



CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT NETWORK

Longwood Plains Conservation Management Network

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JULY 2021



The Spotted Pardalote or *Pardalotus punctatus* is likely to be found across our agricultural landscape particularly where revegetation works have occurred.

Share our newsletter with any new neighbours

**Contact Susan Sleigh
0447 904301**

**Goulburn Broken Regional
Catchment Strategy Draft**

Have your say

[https://](https://goulburnbroken.rcs.vic.gov.au/)

goulburnbroken.rcs.vic.gov.au/

Consultation workshops on 15, 20, 22 July 2021

**Federal Government's
"Grey Box: Linking Landscapes and Communities" -
two more years to run**

**Victorian Government's
"Ribbons of Blue and Sashes
of Green : Box Alliance"
finished 30 June 2021**

Landcare Facilitator

Successful application for part time facilitator Longwood Plains CMN, Strathbogie Ranges CMN and Euroa Arbo-
retum.

Ring in a Roadside Weed

(Shire of Strathbogie)

Rhonda Robinson 57942274,

0400 546560

Thank you Longwood Plains landholders

We have just completed our third year, of five, delivering the Federal Government's "Linking Landscapes and Communities; Enhancing Grey Box Grassy Woodlands project" with another year of outstanding results.

Our conservation minded landholders have, over the last twelve months, protected and revegetated 67 hectares of Nationally Endangered Grey Box Grassy Woodlands. This includes patches of remnant vegetation, increasing the width of corridors adjacent to roads with native vegetation, as well as new 40 metre connecting corridors.

Over the last three years of this project, our works have not only increased the quantity and quality of Grey Box Woodlands in our area, but have improved connectivity for our native fauna species as well as habitat.

Through a combination of hand planting and direct seeding, understorey that was cleared in the past is being replaced, and within a short time, will provide food sources and nesting sites for our local fauna especially birds. Natural regeneration of what's been left will also happen while leaf litter, fallen timber and logs will provide important ground habitat.



So to each and every landowner who has undertaken works through this project, or any of our other projects since the late 1990's, we say THANK YOU.

Our landscape is being transformed because of you and ensuring our native flora and fauna have a greater chance of survival into the future.



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FUTURE WORKS

We are currently looking for any new environmental works that landholders are considering undertaking in the next five years and especially in the coming 12 months.

PLEASE COMPLETE THE EOI as we want to learn about your project. Alternatively, ring Susan on 0447 904301 to have a chat.

Bird Surveys and Early Results

Bird surveys are being carried out across the Longwood Plains to determine the value of revegetation. Early data analyses is showing that revegetation areas are just as important as remnants in providing habitat for birds, with similar numbers of species in revegetation areas as natural remnants.

Species differ somewhat between remnants and revegetation which is a good thing because that means that revegetation is helping to conserve species that remnants alone cannot. In addition, vegetation surveys have now been carried out at the same sites, and this will add value to the bird surveys as we aim to learn about why some species seem to prefer revegetation to remnants.

So a big thankyou to all landholders who have allowed us onto their properties to do the survey work, as well as those that have carried out revegetation on their properties, which has now been occurring for over 20 years. You really are making a difference to biodiversity conservation in the Longwood Plains and now we have proof! Update from Jen Wilson.

Red-browed Finch



Hooded Robin



FARMS DAMS PROJECT—Australian National University

The Sustainable Farms project at the ANU have been researching the value of renovating farm dams by fencing and planting around them. They have several study sites on farms in the Longwood Plains area and are looking at how water quality, birds, frogs, reptiles and vegetation respond to these management interventions. Their initial results have shown that fenced dams have cleaner water (particularly for *E. coli* and faecal coliform levels) and have a greater diversity of waterbugs, which are excellent indicators of water quality. This experiment will run over several years so stay tuned for more results as the study progresses.

The 51 Trees Campaign. The Longwood Plains CMN along with the Euroa Environment Group and 40 other objectors appealed the Strathbogie Shire's decision to allow the removal of 51 mature Yellow Box, Grey Box and Red Gum trees to develop a lifestyle village at Elloura, Nagambie.

The case was set down to come before VCAT in May 2021, however in February the Minister for Planning, Richard Wynne 'called it in' to make the decision himself and to fast track the process as part of the Building Victoria's Recovery Taskforce in response to Covid 19. We are still awaiting the Minister's decision.

Get Involved

Contact **Susan Sleigh, Facilitator**

0447 904301

email susansleigh8@gmail.com

Our Committee 2020/21

Rhonda Robinson (President), Patricia Lete (Vice-President), Rob Heal (Treasurer), Jacqueline Palmer (Secretary), Robbie Hodges, Fiona Lewis, Erica Mercer, Suzie Bate, Donna Winter-Irving, Karen Brisbane-Bullock (Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority), Shelagh Curmi (Trust for Nature), TBA (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning), Neville Wells (Parks Vic), Susan Sleigh (Facilitator).

Granite to Goulburn Conservation Alliance (G2G)

The G2G Conservation Alliance is a partnership between the Longwood Plains CMN, Strathbogie Ranges CMN and Euroa Arboretum that has successfully received funding for a part time Victorian Landcare Facilitator.

This is the first time that Conservation Management Networks have been eligible to apply for Landcare Facilitation so the three groups are very excited to be able to embark on larger landscape projects and other educational pursuits with the support of a Facilitator.

The position commences on 1 July 2021 and is for a three year period. One of the first tasks will be to publicise G2G and begin setting goals for our first year and applying for funding.

Victorian Government's Ribbons of Blue and Sashes of Green: Box Alliance"

Over the last three years our landholders have protected and revegetated **129 hectares** of creek lines as part of the Box Ironbark and Box Gum project which finished on 30 June 2021.

The overall project's aim was to connect fragmented large ironbark forest sites by protecting and revegetating waterways and existing vegetation in corridors.

Again thanks to our insightful landholders for protecting these critical natural assets which are used by Squirrel Gliders and many other native species.

