



# gecko

# CLaN

## Landcare News

Gecko CLaN Inc. (Catchment Landcare Network): Warrenbayne/Boho Land Protection Group, Molyullah/Tatong Tree and Land Protection Group, Goomalibee Landcare Group, Sheep Pen Creek Land Management Group, Swanpool Landcare Group, South Yarrowonga Landcare Group, Yarrowonga Urban Landcare Group, Dookie Land Management Group, Burramine/Tungamah Land Management Group, Granite Creeks Project, Balmattum/Sheans Creek Landcare Group, Burnt Creek Landcare Group, Creightons Creek Landcare Group, Goomal Valley Landcare Group, Longwood East Landcare Group, Strathbogrie Tablelands Landcare Group, Nagambie Landcare Group, Graytown/Costerfield Landcare Group, Warby Ranges Landcare Group, Benalla Indian Myna Action Group.

## Important Dates and Events:

26 <sup>th</sup> February	Seeing the Future in Farming Forum
5 <sup>th</sup> March	'Grazable Shrubs' Field Day Warrenbayne
12 <sup>th</sup> March	Network Meeting, Parish Perfumery, Violet Town
14 <sup>th</sup> March	Erosion Field Day
15 <sup>th</sup> March	Warrenbayne-Boho Clean up Australia Day
8 <sup>th</sup> May	Native Grasses and Mosaic Burning workshop featuring Bill Gammage (author of 'The Biggest Estate on Earth')
12 <sup>th</sup> May	Fred Provenza, Animal Behaviour Researcher, Warrenbayne-Boho

## From the Chair

I hope you were able to enjoy some break over the Christmas – New Year period and find some rest-bite from the recent hot spell. The Gecko CLaN begins 2014 with a number of interesting and useful projects in place, including our soil erosion project in conjunction with Brad Costin from DEPI. Also Melanie and Kerri have been working on some more GBCMA Expressions of Interest applications for new and existing projects.

Whilst the government funding stream has tightened in recent times, they are still happy to fund projects that are sold well and are deemed worthwhile.

Thankfully our facilitators are able to do this most of the time. After our Executive meeting next Wednesday we will have a clearer picture of how the year will unfold.

Doug James,  
Chairman, Gecko CLaN Inc.

## Seeing the Future in Farming Forum

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February, 5 – 10 pm  
Benalla Community Lakeside Centre

Local organisations have collaborated to host an interesting evening featuring guest speakers Ivan Lister, Tim McRae, Brian Cumming, Dale Grey and Lyndon Kubeil. The evening will include a Q&A panel discussion with a range of local farmers and industry representatives including Gecko CLaN's own Jacci Campbell. MC for the night local Warrenbayne farmer John 'Moon' Harrison, and the Q & A session will be facilitated by popular NE entertainer John Walker. The Gecko CLaN will be an exhibitor at the event.

Topics include:

- Farm Diversity
- Livestock Export Markets
- Succession Planning
- Sustainability
- Health and Wellbeing

Free BBQ dinner provided. Drinks available at bar prices.

RSVP to Jane Archbold on 5760 2635 or  
Leanne Robb on 5760 2632.



Warrenbayne Boho Land  
Protection Group Inc.

## Warrenbayne-Boho Land Protection Group

### Clean Up Australia Day

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March, 9am

- Meet at Warrenbayne Hall
- Bring gloves, hats, garbage bags
- Lunch to follow

For further information please contact Janet Pruden  
5763 2296. All welcome.



CARING  
FOR  
OUR  
COUNTRY



GOULBURN  
BROKEN  
CATCHMENT  
MANAGEMENT  
AUTHORITY

## More Funding for Hollands Creek Works Secured

At a recent meeting of the Molyullah Tatong Tree and Land Protection Group, representatives from the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (CMA) outlined life, post Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) funding, in the Hollands Creek catchment.

Goulburn Broken CMA Manager Strategic River Health Wayne Tenant said thanks to the MDBA funding, between 2008 and 2013 the community and the Goulburn Broken CMA had improved waterway frontage along Hollands Creek, leading to significant increases in the number of native fish such as Macquarie Perch as well as trout, in Hollands Creek as well as nearby Ryans Creek.

“While the MDBA funding finished last year, fortunately the community has available some moderate funds, that will ensure the great work already done by landholders along Ryans Creek, Hollands Creek and tributary streams can be continued,” Mr Tennant said.

Funding may be available for fencing along waterways, revegetation and pest plant maintenance and erosion control. For more information about the funding and eligibility criteria, phone Geoff Brennan at the Goulburn Broken CMA’s Benalla office on 5761 1611.

## Animal Nutrition in Spotlight at Warrenbayne 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2014

Fred Provenza is one of the foremost authorities on wild and domestic animal behaviour, specialising in improving productivity and enhancing biodiversity, by allowing animals to regulate their intake with a balanced diet.



Provenza encourages them to eat and browse a range of plants and mineral supplements as well as encouraging animals to graze more effectively and efficiently while rehabilitating their habitat. It is indeed an honour and privilege to welcome Fred to Warrenbayne to share his wisdom and explain how the SERCS program will facilitate enhancing productivity through biodiversity.

For further information go to [www.billhill.com.au](http://www.billhill.com.au)

Warrenbayne-Boho Landcare Presents:



# Grazable Shrubs

‘SERCS’ Project Field Day

5<sup>th</sup> March, 9:30am - 1pm, Warrenbayne Hall

Warrenbayne-Boho Landcare in conjunction with Mingenew Irwin Group are hosting a field day for the ‘Shrubs for Emissions and Carbon Storage’ (SERCS) project. The project is trialling the on-farm use of a range of Australian native shrubs to demonstrate their anti-methanogenic properties and potential as a fodder source, when used as a “green” feed during the summer-autumn feed gap. The project involves farmers from WA, NSW and Victoria. The only Victorian trial site is located on Hill’s property at Warrenbayne.

From results of the Enrich project, it is expected that the inclusion of these plants in the stock diet will promote more efficient digestion thereby limiting emissions, primarily methane, from animals. The project is in collaboration with the Future Farm CRC, the Enrich project team and UWA. It’s supported by funding from the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry as part of its Carbon Farming Futures – Action on the Ground program.



The day will feature an information talk by Donna Rayner – SERCS project officer and a visit to Bill Hill’s project site, Warrenbayne.

- Morning tea and lunch provided.
- RSVP Essential for catering purposes  
Melanie Addinsall – Landcare Project Officer  
(03) 5761 1560 or [landcare1@iinet.net.au](mailto:landcare1@iinet.net.au) by 26<sup>th</sup> February
- For more information [www.billhill.com.au](http://www.billhill.com.au)



## 'Reverse the Dirt' Erosion Field Day

Hosted by Burnt Creek Landcare  
Meet at Jane Starey's Maze, Upton Rd.  
14<sup>th</sup> March, 9.30am – 3pm

The field day will feature:

- Earthworks demonstration
- Visit to sites with different erosion problems

Lunch provided. Please register to Sandy McKenzie  
0411 552 426.

## Indian Myna Project Update

**What impact are we having?  
Please report numbers of  
Indian Myna's destroyed to  
Benalla Indian Myna Action  
Group Data Coordinator on  
5762 7795 or  
[benallamynagroup@yahoo.com](mailto:benallamynagroup@yahoo.com)**



The Indian Mynas are now out in force with large numbers being caught by action group members. Congratulations to Peter Booth who has caught over 200 Mynas since boxing-day. Trap building is continuing every Wednesday at the CAL Community Farm (Men's Shed) on Sydney Road. Traps are available for purchase direct from the shed or from Landmark, Peter Davis, North East Produce and Clarky's pet shop and Hunter's in Wangaratta. The Action Group is continuing their efforts to promote the project and record data of numbers destroyed. We welcome newcomers and new ideas on how we can further develop the project. To find out how you can get involved contact 5762 7795.



## Grants Available for Remnant Protection and Enhancement work in the Goulburn Broken

The Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority has received funding from the Federal and Victorian governments to carry out environmental works on private property in the Catchment. The Gecko CLaN is assisting in the delivery of environmental works. Funding can be for:

- fencing and/or revegetation of existing native vegetation remnants and wetlands,
- revegetation of corridors (eg waterways and increasing the width of roadside corridors), and/or
- revegetation of patches (>1 ha).

\*Note: There are eligibility criteria to determine the level of funding available.

### Interested?

You can apply by:

Contact Melanie Addinsall (03) 5761 1560 or [landcare1@iinet.net.au](mailto:landcare1@iinet.net.au)

or

Contact the Goulburn Broken CMA Shepparton office on (03) 5820 1100 or [reception@gbcma.vic.gov.au](mailto:reception@gbcma.vic.gov.au)

## Balmattum-Sheans Creek Expansion

On Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> January 35 interested people attended a lunch at Richard McGeehan's and Sue Gall's property in Balmattum. The day was organised to address a membership crisis in the Balmattum Sheans Creek Landcare group. Although the group has recently undertaken some excellent works, it has struggled to attract new members in an area where there are many new arrivals.

To address this, the group held a lunch and personally invited people. More than 35 people attended the day with a mix of the new and old. It was a fun way to meet new people. Thanks go to Sue for her excellent catering.

The lunch focussed on the groups plans to expand the group area. The proposed expansion would include a larger area running all the way to the Violet Town Murchison Rd and then bounded by the Euroa Shepparton Road in the South. The enlarged area would almost double the current group area creating a huge potential for new members and project ideas.

## Beyond the Supermarket

### Open Food Network Showcase event!

Warrenbayne's Serenity Hill and Kirsten Larsen will demonstrate the Open Food Network – an online market place for local food at the Melbourne Sustainable Living Festival this Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February.

More info: [www.slf.org.au/festival14/beyond-supermarket](http://www.slf.org.au/festival14/beyond-supermarket)

## Debrief Breakfast for Frost Affected Farmers - DOOKIE

On Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January a debrief breakfast was held at Dookie, which was cooked by NAB staff. It was a lovely morning in the shade of the trees, with endless supplies of tea and coffee on hand to encourage people to stand around talking.

Karen Brisbane welcomed everyone for coming to the breakfast and thanked NAB staff for the lovely breakfast they provided and cooked and Rotary Wodonga for the BBQ, tables and chairs. Jeanette Powell spoke about these events been a great opportunity to listen to the community and hear the problems in the community. Peter Farrell the Regional DEPI Hume Manager spoke about the fires and the affect it has had on staff not been available for this morning's breakfast.

Barry Membrey (Rotary and NAB) spoke about the information that is available from DEPI and how it could help with future planning. He spoke about the importance of creating a projected financial plan and discussing it with their associated financial advisors. The morning finished after a leisurely breakfast, talk and coffee. Representatives from DEPI, GBCMA, Advance Ag, IK Caldwell and GV Care were present along with Bill Sykes.

### Contact Details:

**Landcare Project Officer**  
Melanie Addinsall  
PO Box 124, Benalla 3672  
Ph: 5761 1560  
Mob: 0439 040 955  
[landcare1@iinet.net.au](mailto:landcare1@iinet.net.au)

**Landcare Project Officer**  
Kerri Robson  
208 James Rd, Warrenbayne 3673  
Ph: 5763 2465  
Mob: 0418 140 710  
[landcare2@iinet.net.au](mailto:landcare2@iinet.net.au)

**Gecko CLaN Chairperson**  
Doug James  
Ph: 0418 518 247  
[dougjanjames@hotmail.com](mailto:dougjanjames@hotmail.com)

**Goulburn Broken CMA Manager  
Landcare & Communities**  
Tony Kubeil  
Ph: 5761 1619  
[tonyk@gbcma.vic.gov.au](mailto:tonyk@gbcma.vic.gov.au)

**Goulburn Broken CMA Regional  
Landcare Facilitator**  
Charlie Sexton  
Ph: 5761 1506  
[charlies@gbcma.vic.gov.au](mailto:charlies@gbcma.vic.gov.au)

To subscribe to  
receive your Gecko  
CLaN newsletter via  
email please email:  
[landcare1@iinet.net.au](mailto:landcare1@iinet.net.au)

## New Approach to Weed Management

Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) is conducting a pilot weed management research project in the Goulburn Broken Catchment. The aim of the project is to develop and test system-based approaches (also known as "resilience thinking") to weed management and to implement a range of coordinated weed management approaches aimed at improving the resilience of farming systems to weed impacts.

On Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February a workshop was held at the Benalla Community Lakeside Centre with local farmers and weed interested. The workshop focussed on the future of weed management and how the industry can become resilient against the impact of weeds. The various impacts and drivers of weed spread and control were analysed from a social, economic and environmental perspective. The workshop provoked interesting ideas and perspectives on the future of weed management from local participants.

The workshop was delivered by GHD in partnership with the Gecko CLaN. Paul Ryan, a leading specialist in system-based approaches to natural resource management facilitated the workshop alongside senior economist for natural resources and agriculture Seamus Hoban.



## Project Officer Report

Wishing everyone a very happy new year! The Gecko CLaN has some exciting projects and events coming up this year on soil erosion, revegetation, native grasses, sustainable farming, weeds and much more. The Gecko CLaN are especially proud to announce that we will be hosting Bill Gammage author of 'The Biggest Estate on Earth' to share his wisdom on mosaic burning and native grasses in May.

The Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority Expression of Interest process has recently closed and there were a broad range of project applications submitted for local groups and the network. The Gecko CLaN submitted applications to expand and continue its current projects on erosion, revegetation and pest plants and animals in addition to several new projects.

Recruitment and Succession Planning training was recently held in Benalla for Landcare facilitators. This training provided some practical solutions on how to recruit new members and committee members enabling groups to remain viable into the future. If you need assistance in this area please contact Melanie.