



Network News



Newsletter of the Wedderburn Conservation Management Network – June 2013

Conserving Biodiversity

A deadly blow to Horehound

The best possible moment to tackle your Horehound infestation is right now. The recent dry spell has played havoc with this weed and it is only just re-emerging since the rains have come. What were full size bushes a year ago are now dead twigs with a little bit of green growth at the base or some green shoots on the side. This means that spraying the Horehound now is extremely time and cost efficient as it takes only a quarter of the effort it would take if the plants were back to full size. The Horehound is putting all its remaining energy in reshooting which means it is very susceptible to herbicides at present too ensuring a high percentage killing rate with only one application.



The best mix to use is a broadleaf specific herbicide with a small dose of a pre-emergent added. If you need more advice on which brands to buy, Bridgewater Farmware, Charlton Ag or Harbergers in St Arnaud can all provide the details. Alternatively, if you have a particularly large infestation, a commercial spraying contractor should have all the equipment and know how to do the job for you. Eventually you will have to deal with this weed as it renders it's chosen location into a worthless patch of dirt within a few years of settling in, both for agricultural and environmental values. So it might as well be done right now, while the going is easy.

Article and Photograph – Jeroen Van Veen

Box Ironbark Bugs – Andrea Canzano, Zoologist and Entomologist

On Friday 17 May 2013 the WCMN hosted the Box Ironbark Bugs guest speaker evening with Andrea Canzano, a Zoologist and Entomologist with Ecology and Heritage Partners and the expert invertebrate presenter for the prestigious Box Ironbark Ecology Course. Andrea spoke to the group the diversity and ecology of the broad range of invertebrate species found in Box Ironbark Forests, with some very interesting local case studies.



The evening was a great success, with 38 people from a range of community groups across the district attending. Feedback from participants was very positive, with many people appreciating the range of topics covered and the opportunity to learn about a lesser-understood aspect of ecosystem function.

In thanks for her efforts, the WCMN presented Andrea with a new edition of Neville Cayley's *What Bird is That?*

Article and photograph – Karly Learmonth

Bush Heritage Australia volunteers

Bush Heritage Australia (BHA) runs volunteer working bees throughout winter and spring at their property at Nardoo Hills. This is an excellent opportunity to visit this private property and get your hands dirty, as well as to learn about conservation and what's involved. Working bees are the last weekend of each month and run from Saturday morning early to mid afternoon Sunday. Jobs mainly include weed control and fencing and a reasonable level of fitness and ability is required, but no experience necessary. For more information contact the volunteer coordinators at BHA Stacey and Heidi on 86109100



"Spring in the Bush"

Trust for Nature has its annual series of open days called on covenanted private properties and this year one of these days will be at Wedderburn. On the 12th of October the trust will host an open day on one of the grassy woodland blocks in the Nardoo Hills owned by Bush Heritage Australia. Guest speakers and a guided tour will explain the natural values of the property and how proper management will improve this block further. More details will be announced in the next edition of this newsletter. For the full "Spring in the Bush" program visit the Trust for Nature website at www.trustfornature.org.au

Spring is in the air

Although we are still in the midst of winter, everybody is busy planning their spring events already. Here is a taste of what's in store this coming flowering season:

The Loddon Shire has finalised the program for the Naturally Loddon Festival that this year runs over two months from the 30th of August to the 27th of October. Activities include the Kooyoora wildflower show which is expanding this year to take in more tours and guest speakers. Also on the calendar are canoe trips, bird watching tours, bus trips and a bike ride. The Wedderburn

A collage of promotional images for the Naturally Loddon Festival 2013. The top left features a green banner with the text "Come Join the Fun" and a grid of photos showing people participating in various outdoor activities like bird watching, canoeing, and walking. Below this is a "Partners" section with logos for various organizations including the Victorian Government, Friends of Kooyoora Inc., Friends of Terrick Terrick NP, Parks Victoria, Landcare, and Mulwarrnie Studios. To the right is a vertical banner for the festival, dated "30 AUGUST TO 27 OCTOBER 2013", with a photo of a family walking on a path. At the bottom, there are logos for Loddon Shire and the festival itself, along with more photos of people enjoying the outdoors.

CMN event for the festival will be a photographic exhibition celebrating the 10th anniversary of the network. For a full program visit the Loddon Shire offices to pick up a brochure, or print one off the internet at www.loddon.vic.gov.au

Articles – Jeroen Van Veen

Wedderburn CMN Photographic Exhibition

The Wedderburn CMN will be holding a photographic exhibition in the Coach House Gallery, Wedderburn this coming July. The exhibition aims to highlight some of the many wonderful living organisms that inhabit our area. The exhibition was initially conceived as a means of stimulating the interest of our local school children in their natural environment and many of the junior classes from Wedderburn College will visit the display. But, why not consider dropping into the gallery for a look – lots to interest everyone. Parts of this exhibition will be on display again in September when the CMN plans a more comprehensive exhibition, as part of the Naturally Loddon Festival, for our 10th anniversary. Comprehensive details of the exhibition will be published in due course.

Poster – Marg Van Veen

**Ever wondered what lurks in the dark,
hiding in the bush around us.**

Here is your chance to see and learn about the many weird & wonderful plants and animals found around Wedderburn.



Wedderburn's Conservation Management Network
is proud to present an exhibition of the

Weird & Wonderful Wildlife of Wedderburn.

Visit the Coach House Gallery (Calder Hwy) during July and see photographs, live video footage, actual specimens and have fun with the interactive displays.

You may even meet the infamous 'Mavis' the Mallee fowl.



Exhibition Opening: 2pm Sunday 7th July.

Gallery Hours: Tues, Wed, Thurs. 10am—3pm.
Sunday 14th & 21st. midday– 3pm.

Loddon Plains Landcare Network news

LPLN successful with community engagement grant

The Loddon Plains Landcare Network's Community Landcare Grant application to run a workshop series as part of our GOANNA Project, was one of 53 successful projects in Victoria to receive funding as part of the Australian Government's Caring for our Country program. The program will involve a series of workshops and information sessions on sustainable agriculture and Landcare topics, run by the Network for members and available to the wider community. It will also include a sustainable agriculture and Landcare bus trip as part of the Naturally Loddon Festival in September/October this year.

Landcare Facilitator runner up finalist

Our Landcare Facilitator, Anthony Gallacher was a runner up finalist in the Loddon Powercor Excellence Awards in the category of Employee of the Year, held on the 30th of May, 2013 in Eddington. The dinner was a great social opportunity for the LPLN, which was well represented with two tables at the event. The awards celebration was held at the Eddington Hall and included pre-dinner drinks and canapés, plus a 3 course meal. Musician Mike Brady entertained the crowd and Neil Druce, owner of the June Licorice and Chocolate Factory, provided an insightful and engaging story as guest speaker. Congratulations to all the winners for the evening. Well done to Anthony and the LPLN for making the finals. Thanks to the Loddon Shire, Powercor and other sponsors for putting on a great event.



Peer Group Mentoring Program

The Loddon Plains Landcare Network will be trialling a new Peer Group Mentoring Program. The Network has received assistance from The Norman Wettenhall Foundation in exploring the merits of such a program and ways it could be adapted to the Loddon Plains context.

The Peer Group Mentoring Program is a successful model developed by Otway Agroforestry Network, which has enabled them to employ landholders and farmers as mentors. These mentors, talk to other farmers (mentees) about joining projects and planting out corridors or riparian zones within the network area, as well as other things like sustainable soils, with a focus on addressing issues that the mentee sees on their property.

Articles – Anthony Gallacher

The WCMN is a network including interested individuals and both public and private land managers who come together to promote a shared aim. That shared aim is to work with the community in general to promote profitable, productive and sustainable human enterprises while conserving and indeed enhancing the biodiversity of their area of interest.

For further information concerning any items in this newsletter or other aspects of the WCMN contact

WCMN ranger, Karly Learmonth- 0429 356 285

WCMN President, Michael Moore – 54943542

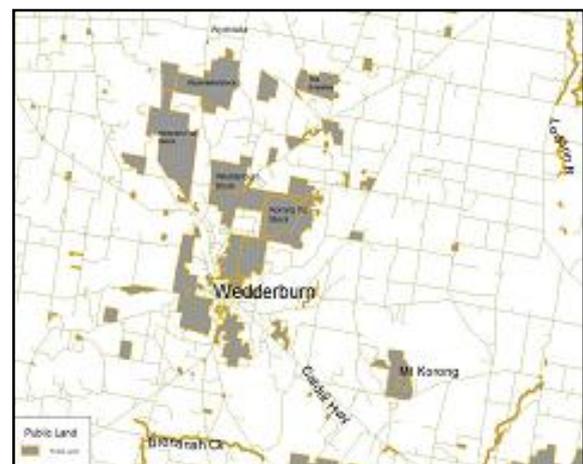
Website addresses

www.wedderburncmn.org

<http://wedderburncmnnews.blogspot.com/>

www.lpln.org.

LPLN- Loddon Plains Landcare Network



The WCMN Area of Interest

‘Proudly supported by the Victorian Government Landcare Grants Program’.