

Committees of Management Newsletter

Edition 16



Around the Regions

Happy Birthday Collingwood Children's Farm

The Collingwood Children's Farm recently turned 40 and held a party to thank the thousands of volunteers, community groups, schools and families that make the Farm such a special, community place.

For 40 years the Collingwood Children's Farm has been Melbourne's beating heart of urban agriculture. In this time, the Farm has supported countless Victorians experiencing adversity and brought generations of city folk closer to land and community.

The Farm specialises in changing peoples' lives and has achieved a great deal over the years. With comprehensive volunteering and work experience programs, the Farm engages students and volunteers with meaningful experiences that build skills, self-efficacy and community. The Farm also provides a welcoming place for the broader community to learn about food production, see a working farm and pat a goat!

To help secure the Farm's future, the resourceful committee of management made the most of the occasion by not only celebrating but also using the event as a valuable fundraiser to support and engage Victorians of all ages, especially those facing adversity. The committee developed a sponsorship package, accepted cash gifts which combined with the price of admission, raised considerable funds for the Farm. Event sponsors included Melbourne Farmer's Market, Melbourne Gin Company, Bodriggy and Mountain Goat. Community members enjoyed a fun filled day that featured music, local beer and wine, Melbourne Farmer's Market stalls, storytelling and workshops in the barn. Costa Georgiadis from Gardening Australia performed the duties of the MC, the local Mayor and local MPs spoke at the opening address.

Funds raised will support the Farm's programs, engage more people in need and keep the experience free for those who need it most!

Please check out the committee's website www.farm.org.au for more information and to wish the Farm a Happy Birthday!



Bengworden Hall Reopens!

On Friday August 30, the **Bengworden Hall** Committee of Management celebrated the re-opening of their hall. The night was advertised as '*Forget the Farm for the Night* and celebrate the Bengworden Hall re-opening' as a way of encouraging the local farming community dealing with severe drought conditions to come together socially.

The hall quickly filled with about 70 people who enjoyed a night of music, courtesy of three-piece string band *The Hobyahs*, good food and great company.

In 2017-18, the Committee received a Public Safety on Public Land grant of \$32,000 from DELWP to assist with asbestos works. They removed and replaced the internal lining of the hall - which was mainly asbestos - and used local tradesmen to complete the job, ensuring that the local economy benefitted.

The Committee had also received a grant from the Public Records Office Victoria for a local history project, in which large interpretive panels were created and hung on the walls depicting various historic events. These were unveiled by Kaye Hoffman, Sue Deery, Andrea Bush and Lyn Yates – the history panel sub-committee members responsible for the project.

Always looking to the future, the night was also a fund raiser for the Committee's next venture – replacing the roof – which has now been finished!

In further good news for the hall, two reverse cycle heaters have just been installed courtesy of a grant from Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal.



Gerard Deery, Chair, at the Bengworden hall re-opening.

A very special *Thank You* to RMIT interns Megan Hain and Alex Burmeister

DELWP has been fortunate to have RMIT students, Megan Hain and Alex Burmeister, join DELWP as interns to lead important projects as part of their Environmental Work Practice course.

While working within the Port Phillip region recently, Megan and Alex developed and led the *Strategy for Visibility and Awareness – Voluntary Committees of Management*. The aim of the strategy is to create a greater awareness, internally and externally, of the important contribution volunteers make in managing Crown land reserves.

As part of this initiative, Megan and Alex made site visits to Crown land reserves and interviewed committee of management volunteers from a broad demographic. Alex and Megan then developed the information from the interviews into content and articles for publication across DELWP platforms.

Megan and Alex commented on how much they enjoyed speaking with volunteers and they hope you will enjoy the articles they have written. The articles will be published at intervals over the coming months, so please keep a look out for their articles!

We thank Alex and Megan and we wish them all the best as they complete their degree this year.



Interns Alex Burmeister and Megan Hain with Gordon Buller, Chair of the Upper Yarra River Reserves Committee of Management Inc.

Hello Walhalla!

A special day of induction for the Walhalla Board of Management was held on Friday 23rd August. The Board manages one of Victoria's most unique land portfolios. Nestled in the Great Dividing Range, it includes the heritage listed former Post Office, Mechanics Institute, Long Tunnel Extended Tourist Mine, Tourist Railway Reserve and the Chinese Gardens Campground.

The Board of Management was incorporated in 1998 and has had many volunteers over the years with the existing committee helping to raise the profile of Walhalla to new heights. The recent expression of interest process seeking additional members saw the most applications received in the Board's history, and with the newest appointments the Board is now at a full complement of eleven members and has hit the ground running.

The Board's induction took place at the Walhalla Mechanics Institute on a crisp Friday morning and included sessions hosted by independent facilitator Gillian Hayman. This included a stroll in the sun to visit the post office and discussions around opportunities for each site to help realise the town's potential as a key tourism destination in Gippsland.

Just one month later, in September, the Walhalla Post Office got the good news that they had received a grant of \$43,000 from the Living Heritage program. The funding will provide for the installation of a fire protection system in the grounds and garden of the former post office. With respect for the past, a grounding in the present and an eye to the future, the Board is now looking at developing a new strategic vision.



Lake Charm Public Park Reserve

On 20 June 2019, the newly appointed Lake Charm Public Park Reserve Committee of Management participated in a DELWP led induction session. The purpose of the induction was to ensure the new committee members were made aware of what DELWP required of them and to answer any questions they had in relation to their new role. It was also an opportunity for the committee to meet their DELWP representatives, Chelsea Sutherland and Sarah Templeton, face to face.

The committee is a dedicated group of people with a diverse skill-set, including trade, management and banking backgrounds. The members are meeting regularly and are all eager to see the park improve. Some improvements already undertaken include the creation of walk ways, toilets repainted and the production of a reserve newsletter which has been very well received. The committee of management is currently seeking to employ a manager for the caravan park.

The Lake Charm Foreshore Caravan Park is located on the reserve and accommodates 90 caravan sites (all powered), 10 additional powered camp sites (not available during lake closures), two barbeque areas, laundry and children's playground. The caravan park accounts for approximately one fifth of the reserve, with the balance being used by the Lake Charm Power Boat Club, Lake Charm tennis courts, grazing and passive recreation.



Category 1 Committee of Management Inductions

Category one committee of management inductions kicked off in Barwon Heads in October. There was a great turn out of new and returning Committee members from the Barwon Coast, Bellarine Bayside Foreshore, Great Ocean Road Coast and Otway Coast committees in attendance.

Led and hosted by Land & Built Environment manager Greg Leece, the session provided technical advice for members on their responsibilities as land managers. Further resources and support were made available by DELWP staff who were on hand to network, have a chat and build relationships.

Regional Director of DELWP Baron South West, Colleen White kicked proceedings off, providing details to the group on the Barwon South West Regional Business Plan, our Aboriginal Inclusion Plan, the Committee of Management Reform Program, the Marine and Coastal Act and Coastal and Marine Management Plans and the department's Community Charter.

Michael Noelker provided some technical advice around Category One Committees, the Public Administration Act, Code of Conduct, DELWP OnBoard and information on DELWP's role in supporting Committees. The session ended with an insightful and useful panel Q&A session. This was well received by the attendees, with the questions from the floor highlighting their level of passion, professionalism, engagement and commitment to their respective regions as well as well as dealing with the broader issues we're all facing such as climate change mitigation.

Thank you to all those who attended and contributed to the day's success.



Tarnagulla Community Centre Looks to Strong Future

The small but vibrant township of Tarnagulla in central Victoria is looking forward to a brighter future for its Community Centre under the guidance of a newly elected committee of management.

Although only recently appointed, the new committee have been particularly busy in exploring options to provide a centre, which not only provides for the current needs of the community but looks to the future as well.

On Saturday 3 August 2019, the Tarnagulla Community Centre celebrated its re-opening which included a radio interview held with ABC Radio Bendigo. A highlight of the event was the recording and film clip production of "The Tarnagulla Song", a town song written by a committee member who is also a talented songwriter.

Those who attended the event took advantage of the sausage sizzle, cake stall and great coffee sold by the committee to raise funds for future use by the Centre.

The committee has renewed an agreement, for an initial period of six months, with the Goldfields Library Bendigo to run a library service out of the building. Local residents will now continue to have access to books etc without the need to travel to nearby larger towns.

Tourists stopping in Tarnagulla will be pleasantly surprised to find that, along with the locals, they are able to enjoy great food and coffee at the café located in the Community Centre. The café also provides tourist information along with hand made goods.

The future looks bright for Tarnagulla thanks to the efforts of this committee of management which deserves the ongoing support of both locals and tourists.



Port Phillip Bay Coastal Hazard Assessment

The Port Phillip Bay Coastal Hazard Assessment project is a collaborative project aiming to understand the impact of coastal hazards on the Port Phillip Bay coastline. The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) has partnered with CSIRO for the scientific component of the project; to define the extent of land expected to be threatened by the coastal processes of inundation, erosion and groundwater change.

DELWP has also partnered with Melbourne Water, Parks Victoria, the Association of Bayside Municipalities, the 10 local governments that adjoin Port Phillip Bay, the two Catchment Management Authorities for the Bay, and Traditional Owners to build our collective capacity to use and respond to the findings of the hazard assessment. The information generated by the project will enable us to plan for, and manage, cultural and economic assets and help with the setting of state, regional and local priorities.

Where are we at?

CSIRO has completed a gap analysis, which looked at more than 600 items of literature, numerous datasets and data repositories/tools to assess the feasibility of the project methodology. The findings confirm that it is possible to complete local scale hazard assessments (finer resolution) for inundation and erosion. For groundwater, it is possible to complete a coarse scale assessment for the bay and a small number of finer resolution scale assessments at specific locations around the bay. CSIRO has also completed all the field work and is busily modelling a range of anticipated climate change scenarios. The three hazard assessments are progressing well.

For more information, please see the project web page <http://www.marineandcoasts.vic.gov.au/ppbcha>



Stormy weather on the Bay



Sediment sample



Example of erosion at work

Coastal Committees Appointed

It's not every day that we appoint eight Category 2 Committees at the same time! However, this is what happened when eight Category 2 coastal committees in Gippsland were due for reappointment at the same time in mid-November. It is quite a process. First of all, we called for expressions of interest through public notices in Melbourne-based and local newspapers, fliers pinned up in key locations in coastal towns and through posts on social media. All existing members were also encouraged to apply.

We received 83 applications and held 36 interviews. In order to equip the committees to achieve the best possible management of the reserves, applicants were shortlisted on the basis of their skills, experience and knowledge in one of more of the following areas:

- Business & Financial Management
- Facilities & Property Management
- Secretarial, Administration and Grant Management
- Marketing, Tourism and Media
- Environmental and Coastal Biodiversity Conservation
- Indigenous Values and Cultural Heritage
- Community and Stakeholder Engagement.

All 59 proposed applicants then went through police checks and probity checks before being recommended for appointment by the minister's delegate. An induction session will be held for those members that are appointed.

Congratulations and welcome to the newly formed committees of:

- Corinella Foreshore Reserve
- Grantville and District Foreshore Reserve
- Lang Lang Foreshore Reserve
- Loch Sport Foreshore
- Port Franklin Public Purposes and Recreation Reserve
- Sandy Point Foreshore
- Shallow Inlet Camping and Recreation reserve
- Walkerville Foreshore



Corinella Foreshore Reserve

Junortoun Community Action Group Inc

On 8 July 2019, the Junortoun Community Action Group Inc were appointed as the committee of management over a former gravel reserve, now known as the Strathfieldsaye Reserve.

This reserve was originally used by the former Shire of Strathfieldsaye and later the City of Greater Bendigo for the supply of gravel. The reservation purpose was changed to public purposes.

The committee is a dedicated and enthusiastic group of people who are committed to improving the site into an environmentally friendly community space for the benefit of the local community and the surrounding district.

So far, they have undertaken a site clean-up and are preparing a management plan to outline opportunities for the future use of the reserve.

The committee have also negotiated a lease with NBN Co Ltd who have erected a communications tower on the site.



DELWP Updates

Modernising Victoria's Public Land Legislation

Victoria's current public land legislative framework is complex DELWP is working to modernise Victoria's public land legislation, including:

- developing a new Public Land Act, consolidating the current *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978*, *Forests Act 1978* and *Land Act 1958*, to support the management of a variety of public land, including parks and other reserves
- modernising the *National Parks Act 1975*, which will continue to protect national parks and other areas of high environmental significance.

This work implements recommendations of the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council in its *State-wide Assessment of Public Land: Final Report*, which were accepted by the government in 2017.

Opportunities to be involved

A consultation paper will be released in the near future setting out proposed directions for modernising Victoria's public land legislation. The paper will be released on Engage Victoria for public comment, and DELWP will notify Committees of Management by email when it is available.

Next steps

Feedback from consultation will be used to shape legislation to be developed over the coming year. The legislation will be implemented with an appropriate transitional period to allow time for all stakeholders to be informed about the changes and transition to the new legislative framework.



New Coastcare Victoria Strategy

Thank you to all the volunteers and participants to date for their input into the new Coastcare Victoria Strategy 2020-2025 - your feedback is invaluable! We are excited to announce that the strategy is now in its final draft. When that is finalised, it will go back out to the public for further comment via Engage Victoria for a period of four weeks. Any feedback from that process will then be reviewed and incorporated where appropriate, before it is signed off by the Minister. We anticipate that it will be finalised and printed by March 2020. Once again – thank you for your input.



Are you Planning on Planning?

Commonwealth, state and local government laws apply to all Crown land reserves. While Committees of Management manage Crown land, there are still consents to get, permits to seek, questions to ask. Make sure you allow plenty of time to consult with your local Council and DELWP office on any projects where construction, vegetation clearing or excavation might be needed. If you are planning to do anything that disturbs the ground, alters the footprint of a building, or disturbs native vegetation you may need to get permission – this could range from a major redevelopment, building a new shed, or just improving your assets. Coastal Crown land has its own special rules covering development, events and activities.

If you have any questions get in touch with both your local DELWP office, and your local council. You can find your local DELWP office here:

<https://www.delwp.vic.gov.au/>

Doing this well ahead of time can help smooth your way through any potential statutory regulation bottle-necks and will help you keep your project on track and on time. So - remember to pre-plan your planning!

Crown land Leasing Improvement Projects

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) has completed the first stage of a Crown land leasing improvement project which has resulted in a set of draft policies, guidelines and practice tools. DELWP are looking for volunteers of Committee of Management over Crownland to test the new material that includes:

- step by step guidance for issuing or renewing a lease including:
 - the types of community groups that it is appropriate to offer a rental subsidy to.
 - how to calculate rent for different Crownland user types
 - a new modernised lease template
 - a new simplified authorising process for stratum occupation above or below gov roads.
- A compliance strategy that sets out a risk-based monitoring and management framework for leases.

Please contact land.administration@delwp.vic.gov.au to learn more.

Looking for information?

The [Committees of Management](#) website is your one stop shop for the tools your committee needs to help it manage your reserves. On the website you can find:

- an [induction video](#) which is a great way for new members to understand their role as a committee member, or a refresher for old hands;
- The [Responsibilities and Good Practice Guidelines](#) which outline advice and good practice to assist your committee managing the reserve;
- Information on insurance including certificates of currency for public liability, professional indemnity and group personal accident insurance cover;
- Model policies for your committee to adopt.

All the past CoM newsletters can be found here too.

Log onto www.delwp.vic.gov.au/committees

Committees of Management

Responsibilities and Good Practice Guidelines



www.delwp.vic.gov.au

VICTORIA
State Government | Environment, Land, Water and Planning



The importance of accountability in your Committee of Management

Across Victoria, there are around 1,200 volunteer Committees of Management, involving generous volunteers making a valuable contribution to their communities. Overwhelmingly, the majority of committee members are there to do the right thing. But from time to time there is individual behaviour that needs to be called out so it can be prevented from happening elsewhere.

One such instance relates to a small committee of management responsible for a reserve in regional Victoria. The committee's treasurer was accused of taking committee funds for personal use. After an investigation by the Independent Broad-based Anti-Corruption Commission (IBAC), the treasurer pleaded guilty to one charge of obtaining property by deception and was sentenced to a 24month Community Correction Order. They were also ordered to pay the committee more than \$39,000 in compensation.

There is no suggestion that any other members of the committee were involved in any deliberate wrongdoing. The treasurer was able to misuse committee funds without raising alarm bells because they took responsibility for several key duties, which are normally shared across the committee. Other committee members have been concerned by the incident, which has also resulted in some uncertainty within the local community.

IBAC recommends that all committees of management:

- understand how to manage conflicts of interest appropriately
- have good bookkeeping and financial management practices in place
- ensure committee members are accountable for their duties.

If you think something is wrong, please speak up. You can contact the committee chair, your local DELWP office, the DELWP Integrity Unit or refer suspected corruption to IBAC.

DELWP's integrity unit contact details are below.
Integrity@delwp.vic.gov.au or Ph:1800 903 877

Grants



Community organisations across Victoria can now apply for a share in \$350,000 available for projects that preserve and share stories of Victoria's local history. The Andrews Labor Government recently announced the *Local History Grants Program*, managed by Public Record Office Victoria, is now accepting applications for allocations of up to \$15,000.

The last round of the Program saw 49 community groups across Victoria share in funding, including;

- Ballarat and District Aboriginal Co-operative to collate an online history marking the group's 40 years of work,
- Carlton Community History Group for electronic preservation of oral histories that tell the story of the suburb's diverse past
- Melbourne Legacy to digitise films dating to the 1930s documenting their work in caring for the widows and children of deceased servicemen
- Alexandra Timber Tramway and Museum for interpretive panels for its large collection of historically-significant machinery
- Horsham Historical Society for computers to allow community access to the group's digitised collection of photos and records,
- Wandong History Group for equipment to help mount exhibitions, including a Black Saturday memorial and a World War I display

Other successful projects ranged from innovative walking tour apps and newspaper digitisation projects to practical storage solutions to help collecting organisations keep historical artefacts in top condition.

Submit your application online via:
<https://prov.vic.gov.au/community/grants-and-awards/local-history-grants-program>



Victoria's Great Outdoors – Camping and Caravan grant

The Camping and Caravan grants initiative is part of the Victorian Government's \$105.6 million Victoria's Great Outdoors program. This exciting new Victorian Government initiative will build, maintain and revegetate campsites in natural bush settings.

The initiative supports Crown land managers to provide quality, affordable visitor accommodation across Victoria's coastline and diverse regional and rural areas.

Grants are available to Crown land caravan and camping managers to improve the capacity of natural and built assets within their reserves.

The program will: improve park amenities and landscaping and revegetation

- increase the number of casual sites available
- promote local indigenous people's stories and culture
- increase accessibility and signage for culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities
- support land acquisition where benefits align with program objectives

<https://www.forestsandreserves.vic.gov.au/grants/camping-and-caravan-grants>

Key dates

- Round Two 2020: Applications open: August 2020 - September 2020
- Round Three 2021: Applications open: July 2021 to August 2021



Volunteer Grants Activity – 2019-20 Volunteer Grants

The Australian Government is inviting organisations via a closed non-competitive process to apply for a Volunteer Grant under the Families and Communities Program – Volunteer Grants Activity in 2019-2020.

The Volunteer Grants Activity is an element of the Families and Communities Program.

The Families and Communities Program aims to strengthen relationships, support families, improve well being of children and young people, reduce the cost of family breakdown and strengthen family and community functioning.

Volunteer Grants aim to support the efforts of Australia's volunteers as well as to encourage and increase participation in volunteering. The grants provide small amounts of money that organisations and community groups can use to help their volunteers.

The objectives of Volunteer Grants are to:

1. help community organisations to support the efforts of Australia's volunteers
2. help community organisations to support the inclusion of vulnerable people through volunteering
3. encourage, support and increase participation in volunteering.

The intended outcome of the program is to strengthen community functioning by increasing participation in volunteering.

More information

More information about the Volunteer Grants Activity – 2019-20 Volunteer Grants, as well as requirements for applicants can be found in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

The department will email an application form to organisations who have been nominated by their Local Member of Parliament.

Closing Date & Time

16 March 2020 - 11:00pm AED

Committees of Management Newsletter

Federal government grants: http://www.business.gov.au/grantfinder/grantfinder.aspx		Grants Victoria: http://www.vic.gov.au/grants.html		
Grant Name	Purpose	Amount	Key dates	Website
Local History Grants Program 2019-2020	The Victorian Government recognises that local and community history is an important part of Victoria's memory. The Local History Grants Program encourages and fosters community activities that preserve, record and share the local, social and community history of Victoria and Victorians	\$0 - \$15,000	Close 8 January 2020	https://prov.vic.gov.au/community/grants-and-awards/local-history-grants-program
Victoria Remembers Minor Grant Program	Up to \$30,000 (excluding GST) for projects which honour or commemorate veterans' service or educate Victorians about veterans contributions.	\$1,000 - \$30,000	Opening on 3 Dec 2019	https://www.vic.gov.au/victoria-remembers-minor-grant-program
Victoria's Great Outdoors – Camping and Caravan grants	Crown land Committee of Managements, including Councils are encouraged to apply for grants from \$5,000 to \$200,000 to improve the quality and capacity of natural and built assets within their reserves.	\$5,000 - \$200,000	Round One 2019: Open: 11 November 2019 Close: 16 December 2019 Round Two 2020: Open: August 2020 Close: September 2020 Round Three 2021: Open: July 2021 Close: August 2021	https://www.forestsandreserves.vic.gov.au/grants/camping-and-caravan-grants
Volunteer Grants Activity – 2019-20 Volunteer Grants	The objectives of Volunteer Grants are to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. help community organisations to support the efforts of Australia's volunteers2. help community organisations to support the inclusion of vulnerable people through volunteering3. encourage, support and increase participation in volunteering. The intended outcome of the program is to strengthen community functioning by increasing participation in volunteering.	\$1,000-\$5,000	Expression of interest to Local Member of Parliament close: 21 Jan 2020 Nominations Close: 16 March 2020	https://www.communitygrants.gov.au/grants/volunteer-grants-activity-%E2%80%93-2019-20-volunteer-grants
Melbourne Water Corridors of green funding	To improve river health through the corridors of green program	Up to \$20000	Ongoing	https://melbournewater.smartygrants.com.au/corridorsofgreen
Recreational Fishing – Small Grants Program	To support actions or programs which aim to boost participation in recreational fishing and related activities	Up to \$5000	Ongoing	https://vfa.vic.gov.au/recreational-fishing/recreational-fishing-grants-program/small-grants-program
Inspiring Environmental Solutions Community Funding Program – EPA	To enhance the environment in a public place, or undertake environmental activities for the benefit of the community	Varies	Ongoing	https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/about-epa/publications/1419
Corangamite CMA Waterways Protection Program 2016-2020	To improve 'priority waterways' via a range of on ground actions		Contact for further information	http://www.ccma.vic.gov.au/What-we-do/Community-Funding-/Waterways-Protection-Program-2016-2020.aspx