

# 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



## Network Bulletin #52— February 2017

### Opportunities to be involved



**Repair Café – featuring jewellery repairs - Saturday 4th Feb** from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm at Sustainable Activity Centre (The SAC) Gateway Island, Lincoln Causeway, Wodonga: Do you have a broken household item you'd like fixed but need a hand to do so? Then this is your opportunity. Our Repair Café is a free meeting place to bring along broken household items such as furniture, clothing, battery-operated appliances, books and bikes and learn how to fix them with the help of experienced, volunteer repairers. You can also bring along small, blunt garden tools like secateurs and we'll show you how to sharpen them. Maximum three items per person per session.



**Food Swap, West Wodonga** – from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm at Birallee Park Neighbourhood House, inside at 39 Emerald Ave, Wodonga. Our food/Plant swap happens every day from 9am - 2pm inside Birallee Park Neighbourhood House at 39 Emerald Avenue, West Wodonga. Step inside to a warm, friendly, fun, environment! Any excess fresh produce is gratefully accepted and what is not swapped it is used in our emergency food program. Whilst you visit, take a look at our magnificent community gardens, have a coffee and smell the aromas wafting from our kitchen as we make over 150 daily meals ready for donation to many organisations in our community! Contact Amanda between 9am and 2pm, Monday - Friday on 60592590.



**Field Day Chiltern Mt Pilot National Park - Sun 5th Feb** from 8:30 am - 2:00 pm Meet at Chiltern PO for our February Field Day in the Park, weeding, early start, bring rakes and loppers. Call 0429017229 for info. This event is being organised by Friends of Chiltern Mt Pilot National Park.



**Celebrating our New Mural and Community Storytelling - Sun 5th Feb** from 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm at Willow Park, Pearce Street footbridge over House Creek: Meet at the new mural on the Pearce Street footbridge over House Creek. Listen to artist David Dunn reveal the stories behind the murals. We will finish with a barbecue. Everyone welcome! BYO picnic rug / chair and drinks. The mural and this event were made possible by a Community Impact grant from Wodonga City Council.



**North East Regional Sustainability Alliance (NERSA) Bi-monthly meeting - Mon 6th Feb** from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm at Indigo Shire Offices, Albert Street (Mayday Hills), Beechworth: The North East Regional Sustainability Alliance (NERSA) is a network of community sustainability groups which acts collaboratively with communities, agencies and organisations across the region. Meetings are held every two months in Beechworth. Anyone is welcome to attend.



**Checking For Change Workshop- Thursday 9th Feb** from 9:30am – 12:30pm at Mul-lengandra. Holbrook Landcare will be hosting a workshop to introduce the newly released 'Checking for Change' guide with Jacqui Stol, CSIRO. The 'Checking for Change' guide is a practical guide to checking whether sites newly managed for conservation are on track to improve. This guide

is used to see if the work to improve the environmental condition of sites is actually making a difference. Whether you are managing grazing to increase native plant diversity, replanting a shrub layer or controlling weeds, it is important to know if the project is on track, and knowing sooner rather than later can help you adjust your management. The indicators shared in the guide, and that will be introduced to us at the workshop, will let you know if you are on track over much shorter timeframes (2-6 years). They are easy to use, provide simple accurate data and are based on the latest science. 'Checking for Change' also complements more detailed, longer-term monitoring methods and allow more people to participate in monitoring. Jacqui will introduced us to the basics of the guide before heading out into the field to put the guide into action. This guide is designed to be used by Government organisations, non-Government organisations, Community Groups and landholders and all are welcome to attend this practical workshop. Morning tea & lunch included. RSVP by Mon 6th Feb to Claire Hockley T: 02 6036 3181 • M: 0419 226 457 • E: [clairehockley@holbrooklandcare.org.au](mailto:clairehockley@holbrooklandcare.org.au)



**Yack Community Garden – Annual General Meeting - Fri 10<sup>th</sup> Feb** from 7:00 pm - 8:00

pm at Yackandandah Community Garden, William Street, Yack. (Next to the Swimming Pool and opposite the Court House): We are holding an AGM to formally get the Community Garden organised with a committee. We have a wonderful garden which has been in operation for nearly 3 years. We now need to take it to a new level and see what other heights we can reach! The past three years has seen sterling work done and a great facility is available for Yack and district residents to enjoy and learn from. Come and throw your weight behind this really worthy project. The sky is really the limit... All welcome.



**Albury Wodonga Field Naturalists' Club AGM – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> Feb** from 7:00 pm to 8:30

pm at Wonga Wetlands, Riverina Highway, NSW: AWFNC will hold their AGM at Wonga Wetlands commencing at 7pm on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2017. Guest speaker to be advised at a later date. A small contribution toward supper would be appreciated. Phone Veronica 0260 212120.



**Hemp Building Workshops – Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> Feb** from 9:00 am - 4:30 pm at Violet Town

(Contact Neil for full address): Neil Garrett is an accredited hemp builder, who recently built a hemp house and studio as an owner builder. Neil has run a series of workshops whilst building their house and wishes to provide further training opportunities associated with Hemp Building. Workshop will include the theory and practice of hemp building using both conventional casting techniques and building with hemp bricks. The participants will be given practical experience in design and construction of a small dwelling and the basics of rendering with lime renders on a hemp wall. Morning and afternoon tea together with a healthy light lunch will be provided along with detailed notes on hemp building. The cost is \$150 per person paid in advance. Further details contact Neil Garrett on 5798 1522



**Boomerang Bags for Albury Wodonga – Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> Feb** from 10:00 am - 11:30 am at

The Sustainable Activity Centre, 1/44 Lincoln Causeway Wodonga: ROUNDTABLE EVENT. Boomerang Bags is a community driven initiative tackling plastic pollution at the grassroots level. This is an initial meeting to collaborate and work towards our local area starting this new initiative, where dedicated schools, community groups, businesses and volunteers get together to make re-useable 'Boomerang Bags' using recycled materials as a means to replace plastic bags. Through Boomerang Bags we start conversations, make friends, up-cycle materials and work towards shifting society's throw away mentality to a more sustainable revolution of re-use – one community, needle and thread at a time! <http://boomerangbags.org/> Morning tea provided. RSVP via our Facebook event here or contact Claire on 0406943436 or [claire@sustainableactivitycentre.com.au](mailto:claire@sustainableactivitycentre.com.au)



**Sunset Ride to Ludlows Reserve - Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> Feb:** The popular ride to Ludlows reserve

is on again in 2017. Choose your own starting point; Wodonga, Tallangatta or anywhere along the High Country Rail Trail. Just time your ride to arrive at Ludlows Reserve, Murray Valley Highway, by 6.30 to 7.00pm for a chicken/ham and salad picnic and refreshing drink. **Bookings essential**, by Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February. Click for link to [ludlows-Picnic-Registration Form](#)



**Community Gardening in Willow Park - Sun 12<sup>th</sup> Feb** from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm at Willow Park, Car Park Pearce St Wodonga: Join us for a variety of gardening activities in Willow Park, including planting, mulching, weeding and chatting. Meet near the BBQ in Willow Park, BYO Water, sunscreen and hat. Morning tea after gardening. This event is being organised by Friends Of Willow Park.



**Twilight Birding Stroll West Albury Wetlands - Sun 12<sup>th</sup> Feb** from 4:00 pm - 7:30 pm at West Albury Wetlands: AWFNC will enjoy a twilight birding stroll at the West Albury Wetlands on Sunday 12th February 2017. Meet at 4pm at the Boat Ramp, Kremur Street, West Albury. BYO Tea to have on the banks of the Murray River. Leader Veronica phone 0260 212120. This event is being organised by: Albury-Wodonga Field Naturalists' Club Inc.



**WATCH meeting - Tue 14<sup>th</sup> Feb** from 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm WATCH (Wodonga & Albury Toward Climate Health) is a non-partisan climate advocacy group that meets every second month in central Albury. If you want to do something about climate change, you can. We offer plenty of opportunities to take positive action. Find out more by attending one of our friendly meetings. See also: [watch.id.au](http://watch.id.au). Please RSVP to Lizette on 02 60 59 4185, to be advised of venue.



**Ryans Lagoon Walk 'n Talk – Wed 15<sup>th</sup> Feb** from 9.30am to 11.30am. Celebrate World Wetlands Day with a visit to this remarkable wetland with Parklands Albury-Wodonga and Wodonga Urban Landcare Network. Meet at crn Rapsey, Trabants and Ryans Roads, Bonegilla: Further details on WULN Facebook page.



**Yack Community Garden – Monthly Food Swap - Sat 18<sup>th</sup> Feb** from 9:30 am - 10:30 am Yackandandah Community Garden, William Street, Yack: Our regular food swap, but not just limited to fruit, veg and plants, but chooks, eggs, books, seeds, cuttings, tools and anything else with a garden slant. This is followed by our monthly garden workshop. No charge to come to the food swap – just bring something to swap or make a small donation to help the Community Garden's great work. It's worth bringing your takeaway coffee (in recyclable cup, of course!) and shooting the breeze at the Community Garden. Lots of interesting chat and talk about gardening. Come and join us – you'll be more than welcome.



**Yack Community Garden – What's Bugging YOU? - Sat 18<sup>th</sup> Feb** from 10:30 am - 11:30 am at Yackandandah Community Garden: A workshop to identify insects – friends and foes – and to talk about control methods. Please bring your insects in a secure container. \$10 per person.



**Tiny Houses Workshop - Sat 18<sup>th</sup> Feb** from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm at The Sustainable Activity Centre, Lincoln Causeway, Wodonga: The first TH workshop for 2017 is an opportunity to discuss potential content for workshops for the rest of the year. A schedule will be presented for building a Tiny House, which will be a conversion of an existing small building. We will also debate potential offers of workshops by providers that can be invited to deliver training in their area of expertise.



**Seymour Alternative Farming Expo - Fri 17<sup>th</sup>, Sat 18<sup>th</sup> and Sun 19<sup>th</sup> Feb:** There is always plenty to see and do at the Seymour Expo. There will be presentations on managing horses in bushfires and an information session on sheep and goats electronic identification (EID) at the Ag Zone seminar series. For more information go to [www.seymourexpo.com.au/](http://www.seymourexpo.com.au/)



**Quarterly gathering of the Wodonga Urban Landcare Network - Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb** from 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm at Sustainable Activity Centre, Gateway Village, Gateway Island, Wodonga: The Wodonga Urban Landcare Network's Quarterly Gathering is a combined 'show and tell', community dinner and meeting of all the member groups of the Network. All are welcome. Our first Gathering

unity dinner and meeting of all the member groups of the Network. All are welcome. Our first Gathering for 2017 features our new member group the Bhutanese Farm. We will begin with a short walk from the Sustainable Activity Centre to the Bhutanese Farm on Gateway Island, where Tilak Chettri will present the market garden project. A light dinner will be served on return to the SAC, followed by Network business and a short presentation by our guest for the evening. Please rsvp to Secretary Glenys Litchfield at [secretary@wodongaurbanlandcarenetwork.org.au](mailto:secretary@wodongaurbanlandcarenetwork.org.au), and be ready for a 5.45pm start from the SAC, Gateway Village. Enquiries: [wodongalandcare@gmail.com](mailto:wodongalandcare@gmail.com). We look forward to your company!



**North East Fair Food Farmers and Followers - Fri 24<sup>th</sup> Feb** from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm: at Stanley Soldiers Memorial Hall, 9 Myrtleford-Stanley Road Stanley: North East Fair Food Farmers and Followers converging in one place to share, learn, connect and make a difference! This grass roots, day long, 'unconference' which will begin with 12 speakers presenting their stories and then responding to Q and A. With a pocket full of inspiration, we will break for a shared potluck lunch (so be sure to bring a plate of fair food goodness to share). The afternoon will be your chance to contribute to a shared vision for the North East Fair Food Movement. The objectives for the day are simple:

1. To CONNECT all the Fair Food initiatives in the North East under one roof
2. To SHARE and inspire all in the room with each of our stories and our learnings
3. To ACTION – An open invitation for a seat at the table of the soon to be formed "Fair Food North East" group which forms the centralised movement for all the fair food initiatives across the region. The event is not for profit and any excess money raised from the nominal ticket price will be used by the Beechworth Food Co op to establish its "grow the growers" initiative. If you are eager to continue the conversation with a touch of frivolity, Black Barn Farm invites you to pitch your tent and stay the night. Please note that the Memorial Hall is in the very heart of Stanley with limited parking but there is adequate room at the nearby Primary School or Recreation Reserve which are both a very short walk from the hall. Tickets can be booked [here](#) online. This event is bought to you by Black Barn Farm and the Beechworth Food Co-op.



**Exploring the Walla Walla Area - Sat 25<sup>th</sup> Feb** from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm. This event is being organised by the Albury-Wodonga Field Naturalists' Club Inc: AWFNC will travel to Walla Walla and explore the area. Meet at SS&A Car Park, Wilson Street, Albury, departing at 9am. BYO refreshments for the day. Leaders Phillip 6021 5313 or Neil 0428235964.



**Bradley Technique Field Day – Mon 27<sup>th</sup> Feb** from 9.30am to 11.30am at a location to be advised: learn how to implement this respected approach to bush regeneration with the Wodonga Urban Landcare network (WULN) as we secure a local bush zone as "environmental weed-free". Further details on the WULN facebook page.



**Free Movie & Discussion – Bag It - Tue 28<sup>th</sup> Feb** from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm at The Sustainable Activity Centre, 1/44 Lincoln Causeway Wodonga: A film dedicated to single-use disposable bags..... well, dedicated to stopping them! Come along for this FREE eye opening and inspiring documentary. Stay after the screening for a discussion about local situations, local resources and a very exciting news about something big to hit our border.

This is the first of the 2017 series of free film & discussion evenings titled "Watch-Think-Talk-Act". Brought to you by the United Nations Centre Regional Centre for Expertise – Murray Darling (UN)RCMD and The Sustainable Activity Centre (The SAC). Please come along for a night of collective conversation from like-minded individuals to address the local issue of plastic pollution in Albury Wodonga. This event is being organised by The Sustainable Activity Centre (The S.A.C.)



**Swainsona Reserve Walk 'n Talk - Wed 1<sup>st</sup> March** from 9.30 to 11.30, meet at the Coyles Rd Felltimber Creek carpark: Swainsona Reserve takes its name from the endangered Smooth Darling Pea, *Swainsona galegifolia*, which grows in the vicinity. It is one of the two remaining remnant populations of Smooth Darling Pea in north east Victoria. Swainsona Reserve is a very special and peaceful place, although a significant fire in 2002-2003 dramatically changed the area. This event is being organised by the Wodonga Urban Landcare Network and Parklands Albury Wodonga. Updates on the

being organised by the Parkland Rangers.



**Large Hollow Bearing Tree Mapping Field Day – Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> March** from 10.00am to 12.00pm at Ryans Lagoon: This event is being organised by Parklands Albury Wodonga.



**Murray River Clean Up Paddle – Sat 4<sup>th</sup> March** from 9.00am to 1.00pm: Bookings essential by Wed 1st on 0260 236714. This event is being organised by Parklands Albury Wodonga.



**Clean Up Australia: Padman Park – Sun 5<sup>th</sup> March** from 9.00am to 11.00am: Join us for the morning at Padman-Mates Park on Clean Up Australia day, where we will be removing rubbish and enjoying our beautiful park. Meet at the Day St carpark, bring: Hat, drink bottle and friends! Supplied: Gloves and equipment. This event is being organised by Parklands Albury Wodonga.



**Nesting boxes for wildlife workshop – Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March** from 10.30am to 3.00pm at Wooragee Hall, Wooragee: hands on workshop looking at nestingbox design, use, maintenance and monitoring. Presenter Jim Blackney. Come along and find out how you can use nesting boxes on your property and the important role they play in conserving native fauna. Plenty of time for your questions. RSVP by 1<sup>st</sup> March. Register online at <http://tinyurl.com/NestingBox2017>. For further information contact Alandi Durling M: 0428 211 008 or E: [alandi.durling@gmail.com](mailto:alandi.durling@gmail.com). Free lunch provided.

## Learning Opportunities



**MDBA Basin Plan roll-out information session (Echuca/Moama) - Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb** from 8.30am - 11am at Moama Bowling Club, 6 Shaw Street, Moama: The MDBA is proposing changes to the Murray-Darling Basin Plan. We are seeking feedback and the formal submission closes on 10 February 2017. MDBA will be hosting 'drop in' information sessions in the southern Basin in late January and early February. MDBA and other government staff will be available to speak to you about the Basin Plan amendments and a range of other Basin Plan topics.



**Alpine Ecology Course (Bogong High Plains) - 5-10 Feb** : Applications are now open. The course provides an opportunity to learn about the plants, animals, landforms and soils that make up alpine ecosystems, and their significance for landuse and current conservation issues. The Alpine Ecology Course is conducted in early February at Falls Creek Resort and the Bogong High Plains, usually every second year. For more information and to download the application form email: [alpine.ecology@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:alpine.ecology@latrobe.edu.au).



**Restore Regenerate Revegetate – 5th to 9th Feb**: A Conference about Restoring Ecological Processes, Ecosystems and Landscapes UNE, Armidale, NSW. Registrations are now open at the conference website: <http://conferencecompany.com.au/revegconf2017/>



**Common Cause Workshop: values and frames that motivate change (Melbourne) - Wed 15th Feb** from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm at Uniting Church, 130 Little Collins Street, Melbourne. Cost \$162.02 – \$219.49. This workshop is for those eager to know what really makes people tick. You'll learn about values and frames-based community engagement and how to more effectively inspire people to get involved in your cause, campaign, organisation or collective action. It is tailored for communicators, campaigners, advocates and leaders of progressive organisations who want to motivate deeper and more durable support for their issues and in so doing create a more just, sustainable and democratic world. We know from experience that trying something new is easier with the support of like-minded colleagues. To encourage group bookings, we offer a free spot for every two tickets purchased. To take advantage of this offer, simply book two or more tickets and we'll send you a discount code to redeem your

free spots. Any questions, please get in touch. If you would like to attend this workshop and cannot afford the full fee, please contact [Common Cause Australia](#) to apply for a scholarship. An event of the National Sustainable Living Festival 2017.



### **Common Cause Communications Masterclass (Melbourne) - Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> Feb** from

9:00 am – 3:00 pm at Uniting Church, 130 Little Collins Street, Melbourne. \$230.89 – \$304.04: Want help putting Common Cause into practice in your communications? This practical masterclass is designed for you. In this interactive masterclass we will cover key framing tips for more effective communications, practice applying intrinsic values to our communications, and workshop an example of your own work. This is a Masterclass for those who already have a grasp of the Common Cause fundamentals. If you haven't yet attended an introductory Common Cause workshop you can come along to the workshop we're running the day before this Masterclass. Places at the Masterclass are capped at 15 people to maximise time for reviewing and workshopping your own work and that of your peers. Trying something new is easier with the support of like-minded colleagues. To encourage group bookings, we offer a free spot for every two tickets purchased. To take advantage of this offer, simply book two or more tickets and we'll send you a discount code to redeem your free spots. Any questions, please get in touch. If you would like to attend this workshop and cannot afford the full fee, please contact [Common Cause Australia](#) to apply for a scholarship. An event of the National Sustainable Living Festival 2017.



### **Victorian Landcare Council Professionals Forum (Riddells Creek) – 14<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> June**

**2017:** This is a learning event for Landcare professionals, organised by Landcare professionals, and you are invited to make your issues and your experience the agenda! Learning from and with your peers is the fastest way to expand your skills and knowledge. If you're a facilitator, coordinator or project officer, this will be a rare opportunity to learn from and with your peers from across Victoria. Speak to Libby Riches, Coordinator, Southern Otway Landcare Network, 5237 6904, [libby.landcare@soln.org](mailto:libby.landcare@soln.org), Ross Colliver, 0411 226519, [ross.colliver@bigpond.com](mailto:ross.colliver@bigpond.com) or Klaus Boelke, Facilitator, Mitta Valley Landcare Group, 0497526401, [boelkekd@gmail.com](mailto:boelkekd@gmail.com) by **17<sup>th</sup> February, 2017**, and we'll get a program back to you in March 2017. Right now, pencil in 14-15 June 2017, Riddells Creek, and speak to your committee about coming.



### **Our Community Webinar program – NEW!**

The feedback on our recent webinars on grant application writing, planned giving, and meetings and minutes has been terrific. Now, by popular demand, and to help more people around Australia – particularly those in regional and remote areas – we're offering a new program of webinars on a range of topics. We're keeping the cost low at just \$88 – and as a bonus, that price includes a book relevant to the topic of each webinar. Alternatively, if you're on a tighter budget, you can register for the webinar only (no book) at just \$55. These prices include GST. All webinars start at noon AEST (or AEDST). We're taking registrations now for:

How to win grants - 23 February 2017

Crowdfunding webinar - 23 March 2017

Questions your board needs to ask about finances - 27 April 2017

Being an effective chair - 25 May 2017

Reviewing your board - 15 June 2017

Register here <http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/training/calendar.form>



### **Australian Rural Leadership Program 2017:**

Applications are open for the next round of the [Australian Rural Leadership Program](#). Course 24 runs from August 2017 until October 2018. It consists of up to 50 days face-to-face, delivered in multiple sessions over 15 months. Five of these sessions take place in locations across Australia, and one takes place overseas. More [here](#).



### **Agriculture Victoria - 2017 Farm Planning Courses EOI - EOI's due Mon 6 Feb:**

Agriculture Victoria staff are seeking expressions of interest from landholders to participate in whole farm planning courses. Courses are held where a group of landholders can be formed in a specific geographic location or have similar property characteristics (such as size and primary land use). Agriculture Victoria staff are seeking interest from landholders to assist with planning course type and location for 2017. Courses require a minimum number of participants to run. They usually include five sessions that are held during business hours. There is a cost associated with participating in the course, which covers expenses such as course materials and aerial photos (this would not exceed \$300). Completing an EOI form does not commit you to attend a course, although it will be considered a genuine interest to attend. For more information contact Kylie Macraedie at Agriculture Victoria on (02) 60437 900 or email [kylie.macraedie@ecodev.vic.gov.au](mailto:kylie.macraedie@ecodev.vic.gov.au)

## **Resources & Inspiration**



**Cat coverage near Complete:** A far-reaching new review has counted the cost of feral cats on Australian ecology. Feral cats cover over 99.8 per cent of Australia's land area, according to research undertaken by dozens of Australian environmental scientists using evidence from nearly 100 separate studies. Read more at <http://www.greencareer.net.au/news/cat-coverage-near-complete>



**Mountains to Murray Local Produce Guide:** Discover the amazing diversity of locally-grown food, with the North East CMA's new Mountains to Murray Local Produce Guide website. The website lists over 100 local farmers and producers from North East Victoria and the Albury region, including where you can buy their produce. [www.localproduceguide.com.au](http://www.localproduceguide.com.au)



**Green Army – Victoria:** Are you aged between 17 and 24, an Australian citizen or permanent resident and would like to be a part of a team that will **make a real difference** to the environment in your local community? Would you like to be **paid an allowance** while gaining skills, training and experience that can help you enter the workforce, improve your career opportunities or further your education and training? The Green Army is an Australian Government initiative open to young people including Indigenous Australians, school leavers, gap year students, graduates and job seekers who are looking for employment to develop skills, undertake training and gain experience in the delivery of conservation. The Green Army provides all the tools, PPE and training required for each Project. Local transport to the project site is also provided to Green Army participants. [Learn more](#) about the Green Army, or [download a Green Army fact sheet](#). To stay up to date with all of our current Projects across Australia make sure you [visit our Facebook Page](#).



**Threatened Species Recovery Hub** – Enhancing monitoring for threatened species. A new set of guidelines for monitoring threatened species is being developed, following [a workshop](#) which brought together 28 managers and scientists from government conservation agencies, NGOs, and the National Environment Science Program TSR Hub. If you are a professional involved in a monitoring program, you are invited to participate in [a survey](#).



**Wheel Cactus threat – Know your cacti!!** Wheel Cactus (*Opuntia robusta*) spreads very easily and is extremely difficult to kill. It invades pastures, roadsides and bushland, becoming so dense that land becomes almost completely inaccessible. There is no biological control agent that will successfully control Wheel Cactus. The Tarrangower Cactus Control Group is currently mapping Wheel Cactus infestations in Victoria and is asking community members to email a photograph and location details (to the nearest locality) of any Wheel Cactus plants to [mschlachter@outlook.com.au](mailto:mschlachter@outlook.com.au) Further information (and great ID photos if you are unsure) is available on their website <http://www.cactuswarriors.org/>

## Funding Opportunities

**The Myer Innovation Fellowships** aim to support breakthrough solutions to Australia's most pressing social and environmental challenges and bring new talent to the social sector. Fellows are offered the unique opportunity to take nine to twelve months away from their current role to pursue a big idea that has the potential to achieve positive outcomes in the areas of: Education, Poverty and Disadvantage, Sustainability and the Environment. The Myer Innovation Fellowships provide recipients with time and support needed to develop their ground-breaking idea into a sustainable plan for action. Fellows will each receive \$100,000 for their nine to twelve month commitment to the program and an additional \$30,000 will be available to each Fellow for approved expenses such as work space, rent, travel and contracting of external expertise. <http://myerfoundation.org.au/grants/other-programs/mif/>



### **Great Aussie Farmers Foundation Grants - EOI close Tue 28 Feb 2017**

Grants are available to organisations working in rural and regional Australia on one or more of the nominated focus areas:

- Economic wellbeing of farms and farming families
- Disaster relief for farming communities including drought
- Kids health & healthy eating including food provenance awareness
- Food waste and food security
- Mental health for farming communities.



### **Building Better Regional Fund (BBRF) - Applications open 18 January 2017:**

The \$297.7 million Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF) supports the Australian Government's commitment to create jobs, drive economic growth and build stronger regional communities into the future. The program will fund projects in regional Australia outside the major capital cities of Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide, and Canberra. A [mapping tool](#) is available to assist applicants determine the eligibility of their project location.

There are two streams of funding:

1. The Infrastructure Projects Stream will invest in projects that involve the construction of new infrastructure, or upgrade or extension of existing infrastructure that provide economic and social benefits to regional and remote areas.
2. The Community Investments Stream will invest in local events and activities, strategic regional plans and leadership and capability building activities that provide economic and social benefits to regional and remote communities.

Projects of similar size will compete against each other, so small community projects are not up against huge projects from major councils for example. As your local member if you have an investment-ready project, I strongly encourage you to apply.



### **The Women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) and Entrepreneurship Programme**

provides funding for businesses, not-for-profits and research organisations to support outreach programmes that target girls and women to encourage their interest in entrepreneurship, develop their innovation and entrepreneurial skills and build their professional networks. Find further information on eligibility requirements in the [Programme Guidelines - PDF](#); <https://www.business.gov.au/assistance/women-in-stem-and-entrepreneurship>



**The R E Ross Trust Grants – Vic:** The grants work around 4 impact areas. For Landcare groups the most relevant area is impact area D; the protection and preservation of Australian Flora and Fauna. Organisations must first submit an expression of interest for consideration by the Trustees and may then be invited to submit a full application. Applications are considered all year round. For more



information go to: <http://www.rosstrust.org.au/grants/apply-for-a-grant/>



**Norman Wettenhall Small Environmental Grant Scheme:** The Small Environmental Grant Scheme provides support for groups or individuals undertaking biodiversity conservation projects in Australia. Projects can be about one or more of the following: monitoring, recording and sharing data, delivering community education, providing community capacity building (training), research and science, or landscape restoration and education (Victoria only). Have a look at: [can you apply](#).

## Opportunities to have your say



### **Opportunities to join further consultation on the draft Wodonga hilltops strategy -**

Wodonga Council will soon hold a series of workshops focusing on each hill precinct as well as a community drop-in session where residents can find out more about the strategy and planning for the hills, consider the revised documents and offer further feedback. Registrations are now open for the workshops. Go to <http://www.makewodongayours.com.au/Consultations/Wodonga-Hills-Strategy>



**Nominations are now open for the 2017 Ricci Marks Award:** The Ricci Marks Award originated in 1997 as the Aboriginal Young Achievers Award. The award recognises individual achievements and aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in training, education, arts, sport, culture and community leadership. In 2004 the award was named in memory of Ricci Marks, a proud Wotjobaluk man who, in his short life, made an outstanding contribution to his community. Aboriginal organisations, individuals, community groups, schools, employers and others are invited to nominate young achievers for this award. Nominees must be Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, and must have lived in Victoria since at least 1 January 2015. Nominees need to be aged between 16 and 25 years on 6 March 2017. In 2017 two young people will each receive a \$5,000 bursary, and a third young person will be recognised with the Ricci Marks Rising Star Award valued at \$1,500.

See more at <http://www.vic.gov.au/aboriginalvictoria/community-engagement/leadership-programs/ricci-marks-award.html>



**Review of the native vegetation clearing regulations:** Submissions close 5pm Sun 5th Feb 2017. The Victorian Government has completed its Review of the native vegetation clearing regulations. The outcomes of the review are detailed in the [Review of the native vegetation clearing regulations - outcomes report](#). For a high level overview of the main changes proposed and information about how to have your say, please read [Native Vegetation Clearing Regulations Review - Information sheet December 2016](#).

We encourage you to visit the website <https://engage.vic.gov.au/native-vegetation-review> to comment on the proposed changes.



**Survey of Australian Farmers Regarding the Use of Big Data in Ag:** Big Data in Agriculture - what is it? What is the potential and what are the pitfalls? Your chance to have your say. Gina Wood, a PhD researcher at the School of Law in the University of New England, is running a survey "Big Data in Primary Production - What Do Farmers Know and Not Know, Do and Not Do, Concerning Farm Data in Australia?" to find out what farmers think about Big Data and related technologies - is it a powerful tool to help farmers or more empty promises and hyped-up words? A means to improve productivity or a step towards dependency on suppliers? A way to make better decisions on farm or a loss of control? Ms Wood encourages all farmers to fill out her anonymous online 15-minute questionnaire whether you are familiar with "Big Data" or know nothing about it. Your answers are vital in helping to determine how Big Data and its associated technologies can be best put to use for the benefit of primary producers in Australia. [http://uneprofessions.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_6m9ENEZVD2evLQV](http://uneprofessions.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6m9ENEZVD2evLQV)