

# Environmental volunteers and landcarers

Resources and information for Victorians caring for nature



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## Events



**EVM Grow - Thursday 19th October at Melbourne Zoo.**

Do you manage environmental volunteers?

While the more than 173,000 Victorians volunteering for nature are critical to achieving environmental outcomes we recognise that effective volunteering doesn't just happen; it

requires ongoing leadership from volunteer managers. Part of the Department's approach to supporting a thriving and connected environmental volunteer sector is the annual state-wide event for paid and unpaid environmental volunteer managers – EVM Grow.

Hear from guest speakers and panellists addressing a range of subjects important to the environment and volunteering sectors. Meet, connect and collaborate with EVMs from across Victoria and consider sector trends and insights to continue thriving together.

**For more information** and to register go to [Eventbrite](#)

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## Grants

### **Nature Fund 2023 - EOIs close 6 Nov 2023**

Expressions of Interest are now being sought for Nature Fund 2023.

The Victorian Government has announced a further \$3.5 million for the Nature Fund, adding to the initial \$10 million invested in 2022 to projects that are already making a significant difference to the outcomes for biodiversity and threatened species in Victoria.

The Nature Fund encourages collaboration and partnerships between government, business, philanthropy and the community to deliver high impact projects that contribute to improving Victoria's biodiversity.

**For more information** visit [Nature Fund 2023](#)

### **2023-24 Volunteer Grants**

OPENING SOON: the Australian Government's 2023-24 Volunteer Grants support the work of local community organisations by enabling the inclusion of vulnerable people and promoting awareness to increase participation in volunteering. Grants of between \$1,000 and \$5,000 will be available to assist eligible not-for-profit community organisations to support the efforts of their volunteers.

**For more information**, visit the [GrantConnect website](#).

### **Heads Up! Urban Rivers and Catchments Program – Round 2 to open later in 2023**

The Australian Government's Urban Rivers and Catchments Program will fund projects to restore the health of our urban waterways for native plants and animals, and local communities.

Projects funded will help conserve native plants and animals such as birds, platypus and native fish. They will also reconnect people with nature, improving access to the valuable spaces waterways provide for our health and social wellbeing.

Funding will include \$51 million (across Australia) to fund small to medium-sized project grants of between \$150,000 and \$2 million for community-led projects.

**Further information** will be announced closer to the opening date and you can find out more at the [DCCEEW](#) website.

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## Supporting Landcare Volunteers Across Victoria

Congratulations to the recipients of the **2023 Victorian Landcare Grants**.

Environmental volunteer groups and networks are sharing in \$3.98 million in funding for projects to protect Victoria's natural environment. The grants will fund 245 on-ground and educational projects focused on biodiversity protection and provide additional financial support to more than 269 environmental volunteer groups.

Landcare grant projects include transforming a wetland in Shepparton, expanding habitat for Gang-gang Cockatoos around Apollo Bay and installing a network of 100 nest boxes at Benalla for local wildlife.

**A full list of this year's Victorian Landcare Grant recipients can be found on our [website](#).**

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## 2023 Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants

Congratulations to the 123 pre-schools, kinders, schools and youth groups who will share \$473,412 in funding, which will give thousands of children across the state the opportunity to learn more about our environment and biodiversity.

Funded by the Victorian Government, these grants provide young people with the opportunity to engage in outdoor, hands-on biodiversity focused projects or learning activities that encourage them to value and actively care for Victoria's biodiversity and natural environment.

**A full list of this year's Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants recipients can be found on our [website](#).**

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## Training and Resources

### **Engaging diverse groups in Environmental Volunteering (webinar) - Tuesday 3 October 2pm**

Bellarine Catchment Network and Cultura are hosting an online event on 3 October 2023: 'Engaging diverse groups in Environmental Volunteering'.

The presenters will share a resource guide and training video. These explore practical ways to develop environmental volunteering that is inclusive for all people.

**For more information** visit the [registration page](#)

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## New Research

We have just released a couple of research project reports to help understand and support our environmental volunteering community.



What's in a name? focuses on better ways to engage and retain volunteers. Environmental volunteers were asked questions about what they call themselves and how they describe the activities they do. A summary shows the key findings with some great practical suggestions provided.

Barriers and Opportunities to Volunteering for Nature is a reflection of conversations with environmental volunteer managers and groups across Victoria. It outlines barriers, motivators and opportunities to Victorians engaging in volunteering for nature. The summarised themes are intended to help inform volunteer manager's approach to supporting environmental volunteers moving forward.

**These reports and other research can be found on our [website](#).**

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## TreeProject

The TreeProject, which was established in 1989, is a community-based not for profit organisation that gets urban and rural communities working together to and put indigenous plants back on the land. Since 1989 TreeProject has propagated more than two million indigenous plants. Volunteer TreeProject growers propagate and grow indigenous seedlings for rural landholders and Landcare and environmental volunteer groups.

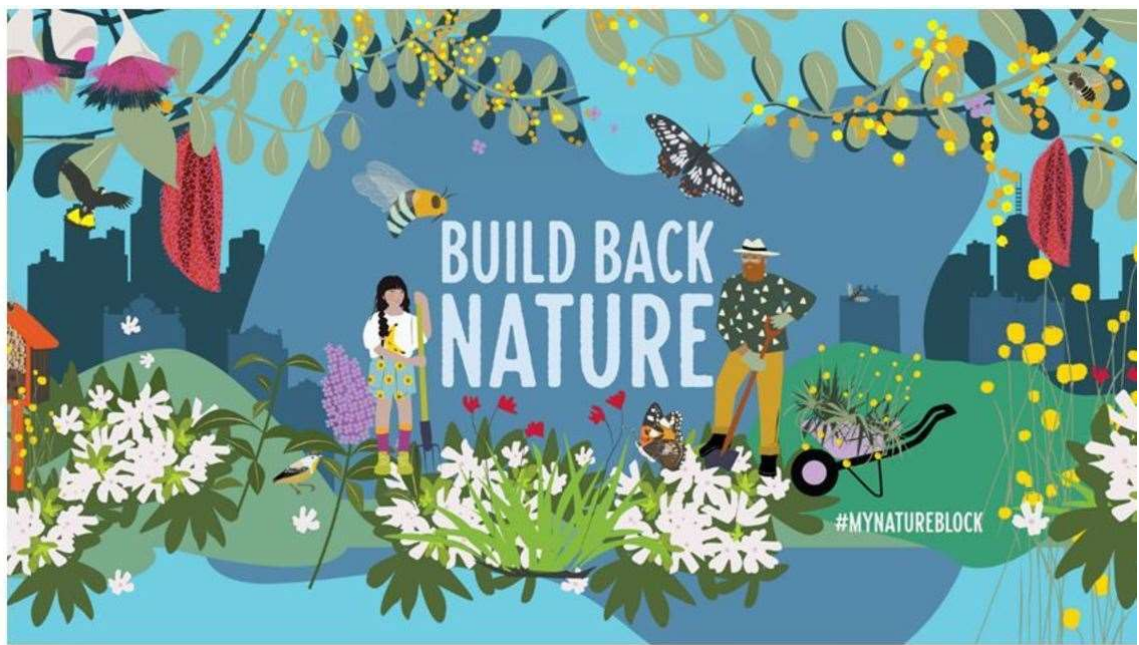
**How to get involved:** TreeProject is always looking for more volunteer growers and landholders or groups who want to order TreeProject grown plants.

**To order seedlings:** [Order Seedlings](#) closing date for orders is 30 September

**To become a grower:** [Grow with us](#)

**For more information** visit [TreeProject](#)

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## Nature Blocks

Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) are on a mission to build a community of one million like-minded people by 2026, who all take simple yet powerful actions for nature.

They are powering up the volunteering community through a new vibrant, fun and accessible CVA Community Hub app. Nature Blocks is designed to encourage every Australian to assist in rejuvenating and restoring our unique biodiversity by connecting with nature.

**For more information** and to download the app go to [mynatureblock.org.au](https://mynatureblock.org.au)



## 2023 Tidy Towns and Cities Sustainability Awards Finalists

The Tidy Towns & Cities Sustainability Awards showcases the work of individuals, community groups, and councils who are leading the way in environmental stewardship. From remote rural areas to bustling urban centres, the finalists have demonstrated their dedication to maintaining the beauty and sustainability of their surroundings. These initiatives not only contribute to the wellbeing of their communities but also set a precedent for sustainable practices that can be adopted nationwide.

A total of 53 finalist projects that tackle litter and waste reduction, energy efficiency, wellbeing, positive Indigenous outcomes, and community engagement have put their town or city into the running for the prestigious Victorian Tidy Town or City of the Year Award.

**View the 2023 finalists at [Kabvic](#)**

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## Working to support our Threatened Species

The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action's (DEECA) Biodiversity Division are excited to announce the publication of the first tranche of Action Statements for Victoria's Threatened Species and Communities listed under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988.

Action statements are key to conserving threatened species across the state. They guide and inspire individuals, communities, and organisations to get involved by identifying practical actions to support conservation efforts, reduce threats and raise awareness. By working together to support species recovery we can safeguard the future Victoria's our threatened species.

DEECA are committed to preparing new Action Statements for every threatened species, threatened community and potentially threatening process in Victoria over the coming years.

The first batch of new Action Statements for 102 listed species and communities can be found at [environment.vic.gov.au](https://environment.vic.gov.au)

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## 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.

Make a cup of tea, take a look at our [interactive map](#) and let us know if there's any information that requires updating for your group.

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, Landcare groups' boundary maps, resources and more.

If you have a Victorian Landcare Program specific question, [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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