

## CONNECTING COUNTRY - PLANNING AND PRIORITY SETTING WORKSHOP

September 18<sup>th</sup> 2008 - Chewton Town Hall

1.00 – 4.00 pm

### Purpose of the workshop

1. To **share the information that has been gathered and compiled** on environmental values and landholder/community group conservation work across the Shire
2. To **discuss and identify priority areas** (at local and landscape scale) that will be the focus of future activities of Connecting Country
3. To **identify other activities and projects** that can support the future on ground actions as part of Connecting Country

### Background

Over the past few months, Project Worker Julie von Platen has collected an enormous amount of local data and information about biodiversity conservation work across the Shire of Mount Alexander. This information has been organised into a series of maps that represent:

1. **Existing natural values** – native vegetation extent, quality, location of threatened species, waterways, wetlands significant environmental sites. This has been compiled by drawing largely on data from government databases.
2. **On ground projects** such as tree planting, remnant protection, weed control and threatened species protection (eg nest boxes). This has been compiled by combining information about publicly funded and privately funded projects.
3. **Voluntary conservation areas** such as Land for Wildlife and Trust for Nature covenants.

*\* An additional map [4] showing public land (including roadside conservation values) and private land across the project area is also attached together with important landscape information such as waterways, roads and towns. These maps are available for viewing on the project website. Additional maps showing different layer combinations or specific areas can be provided on request by contacting Geoff Park.*

The workshop will be an important step in describing future areas to focus on-ground efforts to improve environmental values and build on existing individual and community involvement. The development of a series of new maps that show **conservation scenarios** across the project area will emerge from the workshop and form a key element of the Connecting Country biodiversity blueprint.

For more background and information on the project you can visit [www.connectingcountry.org.au](http://www.connectingcountry.org.au)

## Who should attend and contribute

- Members of the project reference group
- Members of local Landcare, environment and community groups

## For further information you can contact:

- |                          |                  |              |                             |
|--------------------------|------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Marie Jones      | 5472 2892    | goldenpoint@aanet.com.au    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Bernard Slattery | 5470 5161    | slattery@castlemaine.net    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Geoff Park       | 0418 138 632 | geoff.park@nccma.vic.gov.au |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Beth Mellick     | 5472 1316    | beth@nwf.org.au             |

## WORKSHOP AGENDA

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|---------|---|
| 1.00 pm | Welcome and introductions   |
| 1.15 pm | Purpose of the workshop   |
| 1.30 pm | Overview of current data and information collected during the first phase of the project – what do all the maps mean! |
| 2.00 pm | identifying priority areas in the landscape – some tips and traps   |
| 2.15 pm | Group work on the maps – marking up areas and sites for future on ground projects [Protect/Manage/Reconnect]          |

\* Participants may choose to work at the local (eg Landcare group) scale or at the landscape scale

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|---------|--|
| 3.15 pm | Sharing and explaining our ideas               |
| 3.50 pm | Next steps in the development of the Blueprint |
| 4.00 pm | Close  |