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A Word from the President - September 2017



Spring has arrived! The year is marching on and it's been pretty cold and wet making it difficult to undertake ground works, but nevertheless, things are happening.

A number of groups have already had their AGM's or are preparing to hold them.

The Network AGM will be held on **Wednesday the 8th November**. After a quick meeting we have Dr Jeff Yugovic BSc (Hons) PhD as our guest speaker. Jeff is an experienced ecologist with extensive knowledge of the flora and fauna of south-east Australia. Jeff has extensive expertise in native vegetation assessment and management with over 30 years of professional experience in the public and private sectors. He has published numerous scientific reports and papers and has supervised the management of conservation reserves. Having heard him speak, I believe his views will challenge your thinking. More details about the Network AGM will be forthcoming well in advance of the date.

We are also preparing our Annual Magazine. I would like to encourage all groups to send in a report including high-resolution photos, which will add interest. This is an opportunity for you all to celebrate the

wonderful environmental improvements you are making locally and the care you show for our country which will allow for the ongoing survival of our native flora and fauna.

Since our last Network eNews staff have moved into our office in Koo Wee Rup. It's a great location and particularly handy in being so close to our strategic partner Melbourne Water. I would like to thank the staff for their hard work in transitioning to this new location so smoothly.

Nicole our facilitator and newest staff member has hit the ground running having attended a few Landcare Groups meetings and events. She brings with her a great deal of knowledge and experience. If there is any information or support your group requires or you would like to run an idea past Nicole, please don't hesitate to call or email her.

Looking forward to chatting with you as I move around the Network listening to your thoughts at meetings and events.

Marijke

WPCLN Group & Network Events

Westernport Swamp Landcare AGM

Westernport Swamp Landcare Group held their Annual General Meeting on the 7th August at the Bayles Hall. A new committee has been appointed with the previous office bearers being re-elected unanimously.

Cannibal Creek Powerful Owl planting

The Cannibal Creek Landcare Group held a planting day at Arthur Thorpe's property at Tynong North to help put in 550 plants during August. Ten members from the group turned up to lend a hand and enjoy a fabulous morning tea and lunch. Many thanks to Arthur's wife Lyn for feeding everyone.

Six members from Cannibal Creek Landcare Group also attended the State Landcare Awards Ceremony at Government House on the 1st September. The group was nominated for Fairfax Media Landcare Community Group Award Category. The winner was the Tarrangower Cactus Control Group. Congratulations to Cannibal Creek on their nomination and all the other award nominees and winners.



Cannibal Creek Landcare members take a well earned break from planting at Tynong North

So you want to be a Citizen Science Field Day

Bunyip Landcare Group held a field day at Bunyip Reserve on the 27th August to help train and inspire community members to become Citizen Scientists by showing them how to use a Smartphone App in the field to collect data on native flora and fauna.

Group reports needed for WPCLN Annual Magazine - 2017

With the Network AGM not far away we need to put together our Annual Magazine for 2017. Can groups please forward a 1-2 page report on your groups activities for the period July 2016 to June 2017. Photos in JPEG format in excess of 1MG in size would be appreciated. Please forward your reports to facilitator@wpcln.org.au by the end of September.

Ripe for Change Grant

The Network was successful with our application through the Ripe For Change through the Casey Cardinia Foundation for 'Mentoring and Growing a network of native foods producers', this grant aims to involve all community members not just those with farms how they can grow native foods for personal use and perhaps into the future something more. Stay tuned for updates.

Hillcrest Christian College Field Trip

Four Year 12 VCE students from Hillcrest Christian College in Berwick spent the day with Peter Ronalds visiting two properties at Labertouche to learn how to monitor salinity in groundwater and to look at the effects of streambank erosion. They also stopped for lunch at Picnic Point on the Tarago River to try their hand at macroinvertebrate sampling.



Calendar of events

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

Wed 13th September Facebook 101 for Landcare Groups - Darnum
Recreation Reserve 6 - 8.30pm

Sunday 17th September Back Creek Landcare Group Planting at Windana
Centre - 254 Snell Road, Maryknoll 9am-
12.30pm

Thurs 21st September Healthy Soils, Nutritional Food, Healthy People -
Drouin Golf Club 10am - 2pm

Thurs 21st September Neerim and District Landcare Group AGM -
Neerim South Bowling Club - 7pm

Sat 23rd September Westernport Swamp Landcare Group - Lang
Lang Aboretum Working Bee

Training Opportunities



Facebook 101 for Landcare Groups



Do you want to set up or expand on your Landcare group Facebook page?

Join us to learn the basics of Facebook for your Landcare group. Facebook can be an effective way of promoting events, getting new members and sharing information. The workshop will focus on building your online community, the do's and don'ts of posts, what all the settings mean and content planning.

Rosedale Workshop: Tuesday 12th September, 6.30 to 8.30pm, Rosedale Rec Reserve Club Rooms

Darnum Workshop: Wednesday 13th September, 6.30 to 8.30pm, Darnum Rec Reserve Club Rooms

Leongatha Workshop: Tuesday 19th September, 6.30 to 8.30pm, West Gippsland CMA Office

The workshops will be run by Erika McInerney from Mac&Ernie Social Media.

RSVP essential: call Kathleen Brack 1300 094 262 or email kathleenb@wgoma.vic.gov.au by 8th of September. A pizza tea will be provided and places are limited.

This project is supported by the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, through funding from the Victorian Landcare Program and the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme.





The poster is for a 'Baw Baw environmental event' held at Nangara Reserve. It features a green wave graphic with the text 'Baw Baw environmental event' and a 'BAW BAW SHIRE COUNCIL' logo. The event is titled 'Friends of Nangara Reserve - Aussie Backyard Bird Count'. It includes details on the date (Tuesday 24th October), time (8:30am - 10:00am), and location (Nangara Reserve, Nangara Road, Jindivick). A description encourages participation in a 20-minute bird survey using the Aussie Bird Count App. Logos for 'Aussie Backyard BIRD COUNT' and 'birdlife AUSTRALIA' are also present.

Baw Baw environmental event

Friends of Nangara Reserve - Aussie Backyard Bird Count

Date: Tuesday 24th October
 Time: 8:30am - 10:00am
 Place: Nangara Reserve, Nangara Road, Jindivick

Come and join local bird experts to learn about birds in your backyard. With the help of experienced bird watchers, take part in a 20 minute bird survey using the Aussie Bird Count App. This is a great way to learn more about your local environment and to help collect valuable data for BirdLife Australia.

Please R.S.V.P by Thursday 19th October.
 Contact: Carolyn Ferguson, Bushland Team Leader, Baw Baw Shire, 5624 2409.

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 Basic Workshop

Monday 11 September, 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm
 City of Casey Civic Centre, Magid Drive, Narre Warren

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.

Landcare News

Media Release

Lily D'Ambrosio MP
Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
Minister for Suburban Development



Friday, 1 September, 2017

CELEBRATING VICTORIA'S LANDCARE GROUPS

The State's best and brightest Landcare advocates were acknowledged at the 2017 Victorian Landcare Awards ceremony at Government House today.

Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change Lily D'Ambrosio presented awards, alongside the Governor of Victoria, Her Excellency the Honourable Linda Dessau AC and Patron-In-Chief of Landcare in Victoria.

The Landcare Awards are an opportunity to showcase people and projects that are contributing to sustainable agriculture and the protection of Victoria's environment.

This year's awards received significant interest from right across the state, with 85 nominations submitted across the 14 categories.

Victorian award winners include:

- Blackburn & District Tree Preservation Society (Urban Landcare Award)
- Bret Ryan, Corangamite CMA (Dr Sidney Plowman Award)
- Connecting Country (Landcare Network Award)
- Sandii Lewis (Victorian Farmers Federation/Landcare Victoria Inc. Heather Mitchell Memorial Fellowship)
- Terry Hubbard (Joan Kirner Landcare Award).

All state winners of the nine national categories will now proceed as finalists to the 2018 National Landcare Awards.

The Andrews Labor Government has invested \$86.3 million over four years for the continued preservation of Victoria's vital ecosystems, as well as an ongoing funding of \$20 million per year to deliver the Protecting Victoria's Environment program.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change Lily D'Ambrosio

"It's fantastic to see such a diverse range of groups and individuals recognised for their significant contribution to the conservation of Victoria's biodiversity."

"We understand the important role Landcare plays getting communities involved in the protection of our unique environment."

Go to this link for the *Winners* booklet to read read stories on each of the award winners

<https://www.landcarevic.org.au/resources/victorian-landcare-awards-recipient/2017-victorian-landcare-awards-winners-booklet/>



25 new school garden projects receive funding

We would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who submitted applications for the Yates Junior Landcare Grants for Gardens program. We were super impressed by the huge number of awesome ideas which made it difficult for us to select winning recipients.

Thanks to Yates, we were able to fund ten extra projects, so 3,000 students in 25 schools across seven states will soon be putting on their gardening gloves and getting stuck into creating their dream gardens. [Read more >](#)

Open Grants and Funding



Melbourne Water are pleased to announce that the 2017/18 Healthy Waterways Community Grants applications will be opening **soon**.

The Community Grants period will run for five weeks from **9am Monday 11th September 2017** until **6pm Monday 16th October 2017**.

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

How to apply

You will receive an 'Open Now' notification email on Monday 11th September, which will provide all the links and information to complete your application.

You can also visit the [Melbourne Water](#) webpage for more information.

How much funding is available this year?

Support grants: \$1,000

Project Grants: \$20,000

Community Grant Assistance

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

PPWCMA Community Grants 2017-18 close on 25th September

The Port Phillip & Westernport CMA Community Grants 2017-18 are again offering **project grants of up to**

\$30,000 and group support/start-up grants of up to \$500.

Each year the Port Phillip & Westernport CMA offers grants to community groups and volunteer-based organisations to support the important work they undertake in the region. These grants support community groups and assist with non-waterway focussed projects and activities that protect environmental assets, address priority issues and improve the health of the environment.

These grants are funded through the **Victorian Landcare Grants Program** and the **National Landcare Programme**. It's important that you familiarise yourself with each program's priorities as this may affect your project's completion date if you are successful. More details are available in the grant guidelines [here](#).

Project grants up to \$30,000

In 2017-18, approximately \$434,000 (\$184,000 from the Victorian Government's Victorian Landcare Grants program and \$250,000 from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme) will be allocated, but please note that projects funded from the NLP source must be completed and reported on by the 31st July 2017 (ie only projects that can be fully delivered in less than 9 months will be eligible). Projects funded from the VLG source must be completed and reported on by the 30th November 2017.

The PPWCMA will allocate projects to the most appropriate funding stream.

The grant guidelines are available online [here](#), as is the application form – [Word version](#) and [PDF version](#). Please read the two together as they have been designed as complementary documents.

Landcare Group Support grants of \$500

If you are eligible, and only want to apply for a 2017-18 group support/start-up grant of \$500, all you need to do is complete the online Landcare survey by 25th September 2017. You do not need to submit a separate application form. The survey data you provide will enable the production of the 2016-17 Port Phillip and Westernport Landcare Report Card.

To be eligible to receive a \$500 PPWCMA Group Support grant you need to complete this survey. If you are not applying for a PPWCMA Project Grant then you need only complete this survey to apply for the Support grant.

Survey for Landcare groups: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/1617PPWLandcareGROUP>

Complete the survey to go into the running to win a wildlife camera!



Applicants are encouraged to submit their surveys electronically. If you have any difficulties please contact Doug Evans doug.evans@ppwcma.vic.gov.au

For your chance to win please complete the survey by Monday, 25th September 2017.

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.

Please read the Guidelines before commencing the application form.

Applications close: 5pm Thursday 12 October 2017.

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

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 Corridors of Green Grants

The Melbourne Water Corridors of Green Grants cover projects that improve river health, such as weed control, fencing off rivers and creeks, revegetation (replanting) with indigenous plants and creating management plans.

Applications close 30 June 2017.

<https://www.melbournewater.com.au/getinvolved/applyforfunding/Pages/Corridors-of-Green-funding.aspx>

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

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 id, 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

New research

Please find the link below to a fascinating report on the study of *Banksia spinulosa* species and age of reproductive maturity which has implications for ecological burning in natural resource areas. The report found the time to reproductive maturity for *B. spinulosa* is at least 14 years, by which time most individuals have viable seed. Below 10 years of age most plants produce no seed.

Your links will be valid until 28/9/2017

Reproductive maturity for *Banksia spinulosa* report ECBRL AGGBRL final (003).pdf:

<http://support.cardinia.vic.gov.au/FileDownload/1503976563236-reproductive-maturit.pdf>

Biodiversity Matters

Despite often roosting in large numbers in metropolitan areas, the Grey-headed fox is a threatened species in Victoria. Known for their fly-outs at sunset, you may find flying foxes visiting your backyard, orchards and nearby parks to feed on tasty fruit, nectar and blossoms.

DELWP have requested local Council's to disseminate the attached information regarding the safe size bird netting over fruit trees to avoid accidentally trapping the Grey Headed Flying Fox.

<https://www.wildlife.vic.gov.au/our-wildlife/flying-foxes/victorias-flying-fox-colonies>

<https://www.wildlife.vic.gov.au/managing-wildlife/wildlife-and-fruit-trees>



Weed News - Sweet Pittosporum

Earlier this year the community weed group StopPitt organised a forum in Red Hill where they discussed the management of the Environmental weed Sweet Pittosporum. The group has compiled the comments and suggestions from the forum into a single document. Hopefully the information provided will be of use to you and your members in the management of this and other weed species.

The document links with the StopPitt long term strategic plan, and builds on the information already collected by StopPitt in previous publications. Please find their original StopPitt - Sweet Pittosporum booklet "The invasion of the Dandenong Ranges by Sweet Pittosporum (*Pittosporum undulatum*) and the wider implications", and their Red Hill Forum document "StopPitt management booklet 2017" at the link below.

<http://www.stoppitt.org.au/about-pittosporum.html>

StopPitt's long term strategic plan is also available on the home page of their Website via the link above.

They invite you to follow their Facebook page and website so as to keep informed and up to date regarding what they at have achieved so and future StopPitt events

<https://www.facebook.com/stoppittosporum/>

If you have any questions or comments regarding the information provided here please contact Ben O'Leary, StopPitt Program Chairman at benjamin.oleary@monash.edu

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
- Hamilton & Hiko tree planters

Contact info@wpcln.org.au

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