

Upper Goulburn Muster

The Newsletter of the Upper Goulburn Implementation Committee

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"UGIC"

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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.

After an opportunity to meet representatives of Landcare, members were presented with information on planning issues and constraints on water supply in the upper Delatite catchment, before travelling to Mount Buller to view alpine vegetation damaged by this summer's bushfires.

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.

Members climbed to the summit fire tower on Mount Buller to learn more about the threat posed by the bushfires and take in the magnificent alpine views.

The CMA Board visits each Implementation Committee area once a year.

Rita joins UGIC

Rita Seethaler, from Taggerty, is the latest recruit to the Upper Goulburn Implementation Committee.

Rita is a member of Acheron Valley Watch, a community Group that takes a hands on approach to local land protection.

Rita will focus on the Land & Soils portfolio, Chaired by Sue Ablitt of Mansfield and reporting to the UGIC on related issues across the catchment.



Far left: The CMA's Tom O'Dwyer explains the RFL project.

Centre: Information at Carters Track.

Right: At the fire tower on Mt Buller.



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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.

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The Yea office has a new phone number. Ph 5736 0100.

THE UPPER GOULBURN MUSTER

IS PREPARED FOR THE

UPPER GOULBURN IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE.

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Significant sites

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'.

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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.

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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

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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

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 rocky 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!!



Award recognises Groups

The Upper Goulburn Implementation Committee has instigated a method of recognising Landcare for exceptional and innovative projects in the upper Goulburn Catchment.

The Award will be named the "*Landcare Major Project Award—celebrating 10 Years of Catchment Management Authorities in Victoria*".

It will be run alongside the existing Landcare Award for Excellence and the Hubert Miller Perpetual Trophy, both of which recognise individual commitment to environmental works.

The 2007 Awards will be presented at a UGIC function to be held in Mansfield in August.

Further details about the new Award will be circulated in May.

Landcare Award for Excellence and Hubert Miller Perpetual Trophy nomination forms will be mailed to Community Groups in May.

Please make sure you nominate a Landcare member or community member to be recognised for their work in natural resource management.

Environmental Education Grant for Kilmore Schools

Four schools in Kilmore have embarked upon a joint campaign to rehabilitate the Kilmore Creek where it traverses the township behind the International School.

The project has been initiated by Derek Vogel from Assumption College and includes St Patricks Primary, Kilmore Primary, and the International School.

An Environmental Education grant has been provided to pay for some signage and water testing materials. The project is well underway with interpretive signs erected along the creek and information material will be included as the project progresses.

St Patricks science students have been working to protect the Kilmore Creek for 3 years.



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 Wallan 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 upper Goulburn catchment borders include the northern slopes of the Great Dividing Range from Marysville through Mansfield in the east and from Wallan and Kilmore to the southern slopes of the Strathbogie ranges and Seymour to the north. The upper Goulburn Implementation Committee was formed in 1998 and comprises 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 information on events in each sub catchment area will be advertised.



Revegetation of the Yea River after major removal of woody weeds.

Irrigation Futures of the Goulburn Broken catchment *continued from p1.*

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, Leon Coste from the Department of Primary Industry in Tatura, 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.



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

Announcing the proclamation date today, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Gavin Jennings said the new *Aboriginal Heritage Act* will replace existing legislation with a more modern, consistent and effective process.

The State Government will have sole responsibility for Victoria's Aboriginal cultural heritage instead of the current system which is a mix of State and Federal legislation.

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;

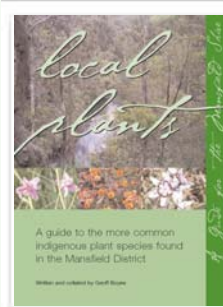
the ability for registered Aboriginal parties to evaluate management plans, advise on permit applications, enter into cultural heritage agreements and negotiate the repatriation of Aboriginal human remains; and alternative dispute resolution procedures.

Minister Aboriginal Affairs Media Release

'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 at \$10 a copy. Proceeds go to support local Landcare projects.



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: Christine Glassford and Collin Tate from the upper Goulburn Waterways team attended the Willow Identification Workshop. Shown here discussing the attributes of various species.



Landcare Briefs

Despite dry conditions and bushfire threats over the past three months Landcare activities have continued in the upper Goulburn.

Over 100 people attended the recent Fish Circus in Yea, which attracted a diverse crowd from outside the usual Landcare contingent.

Mansfield Mitre 10 donated prizes for the nature treasure hunt at the Bonnie Doon Landcare White Box Ecology Field Day in March.

'An Inconvenient Truth' was shown by the Nulla Vale/Pyalong Landcare Group followed by a Forum, facilitated by Professor Lindsay Falvey from Melbourne University, to discuss the issues.

Forthcoming Environmental Days for Apr 2007

Earth Day – to be held on 22 April.

Visit
www.earthday.net/resources/ED2007.aspx

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

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.

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

Green Pulse looks at Enviro attitudes

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

Approximately 1/4 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'.

Their 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 Upper Goulburn Implementation Committee.