Engaging youth.  
Creating connection.  

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**Visitors**
Every year, Parks Victoria welcomes

106 million visits
to the Parks Victoria estate, including

**Education**
Parks Victoria delivers face-to-face education and interpretation programs to over

217,093
visitors each year

**Volunteers**
Parks Victoria engages an extensive community network providing

221,794
volunteering hours

**Conserving Victoria’s special places**
Land and water
Parks Victoria manages

4.1 million hectares
This equals 18% of Victoria’s coast

**Culture and heritage**
Parks Victoria is responsible for

12,000

**Conservation**
Parks Victoria manages

59% of Victoria’s Ramsar wetlands

**Assets**
Parks Victoria’s built asset portfolio has an estimated replacement value of

$1.8 billion

**Health and wellbeing**
Parks Victoria enables

$198.9 million
of avoided health costs through physical activity in parks

**Tourism**
Parks Victoria directly feeds into Victoria’s economic activities, generating

$2.1 billion
through park tourism

**Clean air and water**
The Victorian parks estate stores

270 million
 tonnes of carbon
Healthy Parks Healthy People

• Contact with nature:
  – Is critical for our physical, mental, social and spiritual health
  – Has positive effects on our ability to concentrate, learn, solve problems and be creative
  – Boosts our immune system and helps us relax.

• Healthy nature sustains our life, livelihoods and liveability.

• Aim to unlock the power of nature and parks for their preventative and restorative health and wellbeing benefits, while conserving biodiversity.
HPHP Priorities

1. Cross-sector partnerships
2. Community activation program delivery & evaluation
3. Park facility revitalisation
4. Knowledge and evidence
5. Awareness and advocacy
Barriers to nature-based health benefits:

- Lack of awareness
- Lack of accessibility
- Personal factors
- Social factors
Connecting to parks for health and wellbeing

- Learning in Nature
- Volunteering in Parks
- Access for all, inclusion, diversity
- Community health activation programs
- Connecting to Country and history
- Nature-based tourism
Engaging youth – A Case Study

- Federal Government research
- Location based disadvantage
- “The Pines”
School and PV Partnership

- VCAL
- Teacher passion
- Mutual benefits
- Award winning
Benefits

• Broadening life experience
• Real life work skills
• Developing pride and ownership over local Park
• Developing self confidence
Challenges

• Communication
• Teacher commitment
• Transport
• School support
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• Staying out of trouble
• Racism
• Finishing school
• Positive role models
Questions?