

Victorian Landcare Facilitator Program

Welcome Pack



Victorian
Landcare
Program



MODULE 1

Welcome to Landcare



Welcome to the Victorian Landcare Facilitator Program



The 80 Landcare facilitators that are funded by the Victorian Landcare Facilitator Program (VLFP) are exciting and dynamic roles that sit right at the grassroots of the community.

You have lots of scope in your Landcare facilitator role, and you are well placed to have a very positive impact on the groups, networks and communities where you provide support, and on the landscapes that you serve.

It's great to have you on board!

An Overview of the Welcome Pack

The Victorian Landcare Facilitator Program Welcome Pack is made up of five (5) modules and an assessment. Completion of the assessment is recommended by all Landcare facilitators.

MODULE 1

Welcome to
Landcare

MODULE 2

Strategic
Links

MODULE 3

Victorian Landcare
Facilitator Program -
Stakeholders

MODULE 4

Key Work Areas
for 2021-24 Victorian
Landcare Facilitator Program

MODULE 5

Landcare Facilitator
Life

What is Landcare?

Landcare began in Victoria in 1986, when Joan Kirner, then Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands, and Heather Mitchell, then President of the Victorian Farmers Federation, joined forces to create what was then called LandCare, a community-driven movement to address land degradation issues.



Joan Kirner and Heather Mitchell in 1996 at the 10th anniversary of Landcare celebration.

From there, Landcare has grown and now involves thousands of Victorians and Australians working together to protect and improve health of our land, biodiversity and waterways.

Victoria, the 'Home' of Landcare



The first Landcare group started in Victoria in November 1986.

A group of farmers near St Arnaud, in north central Victoria formed the first Landcare group at Winjallok. Farming neighbours recognised they could be more effective and have greater impact if they worked together to design and implement practical solutions to address their shared land management issues.

Landcare in Victoria



Almost 40,000 Landcarers and environmental volunteers contribute their time each year to care for Victorian landscapes.

Approximately 1400 Landcare and environmental volunteer groups are caring for landscapes across the state.

More than 700 Landcare and environmental volunteer groups and networks are supported by the 80 VLFP-funded Landcare facilitators.

40,000
Volunteers

66 Landcare networks and consortiums.

Groups are working in rural, urban, and coastal areas on both private and public land.

Landcare in Australia



Landcare became a national program in July 1989 when the Australian Government, with bipartisan political support, announced its “Decade of Landcare Plan” and committed \$320 million to fund the National Landcare Program.

Rick Farley (National Farmers Federation) and Phillip Toyne (Australian Conservation Foundation), worked with the Hawke Labor Government to create the National Landcare Program.

The growth of Landcare in Australia was rapid with 5,000 Landcare groups formed across the country within the first 15 years. There are now approximately 5,500 Landcare groups around Australia.

Landcare groups work in partnership with government, corporates and NGOs to achieve their aims. While many groups are based in rural areas, some are urban based and concentrate on improving conservation values in public parks and reserves.

Landcare Around the World



Today there are Landcare groups and projects in more than 20 countries.

In 2020, Global Landcare was established to support overseas communities to sustain their land, water and biodiversity.

Global Landcare is a not for profit community group which spreads the values and practices of Landcare across the globe. The goal of Global Landcare is to use our collective Landcare experience to help people in other countries manage their land and water resources more sustainably by:

- Promoting Landcare to national and international organisations as a sustainable way to manage natural resources for food production and resource conservation.
 - Supporting a Landcare approach within local communities in various countries.
 - Training participants across the globe in Landcare.
 - Making connections between people and projects worldwide.
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Landcare 'caring hands' Logo

In Australia, the Landcare 'caring hands' logo/brand is widely recognised.

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For brand guidelines, logo usage information or to create a group logo click [HERE](#).



Landcare Is...



A grassroots movement based on community-driven local action.



Farmers, rural landowners, urban residents and people in coastal areas working together to improve our natural environment.



Based around local community-based volunteer groups and networks who plan and implement practical on-ground solutions to enhance, protect and restore our natural environment.



Landcare Is...

Landcare is supported by government, but not directed by government.

The Victorian Government has provided a program of support for Landcare since 1986 through the Victorian Landcare Program.



A Landcare Group's Characteristics

Landcare groups are autonomous and independent entities and they determine their own boundaries and activities.

There is no “typical” Landcare group, as they vary in:



Focus



Public profile



Level of formality



Group size



Type of activities



Organisational structure



**Group type and level of support
required by a Landcare
Facilitator**

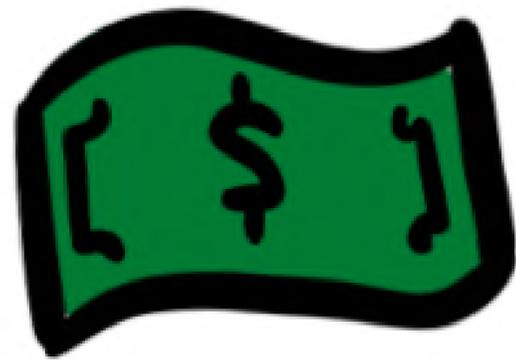
Landcare Model

A Landcare group usually starts when community members with common objectives come together to tackle local land management or environmental issues. Issues such as weeds, pest animals, or the need to protect remnant native vegetation.

Landcare facilitators can assist with the formation of new Landcare groups.



Landcare Model



Landcare groups develop their own priorities and projects and apply for funding to implement their projects.



Volunteer committees oversee a Landcare group's operations, apply for project funding, and organise activities/events.

Landcare Model



- Some Landcare groups come together to form Landcare networks i.e. a network of groups.
- Member groups of Landcare networks may collaborate to deliver events, share resources, and apply for funding.
- It is easier for government to work with Landcare networks rather than 100s of Landcare groups.



Landcare Networks



Can be based around a waterway catchment area.



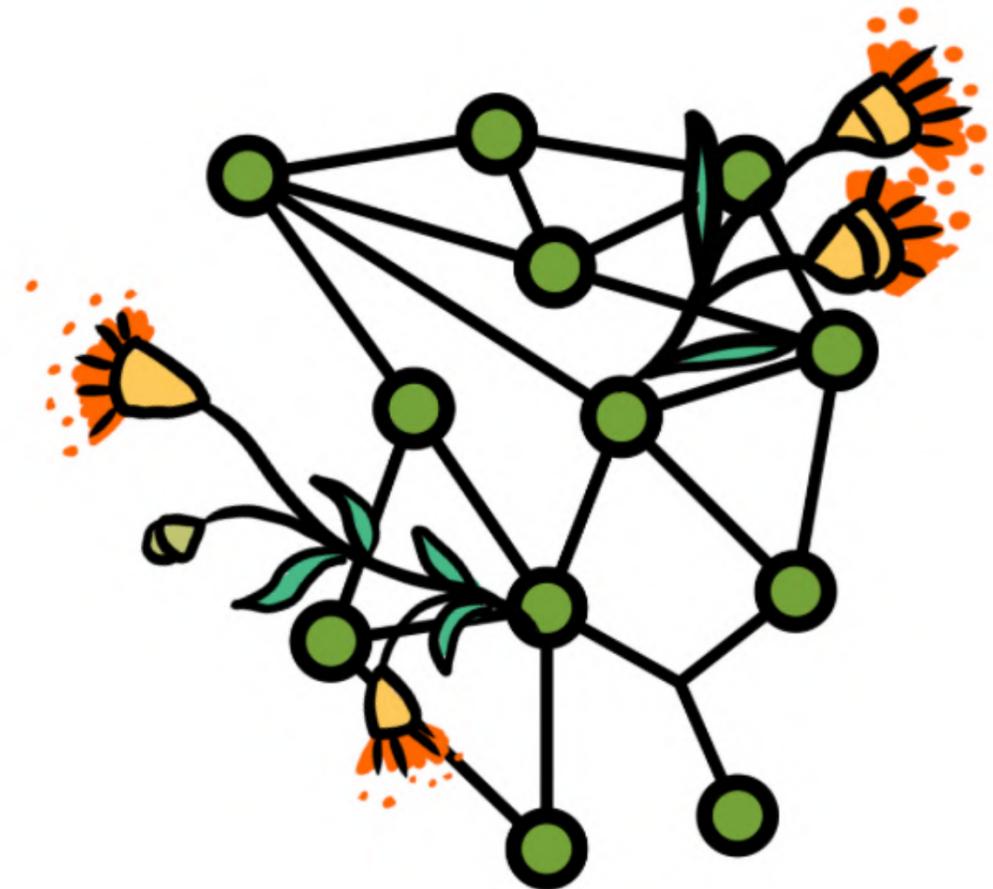
Take a more landscape-based approach to local land management and environmental issues .



Coordinate activities to achieve landscape scale or catchment wide outcomes.



Employ Landcare facilitators or other Landcare staff.



Success of Landcare

The success of the Landcare model can be attributed to the following:



Its community 'owned' and driven.



Landholder and community participation are keys to success.



Comprised of group members and landholders with a strong sense of stewardship of the land and appreciation of our natural environment.



Provision of funding (e.g. government) to enable delivery of projects and support provided by Landcare staff.



Social side - brings community members together.



Has had bi-partisan political support.

Landcare's people are its greatest asset!

Landcare people are it's greatest asset



And that includes you!



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