



LODDON PLAINS LANDCARE NETWORK

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Loddon Plains Landcare Network

Securing healthy landscapes on the Loddon Plains

The Loddon Plains Landcare Network is a not-for-profit incorporated organisation that formed in 2009. The Network aims to encourage a community wide, cooperative, multidisciplinary approach to caring for the environment.

The Network provides direction, coordination and support to assist member groups to maintain their momentum and to find their place in a bigger picture outcome for an improved natural environment. A key role is to support smaller groups in funding bids, managing funds and planning, as well as coordinating larger scale landscape restoration projects as part of the GOANNA Project.

The Network is overseen by a Committee of Management (COM) made up of 10 members drawn from member groups. The Network employs a full time Landcare Facilitator/GOANNA Project Worker.

Member Groups

- Bendigo Creek Floodplain Group
- Canary Island Landcare
- East Loddon Landcare
- Fairley Bael Bael Sandhill Lake Landcare
- Friends of Kooyoora
- Friends of Terrick Terrick National Park
- Inglewood Urban Landcare
- Kamarooka Landcare
- Loddon Vale Landcare
- Mologa Landcare
- Mt Korong Eco-watch Group
- North Central Landcare
- Northern Plains Conservation Management Network
- Northern United Forestry Group
- Salisbury West Landcare
- Terricks Ridge Landcare
- Wedderburn Conservation Management Network
- Wychitella District Landcare

President's Report

Laurie Maxted

Every year I remark at how much the Loddon Plains Landcare Network has progressed and this year is no exception. We are clocking up projects that are contributing to our local environment. We are also building community capacity as we continue to branch out and meet the needs of our local farmers and community members.

Once again, we have enabled member groups to build on their ambitions through support of local Landcare groups and our other member groups. Of particular note is our partnership with Wychitella District Landcare Group, who have once again mobilised to tackle the force of Wheel Cactus with our help and that of the Loddon Shire.

We distributed a further 40 nest boxes amongst our member groups this year. We hope they become valuable homes for our local wildlife. Ian Penny did a great job at storing the lot of them in his shed for many months.

It was very impressive to see ground preparation begin on the Calivil Creek, Yarrawalla. This project was an idea put forward to the Network by Loddon Vale Landcare group members at our workshop gathering and visioning for the GOANNA Project back in 2012. It is rewarding to see the Network progress with the project stage by stage.

We hope these projects are just the start of more major projects from our GOANNA Project list, as we move forward with implementing our Blueprint for Action vision. Next up we will be seeking funding for the Terrick Terrick-Kow Swamp Linkage in the north east of the Network area.

As we have continued to grow, so has our equipment and asset list. We outgrew the car boot with our working bee gear and a new trailer was needed to safely transport field day signs, tables, and a new BBQ to outings. We will continue to look for opportunities to properly equip the Network with the right gear.

The Norman Wettenhall Foundation saw fit to once again provide us with a grant. Our many thanks to the Foundation and Beth Mellick for their on-going support. Without the support of the Norman Wettenhall Foundation we wouldn't have a full time employee, nor would we achieve half as much as we do.

I must mention the support of the State Government through the Victorian Local Landcare Facilitator Initiative for the past three and a half years. We look forward to the on-going funding of our facilitator through the new Victorian Landcare Facilitator Program in 2015-2016.

A big thank you to Anthony our Facilitator. His continued work as the Networks employee helps our volunteers do what they do best. Michael has once again excelled as our Secretary, as has Jean as Treasurer. Thanks to all the other members of the committee for your leading roles and monthly attendance at the Committee of Management meetings.



Laurie outlines the Loddon Vale Landcare wetland restoration works undertaken at Gladfield

Landcare Facilitator Report

Anthony Gallacher

It has been pleasing to be able to continue to support the many Network member groups in their local activities. Once again grant writing assistance was the most sought after request, and a grant writing workshop I hosted in June 2015 was well attended. Some further efforts:

Loddon Weed Control Committee

In 2014 we established the Loddon Weed Control Committee, which focuses on bringing together stakeholder organisations from the region to develop a coordinated approach to Weeds of National Significance and Regionally Controlled Weeds.

As such we organised representatives from Parks Victoria, Loddon Shire Council, North Central CMA, Bush Heritage Australia, Goulburn Murray Water, Buloke Shire, Wedderburn Conservation Management Network and the Department of Economic Development, amongst other Landcare groups to meet quarterly to discuss weed issues.

The committee has enabled these organisations to value add to each other's limited resources and target specific areas for comprehensive weed programs. As an example, funding for roadside works from the Loddon Shire and North Central CMA for Wheel Cactus control was combined with letters from the Department of Economic Development delivered to landholders who have Wheel

Cactus on their property within the target areas.

Calivil Recreation Reserve Restoration

September 2014 saw the planting of 2000 trees at the Calivil Recreation Reserve by the East Loddon Landcare Group. 70 students from East Loddon P-12 College attended the planting day along with locals.

It was great to be able to assist the group in grant administration and reporting, as well as participating on the planting day. The current size of some of the specimens planted on the day are testament to the preparation and skill of local Landcare members.

It has been great to see the recently reformed group tackle a project so enthusiastically, involving the community and kicking goals. Stage 2 is to be undertaken in 2015/2016.

Boxthorn Brigade

I assisted the Loddon Vale Landcare Group to secure a grant to begin a coordinated program to control African Boxthorn in the Loddon Vale region.

Boxthorn is a Weed of National Significance and a Regionally Controlled Weed in North Central Victoria. There are a number of large infestations in the Network area.

The grant funded chemical and some contractor removal of Boxthorn and will also engage Landcare member neighbours on the need to control boxthorn.

*East Loddon P-12 Students at the Calivil
Recreation Reserve planting day September 2014*



Silverleaf Nightshade Field Days

Partnering with Murrumbidgee Landcare, we were able to assist local Landcare groups and farmers in gaining up to date information of Silverleaf Nightshade (White Horsenettle) management. Silverleaf Nightshade is prevalent throughout the Calivil and Mysia areas of the Network.

Two field days were run in Mysia and Calivil with over 60 attendees. The workshops introduced the “Dual Action” approach to tackling the weed. 66% of attendees indicated the workshops reasonably increased their knowledge on management of the weed.

A big thank you to Phil Bowden and Karen Herbert for taking the time to come down from New South Wales to run the workshops, and the landholders who agreed to host the events.



Silverleaf Nightshade field walk February 2015 in Mysia

Loddon River Track Upgrade

Despite being on private land, the Serpentine Weir is a popular fishing and picnic spot on the Loddon River, including for Landcare events. I worked with the Network to secure funding to upgrade the Loddon River Track at Serpentine, to enable better access for the public to the Serpentine Weir.

The project saw funding from the Recreational Fisheries Initiative go to providing aggregate to stabilise the track and keep it 2WD passable after rain. This means the track can be kept open to public access without worries of vehicles getting bogged. A great result for this magical piece of the Network.



Loddon River Track Upgrade to Serpentine Weir, Serpentine

Land Health Program

Continuing the partnership with the Department of Economic Development, Agriculture Services & Biosecurity Team for Loddon Mallee, has been a rewarding aspect of the last year. This ensured the continuation of relevant field days and workshops within the Network area. Together with the Salisbury West Landcare Group this enabled several quality field days including:

- a Pasture Trial Field day,
- a Hay Production Field Day,
- a Stock Condition Workshop
- a Stock Containment Field Day

All resources, speakers and relevant information was provided through the Agriculture Services & Biosecurity Team Extension Officer Belinda Pritchard, with help from the Network for flyers and publicity. This has been a valuable continuation of the Sustainable Agriculture extension within the Network area.



Land Health Program Stock Condition Workshop at Powlett with Salisbury West Landcare

GOANNA Project

Anthony Gallacher

We have made significant progress on the Network's flagship GOANNA Project in 2014/2015. The start of several new projects and the continuation of previously started projects means it has been a busy 12 months.

Wheel Cactus Control

Two grants secured in 2014 kick-started the efforts to control Wheel Cactus at Mt Buckrabanyule in November 2014. This included a Loddon Shire Community Grant and a Communities for Nature Grant from the State Government.

Equipment purchase and working bee materials from the grants enabled 5 working bees to be undertaken involving 75 volunteers including locals and TAFE students from Bendigo. The program was launched in April by the Loddon Shire Mayor Gavin Holt.

Wheel Cactus is considered a priority weed by the Network and these efforts alongside the Wychitella District Landcare Group are aimed at beginning a long term strategy for controlling the weed.

A demonstration and working bee was also undertaken at Kamarooka in June with the Kamarooka Landcare Group.

The Network's equipment will be made available to member groups to use for Wheel Cactus working bees across the region.



*Wheel Cactus demonstration at Kamarooka
with the Kamarooka Landcare Group*

Workshop series

The Network's workshop series funded through the Australia Government's Caring for our Country Program was finalised in March 2015. The series engaged over 110 people this financial year.

Highlights from 2014/2015 included:

- A Terricks bus trip as part of the Friends of Terrick Terrick National Park Activities Weekend. The tour looked at Landcare activities around the Terricks including bird monitoring sites
- A Farm Forestry workshop at Kamarooka with the Northern United Forestry Group. Topics covered included bioenergy, silviculture and the benefits of plantations on salinity and ground water
- Last year's Landcare Link-Up social evening 2014 bringing together 55 Landcare locals to share on the banks of the Loddon River
- Loddon Plains Landcare Network bus trip in March 2015, showcasing Network and Network supported projects.

Community Bird Monitoring Project

The Loddon Plains Community Bird Monitoring Project continues with a dozen volunteers notching up 180 surveys in 2014/2015.

The data continues to build a picture of woodland birds at the 45 monitoring sites. Thanks to the tremendous effort of the volunteers!

You can observe the data and stories from the bird monitoring project on our website.



*Farm Forestry Workshop at the Northern
United Forestry Group demonstration site*

Green Army

The Network partnered with Bush Heritage Australia, Trust for Nature, Wedderburn Conservation Management Network, North Central CMA and Connecting Country to develop the *Landscape Change in the Upper Loddon Catchment* Green Army Project.

After much organising, the Loddon Plains Landcare Network as project host was paired with Manpower and Landcare Australia Limited as service providers.

The Green Army team consisted of 9 participants and team supervisor Mark Woods.

The team hit the ground in June 2015 and will continue until November 2015. The diverse range of partners has offered a wide range of activities and jobs for the participants to undertake. Activities include:

- Weed control using a variety of techniques targeting Wheel Cactus, Pines, Horehound, Patersons Curse and others
- Revegetation through tubestock planting and direct seeding by hand,
- Fencing and enclosure construction
- Eucy harvesting restorations
- Bridge repair
- Brush packing for erosion control

It has been great to have a team of enthusiastic young people to work with so many NRM groups in the region. Thanks to Mark Woods and to all the partner organisations for getting involved.



Ground preparation underway on the Calivil Creek, Yarrowalla.

Calivil Creek

The completion of the first stage of fencing along the Calivil Creek in Yarrowalla enabled the Network to prioritise revegetation of this section as the next step in the project.

In late 2014, the Network successfully secured funding from the 20 Million Trees grants through the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme to continue this project.

The funding will enable 65 hectares of the creek to be revegetated with 3560 tubestock and 16km of direct seeding. Community engagement is a feature of the project involving the Loddon Vale Landcare Group and students from East Loddon P-12 College in planting.

Ground preparation began in May 2015. The project is due for completion in June 2016.

The Department of Economic Development, Kerang, who supplied the fencing for the first stage of the project, has continued to assist the Network in determining revegetation aspects and the species mix for planting.

Green Army Team began on the WCMN Eucy Harvesting Restoration site at Wedderburn in June 2015



Our achievements at a glance

NETWORK/NETWORK SUPPORTED	2014/2015
Projects operational	8
Member groups	17
Applications written or reviewed	14
On-ground works	
Trees planted	2000
Revegetation prep	65 ha
Weeds	36 ha
Nestboxes erected	45
Nestboxes distributed to groups	40
Community engagement	
Events	30
Participants (half day)	423
Participants (full day)	109
Blog/website posts/articles	58
Newsletters	5
Monitoring	
Bird monitoring surveys	180
Reports written or reviewed	5
Networking/lobbying	
Weed Control Committee meetings	4
New partnerships	9

Profit & Loss - July 2014 through June 2015

Jean McClymont

	Jul 14 - Jun 15
Income	
40000 - Income	
40010 - LPLN - Memberships	292.70
40035 - Interest Recieved	2,383.51
40036 - Charity Interest	5.11
40040 - Cash	2.00
Total 40000 - Income	2,683.32
40100 - Calivil Creek Project	48,240.00
40200 - Wheel Cactus Program	6,972.73
40210 - Wheel Cactus Grant 2	7,245.00
40500 - NCCMA Grant	6,455.00
40700 - Dept of Sust - DELWPAP	37,500.00
40800 - Norman Wettenhall Found	30,000.00
40850 - DEPI Acess Upgrade	9,964.90
41000 - Refund of Exoenses	419.05
41100 -Pyramid Hill FSS Grant	55,000.00
Total Income	204,480.00
Gross Profit	204,480.00
Expense	
50000 - Business Services	
50020 - Administration	195.45
50040 - Bank Charges	45.40
50080 - Membership Fees	529.55
50100 - VLLFI -Project Worker	
50101 - Office Space Expense	2,572.30
50102 - Office Equipment	525.99
50104 - Training Expenses	918.47
50105 - OH & S	1,144.42
50106 - Administration\Other	3,541.74
50107 - Travel Other	933.96
Total 50100 - VLLFI -Project Worker	9,636.88
Total 50000 - Business Services	10,407.28
50200 - FSS	
50220 - Group Learning	281.50
Total 50200 - FSS	281.50
50400 - Educational Grant -DAFF	11,032.43
50450 - Communities For Nature	8,431.94
50555 - Donations	100.00
50650 - Wheel Catus Program	4,229.51
50660 - Wheel Cactus Grant 2	5,118.50
50800 - Loddon Shire Nest Box	1,288.68
50900 - Calivil Creek Project	
50930 - Calivil Cr Plant/Reveg	1,489.45
50950 - Calivil Cr Site Preper	3,480.00
Total 50900 - Calivil Creek Project	4,969.45
60000 - Payroll Expenses	63,657.79
60100 - Superannuation	5,888.10
60200 - Refund of Grant	7,100.50
60300 -DEPI Access Upgrade	9,964.90
60400 - Pyramid Hill	
60410 - Activity 1	14,171.15
60420 - Activity 2	270.00
60430 - Activity 3	2,246.42
60440 - Activity 4	8,952.73
Total 60400 - Pyramid Hill	25,640.30
Total Expense	158,110.88
Net Income	46,369.12

Financial Report

Balance Sheet – As of June 30 2015

Jean McClymont

	<u>Jun 30, 15</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Chequing/Savings	
10100 - General Account - LPLN	452.10
10200 - Trust Account - LPLN	74,896.14
10300 - Operating Acc - LPLN	57,882.24
10400 - Charity Fund - LPLN	1,056.94
Total Chequing/Savings	134,287.42
Accounts Receivable	
18000 - Accounts Receivable	148.00
Total Accounts Receivable	148.00
Total Current Assets	134,435.42
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>134,435.42</u>
LIABILITIES	
Current Liabilities	
Credit Cards	
99999 Loddon Plains L/C Network	-993.82
Total Credit Cards	-993.82
Other Current Liabilities	
20000 - Tax Payable	7,189.44
20400 - Payroll Liabilities	6,900.68
Total Other Current Liabilities	14,090.12
Total Current Liabilities	13,096.30
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>13,096.30</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>121,339.12</u>
EQUITY	
30200 - Retained Earnings	74,970.00
Net Income	46,369.12
TOTAL EQUITY	<u>121,339.12</u>

Acknowledgements

2014-2015 Committee of Management

Laurie Maxted – President

Michael Moore – Secretary

Jean McClymont – Treasurer

Andy Hay – Vice President

Chris Rothacker – Ordinary Member

Ian Penny – Ordinary Member

Bill Twigg – Ordinary Member

Fred Belli – Ordinary Member

Colleen Condliffe – Ordinary Member

Colin Gitsham – Ordinary Member

Staff

Anthony Gallacher – Landcare Facilitator/GOANNA Project Worker



The Network's Committee of Management at the 2014 Loddon Plains Landcare Link-Up on the banks of the Loddon River, Serpentine

Annual Report prepared by Anthony Gallacher (2015) for the Loddon Plains Landcare Network

Funding partners and supporters



Loddon Plains Landcare Network

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