

May 2019 Edition



May is Officially Workshop and Conference Month!

Left: Bernie Schedvin from Main Creek Catchment Landcare Group presenting at the 'Victorian Weed Conference 2019' in Echuca on "Karamu: a community campaign". ***Right:*** Jacqui Salter (MPLN) and Marijke deBever-Price (WPCLN) at Agriculture Victoria's 'Engaging Youth – Invasive Species' workshop (no workshop is complete without post it notes!)

Greetings Landcare members & associates,

BREAKING NEWS! The Landcare grants are now out and due in June 12th! Please contact me ASAP if your group is keen to apply for one. Firstly, I'd like to congratulate Bernie Schedvin on taking the issue of Karamu invasion to the rest of the state in the 'Victorian Weed Conference'. By all accounts, her presentation was insightful and very well received. This month I've had the pleasure of attending a number of really great events, including an 'Engaging Youth' workshop in which I got to collaborate with some highly experienced people on my plan to develop an NRM mentoring program for women. I also attended Charles Massey's talk on 'Regenerative Agriculture' which was mind-blowing (see p 5-6). I urge committee members to come along to our 'Strategic Planning for Landcare Groups' workshop on Wed 12th June, facilitated by the wonderful Kim Boswell. I hope you are enjoying the cooler weather and THE RAIN! How fabulous. Many thanks to Greg Holland for his excellent content and editing.

Warm Regards,

Jacqui Salter, Landcare Facilitator for MPLN Jacqueline.salter@mornpen.vic.gov.au
ph: 5950 1279 or 0408 213 079. Please note I work Mon-Wed 9am – 3pm.

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1. Events for your Diary this Month

Event	Date/Time	Location
Famer Discussion Group	May 11 - 10-12am	Macclesfield
Koala Talk	May 25 - 2 pm	Red Hill
Property Tour	June 1 - 1-1:30 pm	Tuerong



Details are under *Upcoming Events*.

2. Opportunities & News

Landcare Network News

Last week, representatives from each of the 11 MP Landcare Network groups met at the quarterly 'Member Representative' meeting. Here are the highlights:

- Began a Strategic Planning session, facilitated by Jacqui Salter which included a SWOT analysis.
- Agreed to submit two grant applications for the 'Ripe for Change' grant initiative – one for engaging wine growers in sustainable land management and another for 'Farming in a changing climate'.
- Jacqui summarised the DELWP Landcare Facilitator report 2015-2018
- DELWP has renewed the Landcare Facilitator positions until July 2020
- The MP Shire is considering adopting the MPLN biolink plan
- Community Skills Grant – Action planning session organised for Wed June 12th
- Women in Leadership Grant application – JS submitted application for mentoring program
- Koala project update – Dirk Jansen's koala project is gaining a lot of momentum. He ran a koala walk and an information session for 'Koala Day' last week and is looking into starting a Landcare group.

Share your Landcare story

This year, Landcare Vic and Landcare Australia are celebrating a 30-year anniversary. Landcare has played a leading role in changing Australia's approach to sustainable agricultural practices, environmental protection, land and water conservation, biodiversity and landscape restoration, whilst connecting communities. In recognition of the incredible work that has been achieved during the past three decades, Landcare Australia is curating a collection of stories that exemplify the Landcare ethos. These stories will be used across a number of special publications to showcase and share how Landcare has shaped Australia and why it is integral to our country's future.

If you have a story about a Landcare project or person that has made or is making a difference to the environment and local community, we'd love to hear it! Share your story [here](#)

State of the Climate: A Peninsula Perspective

A recently released report on Climate Change Impacts in the Vic State of the Environment Report (CES 2018) has some sobering information on where the state is currently with regards to climate change. To quote them:

"There are 17 indicators in the 'Climate change impacts' chapter. Only 1 indicator – awareness of climate risks and mitigation amongst Victorians – has a current status of good. 11 of the indicators have a current status of fair or poor (the rest are unknown). 10 indicators show a downward trend, 3 are improving and the remaining 4 are stable or uncertain."

The full report makes some interesting reading and of particular interest is the special section on what the Shire is doing about climate change on the Peninsula.

Want to have your say, the Monash Climate Change Communication Research Hub survey on experiences with climate change is still open -

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfNobSv1GnotVtDUcA-bUSkBPcHkE6vKeyaQZJdNbHjSnI0bw/viewform>

Reference: CES, 2018: <https://www.ces.vic.gov.au/reports/state-environment-2018/climate-change-impacts>

Weeds at the Early State of Invasion Early Invader Manual

The Weeds at the Early State of Invasion Early Invader Manual is a tool to assist land managers with the management of early invader environmental weeds. It is full of easy-to-understand steps and templates to guide you through a logical weed management process.

Online Manual: go to <https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/invasive-plants-and-animals/early-invaders>

Order a free hard copy for posting to you: go to <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/o/bianca-gold-department-of-environment-land-water-and-planning-18080018366>

Income tax deductions for costs related to fire emergency preparedness and prevention

Primary producers are entitled to claim income tax deductions for costs related to fire emergency preparedness and prevention. Check out the Fire Preparedness & Prevention Expenses ATO factsheet at <https://www.landcarevic.org.au/.../fire-recovery-ato-fact-sh.../>

Go to the Basalt to Bay Landcare Network's website for other ATO factsheets for primary producers: <https://www.basalttobay.org.au/interest-areas/tax-rebates>

Vic State of Environment 2018 report

The State of Environment (SOE) 2018 report for Victoria that was recently released tells Victorians about the health of our environment – our land, our water, our air, and our ecosystems. Using 170 different scientific indicators, the Report shows us where we're doing well and where we need to improve.

To view or download the SOE report: <https://www.ces.vic.gov.au/reports/state-environment-2018>



Share your Climate Change Story

The Monash Climate Change Communication Research Hub are running a column under Leader Local Newspapers, featuring local climate stories from everyone across Melbourne to help improve how we understand climate change.

Changing Climates will be the first dedicated climate column in Australian newspapers. It will bring the climate discussion back into the community by publishing your opinions alongside established climate science.

Help us improve how Melbournians understand climate change and share your experience in your local Leader newspaper by completing this quick 5-minute survey link: bit.ly/MonashCC The answers will not be used for research purposes. Supported by the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation.

Fallen Tree Springs Back Up!

Cutting trees that have fallen across a fence or similar can involve little-known dangers, as is illustrated by a recent accident in Queensland. A young boy was playing around a fallen tree that was being cut up when it suddenly sprang back up, crushing the boy under the roots now firmly back in their original location.

He was rescued by pulling the tree back over with heavy equipment, and survived after a stint in hospital.



Apparently what happened is that as the upper-sections of the trunk were cut away, the bent roots still anchored in the ground had enough tensile strength to lift the remainder back upright. It is not uncommon, with one arborist indicating that around 10% of fallen trees sprang back up while being cut – it is certainly common enough to be used as a bit of recreation by some bored loggers -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZMBf8XZEduU>

Original article - <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-03-26/what-causes-fallen-trees-to-spring-back-up-after-storm/10942124?pfmredir=sm>

Sniffing Dogs

It is no secret that dogs have a highly-developed sense of smell, some can recognise scents at concentrations of one in a billion molecules. Scientists at the University of the Sunshine Coast have harnessed this ability to train dogs to sniff out rare and endangered animals, detect pests, and even find threatened native plants (ALA 2019).



Their ‘Detection Dogs for Biodiversity’ program currently has five dogs, each trained to detect a specific species.

For example, Maya the Super Koala Sniffer (shown), finds koalas hidden high in the treetops by simply sniffing out their faeces. A program in the Northern Tablelands of NSW used Maya to map out the local koala population and also establish their preference in tree types. Another program in Tasmania mapped out the masked owl by a specialised dog finding the small pellets of indigestible matter that they regurgitate.

Reference: ALA, 2019: <https://www.ala.org.au/blogs-news/ala-in-use-research-dogs-helping-to-record-data-on-threatened-species/>

Bugs in the House

First the facts - did you know that you have around 100 different species of bug (insects and arachnids) in your house. They range from the easily seen and sometimes annoying such as flies, spiders, cockroaches and ants - to tiny creatures like carpet beetles, midges, booklice, and even the evil sounding dark-winged fungus gnat – and let’s not forget the experts at camouflage like weevils and pantry moths.

Before you freak out and reach for the spray can to nuke the place, please read the interesting stories at ABC (2017, 2019).

Most of these insects are benign, some are keeping the annoying and unhealthy insect population down and even those that are not benign are unlikely to do any particular harm - unless you have a nasty allergic reaction to them. Blithely using the bug spray as recommended in all those catchy TV ads adds to the profit margin of the companies, but does not necessarily help maintain a healthy environment in the house. The best approach is to ensure good external protection, such as fly screens and learn to live with your freeloading residents. Letting those lovely-not-scary daddy longlegs and huntsmen spiders free reign also will do wonders.

- *With thanks to Geoff White for the pointer.*

References:

ABC 2017: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-10-02/scientists-say-theres-about-100-insect-species-in-your-house/9000766>

ABC 2019: <https://www.abc.net.au/life/how-to-deal-with-bugs-without-sprays-in-your-home/10872082>

Regenerative Agriculture

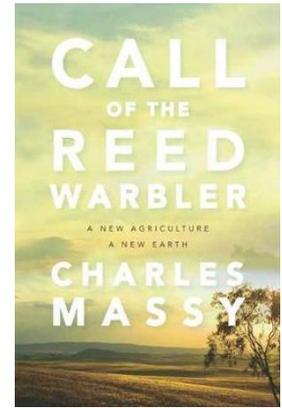
This week, Jacqui attended a talk by Charles Massey on ‘Regenerative Agriculture’ which was organised by Western Port Catchment Landcare Network with assistance from the Mornington Peninsula Shire. Here is a brief summary below. You can contact her for notes: Jacqueline.salter@mornpen.vic.gov.au

Regenerative Agriculture includes: Ecological grazing, Biological Agriculture, Agroforestry, Keyline farming, edible shrubs, permaculture, new cropping and biodynamics.

Our Earth's systems have moved from Holocene into Anthropocene (a period in which humans are dominating the ecosystem). Unfortunately, this is not good, rather the Anthropocene represents the greatest crisis that humanity has faced in its entire history. Industrial Agriculture is a major player in causing damage to the six key biophysical Earth Systems and regenerative agriculture is a potential key solution. Charles detailed many real-life examples of where adopting these practices as led to productivity increases and restored ecological function.

For more:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qH1kmAMmcaE> Also check out his book, 'Call of the Reed Warbler'.



Sheep Shearing Record

How many sheep do you reckon you could shear in a day? A Kiwi, Lou Brown just reset the record in South Australia when he sheared a remarkable 497 sheep in eight hours. That's 1.04 sheep per minute, including catching each one and sending it down through the porthole afterwards – a gun shearer indeed. And while we are at it, the record for 24 hours is 841, set by Brendon Boyle at Broomhill WA.

“Click go the shears boys, click click – Wide is his blow and his hands move quick”....

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2019-04-27/world-record-for-most-merino-ewes-shorn-broken-by-lou-brown/11051584>

Landcare Week 2–8 September 2019

Landcare Week is a celebration of all the great work thousands of Landcarers do to care for our country's natural environment. It is also the opportunity for all Australians to get involved with a local Landcare group. If your Junior Landcare group, school, early learning centre or youth community group would like to be part of Landcare Week 2019 – hosting your own event or volunteering with a local Landcare group, register at https://landcareaustralia.org.au/landcare-week-pre-registration?utm_source=Landcare+Online%2C+Coast+Care+and+Junior+Landcare+eNewsletter&utm_campaign=e9ef61f978-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_03_19_11_05&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_bc74ee36a5-e9ef61f978-285353273 .

3. State of the Environment

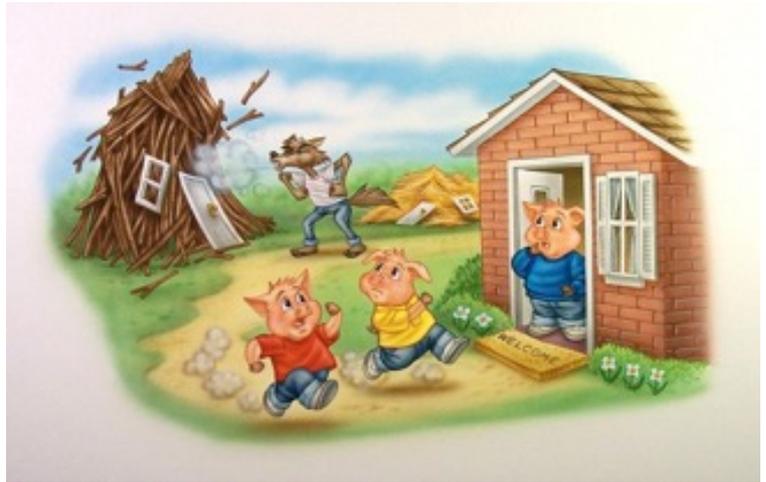
The Building Blocks of Our Environment

Over the next few months we shall work through the multiple players that comprise and define our environment – what comprises an ecosystem - how species interweave - which species are essential, which not. We shall consider both natural and domesticated environments, the benefits and impacts that each has on the other, and the consequences of introducing new species or removing others. Along the way we shall branch into the ecological and environmental benefits of properly considered biodiversity to agriculture and the importance of biolinks and shelterbelts.

I emphasise that I am not an expert in this area. I have done sufficient background reading to make a mud map, but this is rough even by mud-map standards. But what the heck, at the very least it shall be an interesting journey of discovery and some real delights can arise from getting lost in a strange land.

Consider the building you live in:

- *The foundations enable its existence - without foundations the building will collapse*
- *The walls and roof provide you as a species with a living environment – take the roof away and you probably will leave, but the building will continue on, albeit in skeletal form*
- *Architects and engineers have contributed to defining its overall structure*
- *Windows and the wall cladding define its character - change them and the building will be different, but it still will be a building*
- *That rare painting on the wall is your pride and joy – if someone steals it you will be sad, but the remainder of your environment will be unchanged.*



So to it is with the environment where various species take on the roles of foundations, keystones, cornerstones, engineers, cores, and incidentals. Your building is brick, timber, steel, or mud brick and yep there are a structural species. Some species may dominate, or be beneficial to other species. And there even is a climate-rescuer category for those species resilient to climate change that may be called upon to protect all or part of the rest of the ecosystem.

For this month we start with the foundations.

Foundation Species

Foundation Species support and control the overall species diversity and ecosystem dynamics at a level that far exceeds their numbers or even immediate influence. The term was first defined by Dayton (1972) in relation to marine systems.

Foundation species are set apart from other species by three characteristics (Ellison 2019). They are often:

- *Abundant and may even make up most of the biomass in the ecosystem*
- *At the base of the ecosystem (e.g. trees in forests, coral in the ocean)*
- *Not just a trophic influence (being eaten or doing the eating), rather they provide support for other creatures in the form of structures, microclimates, modulating the energy and nutrient flow, and/or favouring or inhibiting other species.*

However, foundation species may be at any level in the ecosystem - carnivores, herbivores, and primary producers all have been known to be foundation species. And they can be any size or shape – bacteria, alga, insects, birds, trees, grasses. A particular species even may be a foundation in one ecosystem but not in another. Removal of a foundation species may enable other species to move up and become foundations of a revised ecosystem.

The critical factor is that the *ecosystem cannot survive without the foundation species*, which are themselves typically controlled by external factors: climate, sun, soil, nutrients. For example, we have discussed in the March 2019 newsletter the importance of geology and soil types to EVCs, and the way that they change rapidly on moving from one type to another across these soil boundaries. This relationship is so important that our EVCs normally contain some reference to one or the other of both the controlling factors and the foundation species, such as: Damp Sands Herb-rich Woodland, Riparian Woodland, Sand Heathland, Coastal Dune Scrub....

Perhaps it is easiest to consider a couple of examples.

One obvious example is coral. These tiny polyps harvest zooplankton from the sea water.



They also live in a symbiotic arrangement with alga that harvest sunlight to provide sugar for the polyp - in return the polyp provides carbon dioxide to the alga along with safe refuge. By harvesting only sunlight and zooplankton, these two species created our Great Barrier Reef upon which more than 2,000 species depend, very few of which directly benefit the coral or the alga.



Another is our lovely gum trees. These have evolved to occupy many of the niches found on the continent, and many of them provide a foundation for a wide range of species. For example, Herb-rich Foothill Forest (EVC 23) contains just four eucalypts, of which the bulk are Peppermint and Messmate Gums. Yet these provide a foundation for over 100 other plant species (SPIFFA 2019), along with many insects, arachnids, decapods, fungi, slime moulds, lichen and others.

A range mammals large and small scamper or hop through the undergrowth, along with skinks, snakes and other reptiles. Small birds search through the scrub looking for bugs, or lick up nectar from the flowers, or eat the fruit, or perhaps just go about setting up a nest for the next generation. Mature trees develop hollows as bacteria and fungi attack their exposed timber – many Australian birds, bats, and other mammals depend on these for homes.

That these two enormous ecosystems occur because of just six species emphasises the importance of foundation species in overall ecosystem dynamics.

Trees even may support an archaic ecosystem that evolved in a different climate and could not redevelop in our current climate. An example is the Californian redwoods, which evolved in a wetter climate but have adapted to harvest water from fog as the climate changed. This water drips down from the slanting branches to supply the tree roots and the varieties of plants that live in the cool, moist environment below. If the trees are cut down, or caught in a bushfire, the entire ecosystem will cease to exist forever.

Next month we consider Engineer and Keystone Species.

- Article and messmate and spinebill images by Greg Holland – cartoon from <https://farmerbrown.com/vacant-home-insurance-big-bad-wolf/> - coral reef from <https://www.australiangeographic.com.au/news/2014/09/single-keystone-species-may-be-key-to-reef-health/>

References: Dayton, P.K.,1972: Toward an understanding of community resilience and the potential effects of enrichments to the benthos at McMurdo Sound, Antarctica. In *Proceedings of the Colloquium on Conservation Problems in Antarctica*, B.C. Parker, ed. (Allen Press), pp. 81–96.

Ellison, A.M., 2019: Foundation Species, Non-trophic Interactions, and the Value of Being Common. *iScience*, **13**, 254–268. Available from [https://www.cell.com/iscience/pdf/S2589-0042\(19\)30054-9.pdf](https://www.cell.com/iscience/pdf/S2589-0042(19)30054-9.pdf)

SPIFFA, 2019: <http://www.spiffa.org/evcs.html>



4. Monthly Features

Plant of the Month: Kuta

This month we consider an interesting plant that turned up in our wetland and looks a bit like a cross between a rush and a small, leafless bamboo.

Species name: *Eleocharis sphacelata*, also known by the common names of Bamboo Sedge and Tall Spike Sedge.

Family: *Cyperaceae*

Origin and Distribution:
Endemic to Australia, Papua New Guinea and New Zealand



Status: Relatively common in still or slow-moving fresh water. Sea level to sub alpine regions.



Growth Habit: Tall, round spikes growing up from an underground rhizome - to 12 mm diameter and 1.5-2 m above the water - may grow in water up to 5 m deep. Excellent bird, fish, and frog habitat.

Reproduction: Capped by a spike-like flower that is white to light green/brown. Flowers in spring-summer and sets seed thereafter.

Dispersal: By water, seeds typically germinate better after a dormancy period and may last up to 50 years in the soil.

Toxicity: None known.

Similar Plants: Some rushes. The common spike sedge *Eleocharis acuta* is quite similar, though smaller.

Further reading:

http://fe.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Residents/Trees_Vegetation/Yarra_Ranges_Plant_Directory/Yarra_Ranges_Local_Plant_Directory/Lower_Storey/Aquatic_and_Semi-aquatic/Eleocharis_sphacelata

- Article and images by Greg Holland; distribution from Atlas of Living Australia.

5. Upcoming Events

Description	Time & Date	Location	RSVP date	Contact
Morn Pen Farmer Discussion Group – Chris and Mirren Alenson’s farm	Sat 11 May 10am – 12pm	15 Tschampions Road, Macclesfield	<i>No date specified</i>	Anna Roach 0404 681995 or anna.roach@gmail.com
Red Hill South AGM and Koala talk by Mal Legg	Sat 25 May 2pm	St Georges Hall, Red Hill	<i>Not specified</i>	Geoff White gr.white@bigpond.net.au
Tour of ‘Karrick’ bushland property in Tuerong and renewal meeting for Landcare in Tuerong/Hastings/Devilbend region	Sat 1 June 1-3.30pm	88 Coolart Rd, Tuerong	29/5/19	Jacqui Salter Jacqueline.salter@mornpen.vic.gov.au
Dunns Creek Weeding Working Bee. BBQ FREE	Sat 8 th June 8.30am – lunch	Meet in Harrisons Rd Dromana Secondary College carpark	4/6/19	Mel Zerbe mel.zerbe@hotmail.com SMS only: 0499 926 214
Strategic Planning session for all Landcare Groups with Kim Boswell	Wed 12 th June 9am – 3pm	TBC	5/5/19	Jacqui Salter Jacqueline.salter@mornpen.vic.gov.au
Merricks Coolart Catchment Landcare Biolink meeting	Sun 16 June 11am – 1pm	Balnarring Community Hall	12/6/19	SMS to Alan Costello 0412 549 994
Koala presentation by Dr Desley Whisson	Dun 21 July 3 pm talk followed by High Tea	Main Creek Community Hall	<i>Not specified</i>	Bernie Schedvin berniesched@vic.chariot.net.au



Morn Pen Farmer

Discussion Group – Sat 11th May

The next Morn Pen Farmer Discussion Group will be held at Chris & Mirren Alenson's small farm.



Chris is well known to many in our group as he has run several soil courses for us & visited many of our farms!

We will be exploring outside the Morn Pen as we have the opportunity to visit his small farm! Chris used to grow organically certified raspberries, but in more recent times has focused on his mandarin & orange orchard along with avocados & kiwi fruit & his beloved sheep. He also has a rambling vegetable garden for his families enjoyment and gives plenty away! Chris will share his story & there will be plenty of opportunity to pick Chris' brain! We will also take time for a farm walk too!

An interesting morning is guaranteed!

Where: Chris & Mirren Alenson's Farm
15 Tschampions Road, Macclesfield
<https://goo.gl/maps/Bv3B1YtcLPz>

When: Saturday 11th May

Time: 10am – 12noon followed by a BBQ

Arrival 10am, with the farm walk concluding at 12noon. Chris will fire up the BBQ for lunch so feel free to stay for lunch & a chat! Tea, coffee and biscuits on arrival.

Please RSVP by Thu 9th May to Anna Roach
0404 681995 or anna.roach@gmail.com

Save the Date 15th Victorian Agribusiness Dinner and Summit



Clever Agriculture, Smart Food

5 - 6th September 2019, Wangaratta Victoria.

The Dinner (Evening of 5th Sept): Located at a leading local venue, featuring high quality local produce with an inspirational dinner speaker and plenty of time to network!

The Summit (Day of 6th Sept): A one day opportunity to listen to top quality speakers presenting on emerging and innovative farm business models, ag-technology & smart farms, and sustainability in a changing climate. Hear local success stories, next generation farmers and agribusiness leaders from across Australia.

Event organisers, the **Ovens-Murray AgBiz Alliance** will use this as an opportunity to identify new project ideas to deliver 'action on the ground' addressing the needs of the region's agribusinesses.

****Please contact the Summit Convenor, Ilena Young (ilyoung@csu.edu.au) for more information or to be sent a Sponsorship Package to support this great event.****



Victorian Premier's Sustainability Awards

Victoria's leading sustainability awards program is now open for entries. In addition to the traditional awards, a new **Environmental Volunteering category** recognises the impact made by thousands of dedicated individuals and groups who give their time so generously, looking after our most precious asset: our environment.

Entries close on Thursday 13 June at www.sustainabilityawards.vic.gov.au, or contact Cath Newell (on behalf of Sustainability Victoria):

cath4@inet.net.au - 0423 587 478.

Tidy Towns and Sustainable Communities 2019 Awards



AWARD CATEGORIES

- Environmental Sustainability Award
- Protection of the Environment Award
- Clean Beach/Waterway Award
- Litter Prevention
- Active Schools
- Resource Recovery & Waste Management
- Community Government Partnership
- Cultural Heritage
- Young Leaders
- Community Action & Leadership Award (population 3000 and below)
- Community Action & Leadership Award (population above 3000)

- Tidy Town of the Year

COMMUNITY AND COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

- The Dame Phyllis Frost Award
- Keep Victoria Beautiful Gift Fund

CLICK HERE TO APPLY

Entries open 29 April 2019 to 14 June 2019

6. Mornington Peninsula Landcare Network Grants Guide

Victorian Landcare Grants are open!

The Victorian Government has committed \$1.76 million for Victorian Landcare Grants in 2019-20 to support Landcare and other environmental volunteer groups and networks to undertake projects that protect, enhance and restore our land and environment.

The Victorian Landcare Grants are delivered by Victoria's 10 Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs).

Applications close: 5pm Wednesday 12 June 2019

Funding

- **Project Grants of up to \$20,000** are available to eligible groups/networks for on-ground works to protect, enhance and restore natural assets (e.g. native flora/fauna, waterways/wetlands, soils), and for capacity building, community education and engagement projects.
- **Support Grants of \$500** are available to eligible groups/networks of cover operating costs, e.g. insurance, incorporation, communications (e.g. websites or newsletters), events, and other types of operating costs.

Who can apply?

The 2019/20 Victorian Landcare Grants are open to all Victorian Landcare and environmental volunteer groups/networks with a focus on on-ground activity and natural environment improvement work. These include, but are not limited to, Landcare groups/networks, Coastcare groups, Conservation Management Networks, 'Friends of' groups, and Committees of Management.

Guidelines

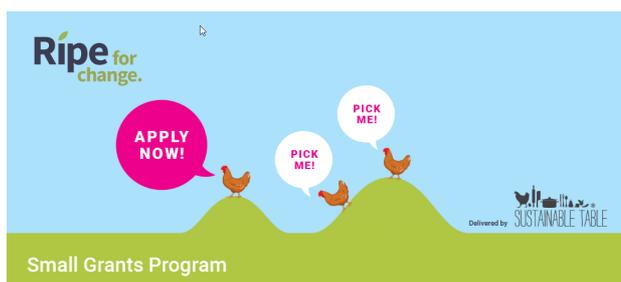
Before starting an application for a grant please carefully read the Guidelines for 2019-20 Victorian Landcare Grants. To access the grant's Guidelines for your CMA region go to <https://www.landcarevic.org.au/state-government-news/2019-20-victorian-landcare-grants/>

Application forms

The grant's application form is available online via SmartyGrants. To access the online application form for your CMA region go to <https://www.landcarevic.org.au/state-government-news/2019-20-victorian-landcare-grants/>

Project completion date: 30 November 2020

Ripe for Change



Ripe for Change is a place-based program offering community grants of up to \$10,000, to improve our local food system and deliver health and sustainability outcomes for the population and environment. Applications close 16th May.

https://sustainabletable.org.au/ripe-for-change/?mc_cid=f5ec7130d8&mc_eid=f864bd8272

New Grant Initiatives

The Federal Budget brought down on 2nd April includes funding for two grant programs of interest to environment groups. The first grant, '*Communities Environment Program*', has been applied for by four Landcare groups on the Peninsula. In addition:

Environment Restoration Fund

\$100 million for the establishment of an Environment Restoration Fund with \$20.1 million available in 2019-20. While less detail is available compared to the above program, the fund is planned to prioritise the following three areas:

- Protecting threatened and migratory species and their habitat.
- Protecting Australia's coasts, oceans and waterways by addressing erosion, improving water quality and protecting coastal threatened and migratory species.
- The clean-up, recovery and recycling of waste.

The fund will provide grants for one-off activities and multi-year programs worth several million dollars. Groups eligible to apply include: community groups, Indigenous organisations, conservation organisations, natural resource management bodies and others. It is not known whether a possible, future Labour government will support this program or not.

Further information: <http://www.environment.gov.au/environment-restoration-fund>.

- Thanks to Stephen Derrick at FriendsNET for providing this information.

Ongoing Grants

Name of Grant	Date due	Amount	Details
Australian ethical community grants	TBA upon registration	TBA upon registration	https://www.australianethical.com.au/community-grants/
MP Shire Flexigrant	All year	Up to \$1000	http://www.mornpen.vic.gov.au/our_shire/community_grants
FNCV Environment Fund	TBA upon registration	Up to \$1000	http://www.fncv.org.au/environment-fund/
RACV	All year	Up to \$2000	https://www.racv.com.au/about-racv/our-business/community-involvement/community-support.html
Ross Trust	All year	Up to \$20,000	http://www.rosstrust.org.au/grants/apply-for-a-grant/
EPA Inspiring Environmental Solutions community funding program	All year	Around \$25,000 to \$100,000.	http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/our-work/programs/inspiring-environmental-solutions
John T Reid Charitable Trust	All year	Not specified	http://www.johntreidtrusts.com.au/whatwefund
Melbourne Water Stream Frontage Grant	All year	Variable	https://www.melbournewater.com.au/

Canon Oceana Environmental Grants	Ongoing	\$11,000	https://www.canon.com.au/about-canon/community/environmental-grants
Sidney Myer Foundation	Ongoing	Not specified	http://myerfoundation.org.au/grants/sustainability-environment/
Colonial Foundation	Ongoing	Not specified	http://www.colonialfoundation.org.au/4330926/colonial-foundation-trust-grant-program.htm
Greenfleet	Ongoing	Can be substantial	https://www.greenfleet.com.au/

7. Local Information

Home Harvest exchange: Too many lemons and not enough parsley? Why not take part in a Home Harvest Exchange? This community initiative allows people to bring their own excess produce and go home with someone else's for free! Bring home grown edibles, eggs, preserved produce, honey, seeds and seedlings. No minimum amount and no money changes hands.

Mornington 3 rd Sat of the month; 2pm - 3pm Dig It, Mornington Community Garden, Mitchell St, Mornington. (Melways Reference: 145 D2)	Rosebud Last Saturday of the month; 2-3pm Rosebud Community Garden, Lawson Park, Leon Av, Rosebud. (Melways Reference: 170 F2)	Mount Martha First Saturday each month 3-4pm The Briars, 450 Nepean Hwy, Mt Martha.
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Eco Living Display Centre: Open: Fridays 1-4pm & first Saturday each month 9.00am-1.00pm. For activities and workshops - visit www.mornpen.vic.gov.au or contact the Renewable Resources department on 5950-1259.

Help and Advice for Native Fauna and Flora

Report Environmental Crime: If you observe any environmental crime such as wildlife smuggling, removal of native species, keeping endangered species in captivity, please report it to DELWP at 136 186, email customer.service@delwp.vic.gov.au.

Wildlife Contact Information about wildlife rehabilitators, rescue organisations and veterinarians in your local area who can care for the type of animal in need of help, such as a kangaroo or koala. It is smartphone compatible and includes advice for first responders according to the type of wildlife and the injury it appears to have sustained.

(<https://www.wildlife.vic.gov.au/injured-native-wildlife/help-for-injured-wildlife>).

Snake Catcher: <https://www.mornpen.vic.gov.au/Your-Property/Animals-Pets/Pest-Nuisance-Animals/Snakes>.

Wildlife Help on the Mornington Peninsula (WHOMP): All hours 0417 380 687 or 0417 395 883.

Animalia Shelter: 0435 822 699 All hours www.animaliawildlife.org.au

Crystal Ocean Wildlife Shelter (Rye): crystal_ocean2003@yahoo.com.au 0407 787 770

Advice on Removing Native Vegetation: For assistance and advice in relation to the removal of native vegetation, please contact nativevegetation.support@delwp.vic.gov.au

Shire Nursery at Briars: Open Wed/Thurs/Fri 9.00am – 3.00pm and first Saturday each month 9.00am-1.00pm. The Shire Nursery specialises in indigenous and native plants. Ph: 5974-8417, email nursery@mornpen.vic.gov.au

Land for Wildlife: If you wish to create or protect wildlife habitats on your property, then the Land for Wildlife scheme can offer advice and assistance. Participation is free and membership doesn't alter the legal status of your property in any way. A Land for Wildlife sign is provided free of charge to acknowledge the efforts being made for wildlife conservation. Contact Peter Johnson Statewide Coordinator and Newsletter Editor Department of



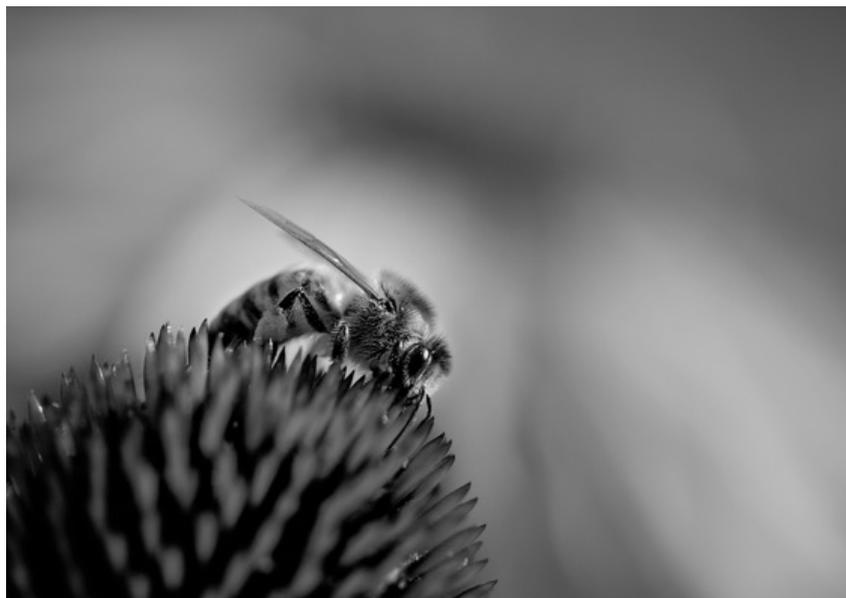
Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) Box 3100, Bendigo Delivery Centre Bendigo, 3554 Victoria, Australia Tel: (03) 5430 4358 Fax: (03) 5448 4982 peter.johnson@delwp.vic.gov.au
<https://www.wildlife.vic.gov.au/protecting-wildlife/land-for-wildlife>

Landcare and Related Contacts

- **Jacqui Salter**, Landcare Facilitator, MPLN Jacqueline.salter@mornpen.vic.gov.au ph: 0408 213 079
- **Greg Holland:** Newsletter Editor greg@carranya.net
- **David Maddocks**, President of MPLN david.maddocks@bigpond.com ph: 0429 990 518
- **Michele Sabto**, Project Coordinator for 'Linking the Mornington Peninsula Landscape' project linkingmlandscape@yahoo.com.au
- **Chantal Kelly**, Project Coordinator for 'Greens Bush to Arthurs Seat Biolink' project: chantalkelly77@gmail.com
- **Sarah Saxton**, MP Shire Agribusiness & Food Industry Officer, sarah.saxton@mornpen.vic.gov.au
- **Lizzie Younger**, Melbourne Water River Health Officer, lizzie.younger@melbournewater.com.au

Newsletter Feedback

Do you have a story to tell? Is there a weed, plant, fungus, slime mould, or animal that you want to know about? Have you identified a new, rare, or interesting species? Or a good book? How about a great photo? Please contact greg@carranya.net for it to be featured in the newsletter.



8. Image at the end: Delicious Lerps

You find a eucalypt with its leaves covered in yellow blotches. It is under attack by something, but what? Turn the leaf over and you find the culprits, a number of crusty 'growths' are scattered around.



Look a little closer and you will find a curious structure with what appears to be several crystalline fingers extending outwards, called lerps. But these are not the culprits. Carefully lift the side with the fingers and your culprit is revealed. The leaf is under attack by psyllids of a jumping plant lice from the *Cardiaspina* genus.

These little fellas build a brittle, sugary lerp that provides them with cover and a nice humid, warm home while they pierce into the leaf and suck out its sugars. The *Cardiaspina* psyllids also excrete substances or may pass on a virus that kill the leaf cells, hence the discolouring.



Most eucalypts have to live with psyllid attacks and the psyllids often are specific to individual eucalypt species. They are normally little more than nuisances, but occasionally population explosions occur. If left unchecked for a couple of years, these may result in severe dieback as the psyllids remove more sugar than the tree can produce from photosynthesis.

But all is not bad, those sugary lerps are delicious. They are a favourite of honeyeaters (especially noisy miners) and ants. Koori peoples shook them off onto bark strips, then rolled them up into balls for eating. Try some, but be warned they can be addictive.

- Article and images by Greg Holland