

North Central Chat

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



October 2023

A message from the Regional Landcare Coordinator

Hi everyone,

In stark contrast to this time last year, many in the region are hoping for more rain to finish the season off. With the BoM officially calling an El Nino on September 19, the forecast for the next few months is for a warmer and drier conditions. Soil moisture at monitoring sites around the region ranges from 30 to 80 per cent full but is depleting. Read more about the latest soil moisture update on page eight.

There's been a few great events over the past month, with more planned to encourage community members to get out in nature. Be sure to check out the events page and make the most of these fantastic opportunities.

The Aussie Bird Count is also coming up this month. The 2023 event will run from 16 to 22 October over National Bird Week, and registrations are now open. Register today on the [Aussie Bird Count website](#).

The Aussie Bird Count is Australia's biggest citizen science event, and this year it is turning 10. Join with other citizen scientists around the country to observe and count the birds around you throughout the week.

This could be in your backyard, local park, or favourite outdoor space. It only takes 20 minutes to count the birds you see or hear.

Last year, Australians recorded more than 3.9 million birds of 620 different species, according to Sean Dooley of BirdLife Australia.

The Aussie Bird Count collects vast amounts of data which helps BirdLife Australia fill knowledge gaps about Australian birds. It's also a great opportunity to connect with the natural environment, and a great activity to involve the kids.

Chicks in the Sticks is ramping up to be another fantastic day. We are lining up a range of great speakers and workshops so stay tuned for more details.



Join in the Aussie Bird Count this month.

This year we are near the Loddon River at Serpentine at the lovely East Loddon Woolshed. [Registrations](#) are now open. But get in quick as tickets are strictly limited.

If you have received this newsletter from a friend, you can subscribe to receive it yourself [here](#), scan the QR code below or email us to be added to our mailing list.

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: Sandy Scheltema

Congratulations to the 2023 Victorian Landcare Grants recipients

Congratulations to the recipients of the 2023 Victorian Landcare Grants in the North Central CMA region.

Environmental volunteer groups and networks are sharing in \$3.98 million in funding to care for the state's natural environment, with 245 on-ground and capacity-building projects and 269 support grants funded in Victoria.

These grants will support Landcare and environmental volunteering groups and networks for on-ground works, education and capacity building projects that protect and restore our land and natural environment.

Landcare grant projects in the North Central CMA region include: The Wetlands of Moolort – assets not liabilities; Seeding the Future – black gum waterways and; Natural Youth – bringing youth back to nature through meaningful and fun activities.

The Victorian Landcare Grants support Biodiversity 2037, the Victorian Government's long-term plan to protect Victoria's environment.

A full list of this year's Victorian Landcare Grant recipients can be found at <https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/grants/victorian-landcare-grants>



North Central Carbon Market Opportunities

Finding the right one for you

Narelle Beattie, North Central CMA Community Carbon Project Manager

Private landholders have several carbon market opportunities to consider in the North Central CMA region.

Currently, there are three government programs available to support landholders with reforestation for carbon:

- North Central Community Carbon Pilot
- BushBank
- Victorian Carbon Farming Program Pilot

There are also commercial opportunities you may want to consider. Selecting the most suitable option for your situation is important.

For key factors to consider when evaluating a carbon project visit: www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/climate-and-weather/understanding-carbon-and-emissions/selling-carbon-from-trees-and-soils

We've put together a great comparison chart of some of the carbon opportunities available in the North Central region. [Check it out on our website.](#) If you have any questions or would like to find out more, contact Community Carbon Project Manager Narelle Beattie at community.carbon@nccma.vic.gov.au

Nikki Davey - 2023 AgriFutures Australia Rural Women's Award winner

Victorian Rural Women's Network

This article was originally published in the Victorian Rural Women's Network newsletter.

Victorian tech entrepreneur Nikki Davey has taken home the 2023 AgriFutures Australia Rural Women's Award, announced at a Gala event at Parliament House in Canberra in September.

Nikki is a co-founder of [Grown Not Flown](#) - a digital platform that connects consumers with their local flower growers. A budding flower farmer based in Glenmore in Central Victoria, she is passionate about sustainable and

regenerative agriculture. Identifying a need for technologies dedicated to small-scale growers, Nikki put her skills in business and digital product development into developing a solution that reduces 'flower miles' and supports the local cut flower industry bloom. Since 2021, Grown Not Flown has grown to more than 3,500 users in 30 countries.



Nikki Davey, courtesy of Agriculture Victoria.

Accepting the award from Commonwealth Minister for Agriculture Murray Watt, Nikki acknowledged that she brings unique skills to the agriculture sector.

"I am not a natural farmer, I don't know how to fix a fence, and I would prefer to stay indoors when it is windy outside," she said.

"What I am good at is problem solving, working with technology and data, and believing that we can change the world with our ideas."

After also being named [a Victorian State Finalist in 2022](#), [Nikki was selected from a group of five incredible women from across the state to be named the 2023 Victorian State Winner in April this year.](#)

Along with the title, Nikki receives a \$20,000 prize from Award Sponsor Westpac, in addition to the \$15,000 prize she received as the Victorian State Winner. These funds will support her to develop a Grown Not Flown knowledge hub so that flower growers can tap into tips, tools and best practices.

This is the second successive year Victorian women have been acknowledged in the National honours, with [Bendigo woman Kimberley Furness named the 2022 National Runner Up](#) for her efforts to profile and celebrate female-led businesses through her work as founder and publisher of [OAK Magazine](#). [View the announcement on the AgriFutures Australia website.](#)

Honouring a life of compassion and community service

In memory of Michael Moore

Submitted by Trudy Nelsson, Wedderburn Conservation Management Network

Michael was a true embodiment of the spirit of volunteerism.

He dedicated countless hours and boundless energy to causes that were close to his heart.

He was instrumental and significant as a founding member and Secretary of the Loddon Plains Landcare Network from 2009 to 2016.



Michael volunteered many hours for the Wedderburn CMN, Loddon Plains Landcare Network and the Friends of Kooyoora.

He was a key driver in protecting our local Mallee fowl population, raising awareness of the extent and importance of community involvement, putting together projects to improve local habitat, and building connectivity between key sections of our land management communities.

Michael was passionate about mentoring and teaching students and supporting others in their environmental conservation efforts.

Michael was always at the forefront, leading by example and the impact of his work was immeasurable.

He not only provided essential assistance to those who asked, but also served as an inspiration to those around him.

His quiet, yet unwavering commitment to making the world a better place motivated others to join the cause, creating a ripple effect of kindness and generosity.

Michael is survived by Maureen, his wife of more than 50 years, who shares his passion for volunteering and the environment.



What's in a name?

Better ways to engage and retain volunteers for the environment

DEECA Environmental Volunteering Team

The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) wanted to know how best to engage with Environmental Volunteers – what they call themselves and how they describe the activities they do – so we partnered with Quantum Market Research to investigate.

The key findings from this research can help us better attract, engage with, and retain volunteers in the environmental sector. Environmental volunteering includes caring for landscapes, waste and recycling, energy and climate change and wildlife care. We conducted 90-minute focus group discussions with twelve individuals and received 1000 responses to a questionnaire to determine:

- What language best resonated with volunteers
- How volunteers describe their activities
- What language is best when advertising volunteering opportunities.

Key findings:

- Meaningfulness, individual impacts and fun are essential to retain volunteers
- Potential volunteers need to know that there are a range of opportunities beyond on-ground labour type activities
- Describe opportunities with terms that emphasise care for nature
- Volunteers prefer casual, personable terms, such as 'helpers' and 'extra pair of hands'
- Be specific about what the activity is
- Build the impression that volunteers are part of something bigger than themselves

You can view the [snapshot report](#) on the [DEECA Environmental Volunteering website](#).

Protecting Aboriginal cultural heritage

Managing Aboriginal cultural heritage in north central Victoria

North Central CMA

A new fact sheet has been published by the North Central CMA Cultural Heritage team, aimed at informing the community of the current cultural heritage legislative obligations in Victoria, including:

- When is a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) or Cultural Heritage Permit (CHP) required?
- How to find out if Aboriginal Cultural Heritage is in an area?
- What to do if Aboriginal Cultural Heritage is found?

You can pick up a copy of this fact sheet from the North Central CMA office in Huntly, or you can [find it on our website](#).

Protecting Aboriginal Cultural Heritage
Managing Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in north central Victoria

North Central CMA

Protecting Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in Victoria

In Victoria, all Aboriginal cultural heritage places and objects are protected by law, and it is an offence to harm, or undertake an act likely to harm Aboriginal cultural heritage on public or private land.

When is harm to Aboriginal cultural heritage permitted?

Harm to an Aboriginal cultural heritage place requires:

- an approved Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) or Cultural Heritage Permit (CHP);
- an Aboriginal cultural heritage land management agreement;
- in accordance with Aboriginal tradition; and/or
- necessary as part of an emergency.

What is a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) and when do I need one?

A CHMP is a legally binding management plan for a specific activity that assesses the potential impact of an activity on Aboriginal cultural heritage.

A CHMP may be a mandatory requirement. Voluntary CHMPs can also be undertaken.

Mandatory CHMPs

A mandatory CHMP is required if an activity will occur in an area of cultural heritage sensitivity and is determined as being a high impact activity.

What is an area of cultural heritage sensitivity?

An area of cultural heritage sensitivity is a legislatively determined area (usually a landform) where Aboriginal cultural heritage is, or likely, to be present. Areas (landforms) where Aboriginal cultural heritage are typically found in the north central region are within 200 m of a waterway, lunettes and dunes, and lake and swamp margins.

To find out if your activity will occur in an area of cultural heritage sensitivity visit the First People's State Relations ACHRS website (<https://achrs.vic.gov.au/>)

What is a high impact activity?

A high impact activity is an activity that has the potential to harm Aboriginal cultural heritage. These activities can be found in Division 2 of the [Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018 \(Regulations\)](#).

The Regulations are very specific about what constitutes a high impact activity, and it is the responsibility of the proponent of an activity to determine if the activity is high impact.

You can use the First People's State Relations [Aboriginal Heritage Planning Tool](#) to complete a preliminary assessment to determine if you require a CHMP (<https://heritage.achrs.vic.gov.au/auayQuestion1.aspx>).

In general, environmental works that do not involve construction e.g. intensive infrastructure or building of levees, are not classified as high impact activities. These may include:

- revegetation works;
- pest control; and
- farm fence construction.

Example: if you are looking to complete weed removal and revegetation works within an area of cultural heritage sensitivity you will not require a CHMP.

Areas of Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity in the North Central CMA region

What is a Cultural Heritage Permit (CHP) and when do I need one?

Connecting rivers, landscapes, people



WaterWatch Victoria

Spring into citizen science

There is plenty to see and do out in nature at this time of year and we are excited to once again get out there with you.

Macroinvertebrate surveys

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

- A Healthy Coliban Catchment, Malmsbury, Tuesday 24 October
- RiverScan, Kerang and surrounds, 23 to 25 November
Reimaging Bendigo Creek, November, Bendigo, TBA
- Tullaroop Catchment Restoration Project, Smeaton, TBA

Please register your interest by emailing citizenscience@nccma.vic.gov.au

National Water Week – Come and Try Citizen Science at Bendigo Library

Ever wanted to get involved in WaterWatch or River Detectives but want to know more? Come and visit us as we celebrate National Water Week with Coliban Water for lots of free water-themed activities and take the opportunity to speak to the team to learn more about our programs.

- Saturday 21 October, 10am to 1pm, Bendigo Library and Forecourt

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

Tania MacLeod
Citizen Science Coordinator
North Central CMA
Phone: 03 5440 1845
Email: tania.macleod@nccma.vic.gov.au



Great Southern BioBlitz 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_citizenscience](#)
3. Join our GSB23 project [here](#)
4. Log your observations between **Nov 24-27**



Ramsar BioBlitz

Our Citizen Science and Ramsar Kerang and Gunbower teams are joining forces to put on a BioBlitz series coinciding with the GSB23 in November.

Details are still being finalised however events are likely to include opportunities to learn about and observe the bats and reptiles of our precious Ramsar wetlands.

More will be revealed in the November Chat.



COMMUNITY
PARTNERSHIP
PROGRAM

Out and about in schools

Term three concluded with a flurry of seven River Detective school visits in the past five weeks– a busy, but highly rewarding, period.

At Castlemaine Steiner School, Year 3/4 students assessed the water and habitat quality of their school wetland with waterbug sampling. They are working hard to improve biodiversity having recently built and added floating vegetation platforms.



Crusoe College Year 10 Environmental Science students learnt about the stormwater issues of Bendigo Creek and were equally intrigued, horrified and inspired by the video, 'Bad River – kayaking the sickest urban river in [Australia](#)'.

We met 40 Grade 2/3/4 students from St Joseph's PS Kerang at Lake Meran for a fun outing of habitat surveying, waterbug sampling and nature journaling. Check out their amazing artistic reflections at the Wetland Wonderland art exhibition in Cohuna from October 5.



Unloading the car in the Camp Hill Primary School car park, I was greeted with the sound of preps chanting "waterbugs, waterbugs".

I think I may have the best job in the world as 50 Preps went on to excitedly search for waterbugs in our session.



The Green Team at Marist College Bendigo brushed up their water quality testing skills in a speed lunchtime session and then 60 Grade Threes studied the health of their school's wetland.



The tiny Langley Primary School (four students) have taken up the program this semester and loved learning how to monitor their Campaspe River site.



Time spent at the Karlsruhe Annexe of Woodend PS was a beautiful way to finish the term. 60 Grade Four sessions rotated through waterbug sampling and water quality testing sessions whilst the third got some spring vegies into the ground in their impressive vegie garden.



Ask The Expert webinar: Pesticide Watch

Some River Detective schools and WaterWatch volunteers have opted in to add another string to their testing bow from March-September this year, collecting a monthly water sample for pesticide analysis.

Brady Hamilton, PhD student at Deakin University, will be our guest during October for the next instalment of our Ask The Expert webinar series.

Brady will be interviewed using questions submitted by students to reveal his findings about the presence and prevalence of pesticides in our waterways.

The recording will be made publicly available – more details soon.

2024 River Detectives registrations open soon

Casting our eyes ahead now, it won't be long before we are opening up registrations for the 2024 River Detectives program in mid November.

If you're a teacher, a parent or a Landcare member interested in connecting your school/youth group with waterway and catchment education through citizen-science, reach out to discuss how the River Detectives program could work for you.

Nicole Howie
 River Detectives Project Officer
 North Central CMA
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Water Storages Update

Region	Water Storage	% full	% full same time 2022
Murray Storages	Dartmouth Dam	96.85	100.88
	Hume Dam	97.37	95.57
	Reedy/Middle Lk	97.65	96.29
	Kangaroo Lake	92.64	91.61
	Kow Swamp	89.34	86.73
	Lake Boga	94.78	79.12
	Lake Charm	96.53	90.32
Loddon Storages	Cairn Curran Res	99.37	97.23
	Tullaroop Res	100.65	102.53
	Laanecoorie Res	59.88	111.81
Bullarook Storages	Newlyn Res	100.54	103.35
	Hepburns Lagoon	101.79	107.67
Goulburn Storages	Lake Eildon	97.18	96.63
	Waranga Basin	93.42	95.22
Campaspe	Lake Eppalock	99.37	81.16
Coliban Water Storages	Upper Coliban Res	100.5	- 0.6
	Lauriston Res	99.5	+ 4.6
	Malmsbury Res	104.1	- 6.2

Sustainable ag snippet...

North Central soil moisture update - September 2023

Dale Boyd, Seasonal Risk Agronomist, Agriculture Victoria, Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action

Data for this seasonal update has been collected from [Soil Moisture Monitoring | Soil Moisture Monitoring \(extensionaus.com.au\)](#) and I would like to especially Acknowledge the data contributions from the NCCMA Raywood moisture probe network.

Summary

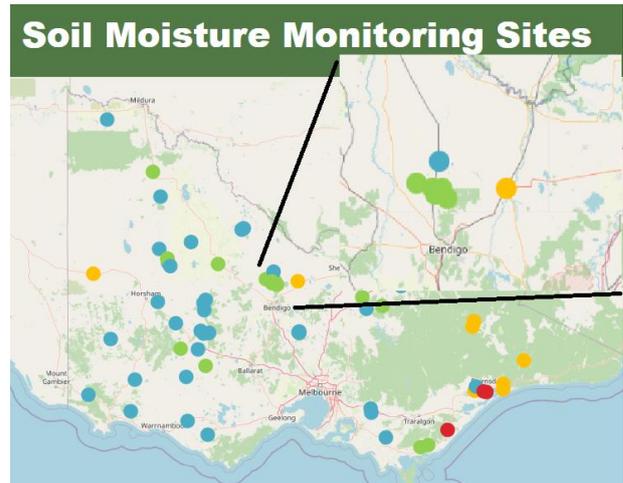
Autumn breaking rain created good shallow moisture conditions for pasture and crop establishment across the region and in some instances connected to last years unused moisture reserves. Rain on 8 June connected all remaining shallow and deep moisture profiles together to produce a full or near full profile for winter crops.

Paddocks with biomass and high yield potentials started using some of the moisture reserves in late July through to August. Early indications are that a good rain in September is required to protect this yield potential, as moisture deficits first started to appear in some paddocks late in winter.

Local networks indicate soil profiles are 30 to 80% full in annual cropping paddocks and perennial paddocks (Lucerne) are depleting moisture after the [low decile rainfall](#) over July and August in central Victoria. September is trending to have well below average rainfall with a low rainfall per cent ([month to date, 18 September](#)) and no rainfall forecast.

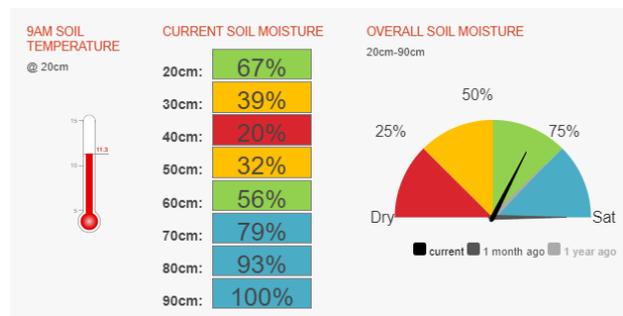
Root structure appears well positioned to utilise the deep moisture reserves when required, but there is evidence that most topsoil moisture has already been used and moisture from 30 – 70 cm is being rapidly consumed.

The [Seasonal outlook](#) is likely to be drier across Victoria during spring, [updates viewed here.](#)



Source: Agriculture Victoria SMM dashboard, cropping and pasture sites are rapidly depleting moisture reserves.

Canola is quickly using the moisture reserves at the Raywood West site but there is still good moisture available at 70cm and below.



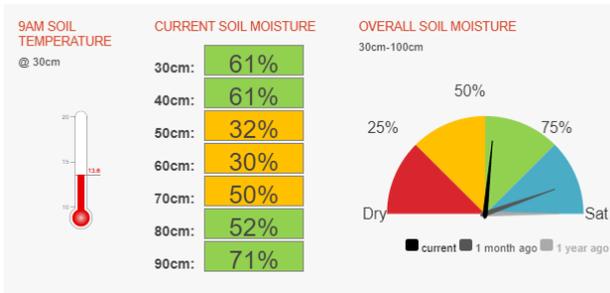
Raywood West winter crop (canola) soil moisture monitoring site, sodosol soil.

Thirty-three per cent of moisture has been used at the Raywood North pasture monitoring site in the past month as the pasture has been producing large quantities of biomass and using moisture from all depths.

It would be assumed that during early August the shallow moisture was used above the first sensor which sits at 30cm.

Most pasture production is generated from using shallow moisture with deeper moisture keeping pasture alive rather than contributing to yield.

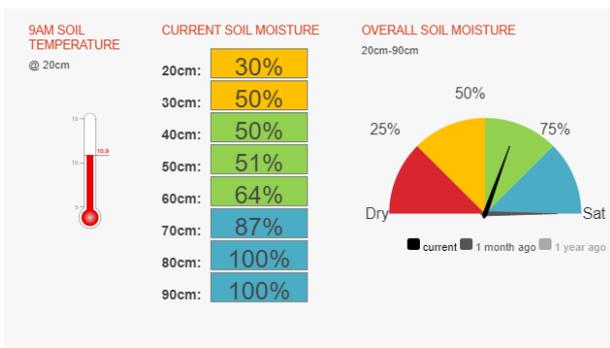
Without rainfall soon, pasture production at the site will flip to this maintenance and halt further spring growth.



Raywood North, pasture monitoring site, clover/ryegrass 2023

Thirty-seven per cent moisture from depths 20 to 70 cm has been used at the Neilborough site across the past 25 days.

Good deep moisture reserves are still available, but it is preferable that easier to source shallow moisture is utilised during critical flowering rather than sourcing deeper moisture.



Neilborough winter crop (barley) soil moisture monitoring site, clay soil.

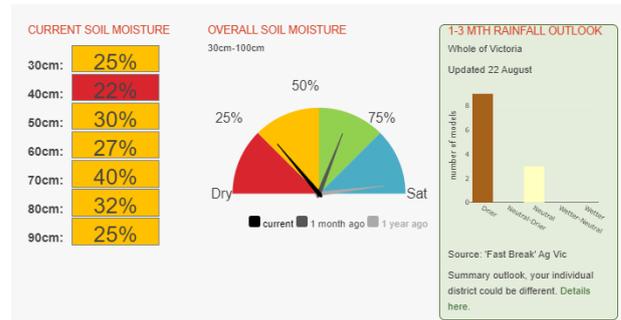
The Elmore monitoring site finished the 2022 season with 60 per cent moisture availability and this season is planted to oaten hay.

During winter the profile reached field capacity but since early July the crop has been depleting deep soil moisture reserves as water requirements were not met by rainfall.

The soil profile is currently estimated to be at 50 per cent according to the [soilwater app](#) model and the moisture probe indicates 32 per cent.

There is consistency in both the model and probe indicating that moisture is being consumed at a high rate at all depths.

For this hay crop, current moisture levels will be enough to support growth until cutting time, however grain crops across the district will require more rain.



Elmore soil moisture monitoring site.

For more information on the Digging Deeper for Soil Health project contact Darren Bain.

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Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator
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Courses and resources...

Targeted Recruitment and Engaging Young People

Volunteering Victoria Webinar, Tuesday 3 October 9.30am to 12.30pm

Recruitment and retention can be tricky at the best of times, particularly when looking to attract particular cohorts of volunteers. It's important to examine the makeup of our volunteer teams, what barriers may exist for specific cohorts and how you can encourage volunteers from different demographics.

This session is interactive and focused on discussion-based scenarios, but also draws from the Volunteering Victoria [Youth Ready Guide](#) and [Assessment](#) to examine strategies specifically to engage young people.

Participation is **FREE**, register on the [Volunteering Victoria website](#).

Engaging Diverse Groups in Environmental Volunteering

Webinar, Tuesday 3 October 2pm to 3pm

Victoria has a strong history of environmental volunteering, with volunteers contributing enormously to improving our environment, our local communities and our economy.

More than 170,000 volunteers are currently volunteering for the environment and this webinar will explore resources and tools for engaging diverse groups.

The presenters will share a resource guide and training video. These explore practical ways to develop environmental volunteering that is inclusive for all people.

[Inclusive Volunteering Guide-2023.pdf](#)
(environmentbellarine.org.au)

This webinar is being organised by the Environmental Volunteering team at DEECA. Register for the webinar [here](#).

Introduction to Indigenous Cultural Awareness

Training for Environmental Volunteers

Wednesday 4 October 3pm to 4.30pm or

Monday 9 October 7pm to 8.30pm

These sessions will cover:

- The important of Acknowledgements
- Connection to Country
- Understanding self-determination
- The benefits of engagement.

These sessions are free but places are limited. [Register to attend here](#) and you will be emailed a zoom link for the training three days prior to the session.

Social Media for Environmental Volunteers

Online Wednesday 25 October 1pm to 3pm

Learn about how to use social media for your group, and how to develop engaging social media content.

Places are strictly limited, and registrations close on Wednesday 18 October.

This training is being organised by the DEECA Environmental Volunteering team. [Register here](#).



Environmental Volunteer Managers Forum 2023

Join us at EVM Grow, where passionate individuals gather to connect and exchange ideas on environmental volunteering in Victoria.

EVM Grow 2023 will provide an opportunity for Victoria's Environmental Volunteer Managers (EVMs) to connect, collaborate and learn from leading sector professionals and each other - all while enjoying the company of tree kangaroos.

You must register to attend. Lunch and refreshments provided.

Who is it for?

EVM Grow 2023 is for paid and unpaid environmental volunteer managers in Victoria. If you are based in local or state government departments, the not-for-profit or community sectors, and are supporting environmental volunteers then this event is for you.

When: Thursday 19 October

Where: Melbourne Zoo

Cost: Free

What to bring: Your networking vibe

RSVP: Register [here](#) by October 5 (places are strictly limited)

EVM Grow: Loddon Mallee Hub events

For those unable to travel to Melbourne for EVM Grow on October 19, register for a Hub event in Mildura, Wedderburn, Bendigo or Castlemaine.

These Hub events are being supported by DEECA.

[Register your attendance](#) or contact Amy Atkinson on amy.atkinson@delwp.vic.gov.au for more information.



Introduction to Natural Sequence Farming Field Day

Tarwyn Park Training

This one-day event is designed to provide you with education and hands-on experience in Natural Sequence Farming, a method for improving soil health, biodiversity, and water retention. You'll learn to read the landscape and understand how it naturally functions, giving you valuable insights into how to work with it instead of against it.

When: Saturday 21 October, 10am to 3.30pm

Where: Mclvor Farm, Tooboora

Cost: \$50 per person, includes lunch

RSVP: To purchase tickets for this event head to the [Tarwyn Park Training website](#).

Upcoming Events and Special Days

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
November	
National Recycling Week	6-12 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

Events...



A Wetland Wonderland Photography Exhibition

Opening night

Join us for an evening filled with awe-inspiring visuals that celebrate the natural wonders of wetlands. From breathtaking landscapes to captivating wildlife shots, this exhibition will take you on a visual journey through the wetlands of North Central Victoria. Talk to local artists and connect with CMA staff about local environmental activities.

Whether you are a photography enthusiast, nature lover, or simply curious about the beauty of wetlands, this event is a must-visit. Get ready to be inspired, amazed, and transported into a **wetland wonderland!**

When: Thursday 5 October

Where: Cohuna Art Gallery, 23 King Edward Street, Cohuna

Cost: Free

RSVP is essential by Friday 29 September, register [here](#).



Whole Loddon Love

Live Music for Flood Recovery

Whole Loddon Love is a series of contemporary music gigs taking place in community halls + pubs along the Loddon River, areas severely affected by flooding in 2022, on beautiful Dja Dja Wurrung and Barapa Barapa country. Five locations in the Loddon Valley (across Loddon Shire & Mount Alexander Shire) will host live music events over the first two weekends of October 2023. Tickets free for locals and kids, and only \$15 for others. Money raised will go to local community groups and flood recovery.

When: 6 to 15 October

Where: Pyramid Hill, Boort, Newbridge, Bridgewater, Baringhup

Cost: Free for locals and kids, \$15 for others

RSVP: Registrations essential via the [website](#).



National Water Week

Come and try Waterway Citizen Science

Ever wanted to get involved in WaterWatch and River Detectives but want to know more? Come and visit us as we celebrate National Water Week with Coliban Water for lots of water themed activities and take the opportunity to speak to the team and learn more about our programs.

When: Saturday 21 October, 10am to 2pm

Where: Bendigo Library and Forecourt, 251-259 Hargreaves Street

Cost: Free

What to bring: Your curiosity!

RSVP: N/A



Waterbug workshop with Waterbug guru John Gooderham

A Healthy Coliban Catchment

Renowned macroinvertebrate expert John Gooderham is coming to town in October for an engaging waterbug workshop with North Central CMA and Djandak staff. Help us conduct macroinvertebrate surveys of sites within the Coliban Catchment. Lunch provided. Spaces are limited.

When: Tues 24 October

Where: Malmsbury Common

Cost: Free

What to bring: Closed shoes, long sleeves, water bottle.

RSVP: Essential. Register via Eventbrite [here](#)



SWIFFT Seminar

Surveys and monitoring

New technologies such as eDNA, micro transmitters, acoustics, thermal imagery and machine learning have opened up new ways of detecting and monitoring flora and fauna. This seminar will explore some applications not only for researchers but also Citizen Scientists.

State Wide Integrated Flora and Fauna Teams (SWIFFT) have been running quarterly seminars for over 17 years. These sessions connect researchers, land managers, government agencies and community groups to allow the sharing of stories and information. The seminars are free.

When: Thursday 26 October 9.50am – 12.30pm

Where: Online – for more information and to register check out the website [here](#)

Cost: Free



Chicks in the Sticks

Celebrating the achievements of rural women in agriculture and the environment

Grab the gumboots, dust off your favourite dress (or pantsuit)...it's time for 2023 Chicks in the Sticks!

When: Saturday 28 October

Where: East Loddon Woolshed

Cost: \$25

RSVP Registrations are now open, but places are strictly limited! [2023 Chicks in the Sticks Tickets](#). Sat 28/10/2023 at 10:30 am | Eventbrite



Royal
Botanic
Gardens
Victoria

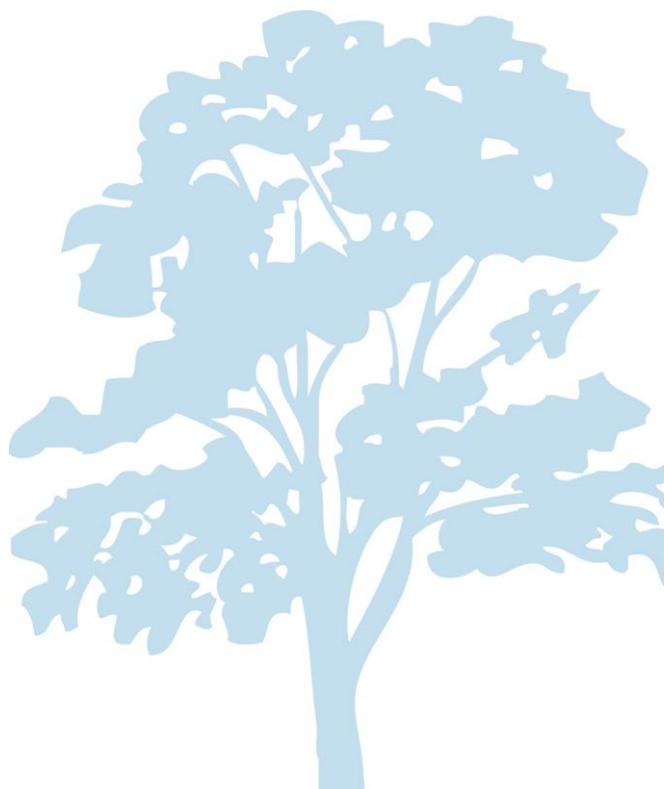
Threatened Species Community Field Day

Mallee Phebalium surveys

The Melbourne Botanic Gardens are partnering with DEECA on threatened species conservation work covering 20 species across Victoria. The Mallee Phebalium (*Phebalium glandulosum* subsp. *marcocalyx*) has been recorded at some reserves near Lake Boga. Andre Messina, a botanist with the Royal Botanic Gardens will be conducting field surveys in early December. If you are interested in participating in these surveys, you can get in touch with Andre.

More information on this species can be found on the [Royal Botanic Gardens website](#) or the [Australia Native Plants Society website](#).

To express your interest in participating, contact Andre Messina, Botanist, at andre.messina@rbg.vic.gov.au



Funding opportunities...



2024 AgriFutures Rural Women's Award and Acceleration Grant

Article from the Victorian Rural Women's Network

Do you have the desire, commitment, and leadership potential to make a greater contribution to Australia's rural and emerging industries, businesses and communities?

The Rural Women's Network and Agriculture Victoria work in partnership with AgriFutures Australia to provide two opportunities to women involved in Australia's rural and emerging industries, businesses, and communities, now and into the future. Applications for both programs are now open until 23 October 2023.

About the Rural Women's Award

Empowering and celebrating the inclusive and courageous leadership of women, the Rural Women's Award supports women-led projects, businesses or programs that will benefit rural industries, businesses and / or communities.

Winners in each state / territory receive a \$15,000 Westpac Grant to grow the impact of their initiative, as well as training, development, and a national profile to showcase it. **They will also compete for the National Award and a further \$20,000 from Westpac.** [Find out more here.](#)

About the Acceleration Grant

Fostering the professional growth of rural women who are not quite ready to apply for the Award, the Acceleration Grant provides seven Australian women with a learning and development bursary to develop an initiative in its early stages.

Each year, 7 Australian women will be provided with a learning and development bursary of up to \$7,000 for professional development to enable them to bring their idea, cause or vision to life. [Find out more here.](#)

Upcoming Information Sessions

If you are considering applying for the Award or Grant, we encourage you to attend one of the following virtual information sessions.

- Wednesday, 27 September 2023 (Noon to 1pm AEST)
- Thursday, 5 October 2023 (Noon to 1pm AEST)
- Thursday, 12 October 2023 (Noon to 1pm AEDST)

These sessions provide clarity on the differences between the two programs and the respective eligibility criteria. They are an opportunity to ask any questions you may have and will help you to craft a strong application to either program. [Find out more and register to attend here.](#)



New Scholarship Program empowering First Nations Women to pursue native foods

Article from the Victorian Rural Women's Network

The Victorian Government is offering First Peoples women the opportunity to learn new skills so they can enter the native foods and botanical sector, with the support of the Rural Women's Network. 10 scholarships places will be offered to indigenous women to attend the 'Pathways to Sovereignty' First Nations Bushfoods and Botanicals Conference in Darwin this coming November. Conference attendees will be given the opportunity to engage in practical lessons and discuss leadership across the native foods sector, while joining a forum related to the issues affecting First Nations women in agriculture. [Find out more about the Conference or apply for a scholarship here.](#)

More funding opportunities

The North Central Business Development team bring you twenty-two new grants to fund biodiversity, climate resilience and community building projects to help make it through until the new rounds open.

If you are in the wine business, I have added a tourism grant for your cellar door. Based on the grant and the funding pool, there is room for 100 cellar doors to be funded!

A tip: Grant writing is much easier and quicker than it used to be. 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.

Agriculture Victoria

Agricultural and Pastoral Society Grants Program

Closes: 13/10/23

Up to \$10,000 per application

[Agricultural and Pastoral Society Grants | Funds, grants and programs | Support and resources | Agriculture Victoria](#)

LaunchVic, Agriculture Victoria

AgTech Grants Program

Closes: 30/6/24

Up to \$50 000 per application

[Grants - LaunchVic](#)

Ecological Society of Australia Ltd (ESA)

Holsworth Wildlife Research Endowment

Closes: 30/9/23

Up to \$7,500 per application

[Holsworth - application guidelines - Ecological Society of Australia \(ecolsoc.org.au\)](#)

Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA)

Wildlife Rehabilitator Grants Program

Closes 15/9/23

Up to \$3,000 per application

[Wildlife Rehabilitator Grants](#)

Macedon Ranges Shire Council

Small Project Grants

Closes: 30/6/24

Up to \$3,000 per application

[Small Project Grants - Macedon Ranges Shire Council \(mrsc.vic.gov.au\)](#)

Murray River Council

Quick Response Grants

Closes 7/6/24

Up to \$2,500 per application

[Quick Response \(QR\) Grants Program Murray River Council \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

Northern Grampians Shire Council

Minor Grants

Closes: 30/6/24

Up to \$1,000 per application

[Minor Grants \(ngshire.vic.gov.au\)](#)

Northern Grampians Shire Council

Community Events Grants Program

Closes: 30/6/24

Up to \$3,000 per application

[Community Events Grants \(ngshire.vic.gov.au\)](#)

The Sidney Myer Fund, Australian Neighbourhood Houses and Centres Association (ANHCA)

Supporting Stronger Communities Grants

Closes: 28/9/23

Up to \$10,000 per application

[Supporting Stronger Communities Grants \(anhca.org\)](#)

Office for the Arts, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

Festivals Australia Program

Closes: 4/10/23

Up to \$40,000 per application

[Festivals Australia | Office for the Arts](#)

Murray River Council

Community Grants

Closes: 15/9/23

Up to \$3,000 per application

[Community Grants Program Murray River Council \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

The Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions (DJSIR) (VIC)

Business Groups Flood Recovery Grants

Closes: 31/10/2023

Up to \$50,000 per application

[Business Groups Flood Recovery Grants | Business Victoria](#)

Greater Bendigo City Council

Small grants

Closes: 30/06/2024

Up to \$2,000 per application

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

Campaspe Shire Council

Community Grants Program

Closes: 15/09/2023

Up to \$4,000 per application

[Community grants program Campaspe Shire Council](#)

Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR)

Strengthening Rural Communities (SRC) - Rebuilding Regional Communities Large Grants

Closes: 04/12/2023

Up to \$50,000 per application

[Strengthening Rural Communities – Rebuilding Regional Communities | FRRR](#)

Community Enterprise Foundation

Community Bank Inglewood & District Grants Program
VIC

Closes: 31/12/2023

[Grant - Foundation](#)

[\(communityenterprisefoundation.com.au\)](#)

Damien Greer Lawyers

Community Grant

Closes: 31/12/2023

Up to \$2,500 per application

[Community Grant | Damien Greer Lawyers](#)

William Buckland Foundation, Equity Trustees

William Buckland Foundation - Advancing Agriculture

Closes: 18/09/2023

Up to \$150,000 per application

[William Buckland Foundation | How we grant](#)

Greater Bendigo City Council

Community Group Essentials grants

Closes: 30/06/2024

Up to \$2,000 per application

[Community Grants | City of Greater Bendigo](#)

ETREA Foundation

Capacity building grants

Closes: 30/09/2023

Up to \$10,000 per application

[Apply For A Grant | ETREA Foundation](#)

Wine Australia

Wine Tourism and Cellar Door Grants

Closes: 30/09/2023

Up to \$100,000 per application

[Wine Tourism and Cellar Door Grants - Round 5 open | Wine Australia](#)