

# CDL Roundup Newsletter

April 2023

## **Corowa District Landcare Inc.**

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## **Upcoming Events:**

### **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May – Birdwatcher Training Workshop – Southern NSW Birds on Farm Project**

BirdLife Australia's Birds on Farms team and Ovens and Murray Branch invite you to a FREE Birdwatcher Training Workshop for landowners and birdwatchers.

Come along for an action-packed day of birding fun! Morning chorus on one of our spectacular Birds on Farms properties guided by the landholder and experts from the BirdLife Ovens & Murray branch, then we'll migrate as a flock to Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre for a Birds on Farms project update, lunch, and an afternoon of woodland birding.

This FREE event is to be held at Burrumbuttock on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May from 8:30am to 3:30pm. RSVP by 5<sup>th</sup> May to Darcy Creece pm 0400 949 063 or [darcy.creece@birdlife.org.au](mailto:darcy.creece@birdlife.org.au)

*See attached flier.*



## Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May - On-Farm Composting Workshop, Rutherglen

As part of Corowa District Landcare's project on Improving Soil Health through Regenerative Cropping we are running an on-farm composting workshop with David Hardwick. David is an agroecologist and has over 20 years experience in rural landscapes, farming and food systems. He develops and delivers many of the extension projects for Soil Land Food across Australia. This workshop will cover how to make high-quality compost on your farm using simple, low labour methods.

This project is funded by the Australian Government's National Landcare Program Smart Farms Small Grants. It is about improving the soil health literacy of local farmers and empowering them to make decisions that benefit the landscape, their bottom line and our community.

For more information contact Courtney Young - [corowalandcarecourtney@gmail.com](mailto:corowalandcarecourtney@gmail.com)

To registration for the workshop [CLICK HERE](#).



The poster features a dark red background. On the left, a portrait of David Hardwick is shown. To his right, the text reads: 'ON-FARM COMPOSTING WORKSHOP with David Hardwick 24th May, 2023 Rutherglen'. Below this, it says 'Learn how to make high-quality compost on your farm using simple, low labour methods!'. On the right side of the poster is a photograph of a person's hands holding a large amount of dark, rich compost. At the bottom, there are logos for 'SOIL LAND FOOD', 'Australian Government', and 'National Landcare Program'. A small text at the bottom states: 'This project is funded by the Australian Government's National Landcare Program Smart Farms Small Grants'.

## Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June – No Kill Cropping Workshop with Bruce Maynard - venue to be confirmed.

Bruce Maynard has over 30 years experience in the fields of No Kill Cropping, Stress Free Stockmanship, Self Herding and Grassland Grain. He has implemented these practices on his own farm as well as supported landholders across Australia. No Kill Cropping and Pasture Cropping are systems that grow crops within grasslands rather than replacing grasslands as conventional systems do. The methods are adaptable and resilient, providing profitable production whilst slashing inputs and, therefore, risk.

Bruce will also be doing an evening introductory session on Self Herding after the workshop at a local pub - the session will be called 'Drink Droving'.

For more information contact Courtney Young - [corowalandcarecourtney@gmail.com](mailto:corowalandcarecourtney@gmail.com)

## Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2023 - Farm Business Management workshop, Oaklands (hosted by Murray Local Land Services)

Farm Business Management is an essential part of any farm business. However, getting your head around some of the key concepts is often confusing, especially if you're new to farming, or in need of a refresher. This one-day workshops will help participants develop a greater and clearer understanding of some basic principles of Farm Business Management. It will also develop skills to help manage the farm business now, as well as planning for the business into the future. Participants will be provided with a range of take-home tools and have the time to begin to apply them to their own business.

This workshop will be presented by Paul Blackshaw, a farm business consultant with Meridian Agriculture in Northeast Victoria. Paul provides farm financial analysis, benchmarking, business performance, and succession planning. To registration for the workshop [CLICK HERE](#) or for more information contact Paul Simpson, Senior Land Services Officer – Mixed Farming Systems Local Land Services (0439 384 749 or [Paul.Simpson@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Paul.Simpson@lls.nsw.gov.au)).

## Friends of River Street Wetlands

Friends of River St Wetlands (66 Federation Ave, Corowa) have regular working bees on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month from 2 pm to 4pm. Please wear sturdy shoes, bring a hat, gardening gloves, and bring drink bottle. Corowa District Landcare has a Riparian Restoration Grant to undertake works at this wetland. The grant will fund the removal of woody weeds and the replanting with native vegetation to improve frog and bird habitat. All welcome. If you are interested in joining or for more information, please contact Meredith on 0475 455 643 or [meredithmitchell@corowalandcare.com.au](mailto:meredithmitchell@corowalandcare.com.au)

## Useful Link

**NSW Landcare Program Newsletter** - March 2023 - Issue No. 13 - [CLICK HERE](#)

**Murray Local Land Services Newsletter** - Read the Local Land Services April update [CLICK HERE](#)

## Other News

### Keep a look out for Swift Parrots and Regent Honeyeaters in our region

Please let Ben Humphries from BirdLife Australia ([ben.humphries@birdlife.org.au](mailto:ben.humphries@birdlife.org.au)), know if what you find and where. There is now a dedicated and informative webpage for Swift Parrot Search has been updated with a clean, new look, and most importantly, a simpler method for how you and your fellow participants access the necessary information to get involved in our surveys [Swift Parrot Search - BirdLife Australia](#)

### Birds on Farms Autumn 2023 Survey reminder – Saturday 25 March – Sunday 7 May 2023

Thank you all for your efforts to complete your Birds on Farms Summer surveys. Your data is of great value to BirdLife Australia and is contributing to the conservation of our woodland birds. A friendly reminder that our next survey period is rapidly approaching!

#### Survey Dates 2023/2024:

- *Autumn 2023: Saturday 25 March to Sunday 7 May 2023*
- *Winter 2023: Saturday 17 June to Sunday 30 July*
- *Spring 2023: Saturday 23 September to Sunday 5 November*
- *Summer 23/24: Saturday 16 December to Sunday 4 February 2024*

## Forewarned is Forearmed

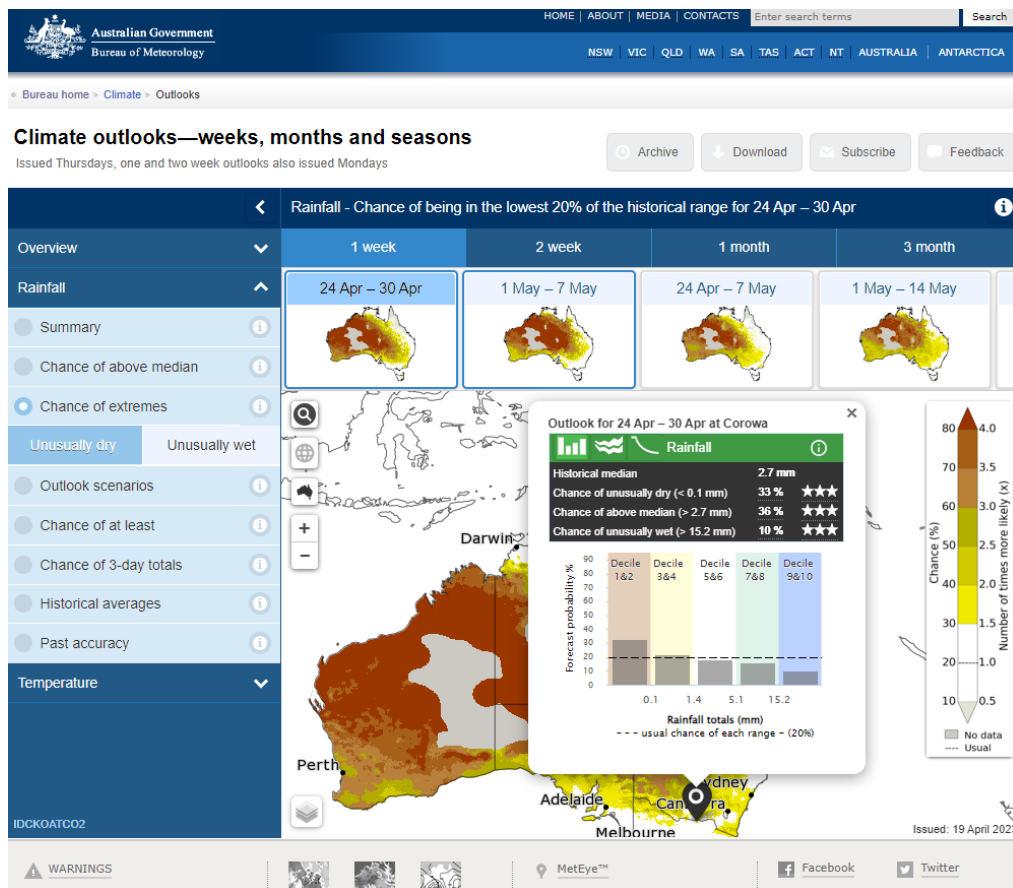
Supported by MLA, The Bureau of Meteorology has released a number of new climate tools as a part of its Forewarned is Forearmed project, to support producers in making timely decisions on farm. These consist of five new forecast products for extreme events. Six industry partners collaborated on the project representing the livestock, wine, cotton, grains, sugar, and dairy industries. Industry decision support tools have been developed for all six industries.

An extension package of the project is training extension staff to use the tools and deliver training to producers. HLN can deliver this training to producers either online or face to face if there is enough interest, so let us know if you would like to be involved.

The tools include:

- Rainfall and temperature forecasts for weekly, monthly, and seasonal timeframes at specific locations
- The probability of rainfall over a week, month or season exceeding any amount
- Outlooks for three-day rainfall bursts at significant measurements of 15, 25, 50 and 75mm.

Producers are encouraged to search their location when using the tools to view locally relevant climate data. To access the tools [CLICK HERE](#)



Screenshot taken from the BOM Extreme Rainfall Climate Outlook Tool page. Showing the Corowa, 4-week forecast transposed over historical rainfall trends from the area.

## Funding Opportunities

### Nuffield Scholarship Applications Open Applications for 2024 close on Friday 9 June 2023:

Applications are now open for Nuffield Australia's 2024 Scholarship program, which for the first time includes scholarships aimed at drought resilience study topics. The Future Drought Fund (FDF) is investing \$1.6 million dollars through Nuffield over the next two years to help farmers increase their knowledge of drought resilience and better prepare themselves and their communities for a changing climate. Scholars will have the opportunity to travel overseas to study drought resilience and learn from international leaders in the field. Each scholarship is valued at \$35,000 and farmers and others working in food and fibre production aged between 28 and 45 should apply now. Applications close 9 June 2023. Find out more about the Nuffield Scholarships and apply at: [CLICK HERE](#)

### Critical Producer Grant Up to \$100,000 Closes 30 June 2023:

The objective of the program is to help primary producers and primary production enterprises impacted by the February and March 2022 NSW Severe Weather and Flooding events to rebuild and recover in the medium to longer term with the aim of supporting job security, future resilience and enabling future production. For more information [CLICK HERE](#)

### Rural Landholders Grants Up to \$25,000 Applications close 30 June 2023:

Grants available for landholders and oyster farmers in declared Local Government Areas (LGAs), who have holdings of at least 10ha of rural land or a Class A aquaculture permit authorising at least 1ha; and receive at least \$20,000 in income from primary production per annum. For more information [CLICK HERE](#)

## *What's been happening?*

### **Friends of River Street Wetlands:**

A "Friends of River Street Wetlands" group has been formed. This group meets at the wetlands (66 Federation Ave, Corowa) on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month from 2 to 4 pm. Equipment has been purchased for the team of volunteers to use at the site. The main tasks that have been completed to date are weeding and rubbish removal. In conjunction with Federation Council, weed spraying and tree (figs, palms, privets etc) will be removed.



## Superb Parrot: field day 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023, Savernake Station

A Breakfast with Superb Parrots was hosted by Ann & Alex Sloane, at Savernake Station. Speakers on the day included Ben Humphries (BirdLife Australia), Lou Bull (Murray Local Land Services), Sue Logie (Picola Superb Parrot Project), and Nicki Taws (Greening Australia).

During the day we discover the mystery and beauty of Superb Parrots, learnt how to identify them, found out what you can do to help them and how you can get involved in monitoring by simply sharing your bird sightings.

This event was held as a collaboration between Corowa District Landcare, with Murray Local Land Services and Bird Life Australia.



## Yuluma Wetlands Field Day: (7<sup>th</sup> March 2023, Lakeside, Urana)

After a couple of postponements last year due to flooding, the Yuluma Plains Wetlands Field Day was held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March. There was a total of 40 participants. The field day was hosted by Charlie and Tana Webb, on their property "Lakeside" near Urana.

The field day provided a unique opportunity to visit high conservation, managed wetlands on a productive, profitable agricultural property. This demonstrated that conservation and production can co-exist in agricultural landscapes. About one third of Tana and Charlie Webb's property is wetland. During the field day, four different wetland habitats were visited.

Wildlife Ecologist, Dr Matt Herring, talked about the diversity of wetland birds and their habitat needs. To quote Matt on the wetland bird species seen on the day "2 Black-tailed Godwit, 200+ Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, a pair of Brolgas, 100+ Intermediate Egret, breeding Red-necked Avocet, Black Falcons hunting quail, Gull-billed Tern and many more. All of this thanks to farmers maintaining well managed wetlands on their properties."

Matt Herring also highlighted the need to actively manage wetland areas. This assists with maintenance of habitat for species. Areas cannot just be locked-up.

Corowa District Landcare provided transport from Corowa to the field day site.

This event was supported with funding through the Partnering in Private Land Conservation. A joint initiative delivered by Landcare NSW and the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust Partnership.



## Improving Soil Health through Regenerative Cropping in the Corowa Region

This project aims to improve soil health in the Corowa region through a facilitated farmer to farmer Soil Health Learning Group (six sessions) Digging Deeper into Soils course with local agroecologist David Hardwick from Soil Land Food and four Regenerative Cropping workshops. The soil health learning group will be facilitated by agroecologist David Hardwick, one of Australia's leading soil extension specialists. The purpose of the group is to increase the soil health literacy, knowledge, skills and decision-making capacity of local farmers to improve soil health through best practice sustainable agriculture, notably, regenerative cropping. The four workshops will be an opportunity to bring soil health and regenerative cropping experts to the community to raise awareness about the benefits of regenerative cropping and increase the capacity of farmers to improve soil health by adopting these practices. Three videos will be produced to share the project experience and learnings with a wider audience and communicate the potential of regenerative cropping in improving soil health.

Watch workshops:

- Soil Health: Your Wealth with Graeme Sait [CLICK HERE](#)
- Digging Deeper: Soil Health and Regenerative Cropping WITH David Hardwick [CLICK HERE](#)

For more information about the project please visit the CDL website [CLICK HERE](#)





## CDL Resources

### Hop into Frogs Educational Kit

Through our Sounding the Chorus of Frogs in Corowa Wetlands Project, we have produced the Hop into Frogs Educational Kit. This kit has been created for students and educators in the Corowa region to support frog-related learning opportunities and experiences in schools. It is tailored to the local environment and local frog populations. Hop into Frogs provides students with a real-life application while encouraging the exploration of wider environmental issues and environmental citizenship in class and outside of school.

There are two main components of Hop into Frogs - the teaching resource and an interactive presentation. Both can be found on the Corowa District Landcare Website through the link [CLICK HERE](#)

### Freshwater Turtles in the Corowa Region film

Community awareness and engagement in local native turtle conservation. Corowa District Landcare with support from Murray Local Land Services have produced a video to help increase landholder and community awareness of freshwater turtles in our local region. It features turtle experts: Graham Stockfeld from Turtles Australia Inc and Dr James Van Dyke from La Trobe University. Graham & James identify the three freshwater turtle species in the Corowa region and talk about their ecology and threats. This video also shows how everyone can get involved to help protect and conserve our freshwater turtles. Please go to the CDL website to watch the video [CLICK HERE](#)

### Cultivating Native Grasses Project

CDL native grass seed project was a partnership with private landholders, Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre, Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge centre and various consultants including Dr Meredith Mitchell and Martin Driver. Despite the challenges of drought and COVID-19, we've learnt a lot about native grass seed cultivation and the role of native grasses in our landscapes. The project is funded by the Australian Government's National Landcare Program's Smart Farms Small Grants. To watch a video on the project please [CLICK HERE](#)

### Recording from Regenerative and Indigenous Agriculture Dinners Presentations at Corowa

- CDL Regenerative and Indigenous Agriculture Presentation with Farmer - Tom Briggs [CLICK HERE](#)
- CDL Regenerative and Indigenous Agriculture Presentation with Chris Andrew, from Black Duck Foods [CLICK HERE](#)
- CDL Regenerative Agriculture Presentations with Dr Charles Massy. Go to CDL Website [CLICK HERE](#)

### CDL Dung Beetle Project

Through our CDL dung beetle project, with partners Petaurus Education Group, we aim to build engagement with the arrival of spring active (*Onthopagus vacca*) dung beetles to the Corowa District through establishing farmer nursery sites with local landholders & schools. To also build capacity to manage/monitor beetle populations and to increase awareness of the benefit of dung beetles. [CLICK HERE](#)

### Beauty, Rich and Rare: Celebrating Our Region's Iconic Eucalypts

This book includes information on eucalypt landscapes within our region, remnant woodlands, scattered paddock trees, riverine and wetland areas. Highlighting their unique nature and how these landscapes can be cared for and enhanced to improve environmental benefits, including the advantages of gums within the productive landscape, pollination etc. Eucalypts as an indigenous cultural resource, food, materials, and ceremonial. The habitat values for birds, mammals and reptiles. Iconic and historic gums including, scar trees, survey trees and heritage trees. [CLICK HERE](#)

# Southern NSW Birds on Farms Project - Birdwatcher Training Workshop Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023

## BirdLife Australia's Birds on Farms team and Ovens and Murray Branch invite you to a FREE Birdwatcher Training Workshop for landowners and birdwatchers!

If you are a birdwatcher and would like support to build your skills and local bird knowledge in a friendly relaxed environment, please join us for an on-site birding skills development workshop. We aim to coordinate one of these outings each survey period to help birdwatchers learn from local experts in the field, to help assist landholders with quarterly surveys, and showcase the great work landholders are doing to make their properties bird friendly. This birdwatcher training workshop will help you learn more about our local bird species, and how to conduct surveys.

**When:** 8:30am-3:30pm, Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

**Where:** Burrumbuttock, NSW (address provided on registration).

**Cost:** Free! Morning tea and lunch provided. Numbers are limited so please RSVP to Darcy by Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May.

**What to bring:** Wet weather gear including sturdy footwear, binoculars (if you have them), BYO cup and water bottle, and a birding friend!

*Please note:* This event is weather permitting, and we may notify you at short notice of cancellation.

### Contact:

Darcy Creece  
Southern NSW Project Officer  
M: 0400 949 063  
E: [darcy.creece@birdlife.org.au](mailto:darcy.creece@birdlife.org.au)



Images: Above – Learn from experts.  
Below – Learn survey techniques.



This project has been supported by the New South Wales Government's Saving our Species program and Environmental Trust, through its Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.

For more information on the Birds on Farms program, visit: <https://birdlife.org.au/projects/birds-on-farms/>



Foundation for  
National Parks  
& Wildlife



### Agenda:

8:30am start

Arrival, welcome introductions, safety brief.

8:40-11:30am

Property owner guided field session of bird watching - practicing bird identification and survey techniques, including morning tea - discussion and questions.

12pm - 3:30pm

Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre - Birds on Farms project update, lunch, field session of birdwatching - practicing bird identification and survey techniques, discussion, questions and farewells.

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