

North Central Chat

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



October 2022

A message from the Regional Landcare Coordinator

Hi everyone,

It's been hard to start a conversation this past month without mentioning the wet weather, in particular people were keen to share their observations of saturated soils, localised minor flooding, and natural flows passing through their gullies, creeks, and rivers.

The August Monthly Climate Summary for Victoria, produced by the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) shows Victoria had the wettest August since 2010, with many sites experiencing their highest total August rainfall for at least 20 years. The BoM issued a [Climate Driver Update](#) on September 13, stating that the El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) shows an established La Niña. Models indicate this La Niña event may peak during the spring and return to neutral conditions early in 2023. La Niña events increase the chances of above-average rainfall for northern and eastern Australia during spring and summer.

While spring is usually a buzz of activity on a Landcarer's calendar, as we get into the swing of running community events, field days, training sessions and farm visits, we are reminded of the importance of biosecurity in all that we do. Farmers and landholders give us access to their land and sites, so it is vital we ensure biosecurity is a core consideration in Landcare event management plans. Agriculture Victoria signposts to a very useful series of tools and resources on the [Farm Biosecurity](#) website, from creating your own footbath, gate signage templates and vehicle hygiene. I highly recommend reading the [‘Is your field day a biosecurity risk?’](#) article which includes the top 10 biosecurity tips for field days.

Speaking of upcoming events, we are just weeks away from a sold out 2022 Chicks in the Sticks. This year's event has a botanical theme, hosted in the stunning gardens of Camp David Farm in Spring Hill, with guest speakers and workshop sessions featuring Traditional Owners, farmers, gardeners, botanical artists and displays showcasing local Landcare, rural businesses,



Serpentine Weir on the Loddon River at Serpentine on September 10. Following a few more rain events in the same week, the weir was fully submerged and at river level on September 21.

Photo: Courtesy of Willera Merinos

and community programs that support connection to local community, agriculture and the environment. I can't wait to share the details with you in the next edition of the Chat.

Finally, North Central CMA will be exhibiting at the 2022 Elmore Field Days (Oct 4-6), so we look forward to seeing some of you there if you're coming along.

Enjoy the read,

Tess Grievs

Regional Landcare Coordinator
North Central CMA

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

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...

New Membership Brochure

Has your Landcare group been thinking about how to attract new volunteers?

A few months ago, I asked Harcourt Valley Landcare Group member Terry Willis about their group's stunning new member brochure, which is now available online. I thought it might be of interest to many of you who may be thinking about how you present your group to the public, and what opportunities your Landcare group offers to new members.

Terry gave me some insights into why the group decided to spend their time and grant funding on this brochure.

"We received a \$3000 community grant from Mount Alexander Shire, though we had to use a lot of volunteer hours to get it across the line.

"The fabulous Bron Willis wrote the copy and Lisa Major did the design work for us.

"Way back at the start of Covid we applied for a grant to produce a five-year action plan and a brochure to promote it. The goal was to involve all members in the process and to produce a brochure to attract new members. The timing was pertinent as the brochure will be used in our 25 year celebrations."



Congratulations to Harcourt Valley Landcare Group on 25 years of Landcare action and the launch of this new brochure. You can check it out online via the HVLG website: [Harcourt Valley Landcare](https://www.harcourtvalleylandcare.org).

Float through the Forest

North Central CMA is pleased to launch a new Gunbower Forest Kayaking Guide.

The brochure is a guide to kayaking during a water for the environment event.

As an internationally important wetland in the north of Victoria, Gunbower Forest includes one of the most significant remaining areas of river red gum forest in Australia. It's a special place for locals, Traditional Owners, and visitors and valued for its recreational, social, cultural, and environmental benefits.

Delivering water for the environment, including this year's delivery to about 23 per cent of the forest, brings with it great opportunities to visit Gunbower Forest while under flood conditions. And the high river flows make it even more spectacular.

Kayaking locations

The forest is largely made up of flood dependent vegetation, and now is the perfect time to see a wide range of plants and animals making the most of the additional water.

Kayaking through Gunbower Forest during a large-scale water for the environment delivery is a special and unique experience. Prospective adventurers are encouraged to book in with a local tour guide and/or take a GPS with them to avoid getting lost.



Grab a copy from the Gateway to Gannawarra Centre in Cohuna, at the North Central CMA office or [download it as a PDF from the North Central CMA website](#).



Communities Caring for Catchments

Spring Into Citizen Science

There is plenty to see and do out in nature at this time of year and we are excited to once again get out there with you and run in-person events after a few Covid-19 interrupted years.

We now have dates in the calendar for our annual macroinvertebrate surveys as part of our priority projects. Together with water quality data collected from our Waterwatch community, these surveys can tell us a lot about the health of our waterways. Plus, they are a lot of fun to do. We'd love for you to join our team in undertaking this year's surveys.

We are also participating in the Great Southern Bioblitz 2022. GSB22 is an international event that aims to capture the immense biodiversity throughout the Southern Hemisphere during spring with projects registered across Australia, Africa, South America, and the Pacific. It presents a fantastic opportunity to get outside, connect to a global community of citizen scientists, and collect research-grade observations of the amazing species in our patch.

In the lead-up to the GSB we will be hosting an introduction to iNaturalist workshop at Bendigo Library on Friday, October 21. We have been lucky enough to have Environmental Educator Peter Crowcroft from Ferox australis coming to town for the weekend to share his extensive knowledge and experiences of running Bioblitzes with the assistance of iNaturalist. We will then head outside to the Library Gardens after dark to hone our new skills in discovering the nocturnal insect and moth species that call Bendigo home. Peter will again join us in on Saturday morning for a wildflower walk and iNaturalist workshop. Places will be limited and are bound to be popular so secure your spot early.

Hope to see you out there at one of our events over spring!

Tania MacLeod

Citizen Science Coordinator
North Central CMA

Phone: 03 5440 1845

Email: tania.macleod@nccma.vic.gov.au



Great Southern Bioblitz - #GSB22

Spring is the perfect time to get outside and observe what is happening in nature. By the end of October in the Southern Hemisphere the birds are busy, reptiles are waking up and flowers are showing off.

The North Central Catchment Management Authority (CMA) is celebrating Spring and Nation Water Week by participating in the Great Southern Bioblitz 2022 and doing so we hope to gather important information to help researchers and the wider community understand the health of our catchment.

During the 2021 GSB, almost 200,000 observations of 21,000 species were collected by 5,700 people across 19 countries.

More than 3,000 observations were captured across the North Central region in 2021 – let's see if we can top that this year.

To contribute to this year's event, all you need to do is download the [iNaturalist](#) application to your handheld device or make an account on your computer and log your observations between October 28 and 31, 2022.

Follow us at [nccma_citizenscience](#) and join our project To add to our count.

<https://inaturalist.ala.org.au/projects/great-southern-bioblitz-2022-north-central-cma>

We will be running two iNaturalist workshops in the lead-up to GSB22. Refer to the events section for details and to register.

There are also several GSB22 projects registered across the North Central Region so stay tuned to the GSB website to find out about activities that are being hosted near you.

<https://www.greatsouthernbioblitz.org/>

Macroinvertebrate Monitoring



They say there is no such thing as a free lunch. They were wrong. We'd love for community members to join our team as we undertake waterbug monitoring across our priority projects this spring – and we'll shout you lunch.

Castlemaine Urban Waterways		4 Oct
A Healthy Coliban Catchment		13 Oct
Reimaging Bendigo Creek		27 Oct
Tullaroop Catchment Restoration Project		17 Nov
RiverScan (Native Fish Recovery Plan)		23-25 Nov

Each session can allow for a few extra helpers. Contact Britt if you would like to join in.

britt.gregory@nccma.vic.gov.au
Ph 5440 1843 | M 0401 213 992



River Health Snapshot Reports

Did you know that 70 per cent of North Central Waterwatch sites are within priority project areas for the North Central CMA. The valuable data collected by our monitors helps us to compile River Health Snapshot reports for each project. We are proud to release the latest snapshot reports analysing data collected by our citizen scientists over 2021 for the following projects:

- [A Healthy Coliban Catchment](#)
- [Caring for Campaspe](#)
- [Bendigo Creek](#)
- [Tullaroop Catchment](#)
- [RiverScan \(Native Fish Recovery Plan\)](#)

Well done Britt for putting these together. Not only do they look fabulous, they're a great way of showcasing the power of citizen science in monitoring the long-term improvements in waterway health from CMA projects.

Aquarium launch at the Bendigo Library

A few of our staff and CEO Brad Drust were delighted to attend the launch of the new native fish aquarium at the Bendigo Library on September 14.

The aquarium celebrates the Bendigo Creek and is home to some little known small-bodied native fish; southern pygmy perch, Murray Darling rainbowfish, dwarf flathead gudgeon and Australian smelt. Other species may also be added over time.

The impressive tank is more than three metres long and is a fantastic showcase and drawcard for everyone to learn more about our wonderful freshwater ecosystems.

The aquarium was delivered by Goldfields Libraries with funding from the Central Victorian Library Endowment and the support of the North Central Catchment CMA and the City of Greater Bendigo.

The aquarium was designed and installed by Aquariums by Design. The Australian New Guinea Fishes

Association, Native Fish Australia and Middle Creek Fish Hatchery supplied the native fish.

A must-see for everyone next time you're in Bendigo!



Celebrating our positive story

River Detectives videos released

On September 13, we held the 2022 Statewide River Detectives Online Summit. Teachers, River Detectives coordinators and project partners from around Victoria gathered virtually to celebrate this year's highlights, learn from experts and each other, and provide feedback to shape the program moving forward.

We released three fantastic Story of Change videos showcasing the wonderful work of River Detectives schools. Feel free to take a look to get a sense of what our program offers students, teachers, schools and communities:

- [Bridgewater PS, North Central CMA region](#)
- [Deans Marsh PS, Corangamite CMA region](#)
- [Stawell PS, Wimmera CMA region](#)



Supporting our schools

Macroinvertebrate Sampling professional development sessions will be held around the north central region early in Term Four. Teachers will upskill in waterbug identification and develop confidence in running this engaging citizen-science activity with their students.

I'll be visiting schools who request an incursion. This is my favourite part of the job, interacting with students in their learning about waterway and catchment health.

Would you like to be involved in 2023?

The year is flying by and won't be long before registrations open in November for our 2023 program. If you're a teacher, parent, or community member and you think your local school (primary or secondary) could benefit from connecting with your local waterway, being positive change-makers and learning hands-on citizen-science skills then start having the conversation now.

An 'Apply Now' link will appear on our website www.riverdetectives.net.au in November when the registration form is live, and places will fill fast.

Enjoy the spring and the way our waterways and catchments respond.

Nicole Howie
River Detectives Project Officer
North Central CMA
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Email: nicole.howie@nccma.vic.gov.au

Water Storages Update

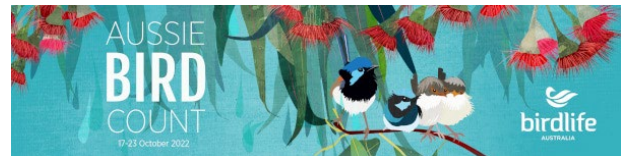
Region	Water Storage	% full at 25 Aug	% full at 29 Sep
Murray Storages	Dartmouth Dam	98.67	↑100.88
	Hume Dam	96.00	96.00
	Reedy/Middle Lk	97.55	↓97.30
	Kangaroo Lake	95.60	↓91.39
	Kow Swamp	90.37	↓85.24
	Lake Boga	79.38	↓80.09
	Lake Charm	93.44	↓90.90
Loddon Storages	Cairn Curran Res	71.97	↑97.35
	Tullaroop Res	78.60	↑101.17
	Laanecoorie Res	85.88	↑108.69
Bullarook Storages	Newlyn Res	101.89	↑101.55
	Hepburns Lagoon	105.63	↑105.40
Goulburn Storages	Lake Eildon	92.78	↑98.84
	Waranga Basin	93.07	↑96.39
Campaspe	Lake Eppalock	56.74	↑98.52
Coliban Water Storages	Upper Coliban Res	100.70	↑101.30
	Lauriston Res	95.40	↓95.60
	Malmsbury Res	108.40	↑115.40

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

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

Upcoming Events and Special Days

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
November	
Pollinator Week	12-20 Nov
National Recycling Week	7-13 Nov
World Science Day for Peace and Development	10 Nov
World Fisheries Day	21 Nov
December	
World Soil Day	5 Dec
International Volunteer Day	5 Dec
International Mountain Day	11 Dec



The Aussie Bird Count is back 17-23 October 2022!

The Aussie Bird Count is a great way to take some time out, get back to nature and become acquainted with the birds in your area, whether it's in your front yard, backyard, courtyard, park, play area or anywhere else you may like to count.

Just spend 20 minutes in your favourite outdoor space and count the birds that are counting on us.

Participating is simple, social and fun, and you will be making an important contribution by providing valuable data for BirdLife Australia's knowledge of Aussie birds. There are other great reasons to take part too. Just by registering and doing just one count, you will be in the running to win some fantastic prizes!

Head to the [Birdlife Australia website](#) and register today.

Taking part is easy!



1

20 minutes

Just spend 20 minutes in your favourite outdoor space and tell us about the birds you see during that period.



2

Count the birds

You can submit your results using the app or the web form.



3

Bird Finder

There's a built-in "bird finder" tool to help you identify birds you're unsure of.

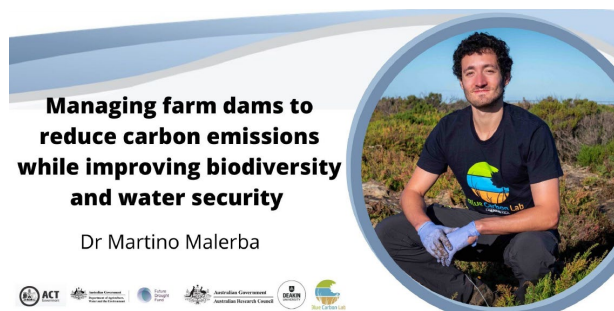


4

Submit your count

You can count as many times as you want. Every count helps.

Courses & Resources...



Managing farm dams to reduce carbon emissions while improving biodiversity and water security with Dr Martino Malerba.

If you have an interest in carbon, biodiversity and water security, then this recent webinar session may be for you/. The team at ACT NRM have made their recent webinar available on their [YouTube Channel](https://youtu.be/oxZyKGLJaaM) <https://youtu.be/oxZyKGLJaaM>

An extensive Q&A session was also held during the webinar and the responses to that session are available, just email tess.grieves@nccma.vic.gov.au for a copy.

Creature Features

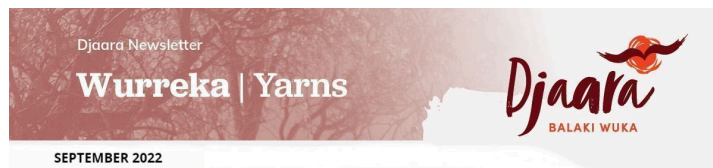
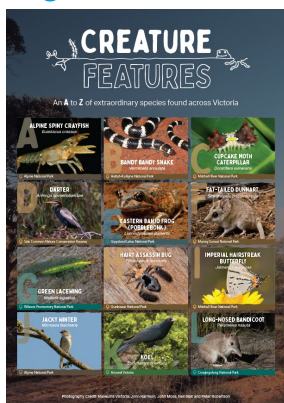
Parks Victoria has released a lovely new poster for nature loving Victorians

From the Alpine spiny crayfish to the zebrafish, [download the new A-Z poster](#) and learn about some of Victoria's weird and wonderful plants and animals.

Did you know..

There are tens of thousands of native animals and plants that live in Victoria, including:

- More than 5,000 species of plants and their relatives
- More than 100 mammal and 400 bird species
- Around 46 freshwater and 600 marine fish
- More than 100 reptile and 30 amphibian species



Ever wondered how you can keep up with the amazing, varied and ground-breaking projects DJARRA have on the go?

The DJARRA WURREKA yarns newsletter is a wonderful resource for everyone living, working and caring for Dja Dja Wurrung Country.

“Wurreka means *to yarn, to talk* in Dja Dja Wurrung language. We share the yarns of our projects, our achievements and our celebrations in our monthly Wurreka newsletter. It also contains all our latest Gunga (jobs) EOI's, news and events.”



Artist impression of the proposed Dja Dja Wurrung Corporate and Community Centre development in Hattam Street, Golden Square, featured in the latest newsletter.

You can find copies of the current (September) newsletter as well as back copies on the Resources page of the DJARRA website: [Resources – Djaara \(Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation\)](#)

Sign up to the mailing list to receive your direct monthly newsletter on the DJARRA website.

Events...

Greater Bendigo Biodiversity Strategy – Have your say

The City of Greater Bendigo are currently developing a Biodiversity Strategy for Greater Bendigo.

The purpose of the strategy is to establish a shared vision for the protection and enhancement of biodiversity values across the City of Greater Bendigo, including both urban and rural environments.

The strategy will include identification of policy and planning initiatives as well as priorities for community and traditional owner engagement and on ground action. It will provide a framework for collaboration on region-wide questions and develop a clear set of management actions to help seek and allocate resources to implement a monitoring framework that is robust, deliberate and strategic.

There are several ways to get engaged. You can speak with Mark Hall Senior Biodiversity Officer via m.hall@bendigo.vic.gov.au or call 0455 314 910

Or visit the **Let's Talk webpage**- Individuals can go to the Let's Talk page [Biodiversity Strategy | Let's Talk Greater Bendigo \(letstalkgreaterbendigo.com.au\)](#) between now and **31 October** and complete one or more of the following:

- A short survey.
- Add points to a map identifying what you value and what needs improving.
- Share some photos or stories

More Productive and Biodiverse Farms

The Australian National University Sustainable Farms team and the Deakin University Blue Carbon Lab invite you to an upcoming event.

More Productive and Biodiverse Farms is a half-day forum to share our vision for restoration on farms in Australia's temperate woodlands. ANU will share ground-breaking research on the opportunities to improve biodiversity conservation and productivity on farms through investments in improved management of natural assets, including remnant vegetation, plantings and farm dams.

When: Wednesday October 12

Where: Deakin Downtown, 727 Collins St, Melbourne 9am, to 12.30pm followed by lunch

RSVP: by October 3 [via this registration link](#)



Introduction to iNaturalist Workshop & Moth Light Night

One of the world's most popular nature apps, iNaturalist helps you identify the plants and animals around you. By recording and sharing your observations, you'll create research quality data for scientists and natural resource managers working to better understand and protect nature.

Join us for a workshop at the Bendigo Library to learn how it works from expert Peter Crowcroft. We will then head outside to the Library Gardens for a Moth Light Night - attracting, identifying and recording these nocturnal beneficial insects using iNaturalist.

Numbers are limited so be quick to secure your spot via Eventbrite.

When: Friday, October 21 from 7pm

Where: Bendigo Library Activity Room

Cost: FREE

RSVP: Please register via Eventbrite [here](#)

Contact: citizenscienceteam@nccma.vic.gov.au

Wildflower Walk & iNaturalist Workshop

Now you know how to use iNaturalist, why not join us for a stroll through Solomon Gully Nature Reserve and use your new skills to capture wildflower observations in Solomon Gully Nature Reserve. Environmental Educator Peter Crowcroft will be on hand to help navigate the app and assist with plant identification.



Please come ready with iNaturalist on your device, your curiosity and sturdy footwear.

When: 9am, Saturday, October 22.

Where: Solomon Gully Nature Conservation Reserve, Burnside St, Quarry Hill.

Cost: FREE

What to bring: Dress for the weather. Wear sturdy footwear, hat and bring along a reusable water bottle

RSVP: Please register via Eventbrite [here](#)

Contact: citizenscienceteam@nccma.vic.gov.au



Best Practice Rabbit Management



Do you need to refresh your rabbit management skills?

Want to work with others that are undertaking integrated rabbit management?

Upper Loddon and Avoca Landcare Network and Ullina Landcare Group invite you along to an upcoming field day

Participants on the day can expect to

- View and discuss the various methods of rabbit control.
- See a warren system from the inside and learn the importance of an integrated approach
- Learn the importance of an integrated approach
- Meet with others to share ideas.

When: Saturday October 22, 10am to noon

Where: Corner of Lone Hand Rd and Kingston (Three Chain) Rd Allendale, VIC

What to bring: Please remember to bring clothing, footwear, sun protection, water, etc. suitable for the day as it is an exposed site. *There will be no toilet facilities available.*

Register via: [Best Practice Rabbit Management Field Event Tickets](#), Sat 22/10/2022 at 10:00 am | Eventbrite

Flora Walk - What's on your roadside?

Ever wondered how to tell the difference between indigenous plants and introduced weeds along roadsides.

Want to learn more about the significant vegetation we are lucky to have in the Macedon Ranges?

Join Macedon Ranges Shire Council's roadside conservation officer for a walk in some of councils most biodiverse roads.

When: Saturday, October 15, 10am

Where: Hennerbergs Road, Newham 3442

RSVP: [Register now](#) or call (03) 5422 0333
(e) environment@mrsc.vic.gov.au

Koala Count at Hanging Rock



Macedon Ranges Shire Council's Conservation Reserves Officer, Simon Purves will lead a Koala Count at Hanging Rock.

Come along as a citizen scientist to walk the Hanging Rock grasslands or summit on the lookout for Koalas.

Please note, while the event is free, entry fees will apply to Hanging Rock. More information can be found on [Visit Macedon Ranges](#).

When: Monday November 7, 10am to noon

Where: Hanging Rock, 139 South Rock Road, Woodend

Cost: Park Entry Fee- see details when you register

Register online: [Koala Count at Hanging Rock Tickets](#), Mon 07/11/2022 at 10:00 am | Eventbrite

Regional Roundtable - Donald

The North Central CMA will be hosting the next Regional Roundtable event in Donald on November 2.

The new [North Central Regional Catchment Strategy](#) is launched and we are hitting the road to talk with local communities about putting it into action.

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: Wednesday 2 November, 5.45pm to 8pm.

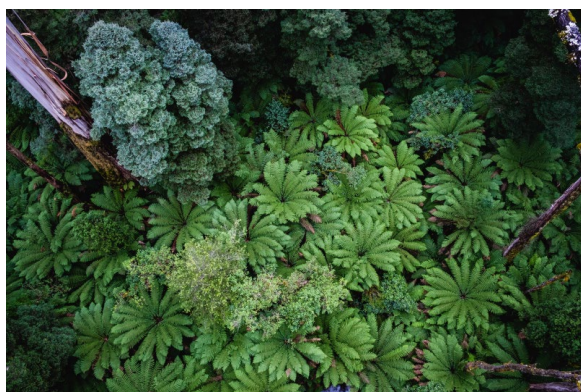
Where: Donald Soldiers Memorial Hall (Supper Room), 33 McCulloch St, Donald.

Supper will be provided, so **please RSVP by Friday October 28** and advise of any dietary requirements via info@nccma.vic.gov.au or (03) 5448 7124.

Funding opportunities...

Nature Fund

Leveraging private and philanthropic investment to protect our natural environment



The Victorian Government has established the Nature Fund to support high-impact projects that deliver on the goals of **Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037** (Biodiversity 2037), the government's plan to stop the decline of native plants and animals and improve the state's natural environment.

The Nature Fund encourages collaboration and partnerships between government, business, philanthropy, and the community to deliver high-impact projects that contribute to improving Victoria's biodiversity.

Guidelines and Common Questions: Please read the Nature Fund's [guidelines](#) and the [commons questions](#) before submitting an EOI.

More information:

<https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/nature-fund>

Contact: If you have questions about the Nature Fund, email the Nature Fund program team naturefund@delwp.vic.gov.au

Australian Heritage Grants 2022-23 Grant Opportunity

The Australian Heritage Grants Program aims to improve recognition, conservation, preservation, and access to the National Heritage Values of National Heritage Listed places. The program also aims to increase community engagement and raise awareness of listed places.

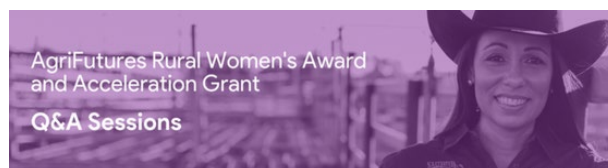
Australian Heritage Grants funds projects that support places on Australia's National Heritage List through:

- improved recognition
- access conservation
- preservation, and
- community engagement

Estimated Grant Value (AUD): From \$25,000.00 to \$400,000.00

Close Date & Time: November 7, 2022, at 5pm

To apply, go to: <https://business.gov.au/AHG>



Are you looking to create impact, innovate and make a difference to rural industries and communities? You could be Victoria's next Rural Women's Award winner.

The AgriFutures Rural Women's Award and Rural Women's Acceleration Grant provide opportunities to grow the impact of an idea or project, develop as a leader, and connect with other rural women across Australia. Applications for both opportunities are now open.

AgriFutures invites you to upcoming online information sessions to learn more about these programs. Sessions are intended to highlight differences between the two programs and the respective eligibility criteria, as well as answer any questions you may have about the application and selection process.

- Monday 3 October, noon to 1pm
- Wednesday 5 October, noon to 1pm.

[Find out more](#) or [register to attend an information session via the AgriFutures website.](#)

[Applications close on Wednesday 19 October 2022.](#)