

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 #44— May 2016

Opportunities to be involved



Repair Café - Saturday April 30th: 10:00 am - 1:00 pm, Wodonga Senior Citizens Centre (between Wodonga Library and The Cube) 15 Havelock St, Wodonga.

Do you have a broken household item you'd like fixed but need a hand to do so? Then this is your big opportunity. Our Repair Café is a free meeting place to bring along broken household items such as furniture, clothing, battery-operated appliances and bikes and learn how to fix them with the help of experienced, volunteer repairers. On this occasion – as a first – we're offering simple guitar repairs too. Got a broken string? We'll help you replace it. You can also bring along small, blunt garden tools like secateurs and we'll show you how to sharpen them.

No need to register, just come along with your broken item and we'll do our best. Repair Café Albury-Wodonga is proudly supported by Halve Waste. This event is being organised by [Repair Café Albury-Wodonga](#)



Native Plant Stall - Sunday May 1st: 8:30 am - 12:30 pm, Rotary Albury-Wodonga Community Market, Wilson St Carpark, Albury. Ground floor, undercover carpark. This event is being organised by [Australian Plant Society Albury-Wodonga](#)



Planting Day – Sunday 1st May: 'Blue Wren Estate', Baranduda. The developers of the new Blue Wren estate invite community members to a planting day. A range of native grasses, shrubs, and trees will, be planted along the public Access Drainage reserves that bisect the estate over the

next month. The Public Access path begins to the North of the CFA shed and goes in a West South Westerly direction to the end of Echidna Court and Barton Drive. There is also a branch off the South to Hamilton Court. Contact Tas for any further information 0448 934 288 or tas@namsat.biz



HotHouse Theatre presents They Saw A Thylacine - May 3rd – 7th: 8:00 pm -9:30 pm, The Butter Factory Theatre, Gateway Island Lincoln Causeway Wodonga.

On an unseasonably cold September day in 1936, the world's last known Tasmanian Tiger died in captivity at Hobart's Beaumaris Zoo.

Out of the darkness, Sarah Hamilton and Justine Campbell conjure the ghost of one of our lost beauties – the thylacine. With the suspense and warmth of a campfire story, these feisty, funny women weave a lyrical tale of discovery and destruction. For this thylacine tracker and zoo keeper's daughter, it's a quest to protect a threatened creature ... and themselves.

Gutsy and rebellious, this beautiful reimagining of Australia's lost history shines a light on extinction and our own survival. Don't miss this mesmerising theatre experience.

More information and buy tickets [here](#). This event is being organised by [HotHouse Theatre](#)



Social Night, Friends of Willow Park – Friday 6th May, from 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm, at 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.



Make a 'Seed Bomb' for Mum – Saturday 7th May: 10am-12pm, Sustainable Activity Centre (the old Information Centre, Lincoln Causeway, Gateway Island. In this workshop children will make Mothers Day 'Seed Bombs' to take home and plant. Create a clever bomb for an explosion of flowers and herbs in your garden. Gold coin donation. Enquiries to Claire on 0406 943 436



WaterWatch, Friends of Willow Park – Sunday 8th May, from 9:00 am - 10:30 am at Willow Park, Wodonga: Help measure the concentration of chemicals in House Creek. Meet near the BBQ in Willow Park. BYO water, sunscreen and hat. Friends of Willow Park will supply all other equipment. Join in with Community Gardening at 10.30am, if you like, followed by morning tea at 11.30am.



Community Gardening, Friends of Willow Park – Sunday 8th May, from 9:30 am - 11:30 am at Willow Park: 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.



Volunteers Guinness World Record Challenge – Wednesday 11th May, 5.30pm for 6.00pm start, finishing at 8.00pm, at Albury Tigers Football Club, Wodonga Place, Albury: In celebration of National Volunteers Week, AWVRB are organising a world record challenge to get 3000 people to form a V in one location. Grab some food at the sausage sizzle, meet and greet fellow participants, form a human **V** to celebrate the contribution volunteers make to our community.



Wednesday Walk and Talk – House Creek through Clyde Cameron Reserve – Wednesday 11th May, from 9:30 am - 11:30 am, at House Creek in Clyde Cameron reserve. Meet at the Pearce St. carpark (Willow Park): Join the members of the Wodonga Urban Landcare Network on an easy loop walk exploring the natural treasures of House creek through Clyde Cameron Reserve. Find out who else shares this park, where they live and how, with a 'plain English' guided tour. Come along for a casual walk with local expert in biodiversity Glen Johnson, identify the special nooks and hollows native birds and animals use and find out how we can restore and improve their habitat. No cost. Morning Tea provided. Please wear a hat and dress for the weather! Rsvp not required but would help for catering: anne.stelling@landcarevic.net.au. This walk is part of our Wednesday Walks series, where local experts lead us in exploring the urban reaches of House, Huon and Felltimber creeks.



Seed Savers gathering: Preserving your Harvest – Saturday 14th May: 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm, at Riverina Institute of TAFE National Environment Centre, 97 Ettamogah Rd, Thurgoona. When your home garden is humming along, you might find yourself muttering "but there's so much at once!" What to do? Preserve! Our many previous preserving workshops have always been popular. Jacky Cronin will again be offering her experience and wisdom and we'd love to hear your stories too. As there are so many ways to preserve (fermenting, drying, bottling, etc) we will pick a couple to focus on and discuss techniques, experiences, tools, benefits and challenges. Bring your favourite preserved item and recipe, or any photos, tools or tips to share. Plus: We will have the seed bank available. Please bring something to share over a cuppa if you can. Guests and non-members also welcome (we ask for a donation from non-members to help with our insurance costs).



NE Environment Forum 'Innovation in Landscape Conservation' - Tuesday 17th May:

10am - 4pm, CSU/GOTAFE, Tone Rd Wangaratta. The inaugural North East Victorian environment forum 'Innovation in Landscape Conservation' will feature the John Paul Memorial Lecture, featuring Dr Dale Nimmo (biologist and ecology researcher with the Institute for Land, Water and Society at Charles Sturt University), and presentations from and a panel discussion with researchers and agency professionals as they lead an open discussion around the Carp biocontrol virus and deer management. Please contact Sophie Richards on 02 6043 7633 or sophie.richards@necma.vic.gov.au This event is proudly presented by North East CMA, Trust for Nature, Charles Sturt University's Institute for Land, Water and Society and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.



Film screening - Battle in the Bush & Where do Eagles Dare? - Friday May 20th: 6:30

pm - 9:20 pm, Regent Cinema, Albury. Murray Local Land Services invites you to a free screening of two Australian natural history films, Battle in the Bush and Where to Eagles Dare. Battle in the Bush film maker, Daniel Hunter, will introduce the films and answer audience questions at the conclusion of the screening.

Battle in the Bush explores the role that predators play in biodiversity conservation and the changing face of conservation in Australia. Battle in the Bush is a 35-minute film that explores key questions arising from Dan's research with the Centre for Ecosystem Science, University of NSW. For more information, [click here](#).

Where Do Eagles Dare? is the story of one person's mission to unlock the secrets of the largest predatory bird in Australia, the Wedge-tailed Eagle. The film follows Simon Cherriman, a young West Australian ornithologist, as he embarks on a quest to fulfil a boyhood dream, and for the first time ever, satellite track Wedge-tails in the remote WA. This film documents this unique research project, but is also a wildlife film, set largely in the central Western Australian desert region. To see the trailer, [click here](#)

** The films are recommended for mature audience and may contain material that requires a mature perspective ** RVSP is essential **by** 18 May 2016, [click here to RSVP](#). For more information: Tara Pitman – (02) 6051 2250 or tara.pitman@lls.nsw.gov.au This event is being organised by [Murray Local Land Services](#)



Outing to Killawarra Forest – Saturday 21st May, from 9:00 am at Forest Camp, Camp Rd,

Killawarra. This is a joint outing with Birdife Murray Goulburn branch. This is a full day event, so BYO morning tea, lunch, chair, etc. For more details phone Phillip Seely: 02 60215313.



Yack Community Garden – Food Swap – Open to all: Saturday 21st May: 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!



Whistlestop Progressive High Tea - Saturday 21st May: 1.30pm at Huon Reserve, Murray

Valley Highway, Bonegilla. As part of the North East High Country Harvest Festival, the Bonegilla Rail Trail Advisory Group, Tallangatta Rail Trail Advisory Group and Parklands Albury Wodonga invite you to get on your bike for this progressive High Tea. Cycle from Huon Reserve on Lake Hume to Tallangatta on the High Country Rail Trail feasting on a progressive homemade high tea at station stops along the way. Take in spectacular Lake Hume views as you journey over the iconic Sandy Creek Bridge into Tallangatta. Distance 24km return. Tickets \$25. Bookings <http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/whistlestop-high-tea-tickets-21283092302> Enquiries info@parklands-alburywodonga.org.au



Wednesday Walk and Talk – Huon Creek through David Winterbottom Park and Kent McKoy Reserve – Wednesday 25th May: 9:30 am - 11:30 am. Meet at David Bayne

carpark off Huon Creek Rd Wodonga. Join the members of the Wodonga Urban Landcare Network on an

easy loop walk exploring the natural treasures of Huon creek through David Winterbottom Park and the adjoining hillside catchment in Kent McKoy Reserve. Find out who else shares these parks, where they live and how, with a 'plain English' guided tour. Come along for a casual walk with a local expert in biodiversity to identify the special nooks and hollows native birds and animals use and find out how we can restore and improve their habitat. Be aware that 2nd half of walk is quite steep ascending and descending from Kent McKoy Reserve. No cost. Morning Tea provided. Please wear a hat and dress for the weather! Rsvp not required but would help for catering: anne.stelling@landcarevic.net.au



Quarterly gathering of the Wodonga Urban Landcare Network – Wednesday 25th

May: 6-9pm. Hosted by the Clyde Cameron reserve group. 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. Cooked meat will be provided — please bring an accompanying dish (surnames A-M) or dessert (surnames N-Z) to share. Please **rsvp** to President Garry Knight at garryknight3@bigpond.com or on 0411 427 051 by Friday 19th May. Enquiries anne.stelling@landcarevic.net.au We look forward to your company!



Riverina Endurance Trail Running Series, Race 1 Huon Hill - Sunday 29th May:

Series opener Huon Hill perfectly sets the tone for the series. Over nearly 14km you will experience 590m of elevation. At different points the summit of Huon provides 360 views including a huge panorama of Lake Hume, glimpses of snow peaked alpine ranges and city skylines of both Albury and Wodonga. A forgiving 3km of flat trail along the Kiewa River provides sanctuary and chance for runners to feel some pace in their legs. The trek across the north face of the hill and back up to the summit really sweetens the taste of satisfaction. This 13.8km will truly bring you to life. Further information at <http://www.riverinatrails.org/>



Geocaching & Landcare Networking session – Wednesday 1st June:

10am – 12 noon, Sustainable Activity Centre, Gateway Island Wodonga. A networking session to discuss Geocaching sites, practice and technology, and how these can work for Landcare groups. An Eventbrite registration will be set up and all SAC subscribers notified. To subscribe (free for individuals and not-for-profit groups) go to <http://sustainableactivitycentre.com.au/memberships/>



Mountain Range to Wetlands Photographic Competition :

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. There will be separate sections for primary school, secondary school and adult competitors. 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



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 11am to 1:30pm. New members are welcome. Dates for Meetings in 2016 are: **Thursday, June 30**; Thursday, August 25; Thursday, October 20.



Baranduda Landcare's Community Tree planting day - Sunday 31st July:

Save the date and watch this space for further details of BLC's 17th Annual National Planet Ark Community Tree Day – always a great day for all the family.



Volunteering Victoria: emergency volunteer match - Volunteering Victoria has made its very first spontaneous emergency volunteer match through our [HelpOUT](#) pilot program in Geelong and surrounding regions. In support of fire recovery efforts in Wye River, they matched Wye River Landcare to a local holiday maker and volunteer who helped to deliver 50 bird boxes built by a high school VCAL program in Monbulk for installation in the bush around Wye River. If you, your friends, colleagues or family are interested in volunteering to support community recovery following a disaster, please register your interest through -<http://volunteeringvictoria.org.au/helpout/>



Bushcare's Major Day Out – event registrations open: In 2016, Bushcare's Major Day Out will be held during Landcare Week on Sunday 11 September. Bushcare's Major Day Out is designed to recognise and celebrate the work done by volunteer groups to rejuvenate bushland around Australia. Bushcare's Major Day Out are inviting groups to participate by holding an event (eg a planting day, a clean-up day or whatever that group would like to do) on or close to 11 September. To register an event and for more information about the day go to www.bushcaresmajordayout.org



Hook up with the Sustainable Activity Centre on Gateway Island: The Sustainable Activity Centre (The SAC) provides a central location for sustainability. It's a venue for the public to congregate and engage in, educate and 'do' sustainable activities; A centre point for the local sustainable industry to showcase what's on offer; A membership based business that provides subscribers with resources to help achieve industry networking, industry promotions and cumulative outcomes associated with a hub of sustainable activity.

If its green, eco, environmentally friendly, sustainable, natural, organic, resourcefully smart, native, philanthropic, socially and environmentally responsible, has advanced stewardship, ... you get the drift.... if it's good for the planet and the world we live in, The SAC will promote it and get the community actively involved in it.

To receive notifications of events and activities by the SAC, please subscribe via <http://sustainableactivitycentre.com.au/memberships/>



National Landcare Week - 5-11 September: Watch this space for our Landcare Week celebration activities, or contact Wodonga Urban Landcare Network to link in with local events.

anne.stelling@landcarevic.net.au

Learning Opportunities



Agritourism Conference – Tuesday 3rd May: CSU/GOTAFE Wangaratta. Agritourism is an emerging trend that will offer great opportunities for High Country businesses that are capable of combining agriculturally based operations with tourism experiences that allow visitors to connect with food and the land it comes from. The Agritourism Conference will explore this trend and provide key insights for businesses who are looking to service this market. So if you are a primary producer, have an existing food and wine business or you are interested in a fair/local food system, this conference is not to be missed. [Click here to purchase your tickets now!](#) North East Tourism



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/>



“Rodenator” Rabbit warren destruction demonstration at Bruarong – Saturday 7th

May, at 10.30am at the top of Tunnel Gap Road, Bruarong (look for Landcare signs). The rabbit is a serious environmental and agricultural pest and can impact on farm productivity and native ecosystems, leading to financial loss and environmental destruction. Whilst the release of the virus booster in 2016/2017 will reduce rabbit numbers, the virus needs to be combined with destruction of warrens. Warren ripping is one method, the use of the rodenator is another. Each has particular advantages depending on site conditions. You are invited to a rodenator demonstration & BBQ lunch. For catering purposes or more information please RSVP to: Megan Hughes megan.hughes@landcarevic.net.au 0407 227 814.



Fungi - A Curious Kingdom workshop - Monday 9th May, from 10.30am - 4.30pm (lunch

provided) at National Environment Centre, TAFE Riverina, Thurgoona. [S2S Bushlinks](#) invites you to come along to an interactive workshop to learn about the diversity, ecology and curiosities of the fungi kingdom. Dr Alison Pouliot is back by popular demand sharing her wealth of knowledge about Australian native fungi species and their role in the native vegetation systems in our region. Booking is essential, please RSVP to the HLN office, T: 02 60363181 or E: office@holbrooklandcare.org.au by Thursday 5 May. [Click here](#) for link to flyer for further details.



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 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



Pat Grosse presents “Get That Grant” workshop - Friday 13th May | 9.30 - 3.30pm, at

Thurgoona Community Centre, 10 Kosciusko Road, Thurgoona NSW . Pat is an expert grant writer with over 25 years' worth of experience on both sides of the funding fence, over two hemispheres. Her experience includes developing funding criteria, writing guidelines, providing feedback, assessing applications and writing successful grant applications. Cost: \$216 per organisation, includes one complimentary Grant Writing Resource Kit, lunch and morning/afternoon tea provided Register Now: <http://grantwritingalburywodonga.eventbrite.com.au>.



Fungi Workshop – Saturday 14th May, 10.00AM - 04.30PM at Bonegilla Migrant Experience.

This workshop will introduce participants to the diversity, ecology and curiosities of the Kingdom Fungi, specific to fungi found in the region but also within a wider Australian context. Bookings: The Cube Wodonga via thecubewodonga.com.au/tickets, cost: \$80
Enquiries: Bonegilla Migrant Experience on (02) 6020 6912, bonegilla@wodonga.vic.gov.au.



Understanding Soils in the Mitta Valley - Field Day: Tuesday 17th May at Noorongong

Fire Shed, 2606 Omeo Highway Tallandoon Vic. All welcome. Whether you are a seasoned farmer or a small landholder, soil tests can be an important routine management tool. Cath Botta, who has worked for over 20 years as a soil scientist, educator and facilitator with rural and regional communities will help demystify your soil-test results and resolve any burning questions. We will look at soil test results from our trial sites. You can also bring along your own soil test results. Mark Brooks, who is a ruminant nutritionist, will be discussing tissue test results and how nutrient levels effect animal health. This is a joint project between the Mitta Valley Landcare Group and the North East CMA through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme. [Click here](#)



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



SWIFFT videoconferences 2016 – This year, the following SWIFFT videoconferences will be held at 9.45am at a variety of venues:

Thursday 28 July 2016 - Threatened species - population enhancement;

Thursday 27 October 2016 - Learning from indigenous knowledge of ecology.

For a full list of event locations, please visit the SWIFFT website at: http://www.swiff.net.au/cb_pages/video_conferencing.php



FriendsNET newsletter: The most recent issue of FriendsNET, the quarterly newsletter from the Victorian Environment Friends Network is available, including articles on sea eagles, relocating reptiles, and gliders in nest boxes. Go to: <http://vnpa.org.au/admin/library/attachments/PDFs/Friends%20newsletter/FriendsNET94.pdf> .



CSIRO - Farming in 2050: storing carbon could help meet Australia’s climate goals:

CSIRO research, published in Global Environmental Change, assesses a range of potential pathways for Australia’s agricultural land as part of CSIRO’s National Outlook. Check out the CSIRO blog for an interesting read: <https://blog.csiro.au/farming-2050-storing-carbon-help-meet-australias-climate-goals/>



Issue 66 Landcare Magazine now available:

66 Victorian Landcare and Catchment Management Magazine is now available online and will be shortly arriving in post boxes. This issue is a feature on invasive plants and animals. including an article about Parklands Albury Wodonga To read or

download the current issue of the magazine visit <http://www.landcarevic.net.au/resources/magazine/vlcm/current-issue>

All the other back issues (i.e. from issues 1-65) of the Victorian Landcare and Catchment Management magazine are now on the Victorian Landcare Gateway <http://www.landcarevic.net.au/resources/magazine/vic/previous-issues>



Results are out: Landcare Program Review - The recent review of the Victorian Landcare Program found overall that the program has been effective in supporting Landcare and that the Landcare Facilitators and the Victorian Landcare Grants are the most valued components of the program. They are fundamentally important to the viability and operation of many groups and networks across the state. The review also identified a number of ways to help shape the Victorian Government's future support for Landcare. To read the Minister's update on the review go to <http://www.landcarevic.net.au/resources/landcare-policy/victorian-landcare-program-review/ministers-update/view>



Wildlife research highlights need for long-term rabbit biocontrol strategy - Research has found three threatened mammals have staged dramatic recoveries in the past 20 years, predominantly due to the release of rabbit haemorrhagic disease virus (RHDV) in 1995. RHDV reduced rabbit numbers, with associated reductions in their main predators, cats and foxes, leading to native mammals having less competition for food and less predation pressure. Click [here](#) for full PESTSMART article. For more information about the Invasive Animals CRC current research in this area please visit – <http://www.pestsmart.org.au/pest-animal-species/european-rabbit/>



Federal parliament passes amendment to biological control legislation – There is now certainty around the use of viruses in controlling pests, such as the European Rabbit and Carp, after an Amendment to the Biological Control Act 1984 was unanimously passed in record time during the Parliamentary sitting last week. The bill does not change the existing basic scientific, technical or safety features and standards applying to biological control. Biological control agents will continue to be subject to considerable testing prior to release in Australia. However, the amendment now gives legal certainty to the Australian Government in relation to the proposed release of RHDV K5 to boost rabbit management and Australia's first potential carp biocontrol agent – Cyprinid herpes virus 3. The act is part of a mirror legislation scheme, and the Commonwealth will continue to work with the states and the Northern Territory to ensure that there is a nationally consistent approach. Click [here](#) for full PESTSMART article. Further information regarding the proposed release of RHDV K5 - <http://www.pestsmart.org.au/boosting-rabbit-biocontrol-rhdv-k5-national-release/> To stay up-to date with latest information on the release, please click here to subscribe to RHD Boost update: <http://www.pestsmart.org.au/subscribe/>



Help stop extinction caused by feral cats – FeralCatScan is a new project by the Invasive Animals CRC and Australian Government Department of the Environment, and is supported by communities Australia-wide to improve knowledge about feral cats to help protect Australia's threatened wildlife. Landholders can help cease wildlife extinctions by logging sightings of feral cats via a new, easy-to-use phone app or the Feral Cat Scan website. The data feeds back to the Australian Government to help build a national picture of what is happening and what needs to be done. To find out more or to download the app, go to <http://www.feralscan.org.au/feralcatscan/default.aspx>



Pestsmart feral flyer – subscribe for latest updates: The Feral Flyer is the fortnightly e-newsletter of the Invasive Animals CRC. Latest update available here – [Feral Flyer #293 – 7 Apr.](#) Click [here](#) to subscribe.



The weeds news - To read the current Weed's News Digest regarding current weed research go to: <http://weedsnetwork.com/rs/::WeedsNews%20newspage>



Park watch – new issue available: March 2016 Edition Available here - <http://vnpa.org.au/page/publications/park-watch/park-watch-march-2016--no-264> . Features include the Great Victorian Fish Count, Leadbeater's Plan and Victoria's Best Walks.



Algal bloom to continue: A 700-kilometre stretch of the Murray River from Lake Hume to Kerang in the north-west has been plagued by a large blue-green algae bloom. Experts now warn the toxic bloom could last into May. While urban water customers have not been affected, farmers that need to water their stock are becoming concerned. Victorian Environment Minister Lisa Neville has warned it will continue for some time; "All the advice continues to tell us while the temperatures remain warm, while the water temperature remains in the 20s in the Murray, unless we have some cooling in the water, outside temperature and rainfall, we're going to see this algae. And that's probably likely to go into April, maybe even into May." People should not enter, drink, water vegetables with or give to livestock or pets water direct from local creeks or the Murray River.



Water for Victoria Discussion Paper - Water is important to all of us. Climate change, population growth and changing community expectations are continually challenging the way we manage the water cycle to ensure it supports all Victorians. The Victorian Government has released a Discussion Paper identifying the key issues and potential responses that will ensure water continues to support a healthy environment, a prosperous economy and thriving communities now and into the future. A [summary of the Discussion Paper](#) is available online.

Funding Opportunities



Pat Grosse presents "Get That Grant" workshop - Friday 13th May: 9.30 - 3.30pm, at Thurgoona Community Centre, 10 Kosciusko Road, Thurgoona NSW Do you own a business or run a not-for-profit and are looking for funding and don't know where to start? Come along and listen to Pat Grosse, who will walk you through 5 steps to successful grant submissions. Pat works with clients to grow their business through a range of strategies including applying for grants. She is an expert grant writer with over 25 years' worth of experience on both sides of the funding fence, over two hemispheres. Her experience includes developing funding criteria, writing guidelines, providing feedback, assessing applications and writing successful grant applications. Cost: \$216 per organisation, includes one complimentary Grant Writing Resource Kit, lunch and morning/afternoon tea provided Register Now: <http://grantwritingalburywodonga.eventbrite.com.au>



SUEZ Community Grants: In the last two years alone, the SUEZ Community Grants program has provided more than \$250,000 to community organisations and projects around Australia. In 2016, the program will provide grants of up to \$15,000 to community groups that encourage local participation in social and environmental projects to help create a more sustainable future. [Apply online here](#)



Landcare Australia Special Projects Grants: up to \$15,000 (ex. GST): Landcare Australia is offering grants to Landcare and farming groups to undertake projects that protect environmental assets, address priority issues and improve the health of the environment. Groups are invited to apply for a grant of up to \$15,000 (ex. GST) to support projects that focus on one or more of the following areas: Biodiversity, Sustainable agriculture. Applications open: 18 April 2016 (9.00am EST), Applications close: 20 May 2016 (5.00pm EST): [click here](#)



Community Impact Grants program: Wodonga's 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>



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](#)



One Tree Per Child Program is now open: The Australian Government's new One Tree Per Child program is an opportunity for Landcare groups/networks and councils to receive funds for planting projects this coming planting season. We urge local schools to register with the program on line at <http://www.onetreeperchild.com/> Your registration will flow to WULN and Council enabling us to work with you on your projects.



Make the switch to a responsible lender & get a bonus for your local landcare group: Landcare Australia has partnered with Bank Australia to provide vital funding to local Landcare groups whose supporters take out a new home loan or refinance their existing home loan to Bank Australia. This special offer is open to members of Landcare Groups, family and friends, or any Landcare supporter, or anyone who mentions Landcare when registering their interest in applying for a loan before 31 May 2016, have a unique opportunity to support your local Landcare Group. And the best bit... Landcare will receive 0.4% of the home loan value from Bank Australia, without affecting your interest rate, fees, or loan structure in any way. For an average \$250,000 home loan, this equates to \$1,000. Even if you aren't personally in the market for a home loan, be sure to pass this deal on to anyone you know that might be interested, and lend Landcare a helping hand and make sure to tell them to mention the local Landcare Group. For more information go to: <https://bankaust.com.au/landcare>



Small Grants for Rural Communities (SGRC) - Round 29: Grants of up to \$5,000 are available for projects and activities that offer clear public benefit for communities in rural, regional or remote Australia. Priority is given to communities of 10,000 or fewer. Applicants must be not-for-profit community organisations with an ABN or incorporation certificate. Before applying, please read the Guidelines carefully: [Small Grants for Rural Communities R29 - Program Guidelines](#)



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. Please go to the [Sustainability Victoria](#) website for further information or phone 1300 363 744 and ask to speak to a grants representative.

Opportunities to have your say



The NSW Volunteer of the Year Award: Recognising the outstanding efforts of the 2 million+ volunteers in NSW, and to promote the importance of volunteering to the community. The Regional Winners will be announced at a local ceremony, which will be held between September and October 2016. [Nominations close on Friday, July 15 2016 – Nominate Today!](#)



Entries now open for the premier's sustainability awards: Closing Date Monday 27th June: Now in their 14th year, the Awards continue to recognise leadership and innovation in sustainable practices, and reward those who have driven change by reducing their environmental impact. Categories for this year's awards are: Built Environment, Community, Education, Environmental Justice, Environmental Protection, Government, Health, Innovative Products or Services, Large Business, Small and Medium Enterprises. In addition to these awards, the Premier of Victoria will select two overall winners in the Premier's Recognition Award and the Premier's Regional Recognition Award. Entries are open to all businesses, community groups, local government, and individuals who are committed to a better environment for Victoria. For more information and to apply, visit www.sustainabilityawards.vic.gov.au



Photos and stories wanted - Showcasing 30 Years of Landcare: Later this year, Landcare in Victoria will celebrate a major milestone – its 30th birthday! We are calling on Landcarers young and old to share their stories through photographs and videos. To mark this special occasion we would like to showcase the array of wonderful Landcare projects, events, achievements and the changes that have taken place over the last three decades. We're particularly looking for photos showing the progress of projects over time, milestones for your group/network, people participating in events, and more generally, what Landcare means to you. We've made it easy for you to upload your photos, videos and consent forms via the following link [30 Years of Landcare Photo Upload](#)
John Robinson, Victorian Landcare Program



Feedback wanted on Wodonga's three-bin household waste system: Cathy McNabb is gathering feedback from local groups in regards to the introduction of the new three-bin household waste system. Please fill out the short survey at <https://surveyplanet.com/56e8a35d493d480c1bf12a8e> If your group would like any further information about the three-bin system, Cathy can either arrange to get information out to you or can arrange for a speaker to come out for another session with your group, or you can go to <http://halvewaste.com.au/organics/> Contact Cathy McNabb, Cathy McNabb Projects, 0408 926 365.



Consultation open - Protecting Victoria's Environment - Biodiversity 2036: Our natural environment makes Victoria a special place. Our lives are enriched by healthy land and seas, unique plants and animals, recreational spaces and clean water and air. These are essential to many Victorians' livelihoods and are not something we can take for granted. There are several different ways for the community and stakeholders to get involved: Make a [submission](#) through this website, or attend a community information session. Find out more by [downloading the draft plan](#). Comments and submissions on the draft plan will close on Sunday 15 May 2016 at midnight AEST



Consultation open - Draft Biodiversity Plan: the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water has released the draft Biodiversity Plan titled "Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2036" for public consultation.

It has been released for an eight week consultation period until 15 May 2016. The draft plan and consultation questions can be found at DELWP's consultation website HaveYourSay at <http://haveyoursay.delwp.vic.gov.au/biodiversity-plan>