

North Central Chat

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



September 2020

A message from the Regional Landcare Coordinator

Hi everyone,

It's hard to go past talking about the weather we've been having recently. Victoria's classic four seasons in one day (well maybe a week) has certainly been seen across our region. Shops and streets covered in snowfall to the south, sunshine and spring air across the plains, followed by days of consecutive rainfall. Choosing an outdoor outfit isn't easy at the moment!

I have had some fleeting opportunities to head into the field and enjoy seeing wet roadsides, luscious crops and full wetlands. In mid-August, I travelled west to the Wimmera-Mallee wetlands, which are part of the environmental watering network in our CMA region. These little wetlands are paradise for birds, frogs and macroinvertebrates and the chorus coming off Corak Swamp (pictured) was deafening. Such a wonderful treat.

It's also not every day you get to enjoy renowned speakers Chris Tzaros (Bird Ecologist) and Geoff Park (Bird Photographer, Blogger and Twitcher) from the comfort of your lounge room but that's exactly what Connecting Country offered at their 'Tricky Birds' webinar on the 24th of August. The zoom session attracted over 500 people from all across Australia and across the world, who were treated to the tips and tricks Chris uses to decipher thornbill species common to Central Victoria. The Geoff gave a very practical raptor presentation, including stunning photos to help highlight the common identifying challenges faced by birdwatchers trying to identify these fast paced, high flying species.

August was a particularly busy month of meetings, as the CMA progresses work on the Regional Catchment Strategy, annual reporting and funding submissions to government. The Victorian Landcare Team are feverishly working on the Landcare Facilitator Program renewal. The State Landcare Team met to discuss in detail the next steps of the program. Our region's Landcare Facilitators continue to meet monthly with Darren and I,



Corak Swamp near Wycheproof was bursting with frog song during a visit after heavy rainfall August 2020

so we're keeping as up to date as possible as a collective group, which is essential to the work we all do in Landcare.

I was thrilled to host a 'Mentoring for Landcare Support Staff' session with participation from the Goulburn Broken, Corangamite and North Central CMA region. Sixteen coordinators and facilitators joined in the hour long webinar with Tamara Boyd, who walked through the varying types, experiences and value of mentoring. Feedback suggested it was a very timely and refreshing session for those involved and I too, was reminded of how much value I get out of my Landcare mentors.

September welcomes spring and many 'special days' (see Page 3), so I hope you are taking some time in the garden, bushland and around farm to see what's bursting to life this month.

Enjoy the read,

Tess Grieves

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North Central CMA

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Connecting rivers, landscapes, people

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

www.nccma.vic.gov.au



News...

Cactus Therapy is highly recommended

Article by Lee Mead, Tarrangower Cactus Control Group

Expert researchers have documented that spending time in natural surroundings is fundamental to the well-being of the human species. We 'Cactus Warriors' can substantiate this, and confirm that wandering around in our stunning, local landscapes, attacking all the Wheel Cactus plants we find along the way, is indeed extremely 'therapeutic'!

Anyone interested in trying some 'cactus therapy' combined with 'iso-exercise' is welcome to borrow equipment from us (Tarrangower Cactus Control Group). We have lots of hoes and buckets and injectors with herbicide and can arrange contact-free delivery. Just contact us by email at info@cactuswarriors.org or text 0417 038 928 if you are interested.

If you already have injector guns that are clogged up and no longer working, please return them to us for repair; we're happy to swap them for a working model. Our 'injector fairy' Jan is still at work; physically isolated from all other fairies of course!



We're still hoping to be able to hold a couple of community field days before the end of the year. If anyone is interested to join us and experience the fulfillment of 'cactus therapy', see our website for updates: <https://cactuswarriors.org/cactus-therapy-is-highly-recommended/>

Return on investment analysis demonstrates the value of facilitators

A study commissioned by Landcare Victoria to estimate the Return on Investment (ROI) from funding the Local Landcare facilitators used a Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) framework, also known as welfare economics, to estimate the economic, environmental and social benefits achieved by the facilitators.

An economic analysis of the value of the Victorian Government's Landcare Facilitators Program demonstrates that the \$4M program generates \$31M in value – a benefit cost ratio of more than 7:1.

The report was prepared by the global consulting firm RPS Group. It also demonstrates that the wider social cohesion created by Landcare facilitator activities is valued at \$87M.

These results show that facilitators play a crucial 'leveraging' role for Landcare in Victoria. While the projects deliver net benefits in and of themselves, the facilitators amplify the scope and scale of Landcare activities across the State. The report provides a powerful argument for continued support of the Landcare Facilitators Program. It is available on the Landcare Gateway [here](#).

On that note...

I would like to take this time to say a very warm and heartfelt thankyou to both Kelly Way and Susi Johnson of Landcare Victoria Inc. I'm sure many of you reading will share the sentiment that no insurance clause, grant guideline, meeting protocol or general Landcare support question went unanswered between these two incredibly helpful and patient ladies.

Wishing you both all the best in your new roles, and we thank you for what you've given Landcare in Victoria.

Group Health Survey 2020

Thank you to the 41 Groups and Networks who completed the recent group health survey. This data will be used to create the 2019-20 North Central Landcare Report Card and contributes to the Victorian Landcare Program statewide dataset.

As always, we're a competitive little bunch of RLC's, and our region proudly came in 3rd for number of surveys completed!

Your efforts are much appreciated.



Hi Waterwatch Friends,

I hope you are all well and 'COVID-coping'. Once again, we ask our volunteers to hold off undertaking Waterwatch monitoring as we find ourselves back at stage 3 restrictions. There are currently only four reasons to leave home:

- to shop for food and necessary goods or services
- to provide care, for compassionate reasons or to seek medical treatment
- to exercise or for outdoor recreation
- for work or education, if you can't do it from home

You must wear a face covering when you leave home. We all need to play our part to help slow the spread of coronavirus. By staying at home and limiting contact with other people, we can help protect ourselves, our families and our communities from COVID-19.

Keep up to date at <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus>

As we have been unable to have any of our usual get-togethers, we are currently planning a webinar for interested Waterwatch volunteers early in October.

Guest presenter Genevieve Smith, Environmental Water Project Manager at the North Central CMA, will help us to better understand all things e-water and give us an introduction to this year's seasonal watering plan.

For a great introduction to this topic, have a look at this short video developed by the Victorian Environmental Water Holder: [Water for the Environment: It's all About the Timing](#) and this [one page snapshot of the environmental objectives for 2020-21](#) across Northern Victoria.

Waterwatch volunteers, keep an eye on your email inbox for an invite coming out soon. It will be a fascinating webinar I'm sure many of you will be interested in.

Take care and bye for now.

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 North Central CMA
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Reedy Lagoon. Photo: David Kleinert

Upcoming events and special days

September	
National Biodiversity Month	Sep
National Wattle Day	1 Sep
National Walk to Work Day	4 Sep
National Threatened Species Day	7 Sep
National Bilby Day	13 Sep
Sustainable House Day	20 Sep
World Car-Free Day	22 Sep
October	
Australian Wildlife Week	5-11 Oct
World Habitat Day	7 Oct
National Ride 2 Work Day	21 Oct
Aussie Backyard Bird Count	19-25 Oct
National Water Week	19-25 Oct
All Energy 2020 conference	21-22 Oct
November	
Pollinator Week	8-15 Nov
National Recycling Week	9-15 Nov
World Fisheries Day	21 Nov

Water Storages update

Region	Water Storage	% full at 30 Jul	% full at 26 Aug
Murray Storages	Dartmouth Dam	53.30	↑54.67
	Hume Dam	↓48.46	↑59.19
	Torrumbarry Weir	94.95	↑100.02
	Third Lake	94.48	↑95.29
	Reedy/Middle Lake	94.68	↑95.10
	Kangaroo Lake	91.98	↑96.54
	Kow Swamp	80.69	↑93.01
	Lake Boga	79.80	↓79.79
	Lake Charm	91.22	↑96.36
Loddon Storages	Cairn Curran Res	40.13	↑44.93
	Tullaroop Res	58.87	↑60.55
	Laanecoorie Res	36.63	↑39.50
Bullarook Storages	Newlyn Res	64.91	↑94.31
	Hepburns Lagoon	66.98	↑80.31
Goulburn Storages	Lake Eildon	51.37	↑55.11
	Waranga Basin	91.67	↑95.93
Campaspe	Lake Eppalock	39.48	↑43.27
Coliban Water Storages	Upper Coliban Res	87.70	↑98.40
	Lauriston Res	86.6	↑91.3
	Malmsbury Res	25.4	↑37.4

Sources:

www.g-mwater.com.au/water-resources/catchments/storage-levels
www.coliban.com.au/about-us/reservoir-levels



A River Detectives School Story

The River Detectives program is coordinated by the North Central CMA but delivered in five regions across the state. Today we will hear from a school in the Corangamite CMA region.

Jeff Douma is the principal of Carlisle River Primary School, a small school of just nine students nestled in the Otway Ranges. The school has been involved with the River Detectives program for many years.

“The late Mrs Laura Bocker (early years teacher) first got our school involved with the River Detectives program. She had a passion for nature and we soon found it was the perfect program to involve our students in learning about the local environment.”

Students and staff have adopted a site on the Carlisle River, a small tributary of the Gellibrand River in the Otways area.

At Carlisle River PS the whole school is involved in the program.

“We do water sampling at least once a month at Carlisle River. We all walk the 1km to the river (subject to weather) and undertake the testing at the bridge over the Carlisle River. All the students from Prep to Grade 6 are involved. Older students work with younger buddies to undertake the five tests. On our return to school, students add the results on the Waterwatch chart displayed in the school breezeway for parents and visitors to see.”

Jeff comments that it has been great to be involved in the program over many years to collect lots of data and for students to become very familiar with the program and the river's health through their involvement from Prep.

“Students enjoy being out and about and making a connection with the land and water. They love walking to the river and having time to admire the river. The testing is always interesting. The students estimate the quality of the water due to various factors such as rain, presence of weeds, etc.”

Changes have been observed over time.

“Some time ago a program of fencing was undertaken to fence off local farmland from the waterway.

Revegetation was added and it was all looking terrific, but it hasn't been maintained and now weeds such as blackberry have taken over the site making access to our testing site very difficult."

Talking about these local issues gives students a real-life experience of how land and water management decisions impact plants, animals, land, water, people, industry and communities. Jeff reports that his students really love being involved in the River Detectives program.

"The program helps students really appreciate the importance of looking after our waterways. Our area is a dairy farming area. Learning about the Carlisle River makes students more aware of how water quality could impact on local industry."

Jeff speaks passionately about one of the highlights of the school's River Detectives journey;

"In 2019 we set ourselves a goal to see as many waterways in our local area as possible. We researched to find the very start of the Carlisle River. We enjoyed an excursion where we travelled to the source which was actually a spring and then followed the waterway 20-30km to the mouth. This was a fantastic experience for the students to see the waterway on a landscape scale, see how it is an integral part of our area and understand the impact that upstream activities could have further downstream and on the ocean."

"We visited waterfalls, rivers, creeks, the confluence of the Carlisle and Gellibrand rivers and also the estuary of the Gellibrand River at Princetown. The older students visited Camperdown Treatment Plant and learnt a lot about how river water is turned into our tap water."

This year's COVID restrictions have meant challenging times for schools, the remote learning matrices developed and distributed by the River Detectives team were very useful.

"Students were given the opportunity to choose a selection of activities from the matrix that appealed to them. Students were asked to work on their chosen activities one afternoon each week for one hour. One student did a wonderful job of the rainbow task from the Nature Study matrix, thoroughly enjoying searching for natural objects from every colour of the rainbow. He had trouble with blue but found some hay band on his farm. The final product looks amazing."

The River Detectives program is supported by the Victorian Government's \$222 million Water for Victoria investment to improve catchment and waterway health across the state.

Sustainable Ag Snippet...

Cover Crop Decision Making Process

Article written by Kim Deans, Regenerative Agriculture Coach at Integrity Soils.

Multi-species cover cropping is gaining popularity as more farmers embrace a regenerative path. The feelings you get standing in a field bursting with a diversity of plant and insect life, can powerfully elicit an immediate reaction to source your own multi-species seeds. It is common to see the decisions about where to buy seeds is the extent of the planning that gets done.

It can be very easy to fall into the mindset that cover cropping will be THE answer to all your problems. Those who quickly jump onboard the trend, may be left wondering what went wrong when the exercise becomes expensive in terms of finances, or they fail to see the promised crop or soil health outcomes.

Cover crops can be a powerful tool to regenerate soils, reboot water cycles and introduce diversity, however they are not always the answer for every situation. It is more than likely that your perfect cover crop does not exist with every season. It is wise to consider a crops benefits, the potential problems and whether cover cropping fits with your goals. Good intentions and planting multi-species cover crops does not necessarily guarantee a beneficial or regenerative outcome. In less than ideal circumstances, and with poor management, the practice can lead to degrading soil health rather than the sought-after improvements.



Working through a decision-making process that indicates if cover cropping is the best tool for your unique individual situation will determine your success rate.

1. Clarify your goals for cover cropping and the benefits you are seeking for your soil and landscape. Unless you address your most limiting constraints the benefits from cover crops will be less than optimal.

2. Consider your budget. Do your sums and work out a strategy that does not increase your financial risk. Cover crops can take a number of years to gradually improve soil health and pay for themselves through a return on the investment. Farmers who are most satisfied with the returns on investment take a holistic approach and make a number of changes versus just adding a cover crop. They account for the costs and benefits over a number of years and allow at least 3 to 5 years of average seasons for the investment to pay off through productivity gains and reduced costs. Returns may come quickly in certain situations however they usually build gradually as the soil improves and the farmer gains experience with how cover cropping works in their situation.

3. Assess the risks thoroughly in relation to your climate and soil type. In low rainfall areas with high evaporation rates it can be more profitable and effective to step back and allow nature to do the work. Stepping back to allow native grasses to re-establish can provide the benefits of cover crops with none of the costs and a lot less work. Consider how you can send the signal for what you want to grow through your grazing management and using biological stimulants. It may be useful to manage climate risk by using your rolling average rainfall figures to guide decision making. You can set a benchmark and trigger points for when there is a greater likelihood for cover crops to return financially and ecologically in a similar way to making grazing decisions using your knowledge of your landscape and climate. Avoiding bare ground is key, does spraying out an existing pasture take you in the opposite direction for your goals?

4. Timing: Consider how well cover cropping fits within existing farm programs and seasonal patterns such as pasture growth and rainfall. Are you able to take advantage of optimum timings in relation to cover cropping?

5. Decide how to utilise the cover crop. Plan ahead for how you will use the biomass produced by cover crops in your system to bring about the benefits you seek. Will it be grazed, harvested for seed or fodder, roller crimped to provide a mulch for the next crop or green manured and worked back into the soil? Plan for optimal grazing and to avoid grazing when the soil is too wet or at risk of

damage. This planning will enable you to capitalise on the benefits a multi-species crop provides.

6. Species selection: Consider which crops are most suitable for your soil types, climate zone and bring the benefits you are looking for in your cover cropping program. Are there suitable species that are resistant to pests and diseases or that can keep ground covered and outcompete problem weeds? There are excellent resources, such as <https://smartmix.greencoverseed.com/> or speak to your local seed supplier about the benefits or services different species provide.

7. Record and be adaptive. There can be a human tendency to throw the baby out with the bathwater when things don't work. Complex systems mean no two seasons will be the same, and what works well, or struggles this year, does not guarantee the same result in the future. Observe and record climactic conditions, seeding timing, grazing timing etc, to diagnose and improve decision making for the next season.

After you experience the joy of being among the diversity and buzz of life that often accompanies a multi-species crop, remember to consider the first five steps in this process before you head straight to the species selection decisions. Consider the growing conditions, soil mineral and biological states of those showcasing the success of cover crops. They may have totally different factors at play which enhance their success. Time spent clarifying goals, your budget, assessing risks, considering timing and how to utilise the cover crop biomass will ensure you are on the right track BEFORE you spend money on seed. Resist the urge to start perusing the seed catalogue until you are clear on how this tool best fits your situation.

Remember there are no silver bullets in regenerating landscapes; each tool, management decision, observation and action work together to create results.

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<https://www.integritysoils.co.nz/cover-crop-decision-making-process/>

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Courses & Resources...

New resource for landholders in Mount Alexander region

Connecting Country has worked hard to secure funding and is pleased to confirm they have a new 'Healthy Landscapes' project through the Commonwealth Government's Smart Farms program.

This project will help local farmers and other landholders manage their land sustainably for the benefit of wildlife, themselves and the broader landscape. Connecting Country will develop a 'Healthy Landscapes' guidebook, targeted specifically to the Mount Alexander region of central Victoria, and deliver a series of educational workshops for landholders on sustainable land management.

The project began in August 2020, and the guide is expected to cover topics such as;

- **Reading your landscape:** Assessing a property to identify natural assets (e.g., remnant vegetation and large old trees), threats (e.g., weeds, overgrazing, erosion), the need for shade and shelter for stock.
- **Property planning:** Whole-property planning tailored to landholder needs and aspirations, to protect and enhance natural assets, increase farm productivity, reduce threats and build farm resilience.
- **Managing soil and water:** Identifying soil types, managing soil erosion, building soil carbon, managing farm dams as habitat, fencing waterways and off-stream watering to improve water quality.
- **Promoting biodiversity:** Fencing remnant vegetation, grazing exclusion, revegetation techniques, selecting revegetation areas and plants to achieve landscape connectivity, enhancing remnant vegetation, protecting soil and sheltering stock.
- **Managing threats:** Weed and pest animal identification, control methods, integrated pest management, staying ahead of new and emerging weeds using the latest online tools.

Three workshops will be held to demonstrate examples of best practice sustainable farm management.

Connecting Country aims to address the common questions they regularly receive from landholders and make the guidebook and workshops as useful as

possible. Please let them know if there are any specific topics you'd like to see covered via email:

info@connectingcountry.org.au

Scholarships of up to \$5,000 for current and aspiring female leaders.

Women and Leadership Australia Scholarships of \$1,000 to \$5,000 are currently available to women to help support their participation in a range of online career building leadership development programs.

The initiative is providing junior through to executive women managers with scholarships to support their growth and development via participation in one of three flagship courses. Participants will benefit from course content such as Emotional Intelligence and Conflict, Career and Professional Growth, Team Dynamics, Leading Innovation and Change, and Empowering Teams.

Find out more and register your interest by completing the Expression of Interest [form here](#) prior to Friday, September 11.

Landcare in Focus – invitation to submit content by October 1

Landcare Australia Ltd. welcome content submissions for the next edition of the Landcare in Focus magazine that will be published on Thursday 19, November.

LAL recently conducted a readership survey; the following are the topics that readers find the most useful and would like to read more of:

- Before and after photos – positive stories about the project, people, community
- Biodiversity/habitat restoration and revegetation
- Sustainable agriculture and farmers making use of natural assets for productive purposes
- Indigenous land management
- Disaster recovery and resilience
- Community workshops including mental health
- Junior Landcare projects for students and facilitators
- Climate change adaptation and impacts on farmers, community projects and vegetation
- Projects relating to our coast, rivers, wetlands and other waterways
- Weed control
- Soil health and management information
- Education programs for landholder and local community
- Landcare community projects including challenges, success, useful tips for other groups.

If you have a project or group who have a great story, content contributions of up to 300 words with a high res photo are welcome. Submit your content to LAL by October 1 to digital@landcareaustralia.com.au

Landcare Gate Signs

Do you have new members, or really old looking signs around your Landcare area?



Why not freshen things up and show off the Landcare pride with a batch of Landholder gate signs? The maker is still creating them at a cost of \$23.10 each plus a small cost for freight. Link to the order form here : <https://www.landcarevic.org.au/resources/landcare-farm-gate-signs/>



2020 Chicks in the Sticks



This year won't dampen the #chicksinthesticks spirit! North Central CMA Landcare are thrilled to be hosting the event online from 10:30 am on October 17.

Your morning will begin with a Welcome to Country ceremony, followed by two keynote presentations. This event will inspire you, excite you and take your mind off all things 2020. We are thrilled to be joined by;

Anna Carlile (creative director @ Viola Design, author of Grounded and Nature 365, hiker, mother of two and nature lover) and

Katrina Myers (Owner of Barham Avocados, mother of 4, wife, farmer, blogger, podcaster, businesswoman and passionate rural change maker)

Register early for your chance to win some gorgeous giveaways and be part of the 8th annual Chicks in the Sticks event, celebrating the achievements of rural women in agriculture and the environment.

Bookings via <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/2020-chicks-in-the-sticks-tickets-118116440453>

Events...

Free Biodiversity Seminars

The Victorian Environmental Friends Network (VEFN) is working through the current pandemic and is very pleased to present a series of seminars in partnership with First Friends of Dandenong Creek.

Seminar 2: The value of community groups and citizen scientists contributing records to the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas.

David De Angelis will introduce the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas (VBA) and explain its importance for informing habitat protection and planning decisions, its broader uses and accessibility, and how it interacts with other online databases such as the Atlas of Living Australia and iNaturalist.

When: Tuesday 1 September 7:30pm

Booking:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/117480853395>

Seminar 3: Rethinking habitat management for some of Victoria's threatened reptiles and frogs: sunny swamps and lizard lawns.

David De Angelis will explain why habitat structure and the history of land disturbance are often more important for the survival of threatened reptiles and frogs than whether the plants they live among are native or introduced. He will also discuss some of the difficulties managing populations that are increasingly being recognised as living in habitats that might otherwise be perceived as being too highly disturbed, polluted or weedy.

When: Tuesday 8 September 7:30pm

Booking:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/117481908551>

Seminar 4: Stormwater: Australia's great environmental dilemma.

Dr Dave Sharley will focus on the impact of stormwater pollution on the health of our urban waterways. It will discuss industry solutions and provide guidance on simple things we can all do to reduce stormwater pollution.

When: Tuesday 15 September 7:00pm

Booking:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/117482119181>



Landcare Youth Summit

Take action in your local community with Landcare

The Landcare Youth Summit pilot event scheduled for March in Canberra was postponed due to COVID-19. The event will now be an online conference and held on Tuesday 1st December, at Parliament House in Canberra. As with the event in March, this event is a pilot program with a small number of high schools participating. However now that the conference is an online event, we can involve more schools from across the country in this online event.

If you are working with a high school or Landcare youth group who may be interested in getting involved, please contact [Melissa Higgins](#) (Landcare Australia Marketing & Communications Director) directly by September 11. More information about this event can be read here <https://landcareaustralia.org.au/youthsummit/>

Virtual Demonstration Field Day

The Victorian Gorse Taskforce has launched their first virtual field day.

The presentation was created due to the necessary cancellations of the normal practical demonstration field days the VGT host in 4 locations across Victoria each year.

Extension Officer Brydie Murrhly said that "This way the information we give out on those days can be accessed by anyone, anywhere and the presentation is full of tips for effective gorse management. Please share this 20 minute clip with your network and view it on our website here: <https://www.vicgorsetaskforce.com.au/resources/>"

Funding opportunities...

Smart Farms Small Grants Round 4 now open

Farmers, fishers and foresters can now apply for Australian Government funding of up to \$100,000 to support their natural resource management efforts.

Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management David Littleproud said applications for Round 4 of Smart Farms Small Grants were now open.

“This is a hugely popular program that provides a real bang for buck when it comes to delivering benefits for farms, the environment and local communities,” Minister Littleproud said.

“Aussie farmers not only produce the best food and fibre in the world, but they are also our greatest environmentalists.

“Our farmers have always looked after the land and through these grants we can give them a helping hand to adopt the next generation of sustainable farming practices.

“There is \$6.5 million available under this round of Smart Farms Small Grants to support one- to two-year projects that boost best practice sustainable farming awareness, skills and capacity.

“We’re looking for projects across a range of areas such as pest control, vegetation management, farm input efficiency, climate and market management, and the use of new technologies.”

Up to \$6.5 million is available for Round 4, with funding of between \$5,000 and \$100,000 (GST exclusive) for each grant.

Projects may be delivered locally, regionally and multi-regionally and must be completed by 30 June 2023.

Applications open 24 August 2020 and close 11pm AEDT on 9 October 2020.

For more information and to apply, visit the Community Grants Hub <https://www.communitygrants.gov.au/grants>



2020 supplementary volunteer grants

Volunteering Victoria, on behalf of the Australian Government, is pleased to offer 2020 Supplementary Volunteer Grants to volunteer involving organisations across Victoria to support the efforts of volunteers in building stronger, more resilient communities.

Grants of between \$1,000 to \$5,000 can be used by volunteer involving organisations and community groups to support the efforts of their volunteers and encourage and increase participation in volunteering.

The grants provide small amounts that organisations and community groups can use for the following items/activities:

- Small equipment items
- Transport costs of volunteers with a disability
- Fuel costs incurred by volunteers
- Training for volunteers
- Background screening checks of volunteers
- Documentation requirements
- Post COVID-19 re-engagement activities for volunteers
- Adapting practices to support volunteers safety in relation to COVID-19

Volunteering Victoria especially encourage small volunteer involving organisations across Victoria to apply!

Applications close 20 September 11:59pm

Dyson Group Community Support Program

Dyson Group are supporting a small grants program for community-based organisations. The program will have two funding rounds with grants limited to a maximum of \$1000 (inclusive of GST) per application.

The application form is very simple, online and easy to follow. Applications close October 9, 2020. To apply visit: <http://dysongroup.com.au/about/community-grants>

Caring for Country in a changing climate micro- funding program EOI now open

Caring for Country in changing climate is an ADAPT Loddon Mallee micro-funding program supported by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP).

This program aims to support Aboriginal communities and groups in the region to undertake activities that involve:

1. Planning or acting on climate change impacts in areas that are a key priority for your community and Country (for example: climate impacts on natural resource management, cultural sites and practices; physical and mental health and wellbeing; vulnerability to extreme weather events such as bushfire, heatwaves, floods etc)
2. Gathering or applying traditional knowledge and ways of working on country to collectively address climate change impacts on people and country.

\$70,000 funding is available

- Local activities with a single Aboriginal group or organisation – between \$1000 and \$10,000 to be awarded
- Regional activities with multiple Aboriginal organisations or groups – between \$11,000 and \$30,000 will be awarded

This is not a competitive grants process – funding will be awarded after consultation with the ADAPT Loddon Mallee team to projects that meet program objectives.

Who can apply?

Eligible activities must either be led by or implemented in partnership with at least one Aboriginal owned organisation or corporation in the Loddon Mallee region:



How do I apply?

Simply call or email us on:

- Geoff Caine 0437358031 | geoffrey.caine@delwp.vic.gov.au
- Dona Cayetana 0436629698 | dona.cayetana@delwp.vic.gov.au

Or register your expression of interest online and we will call you back:

<https://www.adaptloddonmallee.com.au/projects/caring-for-country-in-a-changing-climate/>