



Draft Minutes
Annual General Meeting 2015
 at Marland House, held on
26th March 2015, commencing at 11.55 pm

Draft Minutes

Annual General Meeting 2015

1 Welcome

David Clark, Farm Tree & Landcare Association President and Chair of this Annual General Meeting opened the meeting and welcomed delegates, members and guests present to the 29th Annual General Meeting of the Farm Tree & Landcare Association.

Present

David Clark	FTLA President & delegate for Upper Loddon & Avoca Landcare Network
Karen Alexander	FTLA Vice President & Johns Hill Landcare delegate
Artur Muchow	FTLA Secretary & Middle Yarra Landcare Network delegate
Peter Berrisford	FTLA Treasurer & Bellarine Landcare Group delegate
Alex Arbuthnot	FTLA Ordinary member & Maffra & Districts Landcare Network
Terry Hubbard	FTLA Ordinary member & delegate for Upper Goulburn Landcare Network
Richard Jamieson	FTLA Ordinary member & delegate for Beyond Bolac Catchment Action Group & Woorndoo Land Protection Group
Susan Campbell	FTLA Immediate Past President & Wangaratta Sustainability Network delegate
Nick Veltjens	Balcombe & Moorooduc Landcare Group delegate
Daryl Colless	Barkers Creek Landcare & Wildlife Group delegate
Kaye Rodden	Barrabool Hills Landcare Group delegate
Brian Rowe	Blampied-Kooroocheang Landcare Group delegate
Susan Moodie	Burrumbeet-Brewster Biolinks delegate
Jan Elder	Campaspe Valley Landcare Group delegate
Glenn Brooks-MacMillan	Cardinia Catchment Landcare Group Inc delegate
Christine Kilmartin	Castlemaine Landcare Group delegate
Doug Evans	Christmas Hills Landcare Group delegate
Brian Burleigh	Cowwarr Landcare Group delegate
Roger Stuart-Andrews	Dunns Creek Landcare delegate
Peter Haffenden	Friends of Buckley Park delegate
Geoff Mitchelmore	Friends of Lower Kororoit Creek Inc delegate
Ron Cosgrave	Delegate for Friends of Smeaton and for Ullina Landcare Group
Peter Hannay	Friends of South Surrey Park Inc delegate
Jill Millsom	Friends of Terrick Terrick National Park Inc delegate
Margret Lockwood	Glenlyon Upper Loddon Landcare Group delegate
Christina Cheers	Jacksons Creek EcoNetwork delegate
Charlie Medhurst	Latrobe Catchment Landcare Network delegate

Basil Ryan	MAD (Making a Difference) for the Merri Inc delegate
Tom Orr	Main Creek Catchment Landcare Group delegate
Bernie Schedvin	Mornington Peninsula Landcare Network delegate
Arthur Harford	Mt Toolebewong & District Landcare Group delegate
Marion Dawson	Nicholson River Landcare Group delegate
Phil Horner	Delegate for Chiltern Landcare Group, for Ovens Landcare Network, and for Upper Ovens Valley Landcare Group
Lesley Dalziel	Seymour Bushland Park Committee delegate
Vicki Boyle	Southern Dandenongs Landcare Group Inc delegate
Eric Smith	Springsure Hill Landcare Group delegate
Angie Lloyd	Delegate for Northern Yarra Landcare Network and for Steels Creek Landcare Group
David Wakefield	Strath Creek Landcare Group delegate
Robert Anderson	The Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater Inc delegate
Chris Morgan	Thompsons Road Area Community Fireguard & Landcare Group delegate
Ken Laing	Upper Spring Creek Landcare Group delegate
Lyn Coulston	Victorian Blackberry Taskforce delegate (North East CMA Chair)
Doug Parke	Victorian Mobile Landcare Group delegate
John Forrester	Delegate for Werribee River Association Inc & Western Melbourne Catchments Network
Garry Knight	Wodonga Urban Landcare Network delegate
Irene Pearey	Delegate for Macclesfield Landcare Group and for Yarra Ranges Landcare Network
Sandra Weller	Yarrowee Leigh Catchment Group delegate
Chris Winfield	Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group
Jeff Walker	Community Weed Alliance for the Dandenongs
Hannah Stuart-Andrews	Dunns Creek Landcare
Yvonne Bischofberger	Friends of Newells Paddock Inc.
Maelor Himbury	Friends of the Maribyrnong Valley Inc / Friends of Steele Creek Inc
Helen Kalajdzic	Jacksons Creek EcoNetwork
Roger McGlashan	Jacksons Creek EcoNetwork
Belinda Pearce	Kiewa Catchment Landcare Group
Rowan Wallace	Kiewa Catchment Landcare Group
David Kelson	MAD (Making a Difference) for the Merri Inc.
Jacqui Salter	Mornington Peninsula Landcare Network - Landcare Facilitator
Kate Williams	South Gippsland Landcare Network - Project Officer
Margaret Smith	Sprinsure Hill Landcare Group
Ron Litjens	Strath Creek Landcare Group
Jill Breadon	Up2Us Landcare Alliance
Stephen Reid	Upper Hopkins Land Management Group
Colleen Miller	Western Melbourne Catchments Network
Lindy Wallace	Western Melbourne Catchments Network
Marilyn Olliff	Western Melbourne Catchments Network
Miwako Okumura	Western Melbourne Catchments Network
Neil Tolliday	Western Melbourne Catchments Network
Anne Fitzpatrick	Yarra Ranges Landcare Network
Richard Kean	Yarra Ranges Landcare Network

The Hon. Lisa Neville MLA Minister for Environment, Climate Change & Water

Tessa Jakszewicz	Landcare Australia Ltd - CEO
John Matthews	Statewide Specialist Established Invasive Animals, Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources
Aaron Jaggar	Green Army National Operations Manager - Conservation Volunteers Australia
Leesa Riley	Victorian State Manager - Conservation Volunteers Australia

Ingrid Duncan	Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning (DELWP), Director Environment and Community Programs
Dionne Eagleson Rod Taylor	Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning (DELWP) DELWP - Manager Community Grants / Environment and Community Programs
Julie Edwards	DELWP - Senior Project Officer Environment and Community Programs
Yvonne Ryczkowski	DELWP - Senior Project Officer Environment and Community Programs
John Robinson	DELWP - Project Officer Victorian Landcare Program
Adam Hughes	DELWP - Project Officer
Jacqui Lawrence	DELWP - Project Officer
Dean Jones	Department of Agriculture Sustainable Agriculture Facilitator – Victoria
Neil McCarthy Charlie Sexton Amelia Morris	North East Catchment Management Authority, CEO Regional Landcare Facilitator, Goulburn Broken CMA Regional Landcare Coordinator, North Central CMA
Tracey Koper Phillip Wierzbowski Myungchul Seung	Victorian Catchment Management Council Coastcare - Port Phillip & Westernport Coastcare / AMES
Susi Johnson Kelly Way	FTLA Executive Officer FTLA Administrative Assistant

2 Apologies

Joan Kirner AM Anthony Carbines MLA	Parliamentary Secretary for the Environment
Ian Foster	Ararat Landcare Group
Una Allender	Ararat Landcare Group
Helen Cocks	Arthurs Creek District Landcare Group
Rob Youl	Australian Landcare International
Kaye Rodden	Barrabool Hills Landcare Group
Bill Weatherly	Beyond Bolac Catchment Action Group
Susan Anderson	Bunyip Landcare Group
Susan Anderson	Bunyip Landcare Group Inc
Barbara James	Campaspe Valley Landcare Group and Baynton Sidonia Landcare Group
Chris Timewell	Connecting Country
John Laing	Dhurringile & District Landcare Group
Jenny Robertson	East Gippsland Landcare Network
Alison Pitt	French Island Landcare Group
Linda Bowden	French Island Landcare Group
Gladys Aarons	Friends of Flinders Coastline
Kathleen Loxton	Friends of Koolunga Native Reserve
Kelvin Thomson MP	Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek
John Cayley	Hamilton Field Naturalists Club
Jarrold Coote	Harcourt Valley Landcare Group
Darryl Argal	Hindmarsh Landcare Network
Tracey Wood	Jumping Creek Catchment Landcare Group
Susan Pryde	Kongwak Hills Landcare Group
Phil Piper	Mardan-Mirboo North Landcare Group
Kate Jackson	Mardan-Mirboo North Landcare Group
John Martyn	Merricks Coolart Catchment Group
Anthony Dufty	Moorabool Landcare Network Inc
Garry Bourke	Olinda Creek Landcare
Russell Peel	Paynesville Landcare Coastcare Group
Deborah Carruthers	Paynesville Landcare Coastcare Group

Mike Cleeland	Phillip Island Landcare
Margaret Milich	Portland Pathways
Adrian Tyler	Rupanyup VFF Landcare Group
May Leatch	Snowy West Landcare Group
Peter Ham	Soil Health Group
Don Stewart	South Beach Wetland & Landcare
Michael Spencer	Strathbogie Ranges Conservation Management Network
Una Allender	Upper Hopkins Land Management Group
Caroline Gully	West Gippsland Seedbank Association
Gwen Lengensdorf	Western Port Swamp Landcare Group
Margaret Witherspoon	Whitehorse Community Indigenous Plant Project
Ian Ewart	Woody Weeds Action Group
Tina Keene	Yarra Valley Equestrian Landcare Group
Sue Middleton	National Landcare Advisory Committee
Juanita Hamparsum	National Landcare Advisory Committee
Ian Thompson	Department of Agriculture
Sally Standen	Department of Agriculture
Michael Murphy, OAM	Victorian Catchment Management Council
Luke Wilson	Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources
Rien Silverstein	Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority
Dr. John Craven	Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority
Gareth Smith	Corangamite Catchment Management Authority
Alice Knight	Corangamite Catchment Management Authority
Graeme Dear	East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority
Chris Norman	Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority
Murray Chapman	Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority
Neville Goodwin	Port Phillip & Westernport Catchment Management Authority
David Buntine	Port Phillip & Westernport Catchment Management Authority
Patricia Geraghty	Victorian Catchment Management Council
Paul Burges	Landcare Australia Ltd
Peter Tuohey	Victorian Farmers Federation
Edwin Adamson	
Lisa Oliver	Regional Landcare Facilitator - West Wimmera
Patrick Francis	Australian Farm Journal

"That the Apologies for the 2015 AGM be accepted".

Moved: Alex Arbuthnot Seconded: Karen Alexander Carried.

3 2014 Minutes

"That the minutes of 2014 Annual General Meeting of the Farm Tree and Landcare Association held on 26th February 2014 be accepted as true and correct."

Moved: Karen Alexander Seconded: Peter Berrisford Carried.

4 President's Report

The report was presented by David Clark as 2014-15 FTLA President, followed by questions and discussion by attendees. The report was circulated to attendees prior to the meeting (see appended).

"That the President's Report be accepted."

Moved: Alex Arbuthnot Seconded: Susan Campbell Carried.

5 Treasurer's Report

The report was presented by Peter Berrisford as 2014-15 FTLA Treasurer, followed by questions and discussion by attendees. The report was circulated to attendees prior to the meeting (see appended).

"That the Treasurer's Report be accepted."

Moved: Peter Berrisford Seconded: Artur Muchow Carried.

6 Committee Member Elections

The following nominations were received by the deadline of 18th March 2015.

NAME	Peter Berrisford	Bellarine Landcare Group
Nominated:	Bruce Robinson	Bellarine Landcare Group
Seconded:	Douglas J Mason	Bellarine Landcare Group

NAME:	Richard Jamieson	Beyond Bolac Catchment Action Group
Nominated:	David Allen	Beyond Bolac Catchment Action Group
Seconded:	Nolene Fraser	Beyond Bolac Catchment Action Group

NAME	Artur Muchow	Middle Yarra Landcare Network
Nominated:	Tracey Wood	Jumping Creek Catchment Landcare Group
Seconded:	Robyn Gillespie	Andersons Creek Catchment Area Landcare Group

As three nominations for three positions were received prior to the closing date, per the FTLA Rules section 24, these nominees are duly deemed elected. Congratulations to the nominees.

7 Joint VLC / FTLA Announcement

FTLA President David Clark called on Terry Hubbard, VLC Chair to jointly announce to members that although merger talks are ongoing, in the meantime the two organisations have agreed to form a joint working party to enable closer collaboration, building on work already done jointly advocating for local landcare facilitators and co-operating regarding the state and national landcare conferences.

8 Close

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 12.05 pm.



FTLA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

David Clark – 26th March 2015

Welcome all.

I would begin by recognising the the FTLA Members who received Honours over the last year:

- Liz Barraclough, OAM (Balcombe & Moorooduc Landcare Group, Greenlink Box Hill)
- Campbell Beardsell, OAM (Dunmoochin Landcare Group)
- Elaine Brogan, OAM (Friends of the Maribyrnong Valley Inc , Molyullah Tatong Landcare Group)
- Susan Campbell, OAM (FTLA Past President, Goomalibee Landcare Group, North East Ecological Farmers, Springhurst & Byawatha Hills Landcare Group, Wangaratta Urban Landcare Group)
- Lyn Coulston, OAM (Koetong Landcare Group, North East Blackberry Action Group, Upper Murray Catchment Farm Tree Group, Upper Murray Landcare Network, Victorian Blackberry Taskforce)
- Alison Teese, OAM (Moolort Landcare Group)
- Allan Thomson, OAM (Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek)
- Richard Weatherly, OAM (Hopkins Landcare)

The National Landcare Advisory Committee

We would also like to acknowledge the establishment of the National Landcare Advisory Committee; this committee has an important advisory role to government and many of the members are well known in the Landcare community: Ms Sue Middleton (Chair), Ms Juanita Hamparsum (Deputy Chair), Dr Ron Edwards, Mr James McKee, Ms Cathy Phelps, Mr David Walker, Ms Melissa George, Mr Cameron O'Neil, Ms Tessa Jakszewicz, and Mr Allan Williams. We wish them well in their new roles.

Landcare Resources

At the national level, like many other Landcare organisations, the FTLA was disheartened to see the overall reduction in funding to Landcare in the 2014 Federal budget, despite some positive specific announcements such as 20 Million Trees and the 25th Anniversary Grants. That the Green Army

announcement was made without significant concurrent project funding was also disappointing as limits the ability of Landcare groups and networks to take advantage of this training initiative. Nonetheless anecdotally groups that have participated in Green Army projects have had positive experiences.

Through the year the FTLA made submissions to the National Landcare Program Consultation, the Senate Inquiry into the National Landcare Program, the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Options Paper, and the Senate Inquiry into the Environmental Biosecurity.

At a state level, Landcare activity continues to be strong, facilitated by the Victorian Landcare Program the Victorian Local Landcare Facilitators initiative. The case for retaining and potentially expanding this initiative continues to be pursued by a joint team of FTLA and VLC executive members. We await developments on this front from the State Government and in the next State budget.

In terms of grant processes, FTLA has supported over sixty grant applications across several grant programs including 20 Million Trees, 25th Anniversary of Landcare Grants, Coastcare, Communities for Nature Grants, Green Army Project Sponsors, and various local council grants.

Secrets of Successful Groups

We are very pleased that landcarers from around the state joined us for sessions in Birchip, Castlemaine, Lakes Entrance, Ouyen and Yackandandah to discuss legal duties of committee members, volunteer recruitment, succession planning, legal issues in managing volunteers, and effective decision-making.

Participants reported finding the sessions both useful and informative and left for the day with many new ideas to take back to their groups.

Membership

I am very pleased to report that at the end of our financial year we had 601 Member Groups (491 financial). Since 30 September another 76 Member Groups have renewed. Those figures include 31 new groups joining during the last year, and fourteen more since 30 September.

Group / Network Statistics ¹

The median income among Member Groups is \$5870, with almost half of all groups (48%) operating under \$5000 pa. However, the average income is \$ 46,951, partially explained by the average income of the 55 networks being 229,157.99. Just over 76% of total income is from grants.

Average Member Group size held relatively steady at 30. Around 43% Member Groups engage contractors. The proportion of Member Groups employing staff, mostly part time, remained at 13%.

Member Insurance

We continue to offer our groups a competitive product in public liability, voluntary workers and management liability insurance.

¹ These figures are from the 14/15 membership year with 20% groups reporting on the previous 13/14 period. Figures for 13/14 membership year: MI \$6236, AI \$44,466, 53 networks AI \$227,976, 79% GI, AGS 29 (also 12/13), CE: 54%.

Since the last AGM there have been three incidents reported under the insurance, two volunteer injuries being a slip and fall and one being a hand injury during food preparation. The other incident has been a landholder alleging that landcare members poisoned pine trees (a locally declared weed) on her property and now the trees pose a risk to her property. So far none of these incidents have resulted in a claim as yet.

FTLA – VLC merger discussions

After trying unsuccessfully through a working group of both parties to broker an agreed outcome in terms of structure for a merged organisation, both groups have taken a breather and are now considering a different approach which meets some needs from each group and recognises that each must compromise in order for a structure to be agreed.

However, we do continue to work together on issues, notably, over the last two years, the advocating for continuation of the facilitator program at least at the same level that it has been for the last four years, and the continuation of the Communities for Nature grants program. The two organisations also shared a booth at National Landcare Conference.

National Landcare Conference

It was great to see the National Landcare Conference held in Victoria, the birthplace of Landcare, for the twenty-fifth anniversary of the national program in 2014. Several FTLA Committee members, along with many FTLA members, attended and it was a wonderful opportunity to meet and speak to diverse landcarers from across the country. Although the Victorian nominees were not successful this time in the National Landcare Awards, the gala dinner at the World Heritage Exhibition buildings was a magnificent evening to celebrate Landcare's successes.

Notable quotes included 2014 Bob Hawke Landcare Award winner Colin Seis ambitious reminder that "Landcare's been around 25 years but the job isn't done yet, we've a planet to save." And Costa's succinct advice "Be a mentor that matters".

Landcare Awards & The Heather Mitchell Fellowship

The FTLA is will co-sponsored the Heather Mitchell Fellowship award again this year. The award , honours Heather Mitchell, who along with Joan Kirner the co-founder of Landcare almost thirty years ago. The fellowship offers a landcarer the opportunity to study and travel and bring back new ideas to the Victorian Landcare community.

We would urge all landcarers to participate in this year's landcare awards and make it a worthy celebration of Landcare in this state.

Landcare & Invasive Animals Control

Over the last year we have had two incidents in peri-urban areas where a neighbour has had concerns over baiting of pest animals species by landcare groups. The FTLA expressed its concerns to the then Minister at the disruptions caused by these complaints and resultant investigations to the important work of landcare volunteers. The FTLA is also following up with the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority regarding the suitability of the minimum block size of 1000

square meters required on some product labels given the need for Invasive Animals Control in peri-urban areas.

Landcare volunteers acted in good faith in both cases and these are very isolated incidents. However it serves as a reminder always to have best practice in all Landcare activities in order to retain the goodwill Landcare enjoys in the wider community.

General Activity

Communication continues to be a feature of our operations with 10 FTLA email newsletters covering matters of interest to groups including grants, resources, events and news. In addition, we continue to field over 120 member enquiries and correspondence a week from Member Groups by phone, email, letter and fax.

We also continue to be a partner in the Victorian Landcare & Catchment Management Magazine, being part of the editorial team and managing the magazine mailing list.

In closing I would like to express my thanks to:

- The members of our Committee of Management
- Our office volunteers, Dina Leonardos, who left us in last year after three years helping out in the office and Jason Chiang who has just joined us this year.
- To our excellent and dedicated staff, who deal with all manner of things in any given day



FTLA Treasurer's Report Year Ending 30 Sept 2014

The FTLA Committee of Management made a number of changes to financial management this year including transitioning to new account-keeping software and procedures, plus altering the membership fee structure to improve the equity among members and better reflect the influence of higher turnover groups and networks on the insurance cost base. Most groups experienced a reduction in fees and feedback has been generally positive.

Revenue

Total revenue for the twelve months to 30 September 2014 was \$252,078. This is \$50,271 greater than last year's operational revenue, mostly due to a change in financial procedures which resulted in membership subscriptions being recognised earlier. Without that change operational revenue would have been at least \$60,000 lower.

Expenditure

Expenditure to 30 September 2014 was \$211,510, of which \$183,571 was operational and \$27,939 was project expenditure corresponding to the grant received in 2012/13. In comparison to the previous year the operational expenditure was up by \$31,759, mostly due to changes to the financial systems and increases in insurance and rental costs.

The FTLA Committee of Management has approved a budget deficit for 2014-15 of \$28,433 in order to maintain a similar fee level in 2015-16 for members.

Assets

Net assets as at 30 September 2014 were \$337,568. The asset figures include insurance pre-payments of \$23,468. Liabilities include staff entitlements of \$16,543 and other liabilities of \$36,166. Committed grants funds account for \$21,861 of net assets as at 30 Sept 14, and that the insurance excess pool maintained at \$50,000.

The bubble in revenue created by membership being due on 30 June distorts the net asset figure resulting in September being the high point of the year. These assets (mainly cash at the bank) will cover FTLA operational expenses until the end of the membership period. The expenditure for this financial year is budgeted at \$ 210,030.

Summary

The FTLA ended the financial year with an overall surplus of \$40,583, largely due to the earlier recognition of revenue as a result of changed processes. We would expect by the end of the 2015/16 year that the impact of these changes will no longer be apparent.

Peter Berrisford
2014/15 FTLA Treasurer



Annual Forum Speakers & Forum Summaries

Annual Forum attendees heard from a number of speakers and participated in the open forum "Landcare Talks". Please find summaries of the presentations below; to view the full presentations please go to <http://www.landcarevic.net.au/ftla/documents/annual-forum-agm-2015-guest-speaker-presentations> or contact the FTLA for copies.