

Wodonga Urban Landcare Network Inc.



PO Box 44,
Wodonga VIC 3689
Phone: 0357 283 302, Mobile: 0428 565 195
facilitator@wodongaurbanlandcarenetwork.org.au
www.wodongaurbanlandcarenetwork.org.au



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Opportunities to be involved



Baranduda Landcare Biennial General Meeting - Tues Feb 11th: 7.30pm Baranduda Community Centre. Guest speaker Glenda Datson will overview a history of the award winning Albury Wodonga Development Corporation AWDC urban reforestation (revegetation) program that helped protect hill tops, streams and gullies in the region – and laid the foundation for our current WREN (Wodonga Retained Environment Network) – the integrated system of wildlife reserves in the Leneva Baranduda 'growth zone'. For more details see: <http://northeast.landcarevic.net.au/baranduda/events/baranduda-landcare-meeting-1-2014>



Community Gardening in the Park and Waterwatch, Sunday 16 Feb: 9.30-11.30 with Friends of Willow Park - Meet near the BBQ in Willow Park for a variety of gardening activities in Willow Park, including planting, mulching, weeding (and chatting)... BYO Water, sunscreen and hat. Stay for morning tea after gardening.



WULN Quarterly Gathering - Wednesday 19th Feb: 6-9pm, venue to be arranged. Take the opportunity to catch up with what's been happening in Wodonga's parks and reserves and what's in the pipeline. A brief report from each WULN member group, a guided tour around the host site and a shared dinner. This is the time to keep our Network on track with discussion of progress, upcoming activities and projects, so come along, enjoy some like minded company and add your voice. RSVP to WULN facilitator Anne Stelling 0428 565 195 anne.stelling@landcarevic.net.au



Victorian Local Government Adaptation Mentor positions vacant: Skilled mentors will be recruited across the State to provide practical targeted support to local government to build their communities' climate resilience. Recruitment of mentors is the next stage of the Victorian Adaptation and Sustainability Partnership and will build on the strong relationship between state and local government through the Municipal Association of Victoria. Funding for the initiative is one of a suite of measures to support local government action on climate adaptation and the delivery of the Victorian Climate Change Adaptation Plan. For more information visit <http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/vasp> To view a Position Description visit <http://www.mav.asn.au/careers/Pages/work-for-us.aspx>



Vic Landcare Council calling for local input into May 2014 Meeting: The Victorian Landcare Council will be meeting in our region on 17-18 May 2014. The Council meets three times per year, rotating around the Victorian catchment regions. Delegates will convene from around the state and have an opportunity to meet our local landcare leaders. There will be local field trips, workshops, presentations, a dinner and plenty of networking. Please put the dates in your diary. Suggestions on topics, presenters and key local leaders to be included are most welcome. For more information about the VLC see www.vlc.org.au Please contact Phil Horner with your ideas: 0408930508 philhorner@bigpond.com



Add your voice – share your stories – get involved online: We encourage you to subscribe to the WULN Website and the pages of interest within. Each of our member groups have a page within the site and you can register with one or all to contribute photos, stories, links and information. Visit our site at <http://wodongaurbanlandcarenetwork.org.au/> and check out the different options for getting involved.

Learning Opportunities



Low Stress Stock Handling Course – Jan 2014: Holbrook Landcare Network's Women in Ag will host a very special event in the week of 13-17 January 2014. Graham Rees from Low Stress Stockhandling, will run a 2 day Training School addressing the basics of yard and paddock stock-handling for better productivity, safety, quality and efficiency. The mission is to meet the needs of families and contractors to handle stock in a calm and confident manner in all situations that increases productivity, improves meat quality, is more safe and efficient for the farmers and reduces animals and peoples' stress!

Contractors and employees of abattoirs, saleyards and any livestock operations are welcome. Agents, shearers, contractors, wives, husbands, friends and children are welcome. The more people in different jobs we train, the better our stock will be handled along the whole supply chain. The cost will be between \$50 and \$150 per person. *Please pass this invitation onto anyone you think may benefit. Please register your interest at the Holbrook Landcare Network Office on 60363181 or call Edwina 0427 267 753 to discuss the details.*



Landcare farming – makes sense and money. The Woody Yaloak Story:

The next free National Landcare Webinar will be with Cam Nicholson from the Woody Yaloak Catchment Group in Victoria on the 12th February 2014 at 12.30 pm (eastern daylight saving time). The Woody Yaloak Group has conducted surveys of its members that have allowed it to track the environmental and economic impact of their activities and those of its members since its inception and has most recently concluded a major assessment of the last 10 years. The results at both the environmental and farm viability level are impressive with farms now larger, more profitable and with greater equity. So join us on the 12th February for informative insights into the benefits of Landcare farming and the work of yet another great Landcare group. Register at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5563444528868622849>



Native Grass ID Workshop – Tues March 4th:

6pm with Sue Brunskill, NSW Environment Centre Riverina Tafe presenter at Baranduda Community Centre. Free members workshop organised by Baranduda Landcare. Please register your expression of interest to attend. Numbers limited. See BLCare Events page for more details: <http://northeast.landcarevic.net.au/baranduda/events>



Secrets to Successful Groups Training – March/April 2014:

Watch this space for registration details for this free training from the Farm, Tree and Landcare Association of Victoria. Includes training on a range of aspects in managing groups and functioning well as a committee of management.

Opportunities to have your say



Trans Pacific Partnership – what is being signed in our name? Choice has put out a call for transparency in the Trans Pacific Partnership agreements currently in negotiation by the Federal Government. For further information see [the Choice website here](#).

Resources & Inspiration



NE Landcare is on Facebook and you too can post to the page: Post all relevant events on the NE Landcare & Sustainability Facebook page here: www.facebook.com/NELandcare



Free Landcare group accounting tool offer: After the recent National Landcare Webinar on "Little River Landcare – why it works" Stephen Dummett from AGDATA has kindly made the Landcare/farming systems groups the offer of a free download of an accounting package called "Phoenix Lite". "On the recent National Landcare Webinar on Little River Landcare "why it works", Pip Job described that having sound business processes and tools in place was one of the key elements that helped reinvigorate Little River Landcare Inc. into one of the most dynamic Landcare Groups in the country. AGDATA Australia was on that webinar and thought that here was an opportunity to help these not for

profit groups by providing their Treasurers with an accounting tool that could easily be moved from one Treasurer to the next with ease and was simple to use. Under their Community Involvement Program, AG-DATA Australia is offering your group a free download of Phoenix Lite. If your group would like to take advantage of this offer, please contact Stephen directly at – AGDATA Australia Pty Ltd on 4350, 074632 8488 stephend@agdata.com.au quoting Little River Landcare offer. You will then be sent a download URL and an activation code.



Free In Safe Hands Toolkit available for download: Conservation Volunteers Australia and the Conservation Skills Centre are pleased to inform you that the REVISED and UPDATED In Safe Hands Toolkit (3rd Edition) is now available. Go to www.insafehands.org.au If you have previously downloaded the Toolkit it is recommended to download the new Edition with NEW inclusions.



Native Plant Guide App: The 'Native Plant Guide App' for your iPhone, iPad or iPod Touch has had an update and is available from the industry respected book and desktop application The Australian Native Plant Guide by Dr Peter Yau and Tim Langdon. The guide delivers specific information about Australia's wonderful native flora. To purchase the 'Native Plant Guide App', click <http://itunes.apple.com/au/app/native-plant-guide/id402131549?mt=8> or enter "native plant guide" in the search box at the App Store on your



Australian Freshwater Invertebrates: An interactive online Guide with colour digital imagery to assist in the identification of aquatic invertebrates <http://www.mdfrc.org.au/bugguide/>



Local call to action on climate change: Video clip of eminent Border resident's call for stronger action on climate change <http://watch.id.au/2013/11/30/eminent-border-residents-call-for-stronger-action-on-climate-change/>



Results of National Landcare Survey: A recent survey by National Landcare of 500 farmers from a diverse range of industries found that Farmers have consistently ranked pest and weed control as their top Landcare issues. The total average spend per farm over the last 12 months on pest & weed control was \$20 640 (\$15 756 weeds and \$4 884 for pests). With 89% of farmers saying that they undertake weed control and 74% undertaking pest control. This equates to a national annual expenditure (based on 2011-12 ABS figures of numbers of Australian farms as 135 692), by farmers of approximately \$2.38 billion. A massive effort and significant contribution by farmers that often is not recognised. Full survey summary available at: http://www.landcareonline.com.au/?page_id=9184



Making the case for Family Farming: A great clip explaining the importance of family farming for our food systems around the world. http://foodtank.org/news/2013/12/making-the-case-for-family-farming?utm_source=Food+Tank%3A+The+Food+Think+Tank&utm_campaign=bb0f35d8c6-Holidays&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_c6d5c4b977-bb0f35d8c6-12617277

Funding Opportunities



Telstra's Kids Fund grants available: To support a broad range of initiatives and projects including education, sports and recreation, arts and culture, environment, social issues and disability programs. Permanent Telstra Group employees can apply for a Telstra's Kids Fund grant of \$1,200 to support a project or activity run by a not-for-profit organisation involving a child, 18 years or under, in their immediate family. If you know a member of your community group is a Telstra employee - why not check with them about applying on behalf of your group.

Each year \$750,000 is given to local community organisations on behalf of children related to Telstra employees. There are three funding rounds per year. Schools, sporting clubs, hospitals and childcare centres have benefited from Telstra's Kids Fund. Requests for musical equipment, educational resources, sport and recreation equipment and building upgrades have been among the grants given by Telstra's Kids Fund. For Guidelines: <http://www.kidsfund.telstrafoundation.com/dir148/tfweb.nsf/telstraskidsfund/whocanapply?OpenDocument&menu=2>



SITA Community Grants applications open. SITA's community grants program is encouraging applications from local not for profit organisations for monetary grants between \$500 and \$5000 each. As a leader in the resource recovery and waste management industry, sustainability is at the heart of SITA's operations. The company is committed to supporting long-term, positive outcomes in the communities in which it operates. The program is specifically intended to support a diverse range of organisations located in the communities in which SITA operates. Eligible projects will address one or more of the key focus areas of the grants program, which are: To encourage community involvement and improve the quality of the local environment; Develop environmental awareness and inspire participation in sustainable activities through education; Contribute to improved health and wellbeing; and Support and encourage recreation and community building. Applications close 31st Jan 2014. See <http://sitacommunitygrants.com.au/about-us/sita-community-grants>

WULN Activities for 2014 Watch this Space for...

Wodonga Creeks Forums: In 2014 we will be working with our member groups, North East Catchment Management Authority, City of Wodonga and others to organise a series of community forums to develop plans for the future of the four main creeks in Wodonga. This will be a great opportunity to learn more about our creeks and be a part of the development of 'source to river' Community Management Plans for Huon, House, Felltimber and Castle Creeks. To be a part of the project reference team and help develop this project, please speak to WULN facilitator Anne Stelling 0428 565 195 anne.stelling@landcarevic.net.au

Wodonga Transform-a-thon: We will be working with local Scouts and schools to set up a fundraising 'a-thon' for them, while transforming a local site with a weeding and planting event and providing education on weeds and native plants of our area – a 'win-win' for all involved!

Sustainability Education Network: We will continue to host the Wodonga Local Sustainability Education Network, providing Sustainability Ed. information and opportunities through our Bulletin and website, linking educators with local contacts and organizing a quarterly gathering hosted by one of our fantastic local education sites. If you would like to be a part of this network please let me know: Anne Stelling 0428 565 195 anne.stelling@landcarevic.net.au. No fees involved.

Restoring Local Parks and Reserves: We will be supporting our member groups to continue their great work in revegetation, weeding and improving habitat for native wildlife in Wodonga. Expect to see many opportunities to join with planting days and other projects throughout 2014.

Building land care and sustainability skills in the community: We will continue to network within the community; linking people with skills they are willing to share with those who need them, linking students needing projects to groups needing such assistance, arranging training opportunities, locating equipment that can be borrowed for events etc.

Supporting Landcare and Friends groups: WULN is an incorporated body which offers membership to community groups both formal and less formal. Our larger, incorporated, member groups support the Network, allowing the Network to support the unincorporated groups. We are able to support small groups by providing governance through our Committee of Management and insurance for Landcare related activities. Our membership fees are very affordable. If you would like to explore these possibilities further please contact Anne Stelling 0428 565 195 anne.stelling@landcarevic.net.au.

Many thanks to all of our members for a great year of land care and sustainability in Wodonga, and for contributing your time and energy to the governance of our Network. Special thanks to our key Network partners Baranduda Landcare, Friends of Willow Park and Parklands Albury-Wodonga, who provide invaluable in-kind support to supplement our Victorian Government 'Local Landcare Facilitator Initiative' funding and keep the Network online and on the job.