



Network News



Newsletter of the Wedderburn Conservation Management Network – January 2014

Conserving Biodiversity

Wedderburn CMN workers recognised for their efforts

On December 3rd Karly Learmonth, Graeme Tennant, Alison Jeavons and myself were fortunate to win the Environment category of the DEPI Loddon Mallee Region Staff Recognition Awards for outstanding environmental work. The Award recognised the work we have been doing with the Conservation Management Networks in Northern Victoria including Wedderburn CMN, Mid Loddon CMN & Northern Plains CMN. Being a peer nominated award, it was very special and pleasing that the 10 years of work in the CMN program was recognised as being an important aspect of DEPI's environmental work with the community. Special mention should go to Peter Morison who, while no longer with the Department, was instrumental in getting the Wedderburn CMN up and going and putting in a power of work as Facilitator. The actual CMN members and wider landholder community need to be acknowledged in this award as well, as it was their willingness to embrace the CMN program that provided the on ground success.

Nominating factors for the Environment Award include

- Environmental awareness
- Leads by example
- Contributes to environmental standards and practices in the workplace
- Initiative in their contribution to the environment



Photographs above show the recipients of the awards, Graeme Tennant, Wendy Murphy and Karly Learmonth (top), Wendy Murphy broadcasting seed for revegetation in 2004 (middle), photographs of ripping lines for revegetation by direct seeding and the results three years later (bottom)

Article and photographs by Wendy Murphy

Fungi of Central Victoria's Box-Gum Grassy Woodlands and Derived Grasslands

Hundreds, possibly thousands of species of fungi inhabit Central Victoria's Box-Gum Grassy Woodlands and Derived Grasslands. Although rarely a focus of biodiversity management, fungi are vitally important to the health and resilience of these ecosystems.

Many fungi may be threatened by processes that have resulted in widespread destruction or deterioration of these Woodlands especially as they are now largely restricted to isolated remnants. While awareness of threatened plants and animals is increasing, fungi still need greater focus to ensure their conservation.

Fortunately, these Woodlands are now recognised in both State and National legislation, including the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1998 and the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 2000. Various community programs are underway to maintain and restore Woodlands on both private and public land.

One hundred fungal species from these Woodlands have been recorded and documented by some enthusiastic mycophiles at the Wedderburn Conservation Management Network (WCMN). These are illustrated on the [WCMN website](#).

The WCMN actively work toward conserving and enhancing the biodiversity of the Wedderburn area.

The area managed incorporates approximately 170,000 hectares between the townships of Wedderburn, Inglewood and Wychitella and comprises fragmented public land blocks and freehold properties important for conservation of Box-Ironbark forests and woodlands. This also includes Wychitella Nature Conservation Reserve and Kooyoora State Park as well as smaller areas supporting large remnant trees and rare native pastures.

In addition to various projects such as Box-Gum Grassy Woodlands revegetation, weed control and reconnecting remnant vegetation, the group has also had an active interest in fungi. In conjunction with Parks Victoria the group has held several fungal ecology workshops in recent years and members have developed considerable skills in fungus identification. The group is setting a fantastic example of working toward including fungi in the conservation of biodiversity in the region.

A selection of species recorded in the Box-Gum Grassy Woodlands is shown above.

Article by Alison Pouliot – the article was originally written for the Fungimap blog



Loddon Plains Landcare Network Committee of Management visit Mt Buckrabanyule

The Loddon Plains Landcare Network Committee of Management had a change of pace for their last meeting, visiting Mt Buckrabanyule located on the western edge of the Network's area.

The Committee members were joined by locals from the Wychitella District Landcare Group, who explained the history and spread of Wheel Cactus (*Opuntia robusta*) on the mountain. The Wheel Cactus is an invasive noxious weed, which is now listed as a Weed of National Significance (WoNS). The Committee had a first hand inspection of the current state of Wheel Cactus on the mountain and a clear view of the ability of the weed to spread along roadsides and private property. The Network aims to assist the local Landcare group to develop strategies to halt the spread of the Wheel Cactus and empower the group to tackle the infestation.



Photos: LPLN CoM discuss the spread of Wheel Cactus with locals from Wychitella District Landcare on Mt Buckrabanyule (top photo); Wheel Cactus (Opuntia robusta) Flower (right).

**Article and photographs by Anthony Gallacher
LPLN Local Landcare Facilitator**

Network news in brief

Wedderburn CMN Website

Thanks must go to Barrie Taylor for his great efforts in keeping the website running smoothly. Benefits of using the website apart from general information and obtaining access to the archive of all newsletters now includes the member's area where one can use the on line facility for paying annual membership fees, post photographs of flora and fauna for help with identification and view the Wedderburn CMN library.

Progress of Projects

Kooyoora Connections Project

There have been two meetings of the project steering committee involving discussions of such issues as; the scope of the project, involvement of the Dja Dja Wurrung the indigenous owners of the land encompassing the project, priority areas for on-ground works, procedures for ensuring the transparency of decision making processes and community engagement activities. The next meeting of the steering committee will be on 30th January.

Malleefowl habitat project

Seed has been ordered and stored at Seeding Victoria, Creswick for further revegetation work around malleefowl mounds this coming autumn. We are also proceeding with the purchase of several hand held GPS units for use at a GPS training workshop planned for February. Parks Victoria staff have agreed to run this workshop which has been arranged with a view to future malleefowl mound line searches in the Wychitella NCR.

Eucalyptus harvesting site restoration project

A meeting of the steering committee for this project was held in December to discuss a draft report submitted by the project's consultant ecologist. In this report the eucalyptus harvesting site was described as a highly dysfunctional landscape. The suggested route to stabilising the landscape will proceed through the following steps:

1. Hold up more moisture in the landscape (reduce run-off and increase infiltration).
2. Incorporate organic matter, and biotic elements and processes initially using indigenous tussock grasses (Wallaby-grasses) colonisers.
3. Establish a cohort of shrubs and robust perennial forbs as progenitors of the eventual reconstructed understorey.

The committee is currently investigating sources of seed for the project and soliciting local and expert knowledge regarding landscape design especially with a view to the requirements of malleefowl.

Newsletters

The cost of producing newsletters has increased dramatically which is prompting us to encourage all newsletter readers to consider receiving the newsletter by email or viewing them on line at the WCMN website. The quality of images viewed via computer is much superior to those printed in the newsletter. **If you want to change from the printed version of the newsletter to the on line or email version contact Michael Moore via the phone number below.**

Wedderburn CMN treasurer, Maureen Moore, managed to score a photograph with celebrity gardener COSTA when he opened the Wedderburn community garden in December 2013.



Notice

Please note that 2013-14 membership fees are now due.
Individual membership \$5 Family membership \$10.

Payment may be made via the WCMN website or sent to:

**WCMN Treasurer
PO Box 65
Wedderburn 3518
Victoria**

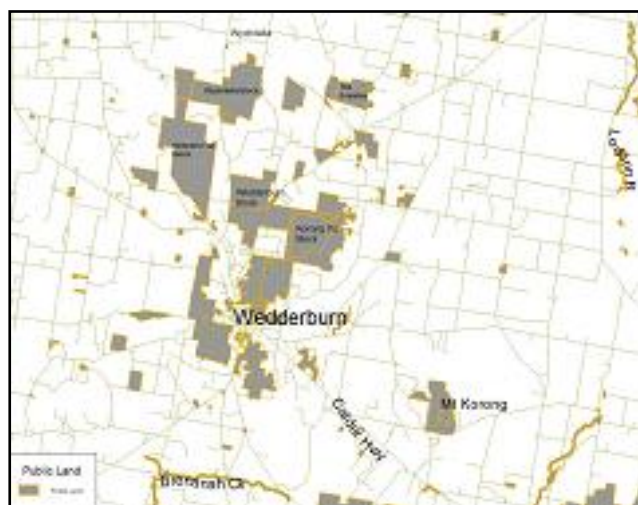
The WCMN is a network including interested individuals and both public and private land managers who come together to promote a shared aim. That shared aim is to work with the community in general to promote profitable, productive and sustainable human enterprises while conserving and enhancing the biodiversity of their area of interest.

For further information concerning any items in this newsletter or other aspects of the WCMN contact **WCMN President, Michael Moore – 54943542**

Website addresses

www.wedderburncmn.org/
<http://wedderburncmnnews.blogspot.com/>
www.lpln.org.

LPLN- Loddon Plains Landcare Network



The WCMN Area of Interest

‘Proudly supported by the Victorian Government Landcare Grants Program’.



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