

Annual Report 2017



Loddon Plains Landcare Network



The GOANNA logo image is depicted by using circles, wheat, water, leaves, and solid lines embedded into the shape of a goanna. These images represent the People, Agriculture, Irrigation, Conservation, Diverse Communities, Corridors and Biolinks of revegetation throughout the Loddon Plains.

This image embodies the guiding principles of our Network, illustrating that by working together, the potential for socially acceptable landscape change and long term sustainable agriculture can be realized. The GOANNA acronym represents ‘Group Organised Action Nurturing Natural Assets’ which is what we are achieving.

Project Partners



NORTH CENTRAL
Catchment Management Authority
Connecting Rivers, Landscapes, People

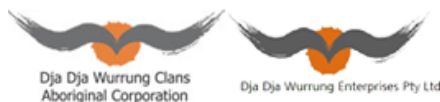


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LODDON PLAINS LANDCARE NETWORK



LODDON PLAINS LANDCARE NETWORK

Securing Healthy Landscapes on the Loddon Plains

Since 2009, our Network of Landcare groups has successfully worked across the Loddon Plains in North Central Victoria. Our network has 18 groups, comprised of passionate people who are interested in improving their local environment. Our groups have been managing and protecting water resources, managing the health of their soils, improving agricultural practices to increase productivity, managing invasive pest plants and animals, protected significant native flora and fauna, and undertaken activities that enhance natural values and agricultural returns.

Our network has more than 300 land managers, responsible for 300,000 hectares of private land, with many members also voluntarily assisting in the management of our public lands.

We work closely with government bodies, such as Parks Victoria, NCCMA, GWM Water, DEDJTR, DELWP and Loddon Shire, and in conjunction with Non-Government Organisations, such as Wettenhall Environment Trust, Trust for Nature, Bush Heritage and Dja Dja Wurrung Enterprises.

As a Network, we have successfully and collaboratively achieved our Network's stated 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.

Our Member Groups

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

The ultimate test of man's conscience may be his willingness to sacrifice something today for future generations whose words of thanks will not be heard.

- Gaylord Nelson

Presidents Report



Once again the LPLN has had a very busy and successful year. With many projects from many Landcare groups taking place being overseen by the LPLN including Wheel Cactus at Mt Buckrabanyule, finishing off the Calivil Creek Project, launching of the Canoe Platform on the Serpentine Creek at Durham Ox, forming a Weed's Committee with the LPLN and Loddon Shire to control road side weeds (which is not only a problem in the Loddon Shire but State wide), along with the Kamarooka Wetlands Project which is well underway.

I would like to thank my LPLN committee for all their support over the past year. In particular Vice-President Laurie Maxted, our very efficient Secretary Michael Moore and Treasurer Jean McClymont. As well as our hard working facilitator James Nelsson for his outstanding work and long hours he puts into his job. Lastly I would like to thank my wife Carmel and family for allowing me to have time off to attend the meetings.

Andy Hay- LPLN President



Facilitators Report



Wow, it's been 18 months since I started as the Loddon Plains Landcare Network Facilitator and GOANNA project Officer. Over the last 12 months, our network has had a lot of achievements to be proud of, we've been both active and effective. Two of our members, Jim Irving (Friends of Kooyoora) and Michael Moore (Secretary of the LPLN, Pres. WCMN and Convenor of FoK) were recognised by Parks Victoria for Personal Achievement "Kookaburra" Awards, for their works in conservation, and Michael Moore was also recognised by the Loddon Shire with an Australia Day award for his efforts in the environment and the community.

Our Networks achievements are because of our members, combined with the support of the Network's Committee of Management and our external partnerships, that's why we are a successful network. We've been involved in several school and community planting days, including planting an indigenous food garden with the Preppies to grade 2's (an intimidating experience for this facilitator), and this was part of Environment week, which included the Bridgewater Primary school, Inglewood Primary School and St Mary's, Inglewood. The day was facilitated by DEWLP representatives, Waterwatch, a Shire Councillor, Parents and Community Volunteers, and this year was hosted at the Bridgewater Primary school.



Bulbine Bulbosa Bulbine Lily



Indigenous food Garden - Bridgewater Primary School



Arthropodium strictum Chocolate Lily

We have carried out many hours of weed control, monitored birds and nest-boxes, collected native seed, we've propagated, planted and watered tubestock. We've worked together, we've recruited new members and made new partnerships, including forging stronger ties with the NCCMA. An important partnership as they are supporting the Kamarooka Wetland Complex restoration project. This has included providing mentoring support in wetland management for me, in the form of a GHCMa Twinning programme and provided the funding for our GOANNA Project Officer position for the rest of the year.



Members of Bendigo Orienteers, Friends of Kooyoora, Wychitella Landcare Group and the WCMN all contributed to the Cactus control day on the North face of Mt Kooyoora

Our Network has been successful in receiving a number of grants at the Local Group level and at the Network level, ranging from Maintenance grants, Revegetation projects, Cultural Heritage Awareness camp, Arboreal mammal Nest box monitoring, and we've purchased new equipment, undertaken ongoing Cactus control, carried out network training and more. We have had members from different network groups working collaboratively together, communities injecting and removing cactus, revegetating Mallee Fowl mounds, and undertaking Citizen Science Projects.



Farming for Sustainable Soils (FSS) field day, with members investigating the benefits of deep soil manuring.

We have groups involved in the Farming for Sustainable Soils (FSS) program, Landcare communities undertaking field trials to assess the effectiveness of sub-soil manuring, and using hi-tech weather and soil monitoring stations to guide their decisions in water management, spraying regimes and other cropping decisions. There have been various cropping trials around the Network, involving different sorts of crops, from tillage radish, various forage crops, to seed varieties trials in side by side comparisons to assess crop growth, yield and suitability.



The Green Army with Michael Moore (left) Tony Day (centre) and Lindsay Ezard (right) standing on local Acacia seed collected from one of the many revegetation sites

It is very rewarding working with people who want to make a positive difference to how our local area will be for future generations. I like to remember that the world our children will inherit from us tomorrow, we are creating today. So thank you.



Landcare briefing



It certainly has been a different year compared to the last two years. We certainly haven't had the rainfall this winter, with the spring drier than average, with many heavy frosts across the Loddon Plains area.

Excitingly, our Network Grant has allowed us to purchase 19 Samsung Tablets for the use of the member groups and has provided funding for training our members. We have a GIS mapping workshop and Nature Share training scheduled

for November, and will have the introductory training in the Tablets for representatives of each member group to start shortly, with further training available after that, for those that are interested in how to use Android devices, such as phones and tablets.

In April we teamed up with the Bendigo Home School Network and had a planting day at Mt Korong, with plants being provided from the Mt Korong Nursery, grown from seeds collected locally (from private property). We've also undertaken planting activities with the Bridgewater, Inglewood and St Mary's Primary schools where we planted three indigenous food gardens, and students got to taste some Indigenous Bush Tucker.



Students from Bendigo Home School network, at the planting day, Burrabungle, Mt Korong



Over the last twelve months, I've spoken about our Network's achievements at conventions, written submissions, newspaper articles and grants. I've attended many meetings, representing our Landcare Network to government, statutory organisations, corporate utilities, NGO's, philanthropic trusts and most importantly I've met with our members and the land-holders.

We've worked together with the Dja Dja Wurrung, Parks, GWM Water, DELWP, DEDJTR, BHA, TfN, Wettenhall Environmental Trust, VFF and the Loddon Shire. I've provided information to Land-holders on erosion control, planting techniques, revegetation and weed management. I've assisted groups with on-ground action and forwarded information relevant to our network through email, our website and social media.

Together we have held community information sessions, field-days, workshops, including planning workshops, and are currently scheduling more training. But none of this would have been possible without the work of so many passionate volunteers, providing their time, their experience and their enthusiasm.

Goanna Project Highlights

Calivil Creek - 20 million trees Black Box habitat restoration

The final phase of the 20 Million Trees - Calivil Creek project, which was the direct seeding component, was completed in September 2016. Due to the vagaries of direct seeding and nature, we didn't have any emergent sprouts by the end of spring 2016. We are hoping that we will see some germinates emerging by the end of this spring, but with direct seeding there can be some years between planting and germination. The tubestock that was planted in early 2016 is doing well, with over 80% survival rate when assessed. We submitted the financials for the 2015/16 FY for this project as per their template in February and the audited accounts were submitted in April 2017. The reporting requirements required for this project were quite onerous, requiring many more hours than any other projects reporting requirements.



Wheel Cactus Program - Mt Buckrabanyule



Wheel Cactus atop of Mt Buckrabanyule

This site is a perennial problem, with over 800 hectares of severe Wheel Cactus infestation atop the mountain. The Wychitella Landcare group have been busy at various sites around Mt Buckrabanyule throughout the year, and I had the Green Army in November and December for four weeks working on cactus control, using stem injection, grubbing out small plants and through biological control by spreading the cochineal larvae. The NCCMA have been helpful with the provision of two separate Landcare grants, one for \$5,000 which paid for Conservation Volunteers for one week in February and another grant of \$10,000 which will provide us with Corrective Services crews for about 4-5 weeks.



These plants are providing the district with a continuous seed bank of what is fast becoming a real threat to our agricultural assets and the environment. The best time to deal with wheel cactus is when you first observe it. Ideally, when the plant is under 30 cm in height it is easy to grub out and remove. Grubbed out plants should be buried or placed under black plastic, which will solarise the plant. Remember that even if a single pad is left in contact with soil or mulch, it will sprout. This problem really requires sustained and significant action, both at Mt Buckrabanyule and across the Network.



Attaching a Cochineal infested pad to a healthy cactus

Kamarooka Wetland Complex restoration

This has been a great opportunity to demonstrate the LPLN's ability to deliver on landscape wide restoration works. Located within a 5 kilometre radius of Dunn's Swamp south, these seven wetland sites are located on private properties in the Kamarooka to Dingee area.

So this year we have met with the landholders with these ephemeral wetlands on their properties, we engaged with them, we agreed that these wetlands should be protected and discussed how together we could achieve this without negatively impacting on their agricultural activities.

I met with all the Landholders, both in a group and individually. I walked (or more often, was driven) around some beautiful agricultural properties, which also contain some magnificent remnant vegetation. We discussed the best location for the landholder to position their fences, so that it protected the wetland site, but still worked in with their day to day operations, or in some cases improved the operation of their agricultural enterprise. I mapped out the areas of each of the sites, including the fence lines, the area of the wetlands, the area of revegetation, and the overall area protected.



With funding from the NCCMA, we provided the fencing material, and the landholders undertook to erect them. We engaged Rakali Wetland Ecology to do a vegetation survey of the wetlands, Connecting Country to undertake the direct seeding and Conservation Volunteers Australia to do the over-storey planting, guarding and watering. Of course, it never runs quite as smoothly as that, with weather throwing the scheduling off with the associated follow on effects with co-ordination of the contractors.



Although we know we can never restore these wetlands to pre-1770 conditions, we can make significant change happen. By managing the grazing pressure from stock, by selectively revegetating sites in the surrounding areas, and managing the biomass through appropriate grazing regimes, we can slowly build these sites up into functional ephemeral wetlands, episodically providing the ecological resources required to provide habitat for wetland birds like the Brolga to breed.



Achievements at a Glance

NETWORK/NETWORK SUPPORTED	2016/2017
Projects operational	14
Member groups	18
Applications written or reviewed	18
Kilometres driven	21,101 km

On-ground works	
Trees planted	7,200
Direct Seeding	54 km
Revegetation prep	80 ha
Weeds	95 ha
Serviced the Cactus equipment	4

Community engagement	
Events	43
Participants (half day)	340
Participants (full day)	60
Training/events	9
Blog/website posts/articles	56
Facebook post	156

Monitoring	
Bird monitoring surveys	180
Monitoring weekends	4

Networking/lobbying	
Weed Control Committee meetings	3
Meetings attended	108
Workshops	20
Officially represented Landcare	91
New partnerships	2

Kamarooka Wetlands Complex - Preliminary Final figures	
Kilometres of fencing	14 km
Kilograms of seed direct seeded	22 kg
Area of direct seeding and overstorey planting	50 ha
Kilometres of Direct seeding	55.4 km
Hectares of ephemeral wetlands protected	92 ha
Hectares surrounding ephemeral wetlands fenced off	188 ha
Hectares total area protected	280 ha
Black box tubestock planted with follow up watering	1200

Financial Report

Profit and loss

LODDON PLAINS LANDCARE NETWORK
For the year ending 30 June 2017, accrual basis

CODE	ACCOUNT	AMOUNT
INCOME		
-	4150 - Kamarooka Wetlands Project	\$95,000.00
-	41500 - Calivil Creek	\$24,980.00
-	40700 - Dept. of Sust. - DELWPAP	\$51,250.00
-	40500 - NCCMA Grant	\$82,500.00
-	40000 - Income	\$2,000.00
-	40050 - Aust. Taxation Office	\$410.00
-	40035 - Interest Received	\$1,831.98
-	40010 - LPLN - Memberships	\$181.80
Total 40000 - Income		\$4,423.78
TOTAL INCOME		\$258,153.78
GROSS PROFIT		\$258,153.78
EXPENSES		
-	60500 Kamarooka Wetlands	\$130.00
-	60530 - Materials	\$57,720.00
-	60520 -Events	\$6,629.96
Total 60500 Kamarooka Wetlands		\$64,479.96
-	60400 - Pyramid Hill FSS	-
-	60440 - Activity 4	\$6,228.96
-	60420 - Activity 2	\$3,166.60
-	60410 - Activity 1	\$10,650.42
Total 60400 - Pyramid Hill FSS		\$20,045.98
-	60100 - Superannuation	\$8,528.54
66000	60000 - Payroll Expenses	\$67,642.55
-	50900 - Calivil Creek Project	-
-	50930 - Calivil Cr Plant/Reveg	\$918.60
-	50920 - Calivil Cr Monitoring	\$500.00
Total 50900 - Calivil Creek Project		\$1,418.60
-	50500 - Norman Wettenhall	-
-	50560 - Bird Monitoring	\$104.55
Total 50500 - Norman Wettenhall		\$104.55
-	50450 - Communities for Nature	\$1,230.00
-	50200 - FSS	-
-	50220 - Group Learning	\$356.96
Total 50200 - FSS		\$356.96

-	50000 - Business Services	\$55.80
-	50120 - Repairs & Maintenance	\$90.00
-	50100 - VLLFI -Project Worker	\$2,733.26
-	50107 - Travel Other	\$5,047.49
-	50106 - Administration\Other	\$4,585.55
-	50105 - OH & S	\$229.55
-	50104 - Training Expenses	\$185.45
-	50102 - Office Equipment	\$274.55
-	50101 - Office Space Expense	\$1,161.04
Total 50100 - VLLFI -Project Worker		\$14,216.89
-	50090 - Postage/Stamps	\$12.09
-	50080 - Membership Fees	\$418.73
-	50070 - Landcare Project Exp	\$28.77
-	50045 - Catering	\$503.72
-	50040 - Bank Charges	\$123.90
-	50020 - Administration	\$2,874.53
-	50010 - Accounting	\$219.09
Total 50000 - Business Services		\$18,543.52
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$182,350.66

NET POSITION

Income	\$258,153.78
Cost of goods sold	\$0.00
Gross profit	\$258,153.78
Expenses	\$182,350.66
Other income	\$0.00
Other expenses	\$0.00
NET POSITION	\$75,803.12



LODDON PLAINS LANDCARE NETWORK

Balance sheet

LODDON PLAINS LANDCARE NETWORK

For the month ending 31 July 2017, accrual basis

ACCOUNT CODE	ACCOUNT NAME	BALANCE
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
-	Bank - 10400 - Charity Fund - LPLN	\$1,092.39
-	Bank - 10300 - Operating Acc - LPLN	\$77,858.94
-	Bank - 10200 - Trust Account - LPLN	\$147,928.70
-	Bank - 10100 - General Account - LPLN	\$492.10
1-1210	Accounts Receivable	\$2,153.57
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		\$229,525.70
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
-	16000 - Vehicle Purchase	\$13,694.75
-	16001 - Provision for depreciation	-\$1,861.00
	Total 16000 - Vehicle Purchase	\$11,833.75
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		\$11,833.75
TOTAL ASSETS		\$241,359.45
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
-	Bank - 99999 Loddon Plains L/C Network	\$85.45
2-1100	Accounts Payable	-\$26,313.06
868	20400 - Payroll Liabilities	\$14,652.06
2-1380	Super Payable	\$5,226.52
2-1370	Payroll Payable	\$3,371.76
2-1150	GST Payable	\$6,997.58
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		\$4,020.31
TOTAL LIABILITIES		\$4,020.31
NET ASSETS		\$237,339.14
EQUITY		
-	Membership Funds	\$168,577.53
3-1000	Retained Earnings Surplus/ (Accumulated Losses)	\$21,581.16
-	Current year earnings	\$47,180.45
TOTAL EQUITY		\$237,339.14



LODDON PLAINS LANDCARE NETWORK

Committee of Management 2016-2017



Andy Hay -
President

Our President for the past two years is a founding member since its inception in 2009. He is also a member of the Kamarooka Landcare Group of which he is a past president and the current President of the Northern United Forestry Group

"It's good to see the Landcare groups working together and to give assistance when they require it."



Michael Moore -
Secretary

Our Secretary for the past eight years, and is a founding member since its inception in 2009. He is also the current President of the Wedderburn CMN and Convenor of the Friends of Kooyoora

"I enjoy working with like-minded people who are all helping to secure a healthier environment"



Jean McClymont -
Treasurer

Our Treasurer for the past eight years, is a founding member since its inception in 2009. A member of Salisbury West LC Group since 1995, she held the roles of Treasurer, Secretary, Voluntary Coordinator and Facilitator of the Salisbury west/Mt Korong FSS group.

"I believe Community education and involvement I feel is Key to understanding the need to act now for our environment."



Laurie Maxted -
Vice President

Joined LPLN at the inaugural meeting, is a founding member and was the President of the LPLN until two years ago when he became Vice President. He is the current President of Loddon Vale Landcare Group (8 years) and a member for 10 years.

"I see the importance of the groups as a good environmental forums to have a good environment and leave it better than I got it."



Fred Belli
Ordinary Member

Joined in 2011, he attended the inaugural meeting in 2009. The current Treasurer for Friends of Terrick Terrick NP and was Convenor for the first 5 years and a member of Northern Plains CMN and Terricks Ridge LC Group.

"A group of people with different skills that take action with a good mixture that complements each other's roles"



Kate Lee
Ordinary Member

Joined as an ordinary member of LPLN in 2015. She is a Landcare Groups member of Mount Korong Eco-Watch (past Secretary for 4 years) and the Wedderburn CMN.

"I think Landcare is a great movement. It is uniquely placed to act as a bridge between the farming and conservation communities so we can all work together toward sustainable land management."



Cr Colleen Condliffe
Ordinary Member

Elected as an ordinary member of LPLN in 2012. She represents Loddon Shire for the Weeds Strategy and Awareness of Conservation of Native Vegetation. A founding member of Salisbury West LC group and past President.

"Always interested in environmental and sustainable land practices for now and for future generations."



Ian Penny
Ordinary Member

Joined as an ordinary member of LPLN in 2014. He was Bird Box Project Co-ordinator 2015 – 2017 and a founding member Salisbury West LC Group and was President 2 years.

"I believe the Landcare movement has been responsible for improving the Loddon River's condition, by fencing off and replanting local sections of this important stream, improving and enhancing the overall environmental health of our area."



Chris Rothacker -
Ordinary Member

Joined in 2012 He has been a member of Kinypanial Landcare for 5 years and was president for 2 and has been a member of Loddon Vale Landcare group for 4 years.

"I believe we are caretakers of the land for future generations"



Colin Gitsham
Ordinary Member

Joined in 2014 He has been president of the Fairley Bael Bael Sandhill Lake Landcare Group for ten years

"The committee of Management has good supportive examples and keeps connections between the groups and its great mentoring from the committee of management to pass on"



Loddon Plains Landcare Network

Web: www.lpln.org



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