

CDL Roundup Newsletter

August 2023



Corowa District Landcare Inc.

Corowa Civic Centre, 100 Edward Street, Corowa.

Postal: PO BOX 72, COROWA NSW 2646

Meredith Mitchell, Local Landcare Coordinator, on 0475 455 643

Email: admin@corowalandcare.com.au

Web: <https://www.corowadistrictlandcare.org.au/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/corowadistrictlandcare>

Farewell Judy Kirk

Judy Kirk, CDL's Senior Project Officer is finishing up at the end of August. Below is a copy of the speech that Judy gave at a recent CDL committee meeting.

We thank Judy for her dedication and contribution to CDL over the last seven years.

Photo: CDL committee (left to right): Brendan Christy, Joan Palmer, Sally Hughes, Craig Kirk, Judy Kirk, Basia Olejniczak, Bill Bott



Judy's speech to the July CDL Committee meeting:

Back in March 2016, I successfully applied for the position of Landcare Coordinator at Corowa District Landcare. It was an opportunity which I felt should not be missed, and I have gained so much from taking that chance. At that time, Corowa District Landcare was a sub-committee of Council, soon to become an incorporated organisation, the group has grown and now manages a budget up around the \$400,000 mark. I feel proud and honoured to have been a part of that progression. During my time with CDL we have achieved so much together, with the successful delivery of over 50 Projects, hosting over 250 events and have been awarded just over 1 million dollars' worth of project funding.

I would like to thank all the committee members that I have had the pleasure to work with over the years, thank you very much for your guidance and support. A special thanks to the chairs – Eric, Joan and Brendan, you have been great Group leaders and mentors.

I would also like to thank and acknowledge the achievements of all the staff members whom I have worked with over the years.

I have always been encouraged by the Landcare community, it gives me hope for the future of environmental awareness and action in our Region.

Following from that thought, I am grateful for the support and contributions of the community at both professional and voluntary levels. This support has been a pivotal factor in the success of a community-

based organisation such as Corowa District Landcare.

Leaving CDL, I feel satisfied that I have done everything that I could to further the aims of the organisation. I intend to still be involved in Landcare, sustainable agriculture, conservation and revegetation within the Region and I am looking forward to pursuing new opportunities.

CDL has provided me with a platform to not only contribute to conservation and community involvement but given me experience and skills that will stand me in good stead.

So, in closing, I am also intent on pursuing my art, studies and sheepdog training, while living in the oasis paradise that is Daysdale NSW.

I wish everybody well, and hope that CDL continues onward and upward in the future.

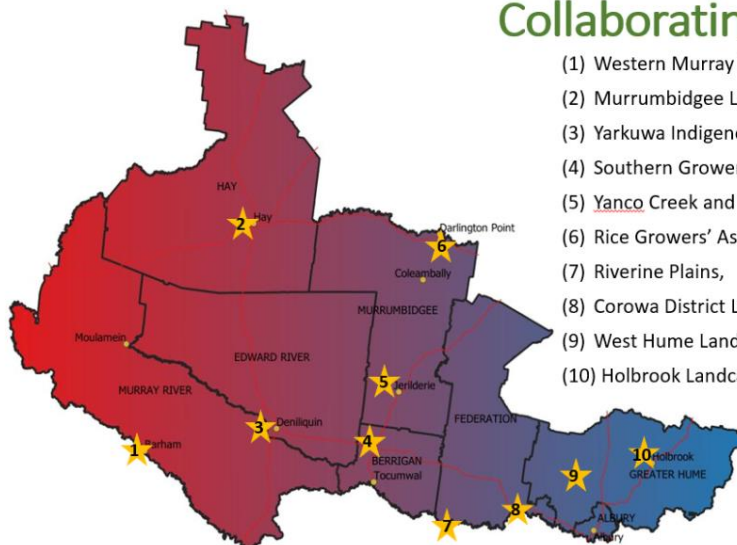
FRRR Community Impacts Grant Success

The Community Impacts Grant is designed to support community members and not-for-profit organisations in remote, rural and regional Australia to drive local action that helps prepare for drought. It is part of the Australian Government's commitment through the Future Drought Fund to support Australian agricultural communities to build drought resilience.



Drought Resilience and Preparedness Community Impact Grants

The grant proposal was coordinated by Holbrook Landcare Network with a number of other organisations on the proposal, which successfully secured \$365,000 in funding for community projects and events across the region.



Collaborating organisations

- (1) Western Murray Land Improvement Group,
- (2) Murrumbidgee Landcare Inc (Bidgee West, TBC)
- (3) Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre,
- (4) Southern Growers Inc,
- (5) Yanco Creek and Tributaries Advisory Council,
- (6) Rice Growers' Association,
- (7) Riverine Plains,
- (8) Corowa District Landcare,
- (9) West Hume Landcare
- (10) Holbrook Landcare

Corowa Community Nursery Project

This project focused on the production of local indigenous plants for farms/gardens, via a community volunteer propagation scheme. This project is modelled on the successful South Australian project [Tree for Life](#).

This project aims to build linkages and networks within the community that increase their capacity to become more sustainable to adapt to the effects of climate change and extreme weather events and provide social contacts and connection between local community volunteers and farmers across the Corowa/Federation and Berrigan region.

This community nursery project and associated educational workshops will assist to build community capacity by learning new skills, expand network, team building and connecting with others through native seed propagation and growing native plants for revegetation on farms, rural gardens or for cultural connection.

Corowa Cultural Awareness Training and Cultural Tour

The workshop would cover issues impacting Aboriginal people such as transgenerational trauma affects, racism and indirect racism, language and cultural bias. The training would also discuss strategies for engaging our aboriginal community moving forward.

It is important for all community to better understand indigenous culture to develop connection and networks with our local Aboriginal community. These events also aim to empower emerging young Aboriginal leaders to learn to share their local culture, connect with Country.

Other projects and events funded across the Murray region will include:

- Holbrook Drought Preparedness Community Planning Workshop
- Chicks in the Sticks - Jerilderie and Moulamein
- Construction of the Finley Community BBQ Trailer
- Walla and Walbundrie Weeds Warriors and cultural sites
- Riverine Plains Innovation Expos
- Nari Nari Cultural Burn Workshop

Watch this space for more details...

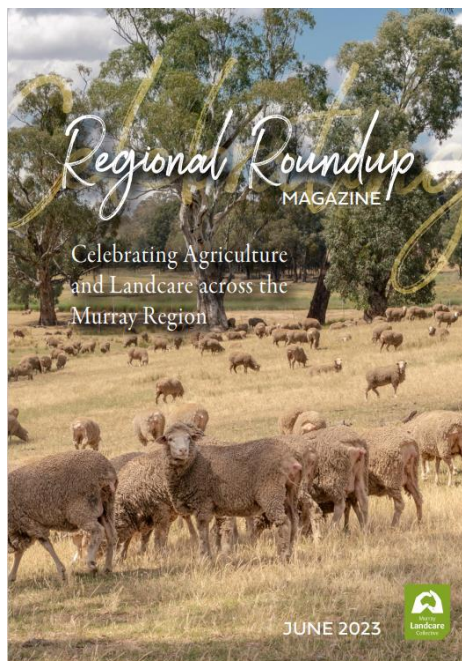
Murray Landcare Collective Regional Roundup Magazine Launched

The Regional Roundup Magazine has been launched by the Murray Landcare Collective - Celebrating Agriculture and Landcare across the Murray Region. The Regional Roundup Magazine celebrates the different groups, their identity, and purpose and exemplifies the diverse, important and successful initiatives they carry out throughout the region, contributing to agricultural practice change and natural resource management.

This magazine is a collaborative effort between the Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator (RALF), the Regional Landcare Coordinator (RLC), Local Landcare Coordinators (LLCs), and Landcare and Producer/Farming systems groups in the Murray region of NSW.

Corowa District Landcare feature in this magazine, along with Friends of River Street Wetlands, Corowa Tree of Life Community Garden and Redlands Hill Reserve Volunteers.

The link to the magazine: [Murray Landcare Collective Regional Roundup Magazine](#)



Upcoming Events:

Annual General Meeting (Monday 28th August 2023)

Corowa District Landcare Inc are having its Annual General Meeting on Monday 28th August at the Corowa Golf Club. The meeting will start at 12 midday with a light lunch provided. If you plan to attend RSVP for catering purposes via text to 0475 455 643 or email to admin@corowalandcare.com.au with your name and number attending.

Before the start of the meeting, we are hosting the Honourable Justin Clancy, Member for Albury where he will share with us his role on the NSW Parliamentary Friends of Landcare and his ideas about agriculture and environment in the Albury electorate.

Over the years Corowa and District Landcare have achieved so much to the environmental benefit of our region and we thank you for your continued support and membership. If you would like to play a more active role in Corowa District Landcare, then we would certainly welcome you onto our committee. Notice of AGM meeting attached to this email.

If you had any enquiries about the day, please feel free to ring our Local Landcare Coordinator – Meredith Mitchell on 0475 455 643.

Oaklands Diuris Threatened Species Day (Thursday 7th September 2023)

To celebrate Threatened Species Day an event is being held to celebrate the Oaklands Orchid (*Diuris callitrophila*).

The Oaklands Orchid is listed as Endangered in NSW and occurs in open grassy woodlands, usually in light sandy soils, particularly those dominated by White Cypress Pine. The species is currently believed to be restricted to three sites between Oaklands and Urana in southern NSW. Three other small populations in that area have become extinct in recent times. For a species profile - [CLICK HERE](#). Corowa District Landcare has been involved in the wild orchid project [CLICK HERE](#)

The morning will cover: Background about the Oaklands Orchid and unveiling of new signage associated with the threatened Oaklands Orchid and is being held on Thursday 7th September, starting at 10am, at the Oakland CWA rooms (corner of Milthorpe and Coreen Streets, Oaklands).

Please RSVP for catering purposes to Local Landcare Coordinator – Meredith Mitchell, meredithmitchell@corowalandcare.com.au

Love Letters to the Land

Landcare Australia's Junior Landcare program has an exciting upcoming 'Love Letters to the Land' letter-writing campaign with Junior Landcare Ambassador, Costa Georgiadis.

Officially launching the 1st September to tie in with National Biodiversity Month, the campaign is a wonderful opportunity to further engage children, Junior Landcarers and families with the local environment, encouraging them to take a moment to reflect on what they love most in their local environment – and small steps they can take to protect it: <https://juniorlandcare.org.au/love-letters-to-the-land>

The campaign features:

- [Letter templates](#) – free downloadable templates for little landcarers to older ones
- [A curriculum-linked activity](#) – for ideas to get kids thinking about the natural world around them
- [Ideas on what to do with letters](#) – from sending them to family, friends or uploading them to the Junior Landcare website for a chance to **win a visit from Costa himself** to your school, Landcare group or environmental centre etc.

Wouldn't it be great to have Costa visit Corowa!

What's been happening?

Sloane's Spotlighting Night, Whitehead Street Wetlands (30th June 2023)

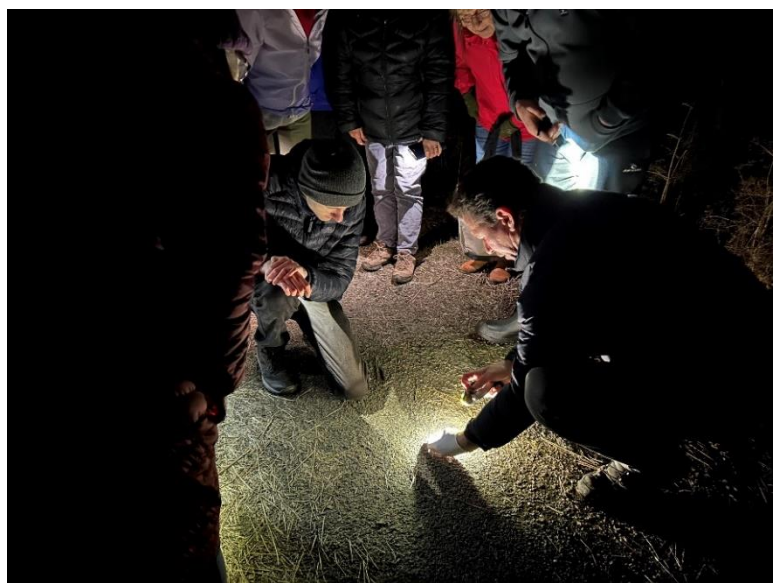
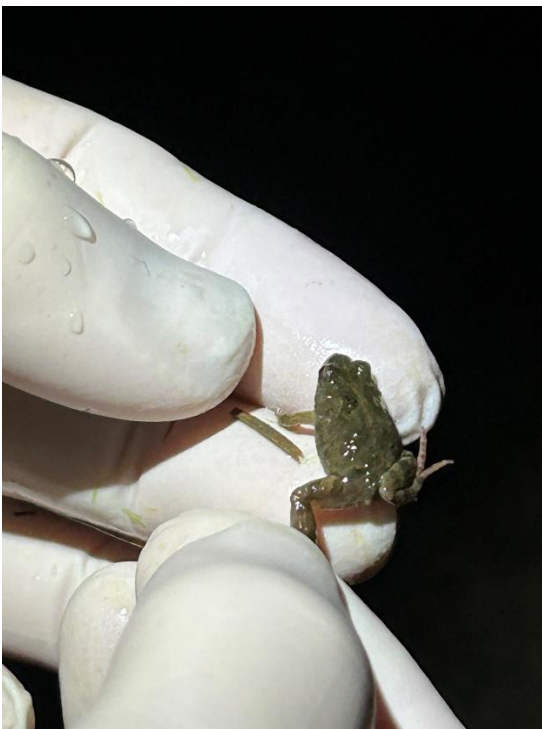
Dave Hunter and Bryce Davies, from the Saving our Species Program of the Department of Planning and Environment join us last night at Whitehead Street Wetlands were our guest presenters.

The Whitehead Street Wetlands is a recognised location for the endangered Sloane's froglet (*Crinia sloanei*).

David Hunter started the evening with a brief chat about Sloane's froglet ecology and management, then Bryce Davies led us through the use of the FrogID app.

We were then lucky enough to see lots of the cute little creatures as we walked around the wetlands. Sloane's froglet is a small-threatened species that is restricted in NSW to only a few locations along the Murray River. One of the largest populations is found in the Corowa region.

Sloane's Champions is a community survey and monitoring program where you can join in through the FrogID App and help monitor the presence of the froglet in Corowa. The data collected from this program will help to plan and prioritise conservation work to secure its long-term future.



CDL Native Plant Giveaway 2023

Our 2023 native plant giveaway was supported by the CDL Grassy Woodlands Project funded by Murray Local Land Services; Superb Parrot Project supported by Local Land Service and funded through the NSW Government Environmental Trust; and BirdLife Australia Saving the Nectar Sippers – Birds on Farms Southern NSW Project supported by the New South Wales Government's Saving our Species program.

These projects help increase and protect habitat for grey crowned-babblers and other significant woodland birds within our region.

This year we offered people the options of four different mixes:

- grassland wildflower mix (mat rush, golden everlastings, bulbine lily, tussock grass);
- nectar mix (eg. crimson bottlebrush, lemon bottlebrush, emu bush, wattle);
- woodland bird mix for farms (eg. yellow box, grey box, wattle, bottlebrush);
- woodland bird mix for gardens (eg. wattles, emu bush, cassia, saltbush, blackthorn, hop bush).

Our plant orders totalled to 2380 plants (Grassy Woodland Project). Also, there was 770 from the Superb Parrot Project (Murray Local Land Services) and 650 from the Birds on Farms Project. In total we had 3,800 plants to give away!

Thanks to all the passionate people in our community who took some plants home, it's always very inspiring to share your enthusiasm. Thanks to project partners, landholders and volunteers who made these days a great success.



National Tree (Day 30th July 2023)

To celebrate National Tree Day, we did a tree planting at "Kilpa" near Savernake. A special thanks to landholder Andrea Mitchell and family for hosting this community planting day on their beautiful farm. A big thank you to all the volunteers for your fantastic effort to plant 720 native plants on this Grassy Woodlands Project site.

After the planting, we enjoyed a delicious barbecue lunch and had seed-ball making activities for the kids, which was great fun. Everyone was able to take home some plants from our native plant giveaway.

The Grassy Woodland Project supports landholders to protect and enhance remnant native vegetation or to revegetate new areas on their properties, which will increase and help to protect habitat for our native woodland birds and other wildlife species. This project is a partnership between Murray Local Land Services and Landcare Groups. Funding supported by Murray Local Land Services.

National Tree Day is organised by Planet Ark in partnership with Toyota Australia.



Farm Business Management workshop, Oaklands (Tuesday 27th June)

We had a fantastic day yesterday at a Farm Business Management workshop at Oaklands. The presenter was Paul Blackshaw from Meridian Agriculture. Paul is a farm business consultant with Meridian Agriculture in Northeast Victoria.

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 workshop helped participants develop a greater and clearer understanding of some basic principles of Farm Business Management. It also developed skills to help manage the farm business now, as well as planning for the business into the future. Participants were provided with a range of take-home tools and have the time to begin to apply them to their own business.

This workshop was organised by Paul Simpson, from Murray Local Land Services.



The magnificent morning tea at the Oaklands RSL Bowling Club

Common Myna trapping program

Common (Indian) Myna's are an aggressive, highly invasive species and their population numbers within the Corowa District have greatly increased over the last few seasons. During their main breeding season of August to September they have been found to lay eggs and raise up to 3 clutches per season. The rule-of-thumb is that one pair of breeding Myna's will result in an additional 8-10 offspring per season. Therefore, a population of 100 Myna birds will increase to 500 birds at the end of a breeding season.

Having large populations of Common Myna in your area impacts on agricultural production as they congregate around feeding trough, fouling stockfeed with their faeces and present a large biosecurity risk in terms of their capacity to carry and transfer disease between farms and different feeding modules.

Environmentally, large Myna populations are in direct competition with other native animals and birds in terms of available food and they have been known to evict native birds and attack their chicks from their breeding habitats.

Since June 2023, CDL has increase the efforts to control Common Myna numbers in our area. With the assistance of Corowa Men's Shed they have building additional cages to be used in the control. These cages have been actively used within the Corowa Region and over 2 months more than 500 Myna birds have been removed from key locations. Rather than just supply cages to interested members of the public, CDL volunteers are actively directly providing on-going training and mentoring to public members who undertake Myna control. Additionally, daily numbers and location of Myna birds sighted and controlled are being logged within FeralScan ([mynascan](#)) under a CDL login to allow us to map and track Common Myna numbers in our area.

[CLICK HERE](#) for an ABC Science story on common Mynas.

By the end of next year, CDL has a target of removing 10,000 Common Myna birds from the Federation Council region. Therefore, CDL would appreciate additional help from volunteers who have an interest in control Common Myna birds. If you are interested in helping or for more information, please contact Meredith on 0475 455 643 or meredithmitchell@corowalandcare.com.au

INDIAN MYNA (*Acridotheres tristis*)

Introduced pest





Friends of River Street Wetlands

The River Street Wetland Restoration Project will be undertaken by Corowa District Landcare. Project activities involve the facilitation of volunteer maintenance group, riparian revegetation using local native species, weed control to prepare for riparian vegetation or natural regeneration and low-cost erosion control/management activities.

We have had popped 880 plants in the ground to date. There are still over 600 plant to go in!

A “Friends of River Street Wetlands” group has been formed. This groups meets at the wetlands (66 Federation Ave, Corowa) on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month from 2 to 4 pm. At our coming working bees, we will continue planting, watering and maintenance of the area.

More volunteers always welcome. Please wear sturdy shoes, bring a hat, gardening gloves, and bring drink bottle.

If you are interested in joining or for more information, please contact Meredith on 0475 455 643 or meredithmitchell@corowalandcare.com.au



Other Events of Interest

Riverine Plains Innovation Expo: [Innovation Expo 2023 - Riverine Plains](#)

Useful Link

NSW Landcare Program Newsletter - May 2023 - [CLICK HERE](#)

Murray Local Land Services Newsletter - August 2023 update [CLICK HERE](#)

Funding Opportunities

AgCareerStart

If you're 17-25, this unique gap-year program provides you with a paid job, training and development, not to mention the opportunity to build your networks within the agriculture industry. Applicants can indicate which farm type they'd prefer from a wide variety, and also where in Australia they would ideally like to go. A matching process is undertaken to ensure participants are assigned to the type of farms that match their interests and skills.

- Full-time paid farm job with a passionate host farmer
- A \$4,500 Training and Engagement Bursary to upskill yourself
- Funding to travel for industry events
- A dedicated support team
- A network of peers across the country

2024 applications open 14th August and close 1st October 2023. Visit the [AgCAREERSTART](#) website to apply.



NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

You are cordially invited to the Annual General Meeting of Corowa District Landcare Inc.

Date: Monday 28th August 2023

Venue: Corowa Golf Club

Time: Everyone is welcome to join us at 12 midday for lunch and AGM meeting.

The Honourable Justin Clancy, Member for Albury will give a presentation on his role on the NSW Parliamentary Friends of Landcare; his vision and ideas about agriculture and environment in Albury electorate; and the importance of Landcare.

There will also be a launch of the Regional Roundup Magazine – that celebrates the achievements of Corowa District Landcare. This magazine celebrates the different groups, their identity, and purpose and exemplifies the diverse, important and successful initiatives they carry out throughout the region, contributing to agricultural practice change and natural resource management.

Please RSVP - 0475 455 643 or admin@corowalandcare.com.au

Corowa District Landcare are looking for fresh ideas and passionate people to join our team to help shape our Landcare Group moving into the future.

If you would like to nominate for an executive or committee position, please use the below section and submit to the Corowa District Landcare Office prior to the AGM.



Nomination Form for the Election of Office Bearers & Committee for Corowa District Landcare

This form must be completed and lodged to Corowa District Landcare Group Inc, PO Box 72 Corowa NSW 2646 or email admin@corowalandcare.com.au or deliver to the Corowa District Landcare Office **Alternatively**, please bring it to the Annual General Meeting.

Position nominating for (*Please Circle*): Chairperson, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Committee Member

Name and address of Nominee: of

.....

Signature by Nominee:

Nominated by a Corowa District Landcare Member:

.....
(Signature)

.....
(Print name)

Seconded by a Corowa District Landcare Member:

.....
(Signature)

.....
(Print name)