

# North Central Chat

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



July 2023

## A message from the Citizen Science Coordinator

Hi everyone,

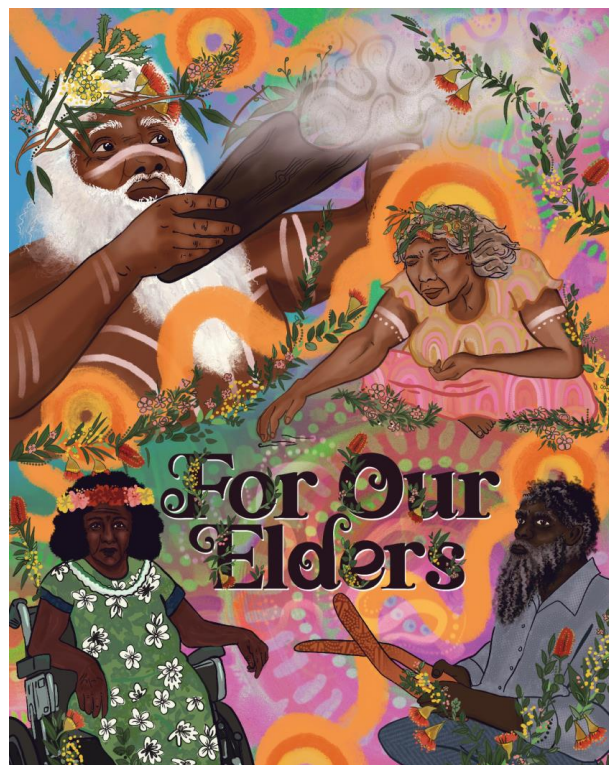
As you will have seen in the last edition, Tess Grieves has now moved across to the North Central CMA's Integrated Catchment Management projects. We can't thank her enough for her contribution to Landcare over the years and for tirelessly curating the North Central Chat every month for 84 editions! We wish her every success in her new position! We have recently interviewed several promising applicants and hope to be in a position to announce our new Regional Landcare Coordinator in next month's chat.

I was lucky to join Eastern Bendigo Landcare Facilitator Kristie and other members of the East Bendigo Landcare network in early June for a delightful Sunday paddle down the Campaspe River at Rocky Crossing. This was a great opportunity for Landcare groups under the East Bendigo network umbrella to get together, learn from each other and, most importantly, have fun! Ecologist Damien Cook was on hand to speak to the ecological values and threats of the river while we paddled along and basked in perfect winter sunshine. We look forward to more great things to come from this new network.

The theme of this month's Chat is NAIDOC Week. I encourage everyone to check out what events are happening locally and help celebrate First Nations cultures, histories, and achievements from 2-9 July. This year's NAIDOC theme is 'For Our Elders'.

Enjoy the read and happy NAIDOC.

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**NAIDOC Week**

2-9 JULY 2023

#NAIDOC2023 #ForOurElders

@naidocweek @naidocweek facebook.com/NAIDOC

For Our Elders, Bobbi Lockyer

Where there is knowledge there are our Elders. Our Elders paved the pathways for us, taught us our knowledge, our history, they passed down their art, stories and wisdom. Our Elders are the foundation of our communities and role models for our children. With this poster I wanted to showcase how important our Elders are in passing down traditions and culture to our children and future.



naidoc.org.au



## Connecting rivers, landscapes, people

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

[www.nccma.vic.gov.au](http://www.nccma.vic.gov.au)



**News...**

**NAIDOC Week 2023 – For Our Elders**

**National NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia in the first week of July each year (this year 2-9 July), to celebrate and recognise the history, culture, and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.**

NAIDOC Week is an opportunity for all Australians to learn about First Nations cultures and histories and participate in celebrations of the oldest, continuous living cultures on earth. You can support and get to know your local Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities through activities and events held across the country.

This year’s theme is ‘For Our Elders’, and we are encouraged to think about how we can pay our respects and celebrate Elders and their guidance, knowledge, and leadership.

To learn more about getting involved as an individual or group, visit [naidoc.org.au](http://naidoc.org.au) or have a read through the NAIDOC Week Toolkit here: [www.naidoc.org.au/sites/default/files/files/Supporting NAIDOC Toolkit.pdf](http://www.naidoc.org.au/sites/default/files/files/Supporting%20NAIDOC%20Toolkit.pdf)

To search for a local NAIDOC week event near you, visit [www.naidoc.org.au/local-events/local-naidoc-week-events](http://www.naidoc.org.au/local-events/local-naidoc-week-events) or see our ‘Events’ section below.



**Water for Country**

Article by Alannah Leach, North Central CMA

**Earlier this year, the Barapa Barapa Wamba Wamba Water for Country Steering Committee members organised a week on Country to complete the remaining two-thirds of Cultural Heritage Assessments (CHA) at Lake Murphy.**

The Cultural Heritage Assessments began in March 2022 under the Water for Country Project. However, the work was put on hold due to COVID-19 illness and the impacts of flooding.

Lake Murphy is a culturally significant wetland and once would have flourished with abundant resources to support the Traditional Owners of the land. The CHA provided a good opportunity for intergenerational learning and healing time on Country.

An impressive four kilometers of Country was assessed around the wetland with 12 Traditional Owners flagging scar trees, quartz cores, mounds, and clay balls for protection from current and ongoing environmental works.



Lake Murphy, April 2023

**We’ve achieved a lot together**

**For more than 25 years, Victoria’s CMAs have worked with Traditional Owners, partners, and community to deliver land, water and biodiversity programs that not only protect and enhance landscapes, but support thriving communities.**

We’ve achieved a lot together and are only just getting started.

The Victorian CMAs' Action & Achievements Report 2022 is out now and is full of facts and stories of the people working for Victoria's catchments.

Head to our website or click the link to read - [www.nccma.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/publications/2022-vcma-actions-and-achievements-report.pdf](http://www.nccma.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/publications/2022-vcma-actions-and-achievements-report.pdf)



## National Tree Day

**Planet Ark's National Tree Day started in 1996 and has grown into Australia's largest community tree planting and nature care event.**

It's a call to action for all Australians to get their hands dirty and give back to the community.

While every day can be Tree Day, we dedicate the celebration of Schools Tree Day and National Tree Day on the last Friday and Sunday in July.

In 2023, Schools Tree Day is Friday, 28 July, National Tree Day is Sunday, 30 July, and Tropical Tree Day is Sunday, 3 December.

To add your own planting day or find a planting day near you, visit [www.treeday.planetark.org/](http://www.treeday.planetark.org/)



## Get involved with Landcare Week 2023

Article by Landcare Australia

### Campaign Toolkit for Landcare and Other Environmental Community Groups

Landcare Week, an annual celebration of Landcare during the first week of August (7-13 August 2023), acknowledges the Australians who are actively restoring, enhancing, and protecting the natural environment in their community.

From the coast to the country, and from urban cities to the outback, Landcare's greatest asset is its people. What makes Landcare unique to any other community movement is the large number of active groups and the effective partnerships created between business, researchers, natural resource management agencies, government, and community. These partnerships build local community ownership of issues and unlock volunteer knowledge, capability, and capacity to create better outcomes for the environment and those who seek to protect and enhance it.

In the past three decades Landcare has achieved a great deal of work, but there is much more to do. With a changing climate leading to an increase in natural disasters such as drought, bushfires, and floods, Landcare has never been more important. United we can take action, benefitting our environment, the landscape and biodiversity, our communities, and our personal wellbeing.

This year, the campaign will be asking people why they volunteer with Landcare in the hope we can inspire others to feel empowered to get involved in their local Landcare or other community environmental group.

We want to encourage you to help spread the word and ask your group members to tell Australia why they volunteer.

### "I volunteer with my local Landcare group because..."

Note: Your volunteer group may be a Bushcare, 'Friends of' or Coastcare group, or any groups that is working to care for your local environment.

Inspire others by sharing your volunteers' responses on your social media platforms, through newsletters, community forums and local community noticeboards. Profiling them using video, quotes or stories about their or the groups involvement in Landcare.



### About the Toolkit

The Communications Kit is designed to promote 2023 Landcare Week and encourage and inspire others.

The kit includes draft content that you can personalise:

- Social media content – to publish on your social media channels
- Newsletter articles – to include in your e-newsletters
- A letter / email – to send to your Landcare stakeholders.
- Poster to add to community noticeboards encouraging people to get involved.

To learn more, visit

[www.landcareaustralia.org.au/landcare-week/landcare-week-2023-campaign-group-resources](http://www.landcareaustralia.org.au/landcare-week/landcare-week-2023-campaign-group-resources) or email [digital@landcareaustralia.com.au](mailto:digital@landcareaustralia.com.au)

### Congratulations ResourceSmart Schools Award winners!

#### A huge congratulations to our local River Detectives schools who were recently recognised.

Castlemaine Steiner School received the award for Campus infrastructure and Operations School of the Year for their “school designed with permaculture principles and community spirit”. This category celebrates the school that best demonstrates its commitment to environmental sustainability.

Chewton Primary School was the Primary School winner of the Curriculum Leadership School of the Year for “connecting with First Nations people to learn about sustainable practices”. This category recognises teaching and learning of sustainability through the Victorian curriculum, and the creative and innovative approaches to addressing sustainability in lesson plans, units of work, or school-wide curriculum.

### The Digging Deeper Podcast

**The Digging Deeper Podcast is available wherever you get your podcasts and is delivered by the North Central CMA through funding from the Australian Government’s National Landcare Program.**

Soil is one of our most important resources; responsible for 95 per cent of the food we eat. So its sustainable management is critical for our future.

The National Soil Strategy has three main goals – prioritise soil health, empower soil innovation and stewardship, and build soil knowledge and capability.

The Digging Deeper Podcast does this by promoting the work of local soil champions to their peers. It profiles people in the region who are undertaking new practices or thinking differently about the health of their soils.

And it explores why and how they are building soil health, their key concepts and their thoughts, rather than just the practicalities of what they are doing.

The latest episode came out in June, featuring Adam Campbell and his family who operate Springlake Farming, a 3350ha broadacre farming enterprise at Corack, north of Donald.

There are two distinct soil types on the farm: heavy self-mulching grey clay found commonly in the Wimmera district and a more Mallee-type soil comprising red clay and red sandy loam.

Both require different management approaches. With a priority on soil health, Adam undertakes minimum tillage practices including direct drilling, stubble retention and inter-row cropping.

Hay production is also included in paddock rotations to manage chemical resistance, build nitrogen, and carbon levels in the soil.

Adam implements effective management strategies by using sheep grazing, off-farm employees (contractors and overseas students) and marketing options for grain and hay to run a profitable farming business.



## A wintery Landcare Link-up in Taradale

Article by Hadley Cole, Connecting Country

**On Saturday 17 June 2023, Connecting Country hosted the annual Landcare Link-up in Taradale, Dja Dja Wurrung Country.**

It was a cold, windy, yet sunny day as we took a walking tour of Taradale Landcare groups project site Barkly Park. Brian Bainbridge of Taradale Landcare walked us through key areas in the park, outlining its interesting history and different vegetation types present across the park. Barkly Park is represented largely by Red Gum Grassy Woodland, and perhaps due to its reservation as public land, many of the red gums have been able to grow into majestic trees, containing beautiful hollows for local wildlife. The Landcare group has recorded brush tailed phascogales using the site, scurrying along the branches of fallen timber out of the reach of predators. The group has also enjoyed bird walks and plans to collect data on the bird life at the site over time. A cool burn is planned for later this year which will focus on restoring an area with existing kangaroo grass and chocolate lilies.

Participants reported they thoroughly enjoyed the tour. We are very grateful to Brian and Colleen and all Taradale Landcare members for taking the time to showcase their work at Barkly Park. We will watch with interest as they continue to restore and enhance the local biodiversity.



Participants hearing about a hybrid eucalypt at the Barkly Park site. (Image: Hadley Cole)

Following the tour, we found warmth in the charming Taradale Hall where we enjoyed further presentations from Landcare groups of the Mount Alexander/

Leanganook region and enjoyed afternoon tea provided by the Murnong Mamas.

We heard three presentations from local Landcare groups in the region, which varied from an urban group, to a group working on private land and another who works on public land.

Christine Kilmartin of Castlemaine Landcare presented some of the issues urban Landcare groups come up against, including the many and various weeds that infiltrate restoration areas, particularly following floods. Castlemaine Landcare has been working to protect and restore numerous sites along Forest Creek.

Beth Mellick of Muckleford Catchment Landcare spoke of the groups' Habitat Corridor project which aims to build connectivity across the Muckleford landscape, linking private property with a local bushland reserves. Much of the land in Muckleford Catchment Landcare group's project sites are largely on private land and the group works with landholders to increase connectivity across the landscape and build habitat resilience. The group has put together a short film showcasing their work. To watch the film, visit <https://vimeo.com/717398760>

Marie Jones of Golden Point Landcare shared a positive story of taking the time out to walk through older project sites and notice the differences in restoration that have occurred over time. The work of Landcare groups can be tough; digging holes, planting and seeing only some plants survive, getting out and watering in the hotter months, worrying about the destruction caused by fires, floods or storms. It can be difficult to step back and focus on the achievements and progress made over time and appreciate the positive changes in the landscape groups have accomplished. This was a lovely positive presentation from Marie to finish up the afternoon.

Thank you to all of the presenters who took the time to share their stories with us. We really enjoy hearing the varied Landcare stories from the region.

Thank you to the North Central Catchment Management Authority for supporting this event.



Landcare Link-up participants (Image: Lori Arthur)

## North Central soil moisture update - June 2023

Article by Dale Boyd, Agriculture Victoria

The data for this seasonal update was collected from [Soil Moisture Monitoring | Soil Moisture Monitoring \(extensionaus.com.au\)](#), with data contribution from the North Central CMA Raywood network.

The local network has soil profiles sitting at >75 per cent soil moisture in the annual cropping paddocks. Perennial paddocks (lucerne) are now starting to wet up after the low rainfall over summer and deep rooted plants created dry profiles at the start of autumn.

### Summary

The region's free draining soils with high yielding grain crops, used moisture in late November and December 2022 to sustain those well above average yields and ended with between 50 and 75 per cent moisture. Crops that were impacted by flooding and water logging were generally on the heavier soil types and finished 2022 with >75 per cent.

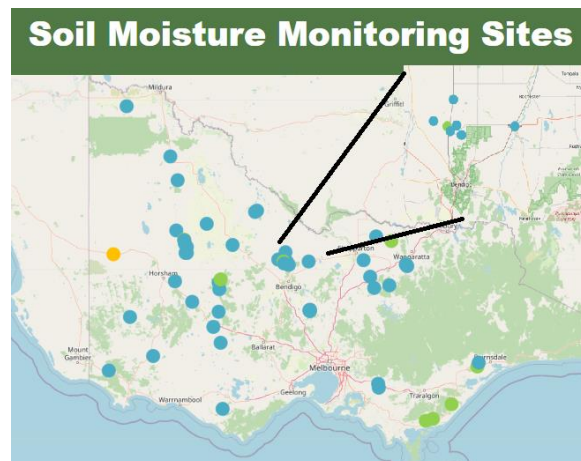
With effective weed control over summer, most of this deep moisture was conserved.

Autumn breaking rain created good shallow moisture conditions for pasture and crop establishment and in some instances, would have connected to the old season's moisture. Recent rain on 8 June has connected all moisture profiles together to produce a full or near full profile for winter crop paddocks.

Paddocks that were >75 per cent at the start of the growing season will be saturated, and free draining soils that had some capacity to absorb the 50mm rain in June are positioned well for this season (see soilwater app-Elmore profile). Lucerne paddocks have commenced the traditional winter build-up of soil moisture and will be monitored to determine how much water is accumulated for use in spring.

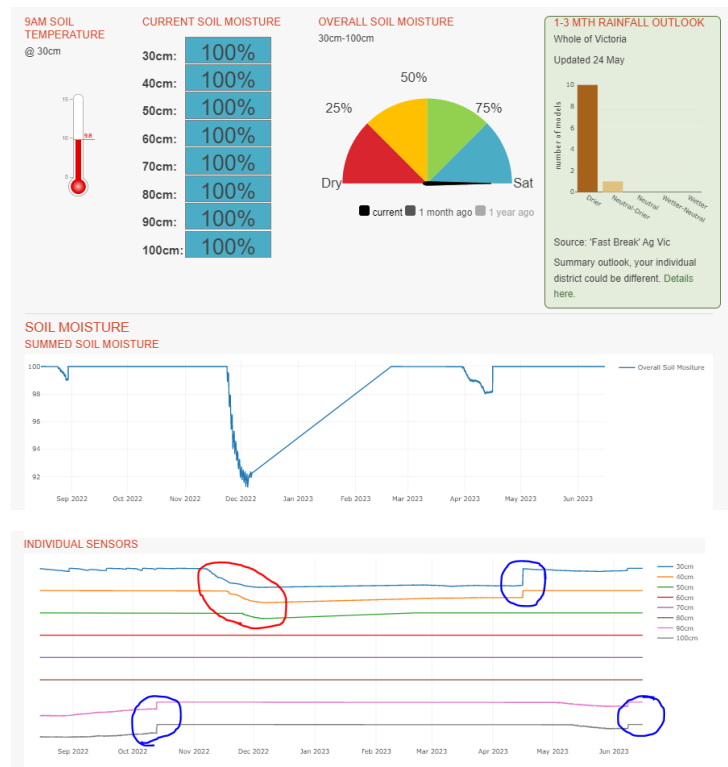
Soil temperatures remain suitable for plant germination and growth, rebounding from mid-May when a series of frosts lowered soil temperatures. At 9am on the 16 June, shallow soil temperatures were around 9.5-10.5 degrees at the monitoring sites.

The seasonal outlook is for likely drier across Victoria and requires monitoring over winter for updates.



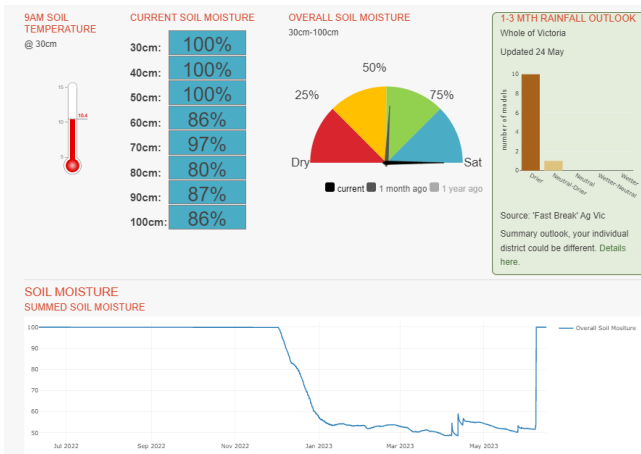
Source – Agriculture Victoria SMM dashboard, cropping sites are high moisture deciles, perennial pasture sites are wetting up.

### Soil moisture dashboard displays



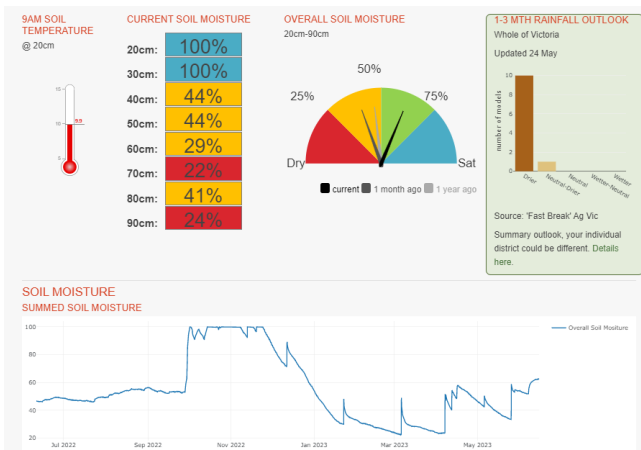
### Dingee soil moisture monitoring site, clay soil

The crop used water late in the growing season last year, but profiles responded positively to the autumn break, and late May and June rain has lifted the moisture to 100 per cent.



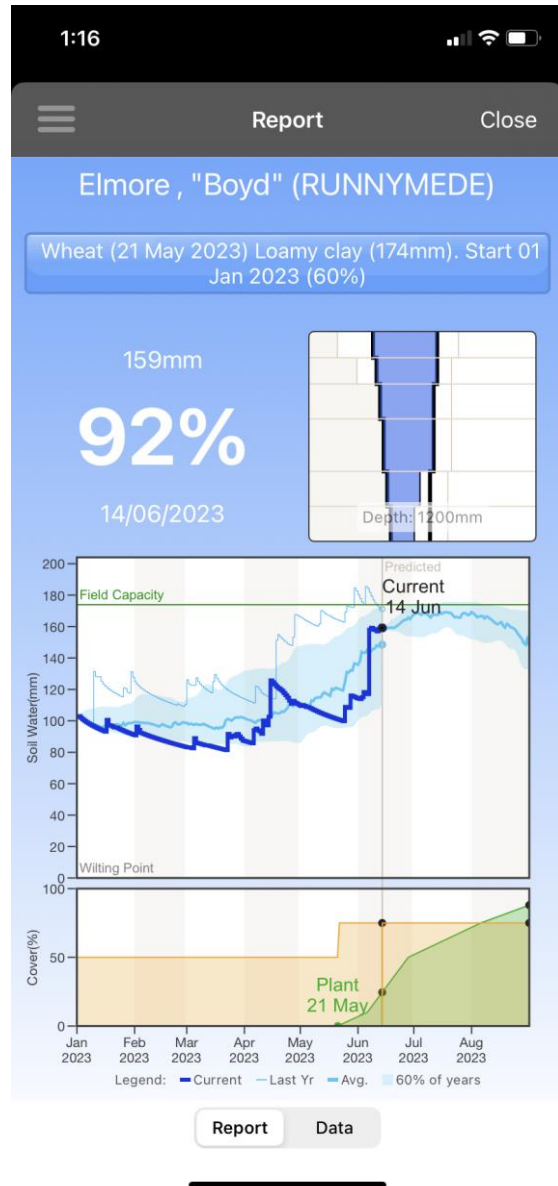
Raywood North, Pasture/Crop monitoring site, ryegrass 2022.

There was a long pasture growing season in 2022, and ryegrass continued to use moisture in December (45 per cent) when there was no rain and finished at 55 per cent. April rain started to build soil moisture, but the biggest impact was 75mm on 8 June that boosted soil moisture to 100 per cent.



Raywood Lucerne

Winter rainfall has infiltrated down to 60cm, with 0-30cm wet and moisture ok down to 60cm but lots of capacity to absorb more water over winter.



Soilwater app display from Elmore

The Elmore monitoring site was high yielding wheat and is an example of free draining soil and moisture use in late Spring. Finishing at 60 per cent moisture last season, the April storm and recent June rain has boosted 80mm to the soil profile to be currently 92 per cent according to the [soilwater app](#) model. Farms without moisture probes could use crop models that are available.





## WaterWatch Victoria

### Early NAIDOC celebrations in Maryborough

We were thrilled to be once again invited to join the NAIDOC celebrations at Maryborough Educational Centre (MEC) on Thursday 22 June.

This early NAIDOC celebration event is organised by Asteria Services and partners. This was its 12th year running, and the second year it was hosted by MEC.

The day began with the gathering of hundreds of students from local schools, family members, and community representatives. DJAARA gave a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony, followed by a dance performance and interactive session led by Jungle City Project.

The enthusiastic participants continued to brave the cold and headed over to where numerous stalls with activities, food, and music were set up.



Andre showing students how to find and identify waterbugs.

Andre and Asha ran a stall with a waterbug activity, where students could search through water trays for aquatic macroinvertebrates (eg. water boatman, whirlygig beetle, backswimmers, glass shrimp, and damselfly nymph), fish them out with spoons, look at them under a microscope, and try to identify what they had found using our posters.

**The waterbug activity was met with curiosity from all, and a great deal of excitement by many**

Lots of students stayed at the stall for more than 20 minutes, searching for a particularly elusive catch that they wanted to find and sharing their discoveries with new arrivals.



Water boatman befriended by an excited student.

Thank you to Asteria Services and MEC for having us at this great event.

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COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

**Make NAIDOC Week the time to learn more about our elders**

**This year's theme is 'For Our Elders' and there are many ways you can connect with it**

The official National NAIDOC Week education resources can be found at the [NAIDOC website here](#).

These teaching resources, developed by the National NAIDOC Committee, directly support teachers in addressing the Australian curriculum: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Culture cross-curriculum priority. Content can be used across multiple learning areas and stages/grades from Foundational Studies to Year 12. The material on this site may also be relevant to VET and University students undertaking Indigenous Studies.

There are many other valuable resources online to support learning about Aboriginal Cultures and Histories. It is always good to start looking at local resources first, then move broader to the Kulin nation, then broader again to Australia wide. With that in mind, the [River Detectives website](#) is a great place to find beautiful videos about traditional owners in our region (tick the North Central CMA box to filter). The resources on our website are publicly accessible and useful not only for students but for children in your life and adults of all ages all year round!

Other online resources I would recommend (in no order of priority):

- [Djaara website](#)
- [Deadly and Proud youtube videos](#)
- [Share Our Pride website](#)
- [Australians Together website](#)



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**Water Storages Update**

Region	Water Storage	% full	% full same time 2022
Murray Storages	Dartmouth Dam	97.54	94.22
	Hume Dam	93.69	95.19
	Reedy/Middle Lk	78.96	91.09
	Kangaroo Lake	93.99	94.25
	Kow Swamp	70.49	67.87
	Lake Boga	83.38	80.11
	Lake Charm	91.71	94.27
Loddon Storages	Cairn Curran Res	87.37	53.78
	Tullaroop Res	87.85	61.15
	Laanecoorie Res	68.19	39.75
Bullarook Storages	Newlyn Res	79.81	73.04
	Hepburns Lagoon	75.19	71.17
Goulburn Storages	Lake Eildon	96.75	78.84
	Waranga Basin	78.96	60.05
Campaspe	Lake Eppalock	92.95	48.82
Coliban Water Storages	Upper Coliban Res	81.6	↓ 11.6
	Lauriston Res	91.7	↑ 8.2
	Malmsbury Res	54.9	↑ 40.9

**Upcoming Events and Special Days**

July	
NAIDOC Week	2-9 Jul
Plastic Free July	1-31 Jul
World Zoonoses Day	6 Jul
World Mangrove Day	26 Jul

Schools Tree Day	29 Jul
National Tree Day	31 Jul
World Ranger Day	31 Jul
<b>August</b>	
National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day	4 Aug
Landcare Week	7-13 Aug
National Science Week	12-20 Aug
Keep Australia Beautiful Week	7-13 Aug
World Humanitarian Day	19 Aug
<b>September</b>	
National Biodiversity Month	1-31 Sep
National Wattle Day	1 Sep
National Threatened Species Day	7 Sep
International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer	16 Sep
International Microorganism Day	17 Sep
National Organic Week	18-24 Sep
World Rivers Day	24 Sep
International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste Reduction	29 Sep



## Courses & Resources... 1080 and PAPP training course

**The Upper Loddon & Avoca Landcare Network is coordinating a half day of training for those who already have their Agricultural Chemical Users Permit (ACUP), and wish to get their 1080/PAPP endorsement.**

This is the equivalent of the 22516VIC course in Minimising Risks in the Use of 1080 and PAPP Bait Products for Vertebrate Pest Control.

The half-day 1080 and PAPP training course teaches participants the safe, legal and effective handling and use of 1080 and PAPP bait products. It also provides information on how to abide by the document titled "Directions for the use of 1080 and PAPP pest animal bait products in Victoria".

**Please register your interest as soon as possible as the training will be organised in July.**

**When:** July 2023

**Where:** Maryborough area

**Cost:** \$300

**RSVP:** contact Landcare Facilitator Chris Pollock on 0421 372 545 or [chrisspollock7@gmail.com](mailto:chrisspollock7@gmail.com) for more information

## TreeProject seedlings

**TreeProject gets urban and rural communities working together to put trees back on the land.**

Our network of trained volunteers grows local indigenous seedlings for rural landholders and Landcare groups who need our help with revegetation.

For landholders, being able to access at-cost seedlings (\$290 for 500 native seedlings - \$70 off if you provide your own seed) from TreeProject can be critical to start restoring degraded areas.

TreeProject has been working with some Landcare groups (Deep Creek, Malmsbury, Upper Maribyrnong, and Arawata all order seedlings annually). These Landcare groups determine what species they want to plant, then collect or order local seed, coordinate an order of 500, and then distribute the seedlings to members when they are ready for planting.

We have a lot of volunteer growers ready to grow this summer so get your order in by 30 September 2023.

To learn more or order seedlings, visit [treeproject.org.au/landholders/order-seedlings/](http://treeproject.org.au/landholders/order-seedlings/)

## Events...

### 2023 BDAC NAIDOC Flag Raising and Awards Ceremony

Everyone is welcome to join BDAC for its NAIDOC Week Flag Raising Ceremony and Youth Community Awards presentations.

A Smoking Ceremony will take place at 10am, with the event officially kicking off at 10.30am.

Awards to be presented:

Aboriginal Academic Award – secondary Level  
Aboriginal Academic Award – primary Level  
Youth Sportsman Award – up to 18 years  
Youth Sportswoman Award – up to 18 years  
Phil Brusck Scholarship

**When:** 30 June 2023, 10am to noon

**Where:** BDAC Bendigo & District Aboriginal Co Operative 119 Prouses Road North Bendigo, VIC 3550

**Cost:** Free

**RSVP:** Via eventbrite [here](#)

### City of Greater Bendigo NAIDOC Week Flag Raising Ceremony

Join the City of Greater Bendigo flag raising ceremony to celebrate the start of NAIDOC Week 2023 in Bendigo.

Join for the celebrations, which include a Dja Dja Wurrung Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony as part of the flag raising ceremony taking place in the Bendigo Library Gardens. Civic Reception and a light morning tea to follow indoors in the Bendigo Town Hall.

For further information, contact Fiona Machin at [f.machin@bendigo.vic.gov.au](mailto:f.machin@bendigo.vic.gov.au)

**When:** Monday 3 July 2023, 10am to noon

**Where:** Bendigo Library Gardens, Lyttleton Terrace, Bendigo

**RSVP:** [rsvp@bendigo.vic.gov.au](mailto:rsvp@bendigo.vic.gov.au)

Light refreshments will be provided at the completion of the ceremony.



### Irrigation webinar series: New approach to delivery rights in Victoria – place of take approvals framework

This webinar will discuss what the new framework means for irrigators.

It will cover:

- The drivers for the change.
- What the changes are, and what they mean for water users, including for private diverters and irrigation district customers.
- Proposed rules under the framework, including cap and trade of water delivery rights.
- How the changes fit in the program of work to manage increasing delivery risk in the Murray.

Expert speakers are Penny Clark – Senior Manager Water Reform Legislation Oversight, and Alex Murray – Acting Manager Declared Systems Reform.

Penny and Alex are from the Water Markets and Grid branch at the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA). This team oversees the place of take approval framework.

For more information, please visit

[www.extensionaus.com.au/irrigatingag/event/irrigation-webinar-series-new-approach-to-delivery-rights-in-victoria-place-of-take-approvals-framework/](http://www.extensionaus.com.au/irrigatingag/event/irrigation-webinar-series-new-approach-to-delivery-rights-in-victoria-place-of-take-approvals-framework/)

**When:** Wednesday 12 July 2023, 1pm to 2pm

**Where:** Online

**Cost:** Free

**RSVP:** To register for the webinar, please go to [bit.ly/AgVicWMW16](http://bit.ly/AgVicWMW16)

### National Tree Day with Victoria Street – Ironbark Gully Friends Landcare Group

Free community event, including BBQ.

Planting has been undertaken in the Victoria Street area over recent years with a view to making this an urban nature hub and providing connectivity along Ironbark Gully precinct to Long Gully Creek.

This year's planting will increase the level of shrubs and lower storey to improve the ecological values of the site and make it a place for community to enjoy the values of nature in an urban environment.

**When:** Sunday 30 July 2023, 10am to 2pm

**Where:** Victoria Street, Ironbark VIC 3550

**Cost:** Free

**RSVP or more information:** Ken Beasley 0427 707 370



## Funding opportunities...

### Community Tree Grants

**The Trees for Bees Community Tree Grants support the planting of bee-friendly trees in extended gardens, community-owned land, school grounds, sporting club precincts and urban corridors.**

The program provides funding to community groups and organisations to increase vital habitat, providing spaces for bees to forage, live and breed.

The program is proudly supported by Carman's.

#### Program details

Grants of \$500 are available.

Grants are open to not-for-profits, school groups, Landcare groups, community organisations and sustainability groups.

Applications require a brief summary of the bee-friendly planting proposal, planting area and planting dates.

#### Applicants will be judged on three criteria:

- **Pollinator impact:** How the planting will benefit bees and other pollinators.
- **Area covered:** The size of the planting and the details of the area (was it previously an unused site, does it extend existing pollinator-friendly garden).
- **Community reach:** How many people are involved in the planting, how many people will learn more about the importance of planting for pollinators as a result of the grant.

There are 20 grants available.

#### Dates and deadlines:

- Grants opened on May 20, 2023.
- Applications close on July 31, 2023.
- Recipients will be notified by August 20, 2023.
- Planting must be completed by October 31, 2023.

## BushBank - Restoring Private Land

**The Victorian Government's \$77 million BushBank program is addressing climate change and supporting wildlife as it restores more than 20,000 hectares of land across Victoria.**

Millions of native trees and shrubs will be planted to capture carbon and create healthy habitat for native wildlife. The majority of work is taking place through partnerships with private landowners, providing an opportunity to participate in the most ambitious restoration program in Victoria's history.

### Cassinia Environmental

Cassinia Environmental is the Victorian Government's delivery partner for the private land stream of BushBank. Cassinia Environmental is a land management company with proven results in environmental protection, ecological restoration, regenerative agriculture, and social investment.

It will manage projects in partnership with landowners for the duration of the program. Significant co-funding is required to deliver native vegetation plantings across degraded and marginal private land. Cassinia Environmental will source and secure co-funding from various partners, including from carbon markets and philanthropic biodiversity-focused partners.

### Opportunities for Landowners

The BushBank program provides a unique opportunity for private landowners to play a meaningful role in addressing climate change and supporting wildlife, leaving a legacy for generations to come. Landowners will be supported to undertake restoration projects and access carbon markets with financial incentives paid over several years.

Landowner recruitment has begun, and pilot projects will be selected from expressions of interest received before 30 July 2023. Any expressions of interest received after this date will be considered in future recruitment rounds.

For all the relevant information- visit: [BushBank-Restoring Private Land - Cassinia Environmental](#)

*This project is funded by the Victorian Government's \$77 million BushBank Program, which is restoring more than 20,000 hectares of land across Victoria to create healthy wildlife habitat and capture carbon.*