



## In this issue

Launch of the 'Practical Parrot Action' Project

'Practical Parrot Action' Project update

'Destination Chesney Vale'

Floodplain Ecology Course

### CMN Snapshots

- Broken Boosey CMN website... and Facebook
- CMN Calendar photo competition – entries now open
- Friends of Winton Wetlands

## Broken Boosey CMN

# NEWSLETTER

Issue 33 | June 2014

## Launch of the 'Practical Parrot Action' Project

The Broken Boosey CMN's Communities for Nature funded project 'Practical Parrot Action' was officially launched in Glenrowan on Sunday May 4<sup>th</sup> by Member for Benalla Dr Bill Sykes, in front of a crowd of 95 enthusiastic locals.

This two-year project, co-ordinated by the Broken Boosey Conservation Management Network and Chris Tzaros from *Birds, Bush and Beyond*, will provide grants to landholders for nest boxes, fencing to protect remnant vegetation, and revegetation to provide habitat corridors across the landscape for these beautiful birds.

The launch, included a nest box display, museum specimens, 'Neo' the Turquoise Parrot handing out "eggs", the announcement of the winners of a colouring completion and morning tea



catered by the Glenrowan Primary School Parent Club, followed by a barbecue lunch fundraiser for the Glenrowan-Warby Ranges Lions Club. The community heard MP Dr Bill Sykes, well-known wildlife ecologist Chris Tzaros and local landholder Graham Colson talk about the turquoise parrot, and the importance and benefits of projects like these. Fifty-three people 'signed up' on the day as interested participants in the project, which is a wonderful response. Many thanks to all our participants and attendees, and the community groups who attended and made the morning a highly successful one!

*Left: Chris Tzaros (with a parrot nesting box), Member for Benalla Dr Bill Sykes, 'Neo', Graham Colson and Janice Mentiplay-Smith at the launch. Above: Chris Tzaros addressing the gathering.*



## 'Practical Parrot Action' Project update

Over the past few months, the project has identified sites for 100 nest boxes, and identified over 30 monitoring sites. We have also organised signage, a brochure and other promotional items, to help spread the word on Turquoise Parrots! Give Janice a call 57611644 if you would like to learn more about this project, and how you can be involved. Stay tuned for information on a large field day in the coming Spring.



*Photo: Turquoise Parrot feeding on heliotrope. C Tzaros*



Supported by Local Government

## 'Destination Chesney Vale'

'Destination Chesney Vale' took place in March at the Winton Wetlands, with 94 people attending to take a tour of the wetlands, and listen to ecologist Chris Tzaros present on the various migratory species that depend on the wetlands and the Chesney Vale region.

One of the aims of the day was to highlight to people that the wetlands – when they're dry as well as wet – are vital to the ecology for not only local species, but distant, migratory species.



Birds such as the Latham's Snipe and the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper that breed in Japan and Siberia migrate to Australian wetlands for their non-breeding period, which is our spring and summer. These birds as well as others like the Red-necked Stint that breed along the coastlines of Eurasia, feed and grow strong for the flight home to the Northern Hemisphere. Chris also showed people the best spots to look for birds at the wetlands.

As Chris says, "It takes time and patience to see these birds, but the wait is worth it. It's incredible to think that a tiny bird has flown 15,000 kilometres – or more - to reach the Winton Wetlands." Chris recommends Greens Hill, the Duck Pond, Humphries and Ashmeads Swamp as good bird watching points. *Photo: Powles Family at the Duck Pond*

## Floodplain Ecology Course

Goulburn Murray Landcare is organizing the next Floodplain Ecology Course at Barmah from 13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> October, and encourages anyone with an interest in the environment to take part. Topics covered include:

- Geology and landscape history and climate – how floodplains are formed
- Geomorphology, hydrology and hydraulics of floodplains
- Floodplain soils
- Floodplain vegetation
- Floodplain fauna
- Biogeochemical processes and functions on the floodplain



*Photo: Brolgas. T Cosier*

The course fee for 2014 is \$1400 (plus GST) which includes accommodation, meals, transport, instruction, and course notes. For more information, contact Goulburn Murray Landcare Network on [gmln@iinet.net.au](mailto:gmln@iinet.net.au) or (03) 5821 3530 or 0407 552 663.

For further information please contact Janice Mentiplay-Smith on [janicem@gbcma.vic.gov.au](mailto:janicem@gbcma.vic.gov.au) or 57611644

## CMN Snapshots

**Broken Boosey CMN Website**  
Remember to visit our website [www.brokenbooseycmn.com](http://www.brokenbooseycmn.com) for regular updates and reports on what's going on in the CMN. The website also contains handy links to our partner agencies, as well as useful information on local places to visit.

### ...and Facebook!

With thanks to CMN members Bob Jenkins and Paul Hockett, we now have a Facebook page. Visit.....

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Broken-Boosey-Conservation-Management-Network/583494648344932#>

### CMN Calendar Photo Competition – entries taken now!

It's time again to submit your entries for the 2015 CMN calendar competition. The calendar features photos of places, plants and animals from the Broken Boosey CMN region, selected from anywhere between 130- 160 entries. For your chance to have your photo in the 2015 calendar, send your photos to [janicem@gbcma.vic.gov.au](mailto:janicem@gbcma.vic.gov.au) and make sure they are between 2-10MB, with a subject line in the email.

### Friends of Winton Wetlands

The Friends of the Winton Wetlands operate at the edge of the Broken Boosey CMN. Recently established to promote and enjoy the Wetlands, the Friends hold on-ground activities and host evenings featuring guest speakers on a variety of topics. For more information, or information on how to become a Friend, Contact: Freida Andrews on 5765 2476 or Wendy Hutchison on 0429925442