

2021 Guidelines (Summary)

About the Program

The 2021 Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants offer funding for projects that seek to involve and educate young Victorians in valuing and actively caring for Victoria's biodiversity and our natural environment.

The Victorian Government, through the Victorian Landcare Program, in partnership with Landcare Australia, run this process through the national Junior Landcare Program. These grants support [Protecting Victoria's Environment - Biodiversity 2037](#) – the Victorian Government's plan to stop the decline of our native plants and animals and improve our natural environment.

Schools (primary/secondary), kindergartens, childcare centres, Scouts, Girl Guides, and youth groups, youth environmental volunteer groups, and Junior Landcare groups that are in Victoria are eligible to apply.

Funding Available

The Victorian Government is providing funding of up to **\$450,000** for the 2021 Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants.

Eligible applicants can apply for grants of up to **\$5,000 (excluding GST)**.

Focus Areas

The Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants will provide funding for projects that have a focus on:

1. Improving biodiversity through the development, improvement or restoration of habitat for Victoria's native plants (flora) and animals (fauna), and/or
2. Educating, involving and engaging young people in valuing and actively caring for Victoria's natural environment.

Projects can be either on-ground projects (direct-action), or projects with an education component (in-direct action), or a mixture of both.

Key Dates

Applications close	30 April 2021
Successful applicants announced	June 2021
Final report due and project completed	May 2022

Enquiries

After reading these Guidelines and the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) if you have any queries, please call Landcare Australia on 1800 151 105 or email: grants@landcareaustralia.com.au

2021 Guidelines (Extended)

Background

All Victorians, of all ages, can play a role in helping reduce the decline of our native plants and animals. These grants help inspire the next generation to value, protect and enjoy our natural environment now and into the future. The 2021 Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants will provide the youth in Victoria with an opportunity to engage with and understand the value of nature either through hands on or environmental learning activities.

Focus Areas (in detail)

The 2021 Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants will provide funding for projects that have a focus on:

1. Improving biodiversity through the development, improvement or restoration of habitat for Victoria's native plants (flora) and animals (fauna) – on-ground focus area.

This may include on-ground projects that focus on:

- Habitat creation and improvement (e.g. planting indigenous vegetation, nest box installation and monitoring); and/or
- Conserving, rehabilitating, restoring and protecting Victoria's native flora, fauna and vegetation communities by addressing threats to biodiversity in your local area or areas identified in Focus Landscapes which are places that are likely to give the greatest biodiversity benefits (e.g. weed invasion, fencing to exclude livestock or predators, and pest animals such as rabbits)

Please refer to Information [Sheet 1: Biodiversity and Biodiversity Response Planning](#)

- and/or
- Bushfire recovery (e.g plant propagation, weed control, conservation fencing or planting indigenous vegetation in fire-affected areas)

Projects that support communities to better understand and manage native species and vegetation communities and habitats will be looked upon favorably.

and / or

2. Educating, involving and engaging young people in valuing and actively caring for Victoria's natural environment – education focus area.

This may include:

- Projects that increase opportunities for young people to engage with Victoria's biodiversity and connect with our natural environment such as an outdoor classroom with local indigenous vegetation, a nature trail, or a school excursion to a wildlife shelter, zoos or sanctuaries; and/or
- Where permissible under coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions, an [incursion or excursion](#). For example to CERES, Edithvale-Seafood Wetland Education Centre, Ecolink, Healesville Sanctuary, Mt Rothwell, Phillip Island Nature Parks, Port Phillip Eco Centre, Marine and Freshwater Discovery Centre, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria- Melbourne and Cranbourne, Serendip Sanctuary, Winton Wetlands, or a local national park visitor centre; and/or

- Projects that educate and raise awareness, among young people, of the benefits and importance of biodiversity and a healthy local environment, and/or how they can contribute to environmental and biodiversity improvement and how they can get involved in environmental volunteering. For example, installation of interpretive signage, creating of biodiversity-themed posters, an educational talk from a local scientist or a member of a Landcare or environmental volunteering group working in wildlife conservation, citizen science activities in which students collect data about their local environment and the plants and animals that live there.

Projects that provide opportunities to advance underrepresented groups (such as culturally diverse communities, people with disabilities, and families) to participate and connect to nature or take part in environmental volunteering and on ground environmental activities will be looked upon favourably.

For more information to help you with your application please refer to

- [Information Sheet 2: Planning your project](#)
- [Information Sheet 3: Useful resources for project planning](#)

Examples of projects that address both of the key focus areas include:

- Independent student project work researching threats to biodiversity such as pest plants and animals, habitat loss, climate change (education focus), paired with an on-ground hands-on weeding or planting activity in a local reserve, where students can apply their learnings (on-ground focus).
- In-class learning activities focused on protecting Victorian threatened species (education focus) paired with a nest box installation (on-ground focus) and monitoring program to support a local threatened species. This project provides both on-ground environmental outcomes (habitat creation) and educational outcomes for students who learn apply and reinforce in-class learnings by participating in the nest box monitoring.

Who Can Apply?

The 2021 Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants are open to any school (primary or secondary), kindergarten, childcare centre, Scouts, Girl Guides, youth group, youth environmental volunteer groups, and Junior Landcare groups in Victoria.



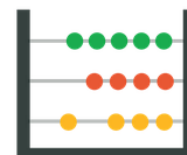
Childcare Centres



Youth/Community
groups



Schools



Kindergartens

To be eligible, applicant schools or groups must work with young people who are preferably under the age of 18.

Your school/youth group/childcare centre may choose to partner with other schools/youth groups/childcare centres, or Junior Landcare groups. In this instance, each organisation will need to submit a separate application. In the application form, you will be required to indicate if you are partnering with another organisation in your project, so partner applications can be considered collectively.

Child Safe Standards

Organisations operating in Victoria, including community-based organisations that provide service or facilities are required to meet the Child Safe Standards. Click [here](#) for more information on the Child Safe Standards. Applicants will be required to declare that they comply with the Child Safe Standards as part of their application.

Ineligible Applicants

The following are NOT eligible to apply for the 2021 Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants:

- Commercial entities and for-profit organisations (including applications written by for-profit educational providers on behalf of eligible groups)
- Commonwealth, state or local government, agencies and statutory authorities
- Individuals
- Landcare groups and networks, 'Friends of' groups and other environmental volunteer organisations (except Junior Landcare groups).

Please note: while the above are not eligible to apply directly for grants, they are strongly encouraged to partner with eligible schools, kindergartens, childcare centres, Scouts, Girl Guides, and youth groups, in the planning and delivery of their projects.

Assessment Criteria

Successful applications will be chosen based on the following criteria and percentage (%) weightings, as part of the assessment process:

Criteria	Weighting
<p><u>Educational and On-ground Environmental Outcomes: The potential of the project to provide biodiversity focused educational and on-ground environmental outcomes (40%)</u></p> <p>The extent to which the project addresses one or more of the grant’s focus areas, will be considered. The purpose of the project must be clear, with well-defined on-ground environmental and/or educational outcomes that are linked to the planned activities and integrated within the curriculum or youth program.</p> <p>Projects that link to a location or threatened species/community management plan to meet Biodiversity 2037 targets. Biodiversity Response Planning in 2020 has resulted in the identification of Focus Landscapes, which are places that are likely to give the greatest biodiversity benefit (Refer to Information Sheet 1 for more information). You should consider Biodiversity Response Planning when selecting the location and focus of your project.</p> <p><u>Coronavirus (COVID-19)</u></p> <p>We ask that you continue to follow public health measures, advice and restrictions when planning and implementing your project. Stay informed here vic.gov.au/CORONAVIRUS.</p>	40%
<p><u>Activities: The feasibility and appropriateness of the activities detailed in the project plan</u></p> <p>Projects need to be age-appropriate and have a high level of active student/youth involvement (state the number of students or young people participating in each activity).</p> <p>Projects must demonstrate considered planning and be feasible within the grant time frame. Planning may include research or consultation with technical experts. For example, Landcare Facilitators, Regional Landcare Coordinators (refer to page 10 for contact list), Landcare/Coastcare Coordinators, and/or Environment Officers at your local council.</p> <p>Projects should show a consideration of the timing of activities e.g. the appropriate season for on-ground activities such as tree planting. If your project involves revegetation using locally indigenous plants, you should include a species list with the number of each species to be planted.</p> <p>The successful applicants for the 2021 Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants will be notified in June 2021. As a result, none of your project’s activities should be detailed in your application as commencing before September 2021.</p>	20%
<p><u>Engagement: The level of involvement of the broader school/group or local community</u></p> <p>The extent to which the project engages with or benefits the broader school/group or local community will be considered. The ‘broader community’ may include school</p>	10%

<p>'Parents and Friends' groups, local environmental volunteer groups (e.g. Landcare, Coastcare, 'Friends of', etc), or other community members or groups (e.g. local scientists, Traditional Owner groups, indigenous nurseries, Men's Shed, Rotary, etc). Broader engagement has a flow-on effect of helping the wider community improve their understanding about our natural environment, and the conservation needs and management of local biodiversity.</p> <p>Local environmental volunteer or other community groups should be engaged by an applicant school or group at the project planning and development stage, and not just contacted after a project has been funded, with a request for assistance with project delivery.</p>																			
<p>Maintenance/Future Outcomes: The likelihood that environmental and educational outcomes will be long-term</p> <p>The potential for the project to provide long-term environmental or educational benefits, and to encourage ongoing student or community engagement, will be considered. For example, projects which encourage an ongoing relationship with, or 'ownership' of a project site or an educational speaker that is followed-up with in-class activities and curriculum development that builds on young people's learnings. On-ground projects should include details about how the project site will be maintained in the future. For example, specify in the application who will undertake follow up maintenance and how often, such as parent volunteers watering plants over summer, or a Student Green Team visiting a project site weekly to do weed management).</p>	10%																		
<p>Project Budget: A realistic, relevant and detailed project budget that demonstrates value for money</p> <p>These grants are competitive, and the extent to which the budget demonstrates good value for money is an important consideration during grant assessment. Budgets need to include reasonable and realistic costs and provide clear and transparent justification of items or activities. Budgets should be clearly itemised - including the per unit cost and number of individual items to be purchased. Requested items need to align with the project activities, scale and scope.</p> <p>The following budget items/categories have limits on the funding available, as per the below table:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="244 1608 1061 1982"> <thead> <tr> <th>Budget category</th> <th>Limit (\$)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Bus hire</td> <td>\$2,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Landscaping and building/infrastructure materials</td> <td>\$2,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Delivery of materials</td> <td>\$200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Contractors</td> <td>\$1,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tools and equipment</td> <td>\$1,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Technology or electronic equipment</td> <td>\$1,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Signage</td> <td>\$1,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Catering at educational events or activities</td> <td>\$500</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Budget category	Limit (\$)	Bus hire	\$2,000	Landscaping and building/infrastructure materials	\$2,000	Delivery of materials	\$200	Contractors	\$1,000	Tools and equipment	\$1,500	Technology or electronic equipment	\$1,000	Signage	\$1,000	Catering at educational events or activities	\$500	20%
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Signage	\$1,000																		
Catering at educational events or activities	\$500																		



Other Criteria:

- Incomplete and late applications will not be considered,
- Groups or schools with overdue project reports from previous Junior Landcare grants are ineligible for further funding until all reporting requirements are met,
- Consideration will be given to equitable distribution of grants. For example, preference may be given to groups or schools who have not received a Junior Landcare grant (via Landcare Australia) in the past two years,
- Generally, higher scoring projects will be funded. The projects that are funded may also take into consideration the overall mix of project types and locations.

Applicants will be advised of the outcome of their application in writing after the assessment process is completed. All decisions are final and are not subject to further review.

Eligible Activities and Budget Items Include:

- ✓ **Activities to improve or restore habitat:** For example, removal of invasive weeds, planting of native species indigenous to your local area (e.g. via direct seeding or planting indigenous tube-stock), seed collection and propagation supplies to allow propagation of plants indigenous to your local area, or to help with habitat restoration e.g. in bushfire affected areas. Mature trees (e.g plants larger than tube stock) will be accepted if it is the only suitable option for the area.
- ✓ **Biodiversity-focused education activities:** this includes:
 - Incursions and webinars (For example, engaging an inspiring environmental educator or speaker to come to your school or group to present on an environmental topic of interest, environmental/ biodiversity incursions, water watch incursion etc.)
 - Excursions (see [Useful Resources for Project Planning](#) for excursion ideas)
(Note: bus hire for excursions is limited to \$2,000, bus hire cost can be reallocated to a virtual incursion if excursions are restricted due to coronavirus (COVID-19)).
 - Other educational activities that promote knowledge sharing of environmental issues in Victoria such as habitat and biodiversity loss, habitat fragmentation, bushfire recovery efforts, or the impact of introduced species or humans.
- ✓ **Bus hire to undertake an environmental education program or excursion or visit a project site for on-ground activities (Note - limited to a maximum of \$2,000).** Other funds from the grant could be used for excursion costs or the on-ground activities.
 - In the case that excursions are restricted due to coronavirus (COVID-19), groups or schools can re-allocate the bus hire budget cost to virtual excursions and incursions.
- ✓ **Citizen science activities:** For example, undertaking background research or monitoring activities such as habitat changes, or collecting data on local native animals and plants.
- ✓ **Nest box construction, installation and monitoring**
- ✓ **Landscaping and building/infrastructure materials (Note – limited to a maximum of \$2,000).** This includes landscaping materials such as mulch for revegetation projects, and infrastructure such as exclusion fencing, seating, paving, boardwalks/decking that are an integral part of an on-ground project, irrigation equipment for indigenous garden projects including water tanks and watering systems.

Logs and large rocks/boulders (are allowable if they are to be used as shelter for animals or as part of a habitat garden) and are within a landscaping budget
- ✓ **Delivery of materials (Note - limited to a maximum of \$200)**
- ✓ **Contractor fees to assist with site preparation for on-ground works (Note - limited to a maximum of \$1,000).** For example, engaging a landscaper to undertake earth works and site preparation for an on-ground project, or a tradesperson to install a water tank/irrigation system for an on-ground project.
- ✓ **Tools and field equipment necessary for on-ground activities (Note – combined tools and equipment budget is limited to a maximum of \$1,500 and exclusions apply [see ‘Activities and Budget Items we will not fund’]).** For example, wheelbarrows, hand-tools, augers, gloves and watering cans are acceptable items of equipment. See list of ineligible power equipment in Ineligible Activities below.
- ✓ **Installation of educational and interpretative signage (Note – limited to a maximum of \$1000).** Includes costs associated with graphic design, production and installation of signage.
- ✓ **Purchase of materials to support education and awareness raising activities.** For example, posters or information booklets, field guides.
- ✓ **Purchase of technology or electronic equipment to support citizen science or other educational activities (Note – limited to \$1,000).** For example, motion sensing or pole cameras for nest box monitoring, devices for in-field data collection and logging, scientific water monitoring and testing kits.
- ✓ **Catering for events (Note – limited to a maximum of \$500).**

Ineligible Activities and Budget Items Include:

- ✳ **Kitchen gardens (this includes vegetable gardens, herb gardens, compost/worm farms)**
- ✳ **Consultancy fees, wages, administration and project management costs**
This includes costs associated with the administration and coordination of projects. For example, casual relief teacher fees, teacher planning time, provision of advice by a Landcare facilitator or another professional, such as engaging a landscape architect to develop a landscape plan.
- ✳ **Development of recreational facilities, school beautification, capital works or other school buildings and grounds focused projects**
- ✳ **Irrigation equipment and watering systems for watering lawns**
- ✳ **General sustainability education, or products, not clearly linked to biodiversity**
For example, energy, workshops on composting, worm farming or recycling.
- ✳ **Planting of exotic species that are not indigenous to your local area (including non-Victorian bush tucker plants)**
If you are unsure, talk to your local Landcare or Friends of group, council or native nursery.
- ✳ **Creation of habitat for exotic animal species**
For example, beehives or planting gardens for European honey bees. **(Note - projects that create habitat for or support Victorian native bees or other pollinators are encouraged)**
- ✳ **Mature/advanced indigenous plants** (unless a strong justification can be provided as to why use of advanced indigenous plants is essential for your project).
- ✳ **Synthetic grass and flowers**
- ✳ **Cooking equipment**
- ✳ **Chicken coops, greenhouses or garden sheds**
- ✳ **General purpose power tools**
For example, lawnmowers, brush cutters, chain saws, drills etc. **(Note - augers for planting activities are allowable)**
- ✳ **Airfares, interstate or overseas travel**
- ✳ **Costs and activities that are already funded through another organisation, program or fund source.**
Note: this includes retrospective funding of projects that have already been completed.
- ✳ **Teacher professional development**
- ✳ **Purchase of goods for competitions, prizes, giveaways, or vouchers**
- ✳ **Any other action or activity determined by the Assessment Panel through the assessment process to be an inappropriate or unsuitable use of the funds.**

If unsure, phone Landcare Australia on 8631 7800.

How to Apply

Groups and schools can apply for the 2021 Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants via [the Landcare Australia Grants Site](#) until 3pm Friday 30th April 2021.

To submit an application:

1. You will need your school's or group's Australian Business Number (ABN), bank account details (for payment of funding), and GST status.
2. Follow the [link](#) to the application form
3. You can view and download the application form before you start your application
4. In order to enable you to fill out the form you must first register with SmartyGrants
5. If you wish to leave a partially completed application, press 'Save and close' and log out. You can log back in and continue to edit your application form until you are ready to submit.
6. To submit your application, click the Review and Submit button at the bottom of the Navigation Panel. You need to review your application before you can submit it. Once you have submitted your application, no further editing or uploading of support materials is possible.
7. You will receive a confirmation email when your application has been successfully submitted

If you need more technical help using the form, download the [Help Guide for Applicants](#) or check out [Applicant Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ's\)](#).

For specific questions about your project that are not answered in the guidelines or the [FAQs](#) email grants@landcareaustralia.com.au