

North Central Chat

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



November 2024



The wildflowers have been a bit sparse in my patch this year but I was pleased to see some in Kara Kara National Park recently.

A message from the Regional Landcare Coordinator

Hi everyone,

I've been reflecting on my first year (plus two months) in this role and how fast time flies. It certainly doesn't feel like more than a year, but when I think back to when I started, I feel I've learned so much and connected with so many people. I've also enjoyed putting The Chat together and looking for interesting articles and information to share with you all. I would love your feedback on the content of The Chat, particularly as we move to an online-only version in 2025. The Chat will look a little bit different next year, but it will still have the stories, information and opportunities you've loved. I appreciate getting all your feedback so please feel free to drop me a line.

This year I've been fortunate to be a part of the Caring for Landcarers Mentoring Program. I was paired as a mentor with a Landcare Facilitator from Gippsland and have really enjoyed learning about Landcare further afield and supporting Josh as he navigates his role. As

part of this program, I recently attended the two-day workshop in the Otways. The workshop brought Landcare professionals from across the state together to share, learn and network. We enjoyed a site visit to a local farm to see the difference vegetation and protection makes to a degraded waterway, and the on-farm productivity benefits of protecting and enhancing biodiversity. We also enjoyed a night walk to Lake Elizabeth in the Great Otway National Park where we were lucky to see platypus, many small bats, a yellow-bellied glider and many glow worms. It was a truly magical place.

We're supporting EVM Grow this year, a special event for environmental volunteers and environmental volunteer managers on Tuesday, 3 December. Check out the events section for more information.

Finally, a quick reminder about 2023 Victorian Landcare Grant acquittals, which are due by the end of this month. With mapping workshops coming up in Castlemaine and Woodend, plus drop-in sessions at the CMA office, there are plenty of opportunities to get some support. If you would like some assistance and these times don't suit, please reach out to me.

Happy reading,

Belinda Pritchard

Regional Landcare Coordinator

North Central CMA

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Connecting rivers, landscapes, people

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

www.nccma.vic.gov.au



News...

Protecting a very special butterfly with an amazing story

It's the kind of story that is so remarkable it could only exist in nature. It's about a butterfly, an ant, and one very specific type of plant.

The Eltham copper butterfly is an amazing insect that tricks and treats notoncus ants into helping raise it from a caterpillar to an adult.

The butterfly exists only where there are healthy sweet bursaria plants and only if the ant is also present, two facts the female butterfly can discover through receptors on her feet.

She lays her eggs at the base of the plant, and when they hatch the ants bring the caterpillars into their nest to take care of them.

Night-shift worker ants take the caterpillars out in darkness to feed on the sweet bursaria leaves and protect them from would-be predators.

This whole production is a mixture of both tricking and treating.

The caterpillar tricks the ants into believing it's one of their own, by mimicking ant hormones and making sounds that pacify ant aggression. They treat the ant with sugary secretions the ants love to eat.



Photo by Tom Crawshaw supplied by Banyule City Council

Despite being so amazing, the Eltham copper butterfly is in trouble.

It was once widespread in dry open forests from Melbourne to Western Victoria, but land clearing,

farming, climate change, and planned burns have resulted in only three remaining populations in Victoria – Bendigo/Castlemaine, the Wimmera, and near Eltham in Melbourne.

The Bendigo/Castlemaine population is found mostly within national parks and public reserves.

North Central CMA is teaming up with local communities and other government agencies to help save the endangered butterfly from extinction.

"Over the next four years we'll work with local communities to help them understand more about the species and what can be done to save it," North Central CMA Project Manager Laura Chant said.

"We can't protect them if we don't know where they are, so we'll not only monitor known populations but also search for potential habitat and new colonies.

"We'll collect sweet bursaria seeds and plant about 6,000 new seedlings to help connect butterfly colonies.

"We'll also protect populations with weed removal and fencing or bollards to restrict vehicle access and habitat disturbance."

For more details about the project, go to nccma.vic.gov.au/elthamcopperbutterfly

This project is funded by the Australian Government Natural Heritage Trust and delivered by the North Central CMA, a member of the Commonwealth Regional Delivery Partners panel.

Junior Landcare Grant recipients announced

Article by Junior Landcare, Landcare Australia

In 2024, Landcare Australia proudly partnered with the Victorian Government's Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action for a seventh round of the Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants. This year, \$409,645 in funding has been awarded to 103 outstanding projects that will educate, engage and motivate young people in valuing and actively caring for Victoria's biodiversity and natural environment.

Congratulations to the successful recipients in the North Central CMA region:

- Buloke and Northern Grampians Landcare Network Junior Landcare Group – Project Puggle – Educating our Future Landcarers
- Harcourt Valley Primary School – Enhancing Biodiversity Awareness in Harcourt

- St Michael's Primary School Daylesford – Biodiversity Nature Trail
- Wycheproof Junior Landcare – “From Little Things” - the Wycheproof and District Junior Landcare debut tour.

Funding the 2024 projects will ensure young Victorians have opportunities to participate in biodiversity focused hands-on projects and/or learning activities in their local communities.

The grants also contribute to the targets of Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037, the Victorian Government's plan to stop the decline of our native plants and animals and improve our natural environment.

To see a full list of grant recipients head to the [Junior Landcare website](#).



Photo: Fish hotels in the making

Love shacks a boost for blackfish

Article by: Tess Grieves, CMA Project Manager

River blackfish “love shacks” have been installed in two key southern waterways just in time for the spring breeding season.

The CMA has worked with skilled contractors to create breeding habitat out of large tree trunks and root balls salvaged from October 2022 flooding events. We've then transported and installed them in Birch's and Tullaroop creeks between Newlyn and Tullaroop reservoirs.

River blackfish are one of the native fish species that has declined in these waterways since European occupation, on the back of mining, farming, river regulation, and climate change. To realise the long-term vision set out in the Tullaroop Integrated Catchment Plan, our project has removed willows and other weeds from these creeks over many years, and the next step is to give these

special native fish the habitat they need to survive and thrive.

We got our hands on some very heavy tree trunks up to 10 metres long, carved holes and slots in them, and secured them in areas we know are perfect for breeding and that won't dislodge during a flood. Blackfish lay sticky eggs on hard, clean surfaces, which makes these structures ideal. They've been installed just in time for the spring and summer breeding season, so they'll be ready and waiting for their new guests.



Photo: Habitat hotel

The project has been working with local anglers, the Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA), engineers, Djaara, Parks Victoria, Central Highlands Water, and the Department of Energy, Environment, and Climate Action to make sure the shacks will do the job they need to. The VFA has contributed \$23,000 to the project through the Recreational Fishing Grants Program, which has enabled us to make sure the habitat is where it needs to be.

The Tullaroop Catchment Restoration Project seeks to create a healthy, continuous corridor along Birch's and Tullaroop creeks by improving water quality, ecosystem health, and cultural sites.



Watching for H5N1 Avian Influenza (bird flu) in Australia

Article by Wildlife Victoria

Current situation

High pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI) is a highly infectious disease that can cause severe illness and death in poultry. A new global strain of HPAI H5N1 differs from previous avian influenza strains, as it not only causes substantial mortality in poultry but also can cause the deaths of large numbers of wild birds and some mammals.

HPAI strain H5N1 has not been detected in animals in Australia to date.

H5N1 HPAI is a highly contagious respiratory disease impacting poultry, wild birds, and other animals. It causes severe illness and death in bird species. It can also infect mammal species, including livestock, scavenger species and marine mammals such as seals. The H5N1 strain that's impacting the USA and other parts of the world is different from the H7 strain outbreaks that have occurred recently in parts of Victoria. Further information on the H7 outbreak in poultry can be found at [Agriculture Victoria's website](#).

HPAI H5N1

Since 2021, the subtype HPAI H5N1 (clade 2.3.4.4.b) has spread rapidly across the world and infected a wide range of animals, including hundreds of species of wild birds and, more than 50 species of mammals. Australia is the only large continental land mass that is currently free from this strain.

Due to the global H5N1 situation, there is an increased risk of HPAI H5N1 arriving in Australia. As such, there is increased risk of outbreaks in local wild birds and other native wildlife as well as farmed and backyard poultry.

Any outbreak of HPAI H5N1 would require an emergency response. Government agencies would work closely with industry, community, wildlife groups and land managers during this process.

Our emergency response planning is well underway, but the reality is that should the virus enter Victoria, it is likely substantial wildlife deaths that have been seen in other parts of the world will occur. An outbreak of HPAI H5N1 poses a significant risk to vulnerable native wildlife species.

Avian influenza rarely spreads to humans but may occur if there is close contact with infected birds, droppings or heavily contaminated environments. Further information can be found at Agriculture Victoria's [website](#).

With the increased risk of arrival of HPAI H5N1 in Australia, it is important that Victorians who encounter sick or dead wild birds or wildlife are aware of HPAI, to ensure they minimise the risks to themselves and other animals.

The most important sign of H5N1 in wild birds and wildlife is sudden death.

Other signs of H5N1 are:

- lack of coordination, tremors, swimming in circles
- twisted neck or other unusual posture
- inability to stand or fly
- diarrhoea
- difficulty breathing, coughing or sneezing
- swelling around the head, neck and eyes
- cloudiness or change in colour of the eyes.

If you find sick or dead wild birds or wildlife:

- **AVOID** contact with sick or dead wild birds or wildlife and their environment. Do not touch, move or collect sick or dead wild birds or wildlife.
- **RECORD** what you see. If safe, record information on the number of dead birds/animals, species, location, date and time.
- **REPORT to DEECA by calling 136 186.**

Report clusters (five or more) of sick or dead wild birds of any species, anywhere in Victoria.

Report even one

- sick or dead penguin or pelican

- sick or dead bird of prey (e.g. hawks, owls, eagles)
- sick or dead black swan
- sick or dead marine mammal (e.g. seals, sea lions, dolphins).

Following a report, DEECA will evaluate the need for diagnostic testing or other investigation. Reporting will be key to early detection.

Victorian preparedness

The Victorian Government undertakes surveillance for avian influenza virus in wild birds under the National Avian Influenza Wild Bird Surveillance Program which is coordinated by Wildlife Health Australia.

The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) is working closely with land managers, including Parks Victoria, Phillip Island Nature Parks, Catchment Management Authorities and other relevant agencies and organisations to prepare for a potential HPAI H5N1 detection in Victoria.

More resources

- [Wildlife Health Australia – H5NQ global outbreak](#)
- [Agriculture Victoria: H7 current situation](#)
- [Agriculture Victoria: HPAI preparedness](#)
- [Department of Health](#)

THE GREAT BIOSECURITY Quest

The Great Biosecurity Quest is back

Agriculture Victoria

This October, we are asking Victorians to join the Quest and be on the lookout for stink bugs, including the invasive Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) which is a serious threat to Australia's biosecurity.

You can play your part in the Great Biosecurity Quest and become a Watchout Warrior by keeping an eye out for diseases and pests in Victoria.

We all have a part to play in protecting Victoria's biosecurity so that we can continue to spend time in the great outdoors, enjoy clean and safe food and protect the agricultural industries that provide so much for us all.

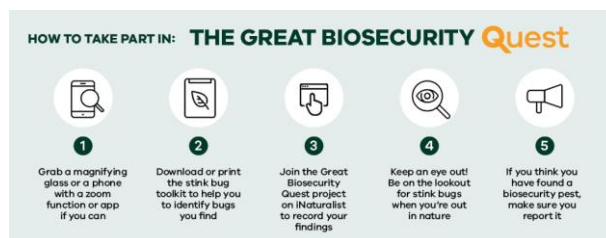
Join the Quest to find stink bugs

As a Watchout Warrior, we need you to keep an eye out for unwanted pests and diseases when you're out in the backyard, at parks and out in nature.



This year our focus is the invasive brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB). You can download our citizen science stink bug toolkit which will help you to identify the different stink bugs you might find.

Don't forget if you see a BMSB or any other biosecurity pest, be sure to report it immediately. See our [biosecurity reporting page](#) for more information on how to report.



Join the Great Biosecurity Quest on iNaturalist



The iNaturalist app is a great place to record what you find when you're out in nature. Not only does it help you to identify any plants and animals you find, but you are also contributing to a global dataset to assist science and conservation.

This year for the Great Biosecurity Quest we have set up [a project on iNaturalist](#) to collect records of stink bugs in Victoria. By joining the project and recording any sightings, you can contribute to knowledge about native stink bugs, and also keep an eye out for any invasive pests.

[Visit the iNaturalist project page](#)

[Download the Atlas of Living Australia guide to iNaturalist](#)

The Great Biosecurity Quest – pest trapping activity

This year as part of the Quest we are asking people to keep an eye out for the invasive brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB) and other biosecurity pests. One way you can do this is to download our toolkit above and keep an eye out in your garden or local park.

However, we are also looking for keen gardeners and citizen scientists who would be interested in joining our pest trapping activity. You can put an insect sticky trap in

your garden and report back to us. This will give us valuable surveillance data.

Jump on our [information sheet \(WORD - 253.8 KB\)](#) to read more, and you'll also find a link to complete our form and provide your details if you would like to join this activity.

You can also hit Register and provide your details now.

[Register](#)



BushBank Program Update & Seeding Victoria Workshops

from **Cassinia Environmental**

The BushBank Private Land Stream is 18 months in and has secured 5,746 hectares for restoration, more than a quarter of the program's ambitious 20,000-hectare target.

Forty-three projects, including private landowner and revolving fund properties, are in progress.

You can read the 2024 Mid-year Progress Report here: <https://cassinia.com/2024-progress-report/>. A media release is also available at this link.

Crucial to achieving large-scale revegetation in Victoria is a strong native seed industry. Cassinia has been working closely with representatives across Victoria to plan ahead. Importantly, Seeding Victoria is hosting workshops in November to encourage new seed collectors. You can find out more and sign up to the workshops here:

- Creswick - Friday November 8
<https://events.humanitix.com/seed-collection-workshop-creswick>
- Castlemaine Saturday November 9
<https://events.humanitix.com/seed-collection-workshop-castlemaine>

The BushBank team hosts monthly updates to our partners, and you are most welcome to join. If you would like an invite to Regional Partner meetings, email your contact details to bushbank.partner@cassinia.com

For any other queries, contact Krista Patterson-Major, BushBank Program Manager at krista.pattersonmajor@cassinia.com.



Australian pollinator week

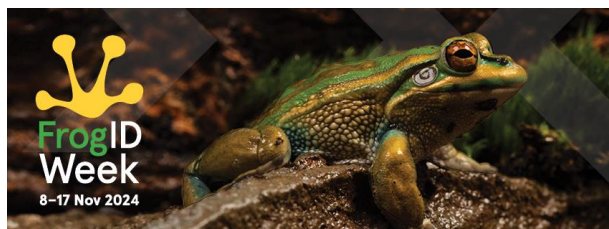
Australian Pollinator Week acknowledges our important and unique insect pollinators during our southern spring (November).

It is a designated week when community, business and organisations can come together to raise awareness of the importance of pollinators and support their needs.

The Australian Pollinator Count is taking place during Australian Pollinator Week, from 9 to 17 November.

Taking part is quick and easy. You simply need to observe some flowers for two minutes, record the pollinators you see and register your results.

For more information check out the [Australian Pollinator Week website](#).



FrogID Week 8 to 17 November

FrogID Week, hosted by the Australian Museum, is Australia's biggest frog count.

Held annually, it's when anyone with a smartphone can help record frog calls through the free FrogID app.

The week-long event aims to monitor frog distributions and populations over time, helping us to understand how frogs and their ecosystems are responding to a changing planet.

From croaks and barks, to whistles and bleats, every frog species makes a unique sound. Using the free FrogID app, you can help us count Australia's frogs.

[Find out more here.](#)



COMMUNITY
PARTNERSHIP
PROGRAM

2025 River Detectives Registrations

Sign up to get your local school or youth group in on the environmental education action.

Gosh, it's that time of year again. Registrations for the 2025 River Detectives program will open on Monday November 18 for schools and youth groups in the North Central CMA region. Registrations will be taken until Monday 17 February, 2025.

We welcome registrations from across the region. If you are a current River Detectives school, you will receive a reminder email. New schools are encouraged to apply by heading to the [River Detectives website](https://www.riverdetectives.net.au) after November 18 and clicking on the Apply Now link.

River Detectives is free, fun, and flexible helping young people collect real data from waterways that matter to them in their local environment.



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

If you are a ResourceSmart School as well, there are lots of links to help you achieve progress with your modules.

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

Out and about in waterbug season

Spring brings the warmth that our waterbugs love and our students love waterbugs right back.

Asha and I have been very busy over the last month delivering incursions to our River Detectives schools on a variety of topics with waterbugs proving to be very popular.

- **Victory Christian College:** Microplastics with VCE Environmental Science students (after our visit they were going on to dissect carp removed from Kennington Reservoir prior to emptying for dam wall works to look for microplastics in their gut)
- **Crusoe College Kangaroo Flat:** Water quality testing with Year 10 Environmental Science students.
- **Trentham District PS:** Macroinvertebrate sampling with Year 5/6 students at the old Trentham baths site.
- **St Joseph's PS Kerang:** Macroinvertebrate sampling of the Loddon River with Year 3/4 students.
- **Mallee District Aboriginal Services:** Macroinvertebrate sampling of the Milloo St Wetlands with their youth group. The wetlands are an innovative stormwater recycling initiative to filter water from Swan Hill's streets.



- **Murrabit PS:** Macroinvertebrate sampling of the Murray River with the whole school.
- **Bullarto PS:** Macroinvertebrate sampling of Kangaroo Creek with the whole school.
- **Lockwood PS:** Macroinvertebrate sampling of Bullock Creek with the whole school.
- **East Loddon P-12 School:** Macroinvertebrate sampling and water quality testing of the local channel with Year 5/6 students.

Macroinvertebrate sampling is such an engaging and educational activity for our River Detectives schools. Waterbugs are biological indicators of water quality and habitat health, they are fun to find and learn about and it's another citizen-science investigation to complement their regular water quality testing perfectly. Data is uploaded to join results from across the state and inform natural resource management decisions. It's a win-win for all.



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

Region	Water Storage	Current % full	% full Nov 2023
Murray Storages	Dartmouth Dam	93.73	99
	Hume Dam	60.65	96
	Reedy/Middle Lk	94.64	94
	Kangaroo Lake	98.46	94
	Ghow Swamp	94.39	94
	Lake Boga	83.81	92
	Lake Charm	95.62	94
Loddon Storages	Cairn Curran Res	63.36	94
	Tullaroop Res	69.30	100
	Laanecoorie Res	33.25	79
Bullarook Storages	Newlyn Res	51.32	100
	Hepburns Lagoon	51.59	101
Goulburn Storages	Lake Eildon	85.75	99
	Waranga Basin	60.30	96
Campaspe	Lake Eppalock	81.41	96
Coliban Water Storages	Upper Coliban Res	87	100
	Lauriston Res	81	100
	Malmsbury Res	49	97

Source:
<https://www.g-mwater.com.au/water-operations/storage-levels>
<https://coliban.com.au/about-us/our-reservoirs>

Upcoming Events and Special Days

November	
<u>National Recycling Week</u>	11-17 Nov
<u>World Science Day for Peace and Development</u>	10 Nov
<u>Pollinator Week</u>	9-17 Nov
<u>World Fisheries Day</u>	21 Nov

December	
World Soil Day	5 Dec
International Volunteer Day	5 Dec
Coastcare Week	2-8 Dec
International Mountain Day	11 Dec
January	
Australia Day	26 Jan
International Day of Clean Energy	26 Jan

Courses & Resources...



Webinar recording available now: get more birds in your backyard

BirdLife Australia

Thank you to those who joined us for last week's Birds Meet webinar on how to get more birds in your backyard.

I hope you learned something new about your local native birds. By making small changes at home, we can all help make a big difference for Australian birds and attract more birds to our backyards ahead of next year's Aussie Bird Count.

[The webinar is now available to watch online](#)

More ways to care for your local native birds

As requested, we've compiled a list of helpful resources from this webinar to help you learn more, including some of the great recommendations you shared with us. We hope to see you at the next Birds Meet webinar.

Further reading

More information on the topics covered in this webinar and caring for your local native birds:

- [Creating a bird-friendly garden](#)
- [Providing water for birds](#)
- [Feeding wild birds](#)
- [Beak and feather disease](#)
- [Preventing bird strike](#)
- [Bird-friendly rodent control](#)
- [Nature laws](#)
- [Avian Influenza](#)

Additional resources

- **Read** about the [impacts of pet cats in Australia](#)
- **Join** our [Birds in Backyards Facebook group](#), and your [local Bushcare or Landcare group](#)
- **Install** a [nestbox for birds](#) and other hollow-nesting species
- **Learn** about [Australian native plant species](#)
- **Plant** a habitat garden with local endemic plant species. Visit your local native nursery and council website.

Dry seasonal conditions information

Agriculture Victoria

The recording of the recent webinar Growing More Feed with Agriculture Victoria Livestock Extension Officer Fiona Baker - can be found [HERE](#)

Additionally, here are some resources that you might find useful.

Feeding livestock website feedinglivestock.vic.gov.au

Agriculture Victoria dry season and drought support page [Dry seasons and drought support | Farm management | Agriculture Victoria](#)

Soil Moisture monitoring sites can be found [HERE](#)

Information on navigating farm developments online tool can be found [HERE](#)

An MLA guide to managing breeding ewes in containment can be found [HERE](#)

Stock containment areas design webinar can be found [HERE](#)



Caring for your stock in dry seasonal conditions

Agriculture Victoria

One way to help manage your stock during dry seasonal conditions is with the use of a stock containment area (SCA).

Agriculture Victoria Land Management Extension Officer Clem Sturmfels said caring for stock during a drought can be challenging and a SCA can help to minimise loss or illness and reduce farmer stress.

“A SCA is a small, fenced section of farm set up to hold, feed and water livestock,” he said.

“Typical pens measure 50 by 50 metres which can hold approximately 500 sheep or 170 cattle and ensure stock have room to move around and spend time on their own.”

Mr Sturmfels said having animals close-by makes feeding, watering, and management easier and more efficient.

“An additional benefit of containing stock is that you can maintain ground cover across the rest of the property, protecting soils, water, and pastures,” he said.

“It’s important that stock enter a SCA healthy and in good condition. They should be drenched, vaccinated, and conditioned to a grain-based diet.

“Diseases and health issues can spread quickly in containment, so regular inspection and monitoring is essential.

“Common issues such as acidosis and shy feeders need to be identified early, with affected stock being moved to a pen of their own.

“It is vital stock have enough feed and supply of fresh water, plus shade during the hotter times of the day.

“A good understanding of the nutritional needs of different classes of stock is essential, along with a knowledge of the energy, roughage, and protein mix of various feed sources.

“The site and layout of a SCA involves thought and planning. Ideally, a SCA should be close to existing feed and stock handling facilities, and away from houses, waterways, and dams.

“Consider what feeding system you plan to use as this will impact the pen design and layout.”

Check with your local council planning officer before starting construction as a planning permit may be required in some situations.

For more information on stock containment areas, visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/land-and-pasture-management/stock-containment-areas-for-emergencies

For more information about managing during dry seasonal conditions visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons or call 136 186



Free financial counselling

The Rural Financial Counselling Service provides a free and confidential financial counselling service to eligible farmers and small related enterprises who are experiencing, or at risk of, financial hardship.

They can help you to access any available support, analyse your business situation, negotiate with lenders and develop strategies to improve your financial position.

To find your closest service visit the [website](#) or call 1300 771 741.

Events...



State of volunteering in Victoria

Volunteering Victoria is undertaking research about volunteering in Victoria.

Two sessions are planned and will focus on the experiences of emergency services volunteers and explore the relationship between faith and volunteering. We would like to collect your insights and knowledge about how to make volunteering better and how to help more people volunteer.

The sessions are organised by Volunteering Victoria and Bendigo Volunteer Resource Centre.

Emergency services volunteer session:

When: Wednesday 6 November 6pm to 7.30pm

Where: Online via Zoom

Cost: Free

RSVP Register at bit.ly/SOVR-Emergency

Faith and volunteering

When: Monday 25 November 4pm to 6pm

Where: Bendigo Library Activity Room 1, 259 Hargreaves St Bendigo

Cost: Free

RSVP Register at bit.ly/SOVR-Faith



Sustainability In Schools Month

ResourceSmart Schools is hosting four sessions focused on integrating sustainability as a 'cross-curriculum priority'.

Over four Thursdays in November, Sustainability Victoria's ResourceSmart Schools program and partners will host four free professional learning events designed to support primary and secondary teachers addressing sustainability as a cross-curriculum priority.

Use the links below to register:

- **November 7:** [Sustainability in the Science curriculum with the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority \(VCAA\)](#)
- **November 14:** [First Nations and Sustainability in the Arts curriculum with Art Education Victoria \(AEV\)](#)
- **November 21:** [Sustainability in the Design & Technologies curriculum with DATTA Vic](#)
- **November 28:** [Curriculum-aligned and STEM experiences with Tech Schools and Science and Maths Specialist Centres](#)
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Atlas of Living Australia webinar – generous interfaces for discovering complex biodiversity data

How can we ensure our data can be easily and generously accessed?

The [Atlas of Living Australia's](#) (ALA) rich biodiversity data is accessed by users daily, making it critical that our user interfaces can support this breadth.

In this webinar, Generous Interfaces for Discovering Biodiversity Data, we'll explore how the development of novel software interfaces can transform the way biodiversity data are presented – making it more inviting and accessible for a diverse range of users.

Join the ALA for a discussion with Prof Mitchell Whitelaw and Prof Adrian Mackenzie as they delve into their recent work with the ALA on finding more generous ways to explore the richness in Australian biodiversity data.

Hosted by the ALA's Dr Martin Westgate, this webinar offers valuable insights for anyone interested in biodiversity data, data accessibility, and enhancing the user experience.

This event will be recorded, and the recording made available through the ALA blog and social channels in the week after the event.

When: Tuesday 12 November noon to 1pm

Where: Online

Cost: Free

RSVP [Register here](#)

Unconscious Bias Training

Presented by Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services (LCMS)

Unconscious bias training

Presented by Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services (LCMS)

In this globalised world, cross-cultural awareness is the key for success in the community services sector. Our Unconscious Bias Training will help you to increase awareness of bias and its impact, how to manage your own biases and behaviour change to create a fair and inclusive society for all people.

Training contents:

- What is unconscious bias?
- Unconscious bias examples
- Overcoming assumptions
- Understand who our local communities are
- Cross cultural communication

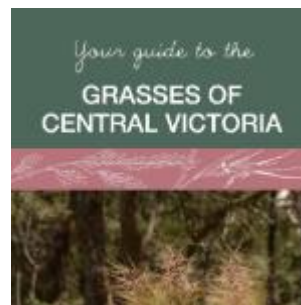
When: Monday 18 November 10am to noon

Where: Online

Cost: Free

What to bring:

RSVP Register via bvrchub@bendigovolunteers.org.au



Grass guide webinar

Healthy Landscapes Project

Do you want to know the tricks of the trade to identify grasses?

This webinar will step you through how to use the guide to the Grasses of Central Victoria in the farm paddock or bush to help identify common grass species.

The guide is an easy reference guide designed for beginners to help identify the more common grass plants in the Central Victorian region. The guide uses the flower structure of grasses as the quickest way of narrow down and identify most species.

When: Tuesday 19 November 7.30pm to 8.30pm

Where: Online

Cost: Free

RSVP: [Register here](#)

Grass ID field days

Healthy Landscapes Project

Join us in the field for a practical session for beginners to learn more about the grasses that populate your property and surrounds.

Using our Grasses of Central Victoria guide, our skilled grass identification practitioner will show you:

- how to use our new grass identification guide in the field
- traits of grassland plants
- how to identify native and exotic plants in the field
- how to identify important weeds in the region.

There are sessions available in three locations:

Session 1: Greater Bendigo area - 28 November 2024 10am to noon

Session 2: Macedon Ranges - 4 December 2024 10am to noon

Session 3: Clunes - 12 December 2024 10am to noon

Once registered, the property address will be sent to you prior to the event.

What you need to know

Wear weather-appropriate clothing and footwear.

- These walks are weather-dependent. We may cancel an event at short notice due to severe weather conditions such as extreme fire danger, wind and rain. We will give you as much notice as possible.
- Numbers are limited and bookings are essential.

Find our more information and register [via this link](#).



Webinar: Biodiversity in agriculture - maximising opportunities for your business

Landcare Agriculture

Is there a financial return – not just an environmental benefit – for farmers from building biodiversity?

Emerging and existing opportunities to boost farm business bottom lines by improving biodiversity will be explained in a Landcare Agriculture webinar.

The free webinar is part of an ongoing series to build knowledge in natural capital accounting and biodiversity.

It will bring together leading biodiversity specialists, covering science, emerging opportunities and understanding measurement systems.

Landcare Agriculture is a new program to be delivered by Landcare Australia and it evolves out of the previous National Landcare Network/Landcare Australia partnership known as Landcare Farming and, building on the earlier program, will deliver a broader program involving all areas of agriculture.

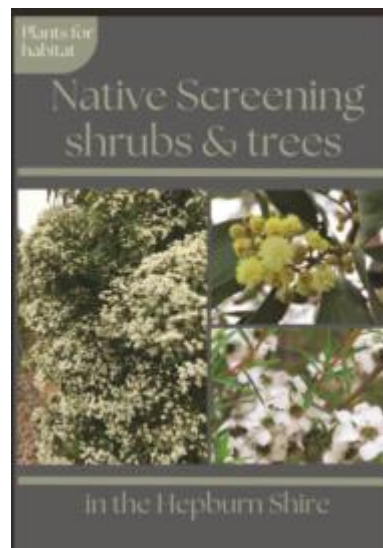
A follow up webinar on 5 December 2024 will explore carbon markets opportunities. Find out more [here](#).

When: Wednesday 6 November 1pm to 3.30pm

Where: Online

Cost: Free

RSVP [Register here](#).



Book launch and workshop – native screening shrubs and trees and connectivity across the landscape

Join ABC broadcaster, horticulturalist, garden designer and writer Millie Ross for the book launch of Native Screening Shrubs and Trees in the Hepburn Shire.

You'll also meet the author, Jeremy Neal.

This will be followed by a Connectivity Across the Landscape workshop with Tully Summer of Grow Locals. The workshop will explore using local native plants in creating habitat for more biodiverse landscapes in Hepburn Shire and nearby.

Book launch

When: Sunday 17 November 10.30am to 11.30am

Where: The Mechanics, 66 High Street, Trentham

Cost: Free

RSVP [Register here](#)

Workshop

When: Sunday 17 November 12pm to 1pm

Where: The Mechanics, 66 High Street, Trentham

Cost: Free

RSVP [Native Screening Booklet Workshop Tickets, The Mechanics Trentham, Trentham | TryBooking Australia](#)



EVM Grow

EVM Grow - an annual opportunity for those who manage, support or participate in environmental volunteer groups to gather to connect, learn and share. The event can be attended either online or in one of our multiple locations.

This year's program is looking at stories of inspiration in addressing the challenges we face with a changing climate, as well as practices of connecting with Country to foster wellness. Learn from our varied presenters, collaborate with colleagues from the sector and return to your groups full of fresh inspiration.

This year we will again be having a hybrid event with the option to join us online, or in person at

- Melbourne
- Bendigo
- Mildura
- St Arnaud
- Wodonga
- Benalla

Regional hubs will enjoy content streamed from Melbourne for the morning, followed by an afternoon of locally focused, in person programming.

When: Tuesday 3 December 9am to 4.30pm

Where: Old Church on the Hill, Bendigo

Cost: Free

[Register here](#)

Funding opportunities...

North Central CMA grants portal

The North Central CMA **Business Development** team presents our free public access grants portal.

You will find more than 270 grants from more than 150 providers suitable for environmental works, regional events, climate solutions, science, and indigenous support.

Use the portal to easily find and apply for grants that match projects and priorities.

Over the next few months, most grants available for our volunteers and their work will be released. We encourage you to use the portal to explore and secure funding from a wider range of sources, helping us collectively enhance our impact in the region.

For assistance, email bdp@nccma.vic.gov.au or call 03 5440 1805

Link: www.nccma.vic.gov.au/resources/grants-search/



Bob Hawke Landcare Award – Nominate today!

Do you know a group, organisation or individual that is shaping and guiding innovative farming systems, championing sustainable agriculture, and raising awareness about Landcare? Nominate them today!

The prestigious award is in honour of former Prime Minister Bob Hawke and is an opportunity to receive \$30,000 (ex GST) grant money to further develop knowledge and skills in sustainable land management to enable an even stronger contribution to Landcare. Click on the nominate link below to get your application in.

Nominate