

# OUR PROJECTS



**NORTH CENTRAL**  
Catchment Management Authority  
*Connecting Rivers, Landscapes, People*

## LANDCARE IN NORTH CENTRAL VICTORIA

### WHAT IS LANDCARE?

Landcare is a community driven movement that allows people to protect and repair the environment and contribute to sustainable landscapes.

Run by local volunteers, Landcare involves thousands of people and more than 4000 groups Australia wide working together to shape the future of our land, biodiversity and waterways. Landcare began in the North Central Catchment in 1986, when a group of farmers near St Arnaud formed the first Landcare group. Since then, Landcare has grown into a national and international movement with fifteen countries now supporting Landcare groups.

### COMMUNITY-BASED APPROACH

Landcare groups are diverse and no one group is the same. Each group has the control in setting their own group's strategies and activities. Some groups may have a single focus, cleaning up a local bushland reserve or focusing on a rehabilitating a local creek while others may work on numerous issues within their local area.

Landcare groups provide supportive environments that encourage local people to come together, share knowledge and experiences while doing something positive for the long term health of the environment in their local community.

### LANDCARE IN NORTH CENTRAL VICTORIA

The North Central region supports more than 160 Landcare and Community Natural Resource Management (NRM) Groups and several Landcare Networks.

The North Central Catchment Management Authority (CMA) supports a Regional Landcare Coordinator in delivering the State Government funded Victorian Landcare Program and a Federal Government funded Regional Landcare Facilitator.

The program provides groups with regional support and involves a competitive devolved grants process. The grants enable Landcare groups and networks; to undertake effective on-ground works that improve the natural environment and contribute to sustainable landscapes; an opportunity to involve individuals in activities that increase awareness of environmental issues, stewardship and positive onground change; to build skills and capacity of community groups to undertake natural resource management activities; and access group maintenance funds to allow groups to remain active and stay connected with the regions Landcare community.



**Landcare Forum in Boort**  
*Photo: North Central CMA*

### OBJECTIVE

Landcare provides groups, networks and their volunteers with the opportunity and information to:

- undertake onground works that enhance or improve the natural environment
- contribute to a sustainable landscape
- participate in activities that encourage stewardship and play a part in encouraging positive onground change
- contribute to the health and wellbeing of their local community

### ACTIVITIES

Some of the activities undertaken by Landcare groups across the North Central region include:

- biodiversity protection
- remnant enhancement
- river health restoration
- erosion control
- pest plant and animal management
- community engagement, education and social networking.



**Aboriginal Cultural Heritage tour of Reedy Lake**  
*Photo: Jodie Odgers, North Central CMA*

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LANDCARE IN NORTH  
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## OUR VALUED PARTNERS

The Victorian Landcare program is funded by the Victorian Government through the Department of Sustainability and Environments (DSE) Landcare and Community Engagement team. The program aims to support volunteers, strengthen investment and help people manage the land.

DSE funds a devolved grants process for Landcare and community NRM groups that enable groups to complete onground works, coordinate activities that build skills and encourage onground change and maintain a strong base of Landcare groups throughout the state.

## GROUPS & NETWORKS

A Landcare group usually starts when community members with common objectives come together to tackle a local environmental issue. Groups work together to develop their own priorities and projects and are often supported either by a Landcare network or their regional Catchment Management Authority. Groups can get financial support for their work from a variety of different sources including local, state, and federal government, and corporate and philanthropic organisations.

## WHY JOIN LANDCARE?

Being a part of a Landcare Group is a way to help our environment, wildlife, landholders and the community. Landcare volunteers range from retirees to families, students to farmers and corporate organisations. Landcare links together people that have a desire to create positive change in their local community and environment, working as a part of a group allows them to collectively have a greater impact.

The success of the Landcare grass roots bottom up approach can be attributed to the inspiring contributions made by the many enthusiastic individuals who make up the Landcare movement. Landcare exists today as passionate and committed people are its greatest asset.

*"Landcare groups and networks play an important role in environmental management by actively involving communities in enhancing the health of their land, waterways, biodiversity and ecosystems."*

JODIE ODGERS – Regional Landcare Coordinator

For further information on groups in your area, please phone the North Central CMA on 03 5448 7124 or visit our website: [www.nccma.vic.gov.au](http://www.nccma.vic.gov.au).



## GETTING INVOLVED

Landcare groups bring like minded people together and are a great way for people to help our environment. To find out if a Landcare Group already exists in your local area visit:

[www.landcarevic.net.au](http://www.landcarevic.net.au)

## IN OUR COMMUNITY



**Baringhup Landcare Group at a planting day**  
Photo: Bill McCallum, Baringhup Landcare Group

## MEET: BARINGHUP LANDCARE

*Baringhup is a small rural community where farming is the main occupation. The Baringhup Landcare Group, made up of a band of twenty committed members, has completed numerous projects over its history but the Revive the Loddon Project is the one that stands out.*

*Undertaken in 2008/09 the project is an excellent example of how a Landcare Group, schools, government agencies, indigenous groups and the wider community can work together to achieve environmental, educational, cultural, social and recreational outcomes.*

*The project highlights:*

- Successful plantings on degraded land
- Local primary school students establishing a strong connection to the Loddon river and an understanding of the benefits of indigenous plants and the value of volunteering and cooperation
- Enhanced appreciation of waterways and the Loddon River by the local community
- Access to the public reserve which provides a pleasant place to fish, paint, cycle, learn, relax, picnic and have fun!



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FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
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Web: [www.nccma.vic.gov.au](http://www.nccma.vic.gov.au)



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COUNTRY