



Goulburn Broken Landcare Link Spring 2014



What's on

12th Sep: [Organic Matters](#)
 17th-19th Sep: [National Landcare Conference](#)
 22nd Sep: [Shelter belt workshop](#)
 29th & 30th Sep: [Pasture Cropping workshops](#)
 October (date TBC): [Indigenous soils workshops](#)

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Manager's update

The EOI process has again put us in a great position to take advantage of funding rounds that are either about to be announced or are currently open. Recently, we learned eight Goulburn Broken Catchment community groups shared in more than \$60,000 of funding from the last round of Communities 4 Nature (Small Grants). We are also in the process of sending out funding agreements to the 17 recipients, projects up to \$30,000, that have been funded through Victorian Landcare Grants.

There are several grants programs open at the moment or close to being announced:

Program Name	Opening Date	Closing Date	Max Grant Value \$
Local Landscape Enviro Grants	18 th August	Sept 15 th	50,000
25 th Anniversary of Landcare Grants	Mid-September	Unknown	20,000
20Million Trees	Mid-September	Unknown	50,000

2013/14 Community NRM Report Card Survey NOW OPEN:

The information gathered in [this survey](#) will be used to tell the delivery story of community NRM in our region and will be combined with information from the other CMAs to create a State Report Card. As in previous years we have allocated \$20,000 to be shared across all of the eligible groups who provide a response to the survey by the closing date of October 1st 2014.

Tony Kubeil

From the Network Chairs

The last meeting of the Goulburn Broken CMA Network Chairs group was held on 18th June. At the meeting many issues were discussed. Actions from the meeting included:

1. The extent of gorse along public land by the North East Railway and the Hume Freeway in the south of our catchment is being highlighted to the relevant ministers by the network chairs group.
2. The Victorian Landcare Council will be delivering a training workshop *Taking Landcare Planning to the Next Level* for community leaders in October. This is aimed at having a conversation about how the individual groups develop a shared understanding of where they are going and some strategies to help them get there. This will be piloted in our Catchment.
3. The Network Chairs are lobbying both sides of state government politics to promote the continuation of the current Local Landcare Facilitator Initiative. To ensure the equitable allocation of resources they are suggesting that the CMAs have more involvement and the number of positions be increased to 100 positions.

The employment of facilitators has been discussed over the past few meetings and we are currently working with Goulburn Murray Landcare Network and their lawyers to update the contracts in-line with current employment law. This does not impact on all of our networks but more than half currently have employment services delivered by GMLN.



20 Million Trees program

The Australian Government's 20 Million Trees program will work with the community to plant 20 million trees by 2020, to re-establish green corridors and urban forests.

The four objectives of the program are:

- **20 million trees** – 20 million trees and associated understory planted by 2020.
- **Environmental conservation** – support local environmental outcomes by improving the extent, connectivity and condition of native vegetation that supports native species (including threatened species and threatened ecological communities)
- **Community engagement** – work co-operatively with the community
- **Carbon reduction** – contribute to Australia reducing its greenhouse gas emissions.

There will be a competitive round coming up in September, with \$20-\$100k grants for revegetation projects. Community groups are eligible to apply so we encourage groups to start to develop up some project ideas and proposals prior to receiving the guidelines. The CMA will pass on further details when they come to light. More information can be found [here](#).

2014 National Landcare Conference

The 2014 National Landcare Conference will be held at the Crown Conference Centre, Melbourne, from September 17th to 19th.

This year's conference promises to be an exciting celebration of 25 years of Landcare as a national program with a focus on the future and what this means for Landcare, with a program based on the theme – **Celebrating our history – growing our future.**

The three-day conference will include a day of field trips to a number of Landcare projects in Victoria. The National Landcare Awards gala dinner will take place on September 18th at the World Heritage listed, Royal Exhibition Building, featuring 69 finalists in nine categories from across the country. **For more information, and to register, follow [this link](#).**



2014 National Landcare People's Choice Award

Each one of the 69 National Landcare Award finalists is eligible to win the People's Choice Award. [Voting is now open online](#) and **closes September 17th**.



2014 National Landcare People's Choice Award

Vote for your favourite Landcarer today!

69 finalists across nine diverse categories feature in this year's National Landcare Awards. You can support your local Landcarer here by voting in the National Landcare People's Choice Award today.

Voting closes on September 17th
landcareonline.com.au/2014nationalawards
#landcareawards

These awards are supported by Landcare Australia, through funding from the Australian Government.

Australian Government | QANTAS | Agribusiness | Landcare Australia | Coopers

25th Anniversary of Landcare Grants

The Australian Government has announced \$5 million in funding to recognise the 25th anniversary of Landcare nationally.

These grants will provide up to \$20,000 for local groups to enhance their natural resources and engage their communities in land and environmental management during 2014/15.

We expect calls for this funding to open to coincide with the conference.



Multi species crop pre grazing.

Note: After one more arazina the oats will be allowed to mature, then harvested for arain



Multi Species crop on 25th June after two grazings.

Opportunity to learn more about multi species pasture cropping

Multi species pasture cropping involves sowing several different plant species with similar growing times - instead of sowing one species into a dormant grassland - with the aim of producing better quality forage and improving soil health.

Colin Seis the pioneer of the technique explains: "Multi species pasture cropping uses a group of plant species that produce good quality forage, have a range of different root systems, includes legume species, flowering plants and species that will add to organic matter on the soil surface and in the soil as root mass.

The plant mixture also produces a variety of plant root exudates which feed soil micro-organisms which further enhances soil health and soil carbon."

The Regional Landcare Facilitator project has partnered with Gecko CLaN's pasture cropping group to be the first farmer group in the nation to undertake the Multi Species Pasture Cropping technique outside Colin's farm in Gulgong NSW.

The group has had three successful pasture cropping projects in the past and is believed by Colin to be the best group in the country to begin rolling out this technique using some farm based trials to gather its potential for increased forage and soil health potential.

On September 29th and 30th Colin will be in the region delivering two courses: Multi Species Pasture Cropping and An Introduction to Pasture Cropping. Those who have attended pasture cropping courses in the past can attend the Multi Species day but those who have not should attend the introductory day to get a firm grasp on the techniques concepts before trailing something else.

Event Details

29th September: Multi Species Pasture Cropping Workshop

9am – 4pm at the Benalla Show grounds

30th September: Introduction to Pasture Cropping Workshop

9am – 4pm at the Swanpool Hall. Followed by a paddock visit

For more information, contact Charlie Sexton on 5764 7507 or [email](#) or Kerri Robson on 0418 140 710 or [email](#).



Regional Landcare Facilitator Steering Committee members

L-R: John Pettigrew, Terry Hubbard, Greg Bekker (DEPI), Norm Tozer, Cath Marriott, Doug James, Scott Birchall, Regional Landcare Facilitator Charlie Sexton (GBCMA) Absent: Ian McClaren and Tony Kubeil (GB CMA - taking the photo).

Transforming Society or how to invest and take ownership in our own community's future

By Cath Marriott

At Womadelaide there were three speakers who believed that the community taking ownership in their own future was not only a good way forward but that it was a necessary way forward.

Professor Richard Slaughter who wrote *The Biggest Wake up Call in History* noted there was a need for projects that achieved by doing things rather than writing about doing things. The written word is not as persuasive as the action. There is no doubt that achieving something for your society/community when it is 'owned' by the community, is of much more value and is longer lasting than one that has been devised by some group from outside. After all.... what would THEY know!

Simon Holmes a Court was the second speaker and spoke about the success in achieving community action from the project at the Hepburn Springs Wind Farm. He stated that the initial meeting held in Dean's Hall with Per Bernard in 2004, transforming Society or how to invest and take ownership in our own community's future, was a difficult meeting where there was no enthusiasm for having a wind farm in the district.

Per Bernard, who had experience of a similar project in Denmark, embarked on a way forward.

This involved engaging the local community, so he set up a card table in the main street of Daylesford every Saturday morning. Within 12 months there was sufficient investment in the project to start work on more serious planning. The success of this project is based on the fact that people could look at the plans and talk to Per about what was involved without feeling the decision was anything other than their own.

The contra to this success is another wind farm project in Western Victoria where the decisions made to build a wind farm were made outside the community and the result has been devastating for the locals. There are issues of such bitterness and divisiveness and even illness that have occurred as a result of this way of achieving that it has divided the area.

Paul Gilding, author of *The great Disruption*, was the third speaker. He suggests that there is no longer a valid reason to invest in non-renewable power generation systems. Germany is a great example of what we can achieve where reliance on non-renewable energy in the form of wind, solar and bio-gas has changed from 6.3% in 2000 to over 30% by 2014. Along with more efficient local food production systems it becomes apparent that people can make the difference to their own communities at a local level and work together to overcome the need for reliance on non-renewable resources.

Local Landscape Enhancement Grants

The Victorian Government is inviting applications for the Local Landscape Enhancement Grants from members of the community who are seeking to undertake projects that improve our environment, contribute to our environmental knowledge and encourage people to enjoy their local area. Projects will need to be locally-based and focused on practical, on-ground measures that address local needs.

Grants of up to \$50,000 are available for one-year projects that will be completed by 30 December 2015. Applications close at 4pm on Monday, 15th September 2014. For all eligible activities, groups must demonstrate that they are using best practice management techniques and have taken safety, cultural heritage and biodiversity impacts into account. Advice on these matters can be sought through the Grants Information Line on 1300 366 356 or [here](#).

Addressing the impact of extreme weather events on livestock and production

Climate change is creating more intense and frequent weather events that are increasing pressures on stock through heat stress. Shelter/shade belts are known to provide effective protection for stock from extreme weather events and during sensitive times such as lambing.

Excessive heat load (EHL), or heat stress, describes the situation where livestock, primarily cattle, are not able to dissipate body heat effectively and their body temperature rise above normal. EHL initially leads to reduced feed intake and production losses but, in extreme cases, can lead to tissue organ damage and death.

The factors that contribute to body heat load in cattle are complex and include environmental conditions and animal characteristics.

Gecko CLaN in partnership with the Goulburn Broken CMA Regional Landcare Facilitator program project aims to explore the benefits of opening the gates on existing shelter belts and designing new belts that allow stock to have access to shade trees and feed on extreme weather events with causing damage to the shelterbelt itself.



A driveway, not typically used for stock, could provide valuable stock protection in severe weather events

This project will provide information to land managers about the benefits of shelter belts while introducing them to the latest innovations in design and implementation. The project will consist of a series of education events such as field days, workshops, and field trips. Research scientists, vets and others experts will be invited as guest speakers in addition to local farmers who are practicing innovative methods of stock protection.

Three trial sites will be set up, one starting from scratch, another site with some trees and then looking at the ideal plantation. In all sites, we will be monitoring temperature, wind speed and cameras to monitor stock movement within the plantation/shade belt.

- **The first field day will be on September 22nd at Euroa. For more information and to register for the event, please [email](#) Kerri Robson.**



SoilCare Update

SoilCare, funded by the Australian Government, is entering its second year of five years of funding. We are continuing to run field days, workshops, bus tours and SoilCare groups. We are also continuing to support farmer-led demonstrations through community and industry groups. Through the 2014-15 small grants (advertised as part of the GBCMA EOI process), SoilCare funded:

Australian Processing Tomato Research Council Inc	Cover crops on permanent beds irrigated via sub-surface drip irrigation	\$10,000
Goulburn Murray Landcare Network	Wagga Wagga Wander	\$3,500
Maize Association of Australia	Stubble management options in a continuous maize cropping system	\$10,000
Goulburn Murray Landcare Network	Soil Health Forum	\$8,400
Molyullah & Tatong Tree and Land Protection group	Supporting grass roots innovation	\$3,530
Strathbogie Ranges Conservation Management Network	Landscape Discovery Tour; Upper Broken Catchment - Tablelands, Volcanoes, River Capture, Granite Intrusions & Floodplains	\$4,000
Warby Ranges Landcare Group	Developing and caring for a healthy soil	\$8,000
Up2Us	Inspiring small farms to grow big ideas (2 year project)	\$15,000
Strathbogie Tableland Landcare Group	Strathbogie Alternative Fertiliser Trial site stage II	\$10,000
Gecko Clan	Sustainable futures in agriculture	\$6,900
Gecko Clan	Agricultural residues for soil erosion control	\$10,000
		\$89,330

Look out for the 2015-16 grants round that will run later in the year as part of the GB CMA EOI process.

SoilCare groups

The Yea and Mansfield SoilCare groups are continuing their program of meetings and workshops.

In July, the Yea group had a tour of *Kulaba* in Seymour, with manager David Freeman and Gary McLarty.

On the 26th August the Yea group met on-farm for a workshop with Graeme Hand where he introduced the concept and practice of planned grazing – based on Alan Savory's Holistic Management.

Planned grazing is basically a decision making framework based on three things:

- more profit
- landscape regeneration; and
- less work.

Coming events

September 12th - Organic Matters 2014 forum, Benalla (Karen Brisbane 58227734 for details)

October, date TBC - Indigenous soils workshops with particular reference to archeological sites and soil types for use by Cultural Heritage Officers.

NSW Tablelands tour

Back in July SoilCare took a group of GB farmers on a NSW Tablelands bus tour.

We visited four farms and had a presentation from a fifth farmer. We started the tour at Bill and Rhonda Daly's farm at Young. As well as producing prime lamb, cereal, canola and legume crops, Bill and Rhonda have a humus compost business, YLAD Living Soils. Participants noted that their pastures were some of the best they'd ever seen.



Visible fungal breakdown of litter at Bill and Rhonda's farm, Young NSW.

The next day we had a presentation from Vince Heffernan of Moorlands lamb. Disappointingly, we couldn't fit a tour of Vince's farm in so Vince came to us. Vince and his wife Janet produce biodynamic lamb and wool. The lamb they sell directly through online sales and farmers markets. A participant noted *"Best speaker on subject of biodynamics – demystifies topic and puts it in logical/scientific terms. Also good focus on native plants and animals."* Another said *"Great marketing and holistic land management, very well explained."* Vince was definitely a highlight and someone we hope to bring to the catchment next year.

We then travelled to Braidwood to visit Martin Royd's and Trish Solomon's farm, *Jillamatong*, where they produce beef cattle, truffles, garlic, yabbies and native grass seed.

Here we learnt about and saw natural sequence farming in action as well as time-controlled grazing to facilitate nutrient movement.

One participant reflected *"Came to the farm having tried to understand Peter Andrews' concepts but not seeing examples. It took a while but about half way through the visit it all started to sink in. Will consider the concepts on our farm. Would like to listen to Martin some more."*



Chain of ponds (formerly erosion gully), swales and tree planting at Jillamatong.

The next day we headed back via Murrumbateman and a visit to John and Robyn Ive's farm, *Talaheni*. Since 1980 John and Robyn have been tree planting and designing paddocks to manage salinity and fodder supply through drought. The change they have created in ground water levels and salinity is astonishing – as were the records that John has kept meticulously, taking measurements every Sunday for the last 30 years. Our last stop was Ian Locke of Wirruna Poll Herefords at Holbrook. On our tour of Ian's farm he showed us his holistic approach to managing an intensive high production system on good country and low production steep hills for the betterment of the whole farm. 15% of Ian's farm is native hill country. Through grazing management, Ian has increased the average annual stocking rate of his hill country from 5.6 to 6.1 DSE/ha, while he has removed all fertiliser and weed control costs, saving at least \$4,000 per annum. Through strategic grazing, Ian's hill country is now a useful part of his cattle enterprise.

The tour was a great success with participants rating it very highly for value, interest and usefulness on their farms. SoilCare will be running another bus tour in July 2015.



Science and Innovation Awards

Grant applications are now open for the 2015 Science and Innovation Awards for Young People in Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. If you're 18-35, this is your chance to apply for a grant of up to \$22,000 to fund your project on an innovative or emerging scientific issue that will benefit Australia's primary industries.

The Science Awards encourage young scientists, researchers and innovators with original projects that aim to keep Australia's rural industries sustainable and profitable.

There are 12 industry Science Award categories open for applications: biosecurity, cotton, dairy, fisheries and aquaculture, grains, horticulture, meat and livestock, new and emerging rural industries, pork, red meat processing, viticulture and oenology and wool. Each category includes a grant of up to \$22,000 and is generously supported by the research and development corporations as our Science Award partners.

And there is an additional Science Award for one outstanding project - the Minister for Agriculture's Award. This award provides additional funding to one recipient of the industry Science Awards to extend their project.

Applications in each industry category award and the Minister's Award are assessed by a panel of industry representatives, convened by each of the Science Award partners, to judge applications.

Applications close 5pm Friday October 3rd 2014.

For more information visit the [website](#).

Crown water frontage licences renewal

Crown water frontage licences are now being renewed across Victoria and licence holders should receive a letter and information package from the Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI) - and encouragement to undertake riparian (riverbank) works. The information package from DEPI provides licence holders with a copy of their licence conditions and explains the benefits of actively managing Crown water frontages for better farms and waterways.

Along with permission to use the Crown water frontage land, a water frontage licence holder may be eligible for funding to protect and improve the riparian environment – such as erecting fencing to manage stock access to the waterway and supporting native vegetation – through the local CMA.

Landholders neighbouring unlicensed Crown water frontage also may take out a riparian management licence and, if they are in a priority area, funding may be available from the CMA.

Riparian management licences attract a reduced licence fee. The benefits of effective riparian management include:

- better stock management
- enhanced productivity and capital value
- erosion control
- improved water quality
- environmental benefits.

The community also benefits from healthier waterways, providing better environments for fish and other aquatic life, better waterways for recreation, and drinking water that requires less treatment. For further information, contact the DEPI Customer Service Centre on 136 186 or visit the [website](#).