

Wodonga Urban Landcare Network Inc.



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Opportunities to be involved



Wednesday Walks—House Creek on Belvoir Park—Wednesday 9th and 13th March:

9.30—11.30am. Two easy loop walks exploring the natural treasures of House creek at Belvoir Park.

Find out who else shares our parks and waterways, where they live and how, with a 'plain English' guided tour. Come along for a casual walk with local expert in biodiversity Simon Feillafe, identify the special nooks and hollows native birds and animals use and find out how we can simply improve their habitat.

- **Wodonga Creek Loop walk Wed 9th**, meet at 9.20 at the Stock Route Underpass, Reuss Rd.
- **Belvoir Park Loop walk Wed 16th**, meet at 9.20 at the Sumsion Gardens carpark, Huon St.

Enquiries: anne.stelling@landcarevic.net.au No cost. Morning Tea provided. Please wear a hat!



Wodonga Creeks 'Wednesday Walks' activities 2016: The "Wednesday Walks" project

springs directly from the Wodonga Creeks Forums initiated by WULN in 2014 and the resulting Wodonga Waterways Community Consultation report 2015. There will be a series of easy loop walks lead by knowledgeable staff able to identify and discuss in plain English the site vegetation and weeds, cultural features, natural assets and threats. All are welcome. Leaders Simon Feillafe, NECMA project officer, Dr Fleur Stelling, CSU lecturer in Interpretation and author of the original "North East Revegetation Guide", Glen Johnson, Senior Biodiversity Officer DELWP. WULN will simultaneously map features to use as a basis for Friends group's plans. All walks 9.30-11.30, with morning tea provided.

Enquiries: anne.stelling@landcarevic.net.au

Wed 9th March	Wodonga Creek loop, from Belvoir Park
Wed 16th March	Belvoir Park loop, from Sumsion Gardens
Wed 13th April	Pam Stone and Les Stone Park loop, from Les Stone Park carpark off Lawrence St.
Wed 27th April	Gerard Moylan and Willow Park loop, from Brockley St bridge.
Wed 11th May	Clyde Cameron Reserve loop, from Pearce St carpark (Willow Park)
Wed 25th May	Kent McKoy and David Winterbottom loop, from David Bayne Park
Wed 8th June	Gordon Hartsman Park loop, from Huon Creek Rd Bridge over House Creek.
Wed 22nd June	Felltimber Creek – Gordon Craig Park Loop, from Moorfield Park Drive.
Wed 13th July	Felltimber Creek – Golf Club loop
Wed 27th July	Felltimber Creek – Loop Felltimber Creek Rd to Golf course
Wed 10th Aug	Felltimber Creek – Loop Lambourne Drive up to reserve and return.



Interested in being in the next Green Army team? - Applications are now open for the next Parklands Albury Wodonga – Wodonga Urban Landcare Network Green Army Team. If you are 18 to 24 years old and interested in working Monday to Thursday for the next six months with a team of young people on a variety of environmental projects, go online and register now: <http://conservationvolunteers.com.au/green-army/victoria/>

This is a great opportunity to put your training into action, learn new skills and gain real experience in natural resource management. You will work alongside community Friends and Landcare groups, experience a whole range of projects and make a real difference in the local landscape. The team starts on Monday 21 March 2016.



North East Local Produce Guide – Register now! Local farmers and retailers of fresh produce grown in North East Victoria and the Albury area are invited to register their business for inclusion in the upcoming 2nd edition of the **North East Local Produce Guide**. The first edition of the Guide, launched by ABC's Costa Geogiadis in October 2014, has been so popular it is almost out of print! The Guide aims to make it easy for local people to source locally-grown food – thus supporting our local farmers, boosting our local economy, reducing carbon emissions and nurturing community connections. The Guide is supported with funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme, hence business listings in the Guide are FREE. Find out all the details and register online by **14th March 2016** at: www.nelocalproduce.com.au .



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. Parklands Albury Wodonga Rangers and partners have a wealth of skills and knowledge to share on all things Nestbox, while the group will be supported with governance and volunteer insurance as part of the Wodonga Urban Landcare Network. 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. 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 info@parklands-alburywodonga.org.au.



Mountain Range to Wetlands Photographic Competition – Monday 1st February: To celebrate the beauty of North East Victoria and Wooragee in particular, Wooragee Landcare would like to invite adults, primary and secondary students to participate in a photographic competition. Subject categories are Landscape, Biodiversity (Flora and Fauna) and Human Interest (eg farming, people enjoying the outdoors). There will be a special prize for photos taken in the Wooragee Valley. Prize money in each section is First \$100, Second \$75, Third \$50. Entries close 15 August 2016. Entry fee of \$2 per photo. Winners announced in September 2016. For further information contact Maureen Cooper at 03 57281311 or brigadoon.99@bigpond.com



Food Swap – Thursday 3rd March from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm at Birallee Park Neighbourhood House: the food swap/exchange happens every Thursday in front of the Birallee Park Neighbourhood House at 39 Emerald Avenue, West Wodonga. Look for the marquees, banners and baskets of produce amongst our flags. We also have plants on offer for the taking. Any excess fresh produce is gratefully accepted and 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 100 daily meals ready for donation. We are keen to encourage local gardeners and attract new volunteers to the program.



Clean up Australia – Sunday 6th March:

Felltimber Creek: Meet at the Lambourn Drive bridge over Felltimber Creek, West Wodonga, from 10.00 to 12.00. The site co-ordinator is Garry Knight at garryknight3@bigpond.com.

Gayview Birallee Parks: Meet at the Guide Hall in Jamieson Court, West Wodonga, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. The Site Coordinator is Brenda Roberts, at brendatroberts@yahoo.com.au

Jack Perry Reserve: Meet at the Main Gate on Axford Boulevard, off Victoria Cross Parade, Whitebox Rise, Wodonga, from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. The Site Coordinator is Kellie Miller at kmiller@wodonga.vic.gov.au

Willow Park and Surrounds: Meet at Willow Park carpark, Pearce Street, West Wodonga, from 9:00 am to 10:30 am. The Site Coordinator is Cameron O'Connor, email: northalbury.nsw@cba.com.au

Bonnie Doon Park : Albury City's Clean Up Australia Day site is at: Bonnie Doon Park on Pemberton Street, West Albury from 09:00 am to 11:00. Meet near the skate part opposite the Pemberton Street Shops. They encourage participants to wear appropriate footwear (enclosed, not thongs/sandals) UV protection (hat etc.) and gloves of their choice. They will have some gloves, sunscreen etc. on site and can provide bags for the rubbish.



Outing to Corowa Ponds Wildlife Sanctuary – Sunday 6th March, 9:30 am at Corowa

Ponds Wildlife Sanctuary: Bird watching outing to Corowa Ponds Wildlife Sanctuary. Meet at the ponds, Nixon Street off Federation Ave. This is a full day event, so BYO morning tea, lunch, chair, etc. For more details phone Phillip Seely: 02 60215313.



Celebrating our Region's Eucalypts – Sunday 6th March, 12.00 noon at Lions Park, South

Corowa: Join us for a picnic on the river at the Lions Park in South Corowa as we launch the Iconic Eucalypts booklet. It highlights eucalypts within our landscape as well as some of our most significant trees throughout the region. This project has been supported by Corowa District Landcare through funding from Murray Local Land Services and the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme, with a significant amount of volunteer time and generosity from friends, family and members of Corowa District Landcare. Each family attending the picnic will receive a complimentary copy of the booklet.



Kiewa River makeover and talk - Monday 7th March, 5.30pm, at Kiewa River Bushlands,

Killara. Meet at the picnic area south of the Kiewa River bridge on the Murray Valley Highway, Killara. Join us for a walk (1km) and talk and learn about plans to enhance the Kiewa River Bushlands picnic area at Killara. Parklands Albury Wodonga is pleased to advise that the North East Catchment Management Authority has secured Victorian Government funding to remove woody weeds including some poplars and seeding willows to help improve public access along the Kiewa River at Killara. The old Poplars continue to collapse and are a risk to users of this magnificent bushland and swimming hole. We would value your input, comments and feedback on plans to enhance this area. Come along for a walk and talk and have your say. More info: 02 6023 6714 or info@parklands-alburywodonga.org.au



Social Night, Friends of Willow Park – Friday 11th March, from 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm at the

German, Austrian, Australian Club, 5 McFarland Road, Wodonga: Everyone is invited to the Friends of Willow Park Social Night held each month on the Friday before Community Gardening. 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.



Corowa Community Garden Official Opening – Saturday 12th March, 2:00 pm - 3:30

pm at Corowa Tree of Life Community Garden, Cnr Queen & Church St, Corowa. Corowa Tree of Life Community Garden wishes to invite you to join us in Celebrating the Official Opening of the garden by the Mayor, Cr. Paul Miegel and the acknowledgement of the sponsors who have made this project possible. The event will be followed by afternoon tea. If you can indicate your attendance it would help with catering. Phone Lynn 0400 207 204 or email lfredericks23@gmail.com



Rubbish? A sustainable approach at Yackandandah Folk Festival – Friday 18th to

Sunday 20th March: Yackandandah Folk Festival, has a reputation for great music and community vibe. It is also gaining a reputation for sustainable practices. This year the festival is sharing profits with Totally Renewable Yackandandah (TRY) for their community Perpetual Energy Fund see <http://totallyrenewableyack.org.au> TRY is forming a Green Team of volunteers to handle the drinking water points, recycling and rubbish for the festival. And TRY is asking for your help. You can help by: volunteering some hours to work on the Green Team. To volunteer go to <http://yackfolkfestival.com/join-in/volunteers/> When you complete the form please be sure to state that you are applying for the Green Team. (Check out the option for free/discounted tickets for volunteers). Or, by buying a ticket to the festival <http://yackfolkfestival.com>



Yack Community Garden Food Swap – Saturday 19th March, from 9:30 am - 11:30 am

at Yackandandah Community Garden, William Street, Yackandandah. Next to the Swimming Pool and opposite the Court House: Our regular monthly food swap – open to everyone of all ages. Everything edible welcome. People bring chooks, ducks, seeds, veg, eggs, fruit, magazines, books, tools, equipment, honey – you name it! If it's to do with gardening, self-sufficiency, DIY, permaculture and growing things generally, it can go on the produce table. Love to see you there.... This is usually run in conjunction with a workshop which starts at 10.30 a.m. Gold coin donation welcome!



Hume Bank Earth Hour Music by Moonlight – Saturday 19th March, from 7:30 pm - 9:30

pm at Sumsion Garden, Wodonga: Hume Bank is pleased to invite all to come and join us at Sumsion Gardens in Wodonga to take part in 'Music by Moonlight' for Earth Hour 2016. Bring your picnic blanket and a bite to eat and listen to the chilled vibes of Mia Grace and the Aviators. The event will run from 7.30 pm – 9.30 pm and is open to all.



Riverina Lightning Trail Run – Sunday 20th March, from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm at Killara Picnic

Area, Murray Valley Hwy: An out and back course along the lightning fast Kiewa Track. The trail follows the Kiewa River through a shaded sanctuary to a point where it intersects the mighty Murray River. At the 5km mark a stunning view where these rivers collide, displaying a powerful wide berth of water. It's a flat and fast trail making it a great introduction to the sport of trail running for the local parkrunner and C2C participant. Opportunities also exists for regional talent to test themselves at ferocious pace, in an attempt to claim an of road speed title. Entry \$25. Go to the [Riverina Trails](http://RiverinaTrails) website for further details.



Environment East Gippsland - Forests Forever Easter Ecology Camp – Friday to

Monday 25- 28 March 2016. At Goongerah between the Snowy River and Erinundra National

Parks. Every Easter for the past 30 years Environment East Gippsland has been showing people the best of East Gippsland's beautiful and complex forests as part of its Forests Forever ecology camps. These forests are some of the most ancient and beautiful forests in the world. They protect the soil, store carbon and produce clean water in abundance. They also provide critical habitat for endangered species. Over four days people can spotlight for nightlife, sample hearty home made soups, learn the history of the ongoing fight to save these forests and how they can help. A range of guided short and longer drives and walks into the forests are led by experts in forest conservation, wildlife and rainforests. Be awed by the beauty and complexity of these magnificent old forests and be outraged by their destruction. Participants camp on the Brodribb River surrounded by peppermint and manna gums. Full weekend \$75 for adults (\$50 concession & teens), One day only \$35 (\$25 concession & teens), Under 13s free.

Bookings essential. Information: [<forestsforever@eastgippsland.net.au>](mailto:forestsforever@eastgippsland.net.au) (preferred) or 03 5154 0145 <http://www.eastgippsland.net.au/forestsforever>



Movie Night – Black Hole Feature Documentary – Wednesday 30th March, 7:00 pm -

9:00 pm at Regent Cinema, Albury: This riveting exposé documents the ongoing battle to save the

coal mines in Australia. The Leard State Forest is considered a national biodiversity hotspot, and the mine would turn 3500 hectares of this forest into an open-cut coal pit. A four year battle has raged between Whitehaven Coal and an unlikely alliance of farmers, grandparents, war veterans, doctors, religious leaders, and environmentalists in one of the most sustained campaigns of non-violent civil disobedience in Australia.



Outing to Beechworth Area – Saturday 2nd April, from 9:30 am at Old Court House, Ford Street, Beechworth: Bird watching outing to Beechworth Area. This is a full day event, so BYO morning tea, lunch, chair, etc. For more details phone Phillip Seely: 02 60215313.



11th Lake Bolac Eel Festival – Friday to Sunday 8th to 10th April: The festival theme for 2016 will be Aboriginal Land Management. Bill Gammage and Bruce Pascoe are keynote speakers. The Lake Bolac Eel Festival is a family-friendly music and art festival highlighting the environment and celebrating Indigenous culture. For information: <http://www.eelfestival.org.au/>



Local Food Network activities: The Local Food Network is a platform to share information, resources and improve partnerships to strengthen and sustain thriving local food systems in North East Victoria, NSW Riverina and surrounds. It recognises that a thriving local food system benefits producers, and the local economy and improves access to healthy foods for all community groups. We are a network that is open to all interested individuals and organisations. We meet bi-monthly at Gateway Health, 155 High St Wodonga on the fourth Thursday of the month from 11 am to 1:30pm. New members are welcome. Dates for Meetings in 2016 are Thursdays, April 28; June 30; August 25; October 20.



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.

Learning Opportunities



Permaculture Cert III – Tuesday 8th March, 9:30 am - 2:45 am at the National Environment Centre TAFENSW: Our very popular cert III in Permaculture is starting as a face-to-face class to be run at the NEC (National Environment Centre) Thurgoona on Tuesdays starting March 8th. This is a practical hands on class learning about sustainable living with a particular focus on growing great food. There will be some interesting excursions and people always enjoy this course as well as learning a lot about living sustainably.



4-month Social Change 101 Alpine/Indigo Region Program provides a unique opportunity for up to 14 individuals to gain the skills and networks needed to develop a social venture. Running from from July – October 2016, it is designed for socially minded, entrepreneurial individuals looking to develop an idea or grow a social venture or those innovating from within an established organisation, including NGO managers and decision makers, who are looking to transform a specific program within their organisation. The program is designed to benefit communities affected by the 2009 Victorian bushfires, and is specifically for people living in the Alpine / Indigo region. If you are, then please [register your interest here](#). You can also contact our Student Services Team: studentservices@sse.org.au



Link Festival: 7th to 8th March 2016 Melbourne & 11th March, 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](#).



Wind Industry Forum 2016 - 17 March, 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](#). For more information visit [2016 Wind Industry Forum](#).



Solar Energy Exhibition & Conference 2016 – 4th to 5th May: Melbourne Exhibition Centre. 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. <http://www.solarexpo.com.au/about-solar-2016-exhibition-conference/>



Solar Storage Exhibition and Conference — 1st and 2nd June: Australian Technology Park, Sydney. The event will focus on the energy storage industry at all levels – from utility scale to residential solutions as well as the emerging electric vehicle markets. The exhibition will be free to attend, and will include some of world's leading companies. For more information visit [Australian Energy Storage Conference and Exhibition](#)



8th Australian Stream Management Conference – Sunday, 31st July to Wednesday, 3rd August: this will be held in the Blue Mountains, New South Wales and is being convened by the River Basin Management Society with support from the Integrated Catchment Management Foundation. The 2016 event will provide the opportunity to discuss recent developments and challenges in stream management, in the context of experiences from the last two decades and beyond. Focus areas will include the role of physical interventions, catchment and riparian management, environmental flows, community expectations from stream systems, drought and flood recovery policy, and monitoring and evaluation programs. Further information about 8ASM will be provided shortly. However, in the meantime, if you would like to express your interest in submitting a Conference Paper or becoming a Conference supporter, please contact GEMS Event Management on +61 2 9744 5252 or email lbarker@gemspl.com.au.

Resources & Inspiration



Water Weed Alert – Water Hyacinth: If you live near a waterway or dam, please watch out for infestations of the aquatic weed water hyacinth which was found in the region in December. Water hyacinth is a declared noxious weed. It is one of the world's worst aquatic weeds, infesting rivers, dams, lakes and irrigation channels on every continent except Antarctica. It devastates aquatic environments and costs billions of dollars every year in control costs and economic losses. For more information, [click on this link](#). To report an infestation, Call DELWP Hume - Wodonga Office, 02 6043 7900



Open Community Meeting Portal - Aboriginal Victoria Forum – 3rd February 2016: If you missed the Aboriginal Victoria Forum or want to see bits again of the [Aboriginal Community Open Meeting](#), it is available at this link. Further information will be posted as it becomes available, and it is a key engagement point for continued dialogue with the community. I understand anyone who wants to pose a question or provide comment will need to register first. Cheers, Alana Marsh, Senior Project Officer, Community Strengthening, Office of Aboriginal Affairs, Department of Premier and Cabinet. T: 03) 9208 3843 F: 03) 9208 3292 M: 0448 526 088 - Currently in office Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.



Talking Wild Trout videos now available: 10 key presentations from the 'Talking Wild Trout' Conference in November at Mansfield are now available via the link below. The conference showcased learnings from the first year of a three year project, which is investigating wild trout populations across Victoria. Some really interesting research results around replacing native plants on stream banks. <https://t.e2ma.net/click/be46q/v91t6h/vd99yd>



Updated Regional Bushlands Map: Parklands Albury Wodonga is pleased to advise that the popular A2 brochure of the regional bushlands (Woomargana to Albury Wodonga to Tangambalanga to Shelley) has been updated and printed. Download low resolution copies from our website: [Regional Bushlands](#) or [High Country Rail Trail](#); Hard copies will be available at the Albury and Wodonga Visitor Information Centres and Parklands Albury Wodonga from mid-January 2016. Thank you to Albury City Council and City of Wodonga for sponsoring the reprint and providing valuable input to updating the content.



Regional Riparian Action Plan launched: Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water, Lisa Neville, has launched the Regional Riparian Action Plan, a new five-year plan to improve the health of Victoria's rivers, wetlands and estuaries. This plan outlines priority riparian management outcomes to be achieved across regional Victoria from 2015-16 to 2019-20. The plan aims to accelerate on-ground riparian work, such as stock management fencing, revegetation, weed management and the provision of off-stream stock watering infrastructure. It also has new initiatives to improve the management of riparian land. The action plan was developed in consultation with key stakeholders including catchment management authorities, Traditional Owners, Victorian Landcare Council, Environment Victoria, Victorian National Parks Association, and the Victorian Farmers Federation. See <http://delwp.vic.gov.au/regional-riparian-action-plan> for more details and to download a copy the action plan.

Funding Opportunities



National Stronger Regions Fund (NSRF) - Round Three is now open: Round Three of the NSRF opened for applications on Friday 15 January 2016 and closes 5pm (applicant's local time) on Tuesday 15 March 2016. Programme Guidelines and supporting documentation for Round Three are available. Applications must be submitted using the Grants Management System (GMS) Portal, a secure website managed by the Department. Access the GMS Portal at <http://gms.infrastructure.gov.au/UI>. Technical enquiries relating to the GMS Portal should be directed to 1800 005 494. Applicants should avoid waiting until the last minute to submit your application as high volumes of users can slow the system and may make it difficult for you to complete the submission.



More funds on offer for rural communities: The Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal has announced that grant programs have opened up. The [Small Grants for Rural Communities Program](#), [Rural Education Australia Program](#) grant program. In opening these programs now, we hope that it will provide the opportunity for local leaders to access the information when they return from the holiday festivities. The [Small Grants for Rural Communities \(SGRC\) program](#) is the longest running and broadest program FRRR offers. This collaboratively-funded program has the flexibility to address issues that make a difference to the sustainability of rural, regional and remote communities. Grants of up to \$5,000 are now available for projects and activities that offer clear public benefit. Priority will be given to communities of 10,000 people or fewer. Applications **close 24 March 2016**. [Rural Education Australia Program \(REAPing Rewards\)](#) is also open until 24 March 2016, for projects commencing in June 2016 onwards. It provides grants of up to \$10,000 for locally driven projects and programs that directly enhance the educational outcomes for children and students (0-18 years) in remote, rural and regional communities.



Community Impact Grants program: The Community Impact Grants program aims to empower community organisations and individuals to grow ideas in an innovative and creative way, as well as looking to improve the city. An individual can apply for a grant for less than \$500 by telling the council about your idea. Community organisations, workplaces and individuals auspiced by a community organisation can apply for grants ranging from \$500 to \$5000. The grant program links to the outcomes and key priorities in the Council Plan. The program provides funding to support projects/events relating to Building stronger communities; Environmental sustainability; Community events; and Arts and culture. All events, activities and projects must be held in the Wodonga municipality. See more at: <http://www.wodonga.vic.gov.au/about-us/grants-funds/cigp.asp#sthash.V8HynfKY.dpuf>



Victorian Litter Plan - Litter Innovation Fund: Round 1 grants now open: The Victorian Litter Innovation Fund provides support for the Victorian community, including government, business, not-for-profit organisations, social enterprises and schools, to fund innovative approaches that prevent and reduce the impact of litter and illegal dumping. Organisations are eligible to apply for grants of up to \$20,000 for innovative solutions to litter and illegal dumping that are delivered through a partnership approach. Projects must have at least three or more of the following seven elements of the Victorian Litter Action Alliance (VLAA) best practice model for litter prevention: Education, Infrastructure, Enforcement, Incentives, Working together, Good communication, Monitoring and evaluation. The Fund is a \$700,000 package, and grants will be offered over two grant rounds. Each grant round will involve a two stage application process. If you have any enquiries about the Litter Innovation Fund please email grants.enquiries@sustainability.vic.gov.au and quote "Litter Innovation Fund" or phone 1300 363 744 and ask to speak to a grants representative.

Opportunities to have your say

Public comment sought on impact of rabbits: The Australian Government's Minister for the Environment has released the draft *Threat abatement plan for competition and land degradation by rabbits* for public comment. Also released is an associated background document. See the Department of Environment's [website](#) for more information and the submission guidelines. Note - the public comment period closes on **16 March 2016**.