

# Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants 2018



Environment,  
Land, Water  
and Planning



# Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants - Guidelines

## **Background**

Schools, kindergartens, childcare centres, Scouts, Girl Guides, and youth groups located in **Victoria** are invited to apply for the **Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants**.

The **Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants** will provide funding for projects that have a focus on:

- Improving biodiversity through the development, improvement or restoration of habitat for Victoria's native plants (flora) and animals (fauna), and/or
- Educating, involving and engaging young people in valuing and actively caring for Victoria's natural environment.

Projects can be direct-action (with an on-ground component), indirect action (with an education component), or a mixture of both.

The grants are being run by Landcare Australia, as part of its Junior Landcare program, in partnership with the Victorian Department of Environment, Land Water & Planning Victorian Landcare Program Team. The grants will provide an opportunity to secure funding to engage young Victorians in outdoor, hands-on, on-ground projects, and environmental learning activities that provide both environmental and educational outcomes, as well as health and social benefits.

## **Project Funding Available**

The Victorian Government is providing funding of up to **\$400,000 (excluding GST)** for the **Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants**.

Eligible applicants can apply for a grant of up to **\$5,000 (excluding GST)**.

## **Enquiries**

After reading these Guidelines if you have any questions, please call Landcare Australia on (03) 8631 7800 or email: [grants@landcareaustralia.com.au](mailto:grants@landcareaustralia.com.au)





## Key dates

Applications close	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2018 (3pm AEST)
Projects announced	3 - 9 September 2018 (Landcare Week)
Successful applicants notified	21 <sup>st</sup> September 2018
Progress report due	10 <sup>th</sup> May 2019
Final report due and project completed	8 <sup>th</sup> November 2019

## Who can apply?

The **Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants** are open to any school (primary or secondary), kindergarten, childcare centre, Scout or Girl Guides group, or youth group located in Victoria.

To be eligible, schools or groups must work with young people (preferably under the age of 18).

Organisations operating in Victoria, including community based organisations, that provide service or facilities are required to meet the Child Safe Standards. Click [here](#) for more information on the Child Safe Standards.

Applicants will be required to declare that they comply with the Child Safe Standards as part of their application submission.



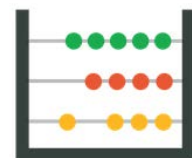
Childcare Centres



Youth/Community groups



Schools



Kindergartens



## **About the program**

The **Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants** offer funding for projects that seek to involve and educate young Victorians in valuing and actively caring for our natural environment.

This grants program has a focus on:

- On-ground projects that restore, protect, enhance, or develop habitat for native flora and fauna, and/or address threats to biodiversity e.g. weed invasion, habitat loss etc; and / or
- Projects that increase opportunities for children to connect with their natural environment e.g. a school excursion to Healesville Sanctuary; and / or
- Projects that educate and raise awareness, among young people, of the benefits and importance of biodiversity and a healthy environment, and/or how they can contribute to environmental improvement.

## **Assessment Criteria**

Successful applications will be chosen based on the following criteria:

- Expected educational outcomes (e.g. potential to provide environmental learning opportunities) and environmental outcomes (e.g. improving connectivity between habitat patches);
- Level of hands-on student/young people involvement in planning and delivery of the project;
- Level of involvement of the broader school, group or local community, including engagement/consultation with local environmental community groups (e.g. Landcare Groups) and / or local Landcare Facilitators, Landcare Coordinators, Coastcare Coordinators and/or Environment Officers at your local council;
- Degree of integration of the project into the school curriculum or youth group program to maximise environmental learning;
- Maintenance of project outcomes and planned level of student engagement with the project site in the future (i.e. if an on-ground project);
- Feasible and technically-sound project activities;
- A realistic, relevant and detailed project budget that demonstrates value for money.

Other criteria:

- Incomplete and late applications will not be considered;
- Groups or schools with project reports still outstanding from previous Junior Landcare grants are ineligible for further funding until all reporting requirements are met;
- Preference will be given to groups or schools who have not already received a Junior Landcare grant (via Landcare Australia) in the past two years.
- Generally, higher scoring projects will be funded. The projects funded may also take into account the overall mix of project types and locations.



### Activities we will fund:

- ✓ Planting of native species indigenous to your local area
- ✓ Bush tucker gardens
- ✓ Removal of invasive weeds
- ✓ Seed collection and propagation
- ✓ Nest box construction & installation
- ✓ Placing logs and rocks as shelter for animals
- ✓ Knowledge sharing of environmental issues such as habitat and biodiversity loss, fragmentation, introduced species and human impact
- ✓ Installation of interpretative signage
- ✓ Purchase of project infrastructure and equipment (e.g. wheelbarrows, tools, gloves, watering cans, irrigation equipment, fencing, seating, paving etc.). Note – equipment is limited to a maximum of \$1,000 or 20 per cent of the total budget
- ✓ Purchase of material to support education and awareness raising activities, e.g. posters or information booklets
- ✓ Bus hire to undertake an environmental education program or excursion. Note - limited to a maximum of \$1000 or 20 per cent of the total budget
- ✓ Engaging an inspiring environmental educator or speaker to come to your school or group to present on a topic of interest
- ✓ Citizen science activities (e.g. undertaking background research, monitoring changes, collecting data on local native animals and plants)
- ✓ Contractor fees to assist on-ground works e.g. landscaper for earth works

### Activities we will not fund:

- ✗ Consultancy fees
- ✗ Wages, administration and labour costs
- ✗ Airfares
- ✗ Kitchen gardens (this includes vegetable gardens, herb gardens, compost/worm farms)
- ✗ Chicken coops or garden sheds
- ✗ Delivery and postage costs
- ✗ Synthetic grass and flowers
- ✗ Cooking equipment
- ✗ Power tools (e.g. Lawnmowers, brush-cutters & chainsaws)
- ✗ Any other action or activity determined by the Panel through the assessment process to be an inappropriate or unsuitable use of the funds



## **Planning your project**

There are lots of different forms that your project can take, and we encourage the young people in your school or group to be actively involved in the research and project design process. The [Junior Landcare Curriculum Resources](#) and [Teacher's Resource Guide](#) are a great place to start for inspiration!

To develop strong project ideas:

- Look around the grounds of your school, kindergarten, child care centre or youth group, and/or a nearby park or public reserve for:
  - existing habitats and features and identify types of native habitat that could be developed, enhanced, or restored; signs of fauna (e.g. local birds, insects, mammals, lizards, butterflies) and their habitats;
- Consider the environmental education activities that your group or school could undertake to educate and raise the awareness of the benefits and importance of a healthy environment, and/or how young Victorians could contribute to environmental improvement;
- Think about organisations that have great environmental education programs that your group of school could participate in or inspiring speakers on the natural environment who you could invite to present on topic of interest;
- Set up a team of senior students, teachers, parents, community members and others with expertise who can assist with planning and coordinating an environmental project. This could also include contacting your local Landcare, Friends of, or Coastcare group and/or local Landcare Facilitator or Coastcare Coordinator, to discuss your ideas and ask if they can help with project planning.
- Other potential project partners could include your local [Catchment Management Authority](#), Council, Indigenous groups, or nurseries.

## **Working with the local community**

Engagement and consultation with local environmental community groups (e.g. Landcare groups) and local Landcare facilitators or Regional Landcare coordinators, Coastcare coordinators, and/or environment officers at your local council is strongly encouraged, as they may be able to assist with planning, delivery, or advice on projects. Evidence of consultation with local groups or staff to develop your application will be highly regarded. Search the [National Landcare Directory](#) for a Landcare, Friends of or Coastcare groups in your local area.



## **Regional Landcare Coordinators**

The Regional Landcare Coordinator in your Catchment Management Authority can assist you by providing advice to ensure that your project is both feasible and that it will achieve improvements to biodiversity. Contact details for the 10 Regional Landcare Coordinators are detailed below:

<b>Region</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>	<b>Email</b>
<b>Corangamite</b> (Colac/Geelong)	Bret Ryan	(03) 5232 9108	<a href="mailto:bret.ryan@ccma.vic.gov.au">bret.ryan@ccma.vic.gov.au</a>
<b>East Gippsland</b> (Bairnsdale)	Carolyn Cameron	(03) 5150 3582	<a href="mailto:ccameron@egcma.com.au">ccameron@egcma.com.au</a>
<b>Glenelg Hopkins</b> (Hamilton)	Tony Lithgow	(03) 5571 2526	<a href="mailto:t.lithgow@ghcma.vic.gov.au">t.lithgow@ghcma.vic.gov.au</a>
<b>Goulburn Broken</b> (Benalla)	Tony Kubeil	0408 597 213	<a href="mailto:tonyk@gbcma.vic.gov.au">tonyk@gbcma.vic.gov.au</a>
<b>Mallee</b> (Mildura)	Marissa Shean	0409 615 846	<a href="mailto:Marissa.Shean@malleecma.com.au">Marissa.Shean@malleecma.com.au</a>
<b>North Central</b> (Bendigo)	Tess Grieves	(03) 5440 1890	<a href="mailto:tess.grieves@nccma.vic.gov.au">tess.grieves@nccma.vic.gov.au</a>
<b>North East</b> (Wodonga)	Tom Croft	(02) 6043 7648	<a href="mailto:landcare@hecma.vic.gov.au">landcare@hecma.vic.gov.au</a>
<b>Port Phillip &amp; Western Port</b> (Melbourne)	Doug Evans	0409 252 851	<a href="mailto:doug.evans@ppwcma.vic.gov.au">doug.evans@ppwcma.vic.gov.au</a>
<b>West Gippsland</b> (Traralgon)	Kathleen Brack	0428 619 671	<a href="mailto:kathleenb@wgcm.vic.gov.au">kathleenb@wgcm.vic.gov.au</a>
<b>Wimmera</b> (Horsham)	Joel Boyd	(03) 5382 9919	<a href="mailto:boydj@wcma.vic.gov.au">boydj@wcma.vic.gov.au</a>

The Regional Landcare Coordinators will also be able to provide contact details for local Landcare facilitators, Landcare groups and Friends of groups in your local area.



## Useful resources

Useful resources to inform your application are available online at the [Junior Landcare Curriculum Resources](#) webpage and include:

- [Enhancing Habitats How-to-Guide](#)
- [Enhancing & Restoring the Natural Habitats of Vulnerable Species – Curriculum Resource](#)
- [Teacher’s Resource Guide](#)

[NatureKit](#) is a new tool to map and report on Victoria’s biodiversity values.

You can use the NatureKit Map to find out which Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs) occur in your area and those that are predicted to have occurred prior to European colonisation of the region (pre-1750s mapping). You can also find information on species distribution for Victoria’s flora and fauna.

Sustainability Victoria has also created a great “[how to guide](#)” exploring the topic of Biodiversity in Schools. This guide forms a part of the Biodiversity Module in the ResourceSmart Schools Program.

## How to apply

Groups and schools can apply for the **Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants** on the Landcare Australia Communities Portal until **3pm (AEST) on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2018**.

To submit an application:

1. You will need your school or group’s Australian Business Number (ABN), bank account details (for payment of funding), and GST status.
2. Login to the [Landcare Australia Communities Portal](#). If you have applied for a grant on the portal in the past, your username will be your email address. If you have not applied for a grant before, you can [register as a user here](#);
3. Click on **Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants**;
4. Click on **‘Create Application’**;
5. If you wish to leave a partially completed application, press **‘Save’** and log out. You can log back in and continue to edit your application form until you are ready to submit;
6. If required, upload photos, pictures, maps, drawings and other media on the grants portal to support your application (maximum of three attachments per application). For example, a map of the project site showing what you want to do and where (hand drawn is fine) or a species list of the local native plants you will use (if a planting project). Click on your grant





application number (e.g. GA-00006543) and select '**Attach File**' in the Notes and Attachments section;

7. To submit your application, select the '**Is application complete?**' checkbox and press '**Save & Close**';
8. You will receive a confirmation email when your application has been successfully submitted. If you do not receive an email confirming receipt of your application, please ensure you check your junk mail prior to contacting Landcare Australia.

For questions about online applications, please refer to the FAQs available [here](#) or email [grants@landcareaustralia.com.au](mailto:grants@landcareaustralia.com.au)

### **Reporting requirements**

As a condition of receiving a **Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grant** you will be required to complete a progress report and a final report for your project. The report should include a measure of improvement achieved as described in the original application, other results, photos, and grant expenditure.

Reporting is undertaken online and Landcare Australia will send you the link shortly after you have received your grant.

The reporting timeline and project completion date for the **Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants** are:

<b>Progress report due</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> May 2019
<b>Project complete &amp; final report due</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> November 2019

Please complete the photo consent forms provided by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) on behalf of the Victorian Government (and its various departments and agencies).

DELWP may use photos to publicise the project and may retain the photos for future possible use in other projects. This can only occur with your approval, so please read this participant photography consent form carefully before signing.



## **About Victoria's Biodiversity Plan**

Victoria is privileged to showcase some of the world's most breathtaking biodiversity, featuring distinctive plants and animals in unique natural habitats. There are currently more than 5,000 plants and 1,200 vertebrate animals native to Victoria, over one third of these are of conservation concern.

The Victorian Government is passionate about protecting Victoria's environment, so in 2017, the Victorian Government released a new biodiversity plan, *Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037*. It is Victoria's plan to stop the decline of our native plants and animals and aims to encourage more Victorians to value and protect nature and help them connect with and enjoy their natural environment. Click [here](#) for more information on *Biodiversity 2037*.

As part of implementing the plan, the Victorian Government is providing the Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants to assist schools, groups and communities to connect with nature and create better places for plants and animals to flourish. If we value nature by taking care of our amazing natural environment, we're also taking care of our health and wellbeing – creating smarter, happier and healthier Victorians.



These grants will support delivery of key priority areas in *Biodiversity 2037* by enabling and engaging young Victorians to:

- Connect with and value their local natural environment
- Increase their awareness of the importance a healthy environment and what it means to their own health and wellbeing
- Learn more about how they can contribute to improving the health of Victoria's environment
- Actively care for Victoria's natural environment by participating in projects that directly restore, protect or enhance habitat for native flora and fauna.



## **About Landcare Australia**

Landcare Australia is the leading national not-for-profit organisation working in partnership with business, government and community to support the Landcare community's natural resource management program. A registered charity, Landcare Australia works to align the practice of environmental management with land productivity and delegating governance and management to local communities.

Junior Landcare is about encouraging young people to play an active role in ensuring the safe future of their environment. Launched in May 1998, Junior Landcare recognises that the contribution of young people is vital if the land they are to inherit is to be in the best possible condition. Junior Landcare also encourages young people to develop a sense of responsibility to the land and other natural resources. It also provides a great framework for learning in outdoor 'living classrooms', and can be successfully integrated into a range of topics within the school curriculum.

## **Terms and Conditions**

The funding for this grant will be administered by Landcare Australia. Prior to receiving funding you will be required to agree to the [standard terms and conditions](#).

Applicants will be advised of the outcome of their application in writing after the assessment process is completed. All decisions are final and are not subject to further review.