

North Central Chat

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



NOVEMBER 2023

A message from the Regional Landcare Coordinator

Hi everyone,

Last week I attended EVM Grow at the Loddon Mallee Hub in Bendigo. This year was the third year of EVM Grow, a forum for Environmental Volunteer Managers (EVM) to get together to network and learn. The main event was held in Melbourne, but we were fortunate to have three hubs in the Loddon Mallee – Bendigo, Wedderburn and Mildura. There were around 30 people to attend those regional hubs, with more than 50 attending in person in Melbourne and another 25 online. We heard from leaders in the field on skills for volunteer leaders and inclusive volunteering; then from our very own Tania MacLeod on the recent Youth Take Over of Citizen Science at the North Central CMA.

A highlight was Dilnaz Billimoria, who spoke about volunteering with multicultural communities. She discussed how the term volunteering doesn't always resonate with the multicultural community. Instead, she describes volunteers as community connectors. I thought 'connectors' was a great way to describe our Landcare community because it is all about connecting with the environment.

As always there's a lot happening and heaps of great ways to get involved in citizen science activities or other activities to support our environment. The Aussie Bird Count has just finished and this month there are two more great citizen science programs to get involved in. The Great Southern BioBlitz (24-27 November, see more on page 8) and FrogID week (3-12 November).



Take part in Australia's biggest frog count! Our frogs are under threat from habitat loss, disease, and climate change. Record frog calls with the FrogID App then Australian Museum scientists will listen and identify the calls. This helps provide valuable data for



A Peron's tree frog – we often get them on our back veranda when it's wet

the protection and conservation of frogs. [Download the free app and register now.](#) Remember, every call counts!

As we finalise this edition of the Chat we are putting the final touches on Chicks in the Sticks. It's another sold out event with more than 80 women getting together to celebrate rural women in agriculture and the environment. I'm looking forward to providing some great pics in the next Chat.

Happy reading,

Belinda Pritchard

Regional Landcare Coordinator
North Central CMA

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Subscribe to the North Central Chat using this QR code



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...



Photo: Di's son James and husband Dan with the new tree and plaque. Credit: Maryborough Advertiser

A tribute to Di Mullins

From the Maryborough Advertiser

In early October, the late Di Mullins was honoured with the planting of a new tree and the installation of a plaque in Maryborough's Phillips Gardens. Di sadly passed away late last year and the plaque and lemon-scented gum were donated by the North Central CMA to recognise her decades of contribution to Landcare.

Di Mullins was named as Central Goldfields Shire Citizen of the year in 2018 in recognition of her contribution to the community. A school teacher for more than 30 years, Di was also heavily involved in many community groups. These included Timor West Landcare Group, Maryborough Ambulance Auxiliary, Maryborough Fire Brigade, the Red Cross, Girl Guides, Maryborough Anglican Church and the Maryborough and District Garden Club.

North Central CMA project manager Phil Dyson worked with Di on several projects with Timor West Landcare. "I came to think of Di as one of the elders of the tribe, she was one of the people you could come to in the community to get things done and to make things happen," he said. Di was passionate about Landcare and loved involving children in Landcare activities.

Read this article in full on the [Maryborough Advertiser's website](#).

A variety of colour and hue - the banksia project

From North Harcourt / Sedgwick Landcare

Once upon a time in Victoria our landscapes were quite different. Early explorers talk of the variety of vegetation in the landscape which is now dominated by eucalypts.

William Howlett in his book 'Land, Labour, and Gold' printed in 1858 described the Victorian countryside in his travels from Melbourne to the goldfields. Nearing the Mount Macedon area he was struck by the variety of vegetation.

"As we advanced ... nearly all the trees were shiacks (she-oaks)- not the eternal gum-trees and these interspersed with Banksias, now in fresh foliage, and new pale yellow cones or rather bottle brushes with a sprinkling of gums and wattles gave... a variety of foliage and hue." (Howitt 1858, P. 206)

The North Harcourt and Sedgwick Landcare group's 'Silver Banksia Project' aims to re-establish the very rare silver banksia (*Banksia Marginata*) in the region.

In the 1800s silver banksias (also called honeysuckles by early settlers) were plentiful in the region with old maps showing large swathes of banksias around Mount Alexander, called Leanganook (his teeth) by the Dja Dja Wurrung people. They were considered untidy and of little value by the early colonial settlers and landowners cleared and burned them leaving only gums and light woods. Along with the decrease in biodiversity of smaller trees such as banksias and she-oaks, many nectar feeding birds also disappeared. The small number of banksias remaining were denuded through interbreeding and seedlings were eaten by sheep of the new colonies.



Photo: NHSE Silver Banksia Project Coordinator Lea Harris, with Connecting Country's Bonnie Humphreys and Hadley Cole

In 2021 the North Harcourt and Sedgwick Landcare group was successful in gaining a Community Volunteer Action Grant from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, to revegetate pockets of *Banksia Marginata*, aiming at 1500 in the region over the next five years.

In 2022 there were 396 silver banksias planted by 17 local landowners and in the winter of 2023, a further 300 were planted by 23 land owners. Plants, guards, stakes, fertiliser and provenance identifying rings were supplied at no cost to participants.

Engaging the community in this project to help restore the lands and increase biodiversity is an important outcome as it creates a sense of community and individual effort for the greater good of our planet.



Nominations for the 2023/2024 State and Territory Landcare Awards are now open!

Landcare Australia

Now in its 32nd year, the State and Territory Landcare Awards stand as a prestigious biennial national Landcare Awards program. The objective is to honour individuals, groups and organisations that are making outstanding contributions to caring for the environment in their local communities for the benefit of all Australians today, and for generations to come.

In each state and territory, the Landcare Awards are granted to recognise the achievements that encompass climate action, environmental leadership, sustainable agriculture, First Nations, Women in Landcare, youth, Coastcare and children.

Nominating is free and easy. You can nominate yourself, someone you know or a group who should be recognised for their work to restore, enhance and protect the natural environment in their community.

The winners of the nine national Landcare Award categories will advance as finalists to the 2024 National Landcare Awards.

2023/2024 Landcare Awards Categories:

- Australian Government Climate Innovation Award

- Australian Government Sustainable Agriculture Landcare Award
- Australian Government Individual Landcarer Award
- Australian Government Community Partnerships Landcare Award
- Coastcare Award
- First Nations Landcare Collaboration Award
- Women in Landcare Award
- Woolworths Junior Landcare Award
- NextGen Landcare Award

Nomination opening and closing dates

Nominations for the Landcare Awards open on Wednesday 18 October, 2023 and close at 11.59pm AEDT on Friday 1 March, 2024. For more information and to start a nomination go to [Landcare Australia's website](#).

Wetland wonderland photography exhibition

North Central CMA

Make sure you seize the chance to explore the captivating photography exhibition at Cohuna Art Gallery, where you can experience the North Central CMA's unique perspective through the lens of a camera.

Marvel at the breathtaking imagery on display, highlighting the wetlands, flora, and fauna found in the northern part of the catchment area.

Plan your visit to Cohuna Art Gallery between October and November on Fridays and Saturdays.



Photo: the exhibition at the Cohuna Art Gallery, North Central CMA

Can farm dams help support frog conservation?

The Australian Museum

This article is an extract from an article on the Australian Museum's website.

With the help of tens of thousands of citizen scientists across Australia, scientists from Deakin University and the Melbourne Museum explored the value of farm dams to frogs and determined what features of dams support more frog species.

To better understand the biodiversity value of artificial waterbodies, the team examined frog records in dams across Australia to work out which landscape or local features contribute to high numbers of frog species. Farm dams are among the most abundant waterbodies in agricultural landscapes, important for maintaining water security for livestock and crops but also holding promise as a refuge for biodiversity.

Gathering data from across Australia to answer this question has only just become possible thanks to the efforts of tens of thousands of citizen scientists and a new spatial database of Australian farm dams.

This work highlights the ecological value of farm dams to Australia's frogs, but also to freshwater biodiversity in general. Farm dams are already widely distributed across Australia, and enhancing farm dams to better support and promote local biodiversity may be a powerful tool to help support our frogs and freshwater biodiversity in general.

To read this article in full, head to the [Australian Museum's website](#).



Image: Jodi Rowley, the Australian Museum



Harcourt Valley Landcare Group launch new website

The Harcourt Valley Landcare Group is thrilled to unveil their brand-new website: www.harcourtvalleylandcare.org

The group's aim is to 'inspire, inform and support the community to protect and enhance our local environment'. Terry Willis said the website has been designed to showcase Harcourt Valley and boost the Landcare group's online presence and community reach.

"Our community can now access information about our group from the comfort of their own home. Our website serves as a hub where you can discover more about our group, stay updated on upcoming events, explore our past and current projects, and access valuable resources. Whether you're curious about what to plant or how to manage fruit fly, we've got you covered. Plus, you'll find that many of the stunning photos on the site were generously contributed by our community members. This website is a vital asset for both our group and the wider community, and we're committed to its continual improvement.

"We extend our gratitude to the Mount Alexander Shire Council for their support through the Community Grant Program. Without their generous funding, this project wouldn't have been possible.

Please explore our new website today and join us in our mission to protect and preserve the beautiful Harcourt Valley".

On the lookout for natural drought refuges

North Central CMA

The North Central Catchment Management Authority (CMA) is on the lookout for drought refuge pools – natural bodies of water that stay full, even during dry times.

These refuge pools are often fed by groundwater and provide a valuable home for our native species, particularly small-bodied fish, water bugs, and platypus.

North Central CMA Strategy and Partnerships Executive Manager Rohan Hogan said such refuges were worth protecting.

“Climate change is making drought refuges even more important, and we want to create a register of them and find out as much information as we can,” he said.

“Drought refuges can be anywhere. They may be on your property, near your home, or next to your favourite camping spot.

“We want to know where they are and find out as much about them as we can.”

Once drought refuges have been identified, the CMA hopes to work with landholders and governments to source funding for their protection.

“Landholders are under no obligation to tell us what’s on their land, but if they’re interested in restoring one of these refuges and adding to the lifestyle benefits of their property, we’re willing to help,” Mr Hogan said.

“If you think you may have a drought refuge on your property, or know of one, we’d love to hear from you.

“We have an [online survey](#) available where you can tell us all you know about the pool, including where it is.”

The survey closes on November 30.

Community members can also nominate drought refuges by calling North Central CMA on (03) 5448 7124 or by emailing asha.bannon@nccma.vic.gov.au.

The project is part of the Victorian Government’s \$248 million investment over four years (2020-2024) to improve catchment and waterway health across regional Victoria.



Photo: North Central CMA



SMALL commitment = BIG reward

North Central CMA

If you’re passionate and interested about waterway health we’d love to hear from you.

We’re on the lookout for community members to join our Campaspe River or Loddon River Community Advisory Groups. More details on our social media pages and in your local papers over the coming weeks about how you can get involved.

The painted-snipe tracking journey begins

From the painted snipe tracking project

Meet Gloria, the first ever Australian painted-snipe (APS) to be tracked. Caught in a mist net at 7am near Balranald in flooded wheat stubble with receding water and mudflat islands, surrounded by extensive wetland complex managed for conservation. Gloria was fitted with a tiny solar satellite transmitter and released shortly after. Within two days the team is already gaining valuable insights into local movements, roosting and feeding sites, and learning about the diurnal and nocturnal habits of APS.

To follow along head to the [Painted Snipe Tracking website](#).



Photo: Gloria, the Australian painted-snipe. Credit: The Australian Painted-snipe tracking team



Are you registered with BeeMAX?

From Agriculture Victoria

Have you heard the buzz? It's all about BeeMAX.

BeeMAX is free, quick, and easy to use – and it's a simple way of maintaining your record keeping obligations under the Livestock Disease Control Regulations.

Whether you're a backyard beekeeper or keep commercial quantities of hives, the BeeMAX electronic diary is a central place to record all your biosecurity activities and observations including:

- pest and disease inspections and testing
- swarm collection data
- the movement of bees and equipment
- biosecurity training completed.

Learn more on [Agriculture Victoria's website](#).

Petals off, nets on – time to protect your harvest from fruit fly

From Agriculture Victoria

Agriculture Victoria is encouraging home gardeners to boost their harvest and protect the state's horticulture industry against Queensland fruit fly by netting their fruit trees.

State Fruit Fly Co-ordinator, Cathy Mansfield, said that insect netting is the best way to ensure fruit fly doesn't attack Victorian home gardener's fruit and vegetables.



'Now is the time to prepare your netting for the upcoming season. It's important to check and mend any holes in the netting with string, fishing line or polyester thread. Another option is to clamp holes with bulldog clips.'

'Nets should be applied after the flower petals fall off fruit trees such as apricots, peaches, apples, cherries and loquats.'

'When the petals fall off, the nets go on.'

'For continuously flowering berries and fruit berries such as tomatoes, eggplants and capsicums, the netting should be applied after most of the flowering has occurred but while fruit is still small.'

'Using insect netting is an environmentally friendly option because it can last for years. It can also prevent other common pests attacking your fruit like codling moth in apples and tomato grub in tomatoes.'

'By protecting your fruit and reducing places for fruit flies to breed you're helping to protect your neighbours' fruit and Victoria's wider horticulture industry,' Ms Mansfield said.

Further information on managing fruit fly is available on the [Agriculture Victoria's Queensland fruit fly website](#).

Use of fruit netting – harvest without harm

From Animal Welfare Victoria

Household fruit netting regulations

Netting used to protect household fruit-trees, vegetable gardens, or other fruiting plants must have a mesh size, of 5mm x 5mm or less at full stretch.

Don't forget that old netting, when discarded, can still be an entanglement risk. If you plan to dispose of old netting to landfill it is recommended that you place it into a strong biodegradable bag first.

The regulation applies to both the sale and use of household fruit netting. It does not apply to sale or use of netting in commercial circumstances.

Why has the regulation been introduced?

Fruit on household trees and plants is a tempting treat for hungry wildlife. Netting is a popular way to protect fruit, but inappropriate types of netting can kill or injure animals such as birds, possums or flying foxes.

Netting with a large mesh size is more likely to entangle animals and their struggling can cause deep cuts and strangulation, often leading to death.

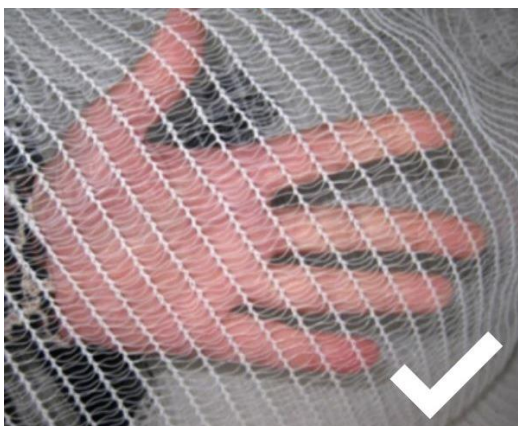
Reducing the mesh size of netting will greatly reduce the risk of animal entanglement.

What type of netting should be used?

Netting used on household fruiting trees or plants must have a mesh size of 5mm x 5mm or less at full stretch.

It is also recommended that household netting is:

- white in colour, making it easier for nocturnally active animals to see and avoid it at night
- made from material with a strand diameter thicker than 500 microns, or with a cross-weave design, to also help reduce injuries and fatalities.



The use of appropriate mesh sized netting will support a productive harvest while also protecting our vulnerable wildlife from harm.

It can be easier to protect selected branches rather than netting the whole tree. A range of bags, sleeves and socks are available to protect fruit on individual branches.

For more information head to [Animal Welfare Victoria's website](#).

Victorian carbon farming program

Agriculture Victoria

Applications for grant funding under the Victorian Carbon Farming Program Pilot are now open for landowners in the North Central CMA region. Interested landowners are encouraged to contact Registered Project Advisors to discuss carbon farming project proposals.

The \$15.3 million Victorian Carbon Farming Program (VCFP) provides an opportunity for private landholders to reduce emissions and build resilience to a changing climate. This program will support private landholders to:

- plant woodlot, agroforestry and shelterbelt trees
- leverage opportunities available from timber, carbon or environmental markets
- realise on-farm co-benefits such as shade and shelter for stock, soil improvement or improved farm aesthetics.

The program is being run as a \$3 million pilot for the first 18 months in north central Victoria. Landowners in the pilot region can access support from a Registered Project Advisor and partner with them to apply for grants to plant trees on their properties.

For more information download the Victorian Carbon Farming Program Pilot Project Guidelines for Grant Funding.

[Victorian Carbon Farming Program Pilot Project Guidelines for Grant Funding \(PDF - 3.4 MB\)](#)

[Victorian Carbon Farming Program Pilot Project Guidelines for Grant Funding \(WORD - 2.1 MB\)](#)

Trees planted under the program can generate new income streams via timber, carbon and environmental markets, off-set on-property emissions, and generate a range of other benefits including stock shelter, biodiversity or improved property aesthetics.

Interested landowners who may be seeking further information before contacting a Registered Project Advisor to discuss a project application can sign up for information and alerts by joining the Victorian Carbon Farming Program mailing list or contact carbonfarming@ecodev.vic.gov.au.



WaterWatch Victoria

2022/23 WaterWatch Annual Achievements Report

The Annual Achievements Report has just been released and shines a spotlight on the efforts of local communities throughout Victoria over the past year. It also pays tribute to the remarkable 30-year legacy of community-driven environmental stewardship across the state and our dedicated volunteers here in the North Central CMA region.

[2022-2023 EstuaryWatch Waterwatch Annual Achievements Report](#)



Spring Waterbug Workshop series

Together with water quality data collected by our WaterWatch community, waterbug surveys can tell us a lot about the health of our waterways and they are a lot of fun to do! We'd love for you to join our team in undertaking this year's surveys and enjoy lunch on us.

Reimagining Bendigo Creek

Includes guided walk of Crusoe Number 7 Park led by City of Greater Bendigo ranger Blair Venn.

Friday November 10, 10.30am start

Crusoe Number 7 Park, Big Hill

Register via Eventbrite [here](#)

Tullaroop Catchment Restoration Project

Annual spring survey of waterbugs of the Tullaroop Catchment.

Tuesday November 21, 11am start, Andersons Mill, Smeaton

Register via Eventbrite [here](#)



Save the date - Gunbower BioBlitz – Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 November

Our Citizen Science and Ramsar Gunbower teams are joining forces to host a BioBlitz series coinciding with the Great Southern Bioblitz 2023 during the last weekend of November.

Details are still being finalised however events will include opportunities to learn about and observe the animals who call our precious Ramsar wetlands home.

- Woodland Birds - Saturday
- Bats – Saturday evening
- Fish – Sunday morning
- Reptiles - Sunday
- Frogs – Sunday late-afternoon

Great Southern BioBlitz 2023

We will again be participating in the annual Great Southern Bioblitz. This 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 using the iNaturalist App.

More than 2,600 species observations were captured as part of North Central CMA's GSB22 event- a third of which are now research grade.

Let's see if we can top that this year.

To contribute to this year's tally, all you need to do is:

1. Download the [iNaturalist](#) app
2. Follow [nccma_citizen science](#)
3. Join our GSB23 project [here](#)
4. Log your observations between **Nov 24-27**



COMMUNITY
PARTNERSHIP
PROGRAM

2024 River Detectives Registrations

We are excited to announce that registrations for the 2024 River Detectives program will open on Wednesday November 15 for schools and youth groups in the North Central CMA region. Registrations will be taken until Wednesday February 14 2024.

We welcome registrations from across the region with priority given to schools within CMA priority project areas. These are;

- RiverScan Native Fish Recovery and Ramsar wetlands (Gunbower, Kerang and lower Loddon)
- A Healthy Coliban Catchment project area
- Bendigo Creek Citizen Science project area

If you are a current River Detectives school, you will receive a registration pack over the coming weeks. New schools are encouraged to apply by heading to the [River Detectives website](#) after November 15 and clicking on the 'apply now' link.

River Detectives is free, fun and flexible helping young people collect real data from waterways that matter to them in their local environment. Check out our animation [here](#).



If you are a teacher, student, parent, Landcarer or passionate community member keen for your town's school to get involved in citizen-science and advocate for your local waterway please encourage them to sign up.

River Detectives is also rolled out in the Corangamite, Wimmera and North East CMA regions along with the Melbourne Water area.

To find out more about the program and how it could work in a school near you, attend the session outlined below, visit www.riverdetectives.net.au or reach out by email.

Sustainability in Schools Month 2023

All primary and secondary schools are invited to attend Sustainability in Schools Month events across the month of November.

Sustainability in Schools Month will see ResourceSmart partner with organisations to provide free workshops and teaching resources on a range of sustainability topics.

The 2023 workshops explore themes of climate adaptation, water efficiency, caring for waterways, student wellbeing, active transport, food waste and circular economy, and embedding sustainability into curriculum.

We are pleased to be presenting a session about the River Detectives program, "[Dive Deeper with River Detectives](#)" on Monday 27 November, 3:45-4:30 open to everyone.

Go to the ResourceSmart Schools [Humanitix](#) page to register for workshops.



Nicole Howie
 River Detectives Project Officer
 North Central CMA
 Phone: 0413 974 074
 Email: nicole.howie@nccma.vic.gov.au

Goulburn Storages	Lake Eildon	99	97
	Waranga Basin	96	98
Campaspe	Lake Eppalock	96	105
Coliban Water Storages	Upper Coliban Res	100	101
	Lauriston Res	100	90
	Malmsbury Res	97	111

Source:
[Goulburn Murray Water](#)
[Coliban Water](#)

Water Storages Update

Region	Water Storage	% full currently	% full same time 2022
Murray Storages	Dartmouth Dam	99	101
	Hume Dam	96	93
	Reedy/Middle Lk	94	114
	Kangaroo Lake	94	99
	Kow Swamp	94	105
	Lake Boga	92	82
	Lake Charm	94	91
Loddon Storages	Cairn Curran Res	94	92
	Tullaroop Res	100	104
	Laanecoorie Res	79	114
Bullarook Storages	Newlyn Res	100	102
	Hepburns Lagoon	101	108

Upcoming Events and Special Days

November	
FrogID Week	3-12 Nov
National Recycling Week	6-12 Nov
International Volunteer Managers Day	5 Nov
World Science Day for Peace and Development	10 Nov
Pollinator Week	13-19 Nov
World Fisheries Day	21 Nov
December	
World Soil Day	5 Dec
International Volunteer Day	5 Dec
Coastcare Week	4-10 Dec
International Mountain Day	11 Dec

Sustainable Ag Snippet...

The Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitators (RALF) are partnering with the Victoria Soil Coordinator, Peter Fisher to undertake a survey to understand regional soil issues, gaps in knowledge or extension that is preventing better soil management, research, and extension opportunities.

The survey has been requested by the Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) and the results from this survey will help DAFF and other organisations with the design and delivery of targeted soil interventions to address priorities under the National Soil Strategy.

I encourage you to complete the 20-minute survey. The survey consists of multichoice questions and is open to farmers and non-farmers. The survey questions relate to the following:

- What soil issues do you have that negatively affect crop productivity?
- What soil management practices do you use to overcome soil issues?
- What are your priorities for soil management research and/or extension?
- What are your preferred sources of information?

All responses to the survey are anonymous. You can access the survey by clicking on this link tinyurl.com/soilgaps or by typing it into your browser.

This is a national survey and there is a Regional Soil Coordinator based at each of the state Drought Resilience Adoption & Innovation Hubs. Dr Peter Fisher is the Victorian Soil Coordinator, based at Dookie College, University of Melbourne. For questions or further information about the survey, Peter can be contacted at fisher.p@unimelb.edu.au

The RALFs support and promote projects on sustainable agriculture and biodiversity and recognise our soils are suffering from major issues.

Darren Bain

Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator

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E: darren.bain@nccma.vic.gov.au



Courses & Resources...



- Potential liabilities, protect yourself and your organisation

When: Wednesday 8 November 2023

Time: 5.30pm – 8.30pm

To register email bvrchub@bgovolunteers.org.au

2024 LMCLP applications now open!

LEAD Loddon Murray

Do you want to embark on a Community Leadership Journey next year or do you know someone who does?

Applications are now being accepted for the 2024 Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program.

For additional details, please visit the [LEAD Loddon Murray website](#).

[Submit your application through this form.](#)

Good governance workshop

Bendigo Volunteer Resource Centre / Justice Connect

Good governance is an important aspect of all not-for-profit community groups. Bendigo Volunteer Resource Centre has engaged the services of Justice Connect to deliver an online evening workshop to provide information for Committees of Management on how to operate under the current guidelines.

In this workshop participants will unpack the A-Z of governance and highlight the legal obligations of being a board or committee member.

You will learn about:

- Legal roles of committee/ board members as decision makers.
- Differences between governance and management.
- Importance of rules and legal purpose.
- Four key legal duties of committee/board members.



Events...

Australasian bittern workshop with Damien Cook



Ever heard of the 'bunyip bird' and want to know how it got its name?

Join us for an exciting in-person event at the Koorangie Marshes Ranger Station, before heading into **Lake Cullen!** This workshop is a unique opportunity to learn about the beautiful Australasian bitterns and the way we monitor these endangered birds. Led by wetland ecologist Damien Cook and North Central CMA staff, this workshop promises to be informative and fun.

No previous skills or bird knowledge required.

Dinner provided!

When: November 2, 4pm-8.30pm (includes dinner)

Where: Koorangie Marshes Ranger Station, Dywer Road, Lake Charm (follow the signs)

Cost: Free, but reservations essential

What to bring / wear: Sturdy closed-toed shoes, long pants & sleeves, fly/mosquito net if you have one, binoculars, camp chair.

RSVP: [Sign up through Eventbrite](#)

Soil health management workshop and farm field day

Many soils in central Victoria have significant constraints to deeper root growth for healthier, drought-resilient and more productive crops and pastures. This free workshop and field day will look at how digging 60cm down the soil profile helps to assess soil health and identify constraints.

The day will be led by Bill Grant, an agricultural and environmental scientist from Federation University, who is researching soil constraints and management options suited to the central Victorian climate.

The event is being run by Mount Alexander Sustainability Group and is funded by the Federal Governments Landcare Smart Farms program.

A light lunch will be provided, so please RSVP so we can cater for you.

When: Thursday 2 November

Where: Kyneton Community House, 34 Mollison Street, Kyneton

Cost: Free

What to bring: wear suitable footwear and bring sun protection

RSVP: Contact Bill Grant on 0407 882 070 or via b.grant@federation.edu.au



Wetland wonderland weekend

Grab your fishing rods, brush up on your drawing skills, get up close and personal with waterbugs and turtles, learn the art of traditional weaving, test your kayaking skills or marvel at beautiful photography. There is something for everyone.

Saturday 4 November

10am to 12 pm – Wetland Wonderland exhibition @ Cohuna Art Gallery

12.30pm to 3pm – Botanical drawing workshop. Meet @ Cohuna Art Gallery before heading into Gunbower Forest

Sunday 5 November, 9am to 2pm

Garden Park, Cohuna (Cohuna Farmer's Market)

- Catch-a-carp competition
- Kayaking tours (9.15am and 12.15pm)
- Basket weaving
- Waterbug activities
- Fish and freshwater turtle displays

Register [here](#) for the drawing workshop and / or kayaking as numbers are limited.



Farm business resilience workshop series

Want to build a stronger, more productive farm business?

Agriculture Victoria's workshop series aims to help you build more resilience in your farm business.

You will leave each workshop with new skills and an action plan to achieve your business goals.

As a bonus, if you attend all three workshops (or workshop 3 and workshop 1 or 2) you will secure a business planning one-on-one session with Senior Agribusiness Consultant Jane Foster at the end of the workshop series.

The workshops are free and include lunch.

For more information about the workshop series, contact Elizabeth Alsop on 0457 838 537 or email elizabeth.alsop@agriculture.vic.gov.au

When:

Workshop 1 – Planning for success – 3 November 9am-1pm

Workshop 2 – Business success– 8 November 9am-4pm

Workshop 3 – People success, climate and natural resource management – 14 November 9am – 4pm

Where: Pine Grove Fire Station, 2691 Whinfield Road, Lockington

Cost: Free

RSVP: To secure your place, complete the registration form by clicking on the link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/er2vcHJ9yJ>

Get to know the Eltham Copper Butterfly

Friends of Riley Street Natural Reserve are proud to be co-hosting a family friendly event for the Eltham copper butterfly with the Central Victoria Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) Community.

The Eltham copper butterfly is critically endangered, however here in Bendigo we are privileged to have this beautiful species in our region.

Come along for a free cuppa and afternoon tea. There will be activities for children and a talk from City of Greater Bendigo's Biodiversity Officer, Mark Hall. Then at 4.30 there will be a discovery walk, led by Friends of Solomon Gully Nature Reserve, to the nearby site of the Eltham Copper Butterfly.

When: Sunday 5 November

Bendigo for Butterflies - Flora Hill
Sunday 5 November, 3.00pm - 4.30pm

[Register here](#)

Eltham Copper Butterfly Discovery Walk - Quarry Hill
Sunday 5 November, 4.30pm - 5.30pm

[Register here](#)

[To find out more head to the ACF website.](#)



YAPENYA art exhibition

A showcase of contemporary Aboriginal art by talented Dja Dja Wurrung artists. YAPENYA celebrates the 10th anniversary of DJAARA's Recognition and Settlement Agreement with the Victorian Government in 2013.

When: Tuesday 14 – Friday 17 November 10am-4pm

Where: Dudley House, 60 View Street, Bendigo

YAPENYA twilight market

Dja Dja Wurrung artists and craftspeople showcase their work to the wider community. Come along and support First Nations businesses.

When: Thursday 16 November 2.30pm-9pm

Where: Dudley House, 60 View Street, Bendigo

[Djaara \(Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation\)](#)

Funding opportunities...

The North Central Business Development team has collated these available grants.

If you find grant submissions difficult, have any doubts or questions, please call Jason from the business development team on 035440 1805 or email the team at bdp@nccma.vic.gov.au.

Greater Bendigo Rural Regeneration Grants

The City of Greater Bendigo has launched its [Rural Regeneration Grants](#), aimed to assist local farmers to implement best practice sustainable land management techniques that benefit the farm, the community and the environment.

Applicants can apply for up to \$2,000 per year for projects that manage environmental problems, or improve the health and productivity of the landscape. There is a limited amount of funding available, so it is a competitive grant process.

Types of projects that may be funded include:

- Installation of fencing (permanent and movable) to address land degradation or implement regenerative grazing practices.
- Installation of reticulated watering systems.
- Revegetation of paddocks and dams with indigenous or beneficial pollinator vegetation.
- Control of declared noxious weeds or declared pests such as rabbits and foxes.

[Visit here for a full outline of the Guidelines and how to apply.](#)

For further queries, email the City's Agribusiness officer Sally Beer: s.beer@bendigo.vic.gov.au

Applications opened on 16 October and close on **15 December 2023**.

Community Enterprise Foundation

Community Bank Inglewood & District Grants Program VIC

Link [Grant - Foundation \(communityenterprisefoundation.com.au\)](https://communityenterprisefoundation.com.au)

Opening 01/01/2023

Closing 31/12/2023

Amount up to Undisclosed

Social Impact Measurement Australia (SIMNA)

SIMNA Awards: Innovation in Social Impact Measurement

Link [Welcome to the 2023 SIMNA Awards | SIMNA](#)

Opening 15/08/2023

Closing 13/10/2023

Amount up to Non-financial Award

Northern Grampians Shire Council

Minor Grants

Link [Minor Grants \(ngshire.vic.gov.au\)](https://ngshire.vic.gov.au)

Opening 19/07/2023

Closing 30/06/2024

Amount up to \$ 1,000

Greater Bendigo City Council

Community Group Essentials grants

Link [Community grants | City of Greater Bendigo](#)

Opening 30/06/2023

Closing 30/06/2024

Amount up to \$ 2,000

Greater Bendigo City Council

Small grants

Link [Grant categories and provisions | City of Greater Bendigo](#)

Opening Ongoing

Closing 30/06/2024

Amount up to \$ 2,000

Murray River Council (MRC)

Quick Response Grants

Link [Quick Response Grants - The Funding Centre](#)

Opening 01/07/2023

Closing 07/06/2024

Amount up to \$ 2,500

Damien Greer Lawyers

Community Grant

Link [Community Grant | Damien Greer Lawyers](#)

Opening 01/07/2023

Closing 31/12/2023

Amount up to \$ 2,500

Northern Grampians Shire Council

Community Events Grants Program

Link [Community Events Grants
\(ngshire.vic.gov.au\)](https://ngshire.vic.gov.au)

Opening 19/07/2023

Closing 30/06/2024

Amount up to \$ 3,000

Macedon Ranges Shire Council

Small Project Grants

Link [Small Project Grants - Macedon
Ranges Shire Council
\(mrsc.vic.gov.au\)](https://mrsc.vic.gov.au)

Opening Ongoing

Closing 30/06/2024

Amount up to \$ 3,000

Northern Grampians Shire Council

Community Grants Programs

Link [Community Grants
\(ngshire.vic.gov.au\)](https://ngshire.vic.gov.au)

Opening 27/09/2023

Closing 08/11/2023

Amount up to \$ 5,000

Community Enterprise Foundation

Heathcote Community Investment Program

Link [Grant - Foundation
\(communityenterprisefoundation.co
m.au\)](https://communityenterprisefoundation.com.au)

Opening 02/10/2023

Closing 27/10/2023

Amount up to Undisclosed

**Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet,
National Indigenous Australians Agency**

Community Initiated Proposals

Link [Indigenous Advancement Strategy –
Grant Opportunity Guidelines
\(niaa.gov.au\)](https://niaa.gov.au)

Opening 26/07/2021

Closing 30/10/2023

Amount up to Undisclosed

**Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal
(FRRR)**Strengthening Rural Communities (SRC) - Rebuilding
Regional Communities Large GrantsLink [Strengthening Rural Communities –
Rebuilding Regional Communities |
FRRR](#)

Opening Currently open

Closing 04/12/2023

Amount up to \$ 50,000

Agriculture Victoria, LaunchVic

AgTech Grants Program

Link [AgTech Grants Program - The
Funding Centre](#)

Opening 21/02/2023

Closing 30/06/2024

Amount up to \$ 50,000

**Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal
(FRRR)**Helping Regional Communities Prepare for Drought
Initiative - Small Networks Grants Stream 1Link [Helping Regional Communities
Prepare for Drought Initiative –
Small Networks Grants | FRRR](#)

Opening Currently open

Closing 14/11/2023

Amount up to \$ 20,000

Agriculture Victoria

Agricultural and Pastoral Society Grants Program

Link [Agricultural and Pastoral Society
Grants | Funds, grants and
programs](#)

Opening Currently open

Closing 13/10/2023

Amount up to \$ 10,000

Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA)

Small Grants Program

Link [Small Grants Program - VFA](#)

Opening 01/10/2023

Closing 29/02/2024

Amount up to \$ 5,000

Hepburn Shire Council

Community Grants

Link [Grants Hepburn Shire Council](#)

Opening 09/10/2023

Closing 05/11/2023

Amount up to \$ 5,000