

Wodonga Urban Landcare Network Inc.



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Opportunities to be involved



Getting the Nestbox Know-how - Parklands Albury Wodonga and the Wodonga Urban Landcare Network invite people to get involved with a new Friends of the Nestboxes team. Volunteers will be working with Parklands Rangers initially to roll out several funded Nestbox projects. The aim is to develop a community knowledge base so that the local nestbox network from backyards to parks and bush reserves is always viable, even when funded projects move on.

Joining the Friends team might see you counting tree hollows or making nestboxes, identifying suitable sites or up a ladder installing boxes, mapping installed boxes with GPS or checking who is living where. There are organising roles like gathering materials for nestboxes or coordinating construction and installation, community roles like fundraising or spreading the word about nestboxes and how people can help, citizen science roles like uploading data to the Atlas of Living Australia. There is plenty to learn, plenty of knowledge to share and many different ways to contribute.

If you, your school or your workplace would like to join the team please contact Wodonga Urban Landcare Network facilitator Anne Stelling at anne.stelling@landcarevic.net.au or Anthea Packer at in-fo@parklands-alburywodonga.org.au.



Grow your own plants – Sunday 20th December 2015: Our Native Garden would like to invite anyone interested to a 'pricking out' session this Sunday from 10.30am. This means moving tiny seedlings from trays into pots where they will grow to planting—out size. Volunteers receive half of the seedlings they prepare.

Expressions of interest are also open for groups who would like to be involved in propagating their own plants for the 2016 planting season including taking cuttings. Our Native Garden has the licenses and permission to collect local native source stock, and can lead seed collecting and cutting sessions, then propagation and potting sessions for interested groups. Please contact Jude Scarfe on 0448045124



Volunteer Track Ranger Program - This program will run on Mount Bogong, Mount Feathertop, the Alpine Crossing between Falls Creek and Mount Hotham and possibly Mount Buffalo. When - New Year's period, from 30 December 2015 to 03 January 2016, Labour Day Long Weekend, from 10 to 14 March 2016, and Easter, from 24 to 28 March 2016. You will need strong experience in remote area hiking and camping, high level of fitness, positive attitude, strong communication and interpersonal skills, a valid first aid certificate and must be willing to camp out for a minimum of 3 nights in remote Alpine areas. Volunteers may apply as couples or singles, in which case you will be paired up with a second track ranger to ensure safety. Volunteers must be fully self-sufficient. Download the [Volunteer Track Ranger Role Description](#). To express interest or for further information email Iris Curran at <mailto:iris.curran@parks.vic.gov.au> or phone 13 1963.



Position Vacant - Landcare Facilitator: Kiewa Catchment and Upper Ovens Landcare Facilitator Servicing Kiewa Catchment and Bright areas. Contract: approx. 20 hours per week to 30/6/16 and potential ongoing to 30/6/19. email belinda.pearce@landcarevic.net.au for a Position Description. Applications close: **5.00pm Monday 21st December.**



Parklands Albury Wodonga are looking for volunteers for their Community Market Garden on Gateway Island - 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! What do we plan to do with the summer harvest? 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.



Parklands Christmas office closure 23rd Dec -11th Jan: The Parklands Albury Wodonga office will be closed from 4pm Wednesday 23rd December to midday Monday 11th January. New office hours for 2016 are Mon-Thurs 1pm-4pm. We wish you a safe and happy Christmas break and look forward to seeing you in 2016.

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. 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



Link Festival: 7-8 March 2016 Melbourne & 11 March 2016 Sydney: Link Festival is the premier event for anyone interested in design, technology and social change and it brings together Australia's leading and emerging social innovators and future makers. Now an annual event, past Link Festivals featured an international line-up of speakers including Bunker Roy from the Barefoot College in India, an organisation training illiterate women in developing nations to become solar engineers; Australia's Father Bob McGuire; Antarctic adventurer and sustainability advocate Tim Jarvis. Link Festival is led by Engineers Without Borders and Wildwon. At Link you will experience hands-on workshops, immersive sessions, create genuine connections and hear from inspiring speakers. Everyone who attends will leave equipped with the knowledge and networks necessary to apply their skills to solving real world challenges. After the last year's sellout event, we're excited to announce in addition to the main event in Melbourne, Link Festival is going on tour to Sydney in 2016. Check out the details for The Sydney Session [here](#). For more information visit [Link Festival](#).



Australian Energy Storage Conference and Exhibition – 1 to 2 June 2016: the Australian Energy Storage Conference and Exhibition will return to the Australian Technology Park in Sydney on June 1-2, 2016.

Exhibition: In 2016, the event will move in the Exhibition Hall at the Australian Technology Park and will continue to focus on the energy storage industry at all levels – from utility scale to residential solutions as well as the emerging electric vehicle markets. Visitors to the exhibition will include alternative and renewable energy installers, utility companies, government departments, large corporations, project managers, asset managers, mechanical and electrical engineers, remote communities and mining groups and all those interested in current and emerging energy storage solutions. The exhibition will be free to attend, and will include some of world's leading companies and runs in conjunction with the two day Australian Energy Storage Conference.

Conference: The Australian Energy Storage Conference will feature over 40 local and international industry speakers, and will provide a comprehensive two stream program over two days, 1 & 2 June 2016, alongside the AES Exhibition. The conference will investigate the challenges and opportunities that energy storage offers for electricity generators, network operators and electricity retailers in Australia. In addition, there will be focus on customer sited solar plus energy storage systems, and on smart management of the energy produced. The conference will provide talks on how to connect, or disconnect from the grid and will feature the emerging Home Energy Management Systems (HEMS). New technologies will be explored, and discussions will be held on how energy storage will be regulated to allow for innovation while maintaining safety for the consumer. Be there, to join this important discussion and mark the dates in your diary for 1 & 2 June 2016 in Sydney. Call for Papers is now open and presentations are sought regarding strate-

gic direction, energy policy, financial models or case studies of energy storage solutions applicable to Australia or Oceania. [CLICK HERE](#) to submit an abstract. For more information visit [Australian Energy Storage Conference and Exhibition](#)



WIOA Water Industry Operations Conference and Exhibitions - 31 August & 1 September 2016

at the Bendigo Exhibition Centre. All water industry personnel involved in the operation and maintenance of urban, rural and industrial water related infrastructure for the management, conveyance, treatment, discharge and reuse of water and trade wastes should attend this conference. This is one of three very successful `operationally focussed` conferences and exhibitions organised by WIOA annually. WIOA stages the Annual Victorian Water Industry Operations Conference and Exhibition which provides a forum for individuals involved in the water operations to:

- Distribute the latest "operational" technical and research based information through platform and poster presentations.
- Update of knowledge and skills plus network development by operations staff through interaction with fellow Water Industry employees.

Provide opportunities to view and discuss the latest advances in technical equipment and systems with suppliers and trade consultants.

If you're an operator, manager, engineer, consultant or professional or someone who is working in the water industry or just has an interest in water, then this is a must attend event. The exhibition is free for anyone with an interest in the water industry; such as plumbers, miners, food and beverage employees and contractors, to attend. WIOA Conferences and Exhibitions - the perfect platform to meet and liaise with leading figures in the water industry. 79th WIOA Victorian Water Industry Operations Conference and Exhibition, 31 August & 1 September 2016 at the Bendigo Exhibition Centre. For more information or to register go to: <http://www.wioaconferences.org.au/vic.htm>



Ozwater'16: 10 to 12 May 2016, Melbourne

- Our water industry has seen significant change over the last decade with the introduction of recycling, water efficiency gains of 40%, and many cities now having a desalination plant. We anticipate that change will continue, particularly as our population is forecast to double over the next fifty years. Ozwater is Australia's international water conference and trade exhibition, and is run annually by the Australian Water Association. This highly regarded event has built a strong reputation for being the leading event on the calendar for water industry professionals and those with a commercial interest in water. The last event, Ozwater'15, attracted over 3000 participants.

Host Organisation: The [Australian Water Association](#) (AWA) is an independent, not-for-profit association for water professionals and organisations, providing leadership in the water sector through collaboration, advocacy and professional development. As Australia's peak water industry body, the AWA has the largest and most broadly based membership, with approximately 700 corporate members and 5,000 individual members representing the diversity and breadth of the water industry.

For more information visit [Ozwater'16](#)



Species on the Move International Conference – 9 to 12 February 2016, Tasmania:

The global redistribution of our planets' species is widely recognised as a fingerprint of climate change, however, the mechanisms that underpin such range shifts are poorly understood. Additionally, the pervasiveness of range shifts, from poles to the equator, and depths of oceans to tops of mountains, provides us with unique opportunity to advance our theory of biogeography, evolutionary ecology and macroecology. We see this conference targeting scientists and natural resource managers working in the disciplines of global change, biogeography and evolution, and relevant in contexts of natural resource management, biodiversity management and conservation, and theoretical ecology. Species responses to climate change is a rapidly evolving research field, however, much of our progress is being made in independent research areas: e.g. understanding the process vs responding to the implications, terrestrial vs marine ecosystems, global meta-analyses vs in depth species-specific approaches. This interdisciplinary conference would develop connections between these parallel streams, and across temporal and spatial scales. If you or your organisation/society would like to help shape this exciting conference, please contact Dr Gretta Pecl (Gretta.Pecl@utas.edu.au) or Professor Stephen Williams (Stephen.Williams@jcu.edu.au) for more information. For more information visit [Species on the Move](#)



Young Water Professionals in Research and Practice Conference - 18-19 February

2016, Sydney: The fourth Australian Young Water Professionals in Research and Practice Conference is a cobranded event presented by the Australian Water Association and the International Water Association. As a response to further reductions to research funding in Australia, the conference theme is Connect. Collaborate. Create. It aims to demonstrate how collaboration between industry, research and government is not only of mutual benefit but can also facilitate innovation. This will be achieved by showcasing Young Water Professional's successful collaborative endeavours both in Australia and overseas. Additionally, it will leave Young Water Professionals with the skills to approach this changing market. \$250 AWA/IWA members and \$350 Non-members. For more information visit [AWA](#)



Solar Energy Exhibition & Conference 2016 – 4 to 5 May 2016, Melbourne:

Solar Energy Exhibition & Conference 2016, the 54th annual Australian Solar Council industry conference & exhibition is a showcase of the people, projects and products that are driving solar and storage to new heights of innovation and excellence. Brought to you by the peak solar and storage bodies, the Australian Solar Council and Australian Energy Storage Council, Solar Energy 2016 brings together the leading speakers, trainers, researchers and industry movers and shakers in a 2-day event that promises to satisfy anyone involved in the solar sector.

Solar Conference: The Solar Conference features four stimulating streams including the ever popular Policy & Industry and Professional Development. The Australian Solar Council Conference – the best place to learn more about this rapidly changing industry.

Solar Exhibition: The Solar Expo is an event highlight and a superb opportunity for anyone in the solar industry to meet the cream of manufacturers, suppliers and newcomers on the Australian scene.

Energy Storage Conference: The Energy Storage Council highlights the accelerating storage innovation in a two day conference program exploring the important issues and solutions in Australia and globally. For more information visit [Solar Energy Exhibition & Conference 2016](#)



Wind Industry Forum 2016 - 17 March 2016, Melbourne:

The Clean Energy Council's third annual Wind Industry Forum brings wind industry specialists together to share their knowledge and work towards technical excellence in the local industry. The Forum is Australia's only technical event for the wind industry. Aimed at the hundreds of Australians who design, plan, build and operate our wind farms, the event brings together experts from a range of fields to share ideas and continually improve our industry. Come along to speak or hear about electrical connection, turbine design innovations, planning rules, noise and wind measurement techniques and more. For more information visit [2016 Wind Industry Forum](#). We are calling for industry experts who are interested in speaking at the 2016 Wind Industry Forum. If there is a particular topic or project you would like to share at the event please complete our [call for speakers form](#).

We are looking for speakers to present on a range of topics. Some possible topics are listed below or you can suggest a different topic.

Wind resource: Wind measurement and analysis, wind forecasting, output variability and uncertainty, meteorology and wind farm output.

Electrical: Grid access and network connections, electrical performance and grid integration.

Turbine design: Turbine technology developments and wind farm optimization, SCADA and control system design, condition monitoring and failures.

Noise: Developments in noise assessment including infrasound, onsite noise monitoring.

Other: Tower manufacturing, operations and maintenance, health and safety, civil and foundation design, blade repair and servicing, wind farm crane and construction, developments in ecological studies, planning rules and changes since WIF2015. For more information visit [2016 Wind Industry Forum](#)

Resources & Inspiration



BirdLife Australia is dedicated to creating a bright future for Australia's birds. You can participate and share in activities and projects with local experts all over Australia. For more information, go to <http://www.birdlife.org.au/> and <http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/>



Landcare Indigenous use of Fire Project wins Awards - Congratulations to Kiewa Catchment Landcare for the well deserved recognition of their innovative Fire project at the 2015 Fire Awareness Awards. Their Indigenous Fire Knowledge Project was awarded the highly competitive RACV Insurance Award for Excellence, alongside the Black Hill Reserve Fire Recovery Initiative, this week in Melbourne. Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water, Lisa Neville, said "Our judges have had a

very difficult task selecting this year's winners, given all of the great work that goes into improving fire prevention and awareness in this state." The Fire Awareness Awards have been running for more than 30 years. It is coordinated by Victoria's three firefighting agencies – MFB, CFA and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP). More than 80 nominations were received, with 31 shortlisted as finalists. Kiewa Catchment Landcare launched the Indigenous Fire Knowledge project in 2013 in partnership with the Indigenous engagement unit at North East CMA. The project established native pasture trial sites where strategic burns were undertaken. The differences between controls and treatments were then measured. Allan Murray and Brendan Kennedy have been keen partners in the project, and are very pleased by the recognition this award brings to the research. Further information on the Awards can be found [here](#).



Australian Birdwatching Guide - The Australian Birdwatching Guide to the most likely sighting locations and seasons to see Australian Birds found near Chiltern, the Birdwatching Capital of Victoria. Summer (December to May): A good summer option for lazy bird watching is to find a dam in the National Park and to sit and wait for birds to come in to drink. Depending on what the rains have been like any of the small fire dams in the Park will have many birds coming in. Just grab a deck chair, your binoculars and a drink and see what comes in. The hotter the day the better, with dusk the best time to watch. Some of the most reliable dams for birds are Lappins Dam, off Lappins Track, 100m from its junction with Donchi Hill Road in the north west of the park. Green Hill Dam, next to Green Hills Road, between Pipeline Track and Battery Hill Road in the north east of the park. Cyanide Dam, off Cyanide Road at the Honeyeater Picnic Ground on the south side of the park.



New SEED unit - Rubbish - YOU are the difference: This unit takes students through past practice in regards to rubbish disposal in order to develop an appreciation and understanding of present practices including organics collections and recycling of e-waste. It also challenges students to think about what they will do in the future. Linked to AusVELS, this unit is appropriate for years 5 through to 10. Find it on the [SEED website](#)



AWA Water Educators Kit v1 - Linked to the Australian Curriculum, this kit gives many lesson plans which cover the water cycle, catchments, water sources, treatment of drinking water, treatment of waste water, water management, water uses and using water wisely. Very easy to follow. Click on the link: [AWA Water Educators Kit v1 \(678 KB\)](#)



Cruise along the upgraded rail trail to Huon Reserve – According to Parklands Albury Wodonga, the High Country Rail Trail surface along the Lake Hume foreshore between Ludlows Reserve and Huon Reserve used to be a notoriously "rocky ride". Local earthmoving business AP Delaney & Co have now completed an upgrade of this rough section, laying 1,200 tons of buckshot and now this section of the rail trail is an absolute dream to cycle along. Thanks to AP Delaney & Co for such a quality outcome. This upgrade is part of the much appreciated Australian Government Community Infrastructure Development Fund grant that has been implemented in partnership with Mungabareena Aboriginal Corporation, Wilsons Transformer Company and Bonegilla Rail Trail Advisory Group over the past year. An official celebratory event is being planned for early 2016.



Event Development Ranger to blaze new trails in the Parklands - Parklands Albury-Wodonga are very pleased to welcome [Brendan Murray](#) to their Ranger team. Brendan will take on the role of Events Development Ranger in 2016, co-ordinating and building the annual trail running series including the 'Fishy', Huon Hill, 'Hunchy' and Albury Ranges runs. Working closely with their MTB specialist Ranger Shane Vanderwerf, Brendan will aim to establish a "Ring of Hills" epic mountain bike / trail running event. This event will utilise the world class trail network Parklands is working towards in ranges of Albury Wodonga. Parklands invites individuals, community groups and businesses to get involved in building these events, from the ground up! There are many different ways to be involved, from hands-on trail building to staffing events and providing food and drinks. Please contact us at info@parklands-alburywodonga.org.au. Watch this space for developments with this exciting project!



Our Native Garden Nursery: A selection of native plants are now on sale. Nursery located next door to the Wodonga waste Transfer Station 29 Kane Rd Wodonga. Plants are also available at the Re-use shop - Mon to Sat 10am to 3pm Sundays 10am to 2pm.

Funding Opportunities



North East Victorian Mentor Farm Program showcasing innovative farm demonstrations in NECMA is open. See <http://www.necma.vic.gov.au/>



Resource assessment grants 2015-16 now open for a limited time: 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. If you have further queries regarding this program contact grants.enquiries@sustainability.vic.gov.au and quote "Resource Assessment Grants 2015/16" or phone 1300 363 744 and ask to speak to a grants support representative. Closing dates for energy assessments: 4.00 pm on Friday 12 February 2016. For materials assessments and for combined material and energy assessments: 4.00 pm on Friday 13 May 2016.



Fulbright Scholarship Opportunity: Applications are now open for the annual Fulbright Professional Scholarship in Non-Profit Leadership. Consider applying for this opportunity to spend three to four months in the United States working on a project of your choice. The scholarship, valued at \$40,000, provides an opportunity for personal and professional development and broader impact through research or experiential learning at an approved US institution or charitable organisation. [Apply here](#)

Opportunities to have your say



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

*Best wishes for a safe
and happy Christmas. We look
forward to working with
you in 2016!*