

North Central Chat

Keeping you up to date with all the Landcare and Citizen Science news



August 2023

A message from the Citizen Science Coordinator

Hi everyone,

Welcome to the August edition of the Chat. This month's theme is Landcare Week and we are excited to feature some special Landcare events and resources.

It's a big month for Landcare this August. Not only are we celebrating Landcare Week, but we're also welcoming Belinda Pritchard as the new Regional Landcare Coordinator for the North Central region. Belinda comes to the North Central CMA with many years of experience working in the region with community, landholders, and partner agencies through her roles at Agriculture Victoria and more recently in her role with the Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action focused on encouraging environmental volunteering in the Loddon Mallee region. I'm sure you will all make Belinda feel very welcome as she starts in the new role, which will include putting together the North Central Chat each month.

Landcare Week this year will run from August 7 to 13. The theme this year is: Be inspired. Be empowered. Be a Landcarer. It can be hard as a busy Landcarer to find the time to pause, step back, and take in the impact your local group is having. Landcare Week is the perfect time to celebrate, promote your group, be inspired, and acknowledge the multitude of positive impacts Landcare gives to the environment, agriculture, and communities.

Landcare Week can also be a reminder that Landcare volunteers and groups are part of a broader community of people, all working to make the world a better place, now and for future generations. Did you know that since beginning in central Victoria more than 35 years ago, Landcare is now an international force through [Global Landcare?](#)

This is also an apt time for us here at North Central CMA to say a heartfelt thank you to all the hard-working Landcare groups, networks, volunteers, and facilitators in the North Central region.



Read on in the Chat for some great Landcare Week resources from Landcare Australia, as well as a special update from Nicole Howie highlighting the ways Landcare and River Detectives can partner and benefit each other. There are also many great Landcare Week events this year, and a summary of funding opportunities for groups.

Enjoy the read,

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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...

2023 LANDCARE WEEK - Be inspired, be empowered, be a Landcarer

Article by Landcare Australia

Landcare Week is an annual celebration of landcare held during the first week of August to acknowledge the Australians who are actively restoring, enhancing and protecting the natural environment in their community. This year, Landcare Week will run from August 7 to 13.

Landcare Week is an annual celebration of Landcare held during the first week of August to acknowledge the Australians who are actively restoring, enhancing and protecting the natural environment in their community.

With more than 6,000 groups and 140,000+ volunteers, the Landcare movement encompasses farmers and farming systems groups, landowners, landcare groups and networks, Traditional Custodians, Bushcare and Friends-Of groups, Coastcare, Dunecare and Rivercare groups, Landcare facilitators and coordinators, youth groups and other community groups involved in protecting, enhancing or restoring their local environment. The Junior Landcare program also provides a pathway for children to become lifelong Landcarers starting with early learning childhood centres through to primary and secondary schools.

This Landcare Week we're showcasing how Landcare is for everyone and celebrating the achievements of all, from farmers planting wildlife corridors on their properties to students learning about biodiversity and where their food comes from, to community groups creating native seedbanks to businesses encouraging their staff to volunteer with Landcare groups – there are opportunities for everyone to act with Landcare. Landcare brings everyone together to actively be involved in conservation land management, improve biodiversity, and promote sustainable agriculture.

The theme for this year's Landcare Week is: Be inspired, be empowered, be a Landcarer. We will be showcasing people across Australia who are involved in landcare and why they volunteer with Landcare to inspire others to feel empowered to get involved in their local Landcare or other community environmental group in their area. If you would like to find a group near you to get involved during Landcare week, [click here](#).

Visit the Landcare Australia website to read more, and to access a Communications kit designed to help you promote Landcare Week 2023 and the incredible works that you do - [Landcare Week - Landcare Australia Landcare Australia](#)



Riparian zones explained by Gardening Australia

In this short video, Gardening Australia has provided a brief and accessible explanation of what is meant by riparian zones.

[Click here](#) or on the picture below to visit their website and view the video. See the first 48 seconds for the explanation (or enjoy the whole thing!).



Excerpt from the ABC Gardening Australia website:

CLARENCE: Riparian or riparian zones refers to the land directly adjacent to creeks, streams, rivers or wetlands. Although it's referred to as a zone, there's no hard and fast rule on how big that zone is. It is critical habitat for insects, amphibians and a host of wildlife. Lots of different ecosystems are contained within that space and the very fertile soils help in the absorption and dispersal of water after inundation. The removal of native vegetation in these areas often leads to erosion and the infestation of weeds, so it is critical that we maintain our riparian zones.

BDAC Family Day stall

Article by Alannah Leach, North Central CMA

The North Central CMA was proud to host a stall at the annual Bendigo District Aboriginal Co-operative (BDAC) Family Day on 5 July 2023.



Laura, Kayla and Max excitedly awaiting the event to start.

The event was held at the Bendigo Exhibition Showgrounds and featured a range of family activities including cultural dancing, painting, bush tucker, a petting zoo and laser tag. The North Central CMA was lucky enough to be able to work with Turtle Australia’s Graham Stockfield, showcasing native turtles from the waterways of northern New South Wales.

We also had a water bug display which the Citizen Science team collected from the Bendigo Creek earlier that morning, which we use as a health condition indicator of waterways. Our Sustainable Agriculture Team had a display of diverse soils from all over the catchment to show the variability of textures and colours. We also showcased our Native Fish Recovery Plan with fish identification guides, management plans, stickers, and hats.



Water bug and soil display

Gunbower Forest environmental watering update

Article by Sophia Piscitelli, North Central CMA

High unregulated (natural) flows in the Murray River are seeing water push into Gunbower Forest, providing important food and habitat for floodplain plants and animals.

This is one of the scenarios we plan for, and we’ve been adapting water for the environment deliveries to complement these natural inflows. Water for the environment primed parts of the forest and the wetlands, with inflows provided from early June to early July, which is when natural inflows would have begun without river regulation.



Monitoring the Gunbower Forest floodplain, July 2023 (Source: Jean Dind)

This is a great outcome for the forest, with natural flows combining with the water for environment already on the floodplain to create ideal conditions for the forest and everything that relies on it to survive and thrive.

We will continue to adapt to the conditions as we go. Water for the environment inflows may continue once the Murray River recedes to achieve the duration the forest needs and support waterbird breeding. However, this is dependent on how conditions in the Murray River play out, climatic conditions, and the ecological responses to the inundation.

We are regularly monitoring the flows and meeting with Goulburn-Murray Water, Murray-Darling Basin Authority, Victorian Environmental Water Holder, Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, Parks Victoria and ecologists to assess the conditions and inform adaptive management.

Youth Take Over – Environmental Science Squad

Article by Youth Take Over

Youth Take Over is giving 10 young people the chance to Rally an Environmental Science Squad in this work experience opportunity for young people.

Are you 25 or under? Interested in a work experience that will have a lasting impact? Youth Take Over is giving 10 young people the chance to Rally an Environmental Science Squad. North Central CMA are doing powerful work to help protect your waterways and natural environment, and they need your help! Your job is to help North Central CMA grow their team of young volunteers to assist their work in environmental protection.

So, think of yourself as an environmental campaigner? How do you think you could attract young people to the cause? How will you get the message out there? How will you gather ideas from other young people in the region? You'll also get a chance to get out into nature yourself and walk in the shoes (or gumboots in this case) of the citizen science volunteers who monitor waterways and check on everything from plant life to frog life.

This program is great for young people interested in the environment, science, youth and community engagement, teamwork, making an impact, coming up with new ideas and being a voice for young people. You'll leave with a finished project under your belt, new friends, and a bunch of work readiness skills.

You don't need to have done anything like this before – just be ready to learn! **This program will span over 8 weeks, with one three-hour session each week including a day where you will get to explore the wetlands and forests.** Youth Take Over can cover your travel and participation costs and can assist with transport if required.

If you are someone, or you know someone, who this might be perfect for, check out @youthtakeovervic on Facebook & Instagram or call 0488 749 606 to speak to Debbie from the Youth Take Over team. You can also email her at rogerson.d@ccllen.com.au.

[Click here](#) to visit the website.

[Click here](#) for the sign-up form.

Fast facts:

- Interns in this Take Over will form a think tank tasked with creating a volunteer recruitment campaign for North Central Catchment Management Authority (CMA).
- Interns will learn about what environmental protection programs look like, participate in citizen science activities and engage with other young people to inform new ways to recruit future young volunteers.
- This Take Over is great for young people with a particular interest in environmental activism, data collection and review, youth/community engagement, marketing, teamwork, generating ideas, helping their community, and making a difference.
- Interns will be led by industry facilitators and mentors who will share their skills and experience and help interns build crucial industry networks.
- Interns will attend 1 x 3-hour session per week for eight weeks. Sessions will run in person at the Neighbourhood House in Echuca on Wednesdays, 12-3pm, from 16 August to 4 October. There will also be a visit to the local wetlands to engage in hands-on activities.
- We are trying to recruit six to 10 young people for this Take Over, aged 17 to 25.
- Youth Take Over offers reimbursements for travel and other participation costs and can assist with transport where required.
- The Rally an Environmental Science Squad Take Over is supported by the Agnico Eagle Community Partnership Program and the Victorian Government through the Environmental Volunteering New Growth Project.

Calling young people ready to make a difference...
Want to contribute to local nature conservation efforts?
Ready to leap frog into the world of eco science?

RALLY AN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE SQUAD

Work experience... that works for you

AGNICO EAGLE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM
North Central CMA
CCLLEN
VICTORIA

YOUTH TAKE OVER
LODDON CAMPASPE



WaterWatch Victoria

New volunteer training and induction

The North Central WaterWatch program is fortunate to have a small but steady stream of new volunteers joining, which also gives the team the opportunity to meet community members at their adopted sites for inductions and training.

Earlier this year, we had the pleasure of attending the Beacon Careers Expo in Echuca to help run a River Detectives display. Here we met Isobel, a Year 10 student who had been searching for opportunities to volunteer for the environment. Soon after, Isobel reached out to the North Central Citizen Science team to express interest in signing up to the WaterWatch program to monitor a site along the Campaspe River in Echuca.



Isobel and Tania conducting a turbidity test

In July, we met up with Isobel and her parents at the monitoring site she had chosen. Together we walked through the induction and conducted training in water quality monitoring. A big welcome to Isobel – we're excited to see what she learns about the river at her site.

River Health Snapshot Reports

North Central WaterWatch supports people to actively care for their environment by participating in Citizen Science programs that monitor and report on the health of the region's land, water, and biodiversity resources.

Did you know that two-thirds of all North Central WaterWatch sites are affiliated with current NRM projects? This ensures the data collected by our volunteers is relevant to the work of the wider organisation and our delivery partners.

Six new Snapshot Reports featuring Citizen Science data collected in 2022 are now finished and ready for your viewing pleasure on the North Central CMA website:

[Bendigo Creek Snapshot Report 2022](#)

[Tullaroop Catchment Snapshot Report 2022](#)

[Healthy Coliban Catchment Snapshot Report 2022](#)

[RiverScan River Health Snapshot Report 2022](#)

[Gunbower Ramsar Snapshot 2022](#)

[Kerang Wetlands Ramsar Snapshot 2022](#)

Tullaroop Catchment Restoration Project meeting

It was a chilly but beautiful day as the Tullaroop Catchment Restoration Project Reference Group (PRG) met by Tullaroop Reservoir.

The groups met to discuss the progress of the project and the management of Tullaroop Reservoir now and into the future. North Central WaterWatch attends and contributes to these meetings as citizen science is a key aspect of the project. The team supports four WaterWatch monitors and Djandak to regular monitor water quality of four sites throughout the project footprint.

Tania MacLeod

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COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

River Detectives and Landcare – a powerful partnership

River Detectives can be the vehicle to help groups reach school students and their families.

As a Landcare secretary I know firsthand Landcare groups are asked to do a lot – and often by a few. You are time-poor, need extra feet on the ground, would dearly like some new members, and put some succession planning in place. But where do you find these people? In schools! As a teacher I know firsthand that schools are hungry for opportunities to connect with community and get involved in active on-ground activities to support school-based learning. Bam – schools and Landcare are a perfect match.

Is your Landcare group keen to connect with a local school but don't know how? River Detectives is a home-grown program with a proven record that schools love. Students are immersed in citizen science, collecting real data from the local environment, inspiring a life-long connection with nature, and learning practical skills to become proactive ambassadors for waterways and catchments. Using a train-the-trainer model we provide training that can be accessed by all – not just staff in River Detectives schools. We also provide resources that are publicly accessible to be used in any educational setting – not just River Detectives schools – or with any audience, even with adults!

I recently presented to north central region Landcare facilitators on the ways River Detectives can collaborate better and offered a range of ways our program can assist groups:

Use River Detectives to connect with your local school or upskill your members



Encourage them to become a River Detectives school and they'll WANT to connect with you

Join us at a school visit to facilitate the introduction

Receiving requests from schools and you can't help them? River Detectives could fill that niche

Involve schools in your activities to achieve your on-ground goals

Come along to our training and events

You can also advertise your upcoming events via the River Detectives network, build school engagement into grant applications to access new funding sources or make proposals more attractive to funding bodies.

Please reach out if I can help your group liaise with schools. For more information you can check out the [River Detectives website](#) or access the full presentation made to Landcare Facilitators [here](#).

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Water Storages Update

Region	Water Storage	% full at	% full at
Murray Storages	Dartmouth Dam	97.3	95.34
	Hume Dam	95.60	92.76
	Reedy/Middle Lk	82.43	91.25
	Kangaroo Lake	93.63	93.70
	Kow Swamp	72.18	62.18
	Lake Boga	83.28	79.48
	Lake Charm	91.29	93.72
Loddon Storages	Cairn Curran Res	96.53	54.43
	Tullaroop Res	101.15	60.74
	Laanecoorie Res	95.97	43.50
Bullarook Storages	Newlyn Res	101.17	83.98
	Hepburns Lagoon	103.14	74.76
Goulburn Storages	Lake Eildon	96.16	83.16
	Waranga Basin	86.53	78.07
Campaspe	Lake Eppalock	100.19	48.89
Coliban Water Storages	Upper Coliban Res	94.6	↓1.9
	Lauriston Res	94.6	↑19.0
	Malmsbury Res	64.4	↑27.0

Upcoming Events and Special Days

August	
National Tree Day	1 Aug
Landcare Week	4-6 Aug
National Science Week	14-22 Aug
Keep Australia Beautiful Week	16-22 Aug
World Humanitarian Day	19 Aug
September	
National Biodiversity Month	1-30 Sep
National Wattle Day	1 Sep
National Threatened Species Day	7 Sep
Bushcare's Major Day Out	11 Sep
National Bilby Day	12 Sep
National Organic Week	20-26 Sep
World Rivers Day	26 Sep
October	
Australian Wildlife Week	4-8 Oct
World Habitat Day	4 Oct
World Migratory Bird Day	9 Oct
Gone Fishing Day	17 Oct
National Bird Week	18-24 Oct
Aussie Backyard Bird Count	18-24 Oct
National Water Week	18-24 Oct
National Ride 2 Work Day	20 Oct
Enviroweek	20-26 Oct
Wombat Day	22 Oct

Sustainable Ag Snippet...

Five Years of Regenerative Agriculture

The North Central CMA has delivered the Regenerative Agriculture project over the past five years. This project engaged six farmer groups and more than 120 farmers to deliver workshops, set up demonstrations and take soil tests.

There have been some excellent facilitators involved in the project that have helped coordinate the groups and deliver more than 80 events and assist farmers setting up at least 50 demonstration sites. The project has brought together farming communities to share ideas, learn about soils, and trial and explore new practices. Bringing communities together has many benefits contributing to building community capacity and social capital of their regions.

Soil testing was also a focus of the project with more than 250 soil samples taken over the five-years. The information gathered from these tests inform farmers of their soil's current nutrient and carbon status. These results are considered for future management decisions for demonstrations and on farm.

Multi-species cover crops were a popular choice for farmers when considering a demonstration, especially if they had mixed farming operations and were able to get multiple benefits (grazing and soil health) from the demonstration. Farmers that sowed multi-species cover crop were happy with the results and followed up with another cover crop the following year or tried one over summer if the conditions were favourable. We had some good seasonal conditions during this time resulting in cover crops that were too big to manage with grazing.



Multi-species cover crop at Talbot

The workshops and field days were popular with farmers learning more about soils, pastures, grazing, and biological sprays and fertilisers. The soil pit field days gave the farmers opportunities to learn more about their soils and get their hands dirty. These field days were well received among participants allowing farmers to visualise their soils and any sub-soil constraints and discuss potential solutions or practices to assist in managing these.



Soil pH testing

Although the Regenerative Agriculture project has finished, there will be another sustainable agriculture project. The new project is yet to be finalised, hopefully we will be able to provide further information in the next newsletter.

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Courses & Resources...

Advancing Landcare webinar series – Landcare Victoria.

The Advancing Landcare series of capacity-building webinars aims to help strengthen Landcare groups by delivering a range of activities based on the priorities identified through consultation with member groups.

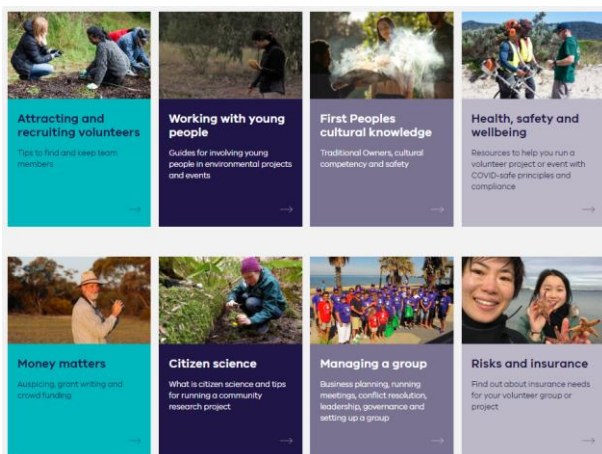
Recordings of the following webinars (held during 2022/23) are [available to stream via the Landcare Victoria Member Resources page:](#)

- The Art of Fundraising for Landcare groups
- Recruiting New Volunteers and Inspiring Young People to Volunteer
- Understanding Committee Roles and Responsibilities
- Succession Planning for Landcare Groups
- Child Safety for Landcare Organisations
- Financial Governance (Committee Members)
- Financial Governance (Treasurers)
- Risk Management and Insurance for Landcare Organisations

DEECA Resource Hub for Environmental Volunteers and Landcarers

Planning or running a nature, conservation or wildlife group, event or project? Find resources to help manage your volunteer team.

[Click here](#) to visit the website and find resources related to attracting and recruiting volunteers, working with young people, First Peoples cultural knowledge, managing a group, and more.



Nature Stewards Course

Discover the world around you

Are you keen to connect with nature and meet other like-minded friends? Why not take a Nature Stewards course!

- Learn more about your local and Victorian environment.
- Explore new employment opportunities.
- Hear from experts spanning Traditional Owners, CSIRO, Council, volunteering and industry.
- Find ways to connect with and care for nature.

Applications close **27 August 2023.**

When

Saturdays, 9 September to 21 October
Class times: 9.30am to 12.30pm Field session times: 1.30pm to 4.30pm (approx.)

Details

Six classes and three or four field sessions
Open to all over 18 years. Half price for under 30s

Where

Burke and Wills Lodge, Swan Hill and surrounds

Cost

\$250/\$65 concession*

*Full time students, health care card and pensioner card holders

For more info and to apply go to vnpa.org.au/naturestewards

Events...

Landcare Week – Annual Landcare Forum – Building Beautiful Biolinks

Come along to Macedon Ranges Shire Council's Landcare Forum to learn about the importance of biolinks and how to progress them by working together. We will be joined by amazing guest speakers as they inform us about their projects.

Our speakers include:

- Tanya Loos, Biodiversity Officer, MRSC
- Chris Lindorff, Cassinia Environmental - BushBank project
- Janine Duff, Koala Clancy Foundation

Speaker: Chris Lindorff - BushBank / Cassinia Environmental

Chris will discuss the Victorian Government's BushBank program that aims to address climate change and support wildlife as it revegetates and restores more than 20,000 hectares of land across Victoria.

Cassinia Environmental is the Victorian Government's delivery partner for the private land stream of BushBank.

Speaker: Janine Duffy - Koala Clancy Foundation

Janine is a conservationist, koala field researcher and passionate advocate for koalas and their habitat. Janine started the not for profit charity Koala Clancy Foundation in 2015. The foundation removes weeds, plants trees, advocates and educates locals about wild koalas.

Janine will discuss the 101 Koala Road project, and having planted 95,854 koala plants since 2016 and 2.8 million boneseeds removed.

Environment group support grants - Officers will be available on the night to answer any questions regarding the new environment grant opportunities.

Not part of a Landcare or Friends of group? That's ok, come along to learn about your local environment and hear from our speakers.

A light dinner will be provided.

When: 6pm to 8pm, Wednesday 9 August 2023

Where: Woodend Community Centre, Corner Forest and High streets, Woodend

Cost: Free

RSVP: Register online [here](#)

Revegetation Success in a Changing Climate event

Connecting Country is excited to announce a special free upcoming event, which will address how we plan revegetation in a changing climate. It has been designed to support community, land managers, and Landcarers to have greater success in restoring our natural landscapes.

The event will feature presentations from Sasha Jellinek (University of Melbourne), DJAARA and the North Central Catchment Management Authority, and a Q&A panel session to finish.

Join us to learn about how we can plan successful revegetation and restoration projects, using a combination of climate predictions and sourcing seeds from a variety of climatic zones, to future-proof our landscapes.

[Click here](#) to find more information on the Connecting Country website.

When: 6:30pm to 8:30pm, Tuesday 1 August 2023

Where: Anglican Church Hall, 8 Mostyn St, Castlemaine

Cost: Free

RSVP: Register online [here](#)

FREE EVENT > BOOKING ESSENTIAL: connectingcountry.org.au/events

Further information: Connecting Country, ivan@connectingcountry.org.au

This event is supported with funding from:



Victorian Weeds Conference

Join the Weed Society of Victoria for the 2023 Victorian Weeds Conference on Thursday 24 August for a day of learning and networking with fellow weed enthusiasts.

The conference is hosted by the Weed Society of Victoria (WSV) and will be held at a lovely venue for talking all things weeds, the Victorian Emergency Management Institute (VEMI) in Mount Macedon. Access via Gate 1, 152 Waterfalls Road, Mount Macedon.

The conference will cover a variety of topics related to weed management, including the latest research and best practices for controlling weeds in Victorian landscapes. You'll have the opportunity to hear from industry experts and network with other professionals in the field.

We encourage anyone with an interest in weed management and protecting natural environments to attend. This event is the perfect opportunity to connect with others and learn from their experiences with weeds.

Places are limited and ticket sales end Thursday 10th August, so don't delay, secure your tickets today!

For more information, including the conference program, click here: [Victorian Weeds Conference 24 August 2023 at Mount Macedon, Victoria — Weed Society of Victoria \(wsvic.org.au\)](#)

When: Thursday 24 August 2023

Where: Victorian Emergency Management Institute (VEMI) in Mount Macedon. Access via Gate 1, 152 Waterfalls Road, Mount Macedon

Cost: \$160 non-members, \$100 members, \$60 concession/students

RSVP: Register online [here](#) by Thursday 10 August



Large tree and hollow identification - Ashbourne Reserve

Come along to Ashbourne Reserve, Woodend for a walk and talk with Martin Roberts, Macedon Ranges Shire Council's Bushland Reserves Officer, and Tanya Loos, Council's Biodiversity Officer.

We will be documenting large tree locations and looking for hollows to highlight the critical role they play for fauna such as possums, gliders and birds. The information we gather will help us create a database of large habitat trees.

We will be meeting at Ashbourne Reserve, on upper Campaspe River, near Falloons and Ashbourne Road intersection (this is not Old Ashbourne Road Reserve).

As this is an outdoor event, please wear appropriate clothing and sturdy shoes.

When: 10am to noon, Thursday 17 August 2023

Where: Ashbourne Reserve, on upper Campaspe River, near Falloons and Ashbourne Road intersection (clarifying this is not Old Ashbourne Road Reserve)

Cost: Free

What to bring: Appropriate clothing and sturdy shoes

RSVP: Register online [here](#)

Large tree and hollow identification - Barringo Reserve

Come along to Barringo Reserve, New Gisborne for a walk and talk with Martin Roberts, Macedon Ranges Shire Council's Bushland Reserves Officer.

We will be documenting large tree locations and looking for hollows to highlight the critical role they play for fauna such as possums, gliders and birds. The information we gather will help us create a database of large habitat trees.

As this is an outdoor event, please wear appropriate clothing and sturdy shoes.

When: 10am to noon, Thursday 24 August 2023

Where: Barringo Reserve, 18 Shannons Road, New Gisborne

Cost: Free

What to bring: Appropriate clothing and sturdy shoes

RSVP: Register online [here](#)

Your Waterways, Your Say

Community Conversation sessions by Engage Victoria.

The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action is developing a new Victorian Waterway Management Strategy. It will guide how we manage Victorian waterways into the future.

We are inviting early feedback on a Discussion Starter to help shape the development of the new draft Strategy. The final Strategy is expected to be released in 2025.

We will work closely with key stakeholders throughout the project on development of the new Strategy. The next round of formal public consultation will take place when the draft Strategy is released for public comment, expected in 2024.

The purpose of this consultation is to:

Detail why a new Victorian Waterway Management Strategy is needed.

Invite input into a new vision for the future of our waterways, which will help us develop the new Strategy.

Invite early feedback on what the new Strategy needs to achieve.

How to participate

We ask that you:

1. Read the Discussion Starter, particularly the sections you and/or your organisation are most interested in. See link to summary below.
2. Attend one of our Community Conversation events to find out more. Register below.
3. Tell us what you think by completing the survey or by uploading a submission.

For more details or to register for one or more of the below online sessions, [click here](#).

Community Conversation Session 1

Wednesday 9 August 2023, 1:00pm – 2:00pm

Community Conversation Session 2

Thursday 17 August 2023, 7:45pm – 8:45pm

Community Conversation Session 3

Thursday 24 August 2023, 1:00pm – 2:00pm

Spiders: Learning to love them

Newstead Landcare is excited to invite you to a special presentation all about spiders! Our guest speaker is Lynne Kelly - researcher, educator, Castlemaine local, and author of Spiders: Learning to Love Them.

Anyone who has been lucky enough to talk spiders with Lynne will know her passion for sharing their secret lives and personalities. Lynne's presentation will include the story of her journey from arachnophobia to obsession, while introducing us to these extraordinary creatures.

Lynne has authored 19 books, and in the 2022 Australia Day Honours she was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for "significant achievement in science education through writing and research". Her book, *Spiders: Learning to Love Them* was judged the Best book in the category of Natural History in the 2009 Whitley Awards and awarded a Certificate of Commendation by the Royal Zoological Society of New South Wales. You can read more about the book online here: www.lynnekelly.com.au/Lynne_Kelly/Spiders.html

For more information, please email asharuth91@gmail.com or call 0418 428 721.

When: 7:30pm, Tuesday 15 August 2023

Where: Newstead Community Centre, 9 Lyons St, Newstead

Cost: Gold coin donations appreciated

RSVP: All welcome, no RSVP needed



Image: Patrick Kavanagh

Local farmers – where are they now on their journey in Holistic Farming

Hear from our local farmers after a hugely successful series in 2020 and 2021. Revisit two of our 2020 farmers and a new panel member who will share stories about their journey with holistic farming.

Join Farmer - Sam White, a sixth generation grazier of sheep and cattle on an 800-hectare farm in Sidonia. Breanne Francis has a 52-ha property with Stud Highland Cattle, commercial cattle and horses. Jess Szigethy-Gyula manages a 54-ha farm (combination of owned and leased) with sheep, alpacas, and horses. Jess has more than 20 per cent of the land in bush and planted revegetation.

Learn from these farmers about what they continue to learn, what has worked, not worked and their thoughts on what's next.

Webinar zoom details will be emailed out 48 and 1 hour before the event to all registered participants.

When: 7pm to 8pm, Tuesday 15 August 2023

Where: Online webinar

Cost: Free

RSVP: Register online [here](#).

Carbon – Know your properties carbon tally and the opportunities available.

This webinar will explore how to know, understand and act on your farms carbon footprint.

Presenters will discuss how to calculate your property's carbon footprint, the opportunities to improve your carbon position, actions available and risks associated with selling carbon.

Alison Kelly (Agriculture Victoria) and North Central farmer Jo Bear will explain why it is important to know your carbon footprint and how to understand what that means on your property.

Rob Law of the North Central CMA will explain some of the opportunities that are available to land managers in central Victoria thinking about generating carbon offsets. He will help to make sense of the carbon offsets market, and what existing programs and initiatives are underway in the region.

Webinar zoom details will be emailed out 48 hours and one hour before the event to all registered participants.

When: 7pm to 8pm, Tuesday 29 August 2023

Where: Online webinar

Cost: Free

RSVP: Register online [here](#).



North Central Chat

Keeping you up to date with all the Landcare and Citizen Science news



August 2023

Funding opportunities...

Special article by the North Central Business Development Team

We know raising funding can be challenging and we are here to help. The more funding for nature-based solutions and resilience in our region, the better for all of us, so we have worked hard to get ahead of the grant releases so that there is plenty of time for you apply.

Below are 12 competitive grants, open to non-profits, unincorporated bodies, individuals, businesses, educational institutions and/or volunteer groups. Some may require a donations and gifts registry. These grants range in value from \$1,500 to \$1,500,000.

Emergency Management Victoria, Risk and Resilience Grants Program, \$250,000, closing 10/8/2023

Awards Australia - Victorian Regional Community Achievement Awards, \$1,500, closing 1/09/2023

Murray River Council (MRC) - Community Grants, \$3,000, closing 15/09/2023

Community Enterprise Foundation - Avoca, Maryborough & St Arnaud Community Grant Program, \$250,000, closing 16/09/2023

The Sidney Myer Fund, Australian Neighbourhood Houses & Centres Association (ANHCA) - Supporting Stronger Communities Grants, \$10,000, closing 28/09/2023

The Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry & Regions (DJSIR) (Vic) - Business Groups Flood Recovery Grants, \$50,000, closing 28/09/2023

The Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry & Regions (DJSIR) (Vic) - Business Groups Flood Recovery Grants, \$50,000, closing 31/10/2023

Australian Research Council - Linkage Projects Scheme, \$1.5M, closing 13/12/2023

Damien Greer Lawyers - Community Grant, \$2,500, closing 31/12/2023

Ongoing

Agriculture Victoria, LaunchVIC - AgTech Grants Program, \$50,000

Department Of Agriculture, Water & The Environment, Rural Finance - On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme - Vic, \$25,000

Macedon Ranges Shire Council - Small Project Grants, \$3,000

Greater Bendigo City Council - Community Group Essentials Grants, \$2,000

Questions? Email bdp@nccma.vic.gov.au or call 03 5440 1805 for further information or assistance.

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

