

North Central chat

OCTOBER 2019

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

A message from the Regional Landcare Coordinator

Hi everyone,

September was a month of celebration and congratulations for the Victorian Landcare community.

The Victorian Landcare Awards at Government House were a wonderful recognition of Landcare volunteers and the contributions made each and every year to the health of the state's environment, agricultural and education sectors. I was thrilled to be alongside Malmesbury Landcare Group when they received the highly competitive 'Community Group' award.

The [Volunteering Naturally](#) report has now been launched. The Victorian Landcare Team has contributed to Volunteering Naturally 2019; which is a collection and collation of data about active environmental volunteer groups in Victoria. The report also includes geographic location, and where possible, the number of volunteers and/or volunteer hours contributed during the financial year.

The celebrations continued, with the announcement of the 2019-20 Victorian Landcare Grant recipients in mid-September. Eighteen Project and 47 Support Grants were allocated to groups in the North Central CMA region. For the full list of the funding recipients, visit; <http://www.nccma.vic.gov.au/media-events/media-releases#node-2117>

Junior Landcarers are also busy getting their projects underway with the announcement of the [2019 Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grant Recipients](#). \$451,149 in funding will support 128 projects. Many of the projects include activities that provide both environmental and educational outcomes, along with health and social benefits.

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Malmesbury Landcare Group members receive their award at Government House August 30.

Looking ahead, October will be filled with outdoor activities. I am excited to be hosting another Chicks in the Sticks event in Moonambel on October 26 and supporting the Waterwatch team during a week of Waterwatch Bug Blitz activities.

Finally, a reminder to those groups with a 2018-19 VLG funded project, that as your program comes to a close, final reporting won't be far away. For the recently funded 2019-20 projects, we wish you the best, as many groups kick off with Spring planting and community events.

Enjoy the read,

Tess Grieves

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North Central Catchment Management Authority
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News...

Australia's first climate change woodland.

In the September edition of Bush Heritage's newsletter 'Bush Banter' a very interesting article was published about their climate ready woodland.

At Nardoo Hills Reserve, north of Wedderburn in central Victoria, planting of 9000 grey box and yellow box seedlings has brought new life and new hope to the Reserve, where eucalypts have been dying from hotter and drier than normal conditions.

To save them, Bush Heritage has embarked on a grand experiment.

Its scientists have sourced seeds from Deniliquin, Fifeild, Griffith and Narrandera, and grown them into 9000 saplings. These places have climates that are similar to what Nardoo can expect in the next 50 years.

The Sydney Morning Herald featured the project, interviewing Dr Garry McDonald, an entomologist at the University of Melbourne and Bush Heritage volunteer. [The full article is available online](#) and is well worth a read.

For updates on this experiment and lessons for others attempting climate ready revegetation programs, visit Bush Heritages website via <https://www.bushheritage.org.au/places-we-protect/victoria/nardoo-hills>

From recess to revamp

North Harcourt and Sedgwick Landcare Group first established in the 1980's and recently relaunched in September 2019.

Locals were warmly welcomed to contribute suggestions for future activities at the Sedgwick Hall for a BBQ lunch, nest box display and lucky door prizes.

Group member Rohan Potter, who was thrilled with the turnout of more than 60 people said "There was a great mix of old members and people new to the area. We were able to gather a lot of fantastic information on what they want from us!

We had a lot of interest in our nesting boxes and Chris from Axe Creek Landcare gave a great demonstration of the use of nest box cameras. There was a lot of fantastic conversations on what people are doing on their land and what they

Landcare Idea of the Month Plant for plant events

Muckleford Landcare Group recently sent through their upcoming calendar of events. On October 12, they will host a Landcare planting day with a little bit of a difference...

Secretary Beth Mellick said that "From 10am-12 noon we will be having a small planting day on a local landholder's property and giving away free plants! If you put 20 plants in the ground, you can take 20 native plants home."

Participants will then stay for a BBQ and a chat.



The group also hosts other engaging events throughout the year for the enjoyment of existing members and to gather some interest from the families in the area and wider community, including a Mucklefest Landcare stall, creek walks and an annual bike ride.



Read more about Muckleford Landcare's upcoming events on the groups blog; <https://mucklefordlandcare.wordpress.com/2019/09/03/dates-for-your-diary-2/>

envisage for the future. An overall great sense of community.”

Revamping Landcare Groups out of recess has been a strong topic of conversation around the Mount Alexander region. Landcare Facilitator Asha Bannon (Connecting Country) published an article from Brian Bainbridge of Taradale Landcare, a recently reinvigorated group, who shared four ‘pillars of success’ for engaging volunteers with their group:

- Visibility and accessibility – easy to contact and responsive to communications.
- Motivation – doing work that people are interested in.
- Organisation – the value of planning and good governance.
- Sociability – making new people feel welcome, good food and drink!

As a topic of constant discussion within Landcare, it is great to hear of the examples and practical measures groups are using to engage with their community, build on the legacy they’ve inherited and lead Landcare back to the forefront of their local areas.

Working on Coliban Catchment Health at Tylden Primary School

Article submitted by Brendan Smith, Tylden Landcare President

Tylden Primary School grade six and prep students recently participated in a Tylden Landcare program that involved the school in improving the health of the Coliban River catchment.

This part of the project is to grow indigenous plants for revegetation along the Little Coliban River during 2019. The Healthy Coliban catchment project is supported by the North Central CMA and Coliban Water.

With the help of Tylden School staff and Tylden Landcare Group, children from the school spent time “picking out” small plants from seedling trays and placing them into forestry tubes. The plants will then be kept for further growing and hardening off before planting along the river later this year.

Madeleine Jenkins of Tylden Landcare said “The students have embraced the program and have propagated indigenous trees, shrubs and grasses. Seed has been collected from local indigenous plants because these are most suited to local

environmental conditions. The students are very aware that indigenous vegetation offers food and homes for native animals, prevents soil erosion and keeps the air clean. These plants will be planted along the Little Coliban River as part of the Healthy Coliban Catchment project”

Tylden Primary School students have played a role in Landcare projects over the years and these plants will be planted along the Little Coliban River. Plants included eucalypts, acacias, cassinias, poas and lomandras.

Tylden Landcare is working with landholders along the Little Coliban River and the North Central CMA to protect and rehabilitate the Coliban catchment area to ensure a healthy water supply for farms and all users of the Coliban water storage system. The Little Coliban is a tributary of the Coliban River and contributes water inflow to the Upper Coliban Reservoir. A clean, healthy catchment ensures clean, healthy water for the future.



Staff, Landcare and students of Tylden Primary School propagating seedlings for the Little Coliban River.

Along with Landcare, school staff assisted students on the day and said, “The senior students did a great job of passing on their plant propagation skills to the younger students!”

Free webinar: climate change and land and the implications for Australian agriculture

Agriculture Victoria is hosting a free webinar with Professor Mark Howden.

Professor Mark Howden is the Director of the Climate Change Institute at the Australian National University. Mark is also an Honorary Professor at Melbourne University, a Vice Chair of



the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and a member of the Australian National Climate Science Advisory Committee. He was on the US Federal Advisory Committee for the 3rd National Climate Assessment and contributes to several major national and international science and policy advisory bodies.

Please register in advance via the link below:
<https://ecodev-events.webex.com/ecodev-events/onstage/g.php?MTID=e0749a17d23734e7b978b699bdc68e5c7>

Event password: IPCC2019

To join a webinar, you'll need access to a computer that has a good internet connection, and a headset or built in computer speakers and microphone. You can also watch via computer and phone in (if you can't access audio on your computer), or you can watch and interact in the webinar via your smartphone or tablet.

The webinar will be recorded so if you miss the live presentation you can watch it later at a time that suits you

Congratulations to Claire Moore

Kyneton local Claire Moore has taken out the 2019 AgriFutures rural women's award at a Parliament House ceremony on September 11.

Concerned about the challenges facing bee populations across the world, Claire Moore has been studying bee keeping in her spare time for the past twelve years. Claire is on a mission to inspire Australian bee keepers to increase their hive numbers and expand their commercial bee keeping operations while also exporting Australia's healthy and clean bees to the world.



Congratulations Claire!

Feasting eagles a welcome sight

Moonambel local Helen Yuille sent through an update on the Pyrenees birds of prey.

"During the week we were amazed to see eight wedge-tailed eagles feeding on a kangaroo carcass. We had not seen that many in a long time."



"We often see a pair and occasionally a younger bird."

Introducing Country Cuppas



The Victorian Rural Women's Network is excited to celebrate International Day of Rural Women on 15 October 2019 by supporting a series of local gatherings across Victoria — Country Cuppas.

Country Cuppas encourages women to take time out to connect over a cuppa with other women in their region and share ideas, networks and knowledge.

Gatherings will take place at venues across the state on 15 October and the weekend prior. You can participate in this relaxed event by registering to host a gathering in your region.

If you want to meet new friends, boost the sense of belonging in your community or simply talk about things that matter to you, Country Cuppas is for you.

Whether you host a morning tea at home, a long



lunch or a dinner at your favourite restaurant, Country Cuppas will open doors to creating new friends and connections.

For more information see the [Victorian Rural Women's Network website](#) or email vrwnetwork@ecodev.vic.gov.au

Events...

Spring at Mandurang

Axe Creek Landcare Group is hosting a third Biennial Spring Event on Saturday 5 October 2019.

During the day interesting talks and demonstrations will be presented both inside and outside the hall and there will be activities in the adjacent forest including junior ranger activities run by staff from Parks Victoria.

The MC for the day is Ms Pauline Murtagh, Program Manager Engagement, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

The event kicks-off early, with a bird observation walk at 7.15am followed by a pancake breakfast. A full program of speakers follows covering topics such as raptors, managing habitat, returning fire, food and fibre to Country, nest boxes and phascogales and the return of the pygmy perch into local rivers.



When: Saturday 5 October

Where: Mandurang Community Hall (Cnr Sedgwick and Nankervis Roads, Mandurang)

Cost: Entry, pancake breakfast, tea, coffee and sunscreen are provided free of charge. Lunch will be on sale.

Bring your own binoculars, sturdy shoes, camera and water bottle

RSVP: Axe Creek Landcare President Chris Kirwan
Phone: 54396494 Email: cwkirwan@bigpond.com

Friends of the Terrick Terrick National Park's Terricks Weekend

Its on again! The annual weekend of free activities is taking place October 4-6 as part of the Loddon Shire's Naturally Loddon Spring Festival.

Weekend activities include:

- guided mini-coach tours of the park
- climb Mitiamo Rock
- evening presentations
- guided wildflower walks
- birding sessions
- free tea and coffee available
- static displays
- native plant display

Camping sites available and day visitors also welcome. All activities are based at (or leave from) the Davies homestead site, Mitiamo-Kow Swamp Road, in a grassland section of the park. GPS: 36° 05' 55"S; 144° 17' 02"E.

BYO food and camping equipment. Morning and afternoon tea supplied. For further enquiries and bookings call (03) 5480 9254.

Elmore Field Days: 1st, 2nd & 3rd October 2019

North Central CMA will be in the Government Departments tent at the 2019 Elmore Field Days.

Pop in and visit our staff and have a chat to our partner organisations while you're there. Lots of topics are on offer including regenerative agriculture, Landcare, Waterwatch, floodplain management and riparian management.

Save the date - LVI Forum 'People, Partnerships and Produce'

Landcare Victoria Inc. is delighted to invite you to the Biannual LVI Forum in October, hosted by the West Gippsland Landcare Networks and their Partners.

LVI is encouraging everyone to save the date and stay tuned for more exciting details and booking



information as they come to hand.

When: 25-27 October 2019

Where: The Summit Trafalgar East

RSVP: Expressions of Interest via LVI Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/events/928363867496179/permalink/928364117496154/>

For further itinerary details see the event flyer on the LVI Gateway page:
<https://www.landcarevic.org.au/groups/state/lvi/vi-forum-people-partnerships-and-produce-25-27-october-2019/>

Campaspe Carp Catch

As part of National Gone Fishing Day, North Central CMA is hosting another annual 'Catch a Carp Day' at five sites along the Campaspe River.

Each hub will have a BBQ lunch provided at 12.00 noon and prizes for Best Catch and Biggest Bag. Judging will be from 3 pm.

All fishing methods must comply with Victorian legal requirements (children under 18yo do not need a fishing licence).

When: Sunday 20 October at 12 noon to 3pm

Where: Axedale, Elmore, Rochester, Strathallan and Echuca.

RSVP: Register on the day or RSVP via North Central CMA (03) 5448 7124

Environmental Weed Identification Training

The Weeds at the Early Stage of Invasion (WESI) Project and Connecting Country invite you to an environmental weed identification session.

The session will focus on the identification of a selection of early invader environmental weeds in the Mt Alexander region.

The WESI Project focuses on high risk invasive species at the early stage of invasion (early invaders) that threaten biodiversity. The WESI project works mainly with Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and Parks Victoria staff looking after public land and biodiversity anywhere in Victoria.

When: Thursday 3 October 2019, 10am to 3pm.

Where: Newstead Community Centre (9 Lyons St, Newstead, VIC)

RSVP: Register via Eventbrite by clicking [here](#). Spaces are limited so please register asap to ensure you don't miss out!

Castlemaine's Endangered Butterfly workshop

The Eltham copper butterfly (*Paralucia pyrodiscus lucida*) is only found in Victoria, Australia, and is restricted to a several sites around Castlemaine, Bendigo, Kiata (near Nhill) and Eltham. It is one of the rare good news stories within the extinction crisis in Australia. It was considered extinct in the 1950s until rediscovered at Eltham in 1986. The Eltham copper butterfly has a fascinating ecological relationship with our region and lives in woodlands around Castlemaine.

Come and learn about the unique life cycle and importance of this species, hear from two local experts and join a guided walk through some butterfly habitat. You will:

- Hear all about the incredible life cycle of Eltham copper butterfly from local ecologists Elaine Bayes and Karl Just.
- Learn about how to identify this species from similar butterflies.
- Find out about butterfly monitoring and how you can help.
- Join a guided walk through butterfly habitat at the Botanical Gardens Bushland Reserve.

This is a free event made possible with support from the Mount Alexander Shire Council. Afternoon tea will be provided.

When: Saturday 12 October 2019 from 2pm to 4pm

Where: Tea Room at Castlemaine Botanical Gardens, 2 Walker Street, Castlemaine VIC

RSVP: Register by [clicking here](#) or contact Ivan Carter at Connecting Country (5472 1594 or ivan@connectingcountry.org.au)

Sustainable Ag snippet...

What is Regenerative Agriculture?

I recently attended a regenerative grazing workshop with the Macedon Ranges Shire and had some interesting discussions about regenerative agriculture. So, what is regenerative agriculture? This has been a question that is being asked more often, and it can mean different things to different people.

After some online research I came across a description from Charles Massey, Author 'Call of the Reed Wabblers' "Regenerative agriculture contests the industrial model in that it encompasses various types of farming that seek to enable natural systems and functions to not just be renewed but also to do the renewing: to allow self-organisation of natural systems back to healthy function".

There are many words I hear associated with regenerative agriculture, such as cover crops, strip grazing, one mob, nutrient cycling, bio-stimulants, building topsoil, water cycling and there are many more. I think the term regenerative agriculture will be used a lot more and farmers will incorporate their own style or variety of this practice that works with their current farming system. I think most farmers want healthy soil, animals, pasture or crops, any practice that supports this will be tested and discussed, and if it makes sense and feels right, it will be adopted.

As with the farmers who attended the regenerative grazing workshop, most were just starting their regenerative agriculture journey, keen to learn and try some new things on their own property. The day finished in the paddock with some pasture assessments and a task of setting up a small trial area on their property, which will be discussed at their next get-together.



Participants conducting landscape function assessments during the Regenerative Agriculture Field Day at Malmsbury.

New podcast about regenerative agriculture is set to ignite change

A new podcast, produced by the Regenerative Agriculture Alliance and Southern Cross University, is set to ignite a much-needed national conversation about resilient farming practices in the face of climate change and drought.

The 'Ground Cover' podcast launched on September 20 with an episode from 'revolutionary farmer' and author of Call of The Reed Warbler, Dr Charles Massy.

Each week the Regenerative Agriculture Alliance will share a unique and honest conversation about the challenges and opportunities of regenerative agriculture so farmers can make informed decisions about how best to manage their land.

Listen on your preferred device:

- Apple
itunes: <https://podcasts.apple.com/au/podcasts/ground-cover/id1479675823>
- Stitcher
(android): <https://www.stitcher.com/s?fid=464736&refid=stpr>
- Spotify:
<https://open.spotify.com/show/5IFJx5g7A7ETVedsYIltgN>

Darren Bain

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Hi everyone,

I hope everyone is making the most of our warmer sunny spring days.

Waterwatch volunteers would have received an invite to our National Waterbug Blitz Events being held across the region. There is also an introductory session which is open to anyone who might be interested in learning more about waterbugs, why we are interested in them and how they can be an indicator of waterway health. See below for more info.

The [Litter Trackers](#) we mentioned in the last newsletter are due to be removed from the Bendigo Creek soon. Unfortunately, they haven't moved far due to limited rains, but they still tell a good story. The cumbungi is quite dense downstream of Lake Weeroona, and this is where the trackers have ended up. Probably trapped with a whole lot of other litter, but at least it's not all been washed further downstream. Perhaps this could be a good site for a Clean-up Australia Day site for someone to host? Some more analysis and a report will be written up on this once we have some more info, so watch this space.

Enjoy the warmer weather

Britt Gregory

Waterwatch Project Officer
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0428 551 598
britt.gregory@nccma.vic.gov.au

Castlemaine waterbug blitz

As mentioned in the last Chat, we have some new casual team members on board to help with various Waterwatch and River Detectives tasks. You may have already met them but if not, I hope you have the pleasure of meeting them soon. They introduce themselves below.

Aunty Marilyn Nicholls

Aunty Marilyn Nicholls is a descendant of the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans people of the Central Bendigo region and has a Multi Clan connection to the Ngarrindjeri Nation in South Australia of the Coorong Coast and the Murray River, Swan Hill area.



Aunt is currently working with us at the North Central CMA and engaged in developing a program of cultural activities in partnership with Djandak, Parks Victoria and the City of Greater Bendigo for National Water Week 2019. Kia Dhelk Gatjin (Speaking Healthy Water) will be held at the Wanyarram Dhelk Frog Ponds.

Known as a Master Weaver, her focus interest is caring for Djandak (Country) and Gatjin (Water).

Rohan Potter

"I'm an avid outdoors person, who has always been passionate about the environment, especially waterways and oceans. I'm a former dive instructor who has worked on turtle and shark projects throughout Asia. Fun fact: I have been bitten by a shark – a Wobbegong shark! Which is the only shark that can reach around and bite its own tale".





Nicole Howie



“I’m a teacher, Landcarer, environmental educator and passionate advocate of the River Detectives program – having been involved with it since 2002 in many different roles.

I love the way the program empowers young people, offers

engaging cross-curricular learning and helps participants understand the interrelationships between water, land, plants, animals, people and communities.

My teaching career has given me so many different experiences having started in outback Queensland at 21 where I was a governess on a sheep station for 18 months and then taught at the Longreach School of the Air for four years”.

Upcoming events and special days

October	
National Waterbug Blitz	Sept, Oct, Nov
World Habitat Day	2 October
National Walk to Work Day	5 October
National Ride 2 Work Day	16 October
National Gone Fishing Day	20 October
National Water Week	21 – 27 October
Aussie Backyard Bird Count	21 – 28 October
November	
National Recycling Week	12 – 18 November
Pollinator Week	4 – 10 November
World Fisheries Day	21 November

Water storages update

Early winter rain has seen some storage levels increase this month:

Region	Water Storage	% full at 26 Aug	% full at 25 Sep
Murray Storages	Dartmouth Dam	59.78	↓ 58.62
	Hume Dam	42.05	↑ 42.22
	Torrumbarry Weir	100.02	100.02
	Third Lake	96.94	96.94
	Reedy/Middle Lake	100.39	↓ 99.56
	Kangaroo Lake	95.56	↑ 97.35
	Kow Swamp	83.37	↑ 95.87
	Lake Boga	74.70	↑ 78.51
	Lake Charm	91.73	↑ 97.73
Loddon Storages	Cairn Curran Reservoir	51.31	↑ 52.91
	Tullaroop Reservoir	77.80	↑ 82.74
	Laanecoorie Reservoir	97.50	↓ 92.88
Bullarook Creek Storages	Newlyn Reservoir	100.88	↓ 100.76
	Hepburns Lagoon	103.14	↓ 101.79
Goulburn Storages	Lake Eildon	44.45	↑ 48.32
	Waranga Basin	58.73	↑ 66.59
Campaspe	Lake Eppalock	39.77	↓ 38.69
Coliban Water Storages	Upper Coliban Reservoir	100.3	↓ 100.1
	Lauriston Reservoir	95.3	↑ 97.7
	Malmsbury Reservoir	51.6	↑ 74.3



NATIONAL WATERBUG BLITZ FREE WORKSHOP CASTLEMAINE SUNDAY 6 OCTOBER

Waterbugs (or macroinvertebrates) are excellent indicators of river health and are one of the ways we measure the success of waterway improvement works.

North Central CMA, in partnership with Castlemaine Landcare Group and the Mount Alexander Shire Council, are holding a community workshop along Forest Creek where the Landcare Group has been restoring habitat for waterway health and local fauna.

Join John Gooderham, Aquatic Ecologist and waterbug extraordinaire, who will talk about these amazing bugs and demonstrate how to collect a waterbug sample. You'll also learn tips to identify waterbugs and why they are so important.

Time: 10am - 12pm including morning tea

Where: Forest Creek behind Best Motors, 30-32 Duke Street
Castlemaine

Please bring a water bottle, hat, sunscreen and gumboots if you would like to have a go at catching some of these little creatures!

For catering purposes, and to secure your spot, please RSVP to britt.gregory@nccma.vic.gov.au by Thursday 3 October.

The workshop is funded through the Victorian government's \$222 million Water for Victoria investment to improve the health of waterways and catchments





Courses and Resources...

Calculating the benefit of controlling blackberry

A new cost benefit analysis modelling tool, developed by the Victorian Blackberry Taskforce (VBT) and professional valuers, will assist land managers to calculate the cost of blackberry control and then determine the potential increase in production.

The Agricultural Productivity Tool highlights the economic impact of the weed on affected agricultural land and can be used by individual landholders making decisions about property management.

A loss of productivity and poor environmental outcomes are just two of the many negative impacts the weeds can have on private and public land.

The calculator is a digital tool which allows land managers to input their property data, such as land class and terrain, to generate a profitability summary.

Federally-funded, as part of the Weeds and Rabbits project, anyone can access the tool on the Victorian Blackberry Taskforce website: www.vicblackberrytaskforce.com.au/agriculturalproductivity-model/

Twinning is winning

The Victorian Waterway Management Twinning Program is open to all Victorian professionals and Landcare support staff currently involved in the management and protection of Victoria's waterways.

The program team is seeking both mentees and mentors from a diverse range of disciplines and roles. Three partnerships will involve **fully funded** scholarships:

- **Aboriginal Scholarships** – two mentee scholarships for Aboriginal people involved in the protection and management of Victoria's waterways.
- **Landcare/Community Group Scholarship** – a mentee scholarship for a member of a not-for-profit organisation involved in the protection and management of Victoria's waterways.
- **River Basin Management Society Scholarship** – a mentee scholarship for a

River Basin Management Society member involved in the protection and management of Victoria's waterways.

Throughout the nine-month program mentors will work with their mentees to further develop an existing or developed waterway management project of the mentee. In addition, all participants come together on three occasions throughout the Program for professional development workshops facilitated by Dr Siwan Lovett, Director of the Australian River Restoration Centre. The Twinning Program provides a fantastic opportunity to create new networks, enhance your waterway management project, share your wisdom, develop professionally and have some fun!



The Twinning Program is a collaboration between the Australian River Restoration Centre and Glenelg Hopkins CMA.

Application are open until Monday October 21, 2019. For further information and to apply, visit www.twinningiswinning.com.au

Strategic Planning Masterclass

Strategic planning is a proven tool that strengthens organisations by helping them appreciate what they have done and clarify what they want to achieve.

The City of Greater Bendigo invites your organisation to participate in a free Strategic Planning Masterclass held on October 17 and 24 and November 7, 2019, over three half day morning sessions.

If you are interested email g.jarrett@bendigo.vic.gov.au or phone (03) 5434 6480.



Opportunity for Weed Hygiene Training

The Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party (VSTWP) is coordinating several weed hygiene training sessions across the state in 2019-20.

Preference will be given to organisations in areas which currently have serrated tussock infestations. This is part of a broader project to improve weed hygiene practices and prevent the spread of serrated tussock.

Managers, works crews, contractors, and landowners responsible for weed control, slashing and movement of vehicles or material through weed-infested areas.

Many organisations require contractors and staff to undertake WeedStop training as it provides the knowledge and skills necessary to meet legislative requirements. Under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* landowners are responsible for preventing the spread of regionally controlled and regionally prohibited weeds. Additionally, Councils must implement the measures set out in their roadside weed and pest animal management plan. Prevention is the most effective method of dealing with weeds. Once a weed has entered an area and become established, eradication is far more expensive, and it is likely that greater resources will be required to control its further spread and reduce its impact.

Participants undertaking the course should note the following details;

- Nationally accredited course.
- No previous experience required.
- Delivered by Longerenong College at a convenient location.
- Duration: 1 Day.
- Number of participants: 12 – 20.
- Cost: \$285 per participant (+ cost of catering) - Includes a \$25 discount through this VSTWP project

To register your interest please complete this [short survey](#) – (Requires the approximate number of participants from your organisation).

For further information contact Agriculture Victoria's Martin Deering Leading Biosecurity Officer – Serrated Tussock via martin.deering@agriculture.vic.gov.au

Funding opportunities...

Australian Heritage Grants 2019-20 Grant Opportunity

Australian Heritage Grants will support projects that strengthen recognition, management, conservation and public engagement on/of places on Australia's National Heritage List.

A list of Australia's National Heritage List places is included in appendix B of the [grant opportunity guidelines](#).

Any place added to the National Heritage List prior to the program closing date will be considered a listed place and be eligible under the program.

- The minimum grant amount is \$25,000
- The maximum grant amount is \$400,000

To read the eligibility criteria and apply for this grant, go to www.business.gov.au/ahg

National Science Week Grants 2020

National Science Week is Australia's major national celebration of the sciences in August each year.

The Australian Government supports National Science Week in a variety of ways, including through the National Science Week Grants.

The objectives of the grant opportunity are to:

- support diverse local organisations and government to work together on science engagement activities that have been adapted to local needs
- inspire wide community participation in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

An open competitive funding round will be held once a year to provide funding to support science engagement activities that will take place during National Science Week, or where appropriate, in the week before or after National Science Week.

- The minimum grant amount is \$2,000.
- The maximum grant amount is \$20,000.

To apply go to www.business.gov.au/nswkg