

# Wodonga Urban Landcare Network Inc.



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## Network Bulletin #28— November 2014

### Opportunities to be involved



**Friends of Willow Park Social Night and End of Year celebration - Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December:** 6.15pm, 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.



**Community Gardening in the Park and Waterwatch, Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December:** 9.30-11.30 with Friends of Willow Park - Meet near the BBQ in Willow Park for a variety of gardening activities in Willow Park, including planting, mulching, weeding (and chatting)... BYO Water, sunscreen and hat. Stay for morning tea after gardening.



**Workplaces in Open Spaces – Linking workplace volunteers to local outdoor projects:** Workplaces in Open Spaces is an initiative that has been jointly created by Wodonga Urban Landcare Network, Parklands Albury Wodonga, Wodonga Council, Healthy Together Wodonga (Wodonga Council and Gateway Health) and Be Active (VicHealth). The program engages workplaces to improve Wodonga's open spaces and encourage employee health and well-being. By doing this, the partners believe they can help to create friendly, usable spaces that enhance civic pride and community ownership.

The activities that workplaces can participate in range from tree planting and landscaping to installing small infrastructure and equipment. They can be undertaken in a timeframe and on a scale to suit the workplace and its employees. Projects can either be a short-term or long-term arrangement where a company might build a relationship with a particular open space over a period of time.

Workplaces can select the open space they would like to volunteer in, or one can be matched to them depending on their needs and requirements. For more information see the [WIOS web-page](#) or contact Wodonga Council's volunteer co-ordinator on (02) 6022 9300.



**Project Wild Thing - Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December:** 5:30 - 8:00pm, Regent Cinema (456 Dean Street, Albury). You are invited to a FREE screening of the film Project Wild Thing, a film-led movement to get more kids (and their parents) outdoors reconnecting with nature so that they are happier and healthier. The film is PG rated and intended for parents, teachers and educators. RSVP Friday 5 December [here](#) or head to the Ecoportal *Calendar of Events* page ([www.ecoport.net.au](http://www.ecoport.net.au)). Light refreshments will be provided from 5:30pm with the opportunity to talk to local organisations and groups about programs, activities and resources to connect children with nature. The film will start at 6:10pm.



**Yackandandah Community Food Swap / Christmas Pizza lunch – Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December:** 9.30 food swap opens. Immediately following the food swap the oven will be fired up and we shall share some good Christmas spirit; a creekside view, fine weather and a fresh baked pizza, loaf, spud or desert. Bring food to share... Meet at the Garden, Hammond Street Yackandandah



**Daytrip to Mt Big Ben and Yackandandah – Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December:** with Albury Wodonga Field Naturalists Club. Commence 9.30am meeting at Acacia Car Park, Smythe Street, Wodonga. BYO refreshments for the day remembering it is our Christmas break up. Leader Neil phone 0260 212097.



**Our Native Garden Nursery – Wednesday and Sunday sessions:** ONG has now moved to the Wodonga Transfer Station and is a hive of activity as propagating beds are set up and seedling production gets underway for Autumn planting. Community members are most welcome to get involved with volunteer workshops running Wednesdays 10am-2pm and Sundays 10.30-1pm. Volunteers learn about native seed collecting, production horticulture and nursery management with Australian native plants, and share in the benefits of diy plant growing. Groups and schools are welcome to book in for these free workshops and have a portion of the seedlings they produce donated to the project of their choice. Please contact Our Native Garden on 0418579331 for further information. Keep up to date via the ONG website at <http://ournativegarden.com.au/>



**Falls Creek Volunteer Hawkweed Survey - Call for volunteers:** Volunteer recruitment is now open for the 2014/2015 season Falls Creek Volunteer Hawkweed Survey. As you may already know, hawkweeds are a highly invasive pest plant species which can cause major environmental damage in alpine & sub-alpine areas of Australia if not eradicated early. Participating in the surveys is a great way to help protect the Victorian Alps from this dangerous weed, as well as a fantastic opportunity to enjoy the magnificent alpine environment during the green summer months. If you, your friends, family or colleagues would like to attend or have questions, please contact Yohanna from Parks Victoria [yohanna.aurisch@parks.vic.gov.au](mailto:yohanna.aurisch@parks.vic.gov.au)



**Calling for Produce Swap Interest:** Gateway Health in Partnership with Healthy Together Wodonga are putting the call out to interested individuals/ groups/ organisations to lead a weekly 'produce swap' in central Wodonga in January, February and March 2015. The concept of a produce swap is that residents bring their excess produce, seeds, homemade preserves even chook poo (whatever you have!) and swap with others. If you are interested or wish to know more please contact Claire Taylor at Healthy Together Wodonga: (02) 6022 9353, 0401 698 403, [ctaylor@wodonga.vic.gov.au](mailto:ctaylor@wodonga.vic.gov.au)



**Hume Murray Community Gardening Collective - Wednesday 3rd December:** 11am to 1pm at Corowa Carelink and Community Hub, 23 Queen St, Corowa. All welcome. BYO lunch.

Community gardens provide our local communities with many opportunities to increase access to fresh, healthy, fruit and vegetables. Healthy Together Wodonga is working to strengthen community gardens in our region by supporting a network where people who are interested in community gardens can get together. The Hume Murray Community Gardening Collective meets on a bi-monthly basis, each time at a different community garden. The group networks and shares their ideas and knowledge - all with a view to supporting a vibrant community garden culture in our region. New members are welcome.

Contact Anna Mackinlay at Gateway Health if you would like to know more or be added to the mailing list: [amackinlay@gatewaycommunityhealth.org.au](mailto:amackinlay@gatewaycommunityhealth.org.au) Phone: (02) 6022 8898



**Turning over a new leaf in 2015?** Looking to make a useful contribution? WULN can introduce you to the Friends and Landcare groups throughout Wodonga; all community run groups consisting of people with an interest in improving our local environment. No expertise necessary, just interest and willingness to learn and participate, as and when you can. For further information please contact Anne Stelling, WULN facilitator [anne.stelling@landcarevic.net.au](mailto:anne.stelling@landcarevic.net.au) 0428 565 195

## Learning Opportunities



**SBS series on Climate Change:** The US TV series, The Years of Living Dangerously, will be broadcast in Australia on SBS One, starting Tuesday, 25th November at 9:30pm. This eight-part documentary series - a US\$20 million production - features an Oscar red carpet roll-call of Hollywood celebrities along with a cast of high-profile US journalists and columnists, all looking at the impact a warming climate is having on people around the world.



**Development of fish passage technology in the Lower Mekong and Murray-Darling Basins - Wednesday 3rd December, 5pm** Theatre 6101, La Trobe University, Wodonga. Murray-Darling Basin Seminar Series from the Murray Darling Freshwater Research Centre, Supported by the Murray-Darling Freshwater Research Centre (MDFRC), with Jarrod McPherson, Fish Research Technician, MDFRC. Prior to joining the MDFRC this year, Jarrod was a Senior Fisheries Technician at Narrandera Fisheries Centre. In 2011, Jarrod relocated to Lao PDR for 12 months to assist with developing a fish

passage program for the Lower Mekong Basin. Jarrod applied his knowledge of fish migration in the Murray-Darling Basin to the fish of the Mekong River and he continues his involvement in fish passage research with his work at the MDFRC.



**2014 Indigenous Fire Forum - Saturday 6th December:** 1.30pm – 4.30pm, the Albury Club, Kiewa St Albury. Following on from the very successful 2013 fire forum, North East CMA & Kiewa Landcare Groups are pleased to announce that a second forum will be held on Saturday 6th December at the Albury Club. The forum will look at how Indigenous people managed the Landscape in the past, what's happening now, and how we can incorporate Traditional Ecological Knowledge into the future. Guest speakers will include Adjunct Prof., Bill Gammage, Traditional Owner, Uncle Rod Mason and CFA vegetation officers, Phil Browne & Phil Hawkey. We will also screen the locally produced "fire film" and there will be a question and answer session. BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL – RSVP by 28<sup>th</sup> Nov. to Belinda Pearce 0407 227 814 [belinda.pearce@landcarevic.net.au](mailto:belinda.pearce@landcarevic.net.au)



**Is it a native grass or not?? – Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December:** 5:30 - 8:30pm, 50 Wilsons Road, Huon Creek. Understanding what grasses you have growing in your paddock is the key to knowing how to use and manage it. Come to this workshop and learn about native grasses and some basic weed identification. Hosted by Huon Creek Landcare Group and Department of Environment and Primary Industries. Contact [Kylie Macreadie](mailto:Kylie.Macreadie@landcarevic.net.au) (02) 6043 7900



**Native Pastures Field Day with Dr Meredith Mitchell - Saturday 17th January:** Given rising farm input costs (fuel, seed & fertiliser), forecasts of less reliable rainfall and more temperature extremes, high feed-value native grasses such as weeping & wallaby grass can be a real asset to graziers. They are more drought resilient, are adapted to low fertility soils and many will "green-up" from a summer shower. The Native Pastures Field Day will look at how native grasses can be managed for maximum value, and will include grazing regimes and the use of fire. Native grass specialist Dr Meredith Mitchell will provide tips on identifying native grass. Our project ecologist, Paul Foreman will present the results from the fire trial plots at Baranduda and Talgarno. We will also screen the project's "Native Grasses Fire Trials" film.

If you're interested in native grasses, this is one not to be missed! BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL – Belinda Pearce 0407 227 814 [belinda.pearce@landcarevic.net.au](mailto:belinda.pearce@landcarevic.net.au)



**Turtle Information Session at Kergunyah Hall - Friday 6th Feb** Kergunyah will be hosting a Turtle Information session with a guest speaker from the voluntary association "Turtles Australia". We will kick off with a BBQ at 7.00pm. This will be followed by an information session. This will be an opportunity to learn about the biology of freshwater turtles, identification, threats and how to enhance and protect their habitat.

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL – RSVP by 4<sup>th</sup> Feb. to Belinda Pearce 0407 227 814

[belinda.pearce@landcarevic.net.au](mailto:belinda.pearce@landcarevic.net.au)

For more information about Turtles Australia, go to: <http://www.turtlesaustralia.org.au/>

## Resources & Inspiration



**NECMA has moved:** North East CMA Wodonga Head office has moved to Level 1, 104 Hovell Street, Wodonga (City of Wodonga Offices). Postal address remains the same. New contact phone number is 1300 216 513.



**Communications worksheets:** Useful, clear, simple guides for working out a Communications strategy for not-for-profit groups. Go to <http://causeclarity.org>



**Environment Victoria Award for Lizette Salmon:** Read the Border Mail story at <http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/2698775/award-for-commitment-to-climate> Congratulations Lizette and thanks for all you do for Albury Wodonga!



**North East Local Produce Guide:** A Guide to over 90 farmers and growers in North East Victoria. **Discover the wonderful diversity of fresh food grown locally in North East Victoria!** The North East Local Produce Guide is designed to connect local consumers, farmers and retailers to help create more sustainable, self-supporting food systems where profits stay in the local economy, consumers benefit

from the freshest food possible and community connections are nurtured. View the guide online at: [www.nelocalproduce.com.au](http://www.nelocalproduce.com.au) The Guide is an initiative of the North East Regional Landcare Facilitators, with funding from the Australian Government and support from the Indigo Shire Council and North East Catchment Management Authority. Copies of the guide are available to Wodonga residents from WULN for just \$5. Contact [anne.stelling@landcarevic.net.au](mailto:anne.stelling@landcarevic.net.au)

**Solar Citizens** is an independent community-based organisation bringing together millions of solar owners and supporters to protect and grow solar in Australia. You can keep up with Solar Citizens on [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#).



**New Release Film: Voices of Transition** (66 minutes), is a highly polished European production by Nils Aquilar, based in Germany, which takes us around the world to Cuba, the UK, the USA and across Europe to explore ideas of sustainability and urban agriculture. The film is an accessible, enlightening and inspiring production about urban renewal and the “greening” of our cities. [Watch the trailer - voices of transition](#) Price per DVD \$75.00 for Secondary Schools, TAFE Colleges and Community Groups. Download [order form](#) and fax/post your order, order via website [www.ronifilms.com.au](http://www.ronifilms.com.au) or email your order to [orders@ronifilms.com.au](mailto:orders@ronifilms.com.au)



**National Landcare Conference Presentations now available online:** The presentations of keynote speakers and panel discussions at the National Landcare Conference in Melbourne last month, can be accessed via the Landcare Australia website at <http://www.landcareonline.com.au/nationalconference>

## Funding Opportunities



**New Green Army project round now open:** The Department is opening up additional opportunities in the 2014/15 financial year for further Green Army projects and is seeking applications from community organisations across Australia for environment and heritage conservation projects. Applications close 2pm 9 December 2014. Projects must have a clear environment or heritage conservation focus and offer participants valuable practical experience, while supporting a safe work experience. Projects will be guided by local community needs and contribute to Australia’s national and international environmental priorities and obligations. To be eligible for this round, projects must be ready to commence between 1 January 2015 and 30 June 2015. Applicants who were unsuccessful through Round 1 may re-apply under this round.

The Green Army Programme will cover costs associated with the team, such as participant allowances; supervisor wages; uniforms; safety gear and basic equipment such as hand tools; participant training; local transport costs; and insurances. Some additional funding may also be available for project specific materials such as seedlings, possible chemicals and equipment. Project Sponsors will be required to cover any other costs to support successful delivery of the project. Want more information? Call the Green Army hotline on 1800 780 730 Email [GreenArmy@environment.gov.au](mailto:GreenArmy@environment.gov.au) Visit [www.environment.gov.au/green-army](http://www.environment.gov.au/green-army)



**City of Wodonga Neighbourhood Power Program:** Encourages groups of people within a neighbourhood to identify projects or activities they would like to see happen that would make their neighbourhood a better place. Projects may be supported by a matching grant from the Neighbourhood Power Matching Fund, or there is a category for young neighbours.

A matching grant is a partnership between the City of Wodonga and the neighbourhood group that supports community building projects by providing a cash match to community contributions of volunteer time, professional services, materials and/or cash.

Based on a model practiced successfully in the city of Seattle in the United States, Neighbourhood Power helps to provide an environment where people can develop and strengthen the neighbourhoods in which they live. Contact the Neighbourhood Power co-ordinator [dmackinlay@wodonga.vic.gov.au](mailto:dmackinlay@wodonga.vic.gov.au) (02) 6022 9300. Project examples and further information can be found at:

<http://www.wodonga.vic.gov.au/community-services/neighbourhood-power/neighbourhood-power.asp#sthash.hIUaHZWR.dpuf>



**Horizon Scholarship for students studying agriculture:** School leavers looking to start an agriculture-related university degree are encouraged to apply for the prestigious Horizon Scholarship. Applications are now open and need to be submitted by 30 January 2015.

The Horizon Scholarship, an initiative of the Rural Industries R&D Corporation, in partnership with industry

sponsors, provides \$5,000 per year for the duration of a student's university degree. The scholarship also offers students annual industry work placements that give them first-hand exposure to modern agricultural practices, access to industry leaders, professional development workshops and opportunities to network and gain knowledge at a range of industry events.

To be eligible for the Horizon Scholarship students must be entering their first year of university and studying a degree related to agriculture, such as agricultural science, rural science, livestock/animal science, veterinary science or agribusiness and plant science. Students must also have started their tertiary studies no longer than two years after leaving high school. Scholarship recipients will be selected on the basis of their commitment to a career in agriculture, as well as their leadership potential and high school academic record.

Applications close on 30 January 2015 and shortlisted applicants must be available for a telephone interview in late February 2015. The Scholarship winners are announced at the end of February 2015. Application forms can be downloaded from the RIRDC website at [www.rirdc.gov.au/horizon](http://www.rirdc.gov.au/horizon) or by contacting RIRDC on 02 6271 4132.

## Opportunities to have your say



**Wodonga City Sustainability Strategy:** Wodonga Council is currently consulting on the [Draft Sustainability Strategy 2014 to 2020](#). WULN encourages you to please read and comment on this ambitious strategy. This strategy describes the broad framework of what the council will do about environmental issues and why it has adopted the chosen approach. The actions and measures detailed in the action plan assist in describing how the strategy will be delivered operationally. The strategy includes six broad environmental management themes. These themes are ecosystems, energy, food, infrastructure, waste and water. For each theme a set of regionally relevant "drivers of change" has also been identified.

You can download the Draft Environmental Strategy 2014 to 2020 or the Draft Environmental Strategy 2014 to 2020 companion document by [clicking here](#). Following the perusal of the strategy or companion document, there are a few ways that you can have your say: Commenting on the strategy online at [Make Wodonga Yours](#); Contacting the council on (02) 6022 9300; Writing a letter to the council (Re: Sustainability Strategy, Wodonga Council, PO Box 923, Wodonga, VIC 3689).



**Agriculture Competitiveness Green Paper:** There are a range of [new ideas about deregulation](#) and decreasing the regulatory burden on farmers in the Agricultural Competitiveness Green Paper, and the Australian Government is asking for your feedback on options put forward. You can make a submission via the website or by post. Submissions are open until close of business 12 December 2014. Go to <https://agriculturalcompetitiveness.dpmc.gov.au/>



**Solar Citizens** are calling for people concerned about the Renewable Energy Target to email politicians and voice your concerns using their online tool. Click [here](#) to access.

## Virtual Volunteer Needed!

We are in need of a volunteer to help sort and format the information for our monthly Bulletin. You will need to have a computer with Internet access and be able to use Microsoft Word. A clear template is already made. All information can be forwarded to you via email, and there is room for you to search and suggest items yourself if you like.

This takes about 4 to 6 hours each month. Your help would be so greatly appreciated, and you will certainly know what's on locally!

If you are interested or would like to try this for a 'trial' period, please contact me and we can discuss what is involved: Anne Stelling, WULN Facilitator, 0428 565 195  
[Anne.stelling@landcarevic.net.au](mailto:Anne.stelling@landcarevic.net.au)