



What is Landcare?

Landcare provides people with the opportunity and information to do something practical about protecting and restoring our unique environment while contributing to the health and wellbeing of our nation.

The Landcare ethic is expressed through a determination to leave our planet for the next generation in a healthier state.

The Landcare logo symbolises that ethic – caring for the land and a call for action to repair and protect our unique Australian landscape.

The Landcare logo is widely recognised in Australia, with research by a Roy Morgan Gallop Poll showing four out of five people recognise the Landcare logo.

Landcare in Victoria

Victoria is considered to be the birthplace of Landcare. The first formal Landcare group was formed at Winjallock near St Arnaud on 25 November 1986.

Today in Victoria, there are more than 900 community groups, including 580 Landcare groups, with about 60,000 volunteers actively involved in various forms of Landcare activities.

Landcare in Australia

Landcare in Australia has more than 1000 locally-based community groups and is recognised as one of Australia's great community volunteer success stories, led predominantly by grass roots level participation.

Landcare was established as a national initiative in 1989, when the Australian Government, with bipartisan support, announced the 1990s as the Decade of Landcare.

Since then, awareness of environmental sustainability has grown markedly amongst the majority of Australians.

Australian Landcare has also attracted a great deal of global interest, with several aspects of Landcare adopted and applied in many other countries.

Landcare Partnerships

The success of Landcare is a result of effective partnerships formed between community, government and the private sector.

Landcare has also forged important partnerships with the education and scientific communities.

Get involved – help form a Landcare group in your area

Landcare is a great way for people to help our environment in a real and practical way.

From farmers to green thumbs, children to retirees, those living on the coast to those in the city – people of all ages and interests can get involved in Landcare.

Landcare groups are community-led and run organisations. Each group has the flexibility to adapt the Landcare ethic to reflect the environmental issues and interests of local communities.

Landcare groups have the potential to achieve great results and can be a great way of developing a stronger sense of local community. Landcare groups bring like-minded people together to share information and identify local solutions to local problems.

If there's not a Landcare group in your area, forming one could be a great way to do something practical to help your local community and environment.

So do your bit for our future – get involved and help start a Landcare group in your area.

To find out if a Landcare Group already exists in your local area visit:

www.landcarevic.org.au

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Thinking about starting a Landcare group in your area?

New Landcare Group Start-Up Kit



Victorian Landcare Program

Types of Landcare



Throughout Australia, there are many different types of Landcare groups.

This diversity can range from a group's particular focus, the size of the area a group covers, to the number and frequency of activities. In some cases groups with a shared vision may also decide to form networks so they can operate across larger landscapes.

The unique thing about Landcare is that there are no set rules as to what a Landcare group should look like.

Each local community has control in setting their own group's strategy and activities.

Some Landcare groups may have a single focus, such as cleaning up the local creek or bushland reserve. Other groups may be involved in many issues simultaneously within their local area and local community.

Landcare groups seek to provide a supportive environment that enables local people to come together, share knowledge and experiences while doing something positive for the long-term health of our land.



Landcare farming

Landcare farming promotes the sustainable production of food and fibre.

It supports a holistic approach to maintaining a farm's productive capacity through environmental best practice farming techniques and the adoption of sustainable technologies. Landcare farming mainly occurs on private land and seeks to integrate a range of Landcare practices into a farming system. This includes biodiversity conservation, revegetation, waterway management and soil management.



Urban Landcare

Residents in cities and towns can also become involved in environmental activities as there are many areas of public land, and other environments within our urban areas, in need of care and restoration.

Urban Landcare groups can also focus on broader sustainability issues and often run important education and awareness raising initiatives.



Coastcare

Coastcare is communities actively caring for the coast. Through practical action communities are involved in maintaining and enhancing our coastal environments. Across Australia, there are about 60,000 active Coastcare volunteers in 2,000 Coastcare groups, including more than 100 groups in Victoria.



Indigenous Landcare

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have cared for the land for thousands of years through their intimate connection and relationship to country.

The knowledge, skills and traditional land management practices of Indigenous Australians provide many opportunities to integrate traditional knowledge with today's Landcare.

There is much to be learnt from Indigenous Australians in respect to Landcare as traditional knowledge is an intrinsic part of presenting our land for future generations.



Junior Landcare

Junior Landcare provides opportunities for young people to run environmental projects as part of their studies and to learn through doing Landcare.

Activities can take place either in the school grounds or out in the local community. Where possible Junior Landcare school and youth groups work in partnership with Landcare or other community groups and thereby help to build a stronger sense of local community.

Junior Landcare also holds regular environmental challenges and competitions for individuals and school groups.

Setting up a Junior Landcare group is different to establishing a conventional community Landcare group. For more information on Junior Landcare and to find some helpful teacher resources and other support material visit: www.landcarevic.org.au