



JULY 2026

What's on

H5 AVIAN FLU ALERT

BIRD FLU: WHAT WE CAN DO

No doubt you have seen or heard some of the troubling reports of the detection of the serious H5 bird flu strain in Australia. This flu has killed millions of birds and marine animals around the world but, until now, had not been reported anywhere on our island nation. At the time of writing, four cases have been reported in Western Australia, one in South Australia and one in New South Wales.

While the risk to humans from this flu strain is very low, the risk to our native birds is unknown, but thought to be extremely high. However, all of us can play a role in keeping this disease at bay and/or minimising its effects.

Victorians are reminded to stay aware and report any unusual bird deaths.

Next page for dos and don'ts...



KEEP READING OVER THE PAGE...

Wednesday, July 15, 7pm for 7.30

CONSERVATION CONVERSATION

@ Barwon Heads Bowls Club

Tagging and tracking Victoria's coastal sharks and rays'.

Marine Scientist and Deakin PhD candidate Louisa Graf will discuss the research she and her team are doing on understanding the ecology of Victoria's coastal sharks and rays.

She will share insights into why this research is important, the methods they use, and even some of her latest results.

**Join us at the Barwon Heads
Bowls Club at 7pm for a
7.30pm start.**

JOIN OUR PLANTING



NATIONAL TREE DAY
JULY 26

SCHOOLS TREE DAY
JULY 24

National Tree Day
PLANET ARK
MAJOR SPONSOR coles

NATIONAL TREE DAY – JULY 26

On the back of a very successful nature strip planting project, Ocean Grove Coastcare will run plantings at two locations on National Tree Day on Sunday, July 26 from 10am until 12pm.

- Blue Waters Lake – meet at the eastern/ Cuthbertson St entry (look out for the flag)
- Bukareeyoo – meet at BUK 110 (last car park before the Barwon Heads bridge – look out for the flag)

Registration is essential: Please [visit the event page here](#) and after clicking the Register button, select the correct ticket type for the location you would like to attend.

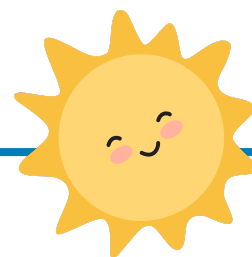
DARK SKY FILM NIGHT – AUGUST 26

Ocean Grove Coastcare is also running a film night on Wednesday, August 26 from 6.30–8.30pm.

It seems appropriate on a winter's night to be contemplating the long hours of darkness. But it's not as dark as we might think! Our birds and nocturnal animals experience the night differently now, compared to their previous generations, just a few decades ago.

Through short films, presented by guest speaker Kelly Clitheroe, we will explore the impacts of this change, and think about how we might help.

[Details and registration here.](#)



Dos and don'ts in the fight against bird flu

Agriculture Victoria asks Victorians to be on the look out for dead or sick birds.

- Please do not handle or move sick or dead birds, as this may spread the virus.
- If you suspect avian influenza in poultry, please call the Emergency Animal Disease hotline on 1800 675 888.

For birds and wildlife:

- AVOID contact with sick or dead birds, wildlife or their environment
- RECORD what you see
- REPORT wildlife sickness or deaths to DEECA using the [online form](#) or call the Emergency Animal Disease hotline on 1800 675 888
- Report clusters of 5 or more sick or dead wild birds of any species, anywhere in Victoria.
- Report even one sick or dead: wild seabird, waterbird, shorebird or bird of prey, or marine mammal (e.g. seal, sea lion, dolphin).

For more information, [visit this Australian Government webpage.](#)

THINK WARM!

We might be in the depths of winter, but that doesn't stop us planning for summer!

Fish counts are being planned by Parks Victoria for the weekend of December 5 and 6 at Barwon Heads and Point Lonsdale respectively. And Friends of the Bluff will conduct our own informal counts around the same time. Stay tuned for details.