



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 – 2017

Upper Spring Creek Landcare Group

Next general meeting will be held at 7.30pm at the Lockwood South Primary School on Tuesday 9th May 2017.

Agenda:

Debrief from the previous successful Landcare/CMN meeting plus reports & photos from recent activities.

West Marong Landcare Group –

Next general meeting to be held at 8.00pm at the Woodstock Hall on Tuesday 20th June 2017

Agenda: Speaker TBA

Baringhup Landcare Group

Next general meetings will be held at 7.30pm Monday 5th June at the Baringhup Hall Supper Room.

Nuggetty Land Protection Group.

The next general meeting will be at the Nuggetty Vineyard at 7.30pm on Wednesday 7th June 2017

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

The Eddington Red Gum Forest is returning to life



Just checking on conditions?

It's safe to emerge!



Photos by Veronica Palmer.

Ravenswood Valley Landcare Group

Next general meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 31st May 2017 at the Harcourt North Hall. (Cnr McIvor & Chaplins Road)

Agenda: **Fungi of forests and farms – Alison Pouliot**



Photo credit- Alison Pouliot

What exactly are all those fungi doing out there in the landscape?

Although little known, every eucalypt and most other trees form beneficial relationships with fungi. Fungi also make farm soils more resistant to drought and disease.

Ecologist E.O Wilson famously reminded us that it is the little guys that run the world. Fungi, along with invertebrates drive most of the ecological processes in our local landscapes. They build architecture in soils; influence hydrology; sequester carbon; recycle organic matter; provide habitats and govern energy flows.

Looking after soil fungi is vital to the health and resilience of our agroecosystems and forest ecosystems. Understanding the role of fungi in soils and ways to support and maximize their function benefits not just the soils, but all the associated organisms including humans. During this seminar we will explore the amazing diversity and significance of fungi the ways we can encourage fungi back into our farms.

Network Fungus Identification and Survey

Training Day in the Shelbourne Nature Conservation Reserve with Alison Pouliot
10.30am Wednesday 7th June. (No cost – landcare funded) Bookings essential- Contact Judy 0428 506v525

BYO lunch. Wear strong shoes and dress appropriately for the weather

Suggest you will need -

The fungi of the Box and Ironbark forests of central-northern Victoria are virtually unknown. The aim of the training day is to equip participants with the basic principles and protocols for surveying fungi in the field. These participants could then further develop their skills to become leaders in engaging the wider community to partake in fungus surveying. The training day will follow the guidelines as outlined by Fungimap in their publication *Guide to Surveying Fungi in Australia*.

Baringhup Landcare Group

Fungi Field Day with Alison Pouliot
The Fungi – An Introduction to a Curious Kingdom
10.30am -4.30pm Sunday 11th June
Cost free for Landcare members but booking essential
Venue details –
Contact Roy or Caroline on 0403 781 660

This workshop will introduce participants to the diversity, ecology and curiosities of the Kingdom Fungi, specific to fungi found in the region but also within a wider Australian context. Following the indoor session will be an exciting foray through various local habitat types to search for species of interest. Supplementary notes will also be provided to reinforce principles covered in the workshop.

Ravenswood Valley Landcare Group Event

The 2nd Soil Pit Field Day was held with Christian Bannan



Members observed the soil pits as they were dug on the property of Bryan & Tricia Balmer. The pits showed that acidic sandy duplex soils can develop deep top soil structure from occasional deep ripping and good management. By retaining large amounts of surface and subsoil organic matter to offset acidity, granite soils can become very productive.

Websites worth researching

NatureShare – natureshare.org.au

A user friendly Citizen Science portal for recording flora and fauna observations by individuals and groups across Victoria.

NatureShare.

Friends of Box-Ironbark Forests

<http://www.fobif.org.au/>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/45437563@N07>

Free Wildlife Nest Boxes available

Contact Judy on 0428 506 525.



Clean-up in the Wallaby (Shelbourne Forest)

Many thanks to the Bendigo Bushwalking and Outdoor Club's recent clean-up efforts. Thanks also to our members who assisted and Geoff & Noreen Gill who have allowed 500 tyres to be stored short term at their property.

Report from Judy & Irene.

We set off in 'Irene's new ute', to clean up the 35ha triangular section of the forest



Christening Irene's new 'Úte'

Although there is probably still more rubbish scattered through that section of the forest we drove and walked for several hours and certainly made an impression by gathering a ute load of tins, glass and general dumped rubbish, which was off loaded onto another trailer and taken to the rubbish tip. Thanks to our Bendigo Group friends.

We had a surprise while endeavouring to load an old tarp that had washed down a drainage line in a recent storm and joked about finding a body! Surprise, surprise, It did contain a body, but thankfully not human, just a well composted sheep (complete with ear tag).

People forget that anything dumped in a gully eventually finds its way to the edge of the forest.

New forest restoration Plan -

This section of the forest will be our next forest restoration project site with funds being raised for thinning and fencing.

It has been confirmed that the site has now been removed from the 'burn' map

Report from John Lindner

The Bendigo Bushwalking and Outdoor Club's recent efforts in the Shelbourne Nature Conservation reserve.

The Shelbourne had previously been surveyed and main rubbish sites mapped. We were glad to have the extra help of Greg. Ralton (who supplied a

huge trailer and a ute) and other Landcare Group members. Please thank them.

The big tyre dump in the pit yielded something like **several hundred tyres 400 - 500**), which are now piled up (neatly !) at the Gill's place, where it they will be collected by a Parks Vic organised contractor.



We then returned to the other 4 sites, and the big tyre site itself, and got about 1.5 tonnes of junk (Eaglehawk Tip weighbridge measurement).

At the Quarry Road site, we got a surprise. First there was the big, lone slab of concrete, my main target.

This was quite easily shattered to smaller fragments using a sledgehammer.

And what was beneath?

2 Thick-tailed Geckoes (*Underwoodisaurus millii*), one adult which had shed its tail, probably due to shock, and one juvenile.

They are extremely beautiful little animals, and we were a bit upset at what we had done.

50 metres south of the concrete slab was a large piece of carpet, partly buried.

I was determined not to leave this stain of suburbia there.

I marched over and pulled it free and dragged it to the trailer.

As I loaded it aboard, 2 more Thick-tailed Geckoes were seen clinging to the underside.

Oh, bloody hell - more of them !

All 4 reptiles were relocated against their will to a particularly thick pile of shed bark beneath a Yellow Gum.

So, I ask you, just who is wrecking the habitat for the native creatures, the dumpers or the removers? The slab of concrete was a particularly impregnable fortress.

(An example of why we must continue with the forest restoration to provide more logs and litter on the forest floor to provide better habitat for all our small creatures struggling to survive.)

REGARDING THE PIT AT THE BIG TYRE SITE

We took out a hell of a lot of tyres and quite a lot of other plastic stuff.

But the pit is still quite full.

We were all of the opinion that bulldozing it in was the answer.

That way the large concrete dump (which we did not touch) would go too.

I will advise Matt Sobey (Parks Vic Ranger) of this too.

I realise that this is yet another expense and another job to do.

But if the pit is left open the way it is, it is sort of an incentive for others to dump.

REGARDING THE FUTURE WITH RUBBISH DUMPING IN FORESTS

On a previous occasion, I discussed with Matt Sobey the need to negotiate with the City of Greater Bendigo on a better policy with regard to preventing so much rubbish being dumped in the forests around the city.

The current problem has a long history, with the Parks Victoria local budget bearing an unfair share of the costs of cleaning up.

We might have a good chance of implementing something effective with the new council.

It would most likely have to be an integrated approach, with several kinds of carrots and sticks to make it work.

A joint approach between several bodies might be the most effective: Parks Victoria, the landcare group west of Bendigo (with Judy Crocker), other landcare groups, the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club, the Bendigo Bushwalking and Outdoor Club, others.

But who is going to start the ball rolling?

With my thanks and best wishes, John Lindner

Words of Wisdom

If all mankind were to disappear, the world would regenerate back to the rich state of equilibrium that existed ten thousand years ago. If insects were to vanish, the environment would collapse into chaos. E. O. Wilson

Unexpected visitor- Judy

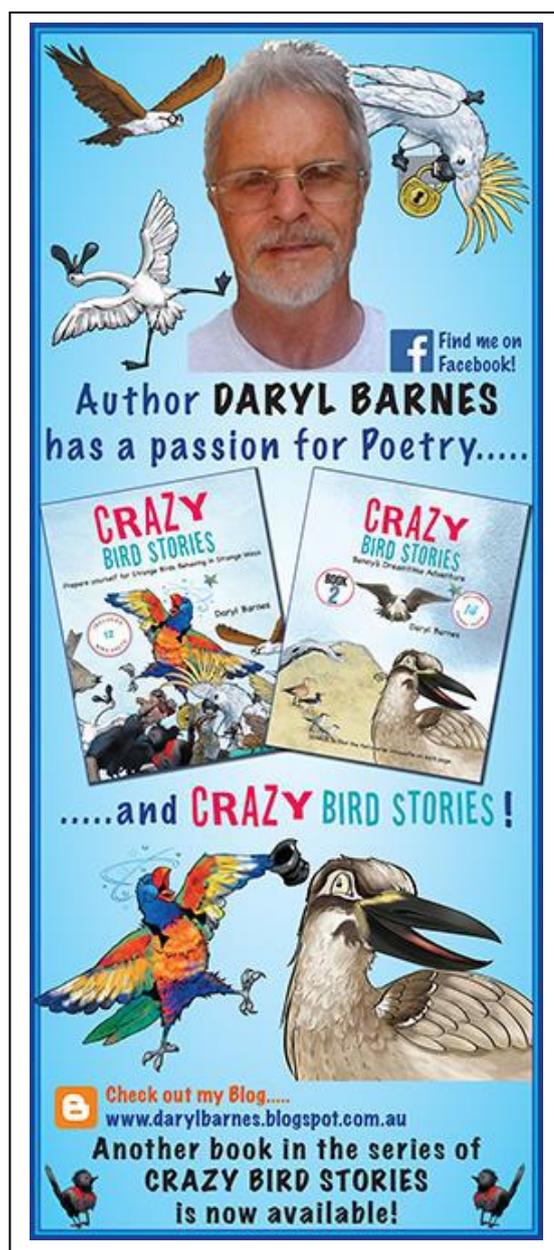
I was contacted by Daryl Barnes from MacKay who was visiting relatives at Raywood. Daryl asked if he could visit our Curlew enclosures to learn what our local landcare Groups were doing to save the species from extinction in central Victoria.

Daryl proved to be an interesting birdo who is also a prolific poet, an author of children's books, President Bird Life, MacKay and Editor of their WREN Newsletter.

Daryl's children's fun (Crazy) and educational bird books would be an asset to your children's/grandchildren's libraries.

Checkout Daryl's blog for his books, poems and stories.

<http://darylarnes.blogspot.com.au/>



Excerpt from a fun poem by Daryl Barnes

BENNY MAGOO WHO WENT TO THE ZOO
There was a curlew named Benny Magoo
Who was sad and was blue and had nothing to do
When along came Ken Kangaroo who'd been to the zoo
Said it's so true what they do and it happens on cue
So don't go to that zoo because they'll toss you in too
Warned Ken Kangaroo, who came away smelling of cow poo.