

Loddon Plains Landcare Network



LODDON PLAINS LANDCARE NETWORK



Annual Report 2015 - 2016

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The Loddon Plains Landcare Network’s GOANNA logo represents ‘Group Organised Action Nurturing Natural Assets’. The image depicts circles, wheat, water, leaves, and solid lines embedded into the shape of a goanna. Exemplifying the People, Agriculture, Irrigation, Conservation, Diverse Communities, Corridors and Biolinks of revegetation throughout the Loddon Plains. This image embodies the guiding principles of the LPLN, illustrating the potential for socially acceptable landscape change and long term sustainable agriculture.

Loddon Plains Landcare Network

Securing Healthy Landscapes on the Loddon Plains

Formed in 2009, the LPLN is a network of Landcare and Natural Resource Management (NRM) community groups who operate across the Loddon Plains in north central Victoria.

The LPLN network is comprised of 18 groups which brings together like-minded people who are interested in their natural environment and activities to enhance natural values. Within the network there are more than 300 land managers responsible for 300,000 ha of private land.

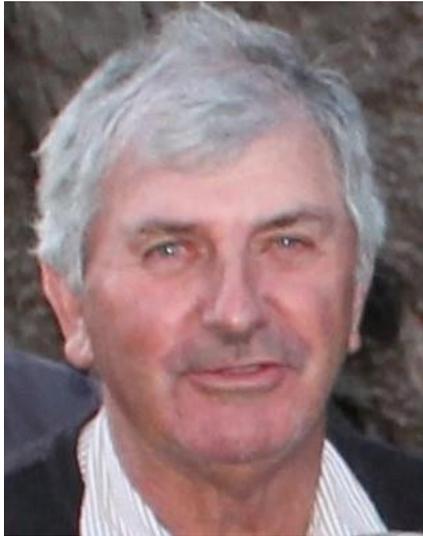
Member Groups

- ❖ 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

A number of groups also work closely and in partnership with the government bodies of Parks Victoria, NCCMA, DEDJTR and DELWP, and in conjunction with Non-Government Organisations, such as The Norman Wettenhall Foundation, Trust for Nature, Bush Heritage and Dja Dja Wurrung Enterprises. Together we strive to achieve the LPLN objectives of:

- ✓ Landscape wide Conservation,
- ✓ Restoration and Enhancement of Biodiversity
- ✓ Community wide, multidisciplinary approach for caring for the environment
- ✓ Promote Sustainable Land and Water management practices that:
 - ✓ Balance economics and ecology,
 - ✓ Balance productivity and resource protection
 - ✓ Encourage sustainable agriculture.
- ✓ Support and represent the Member groups
- ✓ Broadcast information on Landcare and related matters
- ✓ Represent the interests of Network members on committees, bodies and associations
- ✓ Employ suitable qualified people as funds allow to assist in the coordination of initiatives and objectives of the Network
- ✓ Raise funds by gift or subscription as the committee of management may see fit.

Presidents Report



LPLN have had a very busy and constructive year. A big shock came to us with the unexpected resignation of Anthony Gallagher. After receiving many applications for the position of the new facilitator, we were able to declare James Nelsson as the accepted applicant. To our delight, James has been an excellent replacement for Anthony. He is very enthusiastic and accomplished in his job.

There were a lot of projects ongoing in the network, some of these being the Calivil Creek Project, the Wheel Cactus Project at Mt Buckrabanyule, the Terrick Terrick Project, along with the Kamarooka Wetlands Project that has just been started.

I would like to thank my executives: Secretary Michael and Treasurer Jean for all their hard work throughout the year, and James for his ongoing cooperation and communication. To all the members of the LPLN thank you for all the support you have given me in my first year as President. In closing, I would like to give a special thank you to Laurie Maxted for his support and guidance throughout the year.

Andy Hay-President



Facilitators Report



I started as the Loddon Plains Landcare Network Facilitator and GOANNA project worker on Monday the 18th of April this year. On my first day I met with Anthony Gallagher at the Parks Victoria office in Inglewood. There, we did an inspection of the LPLN equipment shed, and he handed me the LPLN keys.

Next, Anthony drove me out to Mt Buckrabanyule, where we did a drive by of the mountain. Here Anthony shared his insights into the wheel cactus management challenges and some of the upcoming opportunities, such as the Boort secondary school having a wheel cactus working bee in May. He discussed, the dedication of the Wychitella District Landcare group to this project, and that we will soon have the Green Army services for several weeks of cactus stabbing (stem injections). We discussed the local cochineal larvae trials, and the various control methods being employed on the Mount. We also talked about the efforts and achievements of the various member groups being carried out across the wider district.

We continued onto the Calivil Creek project, where we met with project partner Jenny Spence (DEDJTR) and landholder Tom Smith. We inspected the plants, and assessed the next stage where further weed control and direct seeding was to occur (which was rain dependent). We then finished off the day with a meeting with the LPLN Vice President, Laurie Maxted, at his property.

Tuesday the 19th was Anthony's last day, we spent most of the morning going through Anthony's file management, the Standard Operating Procedures and him giving me an introductory instruction on the Bird monitoring database, INFERR, and the LPLN website. In the afternoon we packed down the LPLN office furniture and files, and moved them to my home office in Wedderburn. At the end of a long day, we met up with LPLN Secretary, Michael Moore, where Anthony said his final farewell and I returned him to Bendigo.

I would like to acknowledge the high standard of work carried out by Anthony Gallagher and thank him for leaving me such a well-documented, organised management system and a healthy, dynamic Landcare Network. I'd like to take this opportunity to let you know that I'm really excited to be filling this role and look forward to working closely with all the groups over the next year.

Landcare Report



What a year we've had so far, with heat waves in May and a very wet winter and spring. Now the rain has brought ongoing flooding, damaging crops and infrastructure, adding additional pressures to our members after years of worry about dry winters and uncertain rainfalls.

Understandably, this will be a very stressful time for many of our members, so remember to look after your loved ones, your neighbours and especially yourselves. Stay safe and take care.

Both Anthony and I have been engaging with various member groups throughout the last year, providing information, guidance and on ground assistance. We've held a Silver Leaf Nightshade workshop, a Grant Writing workshop and a Bird Monitoring workshop. Collectively we've attended 16 of the 18 Landcare member group's meetings, we've regularly updated the LPLN web page, and created a LPLN Facebook page (remember to like us on Facebook).

Various member groups have been successful in obtaining six different Threatened Species Protection Initiative grants. We held Cultural heritage awareness events, such as "Listening to the Mount" which was very successful. This was a joint cultural awareness project between NCCMA, WCMN, MKEW, LPLN and Trust for Nature, under the auspices of the Kooyoora connections program. This activity saw 60 people meet up at the Glenalbyn picnic ground where they were welcomed to



country by Bec and Trent of the Dja Dja Wurrung. After a morning tea, the group broke up into a men's group and a women's group. The Women then went up to Mt Korong, which has cultural and spiritual significance as a special women's place, and the men went up to Mt Kooyoora, which holds significance as a men's place. Each of these places have various significance, ranging from initiation ceremonies, tool making and birthing places. The day was fruitful and rewarding, creating a greater cultural understanding and awareness about the local indigenous people, their social and cultural practices and the complexity of their society.

After three years of financial support from the Norman Wettenhall Foundation (NWF), who have been funding the GOANNA Project worker position, the end of this grant arrived. This doesn't mean we lose the valuable partnership that we have built between the NWF and the LPLN, and indeed we look forward to continuing our relationship with Beth Mellick and the NWF into the future. But, where does that leave the GOANNA project? Well, with the work previously undertaken by the Network in developing the "Blueprint for Action", which identified the Kamarooka wetlands as a priority project, together with the work done by our Network President Andy Hay engaging the Landholders of the Kamarooka wetlands and the advocacy of Beth Mellick, I am pleased to announce that the NCCMA has agreed to fund the position into the future. This is of course tied to successfully getting the Kamarooka wetland restoration project underway.

Goanna Project

Calivil Creek - Black Box habitat restoration

Ground preparation was started in mid-May last year, just prior to it raining which was fortunate as it ensured good soil moisture for plantings. All the initial ground preparation was completed by June 2015. The landholders ensured that the prepared areas were kept weed free over winter, ready for a spring planting.

In September 2015, and under Anthony Gallagher's project management, two tree planting activities were carried out with the assistance of students from the East Loddon College, and the Loddon Vale Landcare Group. Jenny Spence (DEDJTER) assisted enormously, providing advice, logistical support and 20 Potti Pouttki planters for the plantings.

Three watering exercises were undertaken by the Landholder, Tom Smith. A fourth emergency watering that was carried out by Conservation Volunteers Australia, after a heatwave in March this year, which placed the plants survival at risk. At this time Anthony also applied for a Threatened Species Protection Initiative grant to progress the stage two of this project, which includes further fencing and planting activities along the creek.

A direct seeding of the site was undertaken in May this year, a month after I started. We met the target of sixteen kilometres of direct seeding, using 3.8 kilograms of EVC appropriate indigenous seed. Jenny Spence, LPLN ordinary member Fred Belli and I undertook the final tree count to determine the survival rates of the stock for reporting. We found that we had an 83% survival rate, which is a great result, but to meet the onerous MERIT reporting and the 20 Million Trees grant funding requirements, further trees were planted at Tom Smith's property so that we exceeded the number of trees stipulated as our target.



We've just received confirmation that we got the Threatened Species grant and we are now ready to start on Stage Two.

Wheel Cactus Program - Mt Buckrabanyule



The Loddon shire provided funding that allowed us to undertake some roadside cactus control with two working bees last year. The Wychitella Landcare group have also held regular working bees at various sites around Mt Buckrabanyule throughout the year, with me attending my first cactus stabbing event in July.

In February we had the benefit of a drought employment crew for two weeks. Local landholder John Coleiro provided them with the chemical, whilst they undertook cactus control on his Mt Buckrabanyule property.

We have also had the Green Army working on the cactus, with one crew undertaking two weeks work in September last year, and I have had the second crew working on cactus control for three weeks, so far, this year. I was also successful in obtaining a Landcare grant that will fund a further week's work by a Conservation Volunteers Crew in November.

Achievements at a Glance

NETWORK/NETWORK SUPPORTED	2015/2016
Projects operational	8
Member groups	18
Applications written or reviewed	16

On-ground works	
Trees planted	8000
Direct Seeding	16 km
Revegetation prep	70 ha
Weeds	75 ha

Community engagement	
Events	30
Participants (half day)	300
Participants (full day)	120
Blog/website posts/articles	61
Facebook post	101

Monitoring	
Bird monitoring surveys	180
Training/events	2

Networking/lobbying	
Weed Control Committee meetings	4
New partnerships	2

Financial Report

10:29 AM
07/10/16
Accrual Basis

LODDON PLAINS LANDCARE NETWORK Profit & Loss July 2015 through June 2016

	Jul 15 - Jun 16
Income	
40000 - Income	
40010 - LPLN - Memberships	327.24
40035 - Interest Received	2,501.77
Total 40000 - Income	2,829.01
40500 - NCCMA Grant	15,000.00
40700 - Dept of Sust - DELWPAP	26,353.00
40800 - Norman Wettenhall Found	40,000.00
40880 - DELWP	25,000.00
40995 - Loddon Shire Grant	1,940.00
41100 -Pyramid Hill FSS Grant	35,000.00
Total Income	146,122.01
Gross Profit	146,122.01
Expense	
40400 -Credit Card Temp Exp Acc	107.70
50000 - Business Services	
50005 - Vehicle	34.54
50010 - Accounting	1,805.00
50020 - Administration	357.73
50040 - Bank Charges	88.30
50080 - Membership Fees	347.73
50100 - VLLFI -Project Worker	
50101 - Office Space Expense	1,354.59
50102 - Office Equipment	181.77
50104 - Training Expenses	281.82
50105 - OH & S	22.73
50106 - Administration\Other	3,235.59
50107 - Travel Other	3,122.99
50100 - VLLFI -Project Worker - Other	247.75
Total 50100 - VLLFI -Project Worker	8,447.24
Total 50000 - Business Services	11,080.54
50200 - FSS	
50220 - Group Learning	536.82
Total 50200 - FSS	536.82
50500 - Norman Wettenhall	
50560 - Bird Monitoring	1,915.00
50570 - Education	3,528.48
Total 50500 - Norman Wettenhall	5,443.48
50555 - Donations	100.00
50650 - Wheel Catus Program	2,941.79
50660 - Wheel Cactus Grant 2	1,418.05
50710 - Bendigo Creek	1,100.58
50800 - Loddon Shire Nest Box	
50810 - Nest Box Monitoring	1,449.83
Total 50800 - Loddon Shire Nest Box	1,449.83
50900 - Calivil Creek Project	
50910 - Calivil Cr - Admin	1,123.95
50930 - Calivil Cr Plant/Reveg	4,052.00
50940 - Calivil Cr Dir/Seeding	2,823.04
50950 - Calivil Cr Site Preper	24,212.29
50960 - Calivil Cr Weed Treat	2,980.00
50900 - Calivil Creek Project - Other	2,611.34
Total 50900 - Calivil Creek Project	37,802.62
60000 - Payroll Expenses	69,172.62
60100 - Superannuation	6,431.61

10:29 AM
07/10/16
Accrual Basis

LODDON PLAINS LANDCARE NETWORK
Profit & Loss
July 2015 through June 2016

	<u>Jul 15 - Jun 16</u>
60400 - Pyramid Hill FSS	
60410 - Activity 1	11,527.52
60420 - Activity 2	8,486.28
60430 - Activity 3	6,080.91
60440 - Activity 4	9,634.09
60451 - Activity 5	2,031.13
Total 60400 - Pyramid Hill FSS	<u>37,759.93</u>
Total Expense	<u>175,345.57</u>
Net Income	<u><u>-29,223.56</u></u>

10:30 AM
07/10/16
Accrual Basis

LODDON PLAINS LANDCARE NETWORK
Summary Balance Sheet
As of June 30, 2016

	<u>Jun 30, 16</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Chequing/Savings	83,978.98
Accounts Receivable	217.00
Total Current Assets	<u>84,195.98</u>
Fixed Assets	<u>13,694.75</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>97,890.73</u></u>
LIABILITIES	
Current Liabilities	
Credit Cards	-98.05
Other Current Liabilities	5,873.22
Total Current Liabilities	<u>5,775.17</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u><u>5,775.17</u></u>
NET ASSETS	<u><u>92,115.56</u></u>
TOTAL EQUITY	<u><u>92,115.56</u></u>

Acknowledgements

2015---2016 *Committee of Management*



Andy Hay
President



Michael Moore
Secretary



Jean McClymont
Treasurer



Laurie Maxted
Vice President



Chris Rothacker
Ordinary Member



Colleen Condliffe
Ordinary Member



Colin Gitsham
Ordinary Member



Fred Belli
Ordinary Member



Ian Penny
Ordinary Member



Kate Lee
Ordinary Member

Annual Report prepared by James Nelsson (2016) for the Loddon Plains Landcare Network

Funding Partners and supporters



NORTH CENTRAL
Catchment Management Authority
Connecting Rivers, Landscapes, 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

Loddon Plains Landcare Network
Facilitator and GOANNA Project worker
James Nelsson
Post: PO Box 16, Wedderburn, VIC, 3556
Email: facilitator@lpln.org
Phone: 0490 412 430