# Introduction to the podcast

**Learning from Landscapes**

Hexagonal thinking

Victoria is home to an array of wild and wonderful ecosystems. It takes a village to keep these precious landscapes in balance. The Learning from Landscapes podcast travels deep into local ecosystems to uncover key conservation issues and what our community is doing to help.

Your class can access the podcast through the [Parks Victoria Education Soundcloud account](https://on.soundcloud.com/FKQ8Q).

## Episode descriptions

* **Episode 1 - What do Forest Fairies, drinking water and carbon sinks have in common?**

Deep in a tiny patch of majestic, tall forests lives a small and swift Victorian marsupial called the Leadbeater’s Possum. With bushfires and climate change threatening their habitat, they are at risk of extinction within the next 20-40 years. Join Arabella Eyre, Leadbeater's Possum Field Officer at Zoos Victoria, Joanne Antrobus from Parks Victoria and Steve Meacher from Friends of the Leadbeater’s Possum, for a walk through the towering trees of Yarra Ranges National Park, and learn how rangers, scientists, advocacy groups and community are working together to protect this endangered species and its tall forest habitat.

* **Episode 2 - What can birdsong tell us about genetic diversity & swampy forest health?**

About 200 Helmeted Honeyeaters remain in the wild, and all of them live in a small, lush, swampy forest just under an hour’s drive from Melbourne. Take a walk through the Yellingbo Nature Conservation Area on Wurundjeri Country with Sue Tardiff and Eliza Lamb from The Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater, and hear from Nick Bradsworth from Zoos Victoria and Ornithologist Bruce Quin from DEECA to learn about how we can protect their habitat and help the population’s long-term recovery.

## Alignment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals

|  |
| --- |
|  |

## Curriculum alignment

**Year 9-10 outcomes:**

* **Critical and Creative Thinking** – VCCCTQ045
* **Ethical Capability** – VCECD023
* **Geography** – VCGGC128, VCGGC129, VCGGK136, VCGGK145, VCGGK149
* **Science** – VCSSU115, VCSSU121, VCSSU128

**VCE Study Designs:**

* **Biology** – Unit 2: How does inheritance impact on diversity? (Area of Study 3: How do humans use science to explore and communicate contemporary bioethical issues?)
* **Environmental Science** – Unit 3: How can biodiversity and development be sustained? (Area of Study 1: Why is maintaining biodiversity worth a sustained effort?)
* **Geography** – Unit 3: Changing the land (Area of Study 2: Land use change)
* **Outdoor and Environmental Studies** – Unit 2: Discovering outdoor environments (Area of Study 2: Impacts on outdoor environments)

## Learning activities to support Learning from Landscapes

Hexagonal thinking is a great discussion tool and a way of visualising connections between concepts. Each hexagon can connect to up to six others. The hexagons can be rearranged until students feel they have the strongest hexagon web in place. Students can then begin to elaborate on their connections, explaining their reasoning for different intersections. The following pages contain examples of hexagons that can be cut out and arranged for Episode 1 and 2 of Learning from Landscapes. The concepts relate to ethics, science and geography. You might wish to create additional hexagons to support your class or ask students to create additional hexagons themselves.

## Episode 1 - What do Forest Fairies, drinking water and carbon sinks have in common?

Camera traps

Tree hollows

Drinking water

Climate change

VHF radio-tracking

Leadbeater’s Possum

Critically endangered

Bush fires

Old growth forest

Genetic diversity

Arboreal

Translocation

Deforestation

Endemic

Historic distribution

Nest boxes/artificial hollows

Feral exclusion methods

Carbon sink

Habitat restoration

Flagship species

## Episode 2 - What can birdsong tell us about genetic diversity & swampy forest health?

Inbreeding depression

Habitat fragmentation

Focal species

Climate change

Hydrology

Helmeted Honeyeater

Critically endangered

Carbon storage

Fertile soil

Riparian forest

Remote camera trap

VHF radio-tracking

Human land use

Endemic

Genetic rescue

Human health

Collaboration between organisations

Predation

Habitat restoration

Indicator species

## Hexagon templates