



# Network News



Newsletter of the Wedderburn Conservation Management Network – October 2015

Conserving Biodiversity

## Wedderburn Landscape Restoration Tour

Last Sunday, a glorious spring day, a bus tour set off from Wedderburn Community Centre to visit sites that have recently been the focus of Wedderburn Conservation Management Network (WCMN) and Loddon Plains Landcare Network (LPLN) conservation works.

*First stop* on the tour was an Ephemeral Soak near Melville Caves at Mt Kooyoora (photo top right). It is one of many soaks near Mounts Korong and Kooyoora being monitored under WCMN's Ephemeral Soaks Project. Michael Moore from WCMN outlined how ephemeral soaks are home to many interesting plants that have to survive extended wet periods interspersed with long dries. At the Mt Kooyoora soak we saw a population of Prickly Tea Tree augmented in recent weeks by tube stock planting by the Green Army (part of the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme) and protected against grazing pressure by a fence around the soak perimeter.

*Stop number two* was a beautiful Buloke woodland at Fentons Creek (photo middle right), now protected by a Trust For Nature Covenant as part of the Kooyoora Connections Project. Bush Heritage's Jeroen van Veen told us that the property, now separated from adjoining grazing land, holds one of only a few good quality stands of Buloke in the area.

On our way back to Wedderburn we stopped at one of Loddon Plains Landcare Network's 45 Community Bird Monitoring Sites. Anthony Gallacher from LPLN explained that the project funded by The Norman Wettenhall Foundation involves local volunteers conducting 20 minute bird surveys each season, along their particular transects (crossing 2ha). They submit their data to Anthony to be compiled to observe changes in bird populations, which can be found on the LPLN website.

After lunch was enjoyed at Hard Hill reserve (photo bottom right) in Wedderburn, then we wandered across to a nest box made by Wedderburn Men's Shed and mounted 3 metres up a Grey Box trunk. Anthony Gallacher

demonstrated how to use the LPLN's new nest box monitoring camera, which has a light and is on the end



of a long pole. Nothing but leaf litter seen this time, but the camera will be available to use in a new monitoring initiative in 2016.

The tour bus next took us to Old Boort Rd where the WCMN, with the Green Army, has been restoring an old eucalyptus harvesting site. Michael Moore showed us how the dense Blue Mallee monoculture has been broken up by wide strips ripped along contours, mulch laid along the strips and seed of various species planted. It is a first step to recreating a biodiverse habitat for Malleefowl.

Our last stop was at the base of Mt Buckrabanyule (photo top right), where in recent years the dreaded Wheel Cactus has taken hold. Wychitella District Landcare and the Green Army, supported by Loddon Shire and LPLN are attacking Wheel Cactus with increased resolve, and it was remarkable to see the before



and after effects of Cactus stabbing (with glyphosate) on either side of the road.

Thanks to Michael, Anthony and Jeroen for showing us some of the great conservation work going on in the Wedderburn area.

**Article** – Kate Lee **photographs** – Michael Moore and Anthony Gallacher

### **Friends of Kooyoora Wildflower Show**

I was pleased to be able to present, on behalf of the Wedderburn CMN, prizes to the junior competitors in the Friends of Kooyoora Wildflower Show photographic competitions this year. Great efforts were made by up and coming participants in the fields of Landscape, Flora and Fauna. The photographs show Kira Higgins of the under18 section (photo far right) and Tyler Murphy (photo near right) runner up in landscape the under 12 section of the photo competition being presented with monetary prizes and certificates by Wedderburn CMN President Michael Moore.



### **Dja Dja Wurrung**

Dja Dja Wurrung people are the Traditional Owners of the land encompassing the Wedderburn CMN. Dja Dja Wurrung People have lived on traditional lands and cared for their Country over many thousands of years. To Dja Dja Wurrung people, Country is more than just the landscape - it is a living entity, which holds the stories of creation and histories that cannot be erased. Dja Dja Wurrung dreaming stories of *Djandak* (Country) explain the creation of the lands and how Dja Dja Wurrung people evolved. Dja Dja Wurrung people continue to perform ceremonies to honour their Ancestors and each of the spirits through their traditional rites; the Welcome to Country being one example. The Ancestors and spirits link Dja Dja Wurrung people back through time in a continuing connection with their past and traditions, and their stories instil an ongoing respect for Country. Their songs and stories tell



of how the World was and how it should be, and how they feel a moral responsibility to care for Country as it binds them to the past, present and future. Their Ancestors looked after this Country and Dja Dja Wurrung people are duty-bound to look after it for the next generation. Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation looks after all matters of importance on Dja Dja Wurrung Land which stretches from Creswick in the south, to Boort in the north. Caring for Country is the living essence that is shared between people and place. Dja Dja Wurrung people are committed to working with landholders and community to look after the land, where ‘Our lands and waters are in good condition and actively managed to protect our values and to promote the laws, culture and rights of all Dja Dja Wurrung People’. Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation were appointed as a Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) in 2008. They are recognised as the rightful people to protect, preserve and manage cultural heritage within their lands. The responsibilities of being a RAP are outlined in the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*, which provides for the protection and management of Victoria's Aboriginal cultural heritage with streamlined processes linked to the Victorian planning system. Enquires can be made to Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation Bendigo Office on (03) 54442888 and the Country Plan can be viewed at [www.djadjawurrung.com.au/Country](http://www.djadjawurrung.com.au/Country)

**Article by Minda Murray**

**Progress with the Soaks Project**

The on ground aspects of the Soaks project are now complete. Site inspections carried out by an archeologist on behalf of the Dja Dja Wurrung alerted us to the presence of stone artefacts and scar trees in the site areas. Special precautions had to be taken to ensure that no damage was caused by the work to these indigenous cultural heritage items. We also welcomed the return of the Green Army Team who assisted with the revegetation of three sites within the Kooyoora State Park and one within the Mt Korong NCR. On the last afternoon with the Green Army Team we were rained off . The team spent several hours at the Wedderburn Community Centre learning about the structure and function of the WCMN and assembling brushcutters for use in future WCMN conservation work. We did have one problem when a tree limb came down and crushed the gate at one site but this has since been repaired.

**Photographs** from left to right – Green Army Team members revegetating exclosures, finished fence at the entrance to Melville Caves site, tree limb shown crushing gate to the site – now repaired, Green Army Team members showing completed brush cutters.



## Mount Korong to Mount Kooyoora Walk

TWO distinctive granite landscapes near Wedderburn have been explored in an effort to identify and protect vital plants and animals to the region.

More than 30 private landholders and keen bushwalkers walked 18 kilometres from Mount Korong to Mount Kooyoora earlier this month to reflect upon the beauty of the landscapes and learn how to help protect complex established woodland ecosystems.

The five-hour walk, organised by members of the Wedderburn Conservation Management Network and Mount Korong Eco Watch, commenced with a traditional smoking ceremony, presided by Dja Dja Wurrung traditional owner, Rick Kerr before attendees arrived in the shadows of Mount Kooyoora at the Glenalbyn Picnic Ground for a barbecue lunch, prepared by the Lions Club of Wedderburn.

North Central Catchment Management Authority project officer, Britt Gregory said the walk was able to happen through the Federal Government's National Landcare Program.



Photographs - participants in the walk

### 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**

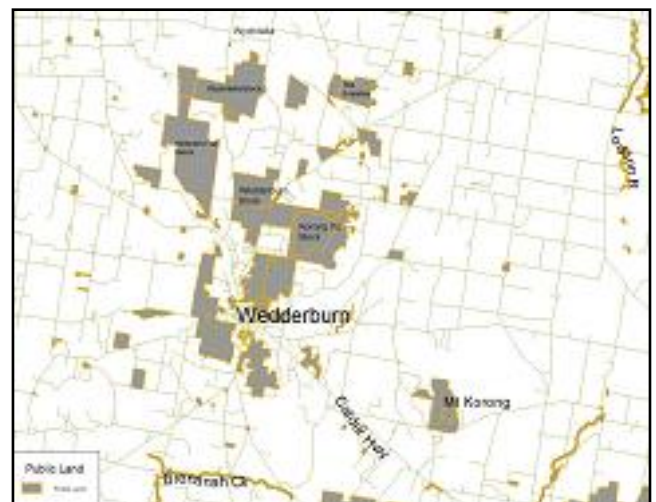
**Website addresses**

[www.wedderburncmn.org](http://www.wedderburncmn.org)

[www.lpln.org](http://www.lpln.org).

LPLN- Loddon Plains Landcare Network

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The WCMN Area of Interest