

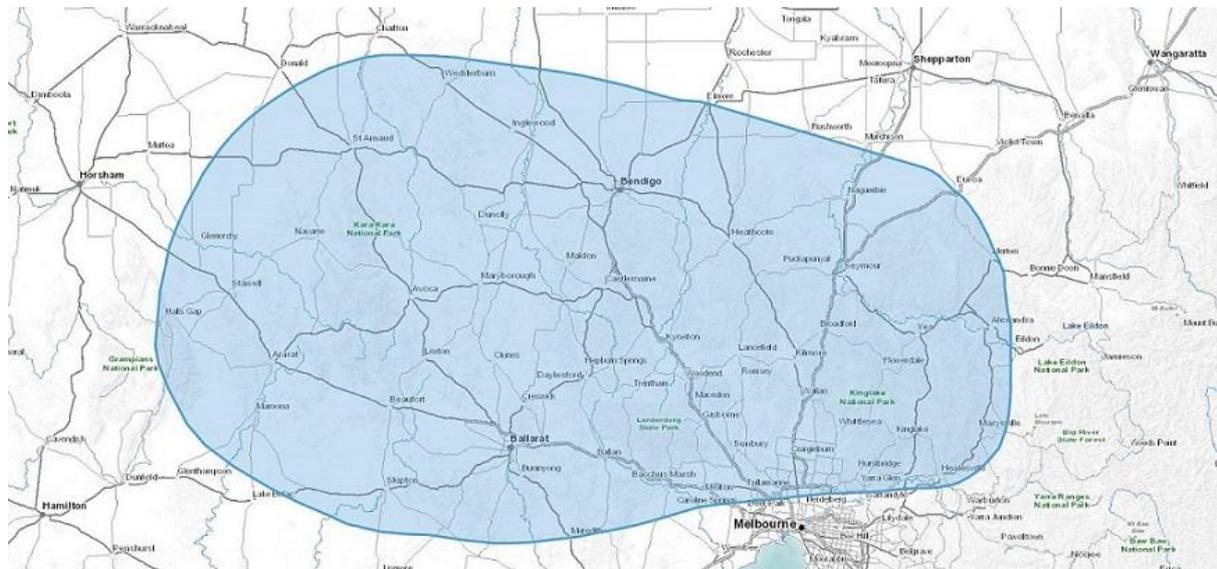
Seeking Citizen Scientists: Wildlife to Wellbeing Project - Testing New Wildlife Monitoring Technology

Wildlife to Wellbeing Project

Deakin University, in collaboration with Land for Wildlife, is seeking volunteers to participate in a citizen science project called *Wildlife to Wellbeing*, which will trial new camera technology to monitor and identify wildlife on properties registered with the Land For Wildlife program in Victoria.

This is an exciting opportunity to be part of a project that will test new video technology developed at Deakin University, and deployed on this project for the first time anywhere in the world. The technology enables 24-hour, continual monitoring of wildlife that will capture video of a greater proportion of animals in the vicinity than existing wildlife camera technologies. The cameras will operate for up to three months from the time of set up in January/February 2019. Deakin will collect the cameras at the end of the project to reuse in future projects.

To participate, your property needs to have heathy dry forest or grassy dry forest ecological vegetation classes (EVC's). You may qualify if your property is located in central Victoria, within the rough circumference of the map shown. It includes the following towns: Bacchus Marsh-Ballarat-Ararat-Maryborough-Dunolly-Bendigo-Elmore-Rushworth-Seymour-Yea-St Andrews-Whittlesea-Sunbury.



Getting involved

If you are interested, please contact Jason Major at Deakin University by email j.major@deakin.edu.au; or by phone (during business hours) on **0455 288 309**.

Why citizen science?

The main aims of citizen science projects are to collect data that can help answer scientific questions, and to improve dialogue and critical evaluation of scientific projects. There are two core components to this project that will help achieve this:

1. Improve our understanding of Victoria's biodiversity and contribute towards wildlife databases such as the Atlas of Living Australia (<https://www.ala.org.au/>).
2. Improve our understanding of how participation affects participants' well-being, their engagement with nature and how they value it.

Your role as an active participant

Deakin University will provide an automated, small-animal camera for you to monitor the wildlife on your property. To participate, you will need to have a computer with internet so you can periodically upload the data from your camera via their website. You can interact with other members of the project through the website where you can, for example, discuss the project itself, or the animals you are finding. Deakin will invite you to complete a survey before and after the project to help understand the questions associated with the project's second component. This survey is open for any Land for Wildlife participant to complete, but those who are part of the project need to agree to complete the survey.

Please pass this letter onto others you think may be interested in participating. However, they need to be registered with Land For Wildlife to participate.

After this initial project the goal is to expand the project to other vegetation types and regions of Victoria. Hence there is an opportunity to still be part of the project if you don't get to participate in the initial one.

Wildlife To Wellbeing Survey

As noted, Deakin University invites all Land for Wildlife members to complete the *Wildlife To Wellbeing* survey at:

https://researchsurveys.deakin.edu.au/jfe/form/SV_4HL4UCGqs75r88d

If you would prefer a hard copy of the survey, please contact Jason Major on **0455 288 309** to arrange for a hard copy to be posted to you.

More information about the project can be found at Deakin's TechnEcology website:

<https://blogs.deakin.edu.au/technecology/proof-of-concept/>

The project has ethics approval through Deakin University's Human Research Ethics Committee (project HEAG-H 129_2018). The project is a collaboration between Deakin University, Land For Wildlife, the Victorian Government's Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DEWLP), and the Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research (ARI).

Getting involved

If you are interested in participating or have further questions contact Jason Major either via email j.major@deakin.edu.au; or by phone (during business hours) on **0455 288 309**.