers, native grasses and orchids. BYO strong shoes, hat and water.

(It is spring so our local reptiles are stirring)

Enjoy a leisurely picnic lunch provided on the hill top and view panorama landscape views before moving on to garden two in Boswell Road.

Garden 2

Boswell Road property of Pam and David Tickner. Large 5 acre native and cottage garden still being extended. Come and explore the garden and banks of Bullock Creek.

Enjoy a cup of tea and home made scones.

Garden 3

Wingrave Road property, off Calder Alternate Highway of Richard and Ayesha MacEwan. A large rambling and shady garden and vineyard. Complete the day sipping a complimentary glass of red wine produced on the property and listen to a brief banjo recital at 4.00pm.

Parents are responsible for their children. Please leave your pets at home

\$5.00 per garden or total cost \$15.00

Mid Loddon Landcare Network Annual Celebration Dinner

Where: Maldon Hotel

Time: 6.15pm socialising followed by
6.30pm Dinner

When: Wednesday 16th November

Agenda: 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 and current group activities. TBA

Field Day – Biomix Compost on Broadacre.

A notice from Declan McDonald

Managing organic matter on cropping and pasture soils is vital for a range of soil properties including structure, water and nutrient holding capacity, and biological function.

60 hectares of conventional wheat and canola are growing under a range of compost treatments at Stanhope in Central Victoria adjacent to the Biomix compost facility.

Come and inspect the crops, hear from leading soil scientist Declan McDonald who is overseeing the trial, and enjoy a tour of the Biomix facility.

Tea & Coffee provided on arrival & a light lunch

Where: 980 Two Tree Road, Stanhope.

When Wednesday 26th October, 2016

Time: 10.00am to 12.30pm

(Weather permitting)

RSVP: Jackie@biomix.com.au or call 0403 949 660

Project reports:

Revegetation 2016 Projects

Fifteen Trees - GJ Gardener sponsorship support

- 1- Doug Jennings report:** Family planting of 200 trees at Baringhup



A well prepared site planted to link the eucalypts on the hill to create increased farm connective vegetation.

2 - Rob & Peter and the Pollock family & friends planting day achieved the revegetation of two prepared sites with 415 trees. The wet spring weather should guarantee a successful result.

Shelbourne Nature Conservation Reserve - Nest Box Program

Landcare members braved the cold and wet

weather to spend time in the forest with our visiting scientist Senior Mycologist Dr Teresa Lebel from the Royal Botanical Gardens, to monitor the return to the forest of small mammals such as Sugar gliders and Tuans. Ten of the forty five nest boxes were inspected and a variety of scats were collected from within the boxes and also from under the trees. The scats will be tested to confirm the health of our small population and also establish their current diet. Many boxes with residents were left undisturbed.



Three members hold the ladder and take notes while Teresa inspects a nest box.

An evening event included further information about the type of fungi likely to be eaten by our wildlife, inspecting the scats under a microscope and discussing future trials and monitoring regimes.

Bird ID training workshop with Ben Goonan in the Shelbourne Forest Reserve confirmed that our woodland birds are returning to the forest as the forest regeneration advances. Many small birds were noted, including Red capped robins, Weebills, Thornbills & Fairy wrens plus many more. Members walking the forest with Ben learnt to ID many bird calls and also managed to catch a glimpse of some of our elusive tree top birds



Ben instructing Frank Steele

The weebill is Australia's smallest bird at approximately 8 to 9 cm long. It is an olive-yellow songbird with a grey bill, brown wings, pale yellow eyes and grey feet.

Bird Monitoring by Landcare Volunteer Greg Licence

Greg has completed a spring monitoring regime in the Shelbourne Forest and our Curlew protected sites. Greg is pleased to report two Curlew sightings, a single bird in a protected site and a pair of Curlews in another protected site. We are hoping this pair will successfully and safely nest this season in a protected area. Greg latest comprehensive bird lists will be available at the next landcare group meetings. Many thanks to Greg whose constant monitoring will provide a much better idea of our Curlews movements - are they using the safe areas provided for them and also any breeding successes?

Nuggetty Landcare Group Open Day

Held on 11th September 2016
(Submitted by Jane Mitchell)



This event, part of the Landcare Open Day, has been organised by Maldon Urban Landcare Inc. (MULGA) and the Nuggetty Land Protection Group (NLPG), with funding from the Connecting Country Landscapes Program. Thirty five people joined together for a Bird walk and Boneseed pull event up Back Cemetery Rd into Parks land that was once part of the "Commons".



Removing a Bone Seed plant

Tanya Loos was our bird guide for the day with Ian Grenda explaining about Bone Seed and Bridal Veil weeds. Tanya was able to inform us on the effect these weed infestations have on the ground foraging woodland birds, by blocking their access to the ground litter where their food is gained. The Bridal Veil rust was available to take away to spread in new zones by participants which retards the growth of the plant.

Thirty species of birds were observed on the walk with experienced bird watchers spotting some of the rarer and harder to identify species. Some of these species were Fan-tailed cuckoo and Shining bronze cuckoo.

Many small birds were also in evidence such as Striated Pardalotes, Grey Fantails, and many of the Thornbills and a male and female Scarlet Robin. A Little Eagle was seen soaring overhead and then making a dive to collect prey. Whilst on the Commons many small Boneseed plants were located and pulled. Another interesting discovery were the Morels fungi which only appears if the conditions are moist enough. A BBQ lunch was provided at the conclusion of the event.



Morels fungi

Shelbourne Nature Conservation Reserve Update - *Protecting a Community Asset:*

The regeneration in the 'Wallaby' is already quite remarkable and over the next few weeks, there will be a wild flower event not seen for many years, so do visit the forest and enjoy the sights. The forest soil profile has finally filled – (probably for the first time in 60 years) with a slow trickle of water now leaving the forest.



Forest Protection:

Protecting the forest against wood theft (logs on the ground) has become even more important, so funds have been raised to install a fence on the east side of the two thinned catchments (across the top of the hill).

Many thanks to Jamie Tatt for so promptly completing the fence installation.

Our wood thieves have also been attracted to our landcare forest project signs, with many removed, so more funds will need to be raised for replacement signs. (\$130 each). I do hope our thieves are gaining some enjoyment from possessing our Landcare signage.

Many thanks to our Parks Rangers for organising the repair of the sites damaged by thieves, new signage and the eventual return to the forest of some of the stolen logs.

Ravenswood Valley Landcare Group Meeting

A presentation from Phil Dyson, Hydrogeologist, at NCCMA as a follow up to the recently produced '**Geomorphology of the Ravenswood Valley East of the Calder Highway**' report which was received with interest by members with many questions asked and much discussion following the presentation. The Ravenswood Valley is quite a unique landscape with the Bullock Creek and the adjacent Calder Highway dividing two distinct ground water flow systems. Many thanks to Phil for so generously sharing his knowledge.

Copies of the report are available from -
Judy 0428 506 525

3D map of the Valley

