

Landcare Professionals Forum, 14 – 15 June, 2017

Landcare Victoria Inc Forum at TreeTops Scout Camp, 140 Royal Parade, Riddells Creek
with support from the Natural Resources Conservation League

Working with landholders, communities and government of all stripes is a tough gig. The Landcare Professionals Forum is an opportunity to share your knowledge and learn from and with others. Old dilemmas, opportunities, problems - it's all on the table.

12-1 pm, Wednesday 14th June. Arrive and settle in. TreeTops Scout Camp, Riddells Creek. Lunch at 12.30.

1.30 – 2.00 pm. Welcome. Your journey in Landcare. Current concerns.

2.00-4.00 pm. Tapping into Landholders' motivations, ways of thinking and knowledge. This *Emerging Practice* session combines short, sharp presentations with small group and whole group discussion of the implications.

Demonstrating sustainable production to small lot owners. They're busy and often keen to know more, but how do you generate on-going practice change? Up2Us has run demonstrations of sustainable production over 3 years and is getting the results out to small lot owners.

Saying it the right way. A simple process for identifying 4 basic Myer Briggs Personality Types in the field, for extension and practice change. Cam Nicholson, Woody Yaloak Catchment Group, shares how the way you talk with a farmer can fit the way they process information.

Putting innovators in the driver's seat. Southern Otway has many people getting up and starting niche agricultural business. Coordinator Libby Riches shares how they've used those initiators to drive their practice change program.

Peter Ronalds, Sustainable Agriculture Manager at the Western Port Catchment Landcare Network for 11 years, and dairy farmer for 20 years before that, will share his knowledge, experience & techniques from his work with large & small farmers.

4.00–4.30 pm. Afternoon tea.

4.30-5.30 pm. The Landcare Policy Landscape.

Progress in bedding in Landcare Victoria Inc after the merger of VLC and FTLA. What's new in Landcare/NRM policy. Landcare advocacy landscape at State and national levels, and opportunities for Landcare professionals to contribute. Process for choosing reps on LVI-COM.

7.00 pm. Dinner

8.00-9.30 pm. Conversations that can't wait

Announce the conversation you want to have; go where you're interested. At the end, reconvene for a poll on the conversations that must continue. The top-voted wins a prize.

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Thursday 15th June. 7.30 – 8.30 Breakfast.. Early morning walk through Barrm Birrm with Riddells Landcare member, 120 hectares of grassy woodland.

8.30-10.30 am. The How-To Sessions. Team up with an experienced Landcare professional and learn from the skills they've developed.

Mapping Skills. GIS is a powerful technology with many practical applications for conservation and land management. Nillumbik Landcare Network facilitator and GIS specialist Colin Broughton will decode some of the jargon and technical complexities and share how Landcare groups can begin to use GIS for projects at any scale.

Using Online Tools. There's a lot on offer – online committee meetings , Google Maps and tools for online registration, sites and feedback, and new citizen science recording systems for group projects, like <http://www.ala.org.au/biocollect/> . But what is workable for Landcare groups? Tom Croft, RLC NECMA will draw on his long-standing interest in this area to share, and his understanding of what groups in the NE region are doing, to listen to your situation and to give options. Participants will jump on-line and start investigating the options.

10.30 – 11.00 Morning tea.

11.00 - 12.30 Knowledge Harvest. Harvesting current knowledge on two issues. Process design by the LVI's CLEA Project.

Happy and productive professionals: What works well? What could work better? Ian MacLagan, Project Manager, Neerim & District Landcare Group, says "Let's identify the things that make our jobs work well, and what could make our roles even better and more effective. Then we can lobby for great support". An appreciative inquiry process, that harvests the best of what we know collectively.

Recent learning on collaboration. We're too small on our own. We need to collaborate, and getting good at that is something we invent and learn as we go along. Bring your recent learning about collaboration, with the story behind that learning. Compare notes with others.

12.30-1.15 pm. Lunch.

1.15-2.45 Weed control: Turning up the heat on public land managers. Short, sharp presentations, then small group and whole group discussion.

Using Citizen Science to give feedback on weed control. When public land managers don't do their bit on weed control, it's hard to keep private landholders motivated. Long-time weeds specialist Matt Stephenson shows us how using citizens to map roadside weeds is generating compelling information that helps public land managers target their weed control effort.

Getting Local Government to lift its game in managing roadsides. After damaged roadside vegetation in its Macedon to Cobaw biolink, Newham and District Landcare set out to get Council to lift its game. An up-date on their approach, the results they are getting , and recent learning.

2.45 – 3.00 pm. Close.