



Victorian
Landcare
Program

VICTORIAN
LANDCARE
2017-18

Achievements
REPORT





Victorian
Landcare
Program

bringing people together

Victorian Traditional Owner Acknowledgment

We acknowledge and respect Victorian Traditional Owners as the original custodians of Victoria's land and waters, their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it. We honour Elders past and present whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices. We are committed to genuinely partner, and meaningfully engage, with Victoria's Traditional Owners and Aboriginal communities to support the protection of Country, the maintenance of spiritual and cultural practices and their broader aspirations in the 21st century and beyond.

*Barwon River, Winchelsea Victoria, by
Jackson Chatfield, Statewide Aboriginal
Landcare Facilitator, DELWP.*





MINISTER'S FOREWORD

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the inaugural Victorian Landcare Achievements Report for 2017/18. This Report provides a brief overview of the tremendous breadth of sustained community efforts by many thousands of Landcare and environmental volunteers across the state.

For more than 30 years Landcare has played a leading role in shaping Victoria's approach to sustainable land management practices, salinity management, and environmental protection.

This Report highlights some of the significant work undertaken by groups, networks and individuals who give their time and care to the conservation of Victoria's land, water and biodiversity. It is incredible to think that in 2017-18 alone, Landcare and other environmental volunteers contributed more than 400,000 hours to improve Victoria's environment, which is an economic contribution close to \$12 million dollars.

There's no doubt that Landcare and environmental volunteers are our most valuable assets and resources. The Victorian Government understands that supporting these volunteers is an investment in the future health of our environment, which is why we consulted with Victorian volunteering communities to develop *Victorians Volunteering for Nature - Environmental Volunteering Plan*.

The Plan is a coordinated and revitalised approach to environmental volunteering that supports and fosters a sustainable, modern, effective and valued environmental volunteering sector in Victoria. The Plan also aligns with both global and local Victorian Government agricultural and environmental

policies that are working towards delivery of sustainable land management, environmental and social outcomes, and ultimately contribute to international sustainable development goals.

Over the last four years I have been fortunate to visit many Landcare projects and meet with recipients of Victorian Landcare Program funding. These visits demonstrate the great work Landcare is delivering and I look forward to visiting many more Landcare projects in the future.

Finally, this Achievements Report demonstrates that together we are working towards ensuring our Aboriginal cultural heritage is protected and our environment is healthy, valued and actively cared for.

Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio MP

Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change

Minister for Solar Homes



Above: Victorian Environment Minister Lily D'Ambrosio MP and State Labor Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale MP with Paul Speirs and Dave Bateman of the Bass Coast Landcare Network announcing Victorian Landcare Grants and Facilitator funding.

OUR 2018 NATIONAL LANDCARE champions

Victoria received two 2018 National Landcare Awards (from nine National Landcare Award categories) at a gala dinner in October 2018. More than 600 Landcarers from across the country came together in Brisbane as part of the three-day biennial National Landcare Conference, where the Award winners were announced.



 THE AUSTCOVER YOUNG LANDCARE LEADER AWARD

Kathleen Brack

Kathleen is the Regional Landcare Program Officer for the West Gippsland CMA. After just several years in the role, Kathleen has changed the way the Landcare story is being told in the region.

She has created new messages and found innovative ways of engaging with her community such as through her 'Talk to the Hands' Podcast, using new social media approaches and undertaking a study on the social benefit of Landcare.

Keen to attract more young people to Landcare, Kathleen was instrumental in the formation of Gippsland Intrepid Landcare Group which today has over 60 young members.



 THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIPS FOR LANDCARE AWARD

Wandooon Estate Aboriginal Corporation

The Corporation represents the Wurundjeri people, the Indigenous owners of the historical property Coranderrk in the Yarra Valley.

Set up as an Aboriginal Reserve in 1863, Coranderrk closed in 1924. The Port Phillip and Westernport CMA has partnered with Wandooon Estate to restore environmental health and productivity to the farm. A farm consultant is now mentoring the Indigenous owners in farm management techniques, including productive beef cattle grazing, habitat restoration, and waterway management and protection.

Right: Looking east over the Moolort Plains and Carin Curran Reservoir from Mount Tarrengower with the Pyrenees Ranges in the background. Photograph by Geoff Park.



“ Environmental volunteers, such as Landcarers, are some of the most inspiring and important people in our communities; promoting health and well-being by connecting with nature, while restoring and protecting Victoria’s precious landscapes and natural assets. ”

HON. LILY D’AMBROSIO MP
MINISTER FOR ENERGY,
ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE
CHANGE.

QUOTE TAKEN FROM VICTORIAN
LANDCARE AND CATCHMENT
MANAGEMENT MAGAZINE,
EDITION #70, SPRING 2017



VICTORIAN LANDCARE PROGRAM

Overview

In partnership with Catchment Management Authorities, Landcare and other environmental volunteer groups and networks are supported across Victoria to undertake environmental protection and sustainable land management activities. The Victorian Landcare Program invested more than \$9 million in 2017-18 and is managed by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning to deliver the Victorian Government’s support for Landcare.

VICTORIAN LANDCARE FACILITATOR PROGRAM

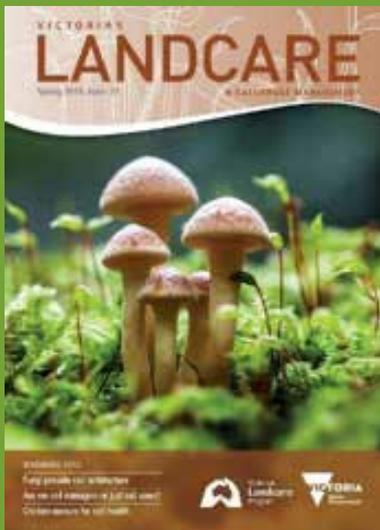
78 Landcare facilitators are funded through local Landcare groups and networks to build community capacity, assist with planning on-ground projects, facilitate increased local community participation and support groups to deliver on-ground works.

VICTORIAN LANDCARE GRANTS

Group networks are provided support to address local environment and land management priorities through on-ground works, education and capacity building projects and for group/network start-up, maintenance and costs.

ABORIGINAL LANDCARE FACILITATOR

The Aboriginal Landcare Facilitator works across the state to increase engagement between Landcare and Traditional Owners, support partnership projects and build cultural awareness.



COMMUNICATIONS

The Victorian Landcare Awards held in September 2017 acknowledged the success and achievements of community Landcarers, groups, networks and organisations who have been working to protect, enhance and restore our land and environment.

The Victorian Landcare and Catchment magazine is an important communication tool for the Landcare community and other environmental volunteering groups. Each issue of the Victorian Landcare magazine (three issues per year) is released in an online version on the Landcare Gateway website. In 2017-18 overall access across a range of online device types increased by 222 per cent for users accessing the electronic version and 381 percent increase in access via mobile devices. This reduced print copies by 71 per cent per issue (7,500 vs 26,000).





2017 COMMUNITY SKILLS DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

One-off funding provided an opportunity for community-based environmental volunteer groups and networks to access funding for training to support their planning, engagement, communication, leadership, innovation, knowledge sharing, and capacity building activities.

Grants totaling \$495,586 were provided to 59 groups and networks for training and skills development activities.

KEY PARTNERSHIPS

LANDCARE VICTORIA INC.

This partnership identifies opportunities to support all volunteers and professionals across Landcare. Support included forums to engage and create ongoing partnerships.

LANDCARE AUSTRALIA LTD.

This partnership supports corporate investment into Victorian Landcare and delivery of the Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

This partnership supports delivery of the Landmate Prison Crew Program to improve environmental outcomes. Further information at: www.landmate.vic.gov.au

2018 Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants

The 2018 Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants funded 109 projects totaling \$413,115 to Victorian schools, kindergartens, childcare centres, Scouts, Guides and youth groups.

With grants of up to \$5000 each, projects engaged young Victorians in outdoor, hands-on, on-ground projects, and environmental learning activities.

Projects allowed young people to:

- **Connect with and value their local natural environment**
- **Increase awareness of the importance of a healthy environment and what it means for their own health and wellbeing**
- **Care for Victoria's natural environment by taking part in projects that create, restore or protect habitat for Victoria's native plants and animals.**

The grants supported 59 primary, 7 secondary and 12 Prep to Year 12 schools, 14 kindergartens, 1 preschool, 5 childcare centres, 6 scouts/guides and 5 other youth groups and groups that are not traditionally eligible within this portfolio, including specialist schools for students with intellectual and physical disabilities, rehabilitation services and groups working with culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

Initial reporting indicates more than 8,000 young Victorian's participated.

Above: Students from Glengarry Primary School assist with revegetation efforts along the Gippsland Plains Rail Trail.

CORANGAMITE



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LANDCARE AND
ENVIRONMENT
GROUPS
AND NETWORKS

What you need to know to live here

Family-friendly workshops and farm tours helped small property owners on the edge of Great Otway National Park and Anglesea Heath better understand how to live in a bushfire prone, peri-urban environment. Participants grew their skills and knowledge of native plants and animals, animal husbandry, pest plants and animals, bushfire planning, smart water management, soils and innovative farm practices. The workshops were held by Upper Barwon Landcare Network and Wurdale Landcare Group, with funding and technical support from a range of other groups and agencies, including Corangamite CMA, Department of Environment Land Water and Planning, Agriculture Victoria, Surf Coast Shire and the Country Fire Authority.

Small property owners built their knowledge of soils and innovative farm practices at this family-friendly workshop.



Sharing knowledge

Around 2,500 community members attended 105 events across the region to share knowledge and increase their skills in land management.





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LANDCARE NETWORKS



OVER
4,200
VOLUNTEER MEMBERS



COVERING
1.4M
HECTARES

Regreening the Bellarine with Koala corridors

Small landholders on the Bellarine joined forces to extend native vegetation for koalas and other wildlife. Remnant woodland was enhanced through supplementary planting and weed control. Landholders furthered their knowledge and skills through gorse and rabbit workshops. Secondary school students organised planting days in conjunction with Bellarine Landcare and designed and printed 'I love Bellarine Koalas' car bumper stickers. People of all ages benefited from a koala expert walk and talk, which emphasised the importance of re-vegetation around farm dams and water courses. Landholders and the wider community deepened their understanding of the biodiversity values of their land.



Local landholders work with Bellarine Landcare Group to help create koala corridors across the Bellarine.



Increasing native vegetation

Habitat and biodiversity corridors were enhanced and shelter for farm animals created across 31.3ha of land.



“ The charismatic koala has motivated landholders, school students and members of the wider community to take action to conserve biodiversity on the Bellarine. ”

SOPHIE SMALL,
BELLARINE LANDCARE GROUP.

EAST GIPPSLAND



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LANDCARE
GROUPS

Paynesville Landcare Coastcare Group

Sunset Cove in Paynesville is perfectly positioned to capture picture postcard views. Locals and visitors alike can connect with nature along a 1.5km walking track which hugs the coastline, thanks in large part to the Paynesville Landcare Coastcare Group.

In 2013, the group recognised an opportunity to transform the area, which was overrun with exposed tree roots and garden escapees such as Agapanthus, and boasted a beachfront that was disappearing under a carpet of Kikuyu.

Six years later the Sunset Cove Walking Track is used by a broad range of the community and is currently rated the 2nd most popular tourist attraction in East Gippsland on Trip Advisor.

Paynesville Landcare
Coastcare Group



Leveraging investment

Nearly 47,000 volunteer hours have been spent improving the environment with \$1.4 million of in-kind support from the Landcare Community.



“ It’s a very tangible connection to nature as you’re taking the dog for a walk in the morning. ”

JANE SHAW, MEMBER OF
THE PAYNESVILLE LANDCARE
GROUP



3
LANDCARE
NETWORKS



1,100
VOLUNTEER
MEMBERS



COVERING
2.2M
HECTARES

Raymond Island Landcare Group



Working to improve the bush outlook of Raymond Island; well known as a relaxing holiday destination with the promise of easy koala spotting, is a year-round job for the Raymond Island Landcare Group.

The group has been systematically improving the health of the island; home to an abundance of wildlife and migratory birds, plot by plot for over 20 years.

Popular with tree-changers looking to escape city life, it's this regeneration of people and enthusiasm that keeps the group inspired to continue making change.

Rob Wright first moved to the island five years ago. "It's not complicated" he says, "It's going to take many years to see the benefits but we've got to give back and get it back to something like what it was."



Raymond Island Landcare Group.



*Engaging
the community*

Over 2100 non Landcare members engaged in Landcare led activities throughout East Gippsland.



“ People are getting enthusiastic. They can see the effects of what we're doing and that makes a huge difference. ”

ROB WRIGHT, MEMBER OF THE RAYMOND ISLAND LANDCARE GROUP

GLENELG HOPKINS



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LANDCARE
PUBLICATIONS

Passing on our wonderful land to our children

The Panyyabyr Landcare Group covers the Moutajup, Karabeal and Woodhouse area around Dunkeld. The area includes some of the most picturesque landscapes of the Western District, with the Grampians Range forming a dramatic backdrop to the open Karabeal plains to the south and redgum woodlands to the north.

The group is involved in many projects including: EverGraze, Lifetime Ewe Management, Woodland Bird Monitoring Project, Grampians to Grasslands Fox control program and Trees to the River (the group's strategic revegetation plan). The Panyyabyr Landcare Group formed in March 1993 and places strong emphasis on events and issues that involve the whole family. One of their aims is to teach our children the Landcare ethic and pass their wonderful land onto them in a sustainable and healthy shape.

Left: RLC, Tony Lithgow and Panyyabyr Landcare Group members at one of their Grampians to Grasslands Fox control program sites.
Right: Landcare Gathering attendees inspecting native seedlings at the Arborline Nursery.



Growing strong
Landcare groups

**More Landcare Groups
"thriving" in the region,
with over 1,550 members
and 24,973 volunteer
hours contributed.**



“ Its exciting to think that our children will take on a passion for their environment. ”

LISA MCINTYRE, MEMBER OF
PANYYABYR LANDCARE GROUP



OVER
24,973
VOLUNTEER
HOURS



27,285
METRES OF
FENCING



\$297,800
IN-KIND
CONTRIBUTIONS

Railway line links native vegetation

The Hamilton – Coleraine Railway Line Landcare Group (HCRLG) links landholders adjacent to the railway linear reserve, which winds 35km from Hamilton to Coleraine. The group have been working since 1998 to re-vegetate the once largely cleared landscape. HCRLG took on the massive task of planting 7700 plants in the 2017/2018 year, supported by a \$23,100 Victorian Landcare Grant. The project aimed to repair erosion, protect waterways and increase biodiversity. The group continues to work with landholders to tackle problems such as rabbits, gorse, water quality erosion and community education.



Gully planting at Morgiana, to increase biodiversity and prevent erosion.



*Increasing
native vegetation*

Over 138ha of indigenous vegetation including 36ha of direct seeding and 38,740 trees planted to increase native vegetation across the landscape.



“ Putting trees back into the landscape is such a positive thing for our farm and the environment. ”

**ROWENA FORD, HAMILTON
- COLERAINE RAILWAY LINE
LANDCARE GROUP SECRETARY**

GOULBURN BROKEN



98

COMMUNITY
NRM GROUPS

FarmBlitz: Connecting communities results in a collaborative approach

The social connectivity of the South West Goulburn Landcare Network community is improving. New landholders are moving into the region from Melbourne bringing with them a desire to live the country lifestyle in a sustainable way. Neighbours are joining together to improve the impact of activities and build social fabric. The ongoing investment in the FarmBlitz project is a driving force behind this improved social connectivity.

The last decade in the South West Goulburn area has seen major land development and the breaking up of traditional farming land into smaller "Hobby Farm" blocks. Generally, the people moving into the region retain weekday working connection to Melbourne, have low land management skills and understanding, but have a strong desire to learn.

The reality of managing land and the time that it takes to achieve the "Tree Change" ideals, initially results in a disconnected community and a negative impact on the land. Increased weed, lack of farm infrastructure maintenance and, in extreme cases, poor animal husbandry.

These people do not want to be poor land managers, but with limited connections into the community they don't know where to start. This is where FarmBlitz comes into its own. Bringing these new landholders together to learn the basics of land management and understand the social norms of the region.

Connecting Communities

171 events have been held across the catchment bringing together over 5,000 people with the common interest of improved land management.

Left: Farm Blitz, Keeping Bees
Right: Farm Blitz, Making pasta





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LANDCARE NETWORKS



117

EVENTS WITH SCHOOLS



7,463

CHILDREN ENGAGED

Environment education is child's play

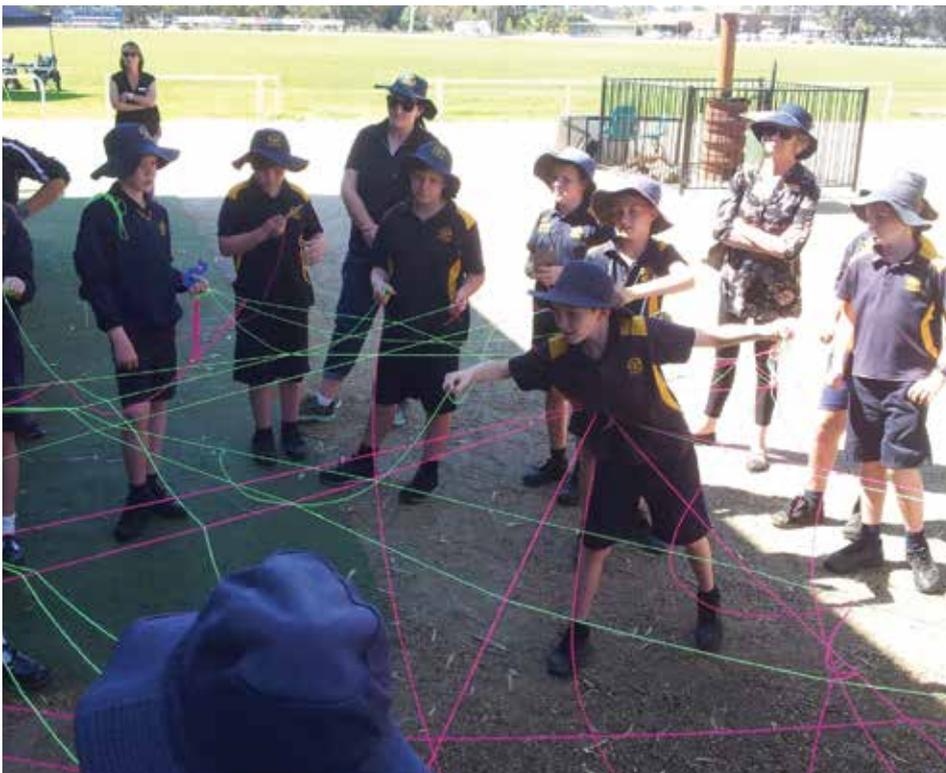
The schools of the Goulburn Broken CMA region are blessed by the dedication and devotion of a few volunteers from the Goulburn Murray Landcare Network. They have spent more than a decade delivering environmental education. There would not be many Goulburn Valley school children who haven't played the food web game or haven't heard about the water quality dilemmas "Murray the Cod" faces in his travels down the river. Biodiversity Education Aquatic Discovery (BEAD) is funded by Victorian Landcare Grants and engages with over 4,000 children each year and leverages the donation of thousands of volunteer hours in the process.

Left: The Web of life activity
Right: Soil Life Activity



Educating the next generation of Landcarer's

117 events held across the year involving 7,463 school students in environmental education.



“ Kids learn best when they are enjoying themselves. If it is not fun, it won't work. ”

LANIE PEARCE GMLN
EDUCATION COORDINATOR

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Statewide data



Victoria's
Landcare community

OVER
600
LANDCARE
GROUPS

64
LANDCARE
NETWORKS



Landcare
group health

61,328
VOLUNTEERS IN
2017-18

399,594
VOLUNTEER
HOURS



On ground actions

MORE THAN
473,000
VOLUNTEER HOURS
COMMITTED TO
ON-GROUND ACTIONS

APPROX.
2,460ha
OF INDIGENOUS VEGETATION
(ESTABLISHED, MAINTAINED,
MODIFIED)



Victorian Landcare
facilitator Program
STATE FUNDED

78
LANDCARE
FACILITATOR
POSITIONS

SUPPORTING
647
GROUPS AND
NETWORKS



Sharing knowledge

MORE THAN
1,000
COMMUNITY EVENTS

APPROX.
63,300
HOURS COMMITTED
TO LEARNING
AND TRAINING



49
AVERAGE
MEMBERS
PER GROUP



2,292
NEW LANDCARE
MEMBERS



10
REGIONAL
LANDCARE
COORDINATORS

1 IN EACH CATCHMENT
MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY



MORE THAN
30,000
MEMBERS AND 40,000
NON-MEMBERS
PARTICIPATE



LANDCARE GROUPS COVER
68%
OF PRIVATE
LAND IN VICTORIA



2
NEW INTREPID
LANDCARE GROUPS
ESTABLISHED



\$11.99m
ECONOMIC
CONTRIBUTION



31
NEW GROUPS
ESTABLISHED



32%
OF GROUPS HAVE ENGAGED
WITH A TRADITIONAL
OWNER GROUP



OVER
837,000
PLANTS
ESTABLISHED



MORE THAN
65,000ha
OF WEED CONTROL
(WOODY & NON-WOODY)



291km
FENCING
ESTABLISHED



OVER
\$9m
IN GRANTS
SUCCESSFULLY
SECURED



575
ON-GROUND
PROJECTS DELIVERED



MALLEE



33

COMMUNITY
NRM GROUPS

Landcare group signs

The Mallee Regional Landcare Coordinator supported the construction of a Landcare sign for each group, detailing the group name, motto and year of inception. A total of 27 signs were designed, manufactured and delivered to groups. Signs were installed in areas where groups have conducted significant environmental works, to proudly display and highlight their achievements.



The Chariot Wheel is one of the important threatened species found in the Victorian Mallee.



Invasive animal control

Over 1,483 km of roadside controlled for rabbits, with an additional 1:1 contribution from adjacent landholders in donations and in-kind ripping.



“ Local Landcare groups are doing so much to tackle rabbit numbers in the Victorian Mallee - their work is vital! ”

SHARYON PEART,
CHAIR, MALLEE CMA



5

LANDCARE NETWORKS



OVER
824
VOLUNTEER MEMBERS



COVERING
2.7M
HECTARES OF PRIVATE LAND

Small critters a hit with schools

National Water Week coincided with the highly popular Mildura show on the 19th October 2017. Taking advantage of this coincidence, Landcare operated a station within a larger WaterWatch booth. The Landcare station engaged the services of EnviroEdu to promote local conservation issues to 8 separate school groups. The presence and opportunity to handle native animals was a huge hit with the kids. Species included sugar gliders, carpet pythons, and shingle-backs!



Local school students loved the opportunity to handle native animals at the Landcare event at Mildura Show.



Leveraging investment

Estimated \$253,988.75*
of in-kind support from the community, in return for \$179,900 of Victorian Government funding.

*estimation based on in-kind: funding ratios submitted in successful VLG applications 2017/18



“ It was fabulous to see so many young people learn so much thanks to Landcare! ”

SHARYON PEART,
CHAIR, MALLEE CMA

NORTH CENTRAL



151

COMMUNITY
NRM GROUPS

Bringing nature home

Based in St Arnaud, the Kara Kara Conservation Management Network works to conserve an ecologically-diverse region of temperate woodland. In 2017, the Network's 'Bringing Nature Home' project encouraged the local community to create habitat for native wildlife where they live. The 'Gardening for Wildlife' seminar series targeted urban and peri-urban gardeners, while the 'Farms for Wildlife' series targeted broad-acre farmers and owners of 'lifestyle' properties.

The seminars support the group's objective to create habitat for threatened flora and fauna where remnant native forest is still relatively widespread, but where understorey is often lacking and natural tree hollows are in short supply. The seminars resulted in increased community involvement in the group's revegetation and nest-box programs, with at least 11 landholders either participating for the first time or broadening their existing involvement.



Native plant giveaways provided participants with a garden goodie on the day.



Sharing what we do

37% of groups are now utilising social media with Facebook the most popular platform. Newsletters remain the most important communication tool, with over 7,000 people subscribed to regional Landcare distribution lists.



“ At a time when climate change is threatening the survival of many of our native birds and animals, habitat areas are important refuges, especially during times of drought. ”

DEBRA SAXON-CAMPBELL,
KARA KARA CMN



10

LANDCARE NETWORKS



OVER

5,000

VOLUNTEER MEMBERS



41,600

VOLUNTEER HOURS CONTRIBUTED TO LANDCARE ACTION

Rock and Roll Stars

50 enthusiastic students at Trentham and District Primary school helped plant, fence, tag and monitor 32 nationally endangered Basalt Peppergrass (*Lepidium hyssopifolium*) plants in a new native garden at the school. Known as the rock and roll stars of the plant kingdom because they are short-lived and party hard, Basalt Peppergrass can be difficult to grow. There are thought to be only about 500 Basalt Peppergrass plants left in Victoria. One plant was found growing on the steps of the old lolly shop on Trentham's main street by Trentham Landcare member Gael Elliott, and seeds collected and propagated. The students are now Basalt Peppergrass stewards, working in conjunction with the Friends of Trentham Creeks and Reserves, Upper Campaspe Landcare Network and the state government as part of a state-wide effort to prevent extinction.

Students from Trentham and District Primary School prepare to plant the Nationally Endangered Basalt Peppergrass to prevent them from becoming extinct. ©Scheltema.



Increasing native vegetation

Habitat, shelter, shade and soil stabilisation through revegetation and remnant protection took place across 177 ha of land. 80% of groups rank protecting and enhancing vegetation as a top 3 priority.



NORTH EAST



45

COMMUNITY
NRM GROUPS

Involving urban volunteers in the environment

Urban groups in the North East continue to involve large numbers of people in Landcare activities. To raise the profile of Landcare, many groups participate in events such as Wangaratta Nature Day, Eldorado Off Grid Festival, School Environment days, Tree Day and others.

The Wodonga Urban Landcare Network and Parklands Albury Wodonga supported over 20 groups to deliver works and events in local parks and reserves. These included working bees for weed control, re-vegetation, nest box monitoring, the ever-popular 'gardens for wildlife' days, tree day, nature walks and community gardens.



Left: Information and activities for all ages, Wodonga.
Right: Young naturalists.



Working with community

Supporting over 20 urban community groups, who involved > 5,600 non member participants.



“ So many people are interested in learning more about Landcare. ”

OVENS LANDCARE NETWORK



6

LANDCARE NETWORKS



OVER 1,780 VOLUNTEER MEMBERS



1.1M HECTARES COVERED

Managing blackberries through collaboration

The North East Blackberry Action Group (NEBAG) and the Mitta to Murray Blackberry Action Group (M2MBAG) continue to deliver extensive community wide activity to manage blackberry in the Upper Murray/Mitta catchments. These groups involve all public land managers, Landcare groups and farmers to plan and undertake works collaboratively, and on their own land.

M2MBAG supported Agriculture Victoria staff to collect blackberry bio-control insects in Portugal, UK and France. DNA analysis identified two insects for further investigation for release in Australia. Many groups are also working to identify and promote bio-controls for other weeds in the region.



Left: Field days share new information.
Right: Gate signs promote involvement.



Controlling weeds

Blackberry management plans with 240 landholders over 60,000 ha. Over 100ha of weed control by groups via grants.



“ Partnerships are vitally important... no one can stand alone against weeds. ”

JIM DE HENNIN - M2MBAG

PORT PHILLIP AND WESTERNPORT



86

LANDCARE GROUPS
AND MORE THAN **400**
OTHER COMMUNITY
NRM GROUPS

Reviving a Landcare need

It is always great news when a new Landcare group emerges in an area where interest had previously declined. Little River Community Landcare Group is one such group, which revitalised Landcare in the Little River area by picking up on the past efforts of the Corio Landcare Group and the Little River Improvement Group.

Through the Sustainable Land Management project, a public forum was held with the Little River community to discuss how there could be more community involvement in the natural environment. Discussion around the purpose and aims of the previous groups revealed a real passion for doing restoration work along the river and for weed control in the Victorian Volcanic Plains grassland, so the decision was made to combine the existing groups' efforts.

It is just as important to bring new passions into NRM volunteering. The Westernport Intrepid Landcare group also formed after a leadership retreat.



Little River Community Landcare Group.



*Growing strong
Landcare groups*

**Surveyed Landcare
and environmental friends
groups reported more
than 12,000 volunteers
participating in their work.**





13
LANDCARE
NETWORKS



OVER
4,300
VOLUNTEER
MEMBERS



COVERING
704,740
HECTARES

Indigenous partner leads the way

The Wandoon Estate Aboriginal Corporation was the recipient of the Australian Government Partnerships for Landcare Award in the 2017 Victorian Landcare Awards, for their work as the owners of the historic property Coranderk in the Yarra Valley.

They were nominated by Port Phillip and Westernport CMA staff who recognised the diverse and strong partnerships that have been established and were integral to the property's success. Their goal is to rejuvenate Coranderk as a working farm, important habitat for native fauna and as a place to bring Wurundjeri people together on Country.

The award judges were impressed by the innovative and powerful partnerships that the project has fostered and judged it to be an outstanding example of leadership and Indigenous natural resource management that is delivering tangible on-ground outcomes as well as social and economic value.

Wandoon Estate representatives and proud partners at the Victoria Landcare Awards.



Cultural heritage

Cultural awareness training events offered to Landcare volunteers and facilitators to increase their understanding of Aboriginal culture.



“ It’s always exciting to talk to volunteers that are enthusiastic and passionate about making a difference to the environment they live in. ”

BARRY KENNEDY, PORT PHILLIP AND WESTERNPORT CMA REGIONAL LANDCARE COORDINATOR

WEST GIPPSLAND



72

COMMUNITY
NRM GROUPS

Young people get into Gippsland Intrepid Landcare

Over 300 young people between the ages of 18-35 have been introduced to Landcare thanks to Gippsland Intrepid Landcare. The group was formed in 2017 and their volunteer committee already has hosted ten events that match on ground environmental activities with adventure and fun. Intrepid partners with other NRM organisations to ensure activities are meaningful and achieving helpful outcomes. Highlights include mapping willows along the Thomson River for future management, and a 'Dance and Plant' event where 6,000 trees were planted in the Bass Hills, followed by bands and dancing. The group aims to get young people into a future of Landcare by educating them on Landcare and connecting them to local groups and environments.

Members of Gippsland Intrepid Landcare mapping willows on the Thomson River.



Getting young people involved

West Gippsland schools worked with 33 Landcare groups on a range of activities including tree planting and Bugblitz.

“ Gippsland Intrepid Landcare volunteers are always working hard to keep creating events and taking action for the Gippsland environment in any way we can. ”

JARRYD MINAHAN, GIPPSLAND
INTREPID LANDCARE CHAIR



5

LANDCARE NETWORKS



OVER 2,000 VOLUNTEER MEMBERS



1.7M HECTARES COVERED

Landcare brings together drought affected farmers

Much of Gippsland has suffered through one of its worst droughts on record. In the areas east of Yarram, Landcare has been an indispensable way that farmers have supported one another during this time. In order to reduce isolation and encourage farmers to get off the farm, the farming-focused Woodside and Merriman Creek Landcare Groups have run regular meetings and get togethers. These events, often with a guest speaker and supper, have provided an important support for farmers to socialise and decompress. A particular highlight in early 2019 was a family fun evening at the Stradbroke Hall where nearly 150 people attended, enjoying food, entertainment jumping castles and face painting.

Social get togethers have been an important support for Gippsland farmers.



Adapting to climate change

92% of our groups considered climate change in their group planning.

OVER 200 PEOPLE ATTENDED OUR CLIMATE IN AG EVENT IN WARRAGUL.



“ Landcare is not just about the trees – it is about the people. ”

MELISSA AINSWORTH,
MERRIMAN CREEK
LANDCARE MEMBER

WIMMERA



63

COMMUNITY
NRM GROUPS

Yungui Bark Canoe Gathering

Local Landcare support staff and volunteers assisted Traditional Owner staff from Barengi Gadjin Land Council, Goolum Goolum Aboriginal Cooperative, Parks Victoria and DELWP to deliver the Yungui bark canoe community training and engagement event in October 2017. This formed part of a broader effort to support local Aboriginal communities in sharing 'river yarns' about the Wimmera River to help ensure local Aboriginal values and customary uses are better linked in with water planning and river management in Victoria. The activity coincided with development of the Country Plan "Growing What is Good", which highlights Traditional Owner aspirations for Country and Community.

Wimmera CMA Aboriginal Water Officer Ben Muir at the Yungui Bark Canoe Gathering.



Cultural heritage

6 partnership activities established with Barengi Gadjin Land Council.



“ It’s great working in with local Landcarers to build stronger relationships with Traditional Owners. ”

**BEN MUIR, WIMMERA CMA
ABORIGINAL WATER OFFICER**





1,400

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS
AND VOLUNTEERS OF
GROUPS AND NETWORKS



\$1.6M

TOTAL FROM
INVESTORS



982

PARTICIPANTS IN
REGIONAL LANDCARE
COORDINATOR
PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Celebrating Landcare and National Harmony Day

Wimmera Landcarers promoted new partnerships and connected Landcare to others by helping to host this event on 21 March 2018 as part of the local Harmony Week cultural program. Community members joined Tim Low, author of the award-winning bestseller *Where Song Began*, to share in the story of how our Australian birds spread their music around the world. The event was organised in partnership with Barengi Gadjin Land Council and Wimmera CMA and also featured performances from the Wotjobaluk dancers and nature sound recordist Andrew Skeoch. A multicultural supper was supplied by Oasis Wimmera migrant families.

2018 Harmony Day and Landcare celebration.



Community connection

12 non-Landcare connections established to increase social return on investment.



“ Connection of Landcare to others is so important for rural and regional communities. ”

WENDY MCINNES, HORSHAM RURAL CITY AREA LANDCARE FACILITATOR



ENVIRONMENTAL VOLUNTEERING PLAN



Victoria has a strong history of environmental volunteering, with volunteers contributing enormously to our biodiversity, our economy, and our communities. However, environmental volunteering is changing, with increasingly busy lifestyles and changing community expectations.



During 2018, the Victorian Government worked with the environmental volunteering community to explore how to support and grow the sector.

The result of this collaboration is the Victorian Volunteering for Nature – Environmental Volunteering Plan. This Plan is a new direction that seeks to sustain, expand, value and understand volunteering in Victoria.

To read or download the plan or find out more about environmental volunteering go to:

environmental.vic.gov.au.au/biodiversity/victorians-volunteering-for-nature.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

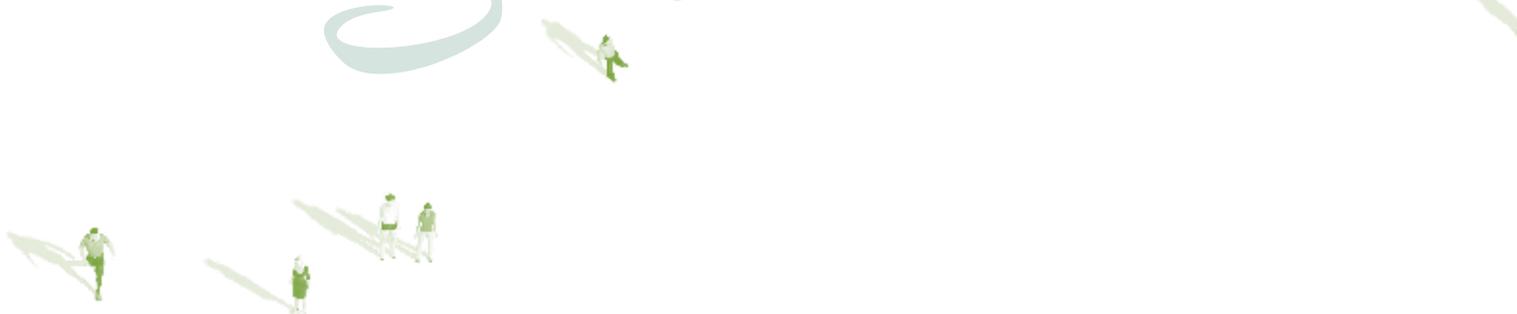
In 2018, Dr Peter Veenker, the Chair of Vic Catchments and Mr Terry Hubbard, Chair of Landcare Victoria Inc. signed a Memorandum of Understanding which ensures a productive partnership that builds the capacity of both Landcare Victoria and the ten Catchment Management Authorities to strengthen natural resource management in Victoria. This landmark agreement heralded a new and consolidated partnership arrangement to promote and bind ongoing natural resource management and sustainable agriculture. Catchment Management Authorities across the state have enjoyed a positive relationship with Landcare over the past 20 years.



CMA and Landcare Vic Inc. representatives at the signing of the MoU with Mr Anthony Carbines MP, representing the Minister.



bringing people together



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For further enquiries

Please contact your local Catchment Management Authority



Environment,
Land, Water
and Planning