



Network News



Newsletter of the Wedderburn Conservation Management Network – November 2014

Conserving Biodiversity

Ephemeral Soaks Field Day

Following the floods of January 2011, you may have seen green and persistently boggy patches of ground around the bases of local granite hills.

Last Sunday 16th November, ecologist Paul Foreman (second left top photograph) took us on a tour of some of these groundwater dependent wetlands, known as ephemeral soaks, near Mounts Kooyoora and Korong. Paul described how soaks are populated by uniquely adapted plant species such as Golden spray, Swamp Goodenia and Slender Aphelia. We saw Blakely's Redgum and Prickly Teatree, which, when seen out of their normal range, can be a tell-tale sign of an ephemeral wetland.

In the dry years, the soaks may appear relatively clear of understorey, as plants lie dormant (middle photograph). When the rains come, large fissures in the granite hills fill with an enormous amount of water, which, over the ensuing months, seeps out into the soaks causing many dormant plants to flourish, transforming the areas into brilliant green, lush wetlands, sometimes persisting for a year or more while the moisture lasts. As we stood on a dry, rather barren patch of ground on private property near Mt Korong, Paul surprised us with a photo of the same site taken in 2011, revealing its alter-ego as an enchanting, vibrantly green wetland (bottom photograph)

The field day which was coordinated by the Wedderburn CMN was funded as part of the ongoing Kooyoora Connections project. The Wedderburn CMN has recently been successful in obtaining a grant of \$49,950, from the Department of the Environment and Primary Industries' Communities for Nature



program to identify, map, assess and prioritise these unique wetland environments for conservation work necessary for their survival.

Paul Foreman will be acting as consultant to the Wedderburn CMN for this project and will be conducting an extensive survey of local ephemeral soaks, which he says have been largely overlooked in the North West goldfields, with a view to suggesting strategies for their ongoing health and protection. If you live near the granite hills and have an ephemeral soak on your property that you'd like Paul to look at, you can email him: paul@bluedevilconsulting.com.au

Article – Kate Lee

New members of the committee needed

At this year's AGM of the Wedderburn Conservation Management Network (WCMN) it became clear that new members of the committee of management are urgently required to come on board and help with the many tasks the WCMN is carrying out. During the AGM, which took place on the 6th of October, several positions on the committee were left vacant due to a lack of nominations.

The main position that needs filling is that of assistant secretary. This person would be helping the president with a lot of the work that keeps the WCMN the hive of activity it currently is. The administration of the many grants the WCMN receives as well as implementing the wide variety of programs is not a daunting job, but somebody who can cross the t's and dot the i's would be able to contribute a lot.

Under the presidency of Michael Moore, the WCMN has attracted a wide spectrum of funding from all sorts of different sources and this means that we have now grown to one of the most active and action prone community groups in the Wedderburn district. Concurrent programs on Malleefowl, Eucalyptus harvesting site restoration, revegetation, cactus control, wildlife corridors, weed coordination, nest boxes, orchid research, field and open days, cats & foxes, guest speakers as well as liaising with landholders and government agencies all needs to be kept in check and organised. This is currently done by the president, the treasurer and the ordinary committee members. They would all greatly appreciate an assistant secretary who would be learning on the job. Like all the WCMN positions this is a volunteer position, so it takes a dedicated person to commit. However, this person would share in the great environmental achievements the WCMN is now starting to complete. For somebody with their heart in the local environment, this share in the success would therefore be a great reward.

The committee of management also needs one or two extra ordinary members. These members would attend the monthly WCMN meetings and help decide on actions, motions and the future direction of the network. The WCMN is particularly keen to hear from people from the farming community. For more information on the WCMN, please visit our website where you can read previous editions of our newsletter.

Article – Jeroen Van Veen

Ideas Day

Following on from the discussions mentioned in the above article the Wedderburn CMN held an Ideas Exchange day at the Wedderburn Community Centre on the 1st December. At the Ideas Exchange day Michael gave a power point presentation explaining what the WCMN has achieved over the last few years and also what programs various members are currently working on. Then, Michael held a short presentation on his job as the president/secretary of the WCMN and listed the tasks he performs to keep the network going.

After lunch Kate ran a session on governance and what we can do to achieve greater community involvement in running the WCMN. Using the information from before lunch, we discussed ideas on how tasks could be



delegated, and responsibilities more equally shared. This not only to spread the workload, but mainly to ensure continuity and succession.

Finally I ran a session on activities we could run next year that could benefit our environment. In order to keep this session focused we concentrated on the five threats as listed in our strategic plan 2007. These threats are "fragmentation", "pest species", "wildfire", "decline in habitat quality" and "total grazing pressure". Many valuable ideas were gathered from participants and these ideas will be further acted upon at the next WCMN meeting in February.

Article Jeroen Van Veen, Photograph – Kate Lee

Wedderburn CMN and Wedderburn College – a successful year

“The Wedderburn CMN has completed a great year of cooperation with Wedderburn College. Students have been involved in many of the network’s activities and we look forward to a continued association with the college.” *Michael Moore, President WCMN*

“I just wanted to thank you for all the time you have allocated for Wedderburn College and the effort you and your team members have put in the past one year. It has supported teachers in enriching our curriculum and our students by broadening their understanding of nature, sustainability and the need for conservation of native flora and fauna. I hope that we continue to work in collaboration with WCMN and with your support, we as a group can become more aware of ecology and sustainability. I wish the WCMN team a good break, MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.”

Padmaja Kashyap, Maths/Science Teacher, Wedderburn College

“I would like to endorse Padma's words and thank you myself for your contribution to the learning of students. Part of our focus at the College has been to create links with our local community. This particular link has provided real learning situations for our students. Thank you and your team again for your time and effort with our College. It has been much appreciated”.

Danny Fowles, Assistant Principal, Wedderburn College

Article and Photograph – Michael Moore, Anthony Gallacher and students placing a motion detecting camera at a nest box.



Loddon Plains Landcare Network “Link-up”

Members of the Loddon Plains Landcare Network affiliate groups “linked-up” for a night of sharing, networking and socialising on the banks of the Loddon River, Serpentine on October 17.

The night began with the LPLN Annual General meeting that saw the election of the 2014-2015 Committee of Management (lower photograph) as well as reports from Laurie Maxted (President), Jean McClymont (Treasurer), Anthony Gallacher (Landcare Facilitator) and Beth Mellick (The Norman Wettenhall Foundation).

The AGM was followed by dinner supplied by the Lions Club of Inglewood, which gave attendees the opportunity over the meal to share their Landcare success stories and works of the past year. It was great to hear the discussion about happenings from the different groups.

The Network’s member groups were well represented at the evening with 55 attendees entertained by poetry and local musicians into the evening. Thanks to everyone who attended and made the evening such a success.

Article and Photographs – Anthony Gallacher, Landcare Facilitator





**YOU ARE INVITED TO
ATTEND THE JOINT
CHRISTMAS
GATHERING OF THE
FRIENDS OF**



KOOYOORA AND WEDDERBURN CMN

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 21ST
INGLEWOOD EUCALYPTUS MUSEUM
10.30AM TO 2PM**

ENTERTAINMENT BY THE ROSIE RAMBLERS

**PLEASE BRING A SALAD AND A SWEET TO SHARE. COLD MEATS AND
DRINKS PROVIDED**

Please RSVP to Wendy Murphy by December 17th
0417338578 or kooyoorafriends@gmail.com



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

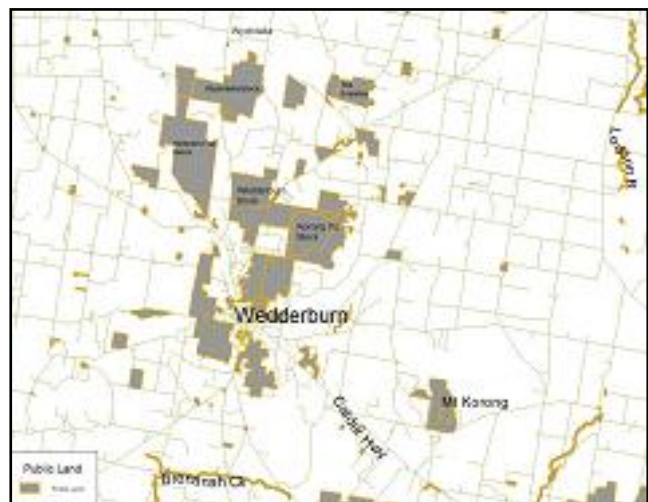
WCMN President, Michael Moore – 54943542

Website addresses

www.wedderburncmn.org

www.lpln.org.

LPLN- Loddon Plains Landcare Network



The WCMN Area of Interest

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



Australian Government