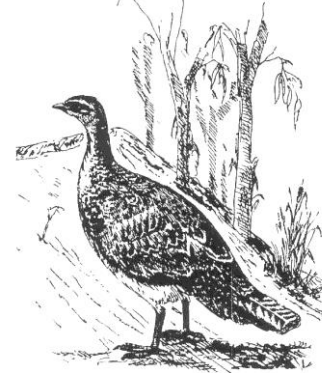




Network News



Newsletter of the Wedderburn Conservation Management Network – May 2014

Conserving Biodiversity

Green Day at Wedderburn College

The original date for *Green Day* at Wedderburn College had to be postponed for a week due to inclement weather. Students however more than made up for their initial disappointment one week later when they set to work enthusiastically to revegetate part of the school grounds. Duke of Edinburgh students organised a great BBQ enjoyed by all, Jeroen and Marg Van Veen talked with staff, students, parents and other helpers concerning the importance of plants in the environment and parents carried out the fencing and helped students get the plants securely in the ground.

The Wedderburn CMN was pleased to be able to contribute to the event by supplying three hundred plants and the fencing necessary to protect the plants while they get a hold.



Nest box Project

Duke of Edinburgh students have continued to work on the making of nest boxes, some of which will be located on the school grounds of Wedderburn College and the Hard Hills Reserve at Wedderburn. After finishing work at the Men's Shed the nest boxes were taken up to the college and stored while awaiting final painting by primary students. Anthony Gallacher, landcare facilitator for the Loddon Plains Landcare Network talked with primary students at the college concerning the uses and need for the boxes then went out into the school grounds to instruct students in the selection of appropriate trees to locate the boxes.



Photographs – Green Day – everyone pitching in to get plants in the ground
 Photographs – Nest Boxes – left to right – responding to questions posed by Anthony Gallacher, students being instructed in selection of trees for nest boxes, students painting nest boxes.

Bird Monitoring Project

The Loddon Plains Landcare Network’s bird monitoring workshop held at the Bowls Club Serpentine was well attended by interested people from various groups within the LPLN area. Seven Wedderburn CMN members attended the workshop. Chris Tzaros spent an hour giving a very informative talk on various aspects of bird monitoring; bird groups, their behaviour, calls and tips on how to identify the elusive creatures. Chris and Anthony Gallacher have spent a fair bit of time setting up 45 bird monitoring transects within selected zones of the LPLN’s area of interest including the Wedderburn CMN area. We were instructed in the use of bird monitoring forms which will be used by all monitors to collect baseline data on the bird populations in the designated areas over time. Surveys will be carried out each season with the data hopefully informing us of the effects of landscape restoration work in each area.



Tour of Kooyoora Connections project area

Members of the steering committee of the Kooyoora Connections project took to the high places to get a good first hand look at the landscape that constitutes the project area. Places such as the Melville’s Cave area and Mt Egbert furnished good points to survey the fragmented landscape that the project intends to remedy, at least in part, by restoring some elements of connectivity in the areas between Wedderburn / Wychitella - Kooyoora State Park and the Mt Korong area. The project is progressing well with fruitful contact being made with local landholders, wheel cactus control in the Mt Egbert area proceeding and funding going towards community engagement activities such as the Green Day at Wedderburn College and the Neville Rosengren activity described below.



Geology Excursion

The Neville Rosengren geology excursion was very well attended with over forty participants attending the presentation given in the Senior Citizens venue at Inglewood. Rick Nelson, who described himself as a Jarra man performed the welcome to country ceremony followed by



Neville’s excellent presentation on the geological development of Victoria with special emphasis on geological features at Mt Korong, Wedderburn and the Sunday Morning Hills. We then took to buses to tour sites especially select by Neville to illustrate aspects of his presentation. The excursion was rated as a great success by participants. Photographs –viewing sites at Mt Korong left and Wedderburn right

Handheld GPS training workshop

Nic van den Bronk and Susie Deason of Parks Victoria led this workshop that was held at the Parks Vic depot Inglewood on the 17th April. The workshop was arranged by the Wedderburn CMN with a view to encouraging volunteers to participate in WCMN activities that require the use of GPS’ such as malleefowl line searches and monitoring various types of transects. All attendees enjoyed the workshop and hopefully picked up a bit of useful knowledge.



Photographs show participants carrying out a trial line search and showing the *paper* malleefowl mounds located.

Malleefowl Habitat Project

The malleefowl habitat project has been concluded with seeding around five selected malleefowl mounds completed recently by WCMN volunteers.

Photograph showing two of the volunteers involved in malleefowl mound seeding



Why bother about biodiversity on farms?

Explore the benefits of biodiversity on private property in a farming landscape at this community seminar.

Featuring ecologist David Baker-Gabb discussing ways in which biodiversity makes a contribution to sustainable farm productivity. He will use specific examples including the presence of native trees and pollination by bees and birds.

Local Landcare guru Bill Twigg (Regional DEPI Sustainable Farm Practices Award recipient) will recount the first hand benefits he has enjoyed following his efforts to revegetate areas of his properties at Serpentine and Bears Lagoon.

Local presenters from the Loddon Plains Landcare Network, the Wedderburn Conservation Management Network and the North Central CMA will outline their efforts to improve on-farm biodiversity in the area, including the Kooyoora Connections Project.

Free event. Afternoon tea provided.

Sunday 8th June

1.30-4.30pm

**Wedderburn Motel,
43-49 High St, Wedderburn**

RSVP by Wednesday 4th June with any dietary requirements to
LPLN Facilitator, Anthony Gallacher on 03 5446 9249 or by email facilitator@lpln.org

This project is supported by the Loddon Plains Landcare Network, through funding from the Australian Government with support from the North Central Catchment Management Authority and the Wedderburn Conservation Management Network.



Australian Government



LODDON PLAINS LANDCARE NETWORK



NORTH CENTRAL
Catchment Management Authority
Connecting Rivers, Landscapes, People

Quandongs, Fruit of the Bush

Moving to a new place means forging new relationships and connections. Since coming to the Mt Korong area I have made many more good friends than I could have predicted, and joined some wonderful groups like WCMN. Getting settled has also meant a wonderful, engrossing new acquaintance with the local woodland, so different from the damp, deep-soiled forests of the Yarra Valley I had been used to. This new relationship is full of beautiful surprises, and on every walk I learn something or find a new treasure. A few weeks ago, in the granite hills near Mt Korong, I came upon this gnarled old Quandong tree. It was a privilege to see such a majestic tree with a long history of producing beautiful red, nutritious fruit, traditionally eaten by aboriginal people.



The Quandong (*Santalum acuminatum*) is from the sandalwood family and prefers to grow in the dryer parts of central and southern Australia. It is unusual to see such an old specimen as the one pictured, because bushfires tend to cause the trees to regrow from their roots.

Quandongs are semi-parasitic, wrapping pads on their roots around the roots of various trees and grasses to draw out moisture and nutrients. These roots can reach ten metres long, which must have been the case with the tree pictured, as it stood in a clearing with no very close neighbours.

The fruit is high in vitamin C, quite pleasantly tart and makes lovely jam. Aboriginal women used to take the flesh from the stones and roll it into a ball to be shared out. They also prepared leaves, kernels and roots in medicinal applications for a range of complaints from skin irritations to arthritis.

Emus are partial to the fruit, and would once have been major disseminators of quandong trees in our area, as they excrete the hard, wrinkly quandong shell, which in turn encases a fatty kernel (delicious when roasted).

Nature Notes by WCMN Observer, Kate

photographs – quandong tree with fruit

Notice

Please note that 2013-14 membership fees are now due.

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

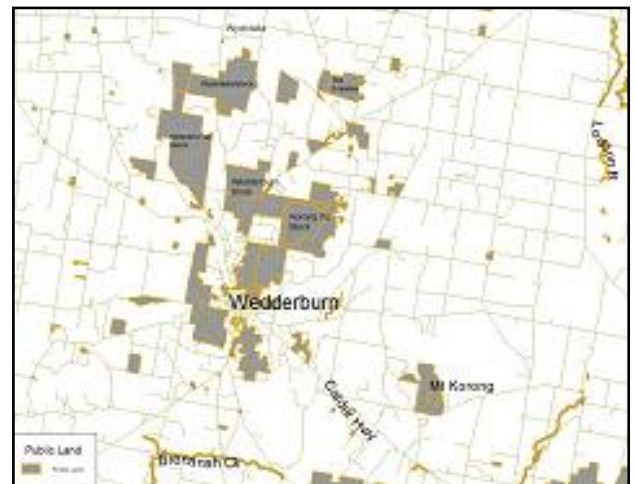
Website addresses

www.wedderburncmn.org

<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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