

[View this email in your browser](#)



## October eNews 2017



Welcome to our second Spring Edition of the WPCLN eNews. As the chill of winter fades and the spring wildflowers appear there are many events on offer in the Landcare community. I hope you enjoy reading it and find something that interests you to attend in our beautiful region. We want to find the best means to communicate with all of you as we aspire to do meaningful work and be of service within our local community.

In honour of our successful grant application "Connecting Pockets of Habitat for Nectar Feeders in Westernport Catchment" we are featuring the fabulous Blue Banded Bee which is the largest of Australia's native bees with adults measuring between 10mm and 12mm. This grant will focus on providing and connecting existing habitat for birds, bees, butterflies and bats in both rural and urban settings.

We have a draft Strategic Plan soon to be made public, which will provide direction to our Network for the next three years. As well as this we have a draft (soon to be signed) Partnership Agreement between the Network and the Port Phillip and Westernport CMA, which will outline our shared commitment to work together in making positive environmental changes in the Westernport region.

The task for us as Landcarers is to continue our work in the landscape. We can do this when we do it together and therefore I would like to invite all groups within the network to write a short report and send it

along with a high resolution picture of an event your group has organised to Nicole at [facilitator@wpcln.org.au](mailto:facilitator@wpcln.org.au) so that it fills a single page in our Annual Magazine. This is an opportunity for you to celebrate the great work you all do in your communities and for your members.

I would also like to encourage members to attend our AGM in Neerim South on the **8th November**. After a short meeting we have Dr. Jeff Yugovic, a highly respected botanist as our speaker focusing on "The Food web of southeast Australia with reference to the Westernport catchment" A Predator/Prey Ecology focus. A not to be missed event!! More details will follow in the next week or so.

Marijke de Bever-Price  
President WPCLN

## ***WPCLN Group Reports***

**Back Creek Landcare Group** - held a planting at the Windana Therapeutic Centre at Maryknoll during September. Six Landcare group members plus residents removed hundreds of flax-leaf broom plants, cotoneaster, bridal creeper and Prunus before putting in 600 plants as part of the Powerful Owl project.

**Neerim and District Landcare Group** - held their AGM at the Neerim South Bowls Club where they reviewed aerial drone footage of the work landholders have been doing on the Red Hill Creek as part of the groups threatened species project. The existing committee was re-elected with a few new faces to fill some other positions.

**Westernport Swamp Landcare Group** - held a working bee at the Lang Lang Arboretum where several members cleared tracks, installed signs and painted picnic tables followed by a BBQ lunch.

**Cannibal Creek Landcare Group** - Alan and Angela Forte's planting day held on the 17th September was a great success. Nearly 700 plants were planted by eleven members of the group. Having the planting spots sprayed out and holes dug beforehand greatly aided the project. The spring sunshine plus viewing the growth of our previous planting and the welcome morning tea and lunch added to the success of the day.



Cannibal Creek Landcare member gets stuck in at Alan Forte's planting day at Tonimbuk

## ***Upcoming Landcare Group & Network Activities***

**Cannibal Creek Landcare Group** - next working bee will be held at Arthur Thorpe's property at 100 Mintern Road on Sunday 15th October. We are hoping for a good turn up as we have 500 plants to put in the ground.

**Jindivick Landcare Group** - will be holding their AGM at Kydd/Parke Reserve in Jindivick on 18th October. Their guest speaker Damien Adcock is a local Soil Scientist with a particular interest in soil health, pastures, plant nutrition and agronomy.

**Labertouche Landcare Group** - will be having their group meeting at the Labertouche Community Hall on the 18th October. All welcome.

**Back Creek Landcare Group** - are hosting a Bee Night at Nar Nar Goon North on 26th October. The speaker, Bill Ringin is a volunteer with the Gippsland Aparist Association and has an extensive knowledge of bees.

Come along and learn about this amazing insect and how it is important to human life. This will be a fascinating evening, so come along and learn about ways we can encourage bees to be healthy and happy on our properties.

**Bunyip Landcare Group** - will be holding their AGM on the 26th October at the Bunyip Hall. Their guest speaker will be Dingo advocate Ernest Healy who is a ministerial appointee to the Wild Dog Management Advisory Committee. He will be bringing along a real live Dingo.

#### **Group reports still needed for WPCLN Annual Magazine - 2017**

We still need group reports from several groups for our Annual Magazine. Please forward your report ASAP to Nicole at [facilitator@wpcln.org.au](mailto:facilitator@wpcln.org.au) so we can format and print in time for our Network AGM. We might even award a prize to the most entertaining report.

#### **Connecting Habitat for Nectar Feeders in the Westernport Catchment**

WPLCN was fortunate to receive a Biodiversity On-ground Action - Community & Volunteer Action Grant to address the issue of depleting populations of nectar feeding bees, birds, butterflies and bats by planting a variety of indigenous nectar producing plants throughout the catchment in urban and rural gardens and along existing wildlife corridors.

**List of funded projects:** go to [https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/biodiversity/biodiversity-on-ground-action#Community and Volunteer Action Grants](https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/biodiversity/biodiversity-on-ground-action#Community_and_Volunteer_Action_Grants)

## *Calendar of events*

For more information check out the calendar of events at <http://www.wpcln.org.au/calendar/>

**Sun 15th October** Cannibal Creek Landcare Group Planting Day -  
100 Mintern Road, Tynong North 10am - 1pm

---

**Wed 18th October** Jindivick Landcare Group AGM - Kydd/Parke  
Reserve, Jacksons Track, Jindivick 7.30pm - 9pm

---

**Wed 18th October**      Labertouche Landcare Group Meeting -  
Labertouche Community Centre 8pm

---

**Thurs 19th October**      Melbourne Water Westernport Catchment  
Collaboration - Outlook Community Centre,  
Toomuc Valley Road, Pakenham 9.30 - 12.30am

---

**Tues 24th October**      Aussie Backyard Bird Count - Nangara Reserve,  
Jindivick 8.30am - 10am

---

**Thurs 26th October**      Bunyip Landcare Group AGM - Bunyip Hall 6pm

---

**Thurs 26th October**      Back Creek Landcare Group Bee Night - 196  
Moore Road, Nar Nar Goon, 7.30pm

## ***Training Opportunities***

### **City of Casey Grant Writing Workshops**

Does your community group need new equipment or funding for a much needed project? Learn how to access funding that is available through grants for community groups, schools or not-for-profit organisations.

Please see the [City of Casey website](#) for the complete 2017 schedule of workshops.

### **Grant Writing Advanced Workshop**

Monday 16 October, 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm

City of Casey Civic Centre, Magid Drive, Narre Warren

These free workshops are provided for Community Groups based in or servicing the City of Casey. Please book with City of Casey Customer Service on 9705 5200.

## ***Melbourne Water News***



## **Healthy Waterways Strategy**

**Catchment Collaborations: Co-designing the Westernport Catchment**

**Outlook Community Centre, 24 Toomuc Valley Rd, Pakenham**

**Thursday 19 October 2017, 9.30am - 2.30pm**

Representatives from Westernport Landcare Groups are invited to the first Westernport Catchment Collaboration. Please note only two individuals per group to attend.

The collaborative series of workshops will bring people together to work on:

- Developing a set of goals for the catchment
- Exploring key issues, opportunities and aspirations for everyone in the catchment (e.g. community values)
- Identifying where we can focus our efforts and how we can make this happen – for example collaborating on targets and actions to achieve catchment goals

Our first workshop in the series will be on 19 October and will cover:

- A snapshot of the catchment - including an overview and assessment of the condition of waterways in the catchment versus what we hoped for in the Healthy Waterways Strategy.
- Key issues and opportunities in the Westernport catchment that need attention.
- What does success look like when we work together in Collaborative Design?

Outcomes from this event series will feed into the development of the next [Healthy Waterways Strategy](#).

We look forward to having your involvement and hope you can make it. Please invite others along who have a shared and invested interest in the Westernport catchment. Registration is essential and will be taken online via Eventbrite ([register now](#)).

If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact the Healthy Waterways Project Team [waterways.strategy@melbournewater.com.au](mailto:waterways.strategy@melbournewater.com.au).

## ***Open Grants and Funding***



Applications for the **Melbourne Water Healthy Community Grants** close at **6pm Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2017**.

The application process will follow the same format as last year, with applications completed online via the SmartyGrants system.

#### **How much funding is available this year?**

Support grants: \$1,000

Project Grants: \$20,000

#### **How to apply**

Visit the [Melbourne Water](#) webpage for more information.

#### **Melbourne Water Community Grant Assistance**

If there are any issues accessing this online form, please send us an email at [river.health@melbournewater.com.au](mailto:river.health@melbournewater.com.au) or call our Customer Service Centre on 131 722.

**Community Skills Development Grants 2017/18:** These grants aim to enable groups and networks to strengthen their capacity, develop their skills, and operate more effectively, through:

- Supporting learning, development and training opportunities, and
- Encouraging knowledge sharing and skills development.

**Who can apply:** Victorian volunteer community-based environment groups and networks that are involved in the delivery on-ground environmental works can apply.

**Funding available:** \$600,000 will be shared across the two funding streams outlined below:

- **Stream 1 (Individual Group Grants) – individual groups can apply for up to \$5,000.**
- **Stream 2 (Network or Partnership Grants) – networks or partnerships of networks and groups can apply for up to \$20,000.**

**Guidelines & application forms:** the Guidelines can be accessed via <https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/grants/community-skills-development-grants> and include links to the online SmartyGrants application forms.

**For more information:** see the Guidelines, contact the Victorian Grants Information Line on 1300 366 356 or email [landcare@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:landcare@delwp.vic.gov.au)

**Applications close: 5pm Thursday 12 October 2017.**

**The Andrews Foundation:** Grants are made to organisations in Victoria and the Trust gives priority to Social Disadvantage, needs and problems, Aged care/Health, Environmental needs/problems. Please refer to their website for more information:

<http://www.andrewsfoundation.org.au/apply/eligibility.htm>

***Melbourne Water Stream Frontage Program***

Available all year

<http://www.melbournewater.com.au/getinvolved/applyforfunding/pages/stream-frontage-management-program.aspx>

***Rural Land Program – Melbourne Water***

Available all year

<http://www.melbournewater.com.au/getinvolved/applyforfunding/Pages/Rural-land-program.aspx>

***EPA Inspiring Environmental Solutions community funding program***

Throughout the year

Around \$25,000 to \$100,000.

<http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/our-work/programs/inspiring-environmental-solutions>

***RE Ross Trust***

D: The Protection & Preservation of Australian Flora and Fauna

Available all year round

Up to \$10 000 for one year

<http://rosstrust.org.au/grants/apply-for-a-grant/>

***CARDINIA SHIRE Weed control grants*** are available to help landowners and community groups control noxious and environmental weeds on private property, both in agricultural areas and areas of high environmental value. Applications for the current round of grants are available from 1st July 2017.

[https://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/info/20021/supporting\\_our\\_community/208/apply\\_for\\_a\\_weed\\_control\\_grant](https://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/info/20021/supporting_our_community/208/apply_for_a_weed_control_grant)

***Canon Environmental Grants***

Each year Canon Oceania appeals for applicants for its annual environmental grants program. Grants in-kind worth \$26,000 (11K AUD and 15K NZD) are available to Australian and New Zealand schools, community groups and not-for-profit organisations making a positive impact on their environment and community.

<https://www.canon.com.au/about-canon/community/environmental-grants>

***The Ian Potter Foundation Environment & Conservation Program.***

The Program considers large grants (\$100,000 and over) within two themes: fostering biodiversity, and water and/or land management.

<http://www.ianpotter.org.au/what-we-support/environment-and-conservation>

***The Norman Wettenhall Foundation Small Environmental Grant Scheme***

The Small Environmental Grant Scheme will provide support for groups or individuals undertaking projects that will make a positive difference to the natural living environment, in land, sea or air, rural or urban.

At the moment we are looking for projects around flora and fauna conservation, threatened mammal conservation, and landscape restoration and education. These projects should involve any of the following:

- monitoring, recording and sharing data
- delivering community education
- providing community capacity building (e.g. skills training, organisation)
- research and science

<http://nwf.org.au/grants/small-environmental-grants/>

### ***The Propeller Fund***

Ongoing

Propeller exists to share the inspirational stories of the young change-makers of Australia and support others to start their own projects.

This Propeller Fund provides 1 x \$500 grant per week to a young individual to assist with helping them start their own short film project with a social or environmental focus that demonstrates local impact and have community networks and support.

Applicants must be between 12 and 25 years of age at the time of application.

For more information, visit the [Propeller website](#)

## ***Sustainable Farming Discussion Group***

The Sustainable Farming Discussion Group runs on a monthly basis and is held at a different farm each month. Each month a different topic is covered with the topics decided by the participants. These could include; managing wet soils, aeration, pasture identification, pasture management, weed control etc. This group is targeted towards grazing farmers (primarily beef & sheep) and we are a friendly bunch of farmers! [Information notes are produced each month and these can be found here.](#) If you would like more information please contact Peter at [peter@wpcln.org.au](mailto:peter@wpcln.org.au)

## ***Research News***

Things are moving fast in the field of novel ecosystem management.

Here is the current version of: Yugovic J 2017. When predators go missing – rise of the herbivores: native mammal herbivore imbalance and the predator-prey ecology of southeast Australia. September 2017.

[spiffa.org/do-ecosystems-need-top-predators](http://spiffa.org/do-ecosystems-need-top-predators)

This is an extension of the 2015 paper in *The Victorian Naturalist*.

---

# Next Generation Forest Plantation Investment



A research project funded by forest industry partners and the Australian Government through Forest and Wood Products Australia



## Project Aim

To bring a combination of actors together to design and test new models of investment in planted forests. This approach presents an opportunity to learn from past experiences in order to design more sustainable and attractive models for planted forest investment that meet the requirements of industry, landowners, capital investors and other stakeholders

## Rationale

- Globally there is a growing demand for wood. To meet this future demand, the global area of tree plantations may need to double by 2050.
- There is a considerable area of farmland in Australia where different types of forest would benefit agricultural production and provide environmental benefits.
- There are strong policy drivers to invest in trees to mitigate climate change and support forest landscape restoration objectives and significant sources of capital for investment in forest assets. However, there has been limited recent investment in new plantations.
- This lack of new investment and relatively flat plantation timber supply are strong constraints on new investment and expansion in the forest processing sector and likely to lead to an increasing reliance on imported timber products.



Contact: Professor Rod Keenan [rkeenan@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:rkeenan@unimelb.edu.au), 0428 330 8860

## The opportunity

There is potentially significant capital available for investment in plantation assets in Australia. This is coupled with a considerable area of farmland in Australia suitable for integrating trees into agricultural systems with potential benefits for production. Further, there are policy drivers to invest in trees to mitigate climate change and support forest landscape restoration objectives. In order to realise this opportunity, the land sector requires of coalition of stakeholders working together to design a best fit solution for all stakeholders.



## Approach

Research will be conducted in a 200 km radius of the Colac-Otway and Central Gippsland regions of Victoria.

A land feasibility assessment will determine

the available land base within a suite of criteria that consider a range of investment pathways, for a variety of stakeholders, to promote the incorporation of trees in rural landscapes.



## Outcomes

- Improved understanding of land available for planted forest investment in target regions
- Detailed understanding of land owner attitudes with regard to the forest sector and planted forests and their requirements for plantation investment
- Understanding the requirements of different types of investors
- New business models for investment in planted forests for a range of objectives, including environmental values
- Improved understanding and benchmarking of policies and incentives that have been implemented in Australia and internationally to stimulate plantation investment
- Increased trust between, investors, forest industry sector and landowners
- New thinking in the forest sector with regard to working with landowners and investors

*The industry needs more wood, the environment needs more trees, investors need sustainable and reliable sources of return on capital and farmers need new income options that are integrated with their agricultural operations.*

The project is funded by the Commonwealth Government's Voluntary Matching Program, co-funded by Hancock Victoria Plantations Ltd, Midway Ltd, Australian Paper, AKD Softwoods and OneFortyOne Plantations Ltd with research conducted through the University of Melbourne, with additional support from Swinburne University of Technology. Forest and Wood Products Australia administer the project on behalf of the Department of Agriculture and Water.

**Weed News - Ragwort Season is here**



Baw Baw Shire Council is reminding residents of legal requirements to control noxious weeds on properties ahead of peak weed season in Spring.

See the full release: [Preparing for Noxious Weed Season](#)

## *Resources for Loan*

- Wildlife CDs by Ed McNabb: Frog Calls of Melbourne and Night life of Australia
- Bird Field Guides
- Fungi Field Guide by Bruce Fuhrer
- Digital recording devices to record wildlife sounds
- Cat Traps (\$30 refundable deposit)
- Wildlife cameras (\$50 refundable deposit)
- Hamilton & Hiko tree planters
- Mallets

Contact [info@wpcln.org.au](mailto:info@wpcln.org.au)

## *WPCLN Contacts*

Peter Ronalds  
Sustainable Agriculture Manager  
(Monday - Friday)  
Mob: 0402 650 382  
Email: [peter@wpcln.org.au](mailto:peter@wpcln.org.au)

Bridgette Sullivan  
Landcare Projects Facilitator  
(Monday & Tuesday)  
Mob: 0407 205 749  
Email: [bridgette@wpcln.org.au](mailto:bridgette@wpcln.org.au)

Marijke de Bever-Price  
President/Secretary of WPCLN  
Ph.: 5628-5345 | Mob: 0438 522 743  
Email: [outcon@outlook.com](mailto:outcon@outlook.com)

Mariea Pacheco  
Vice-President of WPCLN  
Email: [mariea68pacheco@gmail.com](mailto:mariea68pacheco@gmail.com)

Ian Maclagan  
Treasurer of WPCLN  
Email: [iwmaclagan@gmail.com](mailto:iwmaclagan@gmail.com)

Nicole Walsh  
Landcare Group Facilitator  
(Monday - Wednesday)  
Mob: 0488 013 613  
Email: [facilitator@wpcln.org.au](mailto:facilitator@wpcln.org.au)

Carol Hoskins  
Office Manager(Tuesday 1-5pm)  
Office: 0490 855 902  
Email: [admin@wpcln.org.au](mailto:admin@wpcln.org.au)

Proud partners with Melbourne Water



---

*Copyright © 2017 Western Port Landcare Network, All rights reserved.*

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

MailChimp