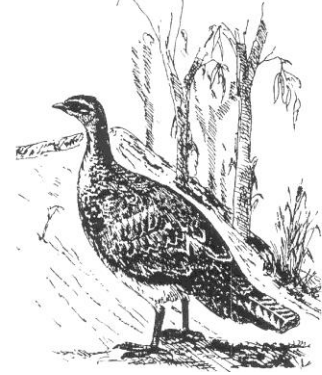




Network News



Newsletter of the Wedderburn Conservation Management Network – May 2016

Conserving Biodiversity

Mt Korong Eco-Watch 'Short Storey Nursery' Project

Things are progressing well with construction of the Poly tunnel for the 'Short Storey Nursery' at Korong Ridge, made possible by a Threatened Species grant from DELWP in 2015.

Mt Korong Eco-watch had working bees in February to make tree guards for young Quandong trees out of old fencing left when fences were dismantled across the conservation estate.

In March Parks Victoria made good their promise to level the site for our Poly tunnel, and on May 1st we had another working bee to lay concrete foundations (this poly tunnel will not blow away!!).

Steel shelving for the nursery is currently under construction.

Meanwhile we have been collecting seed from remnant plants on Korong Ridge Estate in preparation for spring when propagation will be in full swing, growing plants to be planted out in winter, 2017.

We have also been testing the success of various methods of germination of locally sourced Quandong seed. So far the most successful method has been to remove the outer shell and place seed in moist vermiculite or potting mix in zip lock bags in a dark cupboard till a root appears after about a month. Then the sprouted seeds were planted with ruby salt bush companions in 6" pots. We have about 50 young Quandongs so far which will go into the poly tunnel over winter, to be planted amongst Deanes Wattle on the estate later on. It will be great to build up numbers of Quandongs around Mt Korong.

The group has collected old bricks to build a Quandong germination pit to try an outdoor, below ground germination method, and three of the group are attending Goulburn Broken CMA's Quandong-Sandalwood Field Day on 10th May in Echuca to learn more.

In the coming months we will complete the nursery construction and install a watering system. Our consultant Nursery person, Frances Cincotta will run a propagation workshop in spring to get us into gear, and we will cap off the project with a nursery launch.

Article and photographs – Kate Lee



Farewell to Anthony Gallacher – Landcare Facilitator for the Loddon Plains Landcare Network

Anthony's last day as Facilitator for the LPLN was on Tuesday 19th April. He left the following message.

"I am leaving the Loddon Plains Landcare Network after four years to take up the Volunteer Coordinator role at Port Phillip EcoCentre in St Kilda. My new role includes managing the EcoCentre's corporate volunteering program and community garden volunteers. I am looking forward to being closer to friends and family and thoroughly appreciate the opportunity the Loddon Plains Landcare Network provided, to kick start my career. Wishing the Network continued success". Anthony.

Some of the members of the LPLN farewelling Anthony at the Serpentine pub – photograph – Kate Lee



Welcome to new Landcare Facilitator for the Loddon Plains Landcare Network

James Nelsson is the new Loddon Plains Landcare Network (LPLN) Facilitator and GOANNA Project worker. James is responsible for facilitating the successful outcomes of the many local Landcare and Friends groups' projects. He will also ensure the effective completion of various landscape focussed GOANNA projects across the district.

He has many years' experience in project management and natural resource management. He grew up in a rural community, where his family were share farmers working two Dairies and a piggery in the Upper Yarra Valley, near Warburton.

James has worked for Federal, State and Local Government, managing various projects and working with communities. He worked as a Bush Fire Case Manager, assisting fire affected families, individuals and communities impacted by the 2009 Black Saturday bushfires. He has a Bachelor of Applied Science in Environmental Management and a Diploma of Conservation and Land Management. His experience in managing natural resource assets includes Wet sclerophyll forests, Box-Ironbark woodlands and native grasslands. He was also the Mitchell Shire's Bushfire Environmental Recovery Projects officer, undertaking restoration projects across the 2009 bushfire footprint.

James is a member of Mt Korong Eco-Watch, the Wedderburn Conservation Management Network, and he has been an active long term member of Landcare (including two years as president of the Sunday Creek-Dry Creek Landcare Group). When James isn't undertaking work for the LPLN and the GOANNA project, he is busy carrying out work on his own conservation property, which adjoins Mt Korong in Glenalbyn. Part of this work involves organisation of a recently funded Threatened Species Project sponsored by the Wedderburn CMN. This project involves 54 students and three teachers from Aquinas College in the planting of 5000 native plants. James has also organised for members of the Dja Dja Wurrung and DELWP to be involved in various other aspects of the project.



Visit to Wycheproof P – 12 College

I had the pleasure in the early part of May of being invited along to talk with the year twelve environmental science teacher and her students at Wycheproof college. The environmental science course is being run there for the first time this year. As part of their course students were interested to hear of the efforts made by the Wedderburn CMN concerning the conservation of endangered species, especially the malleefowl in the Wychitella NCR. Students will visit the Wedderburn area to view some of the conservation work sites discussed in class. Michael Moore



Listening to the Mount

There are still some places available on this significant cultural heritage field day for the male camp aspect of the event– see details below. An accompanying map showing locations and meeting points is available from the contact person mentioned in the flier below.



Join us to learn more from Traditional Owners, the Dja Dja Wurrung people, about the history and culture of the Mount Korong and Mount Kooyooora region.

We'll gather together for a traditional smoking ceremony, and then women will go to Mount Korong and men to Mount Kooyooora, to learn about "*Walking this Way*" - walking women's way, men's way, Country's way.

When: Sunday 29 May 2016, 9:30am - 1:00pm

Where: Meet at the Glenalbyn Campground on the Brenanah-Glenalbyn Road before heading to Mount Korong or Mount Kooyooora. Own vehicle required & car-pooling is encouraged.

RSVP: Registrations are essential and numbers are strictly limited. Please register by May 20 by contacting Trudy Nelsson on 0419 800 980 or email your name, contact details, dietary requirements, and if you'll be attending the Korong (female) or Kooyooora (male) event to: listeningtothemount@gmail.com

This is a free event and morning tea will be provided.

Children are welcome to attend although no children specific activities will be delivered.

This event is supported by the North Central CMA Kooyooora Connections project through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme.



Malleefowl Threatened species Project

The Wedderburn CMN is currently sponsoring two threatened species projects being carried out by the Mount Korong Eco-watch group and running another involving conservation of malleefowl. The current malleefowl project will involve two public information sessions to be held at the Wedderburn Community Centre, one before on-ground work begins and one when this aspect is completed. A Green Army team of young people, hopefully recruited from the local area, will be involved in systematic line searching of selected areas in the Wychitella Nature Conservation Reserve for malleefowl mounds. The team will undergo two days of training, in Wedderburn, led by members of the Victorian Malleefowl Recovery Group. Training will take place on 14th and 15th June. Other aspects of the project will involve the revegetation, direct seeding by hand, around ten selected malleefowl mounds. Seeds for this process have been obtained from a local seed supplier. The team will also be involved in the identification of appropriate species for such revegetation, techniques for collection of seed and the final cleaning and preparation of the seed which will then be used for further revegetation in 2017.

Article – Michael Moore, photographs: top, breeding pair of malleefowl, below, members of the WCMN preparing for direct seeding



Notices

Please note that you can receive this newsletter by email, contact Michael Moore as below. All newsletters are available for reading on the WCMN website.

Please note that 2015-16 membership fees are now due and can be paid via the WCMN website.

Individual membership \$5 Family membership \$10.

Payment may be 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

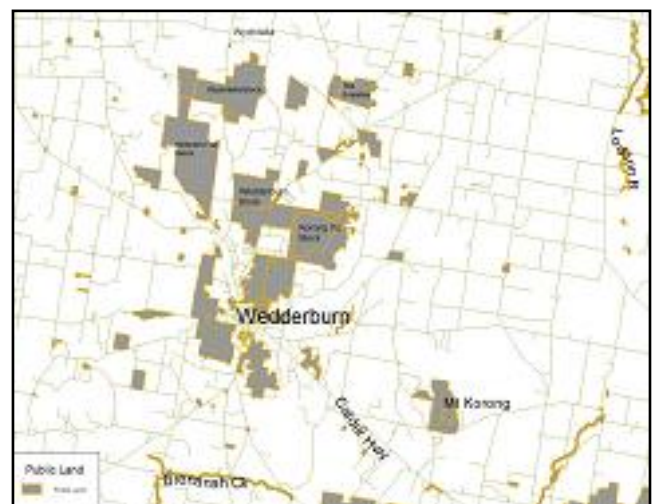
Website addresses

www.wedderburncmn.org

www.lpln.org.

LPLN- Loddon Plains Landcare Network

This newsletter is supported by the North Central CMA, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme.



The WCMN Area of Interest