

North Central chat

SEPTEMBER 2016

A message from the Regional Landcare Coordinator

Hi everyone,

The blossoming acacias, luscious green crops, crisp white lambs and excited Rosella's chattering from their nest boxes are the tell-tale signs that spring has sprung!

September also marks some key dates for annual celebrations

- **National Landcare Week: 5 to 11**
- **National Threatened Species Day: 7**
- **National Landcare Conference & Awards: 21-23**
- **National Biodiversity Month**

This edition of the Chat features great stories about the above celebrations, as well as details of the fantastic events coming up across the catchment.

In the past week, I have had the pleasure of working with the students from La Trobe University's Outdoor & Environmental Education Department. A group of 10 students visited with the Malmsbury and Newham Landcare Groups to get a handle on their GIS skills, mapping the groups past and current projects. This is often a challenging task for time-poor groups to undertake themselves, so having willing and enthusiastic students to assist was most welcome.

The shared learning between Landcarers and students was wonderful to witness. The exchange of plant knowledge, landscape scale project logistics and the overall passion for place that Landcare and community led NRM groups share is just so infectious. The students left up skilled in GIS mapping, but almost more importantly uplifted in their commitment to being future environmental educators.

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I am very pleased to report that the 2016-17 Community Grants program moving online seems to have been a relatively painless process. The feedback about the usability of the SmartyGrants system and the revised GIS mapping system has been positive. The CMA mapping system was developed to meet the needs of community groups who weren't particularly familiar with mapping programs.

If your group is looking to document works digitally, get in touch with me, as the CMA GIS team has created a mapping application (Landcare Network log in access only) to document past and current Landcare project activity across the catchment.

Enjoy the read,

Tess Grievs

Regional Landcare Coordinator

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News...



2016 National Landcare Conference & Awards

Themed ‘Collaborative Communities – Landcare in Action’, the 2016 National Landcare Conference and Awards is your opportunity to contribute to, engage with, and learn from your community and peers.

Held over three exciting days, the 2016 National Landcare Conference and Awards will deliver an engaging programme, as well as offer you the opportunity to attend a variety of informative and educational field trips within close proximity to Melbourne’s CBD.

The full program is now available at: <http://www.nationallandcareconference.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/2016-Program-for-WEB.pdf>

Keynote speeches will be delivered by Major General the Honourable Michael Jeffery, AC, AO (Mil), CVO, MC (Retd), as well as Don Bourke, Presenter and Executive Producer of Australia’s beloved Burke’s Backyard.

A range of registration options are available for professional and community for either 1 or 2 days, plus the gala dinner.

For all the pricing and conference details visit: <http://nationallandcareconference.org.au/delegate-information>

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Drought stricken farmers continue to contribute to their community

On June 27, the second round of drought employment crews kicked off in the Charlton/Wycheproof region after two weeks of training which included farm chemical user’s course, first aid, traffic management, and leadership.

The crew is completing NRM and community

based projects for their local area, making a huge impact on their very first day, planting 700 tubestock. They have also been assisting the local Lions club in constructing a garden shed and the “Food for Farmers program” which delivers a food parcels for families in need.



The employment program provides employment for farmers, farm workers and individuals severely affected by drought, with the North Central CMA coordinating the program in the western area of the catchment.

North Central CMA CEO Brad Drust said that the program “offers local farmers and farm workers a way to earn an income, while still being able to focus on continuing important work on the farm,”

Those employed under the program will work as part of a work crew on jobs such as weed and rabbit control works, watering revegetation sites, fencing native vegetation, improving soil health, GPS mapping of weeds and revegetation.



Wycheproof crew tree planting day

The North Central CMA now has five drought



employment crews in Kerang, Wycheproof, Charlton, St Arnaud and Maryborough.

For more information please contact the North Central CMA on (03) 5448 7124.

Greening Glenlyon

Glenlyon Landcare Group braved a drizzly day, welcoming 20 adults, 7 kids and 3 dogs to their local National Tree Day celebration.

Group Secretary Margret Lockwood said " We ended up planting around 85 trees (all indigenous to the area) to complement the planting at the Biolink on the Loddon River at Glenlyon. This included 20 *Acacia paradoxa* which is one of the few trees we don't need to guard with wire netting. The remaining trees will need wire netting guards until the plants are two metres high and the trunks are strong enough to stop the wallabies pushing them down to reach the leaves."



Making the day a family affair. Photo: Margret Lockwood.

Resident Dr. Dirt, Phil Dyson, also took to celebrating National Tree Day creating a short video clip called 'Talking Trees'. Check it out on the CMA website at: http://www.nccma.vic.gov.au/Media_and_Events/Videos/index.aspx

Threatened Species Day

September 7 is a historic day for all the wrong reasons, marking the date of death of the last known Thylacine, 80 years ago.

Dr Clare Hawkins (University of Tasmania) is running BioBlitz events in Tassie and while they are out of reach for us in north central Victoria, the message is an important one. Clare is passionate about spreading the message that 'Extinction Matters' and encourages us all to celebrate the biodiversity we have, saying "As David Attenborough says, *'No one will protect what they don't care about, and no one will care about what they have never experienced'*."

Curlews making headlines

Did you catch the recent Bendigo Advertiser article, featuring a two-page spread of the Critically Endangered Bush Stone Curlew?

Upper Spring Creek Landcare Group and Mid Loddon CMN featured in the weekend edition of the paper, generating a great amount of coverage and focus on this iconic woodland bird species.

Read the full story with images here:

<http://www.bendigoadvertiser.com.au/story/4075038/rare-eerie-bird-returns-to-bendigo>

The group has also taken on a crowd funding campaign as a part of the 'Big Give', which is an online campaign to get central Victorians to donate to various community led causes in a 24 hour giving period on September 1. The group are looking to fund more captive breeding enclosures as well as continuing to provide world-class care for the current captive birds.



Who can resist this face?

You can help through the 'Save our Curlew' campaign by visiting the donation page at: <https://chuffed.org/project/save-our-curlews>



Indigenous stories, songs and dance protected under new Victorian law

A new law safeguards the intangible assets, such as story, songs and dance of Victorian Traditional Owners.



Campfire & Culture field day. Photo: North Central CMA

The Guardian reports that “Businesses that exploit Indigenous knowledge or culture for commercial purposes without the consent of the Traditional Owners will be fined up to \$1.5M under new Aboriginal heritage laws that come into force in Victoria on 1 August”.

The article features comments from local Taungurung man and chairman of the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council, Mick Harding.

“This intangible stuff is the space between what is tangible. It is the stories that mothers share with their children, that Elders share with groups, the special skills, the cultural stories, the dreamings.”

Mr Harding said the law would ensure that ownership of cultural knowledge could be both protected and shared through generations and families.

Read more about this ground-breaking decision at: https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2016/jul/19/indigenous-stories-songs-and-dance-protected-under-new-victorian-law?CMP=share_btn_tw

Barapa Landcare Awards finalists- VOTE NOW!

Good luck to the Gunbower-based Barapa Water for Country project team, who are finalists in the National Landcare Awards on 22 September.

The group won the Indigenous Land Management section of the State Landcare Awards in August last year (pictured below), and are now nominated for the National Award.

The Barapa Water for Country Project has identified, mapped and recorded the cultural values of Gunbower Forest. This information will be used by North Central CMA and Barapa to ensure the rich cultural and spiritual values of the forest can be represented in environmental watering plans. To read more and to vote for Barapa in the People’s Choice award, please visit <http://www.nationallandcareconference.org.au/awards/>



Energy a good fit for DELWP

From 1 July 2016, responsibilities and a number of staff from the Victorian Government’s Energy portfolio have transferred from DEDJTR to DELWP. This puts programs areas such as energy policy, renewable energy, energy efficiency and new energy technologies in the same department as Environment and Climate Change.

The DELWP Climate Change August 2016 newsletter states that “Transitioning to a low carbon economy is key for Victoria to reach our net zero by 2050 emissions reduction target. To support this, the Victorian Government has set ambitious but achievable renewable energy targets: 25 per cent by 2020 and 40 per cent by 2025.”

Through a competitive auction process, renewable energy developers will bid for the long term contracts needed to make their projects viable.



The renewable energy targets and the auction scheme will form a key element of Victoria's Renewable Energy Action Plan which is due to be released at the end of the year.

DELWP is now looking for feedback on the design of Victoria's renewable energy auction scheme. For more information please read the consultation paper:

<http://www.energyandresources.vic.gov.au/energy/sustainable-energy/victorias-renewable-energy-targets>



Keep an eye on the Campaspe

Travellers along the Calder Freeway through Kyneton will notice native plants being planted along the Campaspe River. In the time it takes the poisoned willow roots to decompose, these native plants will have established and be performing the same role of holding the riverbanks together while providing a better quality of habitat for native birds, fish and platypus.



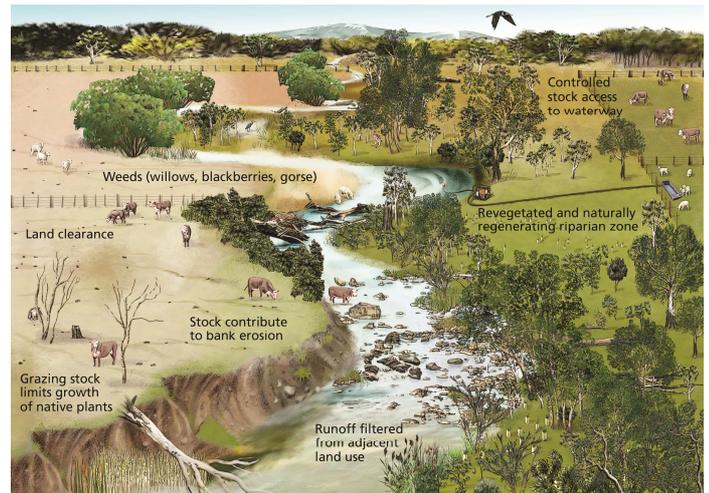
Good news! The Victorian Government's Caring for the Campaspe project delivered by the North Central CMA will be continuing for the next four years, funded at \$750,000 per year through the Regional Riparian Action Plan.

This large-scale project has worked with 100 landholders along the river in recent years to:

- deliver 41km of river fencing
- provide 20 off stream watering systems

- control 292ha of weeds along the river's banks
- revegetate 126ha with native species.

All together 457ha of riparian land has been protected and enhanced, exceeding the 400ha target!



Riparian restoration graphic used as part of the projects engagement to illustrate the importance of protecting waterways.

The Caring for the Campaspe project has worked closely with landholders and community groups to deliver amazing results. Project staff spoke to six participants who have worked closely with the CMA to improve the river, their properties and their community. See their stories at http://www.nccma.vic.gov.au/Water/Rivers/Campaspe_River/index.aspx

Project Manager Angela Gladman is always keen to discuss the project with Landcare groups along the river to explore joint projects. If your group is interested, please call Angela on 5440 1825 or angela.gladman@nccma.vic.gov.au





Hello everyone,

I hope you are well and enjoying the short bursts of sunlight as we slowly make our way into spring time. During August, I braved the cold and set out on some wonderful adventures across the catchment to catch up with our amazing team of citizen scientists as a part of the Waterwatch programs annual Quality Assurance and Quality Control week.

QAQC week was an opportunity for volunteers to test their equipment by testing a set of mystery samples. I am very excited to share that 90% of the samples tested were within the acceptable measurement range. Well done everyone and thank you for taking the time to come along to the meetings to conduct your mystery sampling.

With spring in the air, it's time to get out and about and start capturing critter information from across the region. NatureBlitz is a nature version of Pokemon Go, where you capture critter data, rather than the critters themselves!

NatureBlitz helps you identify and report native frogs, fish, mammals and waterbirds in your area.

So far, almost 300 critters have been identified and reported in the App, with 10 broilgas sightings across the region.

We want that figure to hit 500 by the end of this month. The NatureBlitzer who reports the 500th critter will win a North Central CMA prizepack, which includes a drink bottle, rain gauge and fridge magnet.

After all this rain, the frogs will be out in force, so you'd better be quick, but please be careful around water.

The North Central Waterwatch Report Card is now available, the report highlights program achievements and outcomes from the 2015/16 year. You can request a copy of the report or, you can view the report card at:

<http://www.nccma.vic.gov.au/flippingbook/ncww-reportcard1516/index.html>

In this edition of the Chat, you will learn how to get involved as a citizen scientist in the Native Fish Recovery Program's NatureBlitz event and

find out more about the upcoming workshops for schools participating in the River Detectives Program.

I have also included a fantastic story from the Waterwatch program in Canberra, demonstrating how Waterwatch data contributes to scientific research on urban waterways.

What's happening in September?

- No data to go into the Waterwatch Data Management System – All of September 2016
- River Detectives Waterbug Workshops – 6 to 8 September 2016
- Ironbark Gully Shindig event – 18 September 2016

I hope you enjoy the read,

Cass Davis

Regional Waterwatch Coordinator

North Central Catchment Management Authority

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Native Fish Recovery Plan: NatureBlitz Event 2016

The Native Fish Recovery Plan (NFRP) is a long-term project aiming to increase native fish populations and ecological health, by improving habitat, riparian vegetation and flows, in over 200 km of streams and wetlands in the Gunbower and lower Loddon area.

The North Central Waterwatch program has partnered up with the NFRP to engage community members to become citizen scientists to help us monitor the response of native fish and other aquatic biota in the Box-Pyramid and Gunbower Creeks and the Lower Loddon and Little Murray Rivers as a part of the NFRP NatureBlitz program.

Would you like to be a part of the NFRP NatureBlitz?

Here's how:



The North Central CMA is seeking volunteers to help undertake the following monitoring activities:

- Angling diaries - during October 2016
- Macroinvertebrate: ALT training and survey- 7 to 11 November 2016
- Water quality monitoring - ongoing (monthly)

Angler Diaries are a cost-effective method of data collection and, when combined with other methods such as electrofishing, provide valuable data regarding local fish populations.

Macroinvertebrates ('water bugs') are an indicator of river health, and therefore, an excellent candidate for measuring the success of the Native Fish Recovery Plan.

Water quality monitoring is a key tool used to understand how the conditions are changing over time. Monitoring results can alert waterway managers if water quality parameters are at levels where they may be affecting the survival of native fish and by detecting improvements in water quality over time from Native Fish Recovery Plan actions.

All you need to do is let us know which activity you would like to participate in!

The North Central CMA will provide volunteers with training and equipment to participate in monitoring activities, if you would like more information, or are interested in one or more of the activities outlined above, please contact Peter Rose or Cass Davis.

Peter Rose, Project Officer

North Central Catchment Management Authority
Phone: 03 5440 1873
Email: peter.rose@nccma.vic.gov.au

Cass Davis, Regional Waterwatch Coordinator
North Central Catchment Management Authority
Phone: 03 5440 1863
Email: cass.davis@nccma.vic.gov.au



River Detectives Waterbug Workshops: registrations now open

The River Detectives professional development workshops are on again! During September, we are providing training to teachers to up skill in Waterbugs.

Participating in the workshops provides a deeper insight into the wonderful world of waterbugs, with the ability to explore and share this knowledge and provide a hands on experience to students as a part of our core River Detective activities.



All our detailed lesson plans align with the Australian Curriculum to help make it easy, by incorporating a waterbug activity into the classroom, teachers will be able to demonstrate learning outcomes in the following categories:

- General capabilities; Numeracy, ICT, Critical and creative thinking
- Cross Curricular Priorities; Sustainability
- Content Description; this activity is relevant to all strands of the Science curriculum across most primary year levels.

If you are interested in participating in a workshop, please register at info@nccma.vic.gov.au and include the name of the location of the workshop you will be attending.

Registrations are required by **Wednesday 31 August 2016**.

Frogwatch, Waterwatch report details how ACT can better manage wetlands

Article by Kimberley Le Lievre. August 7 2016, The Canberra Times

For the past 14 years thousands of volunteers across Canberra have been braving the night to trek through mud and tall grass, all in the name of research.

For the first time, the Frogwatchers' data has

been collated in a report, released on Sunday, detailing how the ACT government can better create and manage urban wetlands.



Photo: Jamila Toderas

A new report, co-authored by Upper Murrumbidgee Waterwatch scientific officer Danswell Starrs, and Frogwatch coordinator with the Ginninderra Catchment group Anke Maria Hoefler, details how to better create and maintain wetlands.

ACT minister for the environment and climate change, Simon Corbell, said it highlighted the value of citizen science programs.

Ms Hoefler said the thousands of volunteers who took part in the Frogwatch program, including the annual Frog Census, were elated.

"I think it's been a long time coming," she said.

"For many years it was almost like the data goes into a dark hole ... people are happy now it is applied and they can see results."

The main reason frogs are monitored is because they are a good indicator of environmental health, Mr Starrs said.

"Hopefully wetland design in the future will support greater frog populations," he said.

The report detailed six major findings which dictate the presence and absence of frogs at urban wetlands.

It found wetlands near remnant forest were more likely to have a greater variety of frogs. Similarly, those with good vegetation right around the edge with plenty of rocks and logs provided a better habitat for frogs. Mowing near the wetlands proved to have a negative effect.

"Frogs live in the terrestrial environment, they only really need water for reproduction," Mr Starrs said.

"That was one of the big findings to come out of the data."

While there was information that suggested it was likely, one of the most surprising findings was that water quality affected frog populations.

"Generally it is harder to identify water quality specifically, so that's one we'd like to do a bit more research on in the future," Mr Starrs said.

While the report provided recommendations for management, Mr Starrs said the changes would take a couple of years to have an effect.

"It would not be an immediate thing. In a couple of years you would start to see benefits which would lead to overall better biodiversity and environmental outcomes," he said.

Mr Corbell said the research, conducted at 33 wetlands, would be extremely valuable.

Biodiversity in abundance

The North Central CMA Facebook page is bursting with great images and stories of natural wonders great and small which have been popping up across the catchment after recent rains.

Some exciting events of late include:

- Natural floodwaters entering Guttrum and Benwell forests, along the Murray River, which are providing a much-needed drink for some magnificent old river red gums.
- Murray hardyhead (Australia's most Endangered fish) have been translocated and supported through environmental water delivery to both Lake Elizabeth (up to 1,200ML) and Round Lake (400ML).





Sustainable Ag Snippet...

Farm Field Day wrap up

Friday 19th August saw over 70 people attend a farm field day showcasing the possibilities for viable, sustainable and biodiverse farms at Sutton Grange. In drizzly conditions, morning participants braved the light rain to enjoy a shared on-farm learning experience about sustainability and biodiversity.



A spread of enthusiastic speakers led the morning field walk at the Sutton Grange Organic Farm, each willingly sharing their knowledge and experiences.

Sutton Grange Organic Farm was purchased in 1999 by Carla and Ann-Marie. The entire 204 acres of free draining granitic sandy loam is now home to a goat dairy and cheese factory. Today there are around 120 Saanen and British Alpine Goats in the herd and produce the well-known and well-loved Holy Goat Cheese.

The sustainability tour led by Anne Marie and Carla, focused on integrating sustainable land management. Featuring how native grasses and pasture cropping work together and its value to production, dealing with erosion, how to manage spiny rush removal using scalping and bringing shrubs back into the landscape with revegetation and looking after land during drought using containment areas. The array of sustainable concepts left participants with lots to ponder.

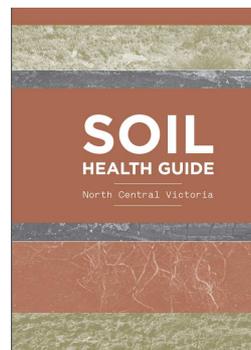


The biodiversity tour led by Tanya Loos, Ian Higgins and Gerry Gill experienced a 'bioblitz' which looked at what is here, why it is important, and how we can improve? The tour focused on waterway protection and the importance of waterways to birds, a cultural cooking site, planting to help stop dieback, and intact remnant vegetation and its value on farm with a focus on birds and wildflowers. Enthusiastically, the walk highlighted the benefits of understanding the value of biodiversity within an operating farming enterprise.



Meeting at the dairy for a tour of the milking shed and its fundamentals provided participants with some shelter from the rain and hear further from Anne Marie and Carla about milk processing.

Traversing back to the Sutton Grange Hall in continued light rain, participants enjoyed a well-deserved lunch. With lots of mingling and warmth, the Sutton Grange Community Hall came alive with excitement. North Central CMA Chair, David Clark, proudly launched the newly developed soil health guide for North Central Victoria. With rain continuing, it was decided to cancel the demonstration of its use however participants were encouraged to note their interest at the end of the day on the evaluation form.





Seated comfortably, warm and well fed, everyone relaxed into an afternoon session on farm viability; getting started and values.

There were some key messages from their presentation, which included

- Do your homework
- Meet individuals who inspire you
- Learn as much from the challenges and successes
- Didn't rush in - took two years to find the right farm
- Keep your day jobs
- Strive to be a workplace that provides; certainty, variety, connection, significance, growth and contribution
- Have a clear farm business plan
- An implementation plan and way to progress through issues

With a quick stretch, participants were eager to hear from six local producers, sharing their journey of creating viable, sustainable and biodiverse farms including diversification and value adding. There were several key messages from each of the producers included;

Mandy Jean, who has owned the Guildford vineyard since 2004 kicked things off, enlightening the audience on how increasing biodiversity has been critical to the vineyard's success. Mandy also highlighted the importance of learning as much as possible and communicating with the public.

John Cable, who took up his 'exaggerated hobby' after retiring, now manages about 80 hives from his home in Central Victoria. Each autumn he takes his bees north, where they enjoy the biodiversity provided by a farm set on the Loddon River. John also reinforced Mandy's key messages; Learning as much as possible, keep your day job as you grow your business and communicate with the public, particularly attending local markets and sharing the produce story.

Katie Finlay continued the stream of inspiration, as an orchardist at Mt Alexander Fruit Gardens. Katie highlighted the importance of having aligned values in the business and a comprehensive business plan (incorporating budgeting and

planning). Katie also emphasised 'soil underpins everything' and 'diversity=resilience'.

Ben Boxshall, from Farm Forest Growers of Victoria, a keen local tree farmer, captured the importance of farm planning for gaining structure into the farm and the multiple benefits a well-designed shelter belt can bring to the farm. Ben also spoke of his passion for designing, establishing and growing, and the on-going management of high-quality wood for multiple uses.

Sam White manages a landscape in the granite hill country at Sidonia. A fifth generation grazier to farm in this area, twelve years ago he took steps towards running the property under organic principles and hasn't looked back since. He uses no synthetic chemicals or poisons and now grazes animals holistically.

With a captivated audience, Claire de Kok had the hard task of bringing the session to a close. Handled with absolute ease, Claire shared her passion for agriculture and food production. She spoke of her initial plan of growing and processing 1000 pigs a year. However after a series of events, she revised her business plan and set her annual target to 250. Needing to make the farm profitable, Claire added value to her pork product and changed her customer base and now runs a successful fresh free range pork business 'Pig in a Box'.

There are many challenges with taking an idea to growing a successful business. Hearing from each of the producers left participants feeling inspired and grappling with a wealth of ideas. Participants enjoyed the good mix of practical tours and stories, with many asking for similar sessions in the future!

A huge congratulation must go to Connecting Country, particularly Krista and Naomi, who worked solidly to help bring this successful day together. We had a lot of fun planning the day, and I've certainly met so many wonderful people along this journey!



Next week will see the beginning of the accredited



short course in sustainable agriculture. 22 rural women, sprawled across the region will begin the course journey. The course will cover topics such as understanding self; values, personality styles and networking, taking action; strategic planning, developing your sustainable business and action learning, leading self, business planning, sustainability and risk and develop an action learning project to start putting theory into practice. Participants will also explore how they might take their agricultural business to the next level and set plans to achieve their goals.

I really look forward to meeting all the participants and in particular, learning from other rural women who have a passion for all things agriculture.

Courses & Resources...



Cairns will be the centre of the soil health world this October when delegates to the National Biological Farming Conference look to strike pay dirt with some of the best farmers and agricultural researchers in the world.

Around 50 farmers, agronomists and researchers from Australia, the US and New Zealand will educate, enlighten and entertain on topics from composting to climate resilience, drones to dung beetles and biochar to bioherbicides. Farmers and graziers from WA, SA and up the eastern coast are poised to tell their stories of challenge and change across industries as varied as wheat and sheep, beef cattle, dairying, cotton and grains, sugar cane and bananas, viticulture and tree crops. Pre conference tours and post conference workshops will introduce delegates to biological farm practices close up. The conference will close with a vision for agriculture in 2060.

The conference is convened by not-for-profit soil health group, Wet Tropics Soilcare, recipients of an Australian government grant for sustainable agriculture and strongly supported by Terrain NRM, the natural resource management body for the Wet Tropics, northern NSW-based SoilCare Inc, and other sponsors.

When: October 28-30, 2016

Cost: \$350 +GST

www.nationalbiologicalfarmingconference.org.au

Contact: Regional Landcare Facilitator, Fiona George, 0488 702 203

info@nationalbiologicalfarmingconference.org.au

The Box-Ironbark Ecology Course 2016 APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

The annual Box-Ironbark Ecology Course provides an opportunity to learn about the interaction of landforms, soils, flora and fauna that comprise the Box-Ironbark forests and woodlands of south-eastern Australia.

The emphasis is on practical demonstration and field experience. The course gives participants the skills and knowledge required to understand and interpret the ecology of Box-Ironbark forests and woodlands, and to apply these skills and knowledge for their particular needs.

Field sessions are conducted in small groups led by a team of highly qualified and experienced instructors. Presentations on particular topics are held each evening.

A formal knowledge of geology, botany, zoology or ecology is not required; each session provides the basic knowledge needed to understand the relevant topic.

When: 26–30 September 2016 (Monday to Friday)

Where: Nagambie (central Victoria) and nearby forests. The course is administered by the Euroa Arboretum.

Accommodation is in fully equipped cabins at Nagambie Lakes Leisure Resort, on a quiet backwater of the Goulburn River.

Cost: The course fee is AU\$1600 plus GST and covers all accommodation, meals, transport during the course, instruction and course note

Details at: Euroa Arboretum website:

www.euroaarboretum.com.au

Enquiries: Kate Stothers

Phone: 0458 680 990

kate.stothers@euroaarboretum.com.au



Events...

Grey Grass-tree Recovery Project Launch

You're invited by the St Arnaud Field Naturalists Group on Sunday September 11th to join the public launch and community day for the Grey Grass-tree Recovery Project.

Anne Hughes is thrilled to be hosting the event, and getting the township aware of the incredible site right on the doorstep, "We have 996 Grass-trees now protected and able to regenerate. This is a tourist attraction for the town too."

When: Sunday September 11th 2016 at 10.30am

Where: Intersection of View Point and Town Tracks, St Arnaud.

RSVP: with dietary requirements for BBQ lunch to anne@antmail.com.au or phone 54 963 268 by Wed 7th September.

Sustainable Housing Display Day

Are you interested in sustainable housing? Searching for key ideas?

Join in and tour some of Australia's most environmentally progressive homes on show at the AlternativTechnology Associations Sustainable House Day on Sunday 11 September 2016. This unique peer to peer education is a valuable resource for anyone looking for inspiration, ideas and the key to sustainable living.

An open house site at Glenhope (near Redesdale) will be complemented by presentations from Hugh & Katie Finlay (Mt Alexander Fruit Gardens) and Lyn Beinart (CEO of ecoMaster). To register or find an open house visit near you visit: <http://sustainablehouseday.com/>

When: Sunday 11 September

Where: Various locations

30 Years of Landcare Celebration Event



The North Central CMA Landcare celebration event is planned for Saturday October 15, in St Arnaud, with some great activities and celebration dinner, following the theme

"returning to where it all began".

Invitations will be posted and emailed out in the coming weeks to our current Landcare group points of contact with more event & RSVP details.

Everyone within our Landcare community is welcome. We look forward to catching up and celebrating with you.



2016 Chicks in the Sticks

Our most popular annual event is reaching new heights in 2016. Ladies, tell your friends to lock in November 25, 2016.

More details on the event location and how to RSVP will be in the next edition of the Chat.

Many people ask, "How did you hear about Chicks in the Sticks?" Well this is the mailing list to be on to hear about it. So for those people that might not receive the Chat, get them touch to sign up and hear about these events first hand.

Funding...

Living Heritage Program Grants

Victoria's heritage is rich and diverse with more than 2,325 State significant heritage places and objects on the Victorian Heritage Register. These contribute to the liveability of Victoria and provide a wide range of economic, social and other benefits.

The Program includes \$7 million for a competitive community heritage grants program targeting 'at risk' State-listed heritage places.

Applications are open and the first round of the grants program is open and will close on **7 November 2016**.

There will be subsequent grant rounds in 2017, 2018 and 2019. Please read the Living Heritage Grants Program 2016 Guidelines carefully before preparing your application.

All the details, guidelines and online application links are at:

<http://www.dtpi.vic.gov.au/heritage/about-heritage-in-victoria/living-heritage-program>