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



Hi everyone,

Welcome to the refreshed North Central Chat newsletter!

A new year and a new look for the monthly Landcare and Waterwatch news, events and resources that are of most relevance to our North Central volunteers.

Entering the new decade, was certainly not the celebratory New Year we would usually enjoy. I spent much of the time on the phone with close friends from Mallacoota, who were thankful to be in the safety of Avoca during the devastating bushfires. Hearing their tale of returning home, the anticipation and dread of what they might face, was distressing to say the least. Others of course were not so lucky, and we think of all the bushfire affected people, places and wildlife during the current time of crisis.

Throughout the bushfires, many heart-warming stories and images have made their way across the state on the Landcare lifeline. A colleague in East Gippsland retold a story of a local Landcare secretary, whom whilst evacuating, grabbed the groups admin folder on her way out the door, relaying that "We'll need this for the recovery phase!". The Landcare spirit and state of resilience is ever present.

Many initiatives are currently underway to support bushfire affected communities, including the <u>Conservation</u> <u>Volunteers Australia</u> led national environmental volunteering response to the bushfire crisis. Read more about this on Page 2. Landcare related resources, such as advice on sediment fencing, waterway protection after bushfire and accessing emergency fencing through BlazeAid, are available through the <u>Victorian Landcare</u> <u>Gateway</u>.

Music concerts, art auctions, shearing competitions, fitness challenges, retail sales and volunteer disaster relief fundraisers are taking places right across Victoria to raise much needed funds in the wake of the fires.



North Central

Waterwatch Coordinator Cass Davis joined a group of ladies to crochet 'wildlife baskets' which are on the way to shelters around Victoria, supporting injured and orphaned wildlife.

The 'Empty Esky' campaign, is hoping to aid in the recovery of local tourism industries and small businesses, many of which depend on the usual influx of summer tourists, by encouraging Australians to pledge a visit to a bushfire affected town in 2020 - empty esky in tow.

Our focus for February is planning for the Landcare events that fill up diaries in March and April. We are also preparing for the March 2020 community roundtables where you can share your aspirations for our natural environment (see Page 2). I encourage you to get involved when these events come to a town near you.

Enjoy the read.

**Tess Grieves** 

 Regional Landcare Coordinator

 North Central CMA

 Phone:
 03 5448 7124

 Email:
 tess.grieves@nccma.vic.gov.au

www.nccma.vic.gov.au

#### February 2020

#### News...

#### Landcare-specific bushfire relief appeal

Landcare Victoria Inc. (LVI) advise that Landcare Australia, in conjunction with the National Landcare Network, has announced a Landcare-specific appeal to assist with longterm recovery. Information is also provided on the positive role Landcare plays in recovery.

### You can find out more at <u>https://landcareaustralia.org.au/donations-2/</u>

LVI has the following advice for those looking to offer volunteer time. "Most landcare volunteers will be local, however volunteers who are outside of those areas can register at: <u>https://landcareaustralia.org.au/volunteer-how-you-can-help-support-landcare-groups-and-other-community-groups</u>. This is intended to capture current enthusiasm that can be directed to long-term recovery. If you are in a fire affected area and are looking for volunteers currently please let us know."

Landcare Victoria Inc. can be contacted via (03) 9207 5527 or info@lvi.org.au

#### \$50M investment into bushfire recovery

Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) has been selected to coordinate the national environmental volunteering response to the bushfire crisis.

With \$25 million assigned to an emergency intervention fund for immediate, critical wildlife and habitat survival interventions, a further \$25 million has been made available to support wildlife rescue, zoos, Natural Resource Management Groups, Greening Australia and Conservation Volunteers Australia.

Responding will require efforts at a scale that will only be known once affected areas are declared safe, and damage has been assessed. The sheer scale of the fires, the sensitive nature of many of the areas affected, and the numbers of wildlife that are displaced are enormous. CVA stand ready to help volunteers to contribute and direct their efforts to recovery actions that will help land, water and wildlife.

CVA will focus on three key actions to establish and roll out environmental volunteering opportunities in the bushfire recovery process:

- Establish a central environmental volunteer registration hub
- Support organisations who need help with environmental volunteering
- Share opportunities for environmental volunteering.

As the recovery phase and coordination begin, information on the CVA program will be updated via https://conservationvolunteers.com.au/news/2020/01/nati onal-environmental-volunteering-response-bushfirerecovery/

## Book a seat at the table to have your say



In 2009-10 the community identified more than 400 places they value in our region

The North Central CMA and Department of Environment. Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) will co-host four community roundtables in March 2020 to inform the next Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS) *and* Biodiversity Response Planning (BRP) for the region.

The North Central CMA is renewing its RCS for 2021-27. The RCS defines a long-term vision and outcomes for land, water, and biodiversity management. It identifies priority waterways, wetlands and biodiversity places for investment. Renewing the RCS is a great opportunity to review and reset for 2021-27 considering current challenges and opportunities.

Through the BRP process DELWP is working with stakeholders to develop regional biodiversity actions that support the goals of *Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037*. Outcomes from these roundtables will inform a map of biodiversity options and priorities for the region.

To ensure the North Central RCS and Loddon Mallee BRP reflect the values and aspirations of the regional community, we invite you to have your say. Tell us about your local area, what you value, and where we should focus our efforts.

You can participate in one of four roundtables being held across the region. Each will run from 6 pm to 8.30 pm with a meal available from 5.30 pm.

- Tuesday 17 March, Harcourt
- Thursday 19 March, Kerang
- Tuesday 24 March, Charlton
- Thursday 26 March, Inglewood

Venues will be confirmed in the March edition of the Chat. To register go to: <u>https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/regional-roundtables-</u> 2020-tickets-86772921143

#### 2020 ResourceSmart Schools Awards -**Entries Open**

Victorian schools leading the way in minimising waste, saving energy and water, increasing biodiversity and tackling climate change are encouraged to enter Victoria's largest sustainability awards for schools - the 2020 **ResourceSmart Schools Awards.** 

The 2020 award categories are:

- ResourceSmart School of the Year
- Teacher of the Year (Primary and Secondary)
- Student/Student Group of the Year (Primary and Secondary)
- Community Leadership School of the Year (Primary and Secondary)
- Curriculum Leadership School of the Year (Primary and Secondary)
- Campus Infrastructure and Operations School of the Year (Primary and Secondary)
- Community Leadership Volunteer of the Year.

Entries close: Monday 16 March 2020. To enter visit: www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/schoolsawards

For more information contact the ResourceSmart Schools Awards team by phone on 8626 8844 or email resourcesmartawards@sustainability.vic.gov.au

#### Landmark fish release into Bendigo waterways

#### 800 captive-bred southern pygmy perch were recently released into four local wetlands in the Bendigo area.

The project is part of North Central CMA's Native Fish Recovery Plan, and the Tri-State Alliance 'Magnificent six' project.

A further 800 fish will be released in March into the same wetlands located in the Bendigo Creek and Axe Creek catchments, followed by a release into two Gunbower forest wetlands later in the year.

Southern pygmy perch were once common in the wetlands and slow flowing creeks of the southern Murray Darling Basin. They are now Endangered in New South Wales and South Australia and their numbers are rapidly declining in Victoria.

Southern pygmy perch were last recorded in Gunbower forest in 1997, and it's thought that the species has been locally extinct from the Bendigo Creek since the 1860s gold rush.

The North Central CMA, in partnership with the City of Greater Bendigo, Native Fish Australia and the Australia New Guinea Fishes Association is working to genetically rescue the southern pygmy perch and help it thrive again.



Tim Curmi (Victorian President of Native Fish Australia [NFA]); Peter Rose (North Central CMA); and Chris Lamin (pygmy perch breeder from Middle Creek Farm, NFA and ANGFA member) took part in the fish release.

"Since the 1970s, introduced fish such as redfin, trout and carp, as well as habitat destruction, altered flows, disconnection of floodplain wetlands, and more recently the Millennium Drought, have contributed to their decline," said Peter Rose, North Central CMA Project Officer.

In 2017 the North Central CMA received funding from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning's Biodiversity On-ground Action program to map the distribution of southern pygmy perch and identify suitable source populations for future translocation to surrogate habitats.

"We have collected fish from the remaining populations and set up a captive breeding program with a specialist southern pygmy perch breeder. The fish are now ready for re-stocking into rehabilitated habitats."

"We will be undertaking monitoring over the next year to determine if the fish released into the Bendigo and Gunbower wetlands are breeding," said Mr Rose.

City of Greater Bendigo Natural Reserves Team Leader Mark Toohey said: "For the past five years, the City has been preparing for this release by constructing small ponds in the Bendigo Creek catchment that are suitable for small-bodied native fish like the southern pygmy perch. These works have improved storm water flows, created better fish habitat and are pleasant to see.

"This project has been a terrific collaboration between all of the groups involved and the release is a great outcome for improving biodiversity in Bendigo's waterways.

"As far as I know we are the first local government in Victoria to do something like this and I hope other councils follow our lead," Mr Toohey said.

#### February 2020

## LVI Members Council – seeking new North Central representatives

Members' Council is a major support group for the work of Landcare Victoria Inc (LVI). The Members' Council is designed to bring together landcarers with a diverse range of skills and experience to:

- Be a conduit for ideas and issues that directly relate to the effectiveness of Landcare in Victoria
- Be part of LVI's policy response/policy development work, either directly or linking in other appropriately skilled people
- Understand the work and activities of LVI so that they can communicate with members more effectively

The Members' Council is made up of representatives from each of the 10 CMA regions. Each region can be represented by up to four volunteers and one professional landcare member. Members are appointed by the LVI Committee of Management.

The North Central region currently has vacancies for three volunteer landcarers. If you are interested in a position on LVI Members' Council please send an email to info@lvi.org.au with the subject "LVI Members Council Nomination" with 1) A nominee bio (with photo if available) plus 2) Two supporting letters, each from a Voting Delegate.

If you have any questions, you can call the LVI office on 03 9207 5527. More information about the Members Council can also be found here:

https://www.landcarevic.org.au/groups/state/lvi/landcarevictoria-inc-committee-of-management-and-memberscouncil/



The Upper Loddon and Avoca Regenerative Agriculture Group discuss cover cropping with Grant Sims (left) on his Pine Grove property.

#### Sustainable Ag snippet ...

by Felicity Harrop - Project Manager Sustainable Agriculture

The Regenerative Agriculture Groups are hosting workshops in coming months with funding from the National Landcare Program. Contact your local group facilitator (details below) for more information.

#### Mt Alexander Regenerative Agriculture Group

**Castlemaine, Friday 31 January.** A soil health workshop with Rebecca Mitchell, Agriculture Victoria and Dean Hardwick, agroecologist from Soil Land Food. Topics covered include baseline soil testing and establishing demonstration sites to improve pasture cover and management.

Contact Deane Belfield (E: deanebelfield@eco2sys.com).

### Talbot (Upper Loddon and Avoca) Regenerative Farmers

Stephen Parish's farm, Monday 17 February (9.30-12.00 noon). *Planning and Paddock Walk* meeting.

**Sunday 29th March (12.00-4.30 pm)**: *Progress and Discoveries from Cover Crop Demos and Trials: farmer reports and Q&As.* Hear what we have been doing and share in the experiences of our cover crop demos and trials and our work with bio stimulants and biofertilizers, compost and worm products. A fantastic learning opportunity and chance to discuss our views on what went right, what went wrong and ways forward.

Contact Ross Davey (E: <a href="mailto:ross@glengreenock.com.au">ross@glengreenock.com.au</a>)

#### Normanville Regenerative Agriculture Group

The group will be upskilling in pulse agronomy and reporting the results of the first-year demonstration of chicken manure compared with varying rates of nitrogen and phosphorus across high and low yielding areas. Weather stations and soil moisture probes are a focus for the group to assist with climate adaptation and risk management.

Contact Anne Jackman (E anne@cropfacts.com.au).

#### **Raywood Regenerative Agriculture Group**

The group will be reporting the results of multispecies cover crop establishment and management sown into existing lucerne paddocks, conducting soil testing for the coming season and establishing a grazing fodder shrubs demonstration to fill feed gaps.

Contact Penny Wall (E apwallfarmbusiness@gmail.com)

#### February 2020

## GMID Drought Employment Program starts

#### Farmers and farm workers doing it tough can now apply for the Goulburn Murray Irrigation District (GMID) Drought Employment Program.

The North Central and Goulburn Broken catchment management authorities (CMAs) are delivering the program as part of the Victorian Government's drought response package.

The program provides participants with income and training while delivering on-ground works that protect and improve the environment.

Eligible participants are provided with two to four days of work a week for a minimum of two months. Importantly, this flexible approach allows people to continue working their own farms as well as supporting them to explore upskilling or re-skilling opportunities.

To be eligible for the program participants must be farmers or farm workers living or working within the GMID.

In addition to the environmental outcomes, the program lifts the morale of communities suffering from the hardship of drought, provides additional financial support to farmers and farm workers, and supports local businesses from which materials can be sourced.



Bev and Colin Domasche tree planting at Lake Tutchewop during the 2016-17 Drought Employment Program

For more information about the GMID Drought Employment Program eligibility criteria please contact Jodi or Kristy at recruitment agency Chandler Macleod Group on 5825 6000 or click <u>here</u>



**Communities Caring for Catchments** 

#### Happy New Year, new decade!

I hope all our readers are safe and well after the horrific start to the year. Let's hope there is no more fire activity this season; our fire fighters have put in an incredible effort and deserve a good rest for the remainder of the summer.

I am particularly saddened by the loss of habitat for wildlife and concerned about the detrimental impact that extensive fires can have on water quality, particularly if followed by heavy rain. As much as we need rain, following fire, it can be enormously damaging. Let's hope for a nice and gentle Autumn break! This year, I am keen to learn more about the burning practices of our Traditional Owners and hope that their knowledge and practice can contribute to improving the situation for our future generations in a rapidly changing climate.

Although this is generally our quieter time of the year, the Waterwatch and River Detectives team is busy planning some great events and activities for our program participants. Keep an eye out for invites and updates in your inbox and of course in the Chat throughout the year.

#### Britt Gregory, Waterwatch Project Officer

#### **Crisis Support Line opens for everyone**

If you have been impacted by the recent fire activity or are concerned about your emotional response, our Employee Assistance Program provider, LifeWorks, has opened a free Crisis Support Line for anyone in the community in need of support.

This service is available to anyone and everyone, client or not.

You can access immediate, confidential, free professional telephone counselling and support and can call if:

- You are finding things overwhelming
- You are worried about how you are feeling or are concerned about someone else
- You want to talk with someone about the next steps you need to take
- You need reassurance

The Crisis Support Line is open 24/7: 1300 361 008

#### February 2020

#### Upcoming events and special days

February	
World Wetlands Day	2 February
International Day of Women & Girls in Science	11-12 February
Clean up Australia Day for Businesses	25 February
Youth and Schools Clean Up Day	28 February
March	
Clean Up Australia Day	1 March
World Wildlife Day	3 March
World Parks Week	7-15 March
International Women's Day	8 March
National Ground Water Awareness Week	8-14 March
International Day of Forests	21 March
Harmony Day	21 March
World Water Day	22 March
World Meteorological Day	23 March
Earth Hour	28 March
April	
World Heritage Day	18 April
Earth Day	22 April
Anzac Day	25 April



#### Water storages update

Region	Water Storage	% full at	% full at
		27 Nov	23 Jan
Murray Storages	Dartmouth Dam	54.08	√50.02
	Hume Dam	35.82	↓20.85
	Torrumbarry Weir	100.02	100.02
	Third Lake	64.19	↓55.65
	Reedy/Middle Lake	96.07	107.97 197.97
	Kangaroo Lake	93.34	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
	Kow Swamp	87.73	↑89.38
	Lake Boga	83.73	√74.74
	Lake Charm	90.71	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
Loddon Storages	Cairn Curran Reservoir	48.84	√43.17
	Tullaroop Reservoir	77.36	√71.39
	Laanecoorie Reservoir	40.06	↑42.00
Bullarook Creek Storages	Newlyn Reservoir	99.10	√81.26
	Hepburns Lagoon	97.33	√77.95
Goulburn Storages	Lake Eildon	46.10	√40.34
	Waranga Basin	63.23	↓58.90
Campaspe	Lake Eppalock	32.45	↓29.61
Coliban Water Storages	Upper Coliban Reservoir	92.10	√90.40
	Lauriston Reservoir	94.80	√85.70
	Malmsbury Reservoir	65.60	√24.00

Sources:

www.g-mwater.com.au/waterresources/catchments/storage-levels

www.coliban.com.au/about-us/reservoir-levels

#### February 2020



# Are you a passionate educator or volunteer keen to connect children with their natural environment?

River Detectives is an education initiative that supports teachers and leaders to get young people connecting to their local waterway.

Educators can apply to be a part of the program which allows your school to borrow a water quality monitoring kit, for the teacher or volunteer to attend training sessions and the ability to access a range of activities, resources and an interactive data recording on our website.

Teachers are super busy and often struggle to fit everything in. **If you're a local Landcare member**, **parent or grandparent with a passion**, why not offer to volunteer some time to lead the River Detectives program in your local primary school?

Applications are currently open, and places are limited. For more information visit **www.riverdetectives.net.au** 



Volunteering at your local school to deliver the River Detectives program can be very rewarding.

#### **Seeking Citizen Scientists!**

We have recently had a few volunteers step down and hand back their water testing kits – thanks for your efforts comrades, we value your contribution!

We are keen to keep the momentum going and are seeking a few new volunteers in the following areas:

- Bendigo Creek in White Hills, Epsom & Huntly
- Coliban River, Tylden area
- Birches Creek, near Clunes.

Being a citizen scientist is a great opportunity to volunteer and connect with your community and the environment

Many waterways across our region have been monitored for water quality over the past two decades. Hundreds of volunteers have been supported as citizen scientists to collect important ecological information and have helped us create snapshot reports of waterway health.

Understanding and reporting on the condition of our waterways helps guide waterway management decisions and demonstrates management outcomes.

We can help you to develop the knowledge and skills required to collect valuable information on the ecological condition of waterways in our region. Volunteers borrow a water testing kit and receive ongoing training and support - anyone can do it, no experience necessary!

If you are passionate about contributing to waterway health and can commit around 15 minutes a month to monitor a site, please get in touch with Britt on (03) 5440 1843 or <u>britt.gregory@nccma.vic.gov.au</u>

#### February 2020

#### Events...

#### **Rabbit Buster Month event**



February marks an annual reminder to consider your rabbit management plans and coordinated action for local rabbit issues.

Barkers Creek Landcare Group is hosting a Rabbit Buster workshop and demonstration day on Sunday, 16 February.

Agriculture Victoria's Leading Biosecurity Officer, Jessica Seidel will be presenting on best practice rabbit management followed by a demonstration session in the field.

When: Sunday 16 February 2020. 9.30 AM- 12.30 PM

Where: 'Haven on Barkers' 8867 Midland Hwy, Barkers Creek.

Cost: Free event with light refreshment provided

To register your interest in this event, please contact Jessica Seidel on <u>Jessica.Seidel@agriculture.vic.gov.au</u> or call 0419 577 324

(\*Please note Jessica's workdays are Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday).

#### Woodend Waterway Weed Workshop

A Woodend workshop will provide landholders who have waterway frontage with the skills and knowledge to improve weed management along waterways.



Organised by the North Central Catchment Management Authority (CMA), the workshop is an integral part of projects that are improving the health of waterways in the upper Campaspe and Coliban catchments.

#### Speakers include:

• Ben Perry, Biosecurity Manager, Agriculture Victoria - Riparian weed identification and best practice control advice

Ashbourne Landcare's Weed Action Group – local control efforts

When: Sunday 16 February 2020

Where: Marsh Court Reserve, Marsh Court, Woodend.

Free coffee van and plenty of fact sheets/information will be available. Please BYO camp chairs.

To register by 12 February 2019, go to EventBrite

For further information, please contact Angela Gladman on 5440 1825 or <a href="mailto:angela.gladman@nccma.vic.gov.au">angela.gladman@nccma.vic.gov.au</a>



### Wombat Forestcare invite you along to enjoy two noteworthy speakers in 2020.

21 March: **Resilience of the Wombat Forest to changes in climate** with Professor Stefan Arndt (School of Ecosystem and Forest Sciences, University of Melbourne)

20 June: Wildlife conservation in changing landscapes - a tangled tale of forest fragmentation, fire and fauna with Dr Holly Sitters. (School of Ecosystem and Forest Sciences, University of Melbourne).

To register for your interest in these events, contact Wombat Forestcare via <u>www.wombatforestcare.org.au</u> or email <u>info@wombatforestcare.org.au</u>

#### February 2020



## The Bendigo Sustainability Group invites you to join us in celebrating sustainable living on Saturday 28 March.

Everyone is welcome at this free event.

The Sustainable Living Festival aims to celebrate the very best of sustainable living products, programs, goods and services that are active here in Central Victoria.

Attendees will have the chance to purchase, learn and explore many new and creative ways to live and then implement them in their everyday life.

Talks, workshops, stalls, electric vehicles and e-bikes, kids activities, music, and delicious food.

Guest speakers include Jerry Coleby-Williams (ABC Gardening Australia presenter)

When: Saturday 28 March

Where: Bendigo Town Hall

For more information on stalls and event themes visit: https://www.bsg.org.au/event/bendigo-sustainable-living-festival/

#### Courses & Resources...



LODDON PLAINS LANDCARE NETWORK

#### ACUP & 1080 course - Kerang

## Loddon Plains Landcare Network is hosting a combined ACUP and 1080 training course in February.

The delivery of this course will support a one-for-one 1080 drum program in the final weeks of February for farmers around the Kerang lakes area and RAMSAR sites.

Please contact Danny Pettingill, Project Officer for further details and to complete your <u>Expression of Interest</u> <u>online</u>.

Danny Pettingill LPLN Landcare Facilitator, Project Officer 0490 412 430or <u>facilitator@lpln.org</u>

## Certificate III in Conservation and Land Management

## Do you want to make a difference? Are you passionate about the environment or wish to gain employment?

Access Skills Training is commencing early 2020 and running two days a week based at PepperGreen Farm, North Bendigo. This course is the perfect starting point for you to launch your career, and to advance your chances of employment in this expanding industry.

This Certificate III in Conservation and Land Management is a really good course with good outcomes, so please share.

Info Session 2: Wednesday 5 February 2020 11.00am. Eco-Pod 1 PepperGreen Farm

Prospective Commencement Date: Wednesday 19 February 2020 2 days a week (Weds and Thurs)

For course information, contact course coordinator Tony Misson -Training & Education Management 0411 605 239 or <u>tmisson@iprimus.com.au</u>

#### Wildlife Victoria Volunteer Training

## Wildlife Victoria is looking for new volunteer transporters to get sick, injured and orphaned wildlife into safe hands.

Recruitment is now open, and training is online.

Within less than a day you can be onboard with Wildlife Victoria, helping sick, injured and orphaned wildlife.

Please register here: Transporter Volunteer Recruitment



#### February 2020

#### North Central Chat

#### Funding opportunities...

#### 2019-20 Volunteer Grants

The Australian Government is inviting organisations via a closed non-competitive process to apply for a Volunteer Grant under the Families and Communities Program.

The 2019-20 Volunteer Grants aim to support the efforts of Australia's volunteers as well as to encourage and increase participation in volunteering. Community groups can apply for grants between \$1,000 & \$5,000.

**Closing Date is 6 April 2020** – funding is capped at \$66,000 per electorate. Once this funding limit is reached, no further organisations will be funded, so it is encouraged to get in early.

How to apply -

Contact your Local Member of Parliament for an invitation to apply. The Department will only email an application form to organisations who have been nominated by their Local Member of Parliament.

For further information, grant opportunity guidelines and FAQs go to -

https://www.communitygrants.gov.au/grants/volunteergrants-activity-%E2%80%93-2019-20-volunteer-grants

For all Landcare Groups that are operating solely

under LVI incorporation - Branches of a larger umbrella organisation are eligible for separate nominations. If an MP would like to nominate two branches (i.e. 2 x LVI member groups) in his/her electorate, two separate nominations will be needed. MPs make the nomination referring to both LVI and each group - "Landcare Victoria - [Member Group]". The ABN used in the expression of interest form (and later application if selected) will be Landcare Victoria Inc.'s ABN in this round, as the incorporated legal entity.

If this applies to your group/network, please notify LVI of your intent to apply ASAP so further instructions can be provided.

#### Tackling Tough Times Together (TTTT)

FRRR is managing the Tackling Tough Times Together grant program, which helps communities access the resources they need to support one another through the ongoing effects of the drought.

Grants are available for a broad range of grassroots, community-led initiatives that directly and clearly benefit local communities. Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis and assessed quarterly. Three tiers of grants are available:

**Up to \$20,000** – projects to be finalised within 18 months of approval

**Up to \$60,000** – projects to be finalised within 18 months of approval

**Up to \$150,000** – applications for this tier are by Expression of Interest, and multi-year projects (up to three years) are welcomed. Applicants must speak with the TTTT team to discuss their project before applying.

FRRR is inviting EOI's before 25 February. All grants must be entered via the grants portal. Read the guidelines and eligibility via:

https://www.frrr.org.au/grants/tackling tough times toget her.php



Large Grants Program

The 2019-20 round of the Large Grants Program opened on 1 October 2019 and will remain open until 29 February 2020.

This program provides funding for projects in the following categories:

- recreational fishing access and facilities
- recreational fisheries' sustainability and habitat improvement
- recreational fisheries-related education, information and training and
- recreational fisheries research.

Preference will be given to projects that leverage off other projects, and/or which some financial co-funding or in-kind contribution can be made by the project proponent(s) to the funds being sought.

To access the guidelines and application forms, visit: <u>https://vfa.vic.gov.au/recreational-fishing/recreational-fishing-grants-program/large-grants-program</u>

We'd love to hear your stories in the Chat! email <u>landcare@ncc</u>ma.vic.gov.au