

Woodlands and Wildlife

Newsletter of the Mid Goulburn Broken Implementation Committee

March 2007

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Lake Mokoan

Discussions are continuing on the future land use of the Lake Mokoan site, post decommissioning of the Lake.

Meetings have been held with landholders adjacent to the inlet and outlet channels. Discussions included opportunities to lease or buy channel land, future water diversion opportunities from channels, pest plant and animal control and channel capacity to carry local drainage.

Work has progressed on the design of the Lake Mokoan Diverters Pipeline, expected to be completed by May, after which Goulburn Murray Water will consult with customers about the design and their access to the system and its operating rules.

Irrigators have submitted a range of possible measures to reinstate supply reliability, with the two key issues being concern or uncertainty over the impact on tariffs and pricing, and the need for consideration of the level of service provided by pipelines.

Continued on P4.

John is Top Gun

John McGregor from the Burnt Creek Landcare Group is recipient of the Mid Goulburn Broken Implementation Committee (MGBIC) Landcare Award for Excellence 2006.

John received his award from Member for Benalla Bill Sykes, and Goulburn Broken CMA Board Chairman Steve Mills, at the Benalla Art Gallery in January..

The Award is offered annually to a Landcare Committee member who has shown exceptional dedication to their Landcare Group over a period of time, and offers a way for Groups to showcase their achievements through a long serving, hard working member.

John has served the Burnt Creek Landcare Group for over 20 years and was instrumental in galvanising action to fight the rabbit problem in the area.

In receiving his award John said he was thrilled to be nominated but believed there were many others who were worthy of receiving the award, which comprises a framed certificate and an accommodation package for 2 at Sofitel Melbourne.

The Burnt Creek Rabbit Control Group was recognised by Joan Kirner, then Minister for Conservation, Forests & Lands, and the late Heather Mitchell, who was President of the Victorian Farmers Federation, as a model on which others could be established prior to the development of the Government funded Rabbit Busters Program.

The land management programs established at this time in Victoria were the precursor to the Landcare movement, which has grown throughout Australia and is widely recognised as the foremost community based land management group in the country.

Jacci Campbell, President of the Sheep Pen Creek Land Protection Group, was runner up for the Award for her work in galvanising local landowners in land protection projects and her enduring efforts on the many committees specific to natural resource management in the Sheep Pen Creek catchment.



A beaming John McGregor receives his award from Steve Mills and Bill Sykes.



Enjoying the Benalla Art Gallery.

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Snapshots from near and far

Hot Topics in Native Vegetation Management by Greening Australia

Information on 'How to promote NRM practices and get them adopted' can be accessed at Greening Australia's Exchange website in the technical resources section. Visit <http://www.greeningaustralia.org.au/GA/NAT/TipsAndTools/exchange/Publications+Library/Technical+Online+Resources/> and click on 'You asked for it'.

New EMS Pathways to Sustainable Agriculture Programme

The Australian Government recently announced the new *EMS Pathways to Sustainable Agriculture* programme which encourages industries and regions to form partnerships to strengthen support for the increasing number of EMS users. **Closing date is Thu 5 April.** Further information can be accessed at www.daff.gov.au/emsfunding

Australian Museum Eureka Prizes

The Australian Museum Eureka Prizes reward excellence in the fields of research & innovation, science leadership, school science and science journalism and communication. **Closing date is 4 May.** Further information can be accessed at www.australianmuseum.net.au/eureka

Reintroduction of Wood into Australian Streams

The National Riparian Lands R&D program has designed a guideline which provides step by step design principles for the reintroduction of wood into Australian streams. It is available for free from Canprint Communications on 1800 776 616 or visit www.rivers.gov.au

To get regular events updates: national@landcarefacilitator.com.au

Get Water information by e.newsletter from the

[AUSTRALIAN WATER ASSOCIATION
http://www.awa.asn.au](http://www.awa.asn.au)

Drought but Not Out for Regent Honeyeater

Last years planting out at Lurg has survived the extraordinarily dry conditions and most of the seedlings are doing very well. Ray Thomas, project Coordinator, says that even on rocks sites seedlings are surviving where there is no competition from large established trees.

"Deep ripping the ground and spraying the weeds really does ensure there is enough moisture for our seedling roots," Ray said.



Nest Box building at St Joseph's P S was a very productive exercise.



This strategic wildlife corridor connects the Upper Lurg bush blocks to the old growth roadside trees. It is the future route for Brush Tailed Phascogales to move back into Lurg!!

Irrigation Futures of the Goulburn Broken catchment

How will changes in climate, trade, or Government policy impact on irrigated agriculture in the Goulburn Broken catchment? How will we maintain our thriving economy, communities and environment in the face of this change?

To help answer these questions, Irrigation Futures has worked closely with stakeholders to develop a vision and strategies for the future of irrigated agriculture in the Goulburn Broken Catchment.

The Irrigation Futures program has been run in 3 stages; Capturing Community Perspectives, Analysis, and Enabling Changes.

The project has looked at future aspirations, challenges and what future scenarios might be during the next 30 years and their consequences in the Goulburn Broken catchment.

A workbook has been produced that can be used by irrigators to assess scenario implications for their business and workshops have been held throughout the catchment to gain feedback and seek ideas for improvements.

The project manager is Leon Coste from the Department of Primary Industry in Tatura who has organised a series of meetings throughout March and is also producing a regular Fact Sheet to explain the project. Leon can be contacted in Tatura on 5833 5222.



Your newsletter is available in PDF format from the GBCMA website www.gbcma.vic.gov.au or emailing popped@gbcma.vic.gov.au

CMA Board Tours Upper Goulburn

The Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (CMA) Board, the Upper Goulburn Implementation Committee and Mansfield Shire representatives have toured several sites around Merrijig and Mt Buller to familiarise themselves with local catchment issues.

Viewing the waterways restoration works completed on the Delatite River at "Gundemair", members were impressed with changes to water flow patterns that have been achieved in the river bed; the site of the original river rock quarry.

Work on this site was funded from recreational fishing licence money and the Rex Hunt 'Future Fish Foundation', and has been instrumental in providing habitat for fish in a part of the Delatite River where fish had not been evident for many years.

Louise Perrin, Environmental Manager at Mount Buller, spoke about the effect of fire on the alpine vegetation and fauna saying that the Mount Buller-Mount Stirling Alpine Resort Management Board has done a great deal of work on improving habitat for indigenous animals, like the endangered Mountain Pygmy Possum, and that many animals had been driven by fire into the resort area.

Speaking about the overall effect of the fires in the Merrijig and Alpine areas, Alan Dobson from the Department of Sustainability & Environment, pointed out the effect on the water catchment and how quickly the vegetation has begun to regenerate. Alan noted the importance of community liaison during the fire threat adding that it was a galvanising element within the community.

The CMA Board will tour in the Mid Goulburn Broken catchment in July.

Deputy Chair of the Mid Goulburn Broken Implementation Committee (IC), David Dore, attended the joint Board Meeting/ Implementation Committee discussions on the IC charter, since service delivery across the dryland has been amalgamated to include both the upper Goulburn and Mid Goulburn Broken catchment areas.

Lilian Parker is Executive Officer for the dryland, with Tony Kubeil moving into the Mid Goulburn Broken IC Coordinator and Regional Landcare Coordinators' role, and Poppe Dav is as Dryland Community Liaison Officer.



Right top: Tom O'Dwyer explains the RFL project. Centre: Information at Carters Track. Right: At the fire tower on Mt Buller.

Landcare Briefs

Despite recent dry conditions and fire threats throughout the summer months, Landcare has continued to maintain its activities in the Mid Goulburn Broken catchment.

Group members have been busy dealing with drought and fire issues and a series of well attended drought breakfasts were organised to encourage landowners to get together. A National Land Protection project is underway to establish perennial pasture on and around the Warrenbayne hills and planning is underway for other projects in the southern part of the catchment.

Burramine/Tungamah Land Management Group is keen to identify and take on a tree planting project in the area. NLP and Envirofunds applications have been submitted by a number of groups in the region.

(Landcare briefs are welcome from all Landcare groups in the MGB catchment.)

Sowing the future ...

Seed Production and Direct-seeding for Revegetation

The latest thinking on issues surrounding direct-seeding for revegetation, demonstrations of equipment by leading practitioners, displays, information, and contacts.

9.30 am Friday April 27th

at the Euroa Arboretum, Hume Hwy, Euroa.

Exit the Hume Freeway on the Melbourne side of Euroa and head into Euroa - take the first gateway on the right after you come down off the ramp.)

Lunch and refreshments provided.

RSVP by 23rd April for catering purposes:

**Jim Begley 5761 1574
or Sally Mann 0429 127 399**

Landcare Award for Excellence nomination forms will be mailed to Landcare Groups in May. Please make sure you nominate a Landcare Committee member to be recognised for their work in natural resource management. The Implementation Committee believes that excellence in all fields should be recognised.

CMA celebrates 10 years of catchment management

2007 marks 10 years since the formation of Catchment Management Authorities (CMA) in Victoria.

Formed in 1997 by the State Government, the CMA's replaced the previous Catchment and Land Protection (CaLP) Board.

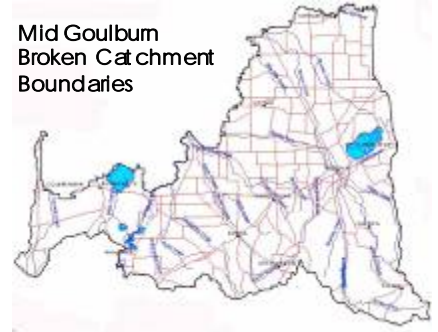
The Goulburn Broken catchment covers an area of 2.4 million ha from Marysville and Wallen in the south to the Murray River at Echuca.

Due to its size the catchment was divided into three sub catchment areas defined by the river systems, and overseen by community based Implementation Committees.

The Mid Goulburn Broken catchment borders include the Broken River basin, the Strathbogie Ranges and north to Caniambo from Nagambie. The Mid Goulburn Broken Implementation Committee was formed in 1999, comprising 8 community members and 3 Agency representatives.

The Goulburn Broken CMA has achieved a great deal in its 10 years, with a Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy, to ground breaking works on waterways, a major restoration program on the upper Broken River, a Recreational Waterway Strategy in the upper Goulburn and launch of the Goulburn Broken Landcare Support Strategy.

The CMA has plans to celebrate its first 10 years throughout the Goulburn Broken community and community members will be invited to help celebrate our achievements. Information on events will be advertised in each Catchment area.



Right: Steve Collins (CMA) designed this rock chute—installed after the decommissioning of McLaughlin's Weir, to improve fish migration.

Cultural Heritage Protected

New legislation to protect Victorian Aboriginal cultural heritage is set to come into effect on 28 May 2007, bringing Victoria another step towards reconciliation.

Under this new act, the State will have sole responsibility for Victoria's Aboriginal cultural heritage instead of the current system which is a mix of State and Federal legislation.

"Under the new Act, protecting our Aboriginal cultural heritage becomes an integral part of planning and land development processes."

Mr Jennings said the new Act would incorporate a wide range of expertise, reflect the views of the community, and effectively preserve Victoria's rich Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Key features of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* include: the creation of the Aboriginal Heritage Council, with membership of traditional owners who will advise on the protection of Aboriginal heritage; the use of cultural heritage management plans for certain development plans or activities; the ability for registered Aboriginal parties to evaluate management plans, advise on permit applications, enter into cultural heritage agreements and negotiate the repatriation of Aboriginal human remains; and alternative dispute resolution procedures.

(Minister for Aboriginal Affairs media release.)

Lake Mokoan update *continued from P1.*

The Minister for Water John Thwaites officially opened the \$20.4 Million Pipeline scheme on 23rd March 2007. The scheme was completed under time and within budget, and is a major part of the Water Supply Reliability Offset Package. The Tungamah Pipeline will provide year round water supply for the first time to 400 properties and will deliver significant environmental benefits for the Murray and Snowy Rivers.

The Future Land Use Study identifies a number of management plans to be developed prior to decommissioning, which are being developed with the assistance of the Wetlands Technical Working Group. This membership includes experienced wetland managers from within organisations involved with the project.

Initial monitoring has commenced at Lake Mokoan, focussing on the protected migratory water bird species (Latham's Snipe) and wetland fringing vegetation.

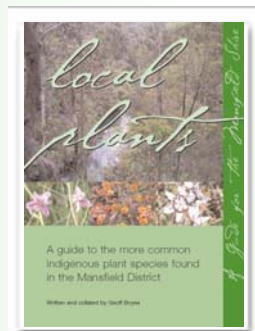
A monitoring plan for the restoration of the wetlands will be developed in the next 6 to 12 months to assess the restoration effectiveness and will be followed by a restoration plan to deal with post decommissioning issues, including the re-establishment of a diverse range of habitat for native fauna and the control of pest plants and animals.

Environmental assessments of the project have been submitted to the Federal and Victorian Governments looking at a broad range of environmental issues for all components of the project.

'MUST HAVE' VIEWING & READING IN 2007

An Inconvenient Truth, Al Gores film about environmental vandalism in the industrial world. If you have not seen this yet, it is compelling viewing.

The Local Plants Guide for the Mansfield District was launched in December last year. The booklet is available from the Goulburn Broken CMA office in Yea, DSE in Mansfield and the Natural Resource Centre in Highett St, Mansfield. Proceeds will go towards local Landcare projects.



Recognition for Long Service

Waterways staff will be recognised for long service to Waterways Management at a Statewide Waterways Conference in May.

In 2006, 20 staff from 4 Catchment Management Authorities (CMA) were awarded long service certificates for periods of 10, 20, and 30 years service. Some recipients worked in natural resource management with State Rivers and Water Supply prior to the formation of CMA's.

In 2006 certificates were presented to Geoff Brennan, Collin Tate, Steve Collins and Max Colliver from the Goulburn Broken CMA, and this year Waterways Manager Tom O'Dwyer will receive recognition for 10 years service.

Tom O'Dwyer is based in the upper Goulburn but has filled a catchment—wide role for five years.



Geoff Brennan, Collin Tate, Max Colliver and Steve Collins with 10 years service to NRM.

Planting confirms need for Density

Ray Thomas from the Regent Honeyeater Program espouses the need for dense planting of new vegetation to ensure that small and endangered birds can find adequate cover.

The results are evident in plantations that have been established around the Lurg area.

Ray says that they have been successful in establishing a safer habitat for foraging and breeding by making sure that the plantations are dense and contain varied species.

He emphasises the importance of reduced grazing in these newly established plantations to allow for natural regeneration.



With more seedlings regenerating naturally, the habitat just gets better and better as time goes on.

“This planting site was a just bare paddock with a couple of lonely trees only 10 years ago. We’ve planted the missing understorey and now it provides safe cover and foraging habitat for our rarer woodland birds.” - Ray Thomas.



Saltwatch 2007

Salt Week will run between 6th and 21st May this year—two weeks to enable the Salt Watch Team to cover the whole of the dryland catchment with activities for school students.

Matter of Salt Days will be held in Euroa and Seymour and the Team is seeking volunteers from its Partner Agencies and the Landcare fraternity. YOU! Will you be a Salt Week Hero? We provide full training.

Format of Training

This year Saltwatch training has been split into two sessions. Session One is a general outline of the Saltwatch program and how to use an EC meter. Session Two will cover hands on activities and the ‘Matter of Salt’ event.

10.00am - Session One

- * Introduction - Jacinta Burke
- * A Typical Saltwatch Visit - Poppe Davis
- * EC Meters - Michaela Bicknell

11.15am - Session Two*

Presentation of Saltwatch Activities - Edible Aquifer, Salty Soils, Saltwatch Sports and more...

12.00pm - Lunch

RSVP by Friday 20th April to Jacinta Burke

Ph. 5832 0469 Email: jacinta.bu@gvwater.vic.gov.au

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The GBCMA website is under constant renewal and revision.

Use our site to link with other environmental sites.

Goulburn Broken CMA



www.gbcma.vic.gov.au

Focus on Willows

Goulburn Broken CMA staff recently attended a workshop on Willow identification at the Department of Sustainability and Environment at Seymour

Identification of the many types of willow is an important part of natural resource management in the Goulburn Broken catchment, where a major program is in place to eradicate willows from many rivers and streams that have been colonised by the woody weed for decades.

The Department of Sustainability & Environment (DSE) 'Weeds of National Significance' program is conducting the willow identification workshops across the country to assist with treatment and removal of species that have a major negative impact on waterways.

Skill in recognising various species enables natural resource management organisations to determine the best method of dealing with weeds on waterways and is integral to a successful outcome in willow removal programs.

Landholders who want information on willow identification and removal should contact their nearest CMA (Ph 5736 0100) or DSE office (Ph 5735 4300) for assistance.

Below: Tamara Bruce (Waterwatch), Janette Currie-Jeffries (upper Goulburn Waterways team), and Barry Oswald (Mid Goulburn Broken Waterways team) shown here discussing the attributes of various species.



WOODLANDS AND WILDLIFE

Published for the
Mid Goulburn Broken
Implementation Committee
by

Poppe Davis
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Paddock



TREES

Information brochure available on saving the grand sentinels of farm paddocks across the country.

Paddock trees are disappearing fast due to clearing for subdivision and natural attrition.

*For your information brochure please contact the CMA on
5736 0108*

New Broken River Website focuses on River Health

See the new site at www.thebrokenriver.com.au

Green Pulse looks at Enviro attitudes

In January the independently owned Green Pulse polled 1078 randomly selected people across Australia aged 14-64.

The pollinate Green Pulse is a monthly research omnibus dedicated exclusively to studying people's awareness, concerns, attitudes and behaviours towards the environment.

Approximately ¼ of the Australian population is 'Extremely concerned' about the environment.

Of greatest concern is the 'Drought' (35%) followed by 'Global Warming' (28%).

Interestingly, 'Climate change', ranked third, is cited by only 9% suggesting 'Global warming' is more in the vernacular of the public as opposed to 'Climate change'.

In summary: Most Australians are concerned about the environment but do not understand environmental issues very well. Nearly all Australians are trying to choose more environmentally friendly

products but they see most of the harm coming from big industry and big governments.

This information is provided for information only.

The contents in this article are taken from the Green Pulse report and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Mid Goulburn Broken Implementation Committee.

Waste Not

Westpac's emissions have dropped 45% in the past 10 years, attributed mainly to lower electricity use due to consolidation of 11 Sydney CBD buildings.

Many customers have opted to receive electronic bank statements, saving 41 tonnes of paper and 103 tonnes of greenhouse emissions.

Courtesy Waste Management & Environment Magazine— February issue.

