Coastcare Victoria volunteering and grants – coronavirus (COVID-19)

We know your Coastcare work means a lot to you, as it does to us. Whilst we appreciate the enormous contribution volunteers and community organisations make to protection of the coast, the message is clear: you must stay home, save lives.

There are only four reasons to leave your house:

✓ Buying food and supplies;

✓ Exercise (in your local vicinity);

✓ Medical care;

✓ Work and education – if necessary.

Stay at home and put lives first.

The Coastcare Victoria team urges you to continue to follow public health measures and stay informed at www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au

As volunteers and members of community organisations you are resilient and adaptable, and together will get through this trying time. Remember, this is temporary, and we will all get back to our usual practices when the time is right. The Coastcare Victoria team remains fully operational – don't hesitate to contact your local facilitator or email Coastcare.Victoria@delwp.vic.gov.au

What *can* I do? Staying involved in volunteering while at home

Volunteering is a great way to stay connected with people and the environment, and we know many of you will miss your volunteering activities and networks during this period of staying at home. While we can't do everything we normally would, there are ways to stay involved:

- Hold your committee meetings online via Skype or one of the many other online tools available. If you need help getting set up, talk to a tech savvy member of your group, a family member or your local Coastcare facilitator

- Organise a regular online or phone catch up with people you usually volunteer with

- Stay in touch with the Coastcare Victoria community – join or create an online community or social media account to share ideas, achievements, photos and projects

- Follow Coastcare Victoria on Facebook for information about our upcoming online events

- Work on a 12-month or longer strategic plan for your group or project to set yourself up for the future. E.g. document your project priorities or aspirational ideas for what you want to achieve in your local area; plan what you will focus on and what resources you will need when you re-commence activities. Coastcare Victoria has collated some general marine and coastal volunteering resources here

- Plan how you can attract and recruit more volunteers to your cause – Volunteering Victoria has some helpful information

- Apply for grants funding - https://www.vic.gov.au/grants

- Develop some 'shovel ready' projects which you can seek funding for when relevant grants become available

- Think about how to make your volunteer group more inclusive and diverse or document the approaches you have taken and share your learnings with others

- Make sure all volunteers and staff in your organisation have a current Working With Children Check, and understand Victoria's new Child Safety Standards

- Do your paperwork – review your Job Safety Plans for your activities, complete any outstanding grants reporting, update your meeting templates, update your volunteer contact list

- Spring clean and service your equipment

- Connect with other volunteer groups who have similar projects or challenges to you – ask your Coastcare facilitator to put you in touch or help you connect online

- Make sure your details are listed and up to date on Victoria's Environmental Volunteering interactive map and email environmental.volunteers@delwp.vic.gov.au if you need to update them

- Get involved in citizen science projects- the Australian Citizen Science Association has an extensive list of projects

- Sort out your photos and choose the best ones for future promotion or reporting

- Subscribe to DELWP's Marine and Coasts Newsletter

- Keep an eye out for regular email updates from Coastcare Victoria with more information and ideas.

Coastcare Victoria Community Grants – funded projects

General Guidance

We anticipate that the delivery of some of your funded grants projects will be affected or delayed due to about coronavirus (COVID-19), and that is ok. Please follow government measures and directions. Rest assured that we will provide flexibility around grant project due dates where required.

Projects funded in 2017
All projects funded in 2017 should already be completed and a final report returned, unless an extension has previously been agreed with Coastcare Victoria. If you have not submitted your final report or received an extension, please contact your local Coastcare Victoria facilitator.

Projects funded in 2018

One-year projects – these projects should already be completed, and a final report returned, unless an extension has previously been agreed with Coastcare Victoria. If you have not submitted your final report or received an extension, please contact your local Coastcare Victoria facilitator.

Two-year projects – these projects are due for completion by 31 December 2020, but we are offering extensions and flexibility - please see FAQs below.

Projects funded in 2019

One-year projects – these projects are due for completion by 30 June 2020, but we are offering extensions and flexibility - please see FAQs below.

Two-year projects - these projects are due for completion by 30 June 2021, but we are offering extensions and flexibility - please see FAQs below.

Our project is due for completion in 2020 or 2021 – Can we get an extension?

Groups undertaking projects funded through the Coastcare Victoria Community Grants program in 2018 (two-year projects) and 2019 may have been held up due to current circumstances.

Coastcare Victoria will extend your project by up to 12 months so please email Coastcare.Victoria@delwp.vic.gov.au to request an extension form. Please quote the reference number at the top of your Common Funding Agreement.

We have finished all the work for our grant but haven't submitted a final report yet, what should we do?

Now is a good time to catch up on paperwork and ensure your reporting requirements are up to date. If you have finished your project submit your final report now, even if it is not due yet. Please contact your local Coastcare Victoria facilitator for a final report acquittal template.

We are supposed to deliver a community engagement or education event as part of our grant. What should we do?

You have two options – you may like to hold your event online, or you may prefer to request an extension to hold your event when public health directions are lifted.

Coastcare Victoria will extend your project by up to 12 months if impacted by current circumstances so please email Coastcare.Victoria@delwp.vic.gov.au to request an extension form. Please quote the reference number at the top of your Common Funding Agreement.

If you would like to try an online event feel free to contact your local facilitator and we will assist you as much as we can.

2020 Coastcare Victoria Community Grants – open for applications

Will the application period be extended?

The application period has been extended until Friday 15 May 2020 at 5pm.
Please start your application early to allow yourself time to become familiar with the DELWP Grants Online Portal and to seek assistance if required.

Will the announcement of successful applicants be delayed?

Coastcare Victoria is still aiming to notify successful and unsuccessful applicants in July 2020. We will keep you updated if we experience any significant delays.

When will payments be made to successful applicants?

Coastcare Victoria still expects to make payments to successful applicants in July-August 2020. To help expedite this process and assist us while we are working away from the office, we will ask recipients to sign and return funding agreements digitally where possible.

How will we include community involvement in our application with coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions in place?

Category 1: Stewardship and Education grants require community involvement (criteria 2). Successful applicants will have until June 2022 to complete their projects. If public health directions continue for several months, there will still be plenty of time to complete community involvement activities. Please ensure you still address this criterion in your application and plan your project to allow for events to be held later or online.

If we are successful, how will we deliver our project with restrictions in place?

Successful applicants will have until June 2022 to complete their projects. If public health directions continue for several months, there will still be plenty of time to complete your project.

While you are required to be at home you can do things like completing your safety planning and documentation, planning events, building partnerships, designing studies, training volunteers online and much more. You might also decide to undertake some activities online.

Please plan your project to allow for any activities that require you to leave the house to occur post-public health directions

Do we still need to discuss our application with a Coastcare Victoria facilitator?

Yes, please contact your local Coastcare Victoria facilitator to discuss your project – we are committed to helping you submit a strong application.

We are having issues applying, what should we do?

Please contact your local Coastcare Victoria facilitator or email coastcare.victoria@delwp.vic.gov.au so we can work out how to best assist you.

Coastcare Victoria contact details

Bellarine and Surf Coast – Elise Snell – Elise.Snell@delwp.vic.gov.au

Port Phillip Bay & Western Port – Phillip Wierzbowski – Phillip.Wierzbowski@delwp.vic.gov.au Ph 0411 409 815

Gippsland – Bethany Hunting – Bethany.Hunting@delwp.vic.gov.au Ph 0436 629 941

Coastcare Statewide Coordinator – Bec Cross – Coastcare.Victoria@delwp.vic.gov.au Ph 0447 165 716

South West Coastcare facilitator Adam Taylor has taken a secondment to another role. If you are in the south west, please email Bellarine and Surf Coast facilitator Elise.Snell@delwp.vic.gov.au or Coastcare.Victoria@delwp.vic.gov.au and we will happily assist you.

Accessibility

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