



NORTH EAST
CATCHMENT
MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITY

MEDIA RELEASE

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GIFT SET TO BOOST FIRE RECOVERY WORK

North East farmers and members of a prison crew will come together tomorrow (Tuesday 26 June) for a presentation with a difference.

The North East CMA will present a chainsaw to members of the Dhurringile Landmates prison crew from Shepparton in recognition of their work in the local community.

Landmates are small crews of volunteer, minimum security prisoners who have been working with North East landholders on a fire recovery program designed to repair damage caused by the January 2007 fires.

Normally, the crews help Landcare groups with revegetation projects, pest control programs and storm damage recovery.

"The fire recovery work is designed to support landholders who have suffered significant losses," said Sue Leavold, a North East CMA Landcare coordinator working in the Ovens Catchment.

Crews clean up burnt fencelines, then rebuild them, and help protect environmentally vulnerable areas along creeklines and streams.

"It has been a highly successful project, because its benefits go far beyond helping the land to repair itself. The prisoners and the landholders develop a strong mutual respect, and all involved are convinced the program is worthwhile and meaningful, as well as practical," said Ms Leovold.

The chainsaw for the Dhurringile Landmates was purchased by the North East CMA's Landcare program with support from the Victorian Government's Second Generation Landcare program.

"This is a new crew, with virtually no equipment of their own, and they've have had to borrow tools from landholders and the Ovens Landcare Network," said North East CMA Landcare Leader, Mr Tom Croft.

" We sponsored a new chainsaw to both assist the crew with their work in the Region and acknowledge the valuable support they have provided to local landholders."

Fifteen Mile Creek Camp has offered to host the presentation. The team is staying at the camp during June, whilst it is not required for school camps. They are also working within the camp site grounds.

Media opportunity: The presentation will take place on **Tuesday, 26th June at 12.30 pm** at Fifteen Mile Creek Camp (see directions on following page).

For further details or to arrange an interview please contact:

- **Tom Croft**, North East CMA Landcare Leader - **0427 325 889**
- **Sue Leavold**, North East CMA Landcare Coordinato **0428 467 260**

Directions to Fifteen Mile Creek Camp site

CFA map reference Map 296 E63

Directions to presentation

- exit the Hume Freeway at the Wangaratta Corowa turnoff and continue to Wangaratta.
 - Continue straight through Wangaratta township. Continue along until you reach K Mart
 - Turn left, to take the Wangaratta Kilfeera Road at the traffic lights at K-Mart.
 - Continue straight ahead through the two roundabouts and head to Greta South on the Wangaratta Kilfeera Road.
 - At Greta South School, turn left onto a dirt road signed Bullocks Lane.
 - This will take you to a T intersection - the Benalla Whitfield Road.
 - Turn left onto the Benalla Whitfield Rd.
 - Fifteen Mile Creek Camp is on your right hand side about five to six kilometres down
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