

Environmental volunteers and landcarers

Resources and information for Victorians caring for nature



May 2023

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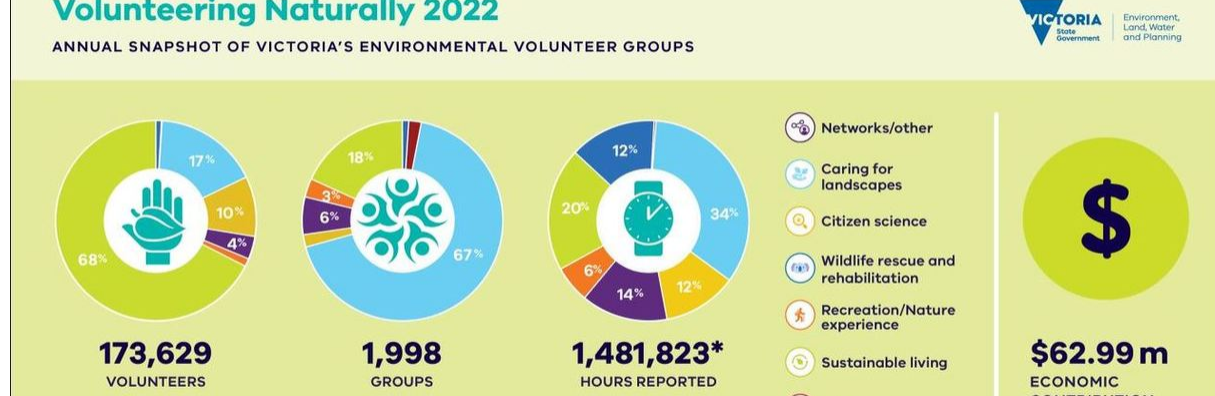
Volunteering Naturally 2022 released

Volunteering Naturally 2022 is the department's fourth annual snapshot of environmental volunteering across Victoria. The report includes the collection and collation of data on volunteer numbers and hours, economic contribution and stories of change.

What an amazing contribution volunteers are making to the environment!

Key observations include a bounce-back in volunteering efforts towards pre-pandemic levels. This is against a backdrop of overall decline in the broader volunteering sector.

Thank you for all the work that you do!



It is an incredibly valuable resource in the environmental sector and is used by program managers, government and agency partners to understand trends, enable them to plan and consider funding decisions. The publication also celebrates and acknowledges the role of everyday Victorians in caring for nature.

To read the full report, please visit our [website](#).

Grants closing soon

The 2023 Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants **close at 3pm on Friday 12 May**.

For more information and to apply, please visit [Junior Landcare](#)

The 2023 Victorian Landcare Grants **close at 5pm on Tuesday 16 May**.

For more information and to apply, please visit our [grants website](#).



Premier's Sustainability Awards 2023 - entries now open

Sustainability Victoria is excited to once again deliver the Premier's Sustainability Awards in 2023.

There are 12 awards to enter rewarding Industry Leaders and Community Champions in each of the following 6 categories:

- Circular economy innovation
- Future energy
- Healthy and fair society
- Sustainable places
- Thriving environment
- Waste and recycling solutions

There is an online information session on Thursday 8 June at 11 am where you can ask questions about applying.

Entries close Friday 30 June 2023 at 5 pm.

For more information visit [Premier's Sustainability Awards](#).

Youth Participation - workshops for Volunteer Managers

Are you a volunteer manager hoping to involve more young people in your environmental projects? Do you need guidance to boost how your project or group engages young people effectively?

The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) has partnered with Youth Affairs Council Victoria (YACVic) to deliver two free interactive online workshops.

Spaces are limited to 30 participants so please only register for attendance if you're confident in your availability to participate.

Youth participation 101 - Wednesday 17 May 9 am - 12 pm

This interactive session will engage your passion and fill up your group's toolbox for effective youth participation.

For more [information and to register](#)

Ethical practice and youth engagement - Tuesday 27 June 9 am - 12 pm

This session will provide some basic theory and guidance on developing strategies for ethical practice in your group. It will also include a facilitated discussion with other environmental volunteer managers.

For more [information and to register](#)

Please email fstirling@YACVic.org.au if you have any questions about workshop content or you have a specific access request.

Interested to learn more but can't attend the workshops? You can read up on what [ten young Victorians had to say about volunteering](#) for nature or have a look at the environmental volunteer [youth ready assessment and guide](#).

Environmental volunteering - what's in a name?

Do you currently, or have you recently volunteered? We'd love to hear from you!

Please fill out this 15 minute survey to help us understand more about the language that resonates best with you.

The research is part of a collaboration between DEECA, Monash University and Quantum Market Research and is designed to help us develop better communication approaches to connect with and engage more volunteers.

Your responses are completely confidential and we will share the results in this newsletter when the research is completed.

We encourage you to take the [survey](#) which is open until 15 May.



Create your own BioBlitz activity

If you already work in a volunteer group, you might want to consider conducting your own BioBlitz activity to understand and document the biodiversity in your local area.

A BioBlitz is a celebration of biodiversity. It's an event that focuses on finding and identifying as many species as possible in a specific area over a short period of time. Monitoring the local area through citizen science gives individuals and communities the opportunity to expand their stewardship of places that they care about deeply.

Volunteers will gain a greater appreciation of the biodiversity in the area and your group can observe the phenological changes in the ecosystem such as flowering times, breeding cycles and migration movements.

The newly released Parks Victoria [Citizen Science Toolkit](#) contains information to help you to organise a BioBlitz event.

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

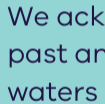
There's a lot of information on [our website](#), so please have a look at some of the great resources, research and reports.

Please also look at our [interactive map](#) and let us know if you need anything updated.

Please send us an email at environmental.volunteering@delwp.vic.gov.au if you need any assistance or if you have a great story to share about volunteering in your area.

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.

Please email landcare@delwp.vic.gov.au if you have any questions or want more information about the Victorian Landcare Program.



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.

