

Wodonga Urban Landcare Network Inc.



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Opportunities to be involved



Home food growing: Protecting, propagating & season extensions – Wednesday

30th March, from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm at TAFE NSW Riverina Institute, National Environment Centre,

97 Ettamogah Rd, Thurgoona: (Home food growing: Protecting, propagating & season extensions). This Seed Savers Albury-Wodonga gathering will focus on discussion of: crop protection methods in your garden? Come to this gathering to share your ideas on how you protect your crops from various elements, use heating or housing to propagate seedlings, use netting for crop protecting and/or shading, and use hot housing to extend seasons or grow plants from other climates. We will have the seed bank available. Please bring a snack to share over a cuppa if you can. Guests and non-members also welcome (we ask for a donation from non-members to help with our insurance costs).



Seniors Week: Norman's Lagoon walk- Friday 1st April, from 10.00am to 11.30am, at Nor-

man's Lagoon, Willow Bend Reserve, Doctors Point, East Albury: Price: Free, morning tea provided, Bookings essential: AlburyCity Events Team 02 6023 8196 or email ablant@alburycity.nsw.gov.au. Norman's Lagoon is a long and narrow billabong on the Murray River floodplain, home to a diverse range of aquatic micro-habitats. Take a tour with the Albury City Wagirra Crew as they guide you around the billabong and provide intriguing details of this unique local area including the exciting new project initiative to eradicate the European Carp numbers.



Bird watching outing to Beechworth Area – Saturday 2nd April: Meet outside Old Court

House, Ford Street, Beechworth, at 9:30 am. This is a full day event, so BYO morning tea, lunch, chair, etc. For more details phone Phillip Seely: 02 60215313.



Rabbit Roundup Field Day – Saturday 2nd April, from 10:00 AM - 03:30 PM, at Springhurst

Hall, Springhurst, Victoria. Join Springhurst and Byawatha Landcare for an informative session about controlling rabbits on your property. Bring covered shoes, hat, chair. Register by 29th March via <http://tinyurl.com/rabbitday16>.

For more information contact Alandi Durling: alandi.durling@landcarevic.net.au or 0428 211 008.



Seniors Week: Local Cultural Experience - Thursday 7th April - session one: 10.30am -

1.00pm; session two: 1.00pm - 4.00pm, at LibraryMuseum, Corner of Kiewa and Swift Streets, Albury. Price: Free, craft supplies and morning and afternoon tea provided. Bookings essential: AlburyCity Events Team 02 6023 8196 or email ablant@alburycity.nsw.gov.au. Take a guided tour of the crossing place exhibition and learn the process of cutting down a traditional bark canoe and the use of traditional Aboriginal artefacts including stone tools, spears and boomerangs. We then get hands on with local artists Tamara Murray and Aunty Sharon Kennedy as they teach you some traditional art including grass weaving and symbol painting.



Senior's Week: Could you be paying less on your energy bills? – Thursday 7th April,

from 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm at the LibraryMuseum, Corner of Kiewa St and Swift St Albury: Bring along your energy bill/s for assistance in searching the best electricity and/or gas offers for your household. Each participant will receive a free 4 minute free shower timer, draught stopper and thermometer. Limited spaces, bookings essential through Mandy Bland or Amber Rodd on 0260238111.



Seniors Week: Yindyamarra Sculpture Walk - Friday 8th April,

from 10.00am - 12.30pm at Kremur St boat ramp, West Albury. Price: Free, afternoon tea provided. Bookings essential: AlburyCity Events Team 02 6023 8196 or [email ablant@alburycity.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ablant@alburycity.nsw.gov.au). 'Yindyamarra' is a powerful Wiradjuri concept of respect, to be gentle, polite, honour and do slowly. The Yindyamarra Sculpture Walk features a series of stunning contemporary Aboriginal sculptures lining the Wagirra Trail from Kremur Street to Wonga Wetlands. Eleven sculptures created by local Aboriginal artists have been installed along the five kilometres of trail and are accompanied by interpretative panels and videos available via smartphone.



Social Night, Friends of Willow Park – Friday 8th April,

from 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm at the German, Austrian, Australian Club, 5 McFarland Road, Wodonga: Everyone is invited to the Friends of Willow Park Social Night held each month on the Friday before Community Gardening. A reasonably priced meal is available at the club. Meet some members of Friends of Willow Park. For bookings to attend please contact Pauline Anderson on 02 6056 6275 or email paulsando12@yahoo.com.au a few days before the night.



Wild Pollinator Count begins – Sunday 10th April,

from 6:00 am - 8:00 pm at a flowering plant near you: Now in its third year, the Wild Pollinator Count gives you an opportunity to contribute to wild pollinator conservation in Australia. We invite you to count wild pollinator insects in your local environment and help us build a database on wild pollinator activity. You can join in by watching any flowering plant for just ten minutes sometime in our count week. You don't need to be an insect expert. You don't need fancy gear. You may be surprised by what you see! The autumn 2016 count will run from the 10th to the 17th of April. Find out [how to count pollinators](#), identify [the insects](#) you see and [submit your observations](#) and more by visiting our website: wildpollinatorcount.com.



WaterWatch, Friends of Willow Park – Sunday 10th April,

from 9:00 am - 10:30 am at Willow Park, Wodonga: Help measure the concentration of chemicals in House Creek. Meet near the BBQ in Willow Park. BYO water, sunscreen and hat. Friends of Willow Park will supply all other equipment. Join in with Community Gardening at 10.30am, if you like, followed by morning tea at 11.30am.



Community Gardening, Friends of Willow Park - Sunday 10th April,

from 9:30 am - 11:30 am at Willow Park. Join us for a variety of gardening activities in Willow Park, including planting, mulching, weeding (and chatting). Meet near the BBQ in Willow Park. BYO Water, sunscreen and hat. Morning tea after gardening.



Mountain Range to Wetlands Photographic Competition :

To celebrate the beauty of North East Victoria and Wooragee in particular, Wooragee Landcare would like to invite adults, primary and secondary students to participate in a photographic competition. There will be separate sections for primary school, secondary school and adult competitors. Subject categories are Landscape, Biodiversity (Flora and Fauna) and Human Interest (eg farming, people enjoying the outdoors). There will be a special prize for photos taken in the Wooragee Valley. Prize money in each section is First \$100, Second \$75, Third \$50. Entries close 15 August 2016. Entry fee of \$2 per photo. Winners announced in September 2016. For further information contact Maureen Cooper at 03 57281311 or brigadoon.99@bigpond.com



11th Lake Bolac Eel Festival – Friday to Sunday 8th to 10th April: The festival theme for 2016 will be Aboriginal Land Management. Bill Gammage and Bruce Pascoe are keynote speakers. The Lake Bolac Eel Festival is a family-friendly music and art festival highlighting the environment and celebrating Indigenous culture. For information: <http://www.eelfestival.org.au/>



Wednesday Walk and Talk – House Creek through Pam Stone and Les Stone Parks – Wednesday 13th April, from 9:30 am - 11:30 am at Les Stone carpark, off Lawrence St, Wodonga:

Join the members of the Wodonga Urban Landcare Network on an easy loop walk. Find out who else shares these parks, where they live and how, with a 'plain English' guided tour. Come along for a casual walk with local expert in biodiversity Simon Feillafe, identify the special nooks and hollows native birds and animals use and find out how we can restore and improve their habitat. No cost. Morning Tea provided. Please wear a hat and dress for the weather! Rsvp not required but would help for catering: anne.stelling@landcarevic.net.au. This walk is part of our Wednesday Walks series, where local experts lead us in exploring the urban reaches of House, Huon and Felltimber creeks.



Yack Community Garden Food Swap – Saturday 16th April, from 9:30 am - 11:30 am at

Yackandandah Community Garden, William Street, Yackandandah. Next to the Swimming Pool and opposite the Court House: Our regular monthly food swap – open to everyone of all ages. Everything edible welcome. People bring chooks, ducks, seeds, veg, eggs, fruit, magazines, books, tools, equipment, honey – you name it! If it's to do with gardening, self-sufficiency, DIY, permaculture and growing things generally, it can go on the produce table. Love to see you there.... This is usually run in conjunction with a workshop which starts at 10.30 a.m. Gold coin donation welcome!



Murmungee Giant Pumpkin Competition – Saturday 16th April: from 10.00am to 3.00pm

at Bowmans-Murmungee Hall: celebrating the fourth year of this community festival. There will be giant pumpkin judging, stalls selling home-grown and hand-made goods, live music, kids' activities, an exhibition of local art, plant propagation and grafting demonstrations, Devonshire teas and lots more!



Bring YaBug Along! - Sunday 17th April, from 11am –3pm at Willow Park, Pearce St, Wodonga.

What to bring: Drink bottle, hat, sunscreen, sturdy shoes, lunch and water bugs! A delicious afternoon tea will be provided. If you would like to learn more about collecting and identifying water bugs, then this free event is for you! Either bring along your own water bugs or collect a sample at Willow Park on the day. Presenters will be available to train you in techniques to identify water bugs. A photographer will capture water bug images which will be included in a book written by school children. For more information and to RSVP, please contact: Kathie Le Busque, 0408 443 261 or kathie@petaurus.net.au



Tangambalanga Lions Club 'Milk Run' – Sunday 17th April, from 8:30 am - 3:00 pm at

High Country Rail Trail, Huon Reserve, Murray Valley Hwy, Huon VIC. Kiewa Tangambalanga Lions Club invite you to participate in the Milk Run on the High Country Rail Trail. There will be tucker, spot prizes, water points and some great views as you run along the foreshore of Lake Hume. Take advantage of the mild autumn weather by being part of the 4th MILK RUN family walk or run event. There are two options on the day: a 6km or 10km course along the rail trail over the new Sandy Creek bridge starting at the beautiful Huon Reserve. The views along the course are sensational and will be much more enjoyable with a coffee, sausage, flavoured milk or yoghurt in hand after you complete your run/walk. There will also be loads of spot prizes on the day. Start / Finish: High Country Rail Trail at the Huon Reserve, Murray Valley Hwy, Huon VIC 3695. This is a 20 minute drive east of Albury Wodonga.

Registrations and Payment: Cash registrations from 8.30am to 9.30am on Sunday 17 April 2016.



WATCH meeting - Tuesday 19th April, from 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm venue to be advised: WATCH (Wodonga & Albury Toward Climate Health) is a non-partisan climate advocacy group that meets



Information Night, Friends of Willow Park – Thursday 21st April, from 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm at

Belvoir School, Corner Gayview Drive and Conlan Court, Wodonga. Speaker Anne Stelling, Wodonga urban Landcare Network, Topic: Wodonga Waterways Community Consultation Report. Free entry and all are welcome. Tea, coffee and light supper provided. Arrive at 7.00 pm for a catch up, start at 7.30 pm.



A Vibrant, Clean Energy Future ... Join the Dots!! Saturday 23rd April, from 7:00 pm -

10:00 pm at Yackandandah Public Hall: National public intellectual, Dr John Hewson, and the totemic Australian musician, Shane Howard of folk rock group Goanna, will inspire us to re-imagine a clean energy future. Totally Renewable Yackandandah proudly invite you to enjoy an evening with these icons. This event is a fundraiser for TRY to help Yack shift to 100% renewable power by 2022. Bar available. Tickets \$35. Available through Trybooking (trybooking.com/184691) or tickets will be available on the door. For further information: Denis Ginnivan, Events That Matter, 0412 503 498; dginnivan@bigpond.com



Wednesday Walk and Talk – House Creek through Gerard Moylan and Willow Park – Wednesday 27th April, from 9:30 am - 11:30 am at House Creek in Gerard Moylan Park: Join

the members of the Wodonga Urban Landcare Network on an easy loop walk exploring the natural treasures of House creek through Gerard Moylan and Willow Parks. Find out who else shares these parks, where they live and how, with a 'plain English' guided tour. Come along for a casual walk with local expert in biodiversity Glen Johnson, identify the special nooks and hollows native birds and animals use and find out how we can restore and improve their habitat. Meet at the Brockley St. Bridge over House Creek. No cost. Morning Tea provided. Please wear a hat and dress for the weather! Rsvp not required but would help for catering: anne.stelling@landcarevic.net.au. This walk is part of our Wednesday Walks series, where local experts lead us in exploring the urban reaches of House, Huon and Felltimber creeks.



Repair Café – Saturday 30th April, from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm at Wodonga Senior Citizens Cen-

tre: Don't miss what may be the last chance to get your bike, chair, pair of pants or torch fixed for nix at the Repair Cafe, and in the process learn some tricks of the trade. Based on past experiences, there's a 75% chance we'll be able to fix your household item and if not, you'll at least be able to enjoy morning tea on us. Have a look at some photos on our FB photo page: <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/fixed>. For more information visit <http://ecoportal.net.au/event/repair-cafe-4/>



Local Food Network activities: The Local Food Network is a platform to share information, resources and improve partnerships to strengthen and sustain thriving local food systems in North East Victoria, NSW Riverina and surrounds. It recognises that a thriving local food system benefits producers, and the local economy and improves access to healthy foods for all community groups. We are a network that is open to all interested individuals and organisations. We meet bi-monthly at Gateway Health, 155 High St Wodonga on the fourth Thursday of the month from 11am to 1:30pm. New members are welcome. Dates for Meetings in 2016 are as follows:

- Thursday, April 28;
- Thursday, June 30;
- Thursday, August 25; and,
- Thursday, October 20.

Learning Opportunities



BLUE GREEN ALGAE Awareness Workshop - Wednesday 30th March, from 12:30 pm – 4:30 pm at Riverina Institute's National Environment Centre, Hill Site, 97 Ettamogah Road, Thurgoona. TAFE NSW Riverina Institute is providing a free community information session to translate the science of Blue Green Algae (BGA). A four hour workshop will also be broadcast live in other campuses in Riverina Institute's network. The session will cover information about BGA such as:

- What are they and where did they come from?
- What problems might BGA cause for me and my water provider and why?
- The science – when and where are we most likely to find a bloom?
- How do we know there might be a bloom?
- What constitutes a 'bloom' anyway?

Dr Alison Mitchell, a freshwater ecologist, will present this session. Alison holds a PhD in Environmental Science and has worked as a Knowledge Broker, translating science, for a number of years at CSIRO. Phone Terry Bevis 02 60 436 700 to register your attendance.



"Rodenator" Rabbit warren destruction demonstration at Bruarong – Saturday 7th May, at 10.30am at the top of Tunnel Gap Road, Bruarong (look for Landcare signs). The rabbit is a serious environmental and agricultural pest and can impact on farm productivity and native ecosystems, leading to financial loss and environmental destruction. Whilst the release of the virus booster in 2016/2017 will reduce rabbit numbers, the virus needs to be combined with destruction of warrens. Pest Smart states that: "*Warren destruction is the most important part of lasting rabbit control.*" Warren ripping is one method, the use of the rodenator is another. Each has particular advantages depending on site conditions. You are invited to a rodenator demonstration & BBQ lunch. For catering purposes or more information please RSVP to: Megan Hughes megan.hughes@landcarevic.net.au 0407 227 814.



Bats on the Billabong - Thursday 14 April: from 6pm to @9pm at "Fellow Hills", Culcairn Rd, Holbrook. Holbrook Landcare Network is hosting "Bats on the Billabong", an interactive evening to discuss the wonderful world of native bats along the Billabong Creek in Holbrook. Bring the kids and have a fun family night of spotlighting and learning about native wildlife. The evening includes dinner and a speaker. Please RVSP by Monday 11 April to office@holbrooklandcare.org.au or call 02 6036 3181.



4-month Social Change 101 Alpine/Indigo Region Program provides a unique opportunity for up to 14 individuals to gain the skills and networks needed to develop a social venture. Running from from July – October 2016, it is designed for socially minded, entrepreneurial individuals looking to develop an idea or grow a social venture or those innovating from within an established organisation, including NGO managers and decision makers, who are looking to transform a specific program within their organisation. The program is designed to benefit communities affected by the 2009 Victorian bushfires, and is specifically for people living in the Alpine / Indigo region. If you are, then please [register your interest here](#). You can also contact our Student Services Team: studentservices@sse.org.au



Solar Energy Exhibition & Conference 2016 – 4th to 5th May: Melbourne Exhibition Centre. The 54th annual Australian Solar Council industry conference & exhibition is a showcase of the people, projects and products that are driving solar and storage to new heights of innovation and excellence. Brought to you by the peak solar and storage bodies, the Australian Solar Council and Australian Energy Storage Council, Solar Energy 2016 brings together the leading speakers, trainers, researchers and industry movers and shakers in a 2-day event that promises to satisfy anyone involved in the solar sector. <http://www.solarexpo.com.au/about-solar-2016-exhibition-conference/>



Solar Storage Exhibition and Conference — 1st and 2nd June: Australian Technology Park, Sydney. The event will focus on the energy storage industry at all levels – from utility scale to residential solutions as well as the emerging electric vehicle markets. The exhibition will be free to attend,



8th Australian Stream Management Conference – Sunday 31st July to Wednesday

3rd August: this will be held in the Blue Mountains, New South Wales and is being convened by the River Basin Management Society with support from the Integrated Catchment Management Foundation. The 2016 event will provide the opportunity to discuss recent developments and challenges in stream management, in the context of experiences from the last two decades and beyond. Focus areas will include the role of physical interventions, catchment and riparian management, environmental flows, community expectations from stream systems, drought and flood recovery policy, and monitoring and evaluation programs. Further information about 8ASM will be provided shortly. However, in the meantime, if you would like to express your interest in submitting a Conference Paper or becoming a Conference supporter, please contact GEMS Event Management on +61 2 9744 5252 or email lbarker@gemspl.com.au.

Resources & Inspiration



Kiewa Catchment scoops major Fire Awards for Indigenous Fire Knowledge Project

Kiewa Catchment was delighted to walk away with two Awards from the Fire Awareness Awards held in Melbourne. The Awards were for “Community-Led Prevention and Preparedness” and the big one for the night, the “RACV Insurance Award for Excellence”, which came with a cheque for \$5000.00. The money will be used to further develop their work in this area. They would like to thank all the project partners that have been vital to the success of this project: trial site holders, Bridget Doyle, Rhonda Sinclair and Greg Hayes. North East CMA staffers, Richard McTernan, Brendon Kennedy and Simon Feillafe. Uncle Rod Mason, Indigenous Senior Fire Knowledge holder, the CFA, Project ecologist Paul Foreman, The Australian Government for providing funding and the many people who contributed to the Fire forums and Native Grasses Field Day. The win has resulted in considerable media coverage, with stories in the Border Mail, The Weekly Times, ABC radio and Melbourne Community radio. Well done to all involved!



Blue-green algae

As of early March, red alert warnings for blue-green algae remain in place for large parts of the Murray River system and its tributaries. There have also been reports of blue green algae identified in farm dams across the area. The red alert level warning indicates these waters are unsuitable for recreational use or primary contact by domestic users and may also pose a threat to livestock and pets. The species of blue-green algae identified are potentially toxic and may cause gastroenteritis in humans if consumed and skin and eye irritations after contact. Boiling the water does not remove algal toxins. People are advised not to enter the water, not to drink untreated water or bathe in water drawn from the river while this red alert level warning is in place. Appropriate water treatment is in place by the local water utilities and town water supplies remain unaffected and safe to drink. Blue-green algae usually appear as green paint-like scums on the water, near the edges, or as greenish clumps throughout the water. It makes the water appear dirty, green or discoloured and generally has a strong musty or earthy odour. People should not eat mussels or crayfish from red level warning areas. Any fish caught should be cleaned and washed thoroughly in uncontaminated water and any internal organs disposed of before consumption. Blue-green algae occur naturally and can reproduce quickly in favourable conditions where there is still or slow-flowing water, abundant sunlight and sufficient levels of nutrients. For up-to-date information on the algae situation in NSW, visit the [DPI Water website](#):

This site also includes tips for identifying algae, key contacts for more information, impacts of blue-green algal blooms, and locations where alerts are in place.



Open Community Meeting Portal - Aboriginal Victoria Forum – 3rd February 2016:

If you missed the Aboriginal Victoria Forum or want to see bits again of the [Aboriginal Community Open Meeting](#), it is available at this link. Further information will be posted as it becomes available, and it is a key engagement point for continued dialogue with the community. I understand anyone who wants to pose a question or provide comment will need to register first. Cheers, Alana Marsh, Senior Project Officer, Community Strengthening, Office of Aboriginal Affairs, Department of Premier and Cabinet. T:

03) 9208 3843 F: 03) 9208 3292 M: 0448 526 088 - Currently in office Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.



Talking Wild Trout videos now available: 10 key presentations from the 'Talking Wild Trout' Conference in November at Mansfield are now available via the link below. The conference showcased learnings from the first year of a three year project, which is investigating wild trout populations across Victoria. Some really interesting research results around replacing native plants on stream banks. <https://t.e2ma.net/click/be46q/v91t6h/vd99yd>



Regional Riparian Action Plan launched: Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water, Lisa Neville, has launched the Regional Riparian Action Plan, a new five-year plan to improve the health of Victoria's rivers, wetlands and estuaries. This plan outlines priority riparian management outcomes to be achieved across regional Victoria from 2015-16 to 2019-20. The plan aims to accelerate on-ground riparian work, such as stock management fencing, revegetation, weed management and the provision of off-stream stock watering infrastructure. It also has new initiatives to improve the management of riparian land. The action plan was developed in consultation with key stakeholders including catchment management authorities, Traditional Owners, Victorian Landcare Council, Environment Victoria, Victorian National Parks Association, and the Victorian Farmers Federation. See <http://delwp.vic.gov.au/regional-riparian-action-plan> for more details and to download a copy the action plan.



2016 National Landcare Conference – Melbourne: Wednesday 21st - Thursday 23rd September 2016: Celebrating from the state where Landcare began, the 2016 National Landcare Conference and Awards will be held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. The National Landcare Awards ceremony and gala dinner will this year feature 69 finalists, nominated across nine categories, from all parts of Australia. Further information about the call for abstracts, event registration, and conference program will be announced shortly and these details will available on the Victorian Landcare Gateway.

Funding Opportunities



Round 2 - Community Volunteer Action Grants and Crowdfunding opportunities: \$2 million dollars will be provided to small-scale, local threatened species projects that build community connections to the local environment. This program recognises the value of grassroots community action in making change happen quickly. For more information: [click here](#)



Critical Action and Strategic Partnerships Grants: \$3 million dollars has been provided to environmental agencies and organisations, as experts in threatened species management, to undertake work that reduces threats and secures important sites for threatened species.



Crowdfunding: The Victorian Government has also committed \$200,000 to a crowdfunding pilot to support threatened species conservation campaigns. Crowdfunding enables the community to directly invest in causes and projects that they value, and are particularly passionate about. The crowdfunding pilot is offering community groups and not-for-profit organisations a unique opportunity to raise funds for additional threatened species actions, whilst having their fundraising efforts matched by government. Funding of up to \$25,000 per successful campaign is available as a matched grant. Three successful campaigns were announced in December 2015 with further opportunities to participate in 2016. See more at: [click here](#)



Community Impact Grants program: Wodonga's Community Impact Grants program aims to empower community organisations and individuals to grow ideas in an innovative and creative way,

as well as looking to improve the city. An individual can apply for a grant for less than \$500 by telling the council about your idea. Community organisations, workplaces and individuals auspiced by a community organisation can apply for grants ranging from \$500 to \$5000. The grant program links to the outcomes and key priorities in the Council Plan. The program provides funding to support projects/events relating to Building stronger communities; Environmental sustainability; Community events; and Arts and culture. All events, activities and projects must be held in the Wodonga municipality. See more at: <http://www.wodonga.vic.gov.au/about-us/grants-funds/cigp.asp#sthash.V8HynfKY.dpuf>



Norman Wettenhall Small Environmental Grant Scheme – next round opens 29th March:

The Small Environmental Grant Scheme provides support for groups or individuals undertaking biodiversity conservation projects in Australia. Projects can be about one or more of the following: monitoring, recording and sharing data, delivering community education, providing community capacity building (training), research and science, or landscape restoration and education (Victoria only). Have a look at: [can you apply](#)



One Tree Per Child Program is now open

The Australian Government's new One Tree Per Child program is an opportunity for Landcare groups/networks and councils to receive funds for planting projects this coming planting season. We urge local schools to register with the program on line at <http://www.onetreeperchild.com/> Your registration will flow to WULN and Council enabling us to work with you on your projects.



Small Grants for Rural Communities (SGRC) - Round 29:

Grants of up to \$5,000 are available for projects and activities that offer clear public benefit for communities in rural, regional or remote Australia. Priority is given to communities of 10,000 or fewer. Applicants must be not-for-profit community organisations with an ABN or incorporation certificate. Before applying, please read the Guidelines carefully: [Small Grants for Rural Communities R29 - Program Guidelines](#)



Victorian Litter Plan - Litter Innovation Fund: Round 1 grants now open:

The Victorian Litter Innovation Fund provides support for the Victorian community, including government, business, not-for-profit organisations, social enterprises and schools, to fund innovative approaches that prevent and reduce the impact of litter and illegal dumping. Organisations are eligible to apply for grants of up to \$20,000 for innovative solutions to litter and illegal dumping that are delivered through a partnership approach. Please go to the [Sustainability Victoria](#) website for further information or phone 1300 363 744 and ask to speak to a grants representative.

Opportunities to have your say



Release of draft Biodiversity Plan for public consultation:

The Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water has released the draft Biodiversity Plan titled "*Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2036*" for public consultation. It has been released for an eight week consultation period until 15 May 2016. The draft plan and consultation questions can be found at DELWP's consultation website HaveYourSay at <http://haveyoursay.delwp.vic.gov.au/biodiversity-plan>



Release of Review of native vegetation clearing regulations consultation paper:

the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water has released the "*Review of the native vegetation clearing regulations - Consultation Paper*", which sets out proposed improvements to Victoria's native vegetation clearing regulations. A six week public submission process until 29 April 2016 is now underway, where the community can provide feedback on the proposed improvements. Information about the review, including how you can make a submission to the Consultation Paper, can be found at <http://haveyoursay.delwp.vic.gov.au/native-vegetation-clearing-regulations>