



**152
COMMUNITY
NRM GROUPS**



**11
LANDCARE
NETWORKS**

**COVERING
1.45M
HECTARES**



**OVER 4,200
VOLUNTEER
MEMBERS**



This report only reflects the activities undertaken by Landcare networks and their associated groups. Additional work undertaken by volunteers, individuals and other community groups is extensive and beyond the scope of this report.

Data is based on final project reports for 1 July 2015 - 30 June 2016.

Contact the Corangamite Landcare team for further information on 03 5232 9100 or landcare@ccma.vic.gov.au

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Corangamite Landcare REPORT CARD 2015 | 2016



**THE VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT
INVESTED \$142,000
IN THE REGION
DURING 2015-2016**



REGIONAL LANDCARE FACILITATOR PROJECT

The Regional Landcare Facilitator is an Australian Government National Landcare Programme funded position, contributing \$162,000 to ensure communities are managing landscapes to sustain long-term economic and social benefits.

The role builds partnerships between a range of stakeholders including farming system and agricultural industry groups, government agencies and the Landcare community. It provides advice and support to encourage the adoption of new and sustainable approaches to NRM and agriculture.

The \$35,000 project budget has supported activities on farming in a changing climate, perennial pastures, cover cropping, integrated pest management for viticulture, stubble management, farm succession planning, horse property planning, pest animal management and soil health.

51% OF PROJECT PARTICIPANTS WERE NOT MEMBERS OF LANDCARE



ACHIEVEMENTS

- 29 events with 890 participants involved
- 2,600 recipients of project written materials
- Attracting new audiences with 51% of project participants not members of Landcare
- six community and industry representatives involved in decision making on the RLF steering committee
- supporting Otway Food and Fibre Showcase and South West Soils Conference
- presenting at Weekly Times Rural Lifestyle Expo, Australian Women in Agriculture conference and National NRM conference
- partnering with Marcus Oldham College to deliver horse property management workshops
- judging NRM and Sustainability category at Great South West Dairy Awards
- Regional Landcare Facilitator filming for Land Your Career
- supporting Corangamite Rural Women's network in partnership with Indigenous Facilitator and Victorian Landcare Program
- supporting the Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party and Gorse Taskforce committees

MAINTAINING THE LEGACY

Local farming families from across the Woady Yaloak Catchment Group (WYCG) came together in August to participate in a thought provoking session on essential conversations for the future of their farm businesses.

With the support of experienced facilitator, Jeanette Long from Ag Consulting Co. in South Australia, 70 local families took part in an interactive discussion.

WYCG facilitator Cam Nicholson said “Jeanette is a very skilled communicator who has helped many farming families work through the challenges of planning for the future and running a profitable business.”

“The conversations were aimed at supporting farming families to be able to delve to the heart of challenging issues, no matter how difficult, in a supportive environment,” he said.

A number of positive conversations flowed centered around what to consider when transitioning from one generation to the next; approaches to enable you to continue enjoying farming as you get older; how to keep the gains from Landcare alive; and strategies if the children want to keep the farm but no one wants to farm it!

A gathering of Corangamite rural women also started the conversation on farm succession Planning at Inverleigh. The session was focused on effective techniques to assist with difficult conversations, planning and communication. A workshop participant said “Jeanette gave me some effective and practical tools for me to start the discussion with my family.” ■



“THE CONVERSATIONS WERE AIMED AT SUPPORTING FARMING FAMILIES TO BE ABLE TO DELVE TO THE HEART OF CHALLENGING ISSUES.”

BRINGING BACK BLACKFISH

Community involvement is the key to the success of the rehabilitation of declining river blackfish (*Gadopsis marmoratus*) in the Gellibrand River. The Land and Water Resources Otway Catchment (LAWROC) Landcare Group, with the support from the Corangamite CMA and researchers from Deakin University have spent the past three years working together to find ways to bring back the freshwater fish to our catchment.

“As soon as the community heard that the blackfish population in the Gellibrand catchment was in decline, we knew we had to do something to help,” LAWROC volunteer Andrew McLennan said.

Trial work began to determine the cause for reduced numbers of juvenile blackfish and the condition of their habitat. “We found that there was insufficient numbers of nesting hollows available for the fish to breed successfully,” Andrew said.

The group took inspiration from the research undertaken by the Arthur Reilly Institute and Deakin University on how to create habitat using manufactured hollow logs from waste material. By putting timber scraps to good use, volunteers set out to build fish habitats to improve blackfish stocks from recycled materials.

Five sites were selected to place fifteen hollow logs, to help blackfish breed and protect fertilised eggs, in an attempt to facilitate spawning sites. “We were noticing few, if any, juvenile blackfish in the tributaries and we needed to see where the fish were spawning,” Andrew said.

The group continues to survey fish numbers by using underwater camera equipment. “It’s a great way for us to regularly check the hollows without disturbing the fish and be able to monitor occupancy and spawning.”

“This project has been a real community effort. With thanks to the support of the Corangamite CMA and the Victorian Government’s Landcare Program, the group continues to monitor the fish population and establish over fifty new habitat sites along the Gellibrand River and Loves Creek.” ■



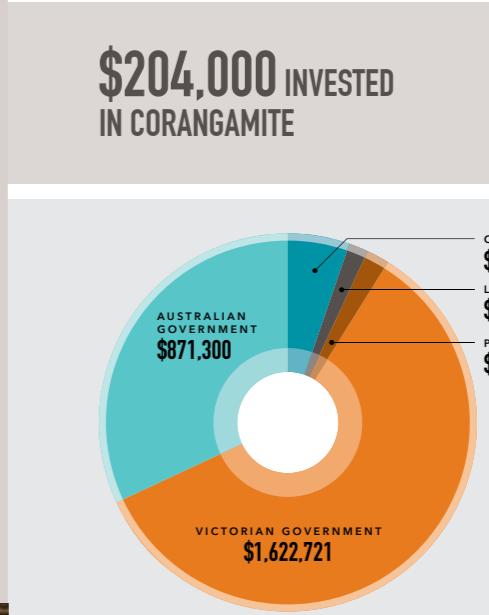
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VICTORIAN LANDCARE GRANTS IN CORANGAMITE

The Victorian Government supports on ground NRM outcomes and builds capacity of the Landcare movement through the Victorian Landcare Grants.

The program encourages Landcare to undertake NRM activities, influence management practices and build skills of community volunteers.

\$204,000 INVESTED IN CORANGAMITE



TREATING 89 HECTARES OF PEST PLANT AND ANIMAL Affected AREAS

ACHIEVEMENTS

- \$204,000 invested in Corangamite
- funding 13 landscape scale projects and 40 support grants
- treating 89 hectares of pest plant and animal affected areas
- revegetation of 53 hectares in terrestrial, riparian and coastal zones
- 12 kilometres fenced to protect revegetation, remnant and riparian sites
- 33 assessments for ecological, invasive species and property management needs
- providing approximately \$400,000 in-kind support for on ground works
- strengthening 108 partnerships with key stakeholder organisations
- 2,164 participants involved in engagement events
- producing 107 publications