

Volunteering Naturally

Understanding Victoria's Environmental Volunteers 2021



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Aboriginal acknowledgement

We acknowledge and respect Victorian Traditional Owners as the original custodians of Victoria's land and waters, their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it. We honour Elders past and present whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices.

We are committed to genuinely partner, and meaningfully engage, with Victoria's Traditional Owners and Aboriginal communities to support the protection of Country, the maintenance of spiritual and cultural practices and their broader aspirations in the 21st century and beyond.



RIGHT SHAYA MONITORING THE BARWON ESTUARY.
CORANGAMITE CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
COVER VOLUNTEERS SURVEYING FOR PLATYPUS
USING eDNA TESTING, PHOTO CORANGAMITE
CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY





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Images used in this report were sourced across a variety of dates and locations. All pictured groups/ individuals were compliant with COVIDSafe settings at the time.

 HOODED PLOVER RELEASE AT RYE, PHOTO BIRDLIFE/PARKS VICTORIA, COMPLIANT WITH COVIDSAFE SETTINGS AT THE TIME

Environmental volunteering

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

Launched in October 2018, **Victorians Volunteering for Nature**, the **Victorian Environmental Volunteering Plan**, provides the opportunity to strengthen environmental volunteering across the state. It sets a new direction for the sector through an overarching, coordinated and revitalised approach, based on actions in four key focus areas – Sustain, Expand, Value and Understand.



Sustain



Value



Expand



Understand

What is it?

Environmental volunteering encompasses a diverse range of environmental and sustainability activities carried out by individuals and community groups.

Environmental volunteering is volunteering in and for our natural environment. It can focus on a geographic location, emerging issues such as pollution events, a species or nature-based recreation activities.

“I volunteer to connect with nature and improve my wellbeing”

Today, environmental volunteering expands beyond traditional activities such as planting, weeding and land management to action on climate change, community renewable energy and sustainable living, and activities such as virtual volunteering and citizen science.

Background

For many decades, Victorians have participated in environmental volunteering. The first estimate of around 100,000 environmental volunteers occurred back in 2005. **Volunteering Naturally** seeks to establish an ongoing evidence base that acknowledges the extent, breadth and diversity of environmental volunteering.

We are focused on providing the means for Victorians who want to contribute to nature to get involved based on their diverse skill sets, passion for specific causes or at a time that suits them. More than a decade on, the volunteering landscape has changed. There is a need to consider alternatives in the ways we engage new environmental volunteers.

This third annual snapshot provides environmental volunteering managers and the community with information on how we can better support the needs of environmental volunteers today and into the future. It also provides the opportunity to communicate and celebrate the collective effort of all Victorian environmental volunteers.

About environmental volunteering groups

Although it is common for groups to undertake a breadth of activities, for the purpose of this snapshot each environmental volunteer group is categorized according to one primary activity type from the list below.



Advocacy

Groups that advocate for improved environmental outcomes. A small group of larger organisations and a number of community-based environmental advocacy groups. Included are ACF, Environment Victoria and Environmental Justice Australia.



Caring for landscapes

Physical work and activities on the ground to protect and enhance the natural environment such as planting, weeding and landscape restoration. These activities can occur in parks, in coastal areas and on private and public land. Key groups working in this space include "Friends of" groups, Landcare, Coastcare, Parks Victoria volunteers, committees of management, community nurseries, and environment groups and landowners.



Citizen science

Monitoring activities that collect data to build knowledge on a species or environmental condition. Key groups undertaking these activities include Waterwatch and Estuarywatch, Frog Census, Victorian Biodiversity Atlas users, bird and nest box monitoring and observer groups.



Networks/other

Remaining groups and Networks with varied focus across activities, such as conservation management networks, Non-Government Organisations and Landcare networks.



Recreation/Nature experience

Volunteers supporting connection, education and appreciation of nature through groups including Field Naturalists, Zoos and Botanical gardens, 4WD clubs, fishers and bike groups.



Sustainable living

Activities that promote environmental sustainability aligned with consumption including clean-ups, repairs, waste minimisation, climate change, community renewable energy and community gardens.



Wildlife rescue and rehabilitation

Supporting positive welfare outcomes for native fauna. A small but incredibly active number of groups and individuals participate in wildlife rescue, contributing a higher proportion than average of hours volunteered per individual volunteer.

“I volunteer to be part of improving and nurturing the natural attractions of my local area”

Hindmarsh Landcare Group

Creating community with a long-term approach to environmental improvement

In the Wimmera in far western Victoria, Hindmarsh Landcare Network (HLN) has led an environmental community movement for more than 20 years.

Project Hindmarsh aims to reconnect the natural vegetation between the Big Desert and Little Desert regions where the land had been cleared for farming.

These corridors of trees and shrubs – locally called biolinks – provide native wildlife with safe places to feed, breed and migrate.

HLN, along with an army of volunteers, started planting along roadsides in the late 1990s.

When this was completed in 2001, HLN began working with landholders to plant on private properties, which continues to this day and has involved more than 350 landholders.

The flagship event each year is a planting weekend in July, which attracts volunteers from far and wide.

HLN Landcare facilitator Jonathan Starks said: “Project Hindmarsh was always designed to be a broad community project bringing volunteers from city areas and from country areas together to plant trees, shrubs, herbs and grasses”.

In recent years, Karen refugees who came from Myanmar and are living in Nhill have participated in planting weekends. The Karen community now makes up 10 per cent of Nhill’s population.

“I learn many different things being part of the tree planting,” volunteer Kaw Doh Htoo said. “I learn how to look after them and how it is very important for us to have trees.”

While coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions meant the planting weekend could not be held in 2020 and 2021 (contractors completed the planting), volunteers remain keen to be involved when it is safe to do so.

Jonathan said the thousands of volunteers involved over the years enjoy being part of a long-term project and seeing how “those little plants that they put in are now big shrubs or tall trees”.

“The social atmosphere of gathering as like-minded people – and getting out there and getting your hands dirty is what our volunteers enjoy about it, and what keeps them coming back,” Jonathan said.

 TREE PLANTING AS PART OF PROJECT HINDMARSH, COMPLIANT WITH COVIDSAFE SETTINGS AT THE TIME



Beyond Zero Emissions

Young professionals volunteering their skills to design environmental solutions

Environmental volunteering is not only about planting trees and outdoor work. Victorians are volunteering for the environment with their professional knowledge and experience.

Beyond Zero Emissions (BZE) is a Melbourne-based think tank that conducts and publishes research on solutions that unlock economic potential for industries, regions and communities in the transition to a zero-emissions future.

BZE utilises a wide network of volunteers that lend their expertise in engineering, science, economics, business, finance and communications to create climate solutions.

Madeline Townsend, People and Culture Manager at BZE, said people volunteer because they get the opportunity to work on creative solutions they may not be able to do in their day jobs.

"Volunteering with BZE gives people the chance to help address issues of critical importance," she said.

"Our volunteers really enjoy the chance to contribute their knowledge alongside other experts in their field, including peer reviewers who also give their time to support our projects."

Most of the work the volunteers do is on research projects and communications projects.

Research volunteers bring their skills, experience and knowledge to specific projects such as energy, buildings, manufacturing or transport.

Communications volunteers help to present the work, using their skills to help deliver webinars, provide graphic design, or write copy and social media posts. Martin Powell, a long-term volunteer, makes amazing models to illustrate BZE's work (pictured).

Some volunteers help with essential support such as administration and fundraising.

One of BZE's major recent projects involving volunteers is the **Million Jobs Plan**, a research report highlighting the economic and employment benefits of investment in a clean economy.

Over 50 individuals and 20 organisations contributed to the report, including many skilled volunteers. Since launching the plan in June 2020, BZE has been working closely with industry, investors and communities to find and develop new projects and solutions that can create jobs. Madeline said that giving volunteers the chance to collaborate with industry leaders, experts and strategic thinkers helps them to spread the word about BZE's environmental solutions.

"Our expert volunteers become active advocates, ensuring our research doesn't just end up on a shelf," she said.



BZE VOLUNTEER MARTIN POWELL BUILT A LEGO MODEL OF THE MILLION JOBS PLAN, COMPLIANT WITH COVIDSAFE SETTINGS AT THE TIME



SIKH COMMUNITY GARDEN VOLUNTEERS,
PHOTO PARKS VICTORIA, COMPLIANT
WITH COVIDSAFE SETTINGS AT THE TIME

“I volunteer to reduce waste going to landfill and prepare our communities for a low carbon future”

About Volunteering Naturally 2021

As previously delivered in 2019 and 2020, Volunteering Naturally 2021 is a collection and collation of data about active environmental volunteer groups and organisations in Victoria. This includes their geographic location and, where possible, the number of volunteers and/or volunteer hours contributed, sourced through 2020-21 financial year reporting data.

The stocktake is simple in approach with a narrow focus on the information that is sought. Data collection took place between June and August 2021.

Knowing whether a group is active, numbers of volunteers and hours contributed is at the centre of this snapshot. We adopted a conservative approach to estimating volunteer effort and active volunteerism rather than membership only.

Volunteering Naturally recognises the variety of types and modes of environmental volunteering. This includes, but is not limited to, regular volunteering activity, large annual volunteering events, community placed-based models of volunteering in nature and more recent interest in living sustainably.

Data was collected via:

- A short survey forwarded to a large number of groups and organisations

- Collation of reported data across a wide number of environmental volunteering programs, and
- Desktop research and cross-checking with program managers, groups, NGOs and others including local government.

An accurate estimate of individual volunteer numbers and hours volunteered helps us to understand the economic benefits of environmental volunteering to Victoria and where that activity is occurring.

Data collection during 2021

Data used in this report reflects volunteer numbers during the 2020-2021 financial year. At the time of publication, there was a 62% response rate from 2,070 groups.

Capturing the number of individual volunteers who focus on either citizen science and/or wildlife rescue and rehabilitation is not easily counted in this exercise and is likely under-represented.

It is difficult to determine whether individuals contribute to more than one environmental group or activity.

We have not extrapolated data to groups that did not respond. Therefore, it is very likely that information on volunteer numbers and hours provided are an underestimate. A lower level of reported hours of active volunteerism was evident due to coronavirus (COVID-19) settings during the reporting period.

Whilst primarily focused on group or program activity, this snapshot also acknowledges that information about environmental volunteers is hard to find and not always up to date. Because of coronavirus (COVID-19) impacts, 2021 was a challenging year for many Victorian environmental volunteers.

Although we sought to capture emerging trends and themes, this year's findings need to be treated as atypical.

This report also showcases four environmental volunteering case studies with a variety of environmental volunteering projects and outcomes to demonstrate the breadth of current activities.

Images used in this report were sourced across a variety of dates. All pictured groups/individuals were compliant with COVIDSafe settings at the time.

REASONS PEOPLE PARTICIPATE IN ENVIRONMENTAL VOLUNTEERING

- ✓ Local
- ✓ Nature-based recreation
- ✓ Issue-driven
- ✓ Species-focused

“I volunteer to help preserve and protect biodiversity; to help manage climate change; to leave a legacy for future generations”



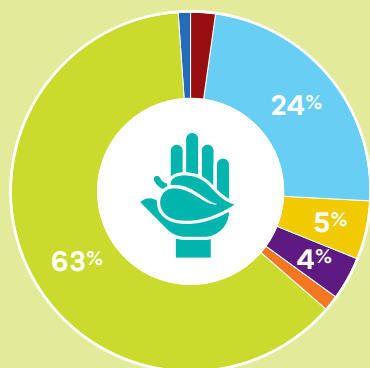
JANE RUSDEN, BIRDLIFE CASTLEMAINE CONVENOR
BEFORE 2020 AUSSIE BACKYARD BIRD COUNT, PHOTO, JANE RUSDEN,
COMPLIANT WITH COVIDSAFE SETTINGS AT THE TIME



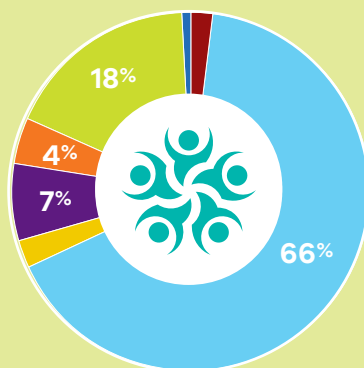
Volunteering Naturally 2021

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

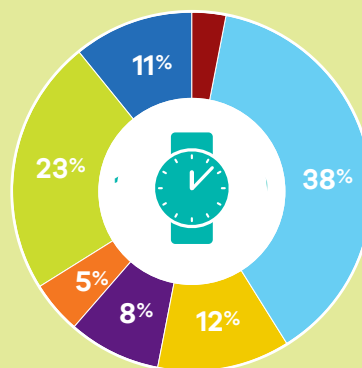
ANNUAL SNAPSHOT OF VICTORIA'S ENVIRONMENTAL VOLUNTEER GROUPS



160,970
VOLUNTEERS



2,070
GROUPS



1,299,169
HOURS REPORTED



\$48.36* MILLION
ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION

Using ABS data, we have assigned a monetary value of \$41.72/hour for volunteer contribution. This is based on available data from the most recent financial year or previous 12 months.

Environmental volunteering encompasses a broad range of environmental and sustainability activities. Put simply, it is volunteering in and for our natural environment. Environmental volunteering connects community to nature and to each other.



Advocacy

Groups that advocate for improved environmental outcomes, such as ACF, Environment Victoria and Environmental Justice Victoria



Caring for landscapes

Physical work on the ground including parks, coasts, private and public land through organisations such as "Friends of" groups, Landcare and Coastcare



Citizen science

Monitoring and data collection activities in groups such as Waterwatch, frog census, bird and nest box data



Networks/other

Remaining groups and networks with divided focus across activities, such as Conservation Management Networks, NGOs and Landcare networks



Recreation/Nature experience

Volunteers supporting education and connection to nature or appreciation of nature through groups including Field naturalists, zoos and botanical gardens, 4WD clubs, fishers and bike groups



Sustainable living

Promoting consumption reduction, pollution prevention and reduction with initiatives such as Boomerang Bags, clean-up activities and community energy projects



Wildlife rescue and rehabilitation

Supporting positive welfare outcomes for native fauna

*47% of known active groups captured and reported hours.



BRIEFING SEA SEARCH VOLUNTEERS
AT POINT ADDIS MARINE NATIONAL PARK,
PHOTO PARKS VICTORIA, COMPLIANT
WITH COVIDSAFE SETTINGS AT THE TIME

**“I volunteer to raise awareness
amongst community
about plastic pollution
and waste reduction”**

Key observations

During 2021, Victorians have continued to experience a disruption because of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. This has also heightened our appreciation for the importance of nature in our lives, with many Victorians rediscovering their local natural environments for exercise and wellbeing.

Group-based outdoor environmental volunteering activity was limited, and the number of active volunteer hours was down from 2020 levels and was 23% below reported 2019 levels.

Anecdotal evidence and reporting shows many environmental volunteering groups used this time to maintain social connections and provide education and training through online forums and webinars.

The overall number of environmental volunteers remained solid despite a decrease since 2020, in part, because of a large rise in citizen science activity reported in 2020.

This activity was not sustained in the past year and the numbers of volunteers associated with backyard bird monitoring was reduced by 80% from 2020.

Data collection

Data collection from volunteer groups is, as always, a challenge, but we saw some modest increases in the amount of volunteer numbers data supplied this year.

We sought to confirm whether groups remained active and encourage them to provide volunteer numbers and hours, but not all groups were forthcoming with data.

In 2021:

- 62% of groups responded and provided their volunteer numbers (up from 51% in 2020), and
- 47% reported volunteer hours data, down slightly from 51% in 2020.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) has affected group-based activity and individuals in different ways.

Voluntary work is vital to Australian society. While much is made of the economic impact of coronavirus (COVID-19), much less attention is given to the impacts on unpaid activities such as voluntary work.

The proportion of adult Australians doing voluntary work and volunteer rates have fallen substantially during the pandemic.¹

In April 2021, 24.2% of Australians had performed voluntary work in the previous 12 months, down from 36% in late 2019. It's estimated that 2.3 million fewer Australians volunteered in 2021 compared to late 2019.

Although some COVIDSafe requirements including physical distancing had eased across Australia by April 2021 when the research was released, many former volunteers had not returned to volunteering. Others discussed changes to the way they volunteered and the impact of COVID-19) restrictions.

Opportunities for environmental volunteering after coronavirus (COVID-19)

Love for the outdoors was rekindled as coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions eased in 2020, with 34% of Australians spending more time in nature and wanting this to continue.²

Millennials and Gen Zs continued to focus on larger societal issues both before and after coronavirus (COVID-19).

The Global and Millennial and Gen Z Survey 2021³ showed that amid coronavirus (COVID-19), 33% of Millennials and 33% of Gen Zs were primarily concerned with climate change and protecting the environment ahead of unemployment and health/disease control.

Further, 40% of respondents said more people would commit to action on environmental issues when COVIDSafe settings allow.

Similarly, recent social research indicates a significant latent interest in environmental issues among Millennials and Gen Zs.⁴


These findings demonstrate an opportunity for those seeking to expand environmental volunteerism to develop strategies to tap into the interests of young people.

1 Volunteering during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic (April 2021): ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods – Professor Nicholas Biddle and Professor Matthew Gray

2 Recovering from Covid-19 The Australian experience, generational impacts and the future outlook. McCrindle Research June 2020

3 Deloitte; 2021 Millennial & Gen Z Survey

4 Environmental volunteering – 2020 Social Research: Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning, in conjunction with Newgate Research

 VOLUNTEERS AT WATTLE PARK, PHOTO PARKS VICTORIA, COMPLIANT WITH COVIDSAFE SETTINGS AT THE TIME





HSAR AND KAREN VOLUNTEERS,
PHOTO JAMES BRINCAT, COMPLIANT
WITH COVIDSAFE SETTINGS AT THE TIME

What the 2019 – 2021 environmental volunteering numbers reveal

This report takes a cautious approach to determining what the trends in environmental volunteering are, given how atypical the last two years have been compared to previous years where 'normal' community activities were able to occur.

Groups

- The number of environmental volunteering groups has remained fairly static from 2019 to 2021.
- About 60% of all groups carry out **Caring for landscapes** activities. While this category has the greatest number of groups, it has lower numbers of active volunteers.
- The **Sustainable living** category has seen an overall reduction of groups. In particular, **Boomerang Bags** groups are down from more than 180 in 2019 to 150 in 2021. The formation of Boomerang Bags and the higher number of groups in 2019 reflected community action during the introduction of the plastic bag ban. In 2020, Boomerang Bags pivoted to making hospital scrubs, caps and masks.

Hours

- Volunteer hours have fluctuated since the start of **Volunteering Naturally** reporting in 2019. We took 2019 as a baseline measure, so the more than 2.4 million hours volunteered in 2020 was likely an uncharacteristically high figure. In 2021, we saw a sharp decline in volunteer hours to below 2019 levels.
- This reflects the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions that curtailed volunteers' ability to be active in volunteering and affected volunteering rates overall.
- While volunteer hours in 2021 were lower than in previous years, the economic value of this contribution was maintained because the ABS value assigned to this activity was increased from \$33.71/hr in 2019 to \$41.72/hr in 2021.

Individuals

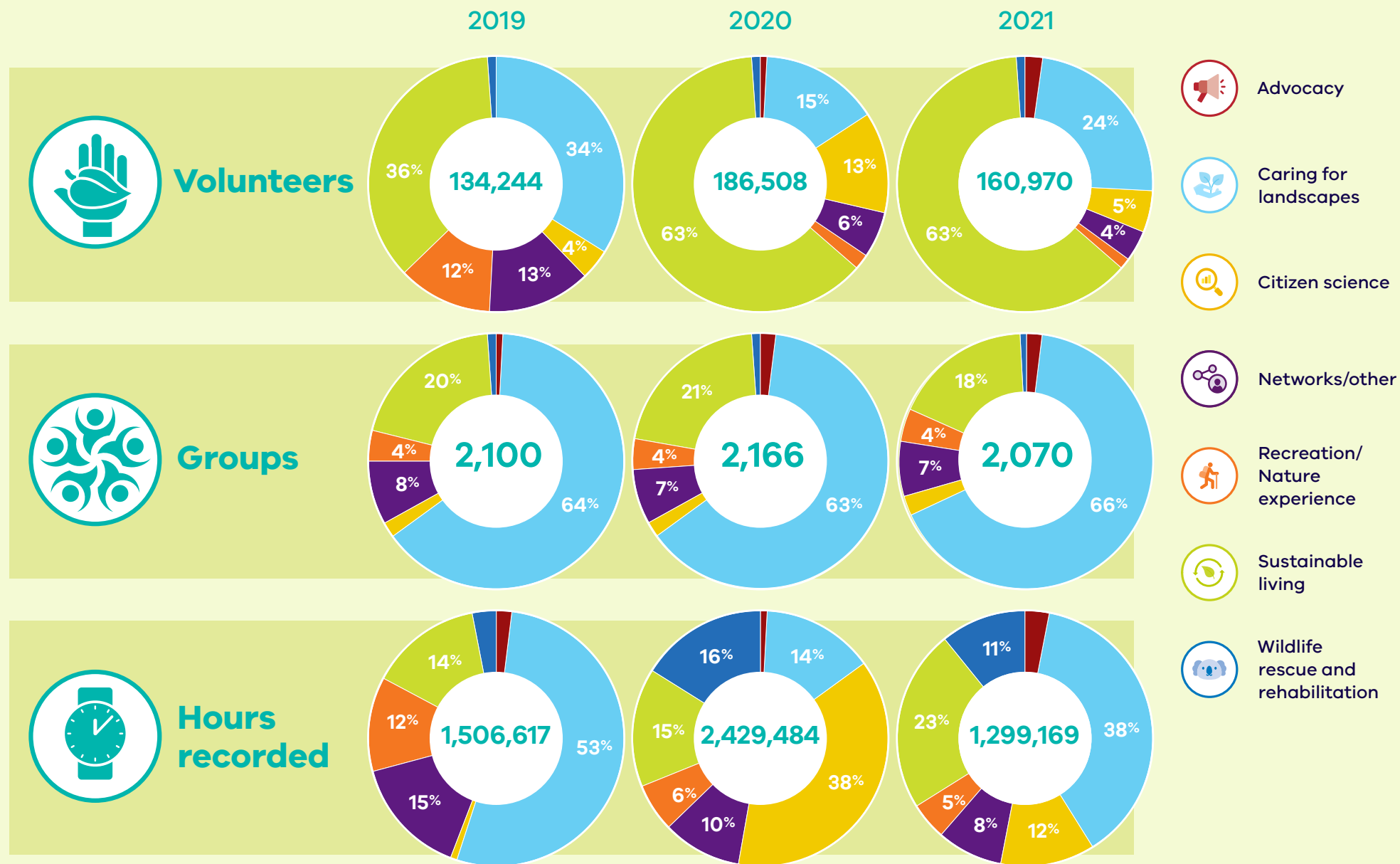
- Each year since 2019, the number of people participating in different categories of environmental volunteering has varied and follows no specific pattern. This may reflect major events such as bushfires in 2020 and the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19). There was an overwhelming increase in citizen science and wildlife caring activities in 2020 and a corresponding decline in 2021.
- The decline in participation in environmental volunteering was more acute in metropolitan Melbourne than in regional and rural Victoria. It is difficult to predict where new growth in environmental volunteerism will occur. There was obvious interest in environmental volunteering in urban areas in 2020 and this is where some re-engagement efforts may be considered.
- There is evidence that one-off periodic activities such as localised clean-up events such as **Beach Patrol** and **Clean Up Australia Day** continue to attract more participants.
- There is a steady year-on-year decline in the number of participants right across the **Caring for landscape** category.
- A decline was also seen in the Recreation/Nature-based and Network categories during 2021, most likely related to coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions on movement.

 LEFT ESTUARYWATCH VOLUNTEERS TRIALLING NEW EQUIPMENT, PHOTO CORANGAMITE CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
 RIGHT ST KILDA BEACH PATROL FIRST MEETUP, PHOTO RAMONA HEADIFEN
 COMPLIANT WITH COVIDSAFE SETTINGS AT THE TIME



Comparison of Volunteering Naturally data

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning



Boomerang Bags

Sewing to reduce waste and help local communities during the pandemic

Reducing plastic bag waste inspired the Boomerang Bags movement, started by Tania Potts and Jordyn De Boer in 2013.

Tania and Jordyn said Boomerang Bags connects communities, makes bags, diverts waste, starts conversations, fosters sustainable behaviour and is fun.

Volunteers use donated materials such as leftover quilting fabric, doona covers or pillowcases to create reusable shopping bags.

When coronavirus (COVID-19) hit, many volunteers switched from making bags to making environmentally friendly products that were in high demand such as face masks and medical scrubs.

Members of the Boomerang Bags 3225 group sewed medical uniforms for Rona Scrubs, a group started by Annabelle Parsons in response to a scrubs shortage in Melbourne in April 2020. Rona Scrubs distributed more than 4,000 scrubs in just 12 weeks.

The Queenscliff group's work for Rona Scrubs led them to assist their local hospital.

"A friend of mine working on the paediatric ward at University Hospital Geelong said they were in need due to the quick turnaround of nursing shifts and lack of time to wash in between," founder Jane Rodwell said. "They were unable to order scrubs online as everyone was in the same boat."

In Sorrento, the local Boomerang Bag group made more than 2,000 masks and sold them through local retailers, donating the proceeds to local charities.

They continued making bags, which they donated for use in distributing food to people in need, and to the Southern Peninsula Laundry and Shower Program for people experiencing homelessness.

Other sewing groups helped their communities during coronavirus (COVID-19).

The Multicultural Women's Sewing Group usually meets in Brunswick to teach and learn sewing skills and learn English. When face-to-face meetings were not possible last year, volunteers sewed scrub caps at home to donate to medical staff at Sunshine Hospital.

They also made face masks for asylum seekers at Baptcare Sanctuary in Brunswick using instructions from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

"Volunteers made scrub caps from donated materials such cotton sheets, pillowcases and strips of cotton. The masks were made from upcycled materials including fabric from shopping bags to make the filters, as per the instructions from DHHS," the group's president, Luci Tamis, said.

"Women in the sewing group are very inventive in making something out of nothing," she said.

LEFT NURSES AT UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL GEELONG CHILDREN'S WARD WEARING DONATED SCRUBS MADE BY QUEENSCLIFF BOOMERANG BAG VOLUNTEERS.
RIGHT VOLUNTEERS SHERI BROWNE, TANYA DUNN, JANE RODWELL AND LYNNE PRING WITH BAGS THEY HAVE MADE. COMPLIANT WITH COVIDSAFE SETTINGS AT THE TIME



Environmental Volunteering Agency Network GRAMPIANS

Improving environmental outcomes in central western Victoria by working together

Bringing together environmental volunteers, land managers and government is vital – especially in regional parts of Victoria, where distance and limited funding resources presents challenges.

In central western Victoria, volunteer groups and local and state government agencies joined forces to create the Environmental Volunteers and Agency Network Central West (EVAN) to work together more efficiently.

Co-founded by volunteer Cherie Draper, the network grew roots from a networking day hosted by Ballarat Environment Network and the Victorian Environmental Friends Network in February 2020.

The day united environmental volunteers and councils across the Central Highlands to share their challenges and devise solutions. This led to a similar event in November 2020, and in March 2021 EVAN was established.

During the pandemic, most activity has involved building relationships between volunteers and agencies including Parks Victoria, DELWP, Corangamite Catchment Management Authority and local councils.

“Just as there are efforts to reconnect our fragmented landscapes, we also need to create stronger linkages and connections between the people who care for those landscapes,” Cherie said.

To reduce feelings of isolation and burnout in volunteers, the network has focussed on regular online networking. It created the Caring for Nature Community College – a series of webinars featuring experienced environmental volunteers sharing their lessons in a virtual classroom environment.

Recent sessions have ranged from how to use social media to raise the profile of environmental volunteering, discussion on the effects of controlled burns in Inverleigh Conservation Reserve, and volunteer involvement with koala protection in Woowookarung Regional Park.

The network also organised a Meet the Land Manager forum. This four-day forum had speakers from agencies inform volunteer groups about funding, grants and their yearly priorities so the groups can align their projects.

The sharing of information and connections made is bolstering volunteers and helping them focus on what motivated them to start volunteering.

“Many people in the wider community want to see nature better protected and restored and volunteering allows people to feel they are doing something positive for their local environment,” Cherie said.

“Volunteering gives people a way to channel their care and concern for nature into on-ground outcomes and feel they are making a difference.”



LEFT: CHERIE DRAPER PREPARING FOR ONLINE NETWORKING EVENT. PHOTO, MAIA DRAPER

RIGHT: CENTRAL HIGHLANDS REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL VOLUNTEERS IN BALLARAT. PHOTO, HAYLEY ELG/THE COURIER
COMPLIANT WITH COVIDSAFE SETTINGS AT THE TIME





📷 GROWTH FARMS WATERBIRD HABITAT RESTORATION, WARRONG
PHOTO, BASALT TO BAY LANDCARE NETWORK INC
COMPLIANT WITH COVIDSAFE SETTINGS AT THE TIME

What's next? Volunteering Naturally 2022

Stand up and be counted

If you'd like to have your environmental volunteering included in the annual snapshot, so that you can showcase what you do and encourage others to join you, please contact our team.

We look forward to communicating the results of Volunteering Naturally each year. To achieve this and improve our ability to monitor trends over time, reporting will continue to focus on:

- Numbers of unique active volunteers
- Number of volunteer hours contributed
- Primary focus activities of groups and individuals
- Location of environmental volunteering opportunities

Want to find an environmental volunteering group?


It's as easy as Zoom, Select, Connect.

Go to our interactive map to see what environmental volunteering groups are in your area
environment.vic.gov.au/volunteering

Get in touch with our team

environmental.volunteering@delwp.vic.gov.au

“Volunteers are achieving a lot but it's often invisible. The lack of standardised data collection and analysis results in the vast majority of outcomes often going 'under the radar'. Despite this, it is clear that environmental volunteers are achieving substantial ecological, social and economic outcomes for the communities in which they operate.”

 SEA SEARCH AT POINT ADDIS MARINE NATIONAL PARK,
PHOTO PARKS VICTORIA, COMPLIANT WITH COVIDSAFE SETTINGS
AT THE TIME

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