

DELWP Grampians Region Community Conversations



May 2017

Welcome to the May edition of the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) Grampians Region *Community Conversations*.

We commit to listening to you and taking action to put your needs at the centre of everything we do.

Traditional burn partnership in Arapiles

Forest Fire Management Victoria Grampians completed the first traditional burn in the Wimmera. The burn at the base of Mt Arapiles in the Centenary Park Campground was the result of a great partnership between Wotjobaluk Traditional Owner staff of the Wimmera District and the Barengi Gadjin Land Council (BGLC). The Dyurrit (Mt Arapiles) Wanjap (fire) burn was led by Parks Victoria's Damien Scurrie. Traditional owner staff from DELWP and Parks Victoria, together with BGLC personnel used firesticks to ignite the burn, watched by BGLC elders.



Before the traditional burn was ignited, Natimuk Bushkinder kids had the opportunity to learn how firesticks are made and used. Our FFMVic staff felt proud and very privileged to be present at this burn.

Public Safety on Public Land grant

Our Public Safety on Public Land Program provides funding for projects that identify, assess, control and monitor risks to public safety associated with public land use. Applications are now open for the next round of grants for projects of \$20,000 or more that meet other stated criteria. Applications close 16 June. More information:

<https://delwprs.smartygrants.com.au/PSoPL2017-18>.

New group to help Crown land managers

Across Victoria, under the direction of DELWP, about 1200 voluntary Committees of Management (CoMs) manage 1500 Crown land reserves. Municipal councils manage a further 2800 reserves as CoMs. DELWP greatly appreciates the valuable contribution made by CoMs. To encourage information sharing among CoMs, we have set up a new group on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/342183056159099/>.

All managers of Crown Land are invited to join this group. Information is regularly updated and includes funding opportunities, governance and land management tools as well as links to exciting initiatives and amazing stories of the work that CoMs undertake. Please use it to ask questions of group members and share photos, posts and event information. Need more info? Email: publicland.ballarat@delwp.vic.gov.au.

Domestic firewood collection season

The domestic firewood collection season is well underway across the region, with most designated collection areas being well-visited since the Autumn season began on 1 March. Before heading out in search of firewood, make

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sure you should check the location of collection areas in your district as well as the local weather and forest conditions to ensure it is safe. Need help locating collection areas? Visit:

<https://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/firewood/firewood-collection-in-your-region>.

SWIFFT: Sharing biodiversity knowledge

The StateWide Integrated Flora and Fauna Teams (SWIFFT) second video-conference for 2017 was held in April. More than 80 attendees became acquainted with Southern Right Whales, learned of a wonderful community activity being undertaken by the Mt Korong Eco-Watch Group, shared in the story of Winton Wetlands' restoration, and heard about Ballarat Environment Network's management of 54 Central Highlands Reserves.

Video-conferences are open to anyone interested in nature conservation. Visit the SWIFFT website: <http://www.swiff.net.au/> and Click on the Video conferencing.

Let's take the next steps now

This week is National Reconciliation Week, a time for all of us to reflect on our shared history with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples (ATSI).



Two key historical events symbolise reconciliation aims. Saturday 27 May marked the 50th anniversary of the 1967 Referendum that saw over 90% of Australians vote to give the Commonwealth power to make laws for ATSI peoples and their recognition in the national census. Saturday 3 June will mark the 25th anniversary of Mabo Day, when in 1992 the High Court of Australia legally recognised ATSI peoples' connection to country, a connection that existed prior to European colonisation and continues today. This decision paved the way for our Native Title system.

To see what is happening this week and to build on respectful relationships towards reconciliation, visit the Victorian reconciliation website: <http://www.reconciliationvic.org.au>

Grampians roundtable

The Grampians National Park and Surrounds Stakeholder Roundtable brings together a range of people who are interested in or impacted by planned burning and other land management practices. The aim is to improve communication between stakeholders, land management agencies and the community; and develop a shared understanding of complex land management issues, including fire management across the Grampians. While the Roundtable does not formally influence government land management policy, it can influence the way policies are put into practice.

Initiated by DELWP and Parks Victoria in mid-2011, the group meets three times a year. It met most recently at Halls Gap in April. Participants include environment groups, vignerons, apiarists, the tourism industry, local government, community health, agriculture, Catchment Management Authorities, recreational park users, CFA, Indigenous communities, Parks Victoria, and DELWP. If you are interested in participating in future Grampians Roundtables, contact Danielle Leehane at danielle.leehane@delwp.vic.gov.au

Newsletter feedback

Make your comments and/or suggestions about the content of this newsletter by emailing Anne.Bell@delwp.vic.gov.au.

Contact us

DELWP general enquiries: 136 186
Local Government Switchboard: 03 9208 3333
Or the National Relay Service 133677



Munganin – Gadhaba
'Achieve Together'

Aboriginal Inclusion Plan 2016-2020

CONVERSATIONS RELATIONSHIPS MUTUAL PARTNERSHIPS

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