

LANDCARE VICTORIA Inc. (LVI)



Committee of Management – 2021

LVI Chair



Jane Carney (North East)

Ovens Landcare Network Inc
Nominated: Julian Carroll (Mudgegonga & District Landcare Group) & Jim De Hennin (Wises Creek / Talgarno Landcare Group)

Jane is a livestock producer from Rosewhite in North East Victoria where she runs a beef enterprise on 426 hectares with a focus on breeding high performance Angus cattle.

Born into a 4th generation farming family from Finley in NSW, Jane grew up with intensive irrigated agriculture and has spent her professional career working within the agricultural sector in Australia and the USA. Jane has qualifications in Agriculture and Project Management, completing a Master of Agribusiness in 2018 with a research focus in Farming Innovation and Climate Adaptation.

"I believe that farmers as land stewards have a responsibility to the community to farm sustainably and in doing so, have an opportunity to be part of the solution for climate change".

Leadership and Community Activities (recent):

- Mudgegonga and District Landcare – Executive
- Ovens Landcare Network – President
- Farmers for Climate Action Fellow
- 2015 graduate of the Alpine Valley's Community Leadership Program (AVCLP)
- Past Board member for the North East Catchment Management Authority (NECMA).

LVI Secretary



Beth Ripper (West Gippsland)

Avon Landcare Group

Nominated: Geoff Gooch (Maffra & Districts Landcare Network) & Ian Ripper (Stratford & District Farmcheque Group)

Born on a dairy farm near Stratford, Beth studied and worked in education and the arts in Melbourne, before returning to Stratford, where she is an active participant in many community groups. She is an enthusiastic promoter of community networks, from local to global alliances including Landcare, Stratfords of the world sister cities and Wellington Shire and City of Yarra country/city friendship alliance.

An artist, community singer, organic gardener, WOOF (Willing Worker on Organic Farms) host, small business owner and community project worker, she also is a member the Boards of Maffra and District Landcare Network and The Gippsland Plains Railtrail. Beth is an active member of the Avon Landcare Group, the Wellington Sustainability group and served two terms as an elected Wellington Shire councillor – including one term as Mayor. With a strong commitment to active citizenship Beth is the founding coordinator of the Segue Community Hub and Arts Cafe - Stratford's Neighbourhood House.

LVI Treasurer

Michael Walker (Port Phillip & Westernport)

Michael's passion for horticulture and agriculture includes extensive experience in executive and business development roles in challenging environmental and economic conditions.

His commitment to best practice, professional development and sustainability provides a sound value proposition for boards and committees he is working in. He can provide comprehensive business development to the Landcare Network, support and empower members through education, communication and respect and have a personal consultative approach to support networks responsibly managing Australia's environments.



Michael has worked in the Forestry industry as Secretariat support, education and training in the forestry industry for four (IRCs) Industry Reference Committees. Michael is qualified in business marketing, horticulture and corporate governance with over 30 years' experience in the agricultural and turf/horticultural industries.

LVI Deputy Chair – Operations

Leanne Jackman (Wimmera)

Northern Grampians Landcare Group

Nominated: John Pye (Stawell Urban Landcare Group) & Paul Harrington (Crowlands – Warrak Landcare Group)

Leanne Jackman farms bio-dynamically with her husband Peter at Dadswells Bridge. The farming property shares a boundary with the Grampians National Park, and links with Ledcourt State Forest. They farm sheep and beef cattle, with a strong focus on sustainable farming practises. They have fenced water ways, remnant vegetation and created wildlife corridors and tree plantations.



Leanne is a long term member of the Northern Grampians Landcare Group, and a member of the Project Platypus Board since 2008. She has enjoyed involvement with the Victorian Landcare Council and the Advisory Committee for the Wimmera Catchment Management Authority over the past few years.

LVI Deputy Chair – Partnerships



Paul Foreman (North Central)

Central Victorian Biolinks Alliance Inc

Nominated: Jan Hall (McKenzie's Hill Action & Landcare Group) & Terry Hubbard (Upper Goulburn Landcare Network)

Paul Foreman is a highly regarded and skilled ecologist and botanist and with over 30 years of experience in land management and nature conservation across a range of sectors and in a range of technical, strategic and management roles throughout Victoria and many other parts of Australia.

Paul has an undergraduate degree in Forestry from the University of Melbourne and completed a Botany Master of Science in Northern Plains Grassland ecology at La Trobe University in 1996, and is currently studying for a PhD in historical ecology also at La Trobe.

Paul has worked professionally with:

- Predecessors of the Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning DELWP
- (including the Arthur Rylah Institute in Heidelberg);
- Trust for Nature (Conservation Manager and Acting Chief Executive Officer);
- Manningham City Council (Botanist and Consultant); and

- Bush Heritage Australia (Conservation Programs Unit Manager, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Ecology Team Manager and Property Assessment).

Over the last decade (since 2009), Paul has established Blue Devil Consulting based in central Victoria, specialising in botanical, vegetation management, strategic planning and biodiversity conservation services (www.bluedevilconsulting.com.au). And in 2015, Paul became the inaugural Chair of Central Victorian Biolinks; a new Alliance of 18 networks helping to catalyse a new era in community-driven conservation and sustainable land management based on the principles of science, collaboration and innovation.

Paul grew up in northern Victoria and attended school at Boort and Charlton where he also had experience labouring on farms and has lived and worked in and around central Victoria for most of his life. He is especially familiar with the Riverina and Riverlands, Wimmera, Mallee, Central and West Gippsland, North East, the Goldfields and the western district regions and has owned a 114 acre property (comprising both bushland and pastures) near Castlemaine since 2016. Paul is also a member of the Muckleford Landcare group.



Alice Knight (Corangamite)

Pittong Landcare Group

Nominated: David Clark (Upper Mount Emu Creek Landcare Network) & Christine Brooke (Connecting Country)

Alice together with her brother Kevin run a farming property at Pittong. They are both very passionate about Landcare and have been keen leaders in the Woody Yaloak catchment group.

Alice and Kevin have won the McKell medal now the Bob Hawke award for best farming practice and encouraging others to participate in Landcare and Alice was last year's recipient of the Joan Kirner award.

Alice is very keen to see Landcare move forward with a new vision to support landowners' participation and investment on the ground.



Terry Hubbard (Goulburn Broken)

Upper Goulburn Landcare Network

Nominated: Susan King (Strath Creek Landcare Group), & Ron Litjens, (Yea River Catchment Landcare Group)

After a varied working life in the Victorian Public Service, in Papua New Guinea, in Local Government and then in private enterprise Terry moved from the Yarra Valley to Flowerdale in the early 1990s where he and Janet farm sheep and cattle on their property, The Three Sisters.

Thus began Terry's interest in restoring a run-down, weed infested and severely eroded property. In collaboration with the Goulburn Broken CMA most of the waterways on the property have now been fenced out, thousands of trees and understory planted and subdivisional fences built to better manage stock.

Terry is the immediate Past President of the Strath Creek Landcare Group, President of the Upper Goulburn Landcare Network, positions held for over 15 years, is currently the Chair of Landcare Victoria Inc., Immediate Past Chair of the National Landcare Network (the peak body representing the interests of Landcarers across the nation currently involved in merger discussions with Landcare Australia aimed at producing a single, united voice for Landcare at the National level). Terry serves on a number of Advisory Committees including the Riparian Advisory Forum, the Landcare Community Reference Group and the Victorian Blackberry Taskforce.

His keen interest in water quality drives the partnership of the Strath Creek Landcare Group and the GBCMA in their endeavours to install riparian fencing and restore creekside native vegetation.

Terry was awarded the medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the 2016 Queen's Birthday Honours list for services to conservation and the environment. More recently Terry received the prestigious Joan Kirner Award at the 2017 Victorian Landcare Awards for services to Landcare.



Deborah Shea (Glenelg-Hopkins)

Upper Hopkins Land Management Group / Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority Region
Nominated: Una Allender (Upper Hopkins Land Management Group) and Terry Hubbard (Landcare Victoria)

Debbie lives in Ararat, in Western Victoria and currently is a co-ordinator for the Ararat Bestwool Bestlamb Group and facilitator for Girls & Grass Advisory Group which is part of the independent farmer group Perennial Pasture Systems.

Debbie had a change of career after twenty five years as a farmer on the family enterprise - Yadin Pastoral Pty Ltd, a self-replacing fine wool merino flock and stud on the outskirts of Ararat.

Yadin Pastoral Pty Ltd has been recognised with awards and certificates for the commitment and achievements with environmental and production management.

Debbie has built governance and strategic planning skills and knowledge through her experience working on Advisory Groups with Agricultural Industry Bodies.

She spent ten years as a board member with the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority, seven of which she served as Deputy Chair.

Debbie has a Diploma of Management and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

“My passion throughout my career is to achieve a positive balance between production and environmental issues. Not many things in farming can prove to be a win - win situation but looking after our natural resources certainly is”.

Leadership and Community Activities (current):

- Upper Hopkins Land Management Group - member
- Ararat Live Incorporated - Secretary/Treasurer
- Ararat Racecourse & Recreation Reserve Committee of Management Inc - Secretary/Treasurer.



Ian Arney (Mallee)

Millewa Carwarp Landcare Group

Nominated: Terry Hubbard (Upper Goulburn Landcare Network & Susan King (Strath Creek Landcare Group)

Ian is president of the Millewa Carwarp Landcare Group and a farmer at Werrimull. The 3200 ha Arney property combines 3500 head of sheep with a broad mix of grain crops. Ian has a strong commitment to Landcare, including sustainable farming practices and completing a wildlife corridor that runs along the full length of the property about 4.5 km.

Jenny Robertson (East Gippsland)

Bengworden Landcare Group

Nominated: Pamela Williams-Wright (Raymond Island Landcare Group) & Peter Reefman (East Gippsland Landcare Network)

Jenny and her husband have a 1000 hectare Merino sheep grazing enterprise very close to the Gippsland Lakes near Bairnsdale. She is a passionate advocate for Landcare to be across the whole of the landscape, not just in shelter belts and riparian zones.

Jenny would like to see a lot more done at all levels, to design policies that motivate farmers to see the benefits of focusing on how they manage their grazing, with the flow on benefits to their soils, finances and lifestyle. To more completely understand how they can improve their soils, through building their carbon levels. This then has a public benefit as well, as the more carbon we store in our soils, the more carbon dioxide can be captured without resorting to expensive risky carbon capture technology.



Professional Landcarers



Danny Pettingill

Loddon Plains Landcare Network

Danny is the Landcare Facilitator and Project Officer for Loddon Plains Landcare Network and in this role is committed to taking action and bringing the community's voice into decision-making processes relevant to land management practices and strategies in agriculture and the natural environment.

He runs a private consultancy, Firetail Environments, specialising in landscape management and drone operations in the land management and agriculture industries. Firetail allows Danny an avenue to promote management for biodiversity and production through sustainable environmental management practices. He is also an Apiarist in central Victoria.

Danny's passion is in collaboration and design, having made a career as a designer, artist, engineer and educator at the forefront of innovative practice before moving into the Landcare community and he brings this energy into landscape development, restoration and sustainable & regenerative farming projects.

Sharing knowledge and skills is a passion for Danny. He is a committed and popular industry lecturer and adviser with the Bendigo TAFE, mentoring Conservation and Land Management and Agriculture students. Danny helps students better understand the links between landscape, water, soils and biodiversity, and the role people play in shaping environments through conservation and agricultural intervention.

Danny was included in the top 12 finalists of Landcare Australia's 2020 Bob Hawke Landcare Award and was the recipient of the 2019 Victoria Government's Our Catchments Our Community Leadership in Innovation Development Grant, focusing on understanding the relationships between water cycles, community dynamics (biodiversity) and healthy flora and fauna populations. Danny also sits on the City of Greater Bendigo Farming and Agribusiness Advisory Committee and has lead community development workshops in beekeeping and small enterprise in Samoa, with a focus on developing skills for women in the establishment of small business.



Scott Elliott

Yarram Yarram Landcare Network

Nominated: Helga Binder (Yarram Yarram Landcare Network) & Peter Hill (Yarram Urban Landcare)

Scott is a second-generation Landcare Coordinator and grew up on a small wheat and sheep property in Avoca, Central Victoria. Scott believes that Landcare in Victoria requires a new approach to tackle long-standing environmental issues by engaging with new partners and pursuing non-traditional funding streams.

Scott's priority actions for Landcare Victoria include:

- Work with other members of the LVI Committee of Management to achieve a four-funding extension for the Victorian Landcare Facilitator Program, post December 2020
- Maintain close dialogue with the Landcare Team at DELWP and Environment Minister Lily D'Ambrosio
- Align Landcare Victoria more closely with the Landcare NSW delivery model– strong host organisations and a collaborative delivery model that drives further government investment, yet remains true to grassroots Landcare
- Develop Parliamentary Friends of Landcare, an initiative whereby all MPs join their local Landcare group
- Steer Landcare Victoria's strategic plan so that actions coincide with key government white papers: Biodiversity 2037 and the Victorian Volunteer Strategy. This will include a focus on urban Landcare groups and increased engagement with schools, particularly vocational and outdoor education
- Develop a formal communication and engagement policy that promotes positive Landcare outcomes in Victoria (increased web presence, social media, traditional press)
- Forge new partnerships with Australian corporations, philanthropic organisations and complementary environmental groups, for example: Greening Australia
- Grow opportunities for sustainable agriculture: additional income streams, soil carbon sequestration, drought tolerant pastures
- Employ a suitably qualified consultant to undertake an assessment of the dollar benefit derived from Landcare in Victoria. Such an assessment has already been prepared by Landcare NSW and Tasmania.

Scott oversees nine Landcare groups and a territory of 220,000 ha based in Yarram and is responsible in delivering 13 on-ground projects, including: riparian planting, woody weed control, sustainable agriculture projects, such as multi-species cover cropping, training and broadleaf seagrass restoration.

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