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| Committees of Management Newsletter |
| Spring Edition 2020 |

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| Image result for facebook | * **Barwon South West:** <https://www.facebook.com/DELWPBarwonSouthWest> * **Gippsland:** <https://www.facebook.com/DELWPGippsland> * **Grampians:** <https://www.facebook.com/DELWPGrampians> * **Hume:** <https://www.facebook.com/DELWPHume> * **Loddon Mallee:** <https://www.facebook.com/DELWPLoddonMallee> * **Port Phillip:** <https://www.facebook.com/DELWPPortPhillip> |



Around the Regions

## Barwon South West

Working for Victoria

The Working for Victoria (WfV) program is a Victorian Government Initiative created to help our community and contribute to Victoria’s ability to respond to the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic. DELWP in Barwon South West have two WfV crews that have undertaken works across the region; from Queenscliff to Narrawong, and from the coast to Dunkeld. DELWP’s WfV crews have teamed up with 9 committees of management in Barwon South West, and have been helping committees by remove weeds, planting native species, undertaking track maintenance and painting public buildings.

The WfV crews have been working closely with the Lake Cartcarrong Committee of Management, who had this to say about the team:

*“The DELWP Working for Victoria team exudes positivity and teamwork. What energy! What commitment! Their work ethic, and dedication; their range of skills and their interest in rejuvenating the landscape and improving the wetlands has inspired some of the Winslow young people to set up their own Task Force – aptly named: ‘Cartcarrong Kids’ Task Force.’ Their help has been invaluable in planting trees and grasses around the Lake Cartcarrong wetlands. Not only has the team empowered the kids to feel part of the decision-making they have kept the Committee members inspired and motivated when we were starting to feel somewhat ‘overwhelmed’!”*

The Bellarine Bayside Committee of Management staff were equally appreciative of the WfV program, saying, *“The WfV crew were amazing and completed a mountain of work in such a short time...the benefits to both the team and our organisation are countless”*



*Above: WfV crew removing cape beach daisy.*

 

*Above L-R: WfV crew helping to paint the Broadwater Recreation Reserve hall, and a socially distanced team photo of the WfV Warrnambool Crew.*

Camperdown-Timboon Rail Trail Bridge

In 2020, the Camperdown-Timboon Rail Trail Management Committee was able to secure funding to replace two bridges through DELWP’s Public Safety on Public Land (PSoPL) grant scheme. This makes 3 bridges in 2 years funded by PSoPL!

The Camperdown-Timboon Rail Trail Management Committee manage a 30km rail trail which is a valued community asset for recreational activities. Significant works including bridge replacements and track repairs have been required in recent years. The Camperdown-Timboon Rail Trail Management Plan, completed in 2020, provides a clear direction of the management strategy for the committee. The Camperdown-Timboon Rail Trail Committee say that the Management Plan has made a big difference in its applications for funding to DELWP and the local Corangamite Shire Council. The local Council funded 2 bridges in 2020 too!

  
*Above: The Camperdown-Timboon Rail Trail.*   
*Below L-R: Replacement of Bridge 12 is to be funded from the PSoPL program; the Camperdown-Timboon Rail trail Committee of Management’s 10-year plan.*

 

## Grampians

Good News in Gordon

With restrictions easing in regional Victoria and the sun coming out, the local community in Gordon has plenty of work to do! During the lockdown Gordon Public Park and Recreation Reserve committee of management has been busy submitting grant applications – with some success.

The committee has been granted funding from Ballan and District Community Bank Community Investment Fund to install raised garden beds and a garden shed for tool storage to be used for establishing a community garden at the reserve. The committee was also successful in obtaining a grant from Moorabool North Wind Farm (Goldwind Australia) to upgrade the kitchen and two small grants from Moorabool Shire Council to install better storage facilities for user groups and promote the gardening group.

The committee has also applied for funding for security upgrades, installation of permanent shade around the BBQ and kitchen appliances to complete the kitchen upgrade. The committee is working on other applications too.  They’ll have lots to do now that Coronavirus restrictions are easing in regional Victoria.

Ballarat’s Working for Victoria Crew Helps Committees of Management

Grampians region’s Working for Victoria (WfV) crew began working across the Midlands District on 8 June, helping to deliver on-ground environmental projects for our volunteer committees of management.

Emily Noble, Treasurer of the Ballarat Environment Network (BEN) said:

“The deployment of the WfV crew in the Ballarat region for on-ground works for six months is great news for the BEN reserves. Already the crew has undertaken important and timely work at BEN’s Skipton Common (52km west/south-west of Ballarat), where 1400 critically endangered Spiny Rice-flower plants (*Pimelea spinescens subspecies spinescens*) grow. Their work has helped with essential preparation for the installation of a rabbit-proof fence around the Pimelea Conservation Zone, which included the removal and recycling of redundant old fencing.

A close up of a wire fence

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*Above: A section of the rabbit-proof fence installed last week on Skipton Common.*

“We look forward to working with them in coming months to undertake many more valuable projects across the Crown land reserves for which BEN is the committee of management, works that will bring substantial benefits to their health. These works will include weed control, fencing renewal and installation, revegetation, coppice management and track maintenance,” Ms Noble said.



*Above: The Midlands District WfV crew at work along Union Jack Creek.*

## Hume

Alexandra Showgrounds and Recreation Reserve redevelopment

Stage three and four of the Alexandra Showgrounds and Recreation Reserve’s re-developments are underway.

This will see the construction of a 200 seat, multi-purpose complex with commercial kitchen and bar facilities, sporting change rooms, trainers’ rooms, office and storerooms.

Stage one of the re-developments saw construction of two netball courts and associated infrastructure in 2016.

In 2018, stage two added an adjacent building with change rooms, showers, toilets and storage.

A group of people standing in front of a building

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*Ready to go: Tony Pammer, Ray Steyger, Steve Hedger, and Brendan Smith meet to fine tune details of the Alexandra Recreation Reserve*

Committee of Management Recognition Awards 2020

Thank you to all committee members who nominated their committees and colleagues for recognition earlier in the year.

We received a record number of nominations this year, with more than 50 volunteers nominated in the Hume region.

Due to changing priorities the delivery of these awards was postponed for several months.

Regional staff will contact nominators in the coming weeks to inform them whether the nominations were successful.

Working for Victoria

Working for Victoria (WFV) teams have completed their training and have begun works on several Reserves in the Hume region.

DELWP received submissions of more than 100 bodies of work for the WFV teams.

The WFV team leaders are working their way through the list to identify those jobs suitable for the project.

Thank you to all committees that responded to the survey with suggestions of suitable work.

If you have since identified work suitable for the program please use the original link to access and complete the survey.

If you require a new link to the survey, please email [rowan.overwater@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:rowan.overwater@delwp.vic.gov.au)

A group of people standing on top of a wooden fence

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*Working for Victoria: The Ovens WFV team carry out works at the Wandiligong Alpine Park.*

Thank You

Thank you to all our committee of management volunteers adapting to comply with the Chief Health Officer’s directions over the past months.

If restrictions related to COVID-19 have meant your committee will become financially insolvent in coming months, please email:

[portfolioentitytaskforce@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:portfolioentitytaskforce@delwp.vic.gov.au)



## Loddon Mallee

Mount Macedon War Memorial Cross Committee Recognised

The Mount Macedon War Memorial Cross Committee is a dedicated group of volunteers from the community, who have done an amazing job, over many years, all dedicated to the restoration and maintenance of this most significant war memorial in Victoria, commemorating those who served, and those who are serving today.

The committee includes a representative from the RSL, the Macedon Ranges Shire Council, Parks Victoria, and from the philanthropic, corporate and business communities as well as community representatives entrenched in local government and leadership in the local community.

Through the work of the committee and their important networks, the Memorial Cross is listed on the Victorian Heritage Register, confirming its significance in the community.

Located in the Mount Macedon Regional Park, the Committee has successfully balanced the important conservation and heritage issues while providing suitable facilities for visitors to the region. After managing the restoration of the Memorial Cross, a quality tearoom was developed, along with considerable upgrading of the infrastructure of the immediate surround of the Memorial Cross and parts of the regional park.

Through the committee’s work and association with the Local and State Governments and the philanthropic community, funds have been raised that enabled a reserve master plan to be developed., including the heritage aspects and the celebration and commemoration of the 75th anniversary of World War II.

With a master plan developed the committee aims to further enhance the surrounding region with the development of an Educational Learning and Welcome Centre at the entrance to the Memorial Cross.

The master plan identifies the important tourism market for the local area for Victorian, Australian and overseas

visitors and the importance of upgrading facilities in line with the expectations of visitors. Improvements to the infrastructure; toilet and parking facilities and significant memorial acknowledgement of all conflicts that Australian’s have served in are immediate actions to be completed as part of the master plan.

The ANZAC Day Memorial Service attracts over 3,000 people each year and is an important part of the annual ANZAC Day commemorations in Victoria. The Mount Macedon Memorial Cross Committee of Management works closely and continues to have an excellent relationship with the Mount Macedon ANZAC Day Dawn Service Committee and the Macedon Ranges Shire Council.

Loddon Mallee Recognition

Across the region a further 26 individuals and one other entire committee (**Mandurang Recreation Reserve Committee**) were recognised for their services in managing Crown land.

Three of the individuals were nominated by their committees for outstanding service within their community. The remaining 23 recipients were recognised for significant years of service, a cumulative total of 720 years averaging over 31 years’ service per committee volunteer.



*Mandurang Recreation Reserve*

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| Graham Jolly Terrence Cox | **GREEN LAKE REGIONAL PARK COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT** |
| Anthony Lakey Kathleen Lakey | **ROMSEY MECHANICS INSTITUTE COMMITTEE** |
| Earnest Lowndes Edward Carr | **EMU CREEK RECREATION RESERVE COMMITTEE** |
| Stephen Schmidt | **KYNETON RACECOURSE AND RECREATION RESERVE** |
| Russell J Holmberg Brian O'Sullivan John S Parsons | **ELMORE RECREATION AND CARAVAN PARK RESERVE COM** |
| Margaret L'Hullier Edna Spittal Claire Dickinson | **GUNBOWER HALL COMMITTEE** |
| Edna Patterson | **INGLEWOOD BOWLING GREEN RESERVE COMMITTEE** |
| Peter Russell Liz Russell | **LAKE BULOKE RECREATION RESERVE COMMITTEE** |
| Irene Templeton Greg Plant Ronald Budde | **MANANGATANG RECREATION RESERVE COMMITTEE** |
| Lorraine Dingwall Lorraine Fawcett | **MITCHELL PARK (PYRAMID HILL) COMMITTEE** |
| Chris Brown | **UNDERBOOL RECREATION RESERVES COMMITTEE** |
| Dorothy Brown Ron Jackson Neil Jackson Kathy Jackson | **UNDERBOOL-LINGA MEMORIAL HALL RESERVE COMMITTEE** |

## Port Phillip

Crib Point – Stony Point Foreshore Reserve



Cecilia began volunteering back in 1996. Being a well-liked member of the community, it was proposed she volunteer and be a part of something positive, so she said, “why not,” and since then she’s never looked back., The Crib Point Foreshore Committee was formed in 1952, where she’s currently treasurer and secretary.

The committee has advanced a lot since its establishment from being a small group who picked up rubbish along the foreshore to running massive projects such as funding and organising the local dredging and maintaining the local boat ramp and caravan park.

Over the years the committee installed new pontoons near the boat ramp and upgraded the caravan park and all the public toilets throughout the reserve.

Managing the reserve during Covid-19 restrictions has been challenging with the committee implementing all the Covid-19 recommendations and restrictions from DHHS, Parks Victoria and DELWP. This included signage about social distancing, questionnaires and declarations to support community tracing and provision of hand sanitizer dispensers in all facilities during periods when use is permitted. The committee also used its website to provide Covid-19 updates to users.

When the reserve caravan site first closed after wave 1, there was a small contingent of caravan users who had no place to go and could not vacate the site immediately. To manage this situation, these users were asked to self-isolate in their unit or motor home for duration of their stay, which they did.

Before Covid-19, the committee was actively managing weeds that had become a major issue along the reserve. Committee Treasurer and Secretary, Cecelia Witton, discovered that manually pulling weeds out has proven more efficient than herbicides.

In the future, Cecelia would like to see skill-based training on offer for volunteers, so that time and effort can be saved, and more focus can be placed on the increased workload the committee has become responsible for.

Cecelia’s advice to others wanting to give something back to their community is to, “go ahead and do it, but do it with eyes wide open. Be aware that you have to get in and do it, not just turn up to meetings.”

Kathleen Cameron, Secretary for the Badger Creek Hall Management Committee Incorporated



As a Committee of Management volunteer, Kathleen’s motto has been “I work for free, but not for nothing.”  
During her time as secretary for the Badger Creek Hall, Kathleen has been an integral member of the committee and for chairperson, Kevin Mason, Kathleen’s hours of work over the last 10 years have been invaluable.

Kathleen began working on the committee after reading an advertisement saying they were in desperate need of assistance. Having recently moved to the area at the time and with prior volunteer experience working with the Toolangi Community Hall, the Living and Learning Centre and Tennis Club Committee, Kathleen reached out to answer the plea for help.

One of Kathleen’s first priorities after joining the committee was instigating the installation of new toilet facility for the safety of patrons, a journey which took eight years of persistence, with many grant applications to receive funding.

Kathleen has recently been working on a booklet which commemorates the soldiers listed on the halls Roll of Honour Board who served in WWI from the Badger Creek District. Kathleen continues her work to document the returned soldiers, having found information on 49 of the 67 soldiers.

In line with Covid-19 wave 1 restrictions, the hall was closed to the public but continued to accommodate two individuals who are national ballroom dance champions. They regularly use the hall for dance practice.

Kathleen anticipates the work ahead will be challenging given the loss of booking revenue from the Covid-19 closure of the hall, but true to her motto, Kathleen may work for free, but not for nothing!



## Gippsland

Orbost Rainforest Centre Reserve

The Orbost Rainforest Centre Reserve (ex-Parks Victoria Information Centre) is managed by the hard working Cat 3 publicly elected Snowy Wilderness Discovery Centre CoM Inc. Apart from the main building, the CoM also manages an area that models a rainforest With natural growth, the native vegetation requires constant maintenance and monitoring together with maintenance of the walking tracks, stairs and bridges throughout.

The Working for Victoria crew were recently set to work to replace some of the walking trail infrastructure.

 



# State-wide Updates

## Solar Program Powers up for Summer



**Solar on Public Buildings** is a $9.2 million program funded by the Victorian Government to support volunteer committees of management of Crown land. The program will install solar systems on public buildings within the Barwon South West, Grampians, Hume, Loddon Mallee and Port Phillip regions, to reduce energy bills and enhance the long-term sustainability of community groups.

The program will value add to selected sites by improving electrical safety where required, provide energy efficiency audits and provide a live monitoring system that will monitor your energy usage and system performance in real time.

The EOI to participate in the program closed on September 30.

If your site qualifies, an energy audit will be carried out to identify opportunities the committee can implement to reduce power bills with a solar installer invited to prepare a solar system proposal.

Installation will follow DELWP acceptance of a suitable proposal with the first installs anticipated to commence early next year.

The Gippsland Pilot program, completed in December 2019, demonstrated excellent outcomes over 69 sites, with average savings of 80% on energy bills which amounts to savings of $260,000 per year for volunteer committees in Gippsland.

We look forward to keeping you updated on this exciting program.

## Maintaining Integrity through COVID-19

During this time of rapid change and vastly different working arrangements for many it remains important to demonstrate high standards of integrity in our public duties. Acting with integrity protects the members and reputation of committees and ensures you are able to continue to achieve great outcomes and deliver excellent services for the community.

As committee members become more familiar with and passionate about their committees, we have seen some take on increased committee responsibilities and contribute increased volunteer hours. While this may be a great working arrangement and really appreciated commitment, this can raise governance challenges.

*Tips and tricks:*

* Ensuring that everyone knows and performs their role, and that there is shared decision-making is a great way to demonstrate good practice and minimise integrity risks to the committee.
* Record-keeping is also important - at a minimum, records should be kept of all committee meetings and decisions made. Receipts and regular financial reconciliations against accounts are also crucial to demonstrating the good financial management of public funds.
* Proper management of conflicts of interest sets a great foundation for ensuring that the committee operates with integrity. Conflicts of interest will arise – they are natural given the connections and interests we have in our communities. The important thing is to identify, declare and manage any conflicts. Transparency will go a long way to ensuring good management and to protecting committee members from perceptions of bias or improper personal benefits.

If you have any questions about these issues, you can refer to the [Good practice guidelines](https://www.delwp.vic.gov.au/boards-and-governance/committees-of-management) which were updated earlier this year, contact your committee’s DELWP relationship manager, or the DELWP [Integrity Unit](mailto:disclosures@delwp.vic.gov.au?subject=CoM%20integrity%20query) via email.



## New laws for Contaminated Land

**New laws for Contaminated Land**

Do you know if the land you manage has any contamination? Contamination can harm human health and the environment if not managed properly. Victoria’s environment protection laws are being updated to achieve better outcomes for the environment by focussing on preventing and minimising harm from waste, pollution and contamination. From 1 July 2021, all Victorians will have a duty to prevent harm from pollution and waste as well as identify existing contamination and take action to eliminate or minimise any potential harm.

DELWP and CoMs will need to work together to prevent, understand and minimise risks from contamination on land managed by CoMs. For more information about the incoming laws visit the EPA webpage <https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/about-epa/laws/new-laws>. If you have concerns about contamination on your land, please contact your regional Committee of Management Project Office.

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| High potential for contamination includes land used for: | | | | | |
| Abattoir | Abrasive blasting | Airport | Asbestos production/ disposal | Asphalt manufacturing | Automotive repair/ engine works |
| Battery manufacturing/ recycling | Bitumen manufacturing | Boat building/ maintenance | Breweries/distilleries | Brickworks | Chemical manufacturing /storage/ blending |
| Cement manufacture | Ceramic works | Coke works | Compost manufacturing | Concrete batching | Council works depot |
| Defence works | Drum re-conditioning facility | Dry cleaning | Electrical/ electrical components manufacture | Electricity generation/ power station | Electroplating |
| Explosives industry | Fibreglass reinforced plastic manufacture | Foundry | Fuel storage depot | Gasworks | Glass manufacture |
| Iron and steel works | Landfill sites/ waste depots | Lime works | Metal coating | Metal finishing and treatments | Metal smelting/ refining/ finishing |
| Mining and extractive industries | Oil or gas production/ refining | Pest control depots | Printing shops | Pulp or paper works | Railway yards |
| Shooting or gun clubs | Scrap metal recovery | Service stations/ fuel storage | Sewage treatment plant | Ship building/ breaking yards | Shipping facilities – bulk (rate <100 t/day) |
| Stock dipping sites | Spray painting | Tannery (and associated trades) | Textile operations | Timber preserving/ treatment | Tyre manufacturing |
| Underground storage tanks | Utility depots | Waste treatment/ incineration/ disposal | Wool scouring |  |  |

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| Medium potential for contamination can be identified by certain types of activities carried out on the land, which may be incidental to the main site activity.  The nature of the products used or stored, the quantity stored, and the location of use or storage should be considered. Such activities might include: | | | | | |
| Chemical storage | Fuel storage | Underground storage tank (if recently installed and no evidence of leaks) | Market gardens | Waste disposal (including bulk storage of tyres) | Filling (imported soil) |
| Other industrial activities (such as warehousing of chemicals that may be spilt during loading or unloading) | | | | | |

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| Low potential for contamination is likely to exist if none of the identified uses or activities in the high and medium potential categories are known to have been carried out on the land. |

(Further information available here:

<https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/data/assets/pdf.file/0027/97164/PPN30-Potentially-Contaminated-Land.pdf>



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## Annual Returns

The 2019-2020 Annual Returns are now due.

When completed please return to:  
  
CoM returns  
DELWP Customer Contact Centre  
401 Mair Street  
Ballarat Vic 3350  
  
or email: [customer.service@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:customer.service@delwp.vic.gov.au)

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## Financial Hardship Funding

Regional DELWP staff have been working with a number of committees to enable allocation of funding support to those committees that have endured significant financial hardship due to coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic restrictions.  
  
If your committee is experiencing significant financial hardship and requires funding to meet essential operational expenditure shortfalls such as for utility, insurance, existing contract obligations payments, or requires funding support to ensure COVIDSafe opening of your reserve, please make an enquiry with your regional contact.

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| Federal government grants:  <https://www.business.gov.au/Grants-and-Programs> | | Grants Victoria:  <http://www.vic.gov.au/grants.html> | | |
| Grant Name | **Purpose** | **Amount** | **Key dates** | **Website** |
| Bushfire Recovery Grants for Community Facilities | The Bushfire Recovery Grants for Community Facilities will support community groups who want help to build, upgrade or repair important local facilities that everyone can use. | $1 - $50K | 26 June 2020 to 30 June 2022 | <https://www.vic.gov.au/bushfire-recovery-grants-community-facilities> |
| Recreational Fishing Grants Program – Small Grants Program | To provide funding of up to $5,000 (GST exclusive) for small recreational fishing projects which benefit public recreational fishing in Victoria | $1 - $5K | Ongoing | <https://vfa.vic.gov.au/recreational-fishing/recreational-fishing-grants-program/small-grants-program> |
| Environment Restoration Fund: Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation | The purpose of the program is to provide funding to support wildlife rehabilitators (including community wildlife carer organisations, veterinarians, animal hospitals, zoos, local shelter operators and foster carers), to rescue, treat and rehabilitate wildlife impacted by bushfires and return them into suitable natural environments or otherwise take care of them. It will also support actions to preserve at-risk populations of threatened species impacted by destruction of their habitat through bushfire. The investment will also build organisational and carer capacity and preparedness to respond to future emergencies. | $5K - $1M | 29 November 2020 | <https://www.grants.gov.au/Go/Show?GoUuid=e6c382f8-dcd3-4284-b057-abbd53302fed> |
| Saluting Their Service Commemorative Grants Program | The program is designed to: preserve Australia’s wartime heritage; involve people around the nation in a wide range of projects and activities that highlight the service and sacrifice of Australia’s service personnel in wars, conflicts and peace operations; and promote appreciation and understanding of the experiences of service and the roles that those who served have played in shaping the nation. | Community Grants – Up to $10K  Major Grants  $10K  to  $150K | 11 February 2021 | <https://www.grants.gov.au/Go/Show?GoUuid=a00ecdb7-f211-36d8-43d5-d98a24b652f8> |
| Community Development Grants (CDG) Programme | To support needed infrastructure that promotes stable, secure and viable local and regional economies | Threshold 1 <$80K  Threshold 2  $80K- $1.5M  Threshold 3  > $1.5M | 30 June 2026 | <https://www.regional.gov.au/regional/programs/community-development-grants.aspx> |

# Grants