

Wodonga Urban Landcare Network Inc.



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Network Bulletin #39— December 2015

Opportunities to be involved



Victorian Cycling Strategy - seeking submissions: The Victorian Government is committed on delivering projects and programs that focus on safety and increase cycling participation in Victoria. The Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources is leading an update of the Victorian Cycling Strategy and developing a new Cycling Action Plan. The Department is seeking your views on how to strengthen the following key elements: encouraging cycling participation, improving cyclists safety, promoting the health benefits of cycling, highlighting the environmental benefits of cycling, growing cycle tourism in regional Victoria, and planning networks and prioritising investment. For more information or to register for a workshop, visit economicdevelopment.vic.gov.au/cycling-strategy or email cycling.strategy@ecodev.vic.gov.au



Parklands Albury-Wodonga are looking for volunteers for their Community Market Garden on Gateway Island - The recent rains have perfectly primed the newly made beds of the Community Market Garden on Gateway Island where hard working volunteers have been rapt to see the first signs of growth this week, as radishes propagated at the National Environment Centre have taken root. The site has been transformed over the last few months from cow paddock to serious garden. Volunteers have set up the infrastructure and irrigation system with the generous support of local businesses, done the heavy lifting and the heavy digging, and the beds are now ready for planting summer vegetables. From now on it is down to the business of producing veges; planting, watering, keeping the weeds down and later in summer, harvesting. If you would like to be involved, the garden is open and buzzing every morning Monday to Sunday. With half a hectare of garden beds there is plenty to do and you will be welcomed with open arms! The proceeds from this year's harvest will be reinvested into purchasing more organic seed so that this market garden can get the momentum and scale that is needed to make this a viable community enterprise. We encourage volunteers to get involved and help make this garden a place of cross cultural conversations and shared learning. Together we do better! Contact info@parklands-alburywodonga.org.au or phone (02) 6023 6714.



Rail Trail Action Groups End-Of-Year Celebration - Wednesday 2nd December at 6.00pm, at Ludlows Reserve, Murray Valley Highway, Bonegilla. Friends of the High Country Rail Trail are invited to dinner at Ludlow's Reserve to celebrate another tremendous year of action along our beautiful High Country Rail Trail. What to bring: Please bring your own picnic chair, plus salad to share if your surname starts with A-M; a dessert to share if your surname starts with N-Z.



Briefing on Green Waste Management Opportunities through Pyrolysis and Gasification: Wednesday 2nd December, 10:15 am - 2:00 pm at Wangaratta TAFE CSU, Tone Road, Wangaratta. The North East CMA and Earth Systems invite you to join us for a briefing on the opportunities available for green waste management through pyrolysis or through gasification. The forum is an opportunity to get the latest information on the woody/green waste management technologies and explore opportunities on how the technology may be useful to your organisation. It is an opportunity to get the latest information on the woody/green waste management technologies and explore opportunities on how the technology may be useful to your organisation. RSVP: Wednesday 25 November 2015 to Cat Brown Catriona.brown@necma.vic.gov.au. Cost: FREE



Edible weeds – Thursday 3rd December, 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm at Wodonga Library: Get to know, use and feast on the edible weeds in your garden. Speaker: Emma Street, gardening enthusiast. This is the final in our series of five Sustainability in Spring presentations being held at Wodonga Library at lunch-times on Thursdays. It follows on from the highly popular first series. Book your tickets early to avoid disappointment. Cost: \$15. Enquiries: Wodonga Library (02) 60 22 9330 or email library@wodonga.vic.gov.au. Bookings: The Cube (02) 6022 9311 or visit thecubewodonga.com.au/tickets



Community owned renewable energy project – Friday 4th December, 11.00am to 2.30pm at Baarmutha Function Centre, Balaclava Road, Beechworth: You are invited to attend a Community Renewable Energy Workshop being delivered by the Department of Economic Development, Jobs Transport and Resources. It will be facilitated by four members of the Coalition for Community Energy (<http://c4ce.net.au/>) - Embark, Moreland Energy Foundation, the Alternative Technology Association and the Community Power Agency. Tickets are free of charge and available at the following website: <http://communityrenewableenergyworkshops.eventbrite.com.au>. You may book up to ten tickets for your community energy project team members. Lunch will be provided at the Workshop.



Friends of Willow Park Social Night – Friday 4th December: 6.15 pm. Everyone is invited to the Friends of Willow Park Social Night held each month on the Friday before Community Gardening. It is held at the German, Austrian, Australian Club, 5 McFarland Road, Wodonga. A reasonably priced meal is available at the club. Meet some members of Friends of Willow Park. For bookings to attend please contact Pauline Anderson on 02 6056 6275 or email paulsando12@yahoo.com.au a few days before the night.



BirdLife Ovens and Murray – Annual Challenge Count: Saturday 5th December, 9:00 am at Chiltern: meet at the car park in front of the Swim Centre, on the Chiltern-Beechworth Road between Chiltern town centre and railway, at 9:00 am. We will be visiting several locations around Chiltern and the National Park, in order to count as many birds as possible from different habitats. As well as identifying and counting the birds that we see, we will also need to record this, so don't be put off if you don't think you are confident at identifying birds. 2009 was our best year, for a while, with 114 species seen, but last year we saw 'only' 69. We hope to do better this year, so join us if you can! This is an all day event, so BYO morning tea, lunch, chair, etc. But don't feel you need to spend all day with us if you don't want to! Leader: Phillip Seely, phone 02 60215313. This event is being organised by: [BirdLife Ovens and Murray](#).



Friends of Willow Park Gardening & Water Watch – Sunday 6th December: 9.30 –11.30 am. A variety of gardening activities will be happening in Willow Park, including planting, mulching, weeding (and chatting). Or help measure the concentration of chemicals in House Creek. Meet near the BBQ in Willow Park. BYO water, sunscreen and hat. Friends of Willow Park will supply all other equipment. Morning tea at 11.30am.



Taking Stock To Plan Ahead - Wed 9th December, 9.30 to 13.00 at Cudgewa Hall: Preparing for the season ahead - seasonal outlook, animal health considerations, feed budgeting, financial budgeting & planning. With guest speakers from the Dept of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources and the Rural Financial Counselling Service Victoria. Please RSVP by 4th Dec. Morning tea & lunch provided. Contact phone number (02) 6072 7502.



Albury-Wodonga Field Naturalists' Club – Sunday 13th December: Mount Buffalo National Park Christmas Breakup. Meeting at Acacia Carpark, Wodonga at 9:00 am. BYO refreshments for the day. Leader Stephanie on 60236464. This event is being organised by: [Albury-Wodonga Field Naturalists' Club Inc.](#)



Hume Murray Community Gardening Collective Visit – Wednesday 16th December: 11am to 1pm - BYO lunch at Bangum Community Garden, corner of Englehardt, Creek and Stan-

ley streets, on the edge of Bungambawartha Creek. We welcome new members to our group - please contact Brydie Foran at Gateway Health if you would like to know more or would like to be added to our mailing list. Email: Brydie.foran@gatewayhealth.org.au, Phone: (02) 6055 3056.



Parklands Volunteers End of Year Gathering - Thursday 17th December at Parklands, Lemke Rd (to be confirmed). All Parklands volunteers are invited to join staff and Rangers for lunch in the park to celebrate another great year of action in our regional parklands. What is provided: Lunch. What to bring: BYO picnic chair and Hat. RSVP: Please reply to Ant Packer railtrail@parklands-alburywodonga.org.au



Yackandandah Community Garden – Saturday 19th December, 10:00 am - 11:00 am at Yack Community Garden, William Street, Yackandandah. Next to the Swimming Pool and opposite the historic Community Garden. The food swap is held on the third Saturday of the month. Items for swap include all fruit and veg, nuts, plants, eggs and egg cartons, clean empty jam jars, seeds and seedlings, home made preserves and jam. Swap items have included alpaca wool, pine needles, ducks and even a rooster or two. All money collected is used to develop our community garden, buy seeds and equipment etc.

Learning Opportunities



Water Training for Victorians: Do you or your staff need an introduction to the principles of groundwater and the way in which it is extracted, managed and protected? Then look no further than the three-day: Introduction to Groundwater: Principles and Practices – Melbourne, Victoria, April 2016. Suitable for local council staff, government, environmental consultancies and anyone who has any connection with water supplies. EARLY BIRD RATES apply until December 15. Don't delay! And there's more: [Soil and Groundwater Pollution and Remediation Workshop – Melbourne](#). Sustainable Resources Industry Training Pty Ltd, 58 Norrie Ave, Clovelly Park SA 5042. P: [+61 8 8277 6380](tel:+61882776380) M: 0414 965 226 F: [+61 8 8177 1290](tel:+61881771290) W: srit.com.au E: info@srit.com.au



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Way2Go Toolkit for Managers of Volunteers Training - Wednesday 9th December, 9:30am – 12:30pm, at Training Room, New Premises AWVRB, Unit 2/432 Townsend St, Albury. This includes 3 hours training, Toolkit, CD, phone support when required, and Virtual training option. Total Cost is \$280.00, being \$175 for the Way2Go Toolkit, and \$105 for 3 hours training. The qualified trainers are Renee Wilson and Jemma Toohey. Contact AWVRB reception on 02 60210990.



First Aid in the Work Place, are you ready? - Provide First Aid HLTAID003 (formerly Senior First Aid), 2 Days face to face: Tuesday 1st and Tuesday 8th December: Instructor Helen Chant. Includes a practical action plan to follow in any first aid situation, DRSABCD, and all the fundamentals you need to know to deal with common first aid situations, such as choking, burns, bites and stings, sprains and strains, eye irritation, wounds and bleeding, allergic reactions/ anaphylaxis, asthma, how to manage more complex first aid situations until emergency help arrives, resuscitation (CPR) and defibrillation, chest pain, poison, fractures, dislocations, shock, abdominal injuries, head, neck and spinal injury, heat-induced illnesses (e.g. heat stroke) and cold-induced illnesses (e.g. hyperthermia), how to perform CPR on an adult, child and baby, and information relating to first aid such as: essential items in a first aid kit and how to use them, and your duty of care and protection under the Civil Liabilities Act.

Location Albury Wodonga Volunteer Resource Bureau, 432 Townsend Street, Albury. **Time** 8:30 to 4:30.

Cost \$165.00. **RSVP** 24 November, lindee@vrb.org.au or 60210990. BYO lunch, shops close by. Coffee, tea and biscuits will be provided.

Resources & Inspiration

Vale Ken Goyne, Friend of Les Stone Park

The Committee and members of the Wodonga Urban Landcare Network would like to extend our sympathies to Glenda and family on Ken's passing. He was a valuable Landcare member, working quietly and diligently improving Les Stone Park for all to enjoy.



Green thumbs up from fellow Community Gardeners (from Parklands Albury Wodonga):

The first visitors to tour the Gateway Island Community Market Garden have been impressed by the scope of the project and what has been accomplished in just a few months. A group from the Hume Murray Community Gardening Collective visited on Wednesday to learn about the aims for the garden and see the work in progress. Walking from Gateway Village along the river to the garden site, the visitors were amazed by the transformation of the site from cattle paddock to extensive garden. Ranger Tilak Chhetri talked the group through the development of the plot from paddock to water infrastructure to planting, including some of the issues and conundrums encountered on the way. Tilak is keen to hear the views of local gardeners and learn from other's experiences, and invited all to comment on the many aspects that occupy the minds of gardeners, such as fruit fly prevention, watering and mulching. Fellow gardeners are welcome to visit and share their knowledge, especially of tried and true local approaches.



Well done Repair Team - Congratulations to the Repair Café team on their efforts to reuse, reduce and recycle at the opening of the Repair Cafe in Wodonga last month. Seventeen volunteers set up in the Wodonga senior Citizens Centre with a variety of tools and a wealth of know-how, to take on all comers. Volunteers included bike mechanics, clothing and textile repairers, furniture repairers/woodworkers, battery-operated appliance repairers and general handy people! Thirty three items were brought in for fixing, twenty five of which were successfully repaired. Well done!



A small Victorian town to have a say in Paris - CONGRATULATIONS on the Strathbogie

Voices video "Little talks to BIG" which is now en route to Paris, to be screened at the COP21 Climate Conference. This video is a triumph and shows exactly how people in small communities can contribute to positive action on Climate Change. The "2015 Watershed Series" is evidence that our community is interested in tackling the big issues and is prepared to speak up and act. THANK YOU EVERYONE who contributed - strong, successful communities exist because of people like YOU. Now check out the video and tell others to do the same. [Click here](#)



Guide to Community-Owned Renewable Energy for Victorians - The Victorian Govern-

ment is actively supporting the development of community owned renewable energy projects. The "**Guide to Community-Owned Renewable Energy for Victorians**" has been prepared as a resource for community groups interested in developing community owned renewable energy projects. Community owned renewable energy projects are projects in which a community of people is involved in initiating, developing, operating, and benefitting from, a renewable energy or energy efficiency initiative. The Guide consolidates existing knowledge and resources and provides links to further information, resources and assistance. It is available to download at: <http://www.energyandresources.vic.gov.au/energy/sustainable-energy/community-energy>



Victorian soil mosaic - Put your soil on the map:

DEDJTR are asking landholders across Victoria to help produce a soil mosaic. Collection of soil samples has now commenced and will continue over the coming months. DEDJTR are after your soil, therefore they are inviting farmers, Landcare Groups, school children and community members to contribute to the mosaic. To be part of this project see the Flyer for more information or contact Suzanne Briggs at DEDJTR Rutherglen: P: 0260 30 4510 M: 04000 884 813, E: Suzanne.briggs@ecodev.vic.gov.au.

Funding Opportunities



Australian Government National Landcare Programme [Sustainable Agriculture Small Grants applications](#) close 2pm 7 Dec for \$5,000-\$55,000 projects



[Ian Potter Foundation grants](#) including environment and conservation, community wellbeing, and conference are open. EOI closing 11 Dec for applications closing 27 Jan 2016.



Norman Wettenhall [Environmental and Sustainable Agriculture Grants](#) up to \$10,000.



[North East Victorian Mentor Farm Program](#) showcasing innovative farm demonstrations in NECMA is open



Volunteer Grants Program - The Federal Government's ever-popular Volunteer Grants program has reopened after two-and-a-half years in hiatus. Small community organisations can apply for grants of up to \$5000 to purchase small equipment to assist their volunteers, reimburse fuel and transport costs for volunteers, and contribute towards the cost of training courses and background screening checks for volunteers. Applications are open until 2pm on Wednesday, December 9, 2015, with grants expected to be paid by 30 June 2016. [Details here.](#)



Small grants to fertilise sustainable agriculture knowledge - Applications are open for the National Landcare Programme Sustainable Agriculture Small Grants Round 2015-16. Grants ranging between \$5500 and \$55,000 (GST inclusive) are now available to increase industry capacity and support the adoption of productive management practices. A range of activities may be eligible, including: field days workshops, conferences, demonstration events or workshops, training or skill development sessions, community information or education sessions, development of decision-making tools, development of new information channels within the current knowledge system, and conducting surveys. Applications are invited from a range of entities, including farming systems groups, community groups and individuals to undertake projects across a variety of agricultural industries, across a variety of agricultural industries, including cropping, livestock, dairy, horticulture, pastoral, aquaculture and fisheries.

Applications will close 2.00pm (AEDT) Monday 7 December 2015.

For more information, visit: www.nrm.gov.au/agsmallgrants or telephone 1800 283 940



Resource assessment grants 2015-16 now open: The resource assessment grants initiative provides funding for eligible businesses to review their activities and to identify and implement energy and materials efficiency improvements. Sustainability Victoria is offering grants to eligible business to cover 50% of the cost to engage a consultant to conduct a resource assessment of their operations. Grants are capped at **\$5,000 for an energy assessment** and **\$10,000 for a materials or combined materials and energy assessment**. A \$3000 implementation support bonus is available for businesses that can show evidence of implementing one or more recommendations from their assessment. An **Information Session for Consultants** will be held at Sustainability Victoria on **Tuesday 1st December** at 8:45 for a 9 am start. For details and to register to attend please [complete the form at this link](#).



[Primezone Partner Schools:](#) Applications are now open for schools to become one of 12 Primezone Partner Schools. Funded through PIEFA as part of the Department of Education's 'Agriculture in Education' program, successful schools will receive \$10,000 to support the Food and Fibre education programs. See the PIEFA website [here](#)



Food Source Victoria - Planning Grants, Growth Grants & Scholarship Program - Food Source Victoria is the Dept of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport & Resources' new \$20 million initiative aimed at supporting Victorian agri-food businesses. For more information, go to [Apply now for a Food Source Victoria Grant](#)