

Youth Volunteering for Nature Fund



Factsheet 2 of 3

Victoria's Great Outdoors Managing Country Together

This Fact Sheet outlines the expectations and requirements for successful recipients of the Youth Volunteering or Nature Fund to engage with Traditional Owners and undertake cultural heritage assessments.

Traditional Owner engagement

The Victorian Government is proud to work with Traditional Owners to care for parks, forests and reserves across Victoria. Applicants are encouraged to look at Traditional Owner Country Plans, where available, and consider projects that align with Traditional Owner objectives. [The ACHRIS Welcome Map](#) can be used to determine whether there are recognised Traditional Owners in the project area and Country Plans are available from relevant Traditional Owner Corporation websites. Where appropriate, successful applicants will be expected to engage with Traditional Owners prior to projects starting. Applicants will be advised as part of the Funding Pack received upon notification of project success and conversations will be brokered by Parks Victoria and Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP).

All successful applicants will be required to engage with Traditional Owners. The nature of engagement will depend on rights associated with formal Traditional Owners recognition in the project area.

How do I contact Traditional Owners?

Do not approach Traditional Owners directly, unless you have an existing partnership arrangement. Parks Victoria and DELWP will broker conversations between recipients and Traditional Owners as appropriate.

Contact the Youth Volunteering for Nature Fund Team to initiate engagement if relevant.

Jointly managed land

Joint management recognises the ongoing connection of Traditional Owners to the land. It involves Traditional Owners and staff sharing their knowledge to manage specific areas. Joint management is about Managing Country Together for the benefit of Traditional Owners and all Victorians, long into the future. Applicants planning projects within jointly managed land should seek endorsement from the relevant Traditional Owner group prior to submitting their application. For all other projects, applicants should wait until notified the project is successful before making contact with Traditional Owners.

Which parks are jointly managed?

You can find a list of jointly managed parks here:
<https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/managing-country-together>

Cultural heritage permissions

All activities undertaken on Crown land, whether done by Parks Victoria, DELWP, volunteers or other groups, should make every effort to avoid harming Aboriginal heritage and must comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*. Where harm to heritage is unavoidable, appropriate permissions must be sought to determine the risk to Aboriginal heritage prior to the activity starting.

All projects that include ground disturbance (including tree planting) must undertake a cultural heritage assessment to determine the risk to Aboriginal heritage prior to the activity starting.

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Cultural Heritage assessment

A cultural heritage assessment is done by a registered Heritage Advisor. They will do a desktop assessment and possibly a field visit to identify what cultural heritage is known (or is likely to occur) on the site, and whether the activity is likely to cause harm. Depending on the outcome of the assessment, the Advisor may recommend that the project:

- go ahead, potentially with a contingency plan or protection plan in place
- be moved or adapted to avoid harming Aboriginal heritage
- seek permission to harm Aboriginal heritage, through a Cultural Heritage Permit or Cultural Heritage Management Plan.

How much will it cost?

The cost for a Heritage Advisor to do a cultural heritage assessment will depend on the complexity of the site and whether a field visit is required.

The costs for getting permissions to harm can range from around \$600 for a simple Cultural Heritage Permit to many thousands for a Cultural Heritage Management Plan, which is more likely to be required for major works.

The cost of a cultural heritage assessment and permit (if required) will need to be factored in to the grant funds applied for by the applicant. Projects that are likely to require a Cultural Heritage Management Plan should be reconsidered.

Further information

ACHRIS map <https://achris.vic.gov.au/weave/wca.html>

Aboriginal Heritage Identification Guide
<https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/managing-country-together>

Contact us

If you have any queries, or require more information, please contact Parks Victoria via email: volunteering@parks.vic.gov.au or phone: 13 1963 and request to speak to the Youth Volunteering for Nature Fund Project Officer.