



LODDON PLAINS LANDCARE NETWORK



Annual Report 2013/2014

Contents

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Loddon Plains Landcare Network | 1 |
| President's Report | 2 |
| Landcare Facilitator's Report | 3 |
| GOANNA Project | 4 |
| Financial Report | 5 |
| Acknowledgments | 7 |

Loddon Plains Landcare Network

Securing healthy landscapes on the Loddon Plains

The Loddon Plains Landcare Network is an incorporated organisation that formed in 2009. The Network is situated on the Loddon Plains in north central Victoria and brings together more than 300 land managers, from 17 Landcare and NRM groups.

The Network objectives include:

- To encourage a community wide, cooperative, multidisciplinary approach to caring for the environment.
 - To enhance or at least conserve biodiversity through landscape scale restoration work.
 - To promote sustainable land and water management practices that:
 - balance economics and ecology
 - balance productivity and resource protection
 - encourage sustainable agriculture
 - To support and represent Network members groups in relation to policy development issues and communications.
- To disseminate information on Landcare and related matters from and to the Network member groups.
 - To represent the interests of Network members on committees, bodies and other associations.
 - To employ suitably qualified people as necessary and when funds allow to coordinate and assist initiatives and strategies that advance the objectives of the Network.
 - To raise money by gift or subscription or otherwise as the Committee of Management may see fit.



President's Report

Laurie Maxted

The Loddon Plains Landcare Network covers 300,000ha with 17 Landcare and other community NRM organisations involved. From our humble beginnings 5 years ago to now we have seen some big changes as the Network grows and we have had a very rewarding year.

The on-going support of The Norman Wettenhall has allowed us to start some new programs in 2013-2014, as part of the GOANNA Project. These projects include the Calivil Creek Restoration Project, the Loddon Plains Community Bird Monitoring Project, Wheel Cactus Control, and the Workshop Series. It has been great to see these programs get off the ground.

The Network has continued to support other small projects and our member groups including funding for Rabbits at Fairley Bael Bael, coordinating Bridal Creeper control with Inglewood Landcare at the Morning Star Reserve, assisting the East Loddon Landcare Group with restoring the Calivil Recreation Reserve, and facilitating the release of Cochineal insects on Mt Buckrabanyule with the Wychitella District Landcare Group.

We also partnered with the wider local community through the Nestboxes for Kids program at Wedderburn and East Loddon Colleges, contracting the Wedderburn Men's Shed to build the boxes. We installed some of the nestboxes from the first project with the Bridgewater-Inglewood Men's shed and Bridgewater Primary School. We sponsored the Carp eradication day at Boort and have continued to see visits to the Loddon Vale fishing platform, including for visiting bus trips.

With the continued growth of the Network, we have developed a Strategic Plan 2013-2016 to take us into the future and keep the Network true to its objectives. The Network's brochure has allowed us to easily communicate who we are and what we're on about. Deductible Gift Recipient status will allow us to broaden our funding approach.

The volunteer Committee of Management has continued to bring enthusiasm and experience to the Network's projects and have guided the way we operate to effectively deliver community-based outcomes. Our partnerships with key government agencies have built on these outcomes and our members participate in programs from the North Central CMA, Loddon Shire and DEPI.

Thank you to Anthony our Facilitator, Jean our Treasurer, Michael our Secretary, and all the other members of the committee for your leading roles.

Thank you to Beth Mellick, Executive Director of The Norman Wettenhall Foundation and the Trustees for their continued commitment to the Network. Thank you to the State Government of Victoria for their support of the Network through the Victorian Local Landcare Facilitator Initiative.



The Networks Committee of Management visit the Wychitella District Landcare Group at Mt Buckrabanyule in November 2013.

Landcare

Facilitator's Report

Anthony Gallacher

It has once again been a busy and diverse year as the Landcare Facilitator for the Network. It is great to feel like a familiar face amongst Network members and Landcare community. I hope to be able to continue to work to assist groups in bringing their projects to fruition. Here are a few examples.

Nestboxes for Kids

With the successful completion of the pilot Nestboxes for Kids project with Bridgewater-Inglewood Men's Shed and the Bridgewater Primary School, the Network embarked on the second stage of the Nestboxes for Kids through funding from the Loddon Shire Community Grants Program.

The Wedderburn men's Shed were contracted to build 45 nestboxes of different varieties including sugar glider, rosella, kookaburra, duck and possum nestboxes. The Grades 3 – 6 students from the Wedderburn College painted the boxes following a presentation on the importance of nestboxes in conservation. The Duke of Edinburgh Students from Year 9 were involved in identifying suitable trees behind the school for nestbox mounting and a further 20 trees at the Hard Hills Reserve were identified.

The Grades 6 Woodwork class at East Loddon College were also part of the project, working on their own nestboxes. Amongst learning how not to "choke the chicken" when using a hammer and making sure the box sides are flush, the students enjoyed the practical side to their project.

Bridal Creeper

The Inglewood Landcare Group with assistance from the Loddon Plains Landcare

Network undertook spraying of Bridal Creeper at the Inglewood Morning Star Reserve. The 39 acre public reserve in Inglewood formed the basis of the Network's Bridal Creeper project. Training in chemical use allowed the volunteers to undertake the spraying with the assistance of a works crew.

The Network also hosted a Weeds Night in Inglewood, which focussed on various local weed issues. The project was funded through a State Government Victorian Landcare Grant from the North Central Catchment Management Authority.

Cochineal insect biological control

In January 2014 the Network facilitated a knowledge sharing and meet up session with members of the Wychitella District Landcare Group and the Tarrengower Cactus Control Group (TCCG).

The day allowed the Network to see the successes of the TCCG and the Wychitella group was also able to take back some populations of the Cochineal Scale insect, a trial biological control agent. The agent has had success in inhibiting growth of Wheel Cactus in South Australia and the group will monitor its progress at Mt Buckrabanyule, with a view to releasing it across further areas of the mountain if successful.



Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh Students from Wedderburn College with nestboxes

GOANNA Project

Anthony Gallacher

Progress on the Network's flagship GOANNA Project has been steadily increasing in the last year. With several projects scoped and ready for funding applications, it has been a tricky funding environment to target these larger projects. Nevertheless we have made significant gains and headway.

Community Bird Monitoring Project

The Network with support of a \$10,000 grant for biodiversity monitoring from The Norman Wettenhall Foundation launched the Loddon Plains Community Bird Monitoring Project in February 2014. The project aims to build a greater understanding of bird biodiversity within the Network.

Chris Tzaros (Ecologist) was hired to scope and set up 45 bird monitoring sites across the Network, targeting a range of landscapes and functional vegetation types.

The sites are surveyed every season by a dozen bird monitoring volunteer participants, using the 2 ha 20 minute bird survey technique. The data is collated and uploaded to the Network's website for public access.

There is an immense amount of enthusiasm and interest in birds with participants enjoying some rarer sightings including a Diamond Firetail, Grey-crowned Babblers, Singing Honeyeaters and a Peregrine Falcon.

Workshop Series

The Network's Education Workshop Series has been a highlight of the start of the 2014 year. The sustainable agriculture and Landcare topics series engaged high quality speakers to talk and demonstrate on topics of interest to Network members and the wider community.

The on-farm composting workshop saw the Network team up with the North Central CMA, DEPI Land Health Program, and Compost Victoria to deliver aspects of on-farm composting compared to purchase of

commercial grade material. 50 attendees heard from a diverse range of speakers and got up close with some demonstration piles.

With 20 and 15 attendees respectively, the bird monitoring and biodiversity workshops detailed the techniques and benefits of increasing biodiversity in farming landscapes and the flow on positive effects.

A Community Landcare Grant from the Australian Government has allowed the Network to deliver such quality events. The series will wrap up at the end of 2014.

Calivil Creek

The first stage of fencing along the Calivil Creek represents a big milestone for the Network in getting significant funding for landscape change in to the GOANNA Project.

Through funding from the DEPI Kerang Biodiversity Fund project, the Network secured 6.75km of fencing along a 4.03km stretch of the creek. This will enable revegetation over 48 ha's with further funding being sought for this revegetation stage.

With an ongoing commitment to secure funding for further stages, the Network aims to restore a 7km stretch of the creek in total.

Wheel Cactus Funding

The Network has secured funding to undertake a series of working bees and other programs for Wheel Cactus Control at Buckrabanyule and Surrounds. This program will begin in 2014-2015.



Anthony Gallacher getting a feel for compost at the on-farm composting workshop.

Financial Report

Profit & Loss - July 2013 through June 2014

Jean McClymont

| | Jul 13 - Jun 14 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Income | |
| 40000 - Income | |
| 40010 - LPLN - Memberships | 190.00 |
| 40035 - Interest Recieved | 2,550.96 |
| 40036 - Charity Interest | 20.86 |
| | 2,761.82 |
| Total 40000 - Income | 2,761.82 |
| 40700 - Dept of Sustainablilty | 51,250.00 |
| 40800 - Norman Wettenhall Found | 40,000.00 |
| 40930 - Educational Grant -DAFF | 18,600.00 |
| 40940 - Nest Box | 2,727.27 |
| 40960 - FSS | 1,081.98 |
| | 116,421.07 |
| Total Income | 116,421.07 |
| Gross Profit | 116,421.07 |
| Expense | |
| 50000 - Business Services | |
| 50010 - Accounting | 5,432.51 |
| 50020 - Administration | 1,833.99 |
| 50030 - Advertising | 761.90 |
| 50040 - Bank Charges | 34.00 |
| 50045 - Catering | 1,364.00 |
| 50065 - Insurance Fees | 414.86 |
| 50070 - Landcare Project Exp | -1,084.14 |
| 50080 - Membership Fees | 385.09 |
| 50100 - VLLFI -Project Worker | |
| 50101 - Office Space Expense | 1,932.44 |
| 50102 - Office Equipment | 384.55 |
| 50104 - Training Expenses | 22.73 |
| 50105 - OH & S | 179.59 |
| 50106 - Administration\Other | 2,267.08 |
| | 4,786.39 |
| Total 50100 - VLLFI -Project Worker | 4,786.39 |
| 50130 - Room - Hall Hire | 13.64 |
| | 13,942.24 |
| Total 50000 - Business Services | 13,942.24 |
| 50200 - FSS | |
| 50210 - Facilitation | 315.14 |
| 50220 - Group Learning | 135.63 |
| 50200 - FSS - Other | 38.15 |
| | 488.92 |
| Total 50200 - FSS | 488.92 |
| 50350 - VLG Funding | 3,256.36 |
| 50400 - Educational Grant -DAFF | 5,444.70 |
| 50450 - Communities For Nature | 1,300.00 |
| 50500 - Norman Wettenhall | |
| 50550 - Biodiversity Monitoring | 2,176.36 |
| 50560 - Bird Monitoring | 7,823.64 |
| 50500 - Norman Wettenhall - Other | 490.00 |
| | 10,490.00 |
| Total 50500 - Norman Wettenhall | 10,490.00 |
| 50700 - Bridal Creeper Expenses | 4,012.99 |
| 50800 - Loddon Shire Nest Box | 1,674.71 |
| 60000 - Payroll Expenses | 64,774.67 |
| 60100 - Superannuation | 5,974.34 |
| | 111,358.93 |
| Total Expense | 111,358.93 |
| Net Income | 5,062.14 |

Financial Report

Balance Sheet – As of June 30 2014

Jean McClymont

| | <u>Jun 30, 14</u> |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| ASSETS | |
| Current Assets | |
| Chequing/Savings | |
| 10100 - General Account - LPLN | 1,452.10 |
| 10200 - Trust Account - LPLN | 48,018.78 |
| 10300 - Operating Acc - LPLN | 32,582.12 |
| 10400 - Charity Fund - LPLN | 1,036.64 |
| Total Chequing/Savings | <u>83,089.64</u> |
| Accounts Receivable | |
| 18000 - Accounts Receivable | 110.00 |
| Total Accounts Receivable | <u>110.00</u> |
| Total Current Assets | <u>83,199.64</u> |
| TOTAL ASSETS | <u>83,199.64</u> |
| LIABILITIES | |
| Current Liabilities | |
| Other Current Liabilities | |
| 20000 - Tax Payable | 765.55 |
| 20400 - Payroll Liabilities | 6,079.09 |
| Total Other Current Liabilities | <u>6,844.64</u> |
| Total Current Liabilities | <u>6,844.64</u> |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | <u>6,844.64</u> |
| NET ASSETS | <u>76,355.00</u> |
| EQUITY | |
| 30200 - Retained Earnings | 71,292.86 |
| Net Income | 5,062.14 |
| TOTAL EQUITY | <u>76,355.00</u> |

Acknowledgements

2013-2014 Committee of Management

Laurie Maxted – President
Michael Moore – Secretary
Jean McCymont – Treasurer
Andy Hay – Vice President

Ian Penny – Ordinary Member
Bill Twigg – Ordinary Member
Fred Belli – Ordinary Member
Colleen Condliffe – Ordinary Member
Chris Rothacker – Ordinary Member

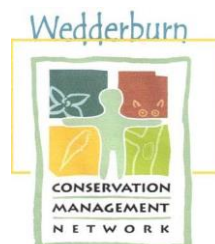
Funding partners and supporters



Australian Government



NORTH CENTRAL
Catchment Management Authority
Connecting Rivers, Landscapes, People



*Healthy Parks
Healthy People®*

Loddon Plains Landcare Network

ABN: 89 233 623 945 **Inc No:** A0055095N
Post: PO Box 65, Wedderburn, VIC, 3556
Email: facilitator@lpln.org
Website: www.lpln.org
Phone: 0447 095 501