

Environmental volunteers and landcarers

Resources and information for Victorians caring for nature



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City Nature Challenge 2024

Councils across Metropolitan Melbourne are collaborating to participate in the City Nature Challenge. This takes place across the globe and is an opportunity to show the world the incredible biodiversity of Melbourne.

From Friday 26th to Monday 29th April you are invited to take pictures of wild plants and animals using iNaturalist.

For further information and to see if your Council is involved, please visit [City Nature Challenge](#).

Grants

We post available grants onto our [website](#). Here is a sample of what's available.

Port Phillip Bay Fund - close 18 April

Grants are now available through the Port Phillip Bay Fund to support community efforts to protect and conserve the Bay's unique coastal habitats and marine ecosystem.

Groups and organisations can apply for up to \$300,000 for multi-year large-scale projects and up to \$25,000 for local, one-year projects.

For further information and to apply, please visit [Port Phillip Bay Fund](#).

Victorian Landcare Grants - close 30 April

These grants are open to environmental volunteer groups and networks, including Landcare groups and networks, Friends groups, Conservation Management Networks, Committees of Management, Coastcare groups and Aboriginal groups.

Project Grants of up to \$20,000 are available for on-ground works and community-based projects focused on preserving native vegetation and wildlife, waterways, wetlands, soils and other natural habitats and ecosystems.

Support Grants of up to \$500 are available to assist with costs such as insurance, incorporation and operational expenses, or events, community engagement, websites and other communications.

For further information and to apply, please visit [Victorian Landcare Grants](#).

Landcare for Country - tell us what you need

We'd love to hear what information would support your connections with First Nations.

We are in the process of creating a new Landcare for Country webpage.

The page will include resources, guidelines, protocols and factsheets to assist community groups to identify their local First Nations group and navigate Cultural Heritage Assessments.

To get an understanding of what would be most useful for you, please complete this two-minute [survey](#), which **closes on 11 April**

We will share the information when it's ready, so watch this space.

Training

We share training opportunities on our [website](#). Here is a sample of what's available.

Wadawurrung Cultural Education Session - Friday 31 May, 10am

Departing from the Eynesbury Discovery Centre, join environmental volunteers and other NRM professionals on a cultural education and immersion day on country with Wadawurrung man Ash Skinner.

The event is free and will be fully catered. A bus will transport participants between three sites of strong cultural significance focusing on cultural identity, the markers of country, traditional ways of working on country and how to best work with Traditional Owners today.

Arranged by Melbourne Water, register via [Humanitix](#).

Understanding ATO's Income Tax Reporting Changes for Groups - 2 May 5.30pm

The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) has introduced changes that may make environmental volunteer groups liable to pay income tax this year.

All Landcare and environmental volunteering groups and organisations should re-evaluate their tax-exempt status.

To learn more about how these changes might impact your group/network and what to do about it, a webinar presented by Landcare Victoria Inc and Australiana Charities and Not-for-profits Commission has been arranged.

For more information and to register via [Humanitix](#).

Workshops - Understanding human behaviour to influence change in your community

Are you passionate about sustainability and keen to find out more about how to motivate and create change in your community? Then this workshop is for you.

Sustainability Victoria are partnering with Behaviour Works Australia to offer free workshops across Victoria to help volunteer and community groups understand the role human behaviour can play in driving successful outcomes.

The interactive workshops will run for four hours including lunch and are limited to 20 participants. If you are interested, please submit an expression of interest by "purchasing" an Eventbrite ticket to the event. Successful applicants will be notified via email prior to the event.

These events are happening in person across the state in April and May, for more information please visit our [website](#).

Parks Victoria Volunteer Strategy 2024-28

Share your thoughts on volunteering in parks with an opportunity to comment on the Parks Victoria Volunteer Strategy 2024 - 28.

Volunteers provide amazing and invaluable support to the management, conservation and visitor experience of parks across Victoria.

Parks Victoria is updating its Volunteer Strategy which will set the strategic direction for volunteering for, and in partnership with, Parks Victoria for years to come.

To have your say you can:

- Complete the survey on engage.vic.gov.au (closes 5 May)
- Join an online workshop on Tuesday 16th April between 5.30 - 7pm. Register [here](#)
- Email engage@parks.vic.gov.au

- Call 13 1963 with your feedback

Have you visited our Resources Hub?

If you are planning or running a nature, conservation or wildlife group, event or project, we have some great resources to help.

One of the most visited sections on our Resource Hub is "Attracting and recruiting volunteers".

People are essential to running any group or project. Attracting individuals to help and keeping them can be challenging but rewarding.

There are useful guides and factsheets with tips and ideas to help.

Visit our [Resources Hub](#)

Melbourne Strategic Assessment Program

Find out about one of Victoria's largest urban conservation programs on the Melbourne Strategic Assessment Program's new website.

Learn how more than 20,000 hectares of much-needed habitat for our most threatened plants, animals and ecosystems will be secured over the coming decades.

Visit the [website](#) to discover more about the Western Grassland Reserve, explore why 80 new wetlands are being created and watch videos about some of our most threatened species.

Keep up to date with the latest news by [signing up](#) to the "Nature Next Door" newsletter - first edition coming soon.

Victorian Cat Management Strategy - Open for Feedback

Have your say in shaping Victoria's first cat management strategy.

Cat management is a complex and challenging issue across Australia. For millions of Victorians, cats are a beloved family pet, while also being widely recognised as a significant threat to our native fauna.

Feedback closes on 26 April and can be accessed at [Victorian Cat Management Strategy](#).

Want to know more? How to get in touch...

There's a lot of information on [our website](#), so take a look at some of the great resources, research and reports.

Need assistance or want to share a great story of environmental volunteering in your area? [Send us an email](#).

Resources for the Victorian Landcare Program are available on the [Victorian Landcare Gateway](#). You can find information on the Victorian Landcare Facilitator Program, events, training and more. If you have a specific question on the Victorian Landcare Program, [send an email](#).



We acknowledge Victorian Traditional Owners and their Elders past and present as the original custodians of Victoria's land and waters and commit to genuinely partnering with them and Victoria's Aboriginal community to progress their aspirations.



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