

# North Central Chat

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



December 2022

## A message from the Regional Landcare Coordinator

Hi everyone.

With this, our final edition of the North Central Chat for 2022, I thought it timely to reflect on the year, which was driven by the excitement of getting back together in person, and contributing to the shared achievements of Landcare locally and beyond.

In early 2022, we saw the initiation of the Eastern Bendigo Landcare Network, facilitated by Kristie Smith. Representatives from seven Landcare and environmental community groups came together to discuss their history, projects, goals and membership. From that initial meeting in March, relationships strengthened and culminated in the formation of the interim steering committee last week.

A fortnight after Easter, we rejoiced in bringing together 40 Landcare Facilitators, Project Staff and Regional Landcare Coordinators from Corangamite, North East, Goulburn Broken and North Central CMA regions, in Wangaratta for two days of field visits, networking, professional development, and much-needed reconnection.

In June, North Central CMA launched the 2021-2027 Regional Catchment Strategy. Through its vision – “working in partnership for a healthy catchment” – it provides a roadmap for our collective efforts to care for our catchments over the next six years.

The following month we farewelled Danny Pettingill from the Facilitator role at Loddon Plains Landcare Network. Danny’s leadership, drive, collaboration and passion for the work he undertook while in the role will leave a lasting legacy across region.

August saw the Regional Grants Assessment Panel take a deep dive into the 33 Victorian Landcare Grant project applications, with 29 receiving funding to deliver their projects through until November 2023.



A shimmer of brightness during the recent flooding... discovering a southern purple spotted gudgeon salvaged from Racecourse Lake near Kerang. Photo: North Central CMA

We also proudly supported an additional 42 groups through Support Grants.

The 2022 National Landcare Conference was a personal highlight, representing Victoria at the National Landcare Awards and sharing the stage with legends of the movement during a plenary session, was a great honour.

Importantly 2022 saw Landcare Victoria Inc lead the development of the new Victorian Landcare Plan, with final consultation workshops taking shape over the coming months to early 2023.

Of course, Landcare meetings, AGMs, field days, farm walks, plantings and weed whacking were all thrown in between as well.

I wish you all a joyous festive season. See you in 2023.

Tess Grieves

Regional Landcare Coordinator  
North Central CMA

Phone: 03 5448 7124

Email: [tess.grieves@nccma.vic.gov.au](mailto:tess.grieves@nccma.vic.gov.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...

Survey: Flood Damage Survey 2022

North Central CMA is keen to understand the impact of recent floods in our region, including damage to waterway fencing and revegetation, or significant stream bank erosion.

We may be able to support you in recovery efforts, pending funding being made available.

With prevailing wet conditions anticipated for the remainder of the year, the road to recovery may be a long and bumpy one. However, as an important first step, we are asking our catchment community to let us know about damage to waterway fencing, revegetation, and significant streambank erosion. This information will aid us in the development of a funding application to support waterway recovery works.

It is important to note that at this stage we are uncertain as to the level of funding we may receive and the activities that we will be able to support.



If you have noticed damage to waterway fencing, revegetation or streambank erosion, please let us know by completing our online survey which you can access via the link below. Alternatively, please call our office on 5448 7124.

<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7087622/Flood-damage-along-waterways-in-the-North-Central-CMA-region>

2022 Reader Survey – Have your say

It's time for a new survey of Victorian Landcare magazine readers.

The 2022 reader survey is an opportunity for you to provide suggestions on the themes and topics for future issues, and to provide feedback on how the magazine can better meet the needs of the Landcare and environmental volunteer community.



Please take a few minutes to tell us what you think of the Landcare magazine. Your responses are confidential, and you will not be identified in the survey results. Please be open and honest with your feedback as this will help with planning the Landcare magazine.

The online reader survey is open until **Friday 9 December 2022**. Go to [2022 reader survey](#).

Hard copy readers of the Landcare magazine can send an email to [landcare.magazine@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:landcare.magazine@delwp.vic.gov.au) with SURVEY in the subject title to receive a link to the survey in the reply.

Note – three issues of the Landcare magazine are published each year. The Victorian Landcare Program in the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning funds the Landcare magazine's publication. The Landcare magazine's subscriber database is maintained by Landcare Victoria Inc.



## Flooded soils – what to do and how to be best manage them

Article written by North Central CMA Project Manager Phil 'Geology Rocks' Dyson

The recent floods raise an enormous range of issues for farming communities throughout northern and north central Victoria. Among these there are questions about the impact of inundation on the region's soils and what might be done to best manage them. What happens to our soils when they are submerged? Well, it is one thing to have them get quite wet following heavy rainfall, but quite another to have them under water for extended periods of time.

### What is happening to the soil on your farm?

Well, that obviously depends on where you live and the type of soil you have on your farm. Sandy soils, somewhat elevated in the landscape, have the potential to drain faster and remain inundated for less time than clay soils on a floodplain or within a depression. Texture and elevation, however, are far from the end of the story.

### What happens when a soil is inundated

When a soil is flooded, water seeps downward filling the small pores that normally retain water after rainfall. This water is available for plants to use through evapotranspiration. They are too small to drain when rainfall ceases. They make up about 35 per cent of the volume of a clay soil. Only about 12 per cent of the water held by these pores is available to plants because the rest is too strongly held by the clay below about 23 per cent. When the land is subject to heavy rainfall, larger pores formed around soil particles, the aggregates that form soil particles (peds) and give the soil structure, also fill. In the absence of flooding, these larger pores will drain under gravity over several days. They typically make up 3- 4 per cent of the soil volume and provide pathways for plant root penetration. Importantly, they also allow provide the opportunity for the soil to remain aerated.

During flooding, the entire soil becomes saturated for extended periods and in most instances agricultural species are drowned. Water entering the larger pores is low in oxygen, and the oxygen that is present is consumed by reaction with organic matter and microbes. Roots succumb to the anoxic environment and plants will typically turn yellow and ultimately die.

In this anoxic condition, the normal range of microbes do not survive. Instead, they give way to a different range of bacteria that have the capacity to extract and use oxygen from a range of soil minerals. These minerals and the

microbes work together to deliver a new environment that is more stable under inundation. Molecules are broken down releasing their oxygen and the chemical character of the soil is altered. Sulphate molecules deliver H<sub>2</sub>S (rotten egg gas), nitrates undergo denitrification and are converted to methane and nitrous oxide, manganese dioxide is converted to manganese ions and iron shifts from the rusty reds and yellow ferrous species to the greys and blues of the ferric state. Accordingly, in flooded soil it is not unusual to occasionally smell rotten egg gas or to see it turning grey or even black. In some instances, depending on the soil type, these reactions can increase soil acidity and lead to the depletion of nutrients.

Note that most of these changes to soil chemistry will revert to pre flood conditions when after the floods recede and the soil dries. With care and good management soils will recover as the anoxic conditions give way to the more aerated status. Recognise, however, that full recovery in many instances may take several months or even years.



Flooding and inundation can lead to pasture and crop death as can be seen from this recent image from northern Victoria. Photo courtesy of John Childs.

### Loss of soil structure

Flooded anoxic soils can break down aggregates, and the loss of soil structure can be a common issue often exacerbated in soils subject to dispersion fuelled by sodicity. It's not all bad news, however, as some people will gain from flooding, mostly those who farm the immediate floodplain of a river or stream. While wild waters can destroy fences and other infrastructure, organic nutrient rich sediment can substantially increase soil fertility.

### Soil erosion resulting from flooding

The rapid and turbulent flow of water over the landscape during flood events will often produce severe soil erosion. This can be particularly common and severe in the hilly terrain of the uplands and foothills, however it

may also affect the plains if the lower catchment. It may take several different forms ranging through gully, sheet, rill, and tunnel erosion.

Prevention is the key to the avoidance of erosion, taking care to maintain vegetation cover greater than 70 per cent throughout the year, and establishing fenced out native vegetation buffers along and adjacent gullies and streams.

Post flooding management of erosion can be difficult, especially where the damage has been severe, including those locations where it has extended gullies that were established in previous events. Management may range through fencing out affected areas, establishing vegetation banks, and in some instances engineering options that may involve the establishment of erosion control structures.

Erosion control measures will vary in accordance with terrain. Different geological and geomorphic settings may result in different forms of degradation and call for different approaches. If there is uncertainty about the best approach advice may be sought from either the North Central CMA or Agriculture Victoria (see below).

### **Weed management after floods**

Floodwater can also result in the spread of weeds and spread infestation to inundated areas further down the catchment. Accordingly, farmers and landholders need to remain vigilant post flooding, understanding that early control measures may avoid significant problems at some stage in the future.

### **Management of flooded soils**

It can be one thing to understand what happens within a flooded soil, and quite another to resolve how to best manage the aftermath. The best advice is perhaps to re-visit some of the basics as follows.

- (1) There is very little that can be achieved until flood water has retreated from the land and the soil is no longer saturated.
- (2) Avoid crossing wet soils with heavy vehicles because soil collapse will seriously add to soil structure issues.
- (3) As far as possible keep stock away from saturated soils, particularly those that have been subject to past cultivation. Note that many cropping soils that have been previously cultivated have topsoils that are a mixture of sodic subsoil mixed with sandy loam topsoils. These soils are prone to severe damage through pugging.
- (4) Explore the opportunity to confine stock to more elevated better drained land. Where feasible use sacrificial paddocks and stock containment areas. The difficulty in achieving this is not underestimated. Note, however, even with the best management

paddocks suffering from loss of soil structure caused by pugging may take several years to recover.

- (5) When the soil is dry it may be necessary to manage surface crusting. This might occur where dispersion has delivered a thin hard-pan on the surface that prevents or inhibits normal plant growth. Light cultivation to break up the pan, together with a gypsum and/or organic dressing, may assist in renovation.
- (6) Consider cover crops as a means of getting organic carbon back, encouraging microbes and biological activity, all essential steps in re-building soil structure.
- (7) Measure soil pH and apply lime as an ameliorant if necessary.
- (8) Check on water table elevation in lower lying areas, particularly if there is a history of salinity. Check with the relevant agencies or online if uncertain.

### **Further Advice**

If you would like to discuss any of the issues raised herein or you are seeking further advice, please feel free to call the 'Sustainable Agriculture Team' at the North Central Catchment Management Authority on 03 5448 7124 or Rebecca Mitchell at Agriculture Victoria on 0438 111 994.



**Communities Caring for Catchments**

Welcome to the final Chat for 2022 - can you believe the end of the year is already here!

Waterwatch Victoria has started planning for a very special upcoming event next year, which we are lucky enough to be co-hosting our region:

**30 years of Waterwatch**

Please save the date - Friday 24 March – and keep an eye on your inbox for further details and a special invitation to all of our dedicated Waterwatch monitors. More details to come early in the new year.

I would like to wish all our amazing Waterwatch monitors a very merry Christmas and happy new year. I wish you all much joy and happiness together with your loved ones during this special time of year.

Best regards for a safe and happy festive season.

Britt Gregory  
 Project Officer – Waterwatch and Citizen Science  
 North Central CMA  
 Email: [britt.gregory@nccma.vic.gov.au](mailto:britt.gregory@nccma.vic.gov.au)



**One door closes and another opens**

**As 2022 draws to a close, we look forward to 2023.**

Just in time for the spring/summer season of waterbugging, we have released a second 'Ask The Expert' webinar for the year. 'Wild About Waterbugs' was recorded with waterbug guru John Gooderham recently and is available for viewing now.

John shares the most incredible photos, videos and facts about the quirky ways waterbugs survive and thrive. It is a great opportunity to see rarely seen footage of the underwater world and learn how waterbugs may have reacted to recent flood events.

The video is available to anyone and will be enjoyed by children and adults alike. You can watch it [here](#).

It has been a pleasure to support our 39 River Detectives schools this year. Although COVID-19 has still had an impact on the capacity of schools, we returned to a semi-normal year of activities and I have loved getting out and about to spend time with teachers and students.

We know that across our region there are now 60 teachers and 1053 students of all ages who are that little bit more aware of our waterways/catchments and how to care for them. Congratulations to all!



To our River Detectives schools that have been, and continue to be, impacted by floods, we extend our sincere thoughts and best wishes. It has been a very difficult time.

I will be visiting some of these schools before the end of term to discuss floods, the climatic conditions that produced them, how and why our catchments reacted the way they did, and the pros and cons of flooding events. I hope this helps students in some small way to process their experience.

Looking to 2023, registrations have opened for next year's River Detectives program and will remain open until 14 February.

If you are a teacher, a student, a parent, a Landcarer, or passionate community member and wish your town's

school to get involved in citizen science and advocate for your local waterway please encourage them to sign up.

River Detectives is free, fun and flexible.

Head to the [River Detectives website](#) for more information and register using the 'Apply Now' link on the homepage. Feel free to reach out via email if you have any questions.

Wishing you a peaceful and restful Christmas and New Year.

Nicole Howie  
 River Detectives Project Officer  
 North Central CMA  
 Phone: 03 5440 1839  
 Email: [nicole.howie@nccma.vic.gov.au](mailto:nicole.howie@nccma.vic.gov.au)

### Water Storages Update

Region	Water Storage	% full at	% full at
		25 Oct 2022	28 Nov 2022
Murray Storages	Dartmouth Dam	101.25	↑101.42
	Hume Dam	93.00	↑97.00
	Reedy/Middle Lk	114.85	114.85
	Kangaroo Lake	99.60	↑102.12
	Kow Swamp	105.76	↓87.93
	Lake Boga	82.22	↑94.02
	Lake Charm	91.33	↑101.70
Loddon Storages	Cairn Curran Res	92.21	↑99.05
	Tullaroop Res	104.50	↓102.40
	Laanecoorie Res	114.88	↓88.81
Bullarook Storages	Newlyn Res	102.12	↓101.78
	Hepburns Lagoon	108.81	↓104.95
Goulburn Storages	Lake Eildon	97.08	↑98.36
	Waranga Basin	98.06	↓92.64
Campaspe	Lake Eppalock	105.42	↓103.83
Coliban Water Storages	Upper Coliban Res	101.20	↓101.00
	Lauriston Res	90.70	↑96.00
	Malmsbury Res	111.60	↓107.00

[www.g-mwater.com.au/water-resources/catchments/storage-levels](http://www.g-mwater.com.au/water-resources/catchments/storage-levels)

[www.coliban.com.au/about-us/our-reservoirs](http://www.coliban.com.au/about-us/our-reservoirs)

### Upcoming Events and Special Days

December	
<a href="#">World Soil Day</a>	5 Dec
<a href="#">International Volunteer Day</a>	5 Dec
<a href="#">International Mountain Day</a>	11 Dec



## Sustainable Ag Snippet...

### Emerging weeds in the North Central region

**Over the past few years I have seen several weed species creeping further north in our catchment.**

One of concern is *Nassella trichotoma* commonly known as serrated tussock, which is a weed of national significance (WONS).

Serrated tussock is native to South America and officially recorded in Yass, New South Wales in 1935. There have been a couple of sightings north of Bendigo, which are usually on roadsides or along water courses.

The main distribution is in the southern catchments of Corangamite and Melbourne Water, but mapping indicates the direction of spread is along the main arterial roads.



Serrated tussock

It spreads rapidly and invades both native and introduced pastures and will quickly infest bare ground and disturbed areas. It will grow in most soil types and climates, preferring cool temperate areas with rainfall between 450 – 1000mm. Each plant produces thousands of seeds and has the ability to infest whole properties. Serrated tussock can look similar to some of our native grasses especially the *Poa* species, so if you are unsure, it would be worthwhile getting it identified correctly. It is unpalatable to livestock and will only be eaten if no other pasture is available.

As with most weed species, a variety of control options are preferred for effective management. If plant numbers are small chipping or digging out individual plants including roots is effective with regular monitoring for re-emergence. For large plant numbers chemical or mechanical options may be required. Controlling serrated tussock before seed set is critical to its control so if you see an unusual tussock grass plant on your property, get it identified before it sets seed.

The information above was taken from the Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party website. If you would like more information on identifying and controlling serrated tussock have a look at their website [here](#).

Darren Bain  
Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator  
Ph: 5440 1893  
M: 0419 560 348  
E: [darren.bain@nccma.vic.gov.au](mailto:darren.bain@nccma.vic.gov.au)

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Sustainable Soils Forum 2023**

**Friday 31st March 2023**

**Capital Theatre, Bendigo.**

Sustainable Soils 2023 explores new perspectives from farmers and industry leaders to grow the future of Agriculture. It brings together experts, policy makers, farmers and industry to share, network, learn, and collaborate to take a deep dive into improving soil health and management.



## Courses & Resources...

### Call for expressions of interest

#### Chemical Users Course

8 to 9 February 2023, Swan Hill.

*Do you need to obtain or refresh your chemical handling accreditation?*

*Are you a Traditional Owner and/or local landholder around the Kerang Wetlands?*

Expressions of interest (EOI) are now open for Traditional Owners, community and/or landholders and Landcare groups to undertake a nationally accredited Chemical Users Course. The course provided will be a 2-day AusChem User course.

Training is provided by the SuniTAFE and suitable for:

- Landholders seeking to gain chemical handling accreditation
- Landholders wanting to refresh their AusChem accreditation
- Landcare groups undertaking natural resource management works
- Traditional Owners wanting to undertake natural resource management works



Image: Courtesy Victorian Rabbit Action Network

Project Manager Amy Russell said: "We are encouraging Traditional Owners, Landcare groups and landholders to register their EOI – if the interest is really good we may also be able to run a second course in the near future"

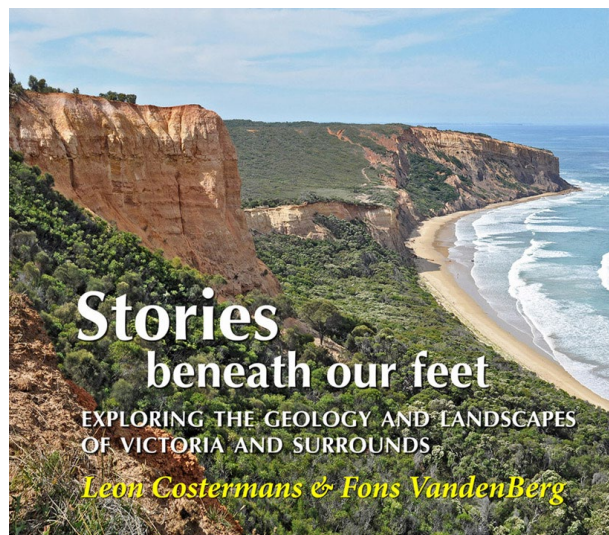
Course participants will have their course fees and lunch sponsored by the Victorian Government's Kerang Wetlands Ramsar Site Project.

For further information, and to submit an EOI by Friday 27 January 2023, please contact Amy Russell at the North Central CMA on 03 5448 7124 or [info@nccma.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@nccma.vic.gov.au). Places will be limited, so please register your interest early.

## Stories beneath our feet: exploring the geology and landscapes of Victoria and surrounds

Leon Costermans and Fons VandenBerg  
(Costermans Publishing)

**At last! A book about geology and landscapes that anyone can understand...**



A hard-cover book of 660 pages explaining the geological origins of the diverse landscapes in south-eastern Australia, written to appeal to a wide range of readers with interests in the natural environment; it does not assume a geological background.

This book is intended for land managers, teachers and senior students of environmental subjects, ecologists, naturalists, tour group leaders, outdoor activity leaders, or simply interested travellers. It examines the stories behind the wide range of landforms, rock types and life-forms through geological time, and emphasises geological influences in ecosystems.

Stories beneath our feet makes suggestions for field activities suitable for various age groups. It includes more than 1870 high-quality photos, digital images, geological maps, and diagrams; and has a comprehensive glossary, user-friendly indexes and other supplementary descriptive lists.

Published – Frankston, VIC: Costermans Publishing, 2022.

To order a copy visit [Muckleford Books](http://MucklefordBooks.com.au) website



## Events...

### Native Grasslands Workshop and Field Day

**Loddon Plains Landcare Network is hosting Lestyn Hosking and Mirinda Thrope who will provide a presentation and field day to learn about native grasses, herbs and forbs and how manage for these species on your property.**

This event will include a workshop and a paddock walk at a local property looking at multi-species pastures

Learn about:

- Native grasses, herbs and forbs in the area and what to look for on your property
- Encouraging grassland species on your property and in your farming system
- Identifying species in the field.

**When:** Thursday 8 December

**Where:** LPLN Goods Shed, 28 Station St Inglewood - opposite Inglewood CFA

**Cost:** Free

**What to bring:**

**RSVP:** Use the QR code (e) [lpn.regen@gmail.com](mailto:lpn.regen@gmail.com) or call Danny on 0421 326 980



### Grass ID Field Day

**The Healthy Landscapes: Practical Regenerative Agricultural Communities program aims to raise awareness in their community about sustainable land management practices that improve soil health, reduce exposure to climate risk, enhance biodiversity and increase on-farm productivity.**

This program is being delivered as a partnership between Macedon Ranges Shire Council (MRSC), Hepburn Shire Council, the City of Greater Bendigo, A Healthy Coliban Catchment project (North Central Catchment Management Authority and Coliban Water), Melbourne Water and the Upper Campaspe Landcare Network.

Jump on and register now for free events and keep in touch with the program as the 2023 Event series will be out soon.

### Grass ID Field Day

Martin Roberts, Macedon Ranges Shire Council's Bushland Reserves Officer, will join us on a walk through Malmsbury Common. Martin will give a practical demonstration and discuss the key characteristics you should be aware of in identifying grasses you have on your property and in your paddocks.

Be aware this is an outside event, so make sure you wear appropriate clothing and footwear.

**When:** Sunday, 11 December 2022, 10am to 11:30am

**Where:** Malmsbury Common Reserve, 96 Mollison St, Malmsbury VIC 3446

**RSVP: Register:** <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/grass-id-field-day-malmsbury-tickets-409660494567>

## Volunteering – Spotighting

**Biolinks Alliance, through its Spring Plains Watershed Repair project, is seeking volunteers to support upcoming events.**

First up, its spotlight surveys.

These surveys will take place at dusk and involve walking quietly along transects (tracks) at a slow/moderate pace taking care to observe all locations for eyeshine or movement. Group sizes and ages will be limited for this activity.

For all of Biolinks Alliance events and volunteering opportunities coming up in the Heathcote area visit: [Volunteering Opportunities — Biolinks Alliance](#)

**When:** Tuesday 13 December 2022. 8pm to 10pm

**Where:** Spring Plains Nature Conservation Reserve, Heathcote. Meet at the corner of Spring Plain track and Chisholm track.

**Equipment:** Spotlight or good quality head torch, close toed shoes, cold weather clothing, binoculars

**Age restriction:** 12+ (anyone under 18 must be accompanied by a guardian)

**Volunteers required:** 5

**RSVP:** via the [Biolinks website](#) or contact Cameron O'Mara on 0467 489 479.

## Funding opportunities...

### Financial help for south-eastern floods

The Australian Government is making help available for people in Victoria, Tasmania and New South Wales affected by the ongoing extensive flooding.



#### Victoria

The Australian Government's **Disaster Recovery Allowance** is now available in the 46 Victorian LGAs of Alpine, Ararat, Ballarat, Benalla, Boroondara, Brimbank, Buloke, Campaspe, Central Goldfields, Colac Otway, Corangamite, Gannawarra, Glenelg, Golden Plains, Greater Bendigo, Greater Geelong, Greater Shepparton, Hepburn, Horsham, Hume, Loddon, Macedon Ranges, Manington, Mansfield, Maribyrnong, Melbourne, Mitchell, Moira, Moonee Valley, Moorabool, Mount Alexander, Moyne, Murrindindi, Northern Grampians, Pyrenees, Strathbogie, Swan Hills, Wangaratta, Warrnambool, Whittlesea, Wodonga, Wyndham, Yarra Ranges and Yarriambiack.

- **The Disaster Recovery Allowance (DRA)** is to assist employees and sole traders who experience a loss of income as a direct result of a major disaster and is payable for a maximum of 13 weeks. DRA is taxable.

In addition, the one-off, non-means tested **Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment** of \$1000 per eligible adult and \$400 per eligible child is available to people who live in the Victorian LGAs of Benalla, Boroondara, Buloke, Central Goldfields, Campaspe, Corangamite, Gannawarra, Golden Plains, Greater Bendigo, Greater Shepparton, Hepburn, Loddon, Maribyrnong, Macedon Ranges, Melbourne, Mitchell Shire, Moonee Valley, Mount Alexander, Murrindindi, Northern Grampians, Pyrenees, Strathbogie, Wangaratta and Yarra who have suffered a significant loss as a result of the floods, including a severely damaged or destroyed home or a serious injury.

- Equivalent financial assistance will also be available to eligible New Zealand citizens (non-protected Special Category Visas, subclass 444 holders) affected by the floods.
- Information about the payments, including all eligible local government areas is available at: [servicesaustralia.gov.au/disasterevents](https://servicesaustralia.gov.au/disasterevents)

### Financial support for flood-affected farmers

**Agriculture Victoria has advised of the 'Victorian Primary Producer Flood Relief Program' support package available for flood-affected farmers:**

**Primary Producer Clean-Up Relief Grants:** \$10,000 grants to cover the cost of the clean-up and get businesses up and running again

**Primary Producer Concessional Loans:** Up to \$250,000 to restore or replace damaged equipment and infrastructure, or to cover the short-term business expenses.

**Primary Producer Transport Subsidies:** Up to \$15,000 to support the transport of emergency fodder or stock drinking water, and the movement of livestock.

To find out more and understand eligibility and application processes, visit: [Rural Finance](#). Please contact Rural Finance on [1800 260 425](tel:1800260425) if you have any questions

### Small Business Immediate Flood Relief Program- VIC

**This program provides emergency support grants for businesses directly affected by the Victorian flood events that commenced in October 2022.**

There are two streams of support available under this program:

- immediate flood relief grant
- business relief service.

Funding is available as a one-off grant to cover immediate expenses incurred from direct flood damage,

The business relief service is a free service offering one-on-one advice from a local business mentor who will be available via telephone and on the ground to guide business owners through the available Commonwealth, state and local supports. They can also help with insurance and landlord issues, assessing impacts and forming recovery strategies.

#### What do you get?

A one-off payment of \$5,000 and access to free business mentoring.

#### Who is this for?

Victorian small businesses in eligible LGAs.