

CDL Roundup Newsletter

March 2024



Corowa District Landcare Inc.

Corowa Civic Centre, 100 Edward Street, Corowa.

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New Local Landcare Coordinator Joins Corowa District Landcare



As part of the NSW Landcare Enabling Program 2023-2027, Corowa District Landcare was successful in obtaining funding to employ a full time Local Landcare Coordinator. Claire Birch joined the team in mid-March to fill this role and will be working alongside Meredith Mitchell, who has stepped into the position of Senior Project Officer. Claire has lived in the local area for the past three years and was a Landcare Facilitator in Victoria prior to accepting the position with Corowa District Landcare.

Claire has an interest in conservation ecology, landscape restoration, and has worked with not-for-profit community groups and organisations since 2017.

Claire can be contacted on 0417 858 533 or clairebirch@corowalandcare.com.au. She will be working from the Corowa District Landcare office at the Corowa Civic Centre from Monday to Friday. Feel free to drop in and say hello!

This initiative made possible by the NSW Landcare Program. A collaboration of Local Land Services and Landcare NSW supported by the NSW Government.

Upcoming Events

Breakfast with Birds on Farms May 2024 (more details coming soon)

Would you like to learn more about bird identification and conservation? As part of BirdLife Australia's *Saving the Nectar Sippers* project, Corowa District Landcare and the Birds on Farms Southern NSW team will be holding a Breakfast with the Birds event in May. Keep an eye out for more info coming soon! We hope to see you there.



Farm Water Management Workshops

Splitters Creek 30th April 2024; Bungowannah 1st May 2024; Corowa 2nd May 2024

Do you know how much water you have stored on farm? Do you know how much you should have in times of drought, and how to get it where you need it? Corowa District Landcare, together with West Hume Landcare, are hosting a series of Farm Water Management Planning workshops.

Peter Smith from Sapphire Irrigation will lead full-day workshops in Corowa, Splitters Creek and Bungowannah. The workshops will assist you with developing a comprehensive Farm Water Management Plan for your enterprise. The plan will cover available water storage, water supply assessment and estimating livestock and farm activity demand.

When you register you will be sent a link to a free introductory unit through Tocal College (estimated to be 1-2hrs). Assistance will be available for estimating your current dam volumes before the workshop to help inform your plan.

If you are interested in these upcoming workshops, please contact Meredith to express your interest on 0475 455 643 or meredithmitchell@corowalandcare.com.au.



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry



Future
Drought
Fund



SOUTHERN NSW
Innovation Hub
SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE,
LANDSCAPES AND COMMUNITIES

This project received funding from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund

National Tree Day – Tree Planting, Howlong 28th July 2024; 10am to midday

Corowa District Landcare along with Howlong Community Progress Association and Federation Council will be planting trees and understory at the Cross Street Reserve in Howlong as part of National Tree Day.

Visit <https://treeday.planetark.org/site/10029151> for more details on how to register.



Friends of River Street Wetlands Working Bees **2nd Sunday of each month; 2pm to 4pm**

Friends of River Street Wetlands (66 Federation Ave, Corowa) have regular working bees on the 2nd Sunday of each month from 2pm to 4pm. Please wear sturdy shoes, bring a hat, gardening gloves, and bring drink bottle.

All welcome. 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

Youth in Ag: GRAZE Dinner (Riverine Plains; 18+ event) **5th April 2024; 6pm to late**

Riverine Plains are excited to invite all young farmers, ag professionals and students to the 2024 Youth in Ag Dinner: GRAZE on Friday 5th April, 6pm to late at The Sebel, Yarrowonga.

Keynote speakers include: Nikki Davey - Co-Founder and CEO of Grown Not Flown and 2023 AgriFutures Rural Women's Award National Winner; and Callan Daley - evokeAG Future Young Leader, Beef24 Next Gen committee member and Business Development Lead at MEQ Probe.

Tickets include a drink on arrival, two course dinner and a live band.
Tickets cost \$60 per person and sales close 5pm 29th March. [Tickets can be purchased here.](#)

Limelight : ART-SCIENCE-LIGHT Bangerang Park, Corowa **18th April 2024; 6pm to 8.30pm**

This year Murray Arts is taking Limelight on the road. A selection of Limelight 3.0 artist installations have been matched to specifically suit awesome venues within the wider Murray Arts footprint, including Corowa. The event will also be held in Burrumbuttock on Saturday, April 20. Attendees are encouraged to bring a picnic blanket, enjoy a dinner and experience art, science and light displays under the stars.

What to expect...

6.00pm – Attendees are welcome to arrive, bring a picnic blanket and find a spot to enjoy dinner from food providers or brought from home

6.30pm – 8.00pm – As the sun sets art, science and light displays will come to life

8.30pm – Event closes

Visit the [Murray Arts website](#) for more information.



Women's Weaving Workshop Sunday 21st April 2024; 9am to 1pm

Join the Biodiversity Conservation Trust for a free women's weaving workshop led by Duduroa elders, Aunties Marg and Valda Murray, on a conservation property near Albury. Learn about cultural weaving practices and plants traditionally used.

RSVP by Wednesday 17th April to bct.murray-riverina@bct.nsw.gov.au or send the text message, WEAVING YES, to 0447 122 855. Details on how to join the day will be shared once you have registered.

What's been happening?

Seed Propagation Success

Participants discovered that cultivating native plants can be simple, affordable and gratifying at our Seed Propagation Workshop in early March. Held at the Corowa Community Garden, Lenore De Garis (Murray Local Land Services) and Kerrie Ormond (Corowa District Landcare) shared practical information about how cultivation works.

Participants at the workshop heard a range of topics including safety, seed pretreatment, growing medium, creating environmental conditions that help germination and tips for success. After morning tea participants got their hands dirty and practiced their propagation skills. All participants received a mini green-house. From seed a range of natives were propagated including: Drooping Sheoak, Spiny Saltbush and Brush Wire Grass. Via vegetative propagation participants took home Weeping Grass and Kangaroo Grass.

Corowa District Landcare are excited to be working on a project to develop a community nursery. The community nursery is where members of the community grow their own native plants, either to plant in their own garden or give away to farmers.

This workshop is supported by Foundation of Rural and Regional Renewal, through funding from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund.



Strategic Planning Underway

To help plan and pave the way for the next four years, Corowa District Landcare held a strategic planning day in February. The session was led by experienced Landcarer-turned not-for-profit facilitator, Kim Boswell from The Forever Agenda, and attended by Corowa District Landcare committee members and volunteers.



Changemaker Workshop

Corowa District Landcare's Brendan Christy, Kerrie Ormond and Meredith Mitchell attended a Changemaker workshop in Finley last month. The workshop was facilitated by Paul Ryan from the Australian Resilience Centre.

Community members came together to share their knowledge and further develop their existing leadership skills. Conversations showed a deep understanding of and passion for the broader region and strengthened their connections. The group chatted about industry, community, local economy, impacts of climate, in particular drought, a historical timeline of events and so much more.

The session was part of a national offering funded by the Australian Government Future Drought Fund's Helping Regional Communities Prepare for Drought Initiative currently being delivered by FRRR in partnership with Australian Rural Leadership Foundation.

If you missed this event and would like to attend a Changemaker workshop, tickets are still available for the Shepparton workshop on the 17th April and 18th April 2024. For more information and tickets, visit <https://events.humanitix.com/changemaker-workshop-shepparton-region-31-vic/>



Other News

Measuring What Matters - LLS wants to hear from you!

Local Land Services aims to support your property management in a bio-secure, profitable, and sustainable manner. To better understand your needs, they are inviting you to participate in the Measuring What Matters Project. This involves a 15-minute survey and a follow-up annually for 5 years. The survey covers topics such as threat management, natural and production asset management, and preparedness for change and emergencies.

Your input is crucial as it will help them tailor their information and services to support your land management practices more effectively. To participate, sign up [here](#) or reach out to measuringwhatmatters@lls.nsw.gov.au for more information.

Rest assured, your responses will be pooled and anonymised for confidentiality.

As a token of appreciation, new participants completing the baseline survey by 30th April 2024, have a chance to win one of three exciting prizes:

- First Prize: Drone photography or mapping of your property (valued up to \$1,000).
- Second Prize: \$500 voucher to a local agricultural supply store of your choice.
- Third Prize: 1 of 5 DPI soil health kits (valued up to \$195).

Don't miss out on the opportunity to contribute and win! Complete the Measuring What Matters survey today [here!](#)

Protecting the Plains-wanderer

The NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust has been working with landholders in our region to protect grassland habitat suitable for endangered bird, the Plains-wanderer (*Pedionomus torquatus*). Conservation is being bolstered by a minimum of 15 year-long management agreements with the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust. In total, 15,000 hectares of land, including 4,000 hectares of primary Plains-wanderer habitat, has been protected.

Read more about the story [here](#).

Corowa District Landcare membership

Did you know that it costs only \$10 a year to be a Corowa District Landcare member? Membership forms can be found at the end of this newsletter or can be collected from our office at the Corowa Civic Centre (Monday to Friday).

Funding Opportunities

On Farm Connectivity Rebate Program

Closes 31st May 2024 or when funding is exhausted, whichever occurs first.

The Australian Government has announced a total of \$30 million for the On Farm Connectivity Rebate Program. For Round 1 of the grant (rebate) opportunity, \$15 million is available in 2023-24. The On Farm Connectivity Program will run over 2 years from 2023-24 to 2024-25 and forms part of the Better Connectivity for Rural and Regional Australia Plan (Better Connectivity Plan) and assists primary producers to take advantage of digital agribusiness solutions to boost productivity and improve safety.

Eligible Primary Producers can only access the program (and rebate) through an eligible Equipment Supplier.

For all the details, please visit the [program website](#).

Eco Observations

Each month we'll be shining the spotlight on plants and animals from around our region. If you have a suggestion for a species that you'd like to see highlighted in our newsletter, please email clairebirch@corowalandscape.com.au.



Image: David Parker

This month we're taking a closer look at the **Plains-wanderer** (*Pedionomus torquatus*). The Plains-wanderer is a small, ground-dwelling bird (12-15 cm) with a wingspan of 28-36 cm. Whilst similar in appearance and mannerism to quails, they are in fact more closely related to shorebirds, yet taxonomically have no close relatives.

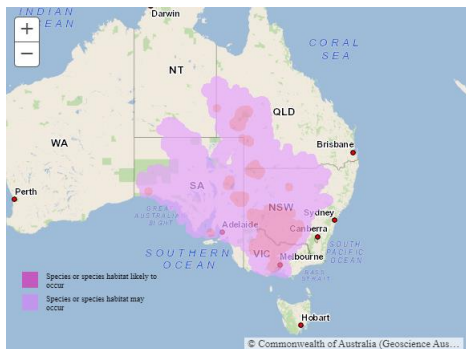
The Plains-wanderer's breeding season is generally between May to February. Nests are made by the female who scratches out a hollow in the ground which is lined with straw and grass. The typical clutch size is four eggs.

EPBC status: Critically endangered

Population: An estimated remaining population of 250 – 999

Habitat: Plains-wanderers have specific habitat requirements, requiring semi-arid grasslands with areas of both open and closed cover.

Distribution: Whilst once widespread throughout south-east Australia, the species is now confined to limited areas in Queensland, South Australia and New South Wales. According to the Biodiversity Conservation Trust website "more than 99 per cent of records of plains-wanderers in NSW over the past 30 years come from an area of the western Riverina bounded by Hay and Narrandera on the Murrumbidgee River in the north, the Cobb Highway in the west, the Billabong Creek in the south, and Urana in the east".



Plains-wanderers and suitable habitat may occur in an extended area throughout south-east Australia (light pink), however are more likely to occur in contracted areas (dark pink), with much of the remaining population found in the Riverina.

Threats and conservation actions: Plains-wanderers have experienced pressure from feral pest species such as foxes and cats, and habitat loss through grassland degradation and grazing regimes. Reproduction rates have been limited by the isolation of populations and a changing climate, with longer periods of rainfall and drought affecting the grassland environment. Management actions for the conservation of this species includes fox and cat control, captive breeding and release programs, and landholder and land manager habitat management.

References:

- <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/biodiversity/threatened/action-plan/priority-birds/plains-wanderer>
- <https://www.australianwildlife.org/wildlife/plains-wanderer/>
- http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicspecies.pl?taxon_id=906
- <https://www.bct.nsw.gov.au/news-stories/plains-wanderer-land-conservation>
- <https://www.birdsinbackyards.net/species/Pedionomus-torquatus#:~:text=Description%3A,and%20has%20no%20breast%20patch>
- <https://www.ils.nsw.gov.au/regions/murray/programs-and-projects/bringing-plains-wanderers-back-from-the-brink>



COROWA DISTRICT LANDCARE INC.
MEMBERSHIP FORM 2024

Email: admin@corowalandcare.com.au

Mobile: 0475 455 643

ABN: 52 718 108 151

Name _____

Postal Address _____

Trading Name _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Mobile _____ Email _____

Membership	One Year (incl. GST)	2 Years (incl. GST)	3 Years (incl. GST)
Community	\$10.00	\$20.00	\$30.00

School	\$10.00	\$20.00
Community Group	\$10.00	\$20.00

Do you wish to be notified of working bees?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

Do you wish to be notified of events?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

To help us understand our members please tick your main landcare interests and/ or current enterprise.
This will help us focus on issues of interest to our members.

Cropping	<input type="checkbox"/>	Soil Health	<input type="checkbox"/>
Grazing - Sheep	<input type="checkbox"/>	Conservation/environment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Grazing - Cattle	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gardening	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lifestyle block	<input type="checkbox"/>	Composting	<input type="checkbox"/>
Urban resident	<input type="checkbox"/>	Animal Health	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	Native plants & animals	<input type="checkbox"/>

Direct Deposit:

Hume Bank

Account Name: Corowa District Landcare Inc.

BSB: 640 000

Account No: 111236595

Reference: CDLM – Your Name

Cheque to:

Corowa District Landcare

PO Box 72

Corowa NSW 2646

(Please also send in your completed form)