

North Central Chat

Keeping you up to date with all the Landcare and Waterwatch news



August 2022

A message from the Regional Landcare Coordinator

Hi everyone,

Congratulations and best wishes to all the 2022 Victorian Landcare Grant applicants. We have received 78 applications this year and had fantastic conversations with applicants about their project ideas. We are really excited about reading through the details over the coming weeks of assessment. The regional assessment panel will meet in mid-August to finalise the applications, before sending a recommendations list through to DELWP.

Victoria has recorded some incredibly low temperatures over the past month, with the last few weeks of July experiencing some of the coldest temperatures and frost conditions on record. While major frosts are common in our catchment, extended days of extreme frosts can hinder grain crops and grapevines, lambing success and survival, as well as causing general revegetation and plant damage. [Agriculture Victoria](#) has a webpage dedicated to advice and resources related to frosts. For more general gardening or planting concerns related to frost, I've found this useful guide from the [Australian Plant Society](#) most helpful.

Darren and I recently hosted the July Landcare Facilitators meeting in Newstead, alongside local group president Patrick Kavanagh. Patrick showed us around their project sites at a local public park and Muckleford Creek frontage. The group had a great discussion about the "grant-free" approach to Newstead Landcare's work, whereby the group uses residual funding, donated or reused materials, and affordable tubestock to enable them to undertake work at a slow and steady pace throughout the year, without the "headache" that comes from relentless grant application cycles. With growing participation at monthly working bees, it seems as though they are providing exactly what their local Landcare community needs.

I was so pleased to see members of the Mount Alexander Intrepid Landcare group linking up with Axe



Ladies of the land... It's time to *Save the Date* for the 2022 'Chicks in the Sticks' event. On October 8 2022, we'll come together to showcase a decade of celebrating the achievements of rural women involved in agriculture and the environment. [Book tickets today!](#)

Creek Landcare to establish 150 new tubestock on a chilly Sunday morning plant out. The Intrepid crew is interested in donating a few hours and helping out local Landcare groups, so please add them to your mailing list via intrepidlandcaremar@gmail.com.

This month is full of exciting events, in particular the 2022 National Landcare Conference, held in Sydney from August 23-25. Darren will hold the fort while I take a short break across the ditch before returning to finalise the grant assessment process and then jet up to Sydney for the long awaited 2022 Landcare Conference. We wish national award category representatives Newham Landcare all the best in the ACM Landcare Community Group Award category. We'll be cheering you on for a win.

Enjoy the read,

Tess Grieves

[Regional Landcare Coordinator](#)

[North Central CMA](#)

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Connecting rivers, landscapes, people

The North Central Catchment Management Authority (CMA) acknowledges Traditional Owners and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples within the region, their rich cultures, spiritual connection to Country.

www.nccma.vic.gov.au



News...

Grab those gumboots, we're hosting a 'Chicks in the Sticks Garden Party

Are you inspired by opportunity and the stories of others? Keen to meet like-minded women who share a connection to agriculture and the environment?

Grab your gumboots, don your favourite frock and add your own native flora accessory...it's time for the 2022 Chicks in the Sticks event, hosted by North Central CMA.

2022 will be the 10th year we have hosted Chicks in the Sticks in the North Central CMA region. Bring along your best friend, mother, sister, or colleague to what will be another incredible event.

Your morning will begin in a sprawling private garden in Spring Hill where you'll be Welcomed to Country before a guided gumboot garden tour of Camp David Farm, with a very special green thumb guest speaker announcement to come.

Picnic-style lunch platters will be served, before keynote speakers including local farmers, authors, Landcarers and garden gurus share with us their passion projects, stories, and experiences.

We welcome you and your friends to join the celebrations as we reflect on a decade of celebrating the achievements of rural women involved in agriculture and the environment. Chicks in the Sticks will delight you, inspire you and empower you to connect with your surroundings and remain curious about where life may take you if you follow your passions.

[Tickets \(\\$25 ea\) are on sale via Eventbrite.](#)

You can contact North Central CMA for more further information via (03) 5448 7124. Tickets available until sold out.



The original Chicks in the Sticks Team hosting the inaugural event in Gunbower Forest back in 2013.



2022 LANDCARE WEEK Celebrating Landcare Diversity Monday 1 – Sunday 7 August, 2022

Landcare Week is an annual celebration of Landcare during the first week of August that acknowledges the Australians who are actively restoring, enhancing and protecting the natural environment in their community.

From the coast to the country, and from urban cities to the outback, Landcare's greatest asset is its people. With more than 6,000 groups and 100,000+ volunteers, the Landcare movement is diverse and encompasses farmers and farming systems groups, landowners, Landcare groups and networks, Traditional Owners, Bushcare and Friends-Of groups, Coastcare, Dunecare and Rivercare groups, Landcare facilitators and coordinators, youth groups and other community groups involved in protecting, enhancing or restoring their local environment. The Junior Landcare program also provides a pathway for children to become lifelong Landcarers starting with early learning childhood centres through to primary and secondary schools.

What makes Landcare unique to any other community movement is the very large number of active groups, and the effective partnerships created between business, researchers, natural resource management agencies, government and community. These partnerships build local community ownership of issues, unlock volunteer knowledge, capability and capacity to create better outcomes for the environment and those that seek to protect and enhance it.

In the past three decades Landcare has achieved a great deal of work, yet there is much more to do. With a changing climate leading to an increase in natural disasters including drought, bushfires, and floods, Landcare has never been more important. United we can take action, benefitting our environment, the landscape and biodiversity, our communities and our personal wellbeing.

This Landcare Week we'll be celebrating the diversity of Landcare people and projects across Australia. We

encourage you to join in on the action by sharing your Landcare stories and promoting your activities online, use the #landcare #landcareweek or get in contact with the team at Landcare Australia.

National Tree Day

Planet Ark's National Tree Day started in 1996 and has grown into Australia's largest community tree planting and nature care event.

It's a call to action for all Australians to get their hands dirty and give back to the community.

While every day can be Tree Day, a dedicated celebration of Schools Tree Day and National Tree Day is on the last Friday in July, and first Sunday in August respectively.

In 2022, Schools Tree Day is Friday 29 July and National Tree Day is Sunday 31 July.

Since 1996, 26 million trees have been planted by five million volunteers, donating 10 million hours to the cause. Did you take part this year? Upload your photos and share via social media @nationaltreeday



Wetland wonderlands

The North Central CMA water for the environment team has a significant watering program planned for the Central Murray and Boort Wetlands this coming winter and spring.

High water availability provides the opportunity to deliver water to 10 wetlands, which will aid in the preservation of threatened species (such as Murray hardy head), support the growth of wetland plants and provide opportunities for waterbirds, frogs, fish and turtles to feed and breed. Additionally, delivering water to these wetlands will allow us to build on the benefits of previous water events and build resilience in the wetlands.

For example, two brolgas have been seen at Johnson Swamp making the most of the water for the environment delivered in May. We are currently planning and preparing for the upcoming water for the environment deliveries to the following wetlands over winter/spring 2022.

- Johnson Swamp
- Kunat (formally Round Lake)
- Lake Boort
- Lake Cullen
- Lake Elizabeth
- Little Lake Meran
- McDonalds Swamp
- Muringa wetlands
- Richardson's Lagoon
- Wirra-Lo Wetland complex



We highly recommend if you have the chance to get out and about to these wetlands during spring you do and if you see anything of interest, please feel free to send this information through to peter.otoole@nccma.vic.gov.au.

Wrestling with alligator weed in Bendigo Creek

Agriculture Victoria is snapping into action to control alligator weed in Bendigo Creek after wrestling with wetter-than-average conditions for the past two years.

Biosecurity officers are focusing on a 30-kilometre stretch of the creek.

The State-prohibited weed – the highest category of declared noxious weed in Victoria – has been found in patches over a stretch of about 30 kilometres of the creek.

Leading Biosecurity Officer Incursion Control Kaitlin Wright said high water levels had prevented weed removal last summer and autumn.

“Consistent treatment has stopped the infested area from expanding, but the high water levels of the past two years have made thorough treatment difficult,” Ms Wright

said. "It's hoped the seasonal conditions will improve and a more effective control program can return this summer.



"In the meantime, if you're a farmer with land near the Bendigo Creek – particularly in the Huntly area onwards – please keep an eye out for alligator weed and report it to us.

"Inspect vehicle tyres and equipment if you've been working near the creek," she said.

Alligator weed spreads by high water flows and being transported by humans on vehicle tyres or due to slashing work to maintain drains.

"If mown or cut alligator weed will spread faster as it loves sending out roots from the cuttings.

"It's also suspected to be harmful in cattle causing skin blisters and cancers from increased sensitivity to the sun.

"The invasive weed can form dense mats that cover large areas of water, push out native plants and reduce bird and fish life.

"The weed can also choke drains and damage pumps and irrigation equipment and invade cropland."

Ms Wright said alligator weed has green glossy spear-shaped leaves and hollow stems that range from pale pink to yellow to green, the white papery flowers on stems often resemble common clover flowers but will only be seen in summer.



Find more information about [alligator weed](#) at [Agriculture Victoria website](#).

Floodplain watering in Gunbower Forest

Gunbower Forest on the Murray River is one of the most significant remaining areas of flood-dependent river red gum forest in Australia, and is a special place for locals, Traditional Owners and visitors.

When the forest floods, it comes alive with a diversity of unique plants and animals that are adapted to take advantage of the boom-and-bust nature of flooding and drying cycles. But in the absence of natural flooding, large parts of it have remained dry for more than three years. This winter/spring, water for the environment is giving up to 4,500 ha of the forest a much-needed drink.



The floodplain watering started in late June, with water gradually spreading out across the forest, and is expected to finish up in late spring. The forest is still accessible during the watering, with key tracks along Gunbower Creek and the Murray River remaining open, and it's a great time to visit. For more information visit www.nccma.vic.gov.au/projects/rivers-and-wetlands.

Creating natural resource management partnerships and programs that deliver lasting change

Next steps in floodplain restoration

The Victorian Murray Floodplain Restoration Project (VMFRP) will get much needed water back onto nine high-value floodplains along the Murray River.

Without this water, these iconic landscapes will continue to decline – along with the many native trees, animals and plants that depend on them. And future generations won't get to experience these iconic natural environments as healthy, functioning floodplains.



Parts of Guttrum and Benwell forests need an urgent drink

Two of the projects – Guttrum and Benwell and Gunbower forests – propose to use works such as regulators and pump stations to efficiently and effectively deliver water to the forests' floodplains and wetlands, all without buying back further water from irrigators and keeping it in the hands of the community.

The Minister for Planning has required an Environmental Report (ER) and Planning Scheme Amendment (PSA) be prepared for the two local projects to assess the potential for significant environmental effects during construction and operation.

Thirteen specialist fields have been investigated, including surface water, groundwater, and geology; terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity; cultural heritage; and land use, community, and business.

The ER describes the key features of the VMFRP proposal and assesses the potential environmental and social impacts during construction and operation. The documents also make recommendations on ways to manage and minimise any potential effects.

The draft reports are nearing completion and are expected to be placed on public exhibition for comment and submission in mid-October, for about six weeks.

This exhibition is an opportunity for the community to have further input into these projects.

Members of the public will be able to read the reports and make written submissions aligned with matters within the scope of the proposed projects. The written submissions and the reports will be reviewed by an independent panel appointed by the Minister for Planning to consider the environmental effects of the projects.

After the exhibition period, the panel will hold a Hearing to hear from the proponent and submitters.

The public submission process is independently managed by Planning Panels Victoria. Submissions must be made using the Engage Victoria submissions page that will be advertised when exhibition is opened, and must align with the scope of the projects.



Grey crowned babblers. Photo: Chris Tzaros

The documents will also be available at www.vmfpr.com.au and locals can request hard copies of chapters from us.

Sustainable Ag Snippet...

Loddon Campaspe Farm Tour

Tammy Herne

Project officer, Sustainable Agriculture

North Central CMA Sustainable Agriculture Team hosted Sarah Fenley, Assistant Director, Industry Engagement from the [Department of Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry](#) on June 29 and 30.

The team took Ms Fenley to meet with farmers to discuss their farming enterprise, their concerns and hopes for the future for the North Central Region.

The tour started in the Kamarooka area and looked at the past salinity issues and mitigation. Andy Hays, a sheep and cropping producer highlighted the key challenges were feral animals, water management, fluctuating commodity prices, rising cost of inputs and the decline of small towns.

The second day tour in Loddon Vale started very wet and a great discussion around the kitchen table at Greg and Jo Bear's sheep farm. The Bears discussed the values, motivation, projects, and arising issues in the region. A strong message to Ms Fenley was to keep investing in the region and acknowledging the positive outcomes that occur in an ever-changing environment.

The next stop was Agriculture Victoria in Kerang where Ms Fenley spoke to Regional Manager for Irrigation Matt Hawken who highlighted the important partnerships and delivery of the Loddon Campaspe Irrigation Region Land and Water Management Plan 2020-2030, with a particular focus on the extension support provided by Agriculture Victoria through Whole Farm Plans and partnership with North Central CMA.

Executive Officer of Irrigated Cropping Council and partner in the Plan2Farm Project, Dr Charlotte Aves, also had an opportunity to discuss the research and development projects and project partnerships across the region.

The next stop was to a the HaysBrook Farm to meet dairy farmer Jodi Hay and Natalie Eckart, a Murray Dairy representative. A tour of the dairy management system, and hearing of the innovation and resilience this family dairy farm has shown in what has been a very challenging decade for the industry, demonstrated the commitment of farmers in our region.



A couple of quick stops the Cohuna fishway and fish screen project and a visit to the Ghow Swamp regulator gave Ms Fenley a snapshot of the extensive irrigation network and waterways that intertwine throughout the region.

The Team received positive feedback from Ms Fenley and commented that the

"North Central CMA was super switched on and very collaborative and partnership focussed. North Central CMA 'better together' philosophy and demonstrated a very practical outcome focussed."

The Loddon Campaspe Irrigation Region Land and Water Management Plan 2020-2030 showed a strong commitment to engagement to identify local priorities and key actions to address them.

North Central CMA Sustainable Agriculture would like to deeply thank all the partners and farmers who took the time to meet and speak with Ms Fenley.

Dung Beetle Breeding Program

Greg Dalton made a visit to one of our regenerative agriculture groups that has set up breeding nurseries.

Greg talked about the history of introduced dung beetles and that out of the 53 species introduced, only 23 species had survived. Different species of dung beetles were introduced to manage the large amount of cattle dung.

On average, cattle produce 12 dung pads per day, and with the current projections of more than 24 million head, dung beetles play an important part in managing this dung. Dung beetles provide many benefits for farmers and the environment. They bury large amounts of dung, which prevents it entering our waterways and prevents

build-up of flies. The buried dung improves nutrient cycling, improves soil structure, and increases carbon.

There are five farmers in the group involved with the dung beetle nurseries. The property we visited was Grant and Kerry Connolly's at Barfold. They have been breeding dung beetles for almost two years and weren't quite sure if things were progressing as well as they would have liked. Grant and Kerry harvested 230 beetles from the nursery and transferred them to the breeding tent and left 50 in the original breeding nursery.

Greg was quite pleased with this result saying it was a 4.6-fold increase, which was an excellent result. Grant was pleasantly surprised to hear this as he thought their results weren't that good. This news has given Grant and Kerry some increased vigor and will keep up the breeding for another 12 months.



Dung beetle nursery and breeding tent

The farmers who have finished with their breeding program are sharing the equipment with other farmers involved in the group, leading to an increase of dung beetles in the region. Greg is passionate about dung beetles and will continue to support the group with their breeding program over the next 12 months.



Greg Dalton talking to the group about when the dung beetles emerge

The two species introduced by the group were *B. bubalus* and *O. vacca*, which are both spring active species. These are two new species for the region, so it has been a learning experience for all involved. The results so far look promising and with continued involvement from other farmers they hope it is just as successful on their farms.

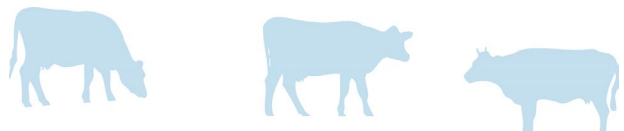
Darren Bain

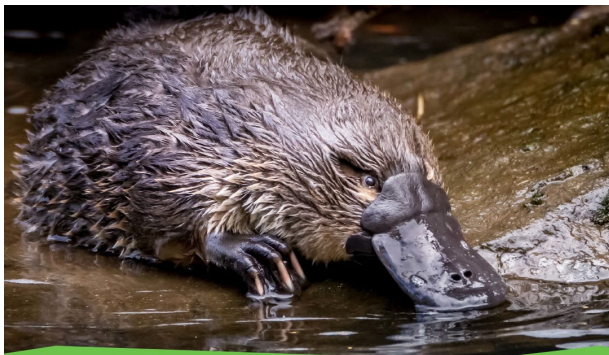
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Have you ever seen a platypus in the wild?

Take part in the **platy-project month of action** this September

Photo: Ash / Adobe stock



Have you ever spotted a platypus in the wild?

This September, the Australian Conservation Foundation is trying to get as many people as possible across the east coast of Australia to head down to their local creek or river, find a quiet place on the bank, try to spot a platypus and record what they see, or don't see.

It's all part of the [platy project month of action](#), brought to you by the [Australian Conservation Foundation](#) and researchers at UNSW. Participating in the platy project not only supports the platypus, it's also a great way to get outside, slow down and connect with nature.

How does this help the platypus?

Even though the platypus is one of our most unique and iconic animals, there are big gaps in our knowledge about the creature, including where it lives and how big platypus populations are. With platypus numbers

declining, the lack of existing platypus data is a huge barrier to getting the protection it needs from extinction.

By recording where platypuses live, we can help researchers understand more about this incredible creature, its habitat, and help prevent further declines in their numbers.

To take part, [register here](#) for an easy-to-follow toolkit and access to the interactive platy-project map. The map shows where the best places near you are to try and spot a platypus, and lets you record your platypus sightings (if you're lucky enough to see one) or your attempted sightings. You can even register and host a platypus month of action surveying event by getting a group together for a relaxing outdoor activity that also gives back to our environment.

The Australian Conservation Foundation is holding a special webinar to mark the start of a huge month of searching for, and celebrating, the irreplaceable platypus. [RSVP to the online launch of the platy-project month of action on Thursday 1 September at 6.30pm AEST](#), and hear from Dr Gilad Bino, platypus researcher at the University of New South Wales, and ACF nature campaigners among many other speakers.

[Read more about the platy-project](#) or [sign up now to take part in September](#).

For any questions about the platy project month of action, please don't hesitate to reach out ophelia.davenport@acf.org.au.



Exhibition of River Detectives artwork

The Gateway to Gannawarra Information Centre in Cohuna played host to a gorgeous display of artwork during July.

Stunning ceramic turtles and fish produced by River Detectives students from Koondrook, Leitchville, Gunbower and St Joseph's Kerang Primary Schools have been proudly on show for a month-long exhibition.

The artwork was produced under the guidance of ceramicist, Ann Ferguson at the 'Going With The Flow' school event at Treetops Scout Camp in Cohuna on June 8.

Students learnt about how environmental watering assists species of fish and turtles in the Gunbower Forest, saw real fish and turtles thanks to Native Fish Australia and Turtles Australia displays then learnt clay techniques to reflect on their learning and produce a ceramic piece.

The display was accompanied by photos and quotes from the day. Students are looking forward to having their artwork returned as a lasting memento of their day of environmental and cultural learning.



Busy times ahead for our network of River Detectives schools

Term Three is full of opportunities for our 39 River Detective schools in the region

The term has started with the release of a recorded Ask The Expert webinar on Nifty Native Fish with Dr Peter Rose of the North Central CMA. It's a great opportunity for students to learn about our unique fish species in this region and what's being done to support them.



Thirteen schools have been offered a one-hour incursion this term. I'm looking forward to getting out and about in the region and spending time with students and teachers to explore waterway health topics.

Teachers affiliated with four priority North Central CMA projects will get together online to upskill and tap into the expertise of our Waterwatch and Landcare networks.

A two-day event will be held with Weeroona College students at the Wanyarram Dum frog ponds on the Bendigo Creek in White Hills allowing the entire Year 7 cohort to participate over August 16 and 17. Students will be involved in hands-on water quality testing and macroinvertebrate sampling.

Planning is underway for a statewide Online River Detectives summit later this term. Teachers from our 97 River Detectives schools across the state will come together to celebrate achievements, share learnings, hear from a keynote speaker, and reflect on their participation in the program.

Victorian National Water Week Poster Competition 2022

Entries are now open .

Water authorities across the state are facilitating this popular annual event. The 2022 poster competition theme is Our Water Stories.

Primary school children can share their unique water story or experience with water by designing and submitting a poster.

Locally, Coliban Water is offering a randomly drawn school prize and five judged categories: Foundation, Grade 1/2, Grade 3/4, Grade 5 6 and students with additional learning needs.

Entries close Friday 2 September and can be uploaded at the new website: [National Water Week Poster Competition](#).



Nicole Howie
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 North Central CMA
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Water Storages Update

Region	Water Storage	% full at	% full at
Murray Storages	Dartmouth Dam	94.65	↑95.35
	Hume Dam	94.00	↓93
	Third Lake	.26	.26
	Reedy/Middle Lk	92.11	↓91.25
	Kangaroo Lake	94.30	↓93.7
	Kow Swamp	60.95	↑62.18
	Lake Boga	79.99	↓79.47
	Lake Charm	94.40	↓93.72
Loddon Storages	Cairn Curran Res	54.27	↑54.43
	Tullaroop Res	61.15	↓60.72
	Laanecoorie Res	38.50	↑43.19
Bullarook Storages	Newlyn Res	76.05	↑83.66
	Hepburns Lagoon	72.43	↑74.76
Goulburn Storages	Lake Eildon	81.00	↑83.17
	Waranga Basin	65.96	↑78.01
Campaspe	Lake Eppalock	49.04	↓48.89
Coliban Water Storages	Upper Coliban Res	96.90	↓91.40
	Lauriston Res	74.60	↑82.00
	Malmsbury Res	40.30	↑57.60

www.g-mwater.com.au/water-resources/catchments/storage-levels

www.coliban.com.au/about-us/our-reservoirs

Upcoming Events and Special Days

August	
Landcare week	TBD
National Science Week	13-21 Aug
Keep Australia Beautiful Week	TBD
World Humanitarian Day	19 Aug
September	
National Biodiversity Month	Sep
National Wattle Day	1 Sep
National Walk to Work Day	2 Sep
National Threatened Species Day	7 Sep
National Bilby Day	11 Sep
International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer	16 Sep
National Organic Week	12-18 Sep
World Rivers Day	25 Sep
International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste Reduction	29 Sep
October	
Australian Wildlife Week	3-9 Oct
World Habitat Day	4 Oct
Elmore Field Days	4-6 Oct
World Migratory Bird Day	8 Oct
International Day of Rural Women	15 Oct
National Bird Week	17-23 Oct
Aussie Backyard Bird Count	17-23 Oct
National Water Week	18-24 Oct
National Ride-2-Work Day	19 Oct
Australian National Field Days	20-22 Oct
United Nations Day	24 Oct

Courses & Resources...



Big news - Landcarer v2.0 is here!

The new Landcarer v2.0 is now live and Landcare Australia hope that you will find it an even better connection to an incredible resource. Thousands of your colleagues who share your challenges, opportunities and successes.

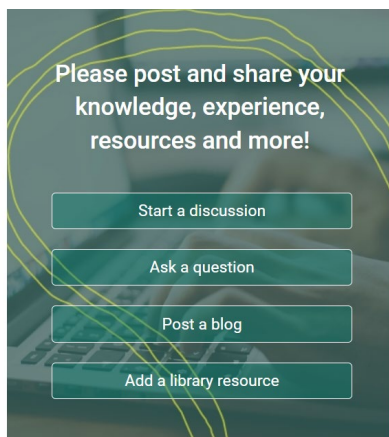
To access Landcarer.com.au, [just click to reset your password.](#)

Landcarer is a platform to expand your Landcare knowledge, skills and resources.

You and other Landcarers collectively posted insightful and valuable content items on the earlier version of the platform - much of which has been brought over to v2.0 (with more coming across soon).

These peer-shared resources form an incredibly valuable library of education resources and knowhow – found all in one place. Your contributions to these resources will now be better optimised through the platform's powerful search engine and clearly organised content structure.

Next steps



Landcarer is an evolving community. We look forward to your feedback and suggestions on how we can improve it to better support the crucial work you do.

Stay tuned for information about how to access your archived content on the earlier version of Landcarer. In the meantime, please add newsletters@landcareaustralia.com.au to your email address book and check your spam folder from time to time to receive the latest news.

Swift Parrot Search



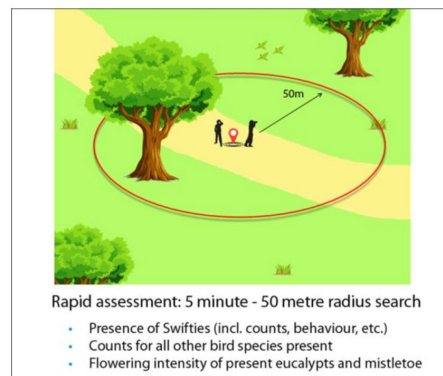
Birdlife Australia is calling for citizen scientists to help with a swift parrot survey between Saturday 16 July to Sunday 28 August

BirdLife Australia's swift parrot and regent honeyeater surveys have been a citizen-science initiative that has collected crucial data from the mainland range of these two critically endangered species for more than 25 years.

The data collected during this time by dedicated and passionate volunteers has been pivotal in monitoring population and distribution trends of these rapidly declining species across the woodland and forest habitats of mainland south-eastern Australia.

To see where sites can be found near you, [click here](#) and access the dedicated Swift Parrot Search portal where you will be able to explore the interactive map showing the distribution of established sites to date.

The revised method will require birdwatchers to undertake a five-minute/50-metre radius search for swift parrots and regent honeyeaters found at each fixed site location. Birdwatchers will also be asked to record counts for all other bird species, and to estimate the availability of nectar and water.



If you have any queries about the revised Swift Parrot Search program, please refer to our downloadable Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document [here](#) - or contact the Woodland Birds Team directly via email (woodlandbirds@birdlife.org.au).

Events...

Tackle Box conference

Gippsland Intrepid Landcare is running Tackle Box, a two-day conference for young Landcare and environmental change-makers.



Open to applicants from across Victoria, Tackle Box will give them practical skills to tackle their Landcare group or project head-on. Guest speakers from world-renowned and local campaigns and organisations will lead sessions with real-world outcomes to inspire and drive your own local projects.

Eligibility:

- Spots are limited to 25 people.
- Attendees must be between the ages of 18 and 40.
- We welcome people from across Victoria, on all stages of their Landcare journey, with diverse lived experiences, especially those from the Aboriginal community, culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and the LGBTQI+ community.
- Criteria for attendance will be on your drive to grow your Landcare or environmental group or project in your local region.

For more information and to apply visit:

<https://gippslandintrepid.com/tacklebox>

Applications close 18th of August, 5pm.

When: 16 to 18 September, 2022

Where: Walkerville, VIC

Cost: No cost to attend

RSVP: Spots limited to 25. We welcome people from across Victoria on all stages of their Landcare journey.

<https://gippslandintrepid.com/tacklebox>

NextGen Landcare Forum



Landcare Australia is supporting Intrepid Landcare to host an online youth forum for young people aged 12 to 18. The event is open to high school students, senior primary school students and youth groups.

Educators and Landcare Facilitators are welcome to attend as observers of the online forum. Hosted by Landcare champion Costa Georgiadis, this is an action-packed online event that aims to get youth inspired, connected and empowered to take action for the environment.

To share this event with the students or youth groups in your region, please refer NextGen Landcare Forum Communications Kit.

For more information or to register please click here:

<https://landcareaustralia.org.au/youthprogram>

When: Tuesday 23 August at 10.30am to 2pm AEST

Where: FREE online event

RSVP: <https://landcareaustralia.org.au/youthprogram>



Regional Roundtable – coming to Wedderburn!

The new North Central Regional Catchment Strategy has just been launched and we are hitting the road to talk with local communities about how to put it into action.

Do you live or work in/around Wedderburn?

Are you interested in land, water, and biodiversity management?

If so, come along to our next Regional Roundtable where you can:

- Hear about current projects in your local area from the organisations involved.
- Discuss local environmental priorities and identify opportunities to work together in the future.

When: Monday 5 September, 5.45pm to 8pm

Where: 24 Wilson St, Wedderburn., Wedderburn Neighbourhood House

RSVP: Dinner will be provided, so please RSVP by 31 August and advise of any dietary requirements via info@nccma.vic.gov.au or (03) 5448 7124.

Snow Gum Seed Collection Day

Blampied-Kooroocheang Landcare Group is holding a Snow Gum seed collection day on August 14.

In 2015 the Blampied-Kooroocheang Landcare Group planted two separate Snow Gum Seed Orchards, the first at Pink Muesli Blampied and a second site at Creswick North.

These seed orchards have been a great success, and are now ready to be harvested.



The seed orchards are made from seedlings from the seven most Northern Snow Gum Trees left in the Local District.

Come along and find out more about local Snow Gums and how to collect and store Eucalyptus seed with guest speaker Dan Frost (Seeding Victoria)

When: 11am - 1.30pm Sunday 14 August

Where: Pink Muesli 3530 Midland HWY Blampied.

What to bring: Gloves and a plastic bucket / container.

RSVP: via email to Facilitator Simon Kirby facilitator@bklcg.org.au

SWIFFT Seminars

The Arthur Rylah Institute (ARI) is at the forefront of many research initiatives designed to improve our understanding of species and the natural environment.

Statewide Integrated Flora and Fauna Teams (SWIFFT) have been running quarterly seminars for over 16 years with increasing popularity. These interactive sessions help connect researchers, land managers, government agencies and community groups and allow a platform for us to share our stories. The seminars are free and anyone with an interest is welcome to join in

The October seminar is focussed on Behaviour Change. We might think about nature sometimes, always, or never but how can we change people's behaviour towards nature? This seminar will look at ways of influencing people to engage with nature and include nature conservation in their everyday lives.

When: 27 October 2022.

Where: ONLINE

RSVP: [Video Conferences \(swifft.net.au\)](https://www.swifft.net.au)



Future Ready Youth

ADAPT Loddon Mallee is excited to let you know about an opportunity for young people aged 15 to 25 years to participate in 'Future Ready Youth', an ADAPT Youth Climate Network retreat being held between 17 and 19 September 2022.

What is Future Ready Youth?

The ADAPT Youth Climate Network supported by ADAPT Loddon Mallee have been working together to design **Future Ready Youth** a two-day retreat that brings together young people from across Loddon Mallee to explore climate change risks in their communities and design youth led actions.

The event is an opportunity for young people in our region to:

- **CONNECT** with other likeminded young people
- **INSPIRE** and be inspired by people leading action in their communities
- **CREATE** a movement towards a climate ready future through sharing, learning and action

If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please contact:

Eryn Coffey on 0419 621 013 or eryn.coffey@delwp.vic.gov.au

Dona Cayetana on 0436 629 698 or dona.cayetana@delwp.vic.gov.au

When: 17 to 19 September, 2022

Where: DOXA Youth Camp Malmsbury

Cost: This is a FREE EVENT, all meals, accommodation, and materials are provided. We can also provide transport support for any attendees who cannot make their own way to the location.

RSVP: Visit the [ADAPT website](#) for more information and to register interest.

Funding opportunities...

2022 Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants



The 2022 Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants are also now open, with \$450,000 for projects to help young people learn about valuing and caring for Victoria's biodiversity and our natural environment.

Past projects funded by the Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants included creating indigenous gardens, building habitat for native insects and animals and excursions to wildlife sanctuaries.

Funding

Grants of up to \$5,000 are available to fund projects that provide young Victorians with an opportunity to participate in biodiversity focused hands-on projects or environmental learning activities.

Eligibility

The grants are open to Victorian childcare centres, kindergartens, primary and secondary schools, scouts, girl guides, youth groups, and Junior Landcare groups.

Applications for the grants will close on **3pm Tuesday 9 August 2022**. For more information visit juniorlandcare.org.au/grant/2022-victorian-junior-landcare-and-biodiversity-grants.

