



YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK



THE RARE AND BEAUTIFUL *KIDDIEFUNGUS NATURALIS*. DISCOVERED ON A BINIGINWARRI FUNGI FORAY

ANNUAL REPORT 2015 - 2016



INTRODUCTION

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

Yarram Yarram Landcare Network exists to coordinate and encourage sustainable land management and productivity

This report outlines the activities carried out by the Yarram Yarram Landcare Network, its staff and member groups over the financial year from July 1st 2015 to June 30th 2016 and presents a summary of the financial status of the Network as at June 30th 2016 and accompanying Auditor's Report. YYLN is an Incorporated Association, operating under a set of Standard Rules adopted on 31/10/2006 – updated version 4 - 15/6/2016.

Table of contents.....	Page
Executive Summary	03
Chairs Report	04-05
Constitution Update	06
Treasurer's Report/Financial Overview	07
Network Overview	08-09
Landcare Group Reports	10-15
Network Projects, Activities and Events 2013/14	16-27
Financials	28-32



This report has been compiled by Sally-Ann Henderson, YYLN CoOrdinator, with assistance from the publications committee of the YYLN.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK



The Yarram Yarram Landcare Network has the following as the key themes where it strives for excellence:

- Landcare Groups & Membership
- Sustainable Agriculture/ Production
- Environmental Stewardship
- Education, Communication & Promotion
- Partnerships & Collaboration
- Funding
- Governance

In 2015/16, the Yarram Yarram Landcare Network undertook 22 projects.

- 31100 plants in the ground;
- 42.5 ha of land revegetated;
- 8.82 km of fencing erected;
- 5355.82 ha of weeds controlled
- 72.7 ha of remnant vegetation protected;
- 87 km Waterways and Riparian zone treated
- 20 partnership with community groups and agencies
- 26 information sessions/field days/events;Workshops

YYLN have also been active in other areas and in 2015/16 has delivered the following activities and events and noteworthy news.

- A review of the constitution, with the new constitution approved by the membership in June;
- Full seedbank review and inventory tested for viability;
- Newsletter – production of 4 newsletters delivered electronically (photocopied for non-email members);

- Website – New YYLN website www.yarramlandcare.org;
- Wonyip, Hedley, Binginwarri, Merriman Creek and CIBAG subgroups actively seeking out and delivering projects.
- YYLN's Saltmarsh Protection project was awarded the Coastcare Award and
- YYLN Chair David McAninly was award the Victorian Individual Landcarer Award at the Victorian State Landcare awards held at Government House in August.
- AGM – 50 people being introduced to the wonderful world of native bees and their habits;
- Alberton Primary joining as a sub-group and Yarram Early Learning Centre undertaking activities and joining in June;
- YYLN Riparian Restoration Project on Merriman Creek being chosen as a project to do a study to determine the return on investment of social capital;
- Hosted political discussions with local, state and federal members of parliament to encourage better understanding of Landcare and the issues faced by volunteers and the network.
- Helga Binder retiring and Kevin Hegen taking on the role of chair of the JARR committee;
- Working with the Courthouse Gallery to bring a threatened species exhibition to Yarram in Oct 2016;
- Continuation of the drought tolerant pastures work with a further 3 years of monitoring to be funded through Healthy Soils.

- Samantha Monks departed in March, having taken an early redundancy package from the WGCMA.
- Phase 2 of the JARR Biodiversity Blueprint was compiled after a gathering at Binginwarri Hall with several projects already underway.
- Extensive bird monitoring and mammal monitoring programs being carried out in JARR and surrounds.

This year the average age of our volunteers has been greatly reduced with both Alberton Primary and the Yarram Early Learning Centre joining the network and contributing with tree planting activities. Coupled with works by the scouts, cubs and Yarram Secondary students we have over 150 kids from 3 to 17yrs old working to improve the local environment. Who said Landcare was dying out?

Again in 2015-16 I compliment the subgroups for their pursuit of projects and delivery of on-ground works. It is great to see the teamwork and comradery that has developed in some groups as they achieve their goals. A particular thanks to the tireless contact officers, and spokespeople who champion these projects and coordinate and cajole the members and work very hard to things delivered.

Sadly we have again had to cut staffing this year as the network transitions from large scale network contractor delivered projects, to smaller discreet projects delivered with works undertaken by

individuals and subgroups. We are still getting some fantastic outcomes for the environment and our community but they are not coming with the security of funding or the landscape scale change seen with projects such as Mullungdung to the Coast and JARR Communities for Nature. For example the average funding level for new grant programs announced by the Victorian Government this year was \$25K compared with Communities for Nature JARR which was a \$600,000 grant program back in 2012. We are working hard to engage other sources of funding and to persuade governments that large scale projects have a place in natural resource management. We wish Samantha Monks all the best and thank her for many years of diligent project delivery for YYLN.

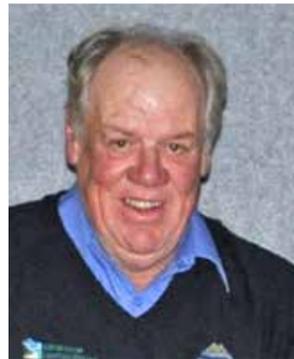
The constitutional review undertaken this year by a working party of board, staff and other YYLN members has led to us adopting an up to date constitution that better reflects the operations of the network and complies with current legislation.

And finally YYLN was delighted to be awarded the 2015 Victorian Landcare Awards' Coastcare Award for the Saltmarsh Protection work that we have undertaken over many years. To top it off David McAninly was named the Victorian Individual Landcarer for 2015 at the same awards. We now go on to represent Victoria at the National Awards. ■



CHAIR'S REPORT

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK



DAVID MCANINLY

The past twelve months for YYLN has been a mixture of activities from finalising projects, gaining smaller grants to continue on ground works, gaining some younger generation active members, and some rewards and awards.

Just three days after our AGM in August last year the State Landcare Awards were held at Government house with Gippsland achieving 38% of the awards.

YYLN won the Coastcare Award for the 700+ hectares of saltmarsh protected over approximately seven years. Fencing, weed control and plantings, under the guidance of project officer Samantha Monks. **The Victorian Landcare Individual Award was won by yours truly from 50 competitors.**

This year marked the completion of a JARR project funded by a State Government grant of \$600,000 under Communities for Nature. We must pay a tribute to the Norman Wettenhall Foundation, (NWF) especially the CEO Beth Mellick, for their outstanding support and financial contribution of close to \$200,000. A partnership over some 8 years helping to realise this amazing vision by primarily paying a contribution towards staffing. A final staffing payment was received this year along with a grant to do an education project. Our relationship with NWF will continue on into the future.

Helga Binder stepped down as chair of the JARR committee after 6 years. Kevin Heggen is the new chair. Thank you Helga and Kevin. Starting with the early contact by Leon & Cathy Trembath, members of the consecutive boards have nurtured this relationship and it will continue !!

Also this year marked the completion of the highly successful "Action on the Ground" carbon farming initiative supervised by Samantha Monks, mainly in the Woodside & Merriman Creek Groups' area.

The funding for Landcare by governments has progressively reduced to all the networks. This is predominantly because of the transition from very large long term projects across multiple years to frequent small scale projects of a year to 18mths. The smaller projects

are more labour intensive, relying strongly on volunteer and landholder contributions with lower amounts of network support.

Through the National Landcare Program's Healthy Soils, a further \$30,000 was granted to continue the long term monitoring of drought tolerant pastures until 2018. Further work on Saltmarsh protection was granted through Corner Inlet Connections and a range of new projects were awarded in 2015/16 including:

- Riparian Restoration of Merriman Creek,
- Victorian Landcare Grant- Remnant Protection,
- 3 Volunteer Support grants,
- Community Volunteer Action - JARR project,
- Community Volunteer Action - Warm Temperate Rainforest Protection,
- Victorian Blackberry Taskforce funding,
- Connecting Calrossie, Won Wron and Devon North,

More recently for projects in 2016/17 financial year to continue on-ground work, Sally-Ann was able to have a 100% strike rate for Community Volunteer Action grants to protect threatened species, a total of \$75,000 for Binginwarri, Woodside and Wonyip Landcare subgroups. We continue to strive for new works to improve our environment.

Field days, workshops

CHAIR'S REPORT

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK



...continued from previous page

and conferences were well attended and much information was gained by participants. Topics have included;

- The rabbit control and Calici virus information at the Woodside Hall
- The JARR Biodiversity Blueprint revisited at the Binginwarri Hall
- Scouts hunting for threatened species on a spotlight walk
- Blackberry control and its impact on waterways
- Sally-Ann, myself and Werner Lange attended the Regional Landcare Forums with the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (WGCMA) and other Landcare networks at Traralgon 4 times a year as part of the unique partnership arrangement of WGCMA and the networks in the region
- Final results presentation of the Carbon Action on Ground project
- Understanding soil test results

A successful Think Tank Conference took place at Wilson's Prom. with the aim of obtaining funding with a regional approach. The result of which included a regional Expressions of Interest (EOI) process sent to all members of Landcare in the West Gippsland region to collect and prepare projects for submission for funding either

on an individual or collective basis to have more leverage with the government or corporate funding bodies.

We have worked hard to gain the attention of our local politicians to gain understanding of the achievements to date and the need to continue to receive funding for Landcare.

Darren Chester, Danny O'Brien, and Parliamentary Secretary for Environment Anthony Carbine visited and were supportive in listening to our requests.

It was with much disappointment that Samantha Monks chose to take an early redundancy package, owing to the major projects she worked on coming to a finish and the limited funding available.

An unfortunate reoccurring feature afflicting all networks with the insecurity of funding. We have lost 2 coordinators and 3 project officers in the last 8 years through lack of funding security.

We thank Samantha so much for her 8 years of outstanding project delivery and wish her well for the future.

New subgroups' member of the Network, the Alberton Primary School children did some planting around the Port Albert Yacht Club sea wall whilst the Early Learning Centre - "The Kinder Kids" have had a few sessions in planting low level plants (understory) with the Yarram Urban Landcare subgroup

at the Bicentennial Gardens. Thank you and your teachers and helpers for your great enthusiasm.

About Christmas time Matt Stephenson took over the role of project officer for the Corner Inlet Blackberry Action Group- subgroup. Community engagement and weed spraying in the upper reaches of our network as well as around Corner Inlet. They have been able to work with YYLN to secure funding from State and Federal Governments for some \$82,000. The cooperation between this group and adjoining groups as well as WGCMA and the shires of Wellington and South Gippsland has achieved a major reduction in the infestation of blackberry and other weeds.

Regretfully David MacAulay and Kaye Proudley are leaving the board. David, our retiring treasurer, constitution advisor, and generally a great contributor to all the members on the board over the past 4 years. Kaye the botanist, Binginwarri subgroup powerhouse, seedbank specialist and all round great knowledge base of all things Landcare has resigned due to ill health. We thank both of you very much for your contributions and wish you well for the future.

May I pay tribute to our partners the WGCMA for the financial support and the personal support and assistance in providing a helping hand in our office

when we were short staffed. Thank you to Belinda in her role as partnerships team leader and Kathleen Brack for her help in filling the gap on Samantha's departure. Thank you to Dan Garlick for guidance and support.

Many thanks to our coordinator Sally-Ann for her enthusiasm, energy, dedicated and professional manner in which you manage the network. Thank you all for the extra volunteer time you give to our Network, to our Board and for the benefit of the community in the name of Landcare.

Finally, it is with a sense of sadness that I end my time as Chair because it has been an absolute pleasure to work with and enjoy the company of our very talented board over the last 6 years.

Thank you to all the staff, the Landcare groups and the CMA personnel. ■

Thank you all & let us keep flying the YYLN flag!

Yours in Landcare

David McAninly
Chair



THE CONSTITUTION

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

A Special Meeting was held on the 27th of April in 2016 to vote on modifications to our Constitution. It had not been updated for many years and some sections were no longer relevant to current times.

After final adjustments were made a meeting on the 15th of June ratified these changes and our constitutional overhaul was complete.

We thank the Committee members, Leon and Cathy Trembath, John McClumpha, David MacAulay and Sally-Ann Henderson for spending many hours going through the old

constitution, identifying what needed change and then coming up with suggestions to put to the membership.

All changes that were formatting only or were required by the new Act were accepted as presented as they saw no modification to the operation of YYLN.

The changes that do see a modification to the operation of YYLN are listed below.

A complete copy of the revised Constitution is available from the Landcare office for anyone who is interested. ■

NEW OR UPDATED CLAUSE	DESCRIPTION OF CHANGE
4.2..1 A Group with objects the same or similar to YYLN located or have an interest within YYLN may make application and be approved for Group Membership of YYLN as provided in these Rules.	Change – removed geographical boundaries
11.2 The selection of persons employed by the YYLN shall be a function of the Board in accordance with agreement with employing agency.	Changed to add ability of YYLN use agency for employment of staff. First draft of constitution has WGCMA as agency, however, changed to employment agency to allow for possible future changes.
12.2 Immediate Past Chairperson (The position of Immediate Past Chairperson will be an ex officio member of the board , for a maximum of one year)	Change from 2 year for immediate past chairman to only one year. This allows for mentoring phase.
12.5 No individual Board member shall hold more than 3 consecutive terms in the one position on the Board	Initially removed – the removal was rejected at the meeting and is to be retained in constitution.
13.1 YYLN shall at the beginning of each financial year convene an AGM of its members. The AGM will be held prior to 1 st October each year.	Currently AGM to be held prior to 1 st Sept. However, to allow for audit preparation etc, moved required to prior to 1 st October.
14.3 Ten (10) members shall constitute a quorum.	Change from 5 to 10 people at special or general meeting as a quorum.
This clause has been removed – both for General meetings and AGM.	Note: relevant clause that has been retained: The Secretary, at least 14 days, or if a special resolution has been proposed at least 21 days, before the date fixed for holding a general meeting of YYLN, must be sent to each member of YYLN , a notice stating the place, date and time of the meeting and the nature of the business to be conducted at the meeting. Notice may be sent by electronic transmission or prepaid post to the address appearing in the register of members.
15.10 Notice sent to the secretary or contact officer of Member Group or Subgroup of YYLN shall be deemed to have been sent to all the individual members of the group.	
14.11.3 In the case of an equality of voting on a question, the chairperson of the meeting is entitled to exercise only a casting vote.	Change – Chairperson has only a casting vote – not a deliberative and casting vote.
16.2 The Chairperson of the meeting is only entitled to exercise a casting vote.	Change – Chairperson has only a casting vote – not a deliberative and casting vote.

TREASURER'S REPORT

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK



DAVID MACAULAY

Presented for your information are the Profit and Loss, Balance sheet and Cash Flow statements of the Network for the financial year ending 30th of June 2016.

The Auditors Statement is also included which expresses satisfaction with the financial methodology used. These reports and statements are on pages 26 - 32 of this Annual Report.

The following points may help in the interpretation of this information.

1. The accounts are managed by the Catchment Management Authority (CMA) on our behalf
2. We pay the CMA for a suite of management services.
3. In order to present a summary of accounts, transactions are grouped and for clarity these groupings may have changed.(eg.Materials in 2014/15 has been displayed as Fencing and Trees in 2015/16).

4. Regional contributions were \$200,000 less than for 2014/15 with an apparent \$50000 loss being adsorbed from monies held in the Bank at the start of 2015/16. This is due to most projects carrying over multiple financial years with payments received progressively, up front or on completion. ■

David MacAulay
Treasurer

Income and Expenses July 1 2015 through June 30 2016	
Income	\$698,344.15
Expenses	\$748,352.00
Variance	-\$50,007.85

The Yarram Yarram Landcare Network (YYLN) was established in 1995 and covers a diverse area of approximately 118,000ha. YYLN stretches from the temperate rainforests of the Strzelecki Ranges to the Ramsar listed wetlands of Corner Inlet and Nooramunga Marine and Coastal Park, encompassing the Giffard Plain, along the Ninety Mile Beach to beyond Seaspray.

The YYLN is the umbrella organisation for the eight active and a number of recessed groups across the region. It provides support and strategic direction across the YYLN area. The groups are made up of volunteers from the local area. Groups are either catchment based e.g. Albert River or local area based e.g. Yarram Urban. YYLN operates under the model of both fully independent groups and also sub-groups.

Members are involved in a range of activities and events including: protecting remnant vegetation, building corridors and revegetation of degraded sites, invasive plant and animal control, sustainable agriculture and environmental education and appreciation. The Landcare Groups provide a framework for locals to get together, with each group having its own priorities, characteristics and personality.

The YYLN is a not-for-profit, incorporated association, managed by an eight member volunteer board who ensure the organisation is well governed, provide strategic direction for the region, and is representative of all the local groups. It is not a representative board (ie. each group provides a member). The Network has only one paid staff member to assist in project delivery and co-ordinate network operations.

YYLN Board

The YYLN is privileged to have a terrific mix of skills and experiences amongst its board members. These eight volunteers diligently work to provide leadership that is harmonious and representative of the whole Network. Executive and administration support is provided by the Network Coordinator, Sally-Ann Henderson. Each member is appointed for a two year term. YYLN Board meetings were held on the second Wednesday of each second month.

The dates of our board meetings in 2015 - 2016 are as follows.

August 12, 2015
September 30, 2015
December 9, 2015
February 10, 2016
April 27, 2016
June 15, 2016
August 10, 2016
September 7, 2016

The current YYLN board consist of:

David McAninly	Chair; Employment Steering Committee (also attends Regional Landcare Forum quarterly)
Werner Lange	Vice Chair; Employment Steering Committee Chair (also attends Regional Landcare Forum quarterly)
David MacAulay	Treasurer; JARR Committee
Melissa Ainsworth	Secretary; Communications Publications Committee
Helga Binder	JARR Committee Chair (outgoing); Communications Publications Committee
John McClumpha	Information Technology
Kaye Proudley	Seedbank Committee
Anne Hill	Seedbank Committee

In addition to the internal committees, the Network Board has representatives at the:

Regional Landcare Forum	David McAninly, Werner Lange
Community Weeds Taskforce	Werner Lange
West Gippsland River Advisory Board	David MacAulay

YYLN Staff

YYLN employed 2 staff members in the 2015/16 financial year. Staff roles, time allocation and funding are listed below. Due to the finalisation of a number of multi-year, high-funding projects before the end of the financial year staffing reduced to one. Since March Sally-Ann Henderson has tried to keep up her duties as Co-ordinator of the network while doing as much as she can in the project delivery. This has seen our resources spread very thinly on the ground and a reduction of services available to the groups in our network.

STAFF	FUNDING	ROLE
Sally-Ann Henderson Network Coordinator Full Time	0.4 DEPI Victorian Local Landcare Facilitator Initiative 0.1 Norman Wettenhall Foundation 0.5 via various projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall YYLN responsibility – budget and financial management, OH&S, administration and office management; Executive support to the board; Staff management; YYLN Committees: Employment Steering Committee; Publications and Communications Committee; Funding Committee; Seedbank Committee; JARR Committee; Member of the Corner Inlet Connections Steering Committee and Corner Inlet Working Group; Coastal Liaison Committee; Gippsland Sustainable Agricultural Network; Koala Working Group, Regional Landcare Forum and GippsLandcare Funding applications; Oversee all projects and reporting YYLN Event/Activity Coordination: Awards, AGM, Annual BBQ, Annual Report, Website, Welcome Pack, Strategic Plan; Landcare Groups support, and capacity building; On-ground project delivery and support to groups to deliver their projects;
Sam Monks Landcare Projects Officer Four days a week (Sam took an early redundancy from the WGCM in March)	0.4 via JARR Communities for Nature 0.1 Norman Wettenhall Foundation 0.3 via various projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivered various projects and supported groups to deliver their projects. Project coordination and delivery: JARR Community For Nature (C4N) Project, Action on the Ground, Saltmarsh Protection, Richmond Landcare Grant, and Healthy Soils Assisted with the wider JARR project; YYLN events and activities support (AGM, Annual BBQ, Newsletter).

YYLN Landcare Groups

The Network currently has the following member groups

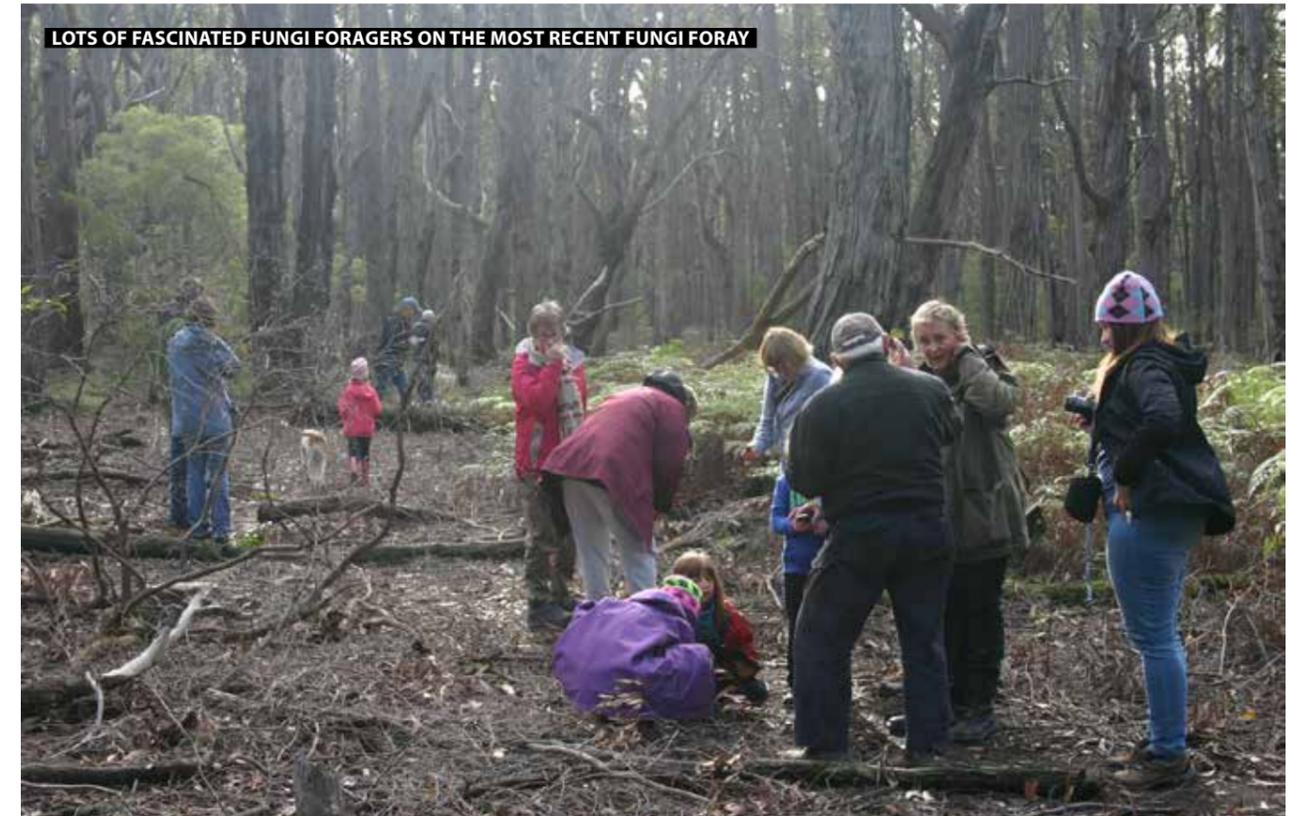
- Albert River Landcare: David MacAulay, Secretary
- Woodside Landcare: Fergus Irving President; Jane Gordon, Secretary

And the following sub groups of the Network

- Binginwarri Landcare: John McClumpha & Kevin Heggen, Joint Spokesperson; Kaye Proudley, Contact Officer
- Merriman Creek Landcare: Paul Harrison, Spokesperson; Vacant Position, Contact Officer
- Hedley Landcare: Maree Avery, Contact Officer
- Yarram Urban Landcare: Clara Mandaletti, Contact Officer
- Won Wron/Devon North Landcare:
- Wonyip Landcare: John Kosta, Spokesperson; Werner Lange, Contact Officer
- Corner Inlet Blackberry Action: Raelene Bond, Spokesperson; Dave Smith, Contact Officer
- Alberton Primary School: Malissa Nicol, Contact Officer

Historically Giffard Darriman Landcare Group, Alberton Urban Landcare Group, Tarraville Landcare Sub group, Madalya Landcare Group and Carrajung Landcare Group were also within the Network. These groups have either disbanded or merged with existing groups.

There are approximately 150 paid up member families within the Network. There are currently 100 YYLN Network members as deemed by the FTLA for insurance purposes; this includes members of Merriman Creek, Binginwarri, Hedley, Wonyip, CIBAG and Yarram Urban, Alberton, Albert River, Won Wron/Devon North as well as the stand-alone Yarram Yarram Landcare Network which accepts independent membership.



LOTS OF FASCINATED FUNGI FORAGERS ON THE MOST RECENT FUNGI FORAY



BIRDS NEST FUNGI - HARD TO FIND AS THEY ARE ONLY 5MM ACROSS BUT DISCOVERED AT THE LAST BINGINWARRI FUNGI FORAY

Binginwarri

The Bingi group have completed another relatively busy year although our activity numbers and member numbers have decreased somewhat from previous years. However, our membership of 25 landholders indicates there is still strong interest in the group.

Our 100th Anzac anniversary project came to fruition in November. This was a 100 year commemoration to members of the public in the Binginwarri district who served in the First World War. The dedication service and blessing of the memorial

plaque was by the Reverent Jo White. Over 90 people attended the service and afternoon tea with relatives of serving members from as far away as Queensland and South Australia attending. This project was partially funded by the Yarram RSL.

Throughout the year several of our members have been involved in the JARR bird surveys. These surveys are being carried out over 28 sites in the JARR area to assess the effectiveness of reforestation programmes in the area.

Our Fungi Foray this year, with the very knowledgeable Faye Vyner as our leader, was held in May's Bush, Devon

North. Despite the cool day an attendance of 20 people was encouraging, particularly the interest shown by the children who attended. The highlight species being the Birds Nest Fungi, which were quite plentiful. A count of over 35 fungi made this a successful day and even more so by those who took home some of the edible ones.

Other activities included our end of year BBQ at the new Agnes Falls Rotunda, which was well attended and a very pleasant day. Our Biodiversity Project, an ongoing project, continues our recording of local flora and fauna in our area. ■

CIBAG

Corner Inlet Blackberry Action Group

A South Gippsland landholder best encapsulated this years program by stating "The roadsides are on the improve, my neighbour has finally met community expectations and my own place has 70% less Blackberry each year since I got serious". Comments with these themes seemed to be consistent across the CIBAG area, but most added that "we've done well, but there is a way to go yet".

With the addition of "25th Anniversary" Landcare funding and residual "Communities for Nature" grant support, the Victorian Blackberry Taskforce project between Yarram and Fish Creek proved successful on 3 main fronts. Firstly, collaboration between agencies, secondly more efficient on-ground works and lastly broad community awareness raising and 'buy in' from new landholders in the region. The usual issues and challenges presented themselves to varying degrees – however – generally the program made significant gains.

Of the 42 properties under 3 year management plans, a number were visited and surveyed in the winter of 2016. 31 property owners had conversations with CIBAG Project Officer and described or showcased their efforts. Of the 31 landholders

some had sold or moved on from their properties, this is disappointing on one hand, however what was encouraging was the number that expressed that they had passed on blackberry extension advice to the new owners! There were also 2 instances where sellers had passed on the Project Officers phone number and the purchasers had established contact with the program.

This year resulted in 24 new landholders signed up to 3 year plans. There are also 4 pending plans due to be signed in the coming month. This 2015-2016 achievement coupled with the previous 2 years sign ups totals 65 landholders. One landholder has even signed up for a second time. He was an initial program signatory and his 3 years were up, so he developed and signed another plan.

Hectares visited:

1650 (new sign ups and revisits)

Hectares treated:

1950 (new sign ups and old sign ups almost 50:50 split)

Phone calls / emails:

Approx. 300

Land managers recruited:

24 (4 pending)

Total CIBAG sign ups to date

66 (some properties sold)

A strong, active and enthusiastic committee has led the project with on-ground support from the CIBAG Project



CIBAG PROJECT OFFICER MATT STEPHENSON OUTLINING THE AIMS OF CIBAG TO ATTENDEES OF AN EDUCATION DAY

Officer Matt Stephenson and Sally-Ann Henderson from the Yarram Yarram Landcare Network. The Committee are also active and strategic with representation on the South Gippsland Community Weeds Taskforce and networking and promotion via the Weeds Society of Victoria.

It is estimated that over 500 landholders and members of the communities bounded by Fish Creek, Yarram and Mount Best have had direct involvement with the program over the last 3 years. During the summer, monthly articles are placed in the local

newspapers. Blackberry control is promoted at local Landcare and Friends of Group meetings and we have successfully hosted at least 6 field days. There are considerable opportunities to continue on with critical 'follow up' works and there are untapped areas with landholders that we have not been able to establish contact with as yet. CIBAG have made a difference – but it is not time to extinguish the lights just yet ! ■



WONYIP LANDCARE GROUP HAVE MADE A GREAT START ON THE DINGO CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT

Wonyip

At the start of the financial year we were encouraged by a grant to restore and replace vegetation on the existing projects and the newly harvested section of the Quoll Corridor on HVP Plantations initiated in 2006. Our membership increased and we have now a group of 13 financial members.

With the introduction of sub groups in the Network, our financial burden for Insurance was reduced and the facilitation of grant applications enhanced. For the first time since 2006 the majority of the group could benefit from project funding as the Landscape project of JARR had distinct borders which excluded most of the

Wonyip properties which lie in the Dingo Creek/Agnes River Catchment.

At the beginning of 2016 we were happy to receive a 25th Anniversary Grant of \$25,000 to continue our work on the Quoll Corridor into the Dingo/Agnes Catchment with connection to the JARR Catchment. This project was completed on time with the help of the Binginwarri volunteers and the newly invigorated Agnes River Group who are in the adjoining South Gippsland Network.... cooperation and community building is the new word for "Landcare" for us.

Further encouragement was received at the end of the year with the news that an application for the "Threatened Species" drive of the DELWEP

was successful. The title "Wonyip LG - Wonyipedia threatened species ID guide and Habitat Restoration" must have been the trigger for that success.

We are in part of an area of South Gippsland that has a statistic that over the last year 1,300 real estate properties have been bought by Melbourne residents and we have in our group 3 examples of that trend.

Landcare has existed in Victoria for 30 years and the future looks bright when we judge it by the recent National Landcare Conference where finally the young people have something to say.

Wonyip LCG have a future and we have defined this future in our newly adopted Action Plan

2016 - 2020. We welcome any interest in this document - just contact our group. ■

Albert River

There are many active members and projects in the Albert River area however the group has not met as a group this year. Members often discuss the group when they bump into each other in the street and are considering the future of the group. A likely outcome being they will officially become a sub-group of the network. In the meantime, Landcare works continue on many properties with waterway protection, revegetation activities and remnant protection. ■

Woodside

Following the Annual General Meeting on the 26th August 2015 the Woodside Landcare Group has held 6 bi-monthly meetings.

Guest speakers were Eric Leeburn who spoke on his trip home to Ireland, George Trianta who spoke on a trip to China, the British Grasslands Society's Summer Meeting in Cumbria was the topic of Rosemary Irving's talk and Bryan Jans spoke on his Sunrise Plain Buffalo milking enterprise. At the October meeting Bob Wilson, leading biosecurity officer with DEDJTR, spoke on the RHDV K5 calicivirus which is suited for rabbit control in cooler wetter environments.

A Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease – Boost Roadshow was held in the Woodside Hall in January. Forty-eight attendees heard research scientist Dr. Tarnya Cox and DEDJTR Biosecurity Manager, John Matthews, speak on the new strain of Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease. Successful applicants for virus release are expected to be notified in the next few weeks.

The Woodside Landcare Group ordered indigenous tree seedlings as part of the Victorian Landcare Grants – Biodiversity Enhancement. These trees were available for planting in October. The lateness in the season and the lack of time for preparation of planting sites

was a problem but landholders were able to plug gaps in their Mullungdung to Coast plantings.

Alison Livermore, a member of the group, successfully applied for a grant from DELWP's Volunteer Community Action Grants for threatened species protection, to fence and revegetate a section of Reedy Creek.

Some Woodside Landcare members have been involved in developing Soil Health and Nutrient Management Plans with Lisa Warn from the Mackinnon Project through the National Landcare Program's Soil Health project.

There was a Productive Pastures day at Tom's Cap Winery in November where Nick Dudley and Lisa Warn spoke on the final results of the Action on the Ground project's soil carbon trial and perennial pasture persistence.

The Pasture Productivity projects undertaken by the group under the direction of YYLN project officer, Samantha Monks, have been a great success. We appreciate the efforts Samantha put in on our behalf and we will miss her now she has left the network.

Finally, I would like to thank our secretary, Jane Gordon, for all the work she has put into keeping things running smoothly and for re-incorporating the group. Bryan Walpole has kept the group soundly financial for another year. We do appreciate his careful attention to detail.

Our catering officer, Kay Belcher, continues to provide legendary suppers. Thanks to Kay, also, for organising the very pleasant Christmas dinner at the Commercial Hotel.

Thank you to all the members for your support of the Woodside Landcare group for the last 12 months.

Fergus Irving
President
Woodside Landcare ■

Yarram Urban

Membership within the Yarram Urban Landcare Group remains small but constant. Monthly general meetings have continued over the past twelve months and support for individual Landcare and Network activities remains very good and meeting attendance continues. Meetings in the milder months are held at the Botanic Gardens which is our main project area and generally they are a mini working bee with weeding proceeding before, during and after the meeting.

Over the past twelve months, work on the Botanic Gardens has continued slowly but surely. Some of the significant milestones that we have achieved include:

- Moving, fixing and erecting some seats and a memorial stone that had been donated to the group. The seats and memorial stone make a nice entrance piece to the

gardens and offer weary volunteers somewhere to perch for a rest. We also hope that the seats might entice a few walkers into the gardens.

- Finding some funding for the purchase of a whipper snipper, which will hopefully make maintenance easier.
- Maintaining the weed levels in the gardens and maybe even making some headway. This is a constant challenge, which we hope the whipper snipper will assist us with.
- We have recently developed a relationship with the local kindergarten. They have attended several planting days at the gardens and we hope they will continue to come for some play and picnic visits.
- We are developing a plan to extend the existing Yarram bike path to the Gardens and beyond. While this is very much just in the brainstorming phase, we have high hopes for where this would take the Botanic Gardens in the towns assets. ■

Won Wron/ Devon Nth

This year the Won Wron/ Devon North subgroup has their first project in a while. Run by the network as the Connecting Calrossie, Won Wron and Devon North project it featured assistance to enable landholders to undertake revegetation, remnant



protection and weed control. Because some landholders in the target area were affected by the October bushfire, the project was able to assist them to rehabilitate their bushland and restore fences around remnant vegetation. There are quite a few members that have joined the network but the group has not yet met socially. The finding of a colony of threatened greater gliders in the Won Wron State Forest may give us a future focus for projects. ■

Hedley

Dallas has finished his bird surveys of the Hedley area as part of a 9 Mile Creek project begun in 2013. The areas studied had two complete years of monitoring. It will be a great baseline of data for the future. He plans to present

his findings to the Landcare community in the next newsletter. Although he has now moved away from 9 Mile Creek he has gone on to bigger bird monitoring projects for YYLN in the JARR based on our project design.

The completion of the Hedley – Dam's for Wildlife project was quite a feather in the cap. The planting of wetland species around four dams in various environments was done by volunteers later in spring with fears that the plants may not survive over the hot summer. Fortunately most of the plants thrived, however now many of them are now under water! It will be interesting to see how they cope with this new challenge. They are wetlands so fingers crossed. ■

Merriman Creek

The Merriman Creek group has enjoyed another active year.

A stand of willow trees in Taylor's Lane along Merriman Creek was stem injected in late 2015 as part of the "Biodiversity Enhancement" project. We were fortunate to receive follow up funding under the "Regional Riparian Action Plan", to mechanically remove the trees to allow for revegetation of native species this spring. Project funds will also allow for fencing 2 properties along the creek, as well as weed control and revegetation.

The Garlick family kindly hosted our **Christmas meeting**, which included a lovely barbecue dinner. Several members within the group formed a sub committee to organise our upcoming 30th Anniversary celebration planned for later in 2016.

Our May 9 meeting trialled a week day evening meeting, which was a huge success. Meetings held throughout 2016 were held on a week night, with very good attendance.

The WGCMA Board did a tour of the catchment in early February. As part of their tour they dropped into Stradbroke to visit members of our group and hear about the works we have undertaken along Merriman Creek over the past three decades.

Members of the group expressed interest in caretaking an area of the South Gippsland Highway between Merriman Creek and Bradley's Road, via the "Adopt a Highway" program. Program representative, Gary Mogford, visited us and gave 5 members induction training on how to safely collect and dispose of litter when working on roadsides. Our application to service this area has been successful and we await the safety equipment for our first working bee.

On August 15 our group held our **annual election** whereby we elect leaders for the upcoming 12 months. Paul Harrison was re-elected as Spokesperson for a third year and the Contact Officer position is currently vacant.

Our **30th Anniversary celebration** was held at the Stradbroke Hall on September 10. Over forty current and former members attended a spit roast dinner followed by speeches from Belinda Brennan, Partnership & Engagement Team Leader, WGCMA and YYLN Board Chair, Mr David McAninly. The evening finished off with a power point presentation, which showcased a snap shot of our groups and members project achievements over the past 30th years.

The group is delighted to be informed that our application to have the RHDV1 K5 rabbit virus strain released at Seaspray in 2017, has been successful. ■



Landcare 25th Anniversary Grants

Wonyip Landcare group and the Corner Inlet Blackberry Action Group are both coming to the end of the delivery of their respective projects.

Congratulations to both sub groups for the excellent leadership and enthusiasm by which you have conducted yourselves and delivered your projects.

WONYIP QUOLL CORRIDOR

Wonyip Landcare subgroup are passionate about the tiger quoll and they have had a long term vision to provide as much habitat as they can for this shy threatened carnivore whilst creating a wildlife corridor for other species to travel from habitat to habitat.

A federal government grant celebrating 25 years of Landcare in Australia, allowed the group to continue their work. The group planted 2000 trees, fenced and guarded the plants to protect them from wallaby and deer. Blackberry was killed and the CMA joining in by killing off willows. They build fences

to stop vandals getting to the new plantings and to prevent erosion.

Sections of dingo creek were fenced to exclude stock. The group had lots of community working bees and were able to join with members of Agnes River, Binginwarri and Albert River groups to get the job done. The quoll corridor has now crossed multiple properties and connected a number of sections of regrowth forest. It is wonderful to see a group with a clear vision and a passion to keep building on their past successes.

CORNER INLET BLACKBERRY ACTION GROUP

Another 25th Anniversary grant was awarded to CIBAG, to protect Corner Inlet and the Ramsar wetlands, and its wildlife.

The project is to eradicate blackberry. The blackberry thickets provide harbour for vermin. The migratory birds that feed on the Corner



EXCELLENT GROWTH OF REPLANTED CORRIDOR

Inlet shoreline are greatly threatened by foxes, so the loss of their blackberry habitat is a win for the protection of these internationally important species.

The group have been removing blackberry infestations on both private and public land. This includes the Great Southern Rail Trail, waterways and coastal properties that back onto Corner Inlet. The project has so far killed off 430ha of blackberry and signed up 13

people to 3 year management plans.

Landholders participate in the project with a 50:50 ratio of cost sharing. They have also held a range of community education events and written articles for the local paper to keep building community interest and knowledge in blackberry control. ■



BLACKBERRY SPRAYING ALONG THE AGNES RIVER SHOWS HIGH SIGNS OF SUCCESS



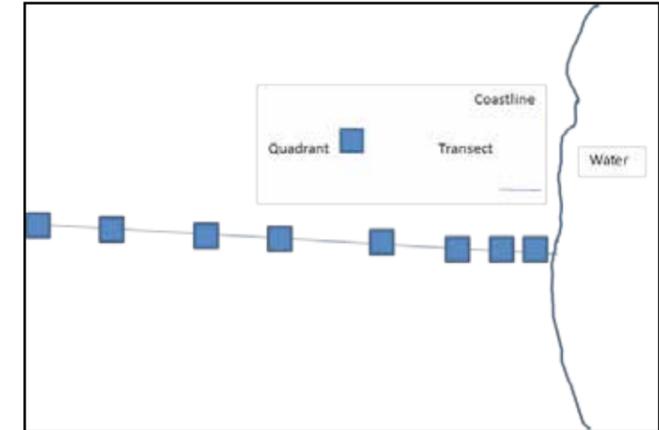
Saltmarsh project

Corner Inlet Connections has continued to fund the protection and enhancement of saltmarsh and mangroves around Nooramunga. This year the focus was an area of estuarine saltmarsh on the Tarra River and a paddock adjacent to McLoughlin's Beach. Activities include weed control, fencing and revegetation of the swamp scrub that buffers the saltmarsh areas.

Part of the process of undertaking our saltmarsh work is to measure the quality of the vegetation so that we can see if there are changes over time. This work is an important component to understand what the impact of the exclusion of stock is having on the vegetation. Is it worth the investment? Are mangroves encroaching as the climate changes? How long does it take for the ecosystem to recover

from grazing? What impact does protection have on biodiversity and weed invasion? These are some of the questions that need answering.

A methodology we are using has been developed especially for us by Paul Boone from Victoria University. He is an expert in the field of saltmarsh and mangroves, particularly in southern waters. The saltmarsh assessment includes an inventory of the threats such as pollution, weeds, drainage controls and grazing. Transects are then selected across an area of varied representational vegetation. Transects are perpendicular to the water frontage. Metre square quadrants are then assessed along the transects at varying intervals. The species and the percentage of area that they cover are recorded. This includes native species,



pasture and weed species. The number of mangrove plants and seedlings are also recorded. This is because the extent of mangroves in our area is likely to increase as conditions warm. This will further decrease the area of the already threatened saltmarsh ecosystem.

With this data recorded as a baseline, we can go back in future years to see what changes have occurred. In much of what we do in

Landcare projects, it is obvious what changes have occurred over time as the trees grow. Saltmarsh plants may grow only a few centimetres high, so a more detailed analysis is needed. Along with photographs, there will be the data needed to truly see if our efforts are achieving our aims.

This project is supported by Yarram Yarram Landcare Network, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme and West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority ■



LEFT: JUVENILE WHITE MANGROVE; RIGHT: RECLAIMED SALTMARSH ON NOORAMUNGA





Communities for Nature project

The Communities for Nature - Jack and Albert River Restoration Project has been an icon of the Network for the last four years.

It has had an unprecedented level of funding for blackberry control, allowing landholders to have a season of blackberry control with the aim that they would then continue to maintain the land into the future with follow up actions. Roadsides, some riparian zones and some public land has also been sprayed as part of the works of our partners.

The project has protected

many hectares of remnant vegetation ranging from Warm & Cool Temperate Rainforest in the top of catchment to Lowland Forest and Swampy Scrub in the valleys. It also achieved connection of patches of vegetation by building corridors and shelterbelts.

We have worked hand in glove in conjunction with our JARR partners HVP, Wellington Shire, and the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority. By pooling our resources and having a shared focus for where we work in the catchment, YYLN has leveraged additional on-ground works. This includes the protection

of waterways through fencing and willow removal followed by revegetation. Retarding erosion of riparian zones and steep slopes has occurred through revegetation and the exclusion of stock by fencing of water courses.

The project this year was able (through 18 landholder agreements for blackberry suppression, 5 landholder agreements for remnant protection and revegetation) to fence off 50.1 hectares of remnant vegetation and plant 5000 trees in the hills and another 5000 in the valley, and kill off blackberry to ensure 2356.42 hectares of blackberry free land in the lower reaches

of the Jack and Albert Rivers. These activities have contributed to water quality improvements downstream flowing into Nooramunga Marine Reserve as well as improved farm land and biodiversity.

Over the life of the project since June 2012

- over 40,000 tubestock have been planted;
- 240 ha of remnant vegetation has been enhanced, connected and restored; and
- Blackberry has been treated across 7,850 ha of private land and river frontage. ■

Wellington Community Grant

Port Albert Yacht Club and YYLN joined together to get a Wellington Community Grant to remove the large wall of boxthorn and mirror bush on the edge of Rutter Park.

The project involved the Alberton Primary School children in a day of tree planting. Local coastal species were planted once all the woody weeds had been removed by an excavator.

The children also had the chance to learn about sailing, the marine wildlife of Corner Inlet, and they helped build

a native bee hive. The shire provide a load of mulch that has helped to smother the weeds trying to return and the area is now looking so much more open and inviting. It has helped to unite the community with the yacht club and to get rid of a weed problem that council resources had not had time to deal with.

Additional plantings will be done in spring. ■



A BEEHIVE TO BE PROUD OF



Seedbank

During the past eighteen months the Seedbank Committee, made up of board members Kaye Proudley and Anne Hill, underwent the long overdue review of the networks seedbank facility.

The purpose of this review was to ascertain what was actually contained within the bank, along with the quantity of each seed species and whether the seeds were viable.

With this huge task ahead, we were fortunate to also have the assistance from Kaye's cousin Marcia, who helped Anne and Kaye audit all of the stock.

As a result of this stocktake, 288 individual seed lots were identified, totalling 72.295 kg of seed! The value of this seed, using the commercial rates as in 2012, totalled a whopping \$32,670.70.

Kaye then underwent the huge task of sampling seed lots to test their viability. As a result, the grasses and daisy species were found to be no longer viable. These seed lots were disposed of by distributing them in both the Yarram Bicentennial Gardens and at a direct seeding site in Won Wron just in case they sprang to life.

The Seedbank Committee then enlisted the help of board

member John McClumpha.

John kindly wrote a computer program so that data from the original *Greening Australia Seedbank database* could be transferred, along with the stocktake data, onto a user-friendly database, now accessible via the network's laptop.

During the review process a refrigerator was also found to be defective and another requiring maintenance. Thank you to the McAninly family who kindly donated a new refrigerator for use in the seedbank.

Unfortunately the network does not have the funds nor the capacity to run the Seedbank as a commercial venture.

Whilst the Seedbank is a valuable asset to the network, it does require a lot of input to keep fresh seed stock entering and good record keeping and management to have stock turning over. This, along with the promotion and sales of available stock, would need to be run by volunteers into the future.

The Seedbank Committee will now look into connecting with other nurseries to promote our viable seed species available for sale. The network recently called for volunteers for a number of roles, including duties within the seed store. It is hoped that members



who appreciate the benefits of storing and accessing seed from our local province, will volunteer to help our network maintain this unique resource.

A vote of thanks is sent to Kaye, Anne, Marcia and John for their many many hours of work put into reviewing the YYLN Seedbank facility! ■



Taken from original article by Samantha Monks as published in the Summer 2016 YYLN Newsletter

Action on the Ground (AotG) – Gippsland plains soil carbon trials – productivity & climate change responses

The final report for the Action on the Ground was compiled and submitted this year and included a detailed technical report containing all scientific data and project findings. This was prepared by senior agronomist Lisa Warn from Melbourne University and circulated and reviewed by Dr Sharon Aarons, from Agriculture Victoria.

Project Summary

A demonstration research project was conducted on 14 properties in the Gippsland Plains region of Victoria to demonstrate and evaluate the effectiveness of perennial pastures or application of chicken litter or compost at sequestering carbon in soils. None of the farm practices trialled had an impact on increasing soil carbon stocks in the short time frame of this project.

Objectives

The project aimed to evaluate/demonstrate if practices such as establishment of drought tolerant perennial pastures (and their improved fertiliser and grazing management) or addition of large quantities

of organic materials (chicken litter, compost) could increase sequestration of carbon in soils on 14 participating properties in the Gippsland Plains region

of Victoria. The project also aimed to increase community understanding about ways to increase soil carbon

Key Activities

- Perennial pastures, established by the farmers in 2009 as part of a previous project (GPDTPD) were selected for monitoring in 2012. One 'Sown' perennial pasture paddock was compared with an adjoining 'Control' paddock on each farm. The Sown pasture paddock and the Control paddock were assessed for carbon stocks (t/ha in 0-30cm) in 2012 and 2014.
- In 2012, three demonstrations were established to investigate the impact of application of high rates of recycled, organic wastes on soil carbon stocks. One farm used compost, made from food and green waste, the other two farms used chicken litter sourced from meat chicken sheds in the South Gippsland area. The chicken litter and compost treated paddocks were compared with a "Control" paddock that received conventional, inorganic fertiliser inputs. Both the "Control" and the "Carbon treatment" paddocks were monitored for pasture composition, pasture

persistence and stocking rates. Carbon stocks (0-30cm) were assessed in November 2012 and 2014.

- Numerous extension and communication activities were conducted to promote the results of the trials.

Implications

These findings highlight the difficulty of rapidly increasing soil carbon stocks in soils that have previously been managed as pasture paddocks with some inputs of inorganic P,K,S fertiliser, as many of these soils had a moderate soil carbon level to start with. Well fertilised perennial pastures, sown in 2009, did not have any higher stocks of carbon than well fertilised annual pastures (or rundown perennial pasture) by 2014.

The findings also indicate that the addition of relatively large quantities of organic material (equivalent to 3-4t/ha of carbon in 2 years) to these soils did not have a significant impact on soil carbon stocks in the short period of this project. Building soil carbon takes a long time.

Final Project Deliverable

The final project deliverable was a communication event to present detailed project results and findings to local landholders and project partners. The "Perennial

Pastures Project Presentation Day" covered the results and showed videos of some of the results and thoughts of participating landholders. ■



Victorian Landcare Grants (VGL) - Biodiversity Enhancement Project

There will always be an ongoing need for follow up and maintenance of past works to get improved outcomes for biodiversity. However follow-up funding for works undertaken in previous years is almost impossible to get as a new project.

So the 2015 VLG project chose to focus on that and gave groups the opportunity to pick their own small project and were permitted to direct the funding towards projects that were important to them and their region.

Each group took a different focus.

These projects were led by the groups involved with guidance and support from the Network coordinator. It was a good example of a win-win situation. The groups/landholders involved were able to do the project improvements that they had wanted to do for years, in a way that suited them, but they did not have to take on the administrative burden of applications and reporting.

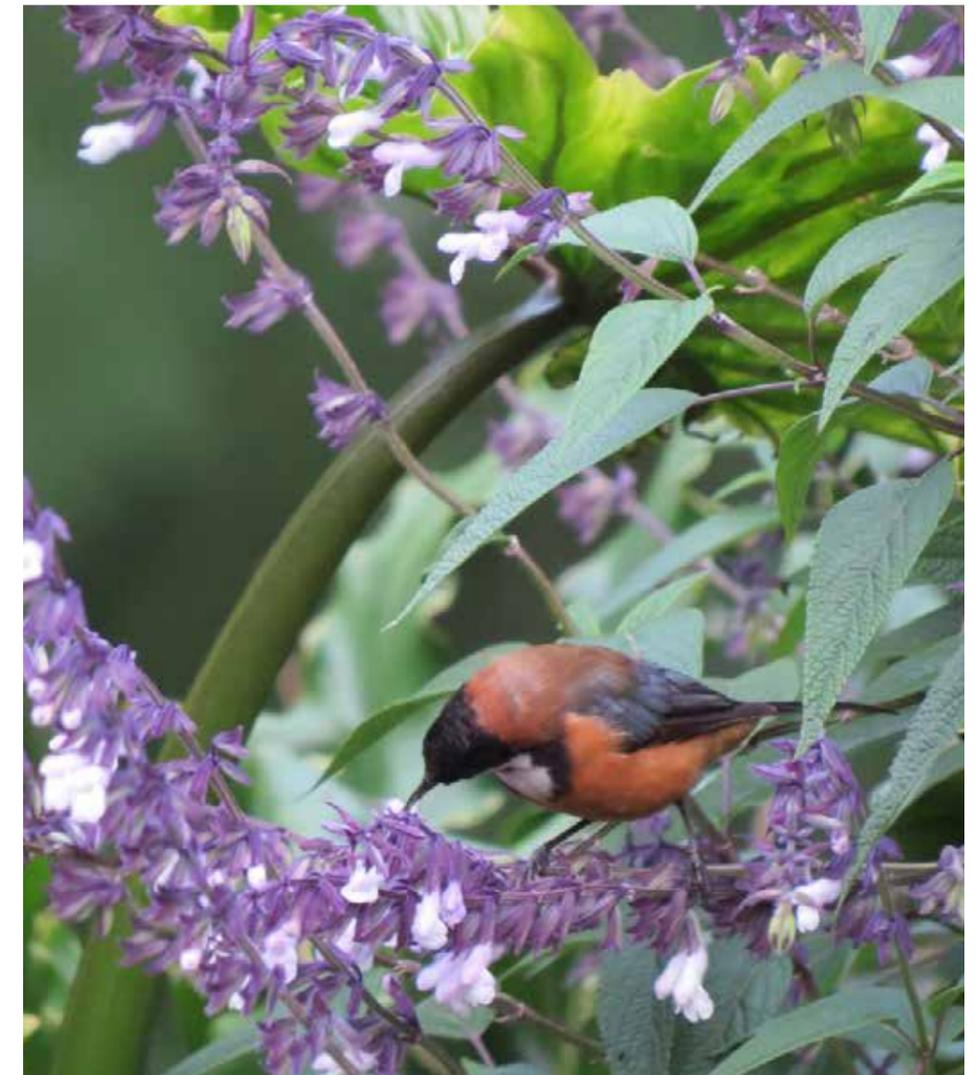
Originally the projects were going to all focus on improvements to existing Landcare projects that were undertaken in the past because many projects had not reached their full potential as biodiversity habitat. Either

because of weed infestations, lack of understorey or failure of the original planting. However it became apparent that in a couple of places the priority was new work, so the project adapted to incorporate new areas of weed control (willow removal) and revegetation. Interestingly, although the

groups often complained about the weed infestation of their previous projects and the fact that they could not do anything about it because there was no funding available, when given the opportunity to select weed control or supplemental revegetation, eventually most chose to do

planting enhancement of understorey and failed patches rather than spray weeds only.

The final outputs of the project were 1.2 ha of weeds sprayed, 1km of fencing, and 44ha of revegetation and supplemental plantings. ■





In the Pipeline

Healthy Soils

The Healthy Soils project continues to deliver work to improve agriculture production across the region. Farm management plans, pasture demonstration trials and workshops are all underway. A full report of the autumn/winter break pasture results will be available in the next edition of the newsletter as the late rains have delayed the assessments and results are not yet in for this season. ■

Back to the Future - JARR Biodiversity Blueprint version 2

Maps covered every table, as people gathered around each one to plot and colour and shade where they would like future works to be undertaken. That was a few years ago now, and what was supposed to be a 20 year vision for on-ground works in the JARR catchment was born under the name the Jack and Albert River Restoration Project's Biodiversity Blueprint.

With support from the Norman Wettenhall Foundation's Landscape Restoration Program and a more than 20 successfully delivered projects from a range of funding sources that list of projects is pretty much now all completed. In about a quarter of the time expected.

So it was a trip back to the future to start to come up with JARR Blueprint version 2. Again the tables were covered with maps and people dropped in

throughout the day to compile their wish lists and link up with their neighbours and imagine what could be done in the future.

This is the beginning of a new vision for the JARR and we will continue to build on the legacies of the past and shape the landscape of the future. ■

Connecting Calrossie Won Wron and Devon North

This project was developed to try to target an area that had largely missed out on funding in the past few years and give landholders in that area the chance to undertake their landcare projects. The six landholders participating are at various stages of completion with their activities. We have one project site completed, a few of the landholders are currently working on their fences and trees have been planted in Spring 2016.

It is great to have one of our project sites being the direct seeding of three large shelter belts. On relatively flat dairy country. This is a great chance to try the seeder in an area it has not been well utilised and it taps into the valuable resource that is being held in our seedbank. It will be interesting to watch how the seeds grow and mature into a community over the coming seasons much the same way as many of the Mullungdung to Coast project corridors are now starting to mature.

Funding for this project comes from the National Landcare

Program's Regional Community Grants delivered via the WGCMA.

Sustainable Agriculture

This Sustainable Agriculture Project from the Federal Government was recently confirmed.

We will be given some funding to control erosion on dairy properties and are in the process of looking for expressions of interest from dairy farmers with an issue with erosion on steep slopes or stream sides to participate in project activities in the coming year. ■

Victorian Landcare Grants (VLG) Program - Enhancing Biodiversity in Yarram and surrounds.

Many of our submitted Expression of Interest participants were pleased to receive a call to say that we had already sourced funds which might suit their desired project.

The VLG program allowed us to quickly arrange for and then conduct site assessments for many EOIs in the target area that indicated they were keen to protect remnants or fence out waterways. Ultimately it led to us being able to fund 5 projects that will be completed by the end of 2016. There projects include fencing of a section of the Albert River and swaths of remnant vegetation protected from grazing, as well as shelter belts and weed control. ■

Community Volunteer Action Grants

Threatened Species Community Participation.

This diverse project with many facets is well underway with some exciting outcomes already.

The "On the Brink" art exhibition on threatened species has been confirmed and we are working with our partners to recruit artists for delivery at the end of Oct. Please come along to our opening night on October 28.

Members of the Yarram Urban Group led by a passionate Trevor Colvin have been brainstorming ways to tackle the Indian mynah problem with support being gathered from local members of parliament and surrounding shires to try to get a concerted approach across Gippsland.

Spotlight counts and camera footage has identified a range of species across our landscape including unfortunately far too many foxes and cats for anyone's liking. However a range of native mammals and birds have also been spotted including greater gliders and sugar gliders, owls and antechinus. This information can help shape future projects and funding bids.

Schools and scouts have planted trees as part of National Tree Day and the primary schools are currently designing signs for display and education. On-ground works will ramp up in spring. ■

Protection of Warm Temperate Rainforest.

The landholder pulled out of this project and we are awaiting confirmation of the Victorian Government that we can move the project to another site to deliver works this spring and summer. ■

Communities for Nature (C4N) grants

Farm Dams Crying Out for Wildlife

This was a small project suggested by a Hedley Landcare Group member. He wanted to have the banks of farm dams provide habitat for birds, insects, reptiles and aquatic creatures.

This project is now complete and has allowed 4 dams at three sites (Stacey's Bridge, Won Wron and Hedley) to be revegetated with wetland plants. Landholders provided the fencing, site preparation and work force and YYLN was able to secure funding for the plants.

It was great to see the collaboration and effort that the landholders put into this small project. We wait to see what impact this will have into the future and hope to use it as a learning tool for others who are keen to see their water storages as not only a farm asset but also an environmental one. ■

Billy Creek Wetlands Revival

During 2015, the Friends of Biodiversity Blueprint for Bingi in partnership with YYLN and the WGCMA, have successfully restored and protected a large and valuable wetland area.

The 7ha natural wetland adjoins a section of Billy Creek and is part of a vital biolink in the JARR area. On-ground works included: Removal of low - medium willow

infestations; 4km of stock proof fencing with 2,000 tubestock planted. A bird survey was also conducted around the wetlands by local volunteers to collect baseline data for the JARR Bird Monitoring Project. ■

Protecting Corner Inlet's Catchment from Blackberry Encroachment

The Corner Inlet Blackberry Action Group (CIBAG) a new subgroup for YYLN has completed the delivery of their first project.

The project was blackberry removal which is not surprising given the name of the group!

The focus was the Agnes and its tributaries with the banks sprayed and landholders encouraged to put together their own 3 year plans to tackle the blackberry infestations on their land.

This was done with the support of the Blackberry Project Officers, Helga Binder and then Matt Stephenson.

Agnes Falls was the venue for a community information day, held Saturday 5th December to celebrate the achievements of the past 12 months and try to engage new landholders in the fight against blackberry. The project ensured that 2751 hectares are now free of blackberry and other woody weeds. 35 km of waterways were treated and 28 landholders participated and signed agreement. 20 hectares of follow up revegetation efforts were also conducted by some of the landholders. ■

Restoring the riparian habitat of Merriman Creek through community participation

Merriman Creek is the water supply for the town of Seaspray. It also runs through the heart of the Merriman Creek Landcare Group's territory, which stretches from Willung to Seaspray.

This project was the perfect focus for them to undertake a waterway restoration project by accessing a C4N grant.

Similar to the CIBAG project, the focus was on the removal of weeds along the creek banks and encouraging landowners to do their bit too. A long stretch of the creek was cleared of weeds and small areas were revegetated in an attempt to stop the weeds re-establishing. A small stretch close to the town was chosen for a community revegetation day involving the local school.

A strategic partnership was formed with Gippsland Water to assist with project delivery. They hosted the MCLG to explore the water treatment plant, did an education session at the primary school and assisted with our community revegetation day. Thanks to Melissa Ainsworth for the huge amount of effort she put into the project, gathering before and after photos and landholder permission, liaising with contractors and coordinating the revegetation. The success of the project is testament to her efforts. ■

Protecting the coastal vegetation communities of Corner Inlet and Noorumunga's Ramsar listed breeding grounds

Continuing on with our award winning saltmarsh project via the CMA looked unlikely in late 2013. So taking matters into our own hands so that we could continue the works, YYLN applied unsuccessfully for money from Coastcare, then successfully from C4N.

This time an environmentally valuable area of coastal saltmarsh on the edge of the Port Albert township was the focus.

On-ground works for this site included:

- fencing off a 2ha biodiversity protection area to protect sensitive coastal habitat from stock;
- supplementary planting of locally indigenous tubestock;
- invasive weed removal of Boxthorn & Gorse.

Year 9 students from Yarram Secondary College along with other community members planted and guarded hundreds of tubestock and have also built duck nest boxes.

This project builds on the vision of a continuous biolink protecting the Ramsar listed wetlands of Nooramunga and Corner Inlet adding to the 600 hectares already protected through previous projects. ■



15/16 YYLN PROJECT PROGRAM SUMMARY

PROJECT	FUNDING	INTENDED OUTPUTS
Carbon Action on Ground	Dept of Ag, Fisheries & Forestry	Final report
Healthy Soils	National Landcare Program via WGCMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstration sites 9 farm management plans One public capacity building event 2 public learning opportunities
Communities for Nature – JARR Project	DEPI – Communities for Nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 75ha Blackberry Suppression 10ha remnant protection/reveg 8 landholder agreements 2 Workshops 4 JARR Meetings
Port Albert Yacht Club	Wellington Community Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restoration of Port Albert Foreshore Vegetation Port Albert Yacht Club promotional materials
Yarram Botanical Gardens Revamp	Wellington Community Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community engagement to get their ideas on what should happen and how the gardens can be revamped. On-ground works to make the gardens more user friendly, eg. Removal of weeds, dead trees, some replanting.
JARR	Norman Wettenhall Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring and Research; including a bird monitoring regime across the JARR. Project development
Saltmarsh Protection	Corner Inlet Connections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coastal saltmarsh protected via fencing and woody weed control
Yarram/Allies & District Junior Sporting Club – Roaring for the Environment	Richmond Football Club Landcare Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yarram Yarram Landcare Network, Yarram Urban Landcare Group, 5 schools and Yarram Allies & District Sporting Club' Activities include revegetation at Yarram Secondary Collage Production of nest boxes and garden furniture Footy Clinic for local kids
Port Albert Saltmarsh protection	Communities for Nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coastal saltmarsh fencing & woody weed control Bird boxes with Yarram Secondary College
Farm Dams for Wildlife	Communities for Nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstration of farm dams plantings to encourage wildlife Community workshop on farm dam wildlife Planting of suitable wetland plants.
Billy Creek Wetlands	Communities for Nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remnant protection fencing and restoration works on a large wetland off the Billy Creek. Includes willow removal and bird monitoring
Merriman Creek Restoration	Communities for Nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weed control along the banks of Merriman Creek from Seaspray upriver to beyond the highway. Revegetation Community education

PROJECT	FUNDING	INTENDED OUTPUTS
Blackberry Control on the Agnes River and Dingo & Woorarra Creek	Communities for Nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weed control along the banks of Dingo Creek, Agnes River and Woorarra Creek. Support the control of blackberry on private land through subsidised control Community education
Corner Inlet Blackberry Control	25 th Anniversary Grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blackberry control along the Ramsar Wetlands and the land and waterways adjacent to Corner Inlet
Wonyip Quoll Corridor	25 th Anniversary Grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trees Weed control
Connecting Calrossie, Won Wron and Devon North	National Landcare Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection of remnant vegetation Weed control Revegetation activities to connect remnant vegetation
VLG Project – Biodiversity Enhancement	Victorian Investment Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved outcomes for biodiversity across the Network via mini projects as directed by each Landcare Group Outputs include tree planting, weed control and fencing Two workshops
VLG Project – Remnant Protection	Victorian Investment Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection and enhancement of remnant vegetation and riparian zones. across the network include weed control and fencing
CIBAG project officer	Victorian Blackberry Taskforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sign up 20 landholders and run a public event.
Community Volunteer Action Grant Rainforest Protection	DELWP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect & enhance Warm Temperate Rainforest
Community Volunteer Action Grant JARR community Action	DELWP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect & enhance bushland Community education Nest Boxes School education program Art Exhibition Minah bird education and trapping
Victorian Landcare Facilitator Program	DELWP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity Building and project development Changes have been requested by Vic Gov.
YYLN Events/ Activities		AGM; Annual BBQ; Board Tour; State Landcare Awards; Group support/admin; Newsletter

16/17 YYLN PROJECT PROGRAM SUMMARY

PROJECT	FUNDING	INTENDED OUTPUTS
Healthy Soils	National Landcare Program via WGCMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstration sites • 3 farm management plans • One public capacity building event • 2 public learning opportunities
JARR	Norman Wettenhall Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring and Research; including a bird monitoring regime across the JARR. • Project development • Education project
Saltmarsh Protection	Corner Inlet Connections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal saltmarsh protected via fencing and woody weed control
Corner Inlet Blackberry Control	25 th Anniversary Grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blackberry control along the Ramsar Wetlands and the land and waterways adjacent to Corner Inlet
Connecting Calrossie, Won Wron and Devon North	National Landcare Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of remnant vegetation • Weed control • Revegetation activities to connect remnant vegetation
VLG Project – Remnant Protection	Victorian Investment Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection and enhancement of remnant vegetation and riparian zones. across the network include weed control and fencing
CIBAG project officer	Victorian Blackberry Taskforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign up 20 landholders and run a public event.
Community Volunteer Action Grant Rainforest Protection	DELWP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect & enhance Warm Temperate Rainforest
Community Volunteer Action Grant JARR community Action	DELWP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect & enhance bushland • Community education • Nest Boxes • School education program • Art Exhibition • Minah bird education and trapping

PROJECT	FUNDING	INTENDED OUTPUTS
Riparian Restoration of Merriman Creek	CMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fencing, weed control and revegetation
3 Volunteer support grants	Federal Gov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for training and equipment to be used across the network to support volunteer action.
Sustainable Agriculture Grants- Erosion control	Fed Gov.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erosion Control on 3 properties
Community Volunteer Action Grant- Rainforest Protection	DELWP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect & enhance Warm Temperate Rainforest
Community Volunteer Action Grant- Reedy Creek	DELWP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect & enhance Warm Temperate Rainforest
Community Volunteer Action Grant- Wonyipedia	DELWP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect & enhance Warm Temperate Rainforest
Victorian Landcare Facilitator Program	DELWP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity Building and project development • Changes have been requested by Vic Gov.
<i>Victorian Landcare Grant 2017 and Regional Community Grant 2017 are not yet confirmed</i>		
YYLN Events/Activities	AGM; Annual BBQ; Board Tour; State Landcare Awards; Group support/admin; Newsletter	



FINANCIALS

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

Vic Hill Audit
SMSF Auditor
ABN 38 697 418 852

PO Box 10
Yarragon 3823
Telephone 0417360113
E-Mail: vichillaudit@gmail.com

July 24, 2016

AUDITORS REPORT

Scope

I have audited the Profit & Loss Statement and Cash Flow Statement for the Yarram-Yarram Catchments Network for the period 01 July 2015 to 30 June 2016. The organisation is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial statements and the information contained therein. The financial statements and records have been provided as a Quickbooks file. I have conducted an independent audit of the financial statements in order to express an opinion on them to organization.

My audit has been conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. My procedure included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial statements. I have not physically confirmed the existence of non-current assets, this being outside the scope of the audit engagement. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with the requirements of Australian Accounting Standards so as to present a view of the company which is consistent with my understanding of its financial position and its operations and cash flows.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Audit Opinion

In my opinion the accompanying Profit & Loss Statement, Balance Sheet and Cash Flow Statement presents fairly in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards, the financial performance of the Yarram Yarram Landcare Network as at 30 June 2016 and the result of its operations for the period then ended.

Victor Hill, FIPA

FINANCIALS

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

2:05 PM

05/08/16

Accrual Basis

Yarram Yarram Landcare Network Balance Sheet Prev Year Comparison As of June 30, 2016

	Jun 30, 16	Jun 30, 15	\$ Change	% Change
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Chequing/Savings				
ANZ Online Saver	255,174.77	371,505.17	-116,330.40	-31.30%
ANZ Operating Cheque Account	24,949.97	-5,453.74	30,403.71	557.50%
ANZ V2 Plus Account	0.00	9,057.03	-9,057.03	-100.0%
Carbon Action on Ground (CAOG)	0.00	32,821.28	-32,821.28	-100.0%
Communities for Nature (C4N)	0.00	24,174.41	-24,174.41	-100.0%
Esanda Investment Account	252,075.27	100,000.00	152,075.27	152.10%
Petty Cash	70.70	70.70	0.00	0.0%
Petty Cash - Bingenwarri	250.00	250.00	0.00	0.0%
Total Chequing/Savings	532,520.71	532,424.85	95.86	0.0%
Accounts Receivable				
Accounts Receivable	4,275.95	23,071.45	-18,795.50	-81.50%
Total Accounts Receivable	4,275.95	23,071.45	-18,795.50	-81.50%
Total Current Assets	536,796.66	555,496.30	-18,699.64	-3.40%
Fixed Assets				
Less Accumulated Depreciation	-17,632.62	-11,755.08	-5,877.54	-50.0%
Motor Vehicles	29,387.70	29,387.70	0.00	0.0%
Total Fixed Assets	11,755.08	17,632.62	-5,877.54	-33.30%
TOTAL ASSETS	548,551.74	573,128.92	-24,577.18	-4.30%
LIABILITIES				
Current Liabilities				
Accounts Payable				
Accounts Payable	390.00	0.00	390.00	100.0%
Total Accounts Payable	390.00	0.00	390.00	100.0%
Credit Cards				
ANZ Business One	364.21	0.00	364.21	100.0%
Total Credit Cards	364.21	0.00	364.21	100.0%
Other Current Liabilities				
Tax Payable	-4,858.14	-29,534.60	24,676.46	83.60%
Total Other Current Liabilities	-4,858.14	-29,534.60	24,676.46	83.60%
Total Current Liabilities	-4,103.93	-29,534.60	25,430.67	86.10%
TOTAL LIABILITIES	-4,103.93	-29,534.60	25,430.67	86.10%
NET ASSETS	552,655.67	602,663.52	-50,007.85	-8.30%
EQUITY				
Opening Bal Equity	7,782.45	7,782.45	0.00	0.0%
Retained Earnings	594,881.07	559,504.27	35,376.80	6.30%
Net Income	-50,007.85	35,376.80	-85,384.65	-241.40%
TOTAL EQUITY	552,655.67	602,663.52	-50,007.85	-8.30%



FINANCIALS

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK

FINANCIALS

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK



2:03 PM

05/08/16

Accrual Basis

Yarram Yarram Landcare Network Profit & Loss Prev Year Comparison July 2015 through June 2016

	Jul 15 - Jun 16	Jul 14 - Jun 15	\$ Change	% Change
Income				
Donations	40,260.00	0.00	40,260.00	100.0%
Interest	8,867.00	15,275.18	-6,408.18	-42.0%
Internal Transfer	238,674.06	321,161.11	-82,487.05	-25.70%
Landcare Membership	922.71	618.14	304.57	49.30%
Miscellaneous	500.00	54.55	445.45	816.60%
Network Membership	218.18	59.09	159.09	269.20%
Recoverable Costs	985.01	7,665.91	-6,680.90	-87.20%
Regional Contributions	407,617.19	600,839.72	-193,222.53	-32.20%
Services	300.00	1,800.00	-1,500.00	-83.30%
Sponsorship	0.00	2,327.27	-2,327.27	-100.0%
Total Income	698,344.15	949,800.97	-251,456.82	-26.50%
Expense				
60000 - Internal Transfer	238,674.06	321,161.11	-82,487.05	-25.70%
63100 - Advertising	0.00	429.05	-429.05	-100.0%
63200 - Audit Costs - External	1,870.00	1,905.90	-35.90	-1.90%
63300 - Bad Debts	63.59	0.00	63.59	100.0%
63400 - Bank Charges & Fees	6.68	349.38	-342.70	-98.10%
63800 - Conferences & Seminars	0.00	1,190.91	-1,190.91	-100.0%
63900 - Consultants	5,833.45	55,065.34	-49,231.89	-89.40%
64000 - Contractors	207,676.16	220,515.76	-12,839.60	-5.80%
64050 - Depreciation	5,877.54	5,877.54	0.00	0.0%
64100 - Education & Training	7,653.96	0.00	7,653.96	100.0%
64300 - Fares & Accommodation	0.00	10,722.95	-10,722.95	-100.0%
64350 - Fencing	10,142.69	0.00	10,142.69	100.0%
64500 - Fuels - Leases	2,083.13	2,040.44	42.69	2.10%
64600 - Incentives/Grants Paid	7,284.55	2,363.64	4,920.91	208.20%
64700 - Insurance & Rego	2,360.15	1,536.07	824.08	53.70%
64750 - Labour	0.00	1,644.14	-1,644.14	-100.0%
65200 - Materials	3,212.14	38,635.77	-35,423.63	-91.70%
65300 - Meeting Expenses	4,748.89	7,647.98	-2,899.09	-37.90%
65400 - Minor Equipment	1,057.84	68.18	989.66	1,451.50%
65500 - Photocopying & Printing	412.33	6,309.13	-5,896.80	-93.50%
65800 - Promotions & PR	440.91	3,017.88	-2,576.97	-85.40%
65900 - Registration	278.80	719.13	-440.33	-61.20%
65950 - Reimbursable Expenses	0.00	485.44	-485.44	-100.0%
66100 - Repairs & Maintenance	266.36	809.09	-542.73	-67.10%
66150 - Remuneration	220,157.70	229,700.00	-9,542.30	-4.20%
66200 - Staff Facilities	87.43	227.40	-139.97	-61.60%
66300 - Stationery	0.00	7.27	-7.27	-100.0%
66400 - Publication/Subcription	237.63	426.36	-188.73	-44.30%
66500 - Telephone/Communication	1,461.01	1,345.65	115.36	8.60%
66600 - Travel Reimbursement	0.00	222.66	-222.66	-100.0%
66650 - Trees	26,465.00	0.00	26,465.00	100.0%
Total Expense	748,352.00	914,424.17	-166,072.17	-18.20%
Net Income	-50,007.85	35,376.80	-85,384.65	-241.40%

Yarram Yarram Catchments Network Cash Flow Statement For the year ended 30 June 2016

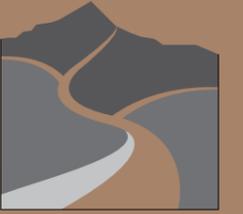
	2016	2015
Cash Flow from Operating Activities		
	\$	\$
Payments		
Auditors Remuneration	1,870.00	1,905.90
Advertising		429.05
Bad Debts	63.69	
Bank Charges	6.68	349.38
Conference & Seminars		1,190.91
Consultants	5,833.45	55,065.34
Contractors	207,676.16	222,159.90
Education & Training	7,653.96	-
Fares & Accommodation		10,722.95
Fencing	10,142.69	
Fuels - Leases	2,083.13	2,040.44
Incentives/Grants Paid	7,284.55	2,363.64
Insurance & Registration	2,360.15	1,536.07
Materials	3,212.14	38,620.52
Meeting expenses	4,748.89	7,647.98
Photocopying & Printing	412.33	6,309.13
Promotions & PR	440.91	3,017.88
Registration expenses	278.80	719.13
Reimbursable expenses		485.44
Repairs & maintenance	266.36	809.09
Staff Facilities	87.43	227.40
Stationery		7.27
Publication / Subscription	237.63	426.36
Telephone expenses	1,461.01	1,345.65
Trees	26,110.45	
Travel Reimbursement		222.66
Remuneration	220,157.70	229,700.00
Accrued Payments		
Add back GST on acquisitions for year	49,838.45	57,273.55
Payments to the ATO for BAS	7,065.00	30,984.00
Total Payments	559,291.56	675,559.64
Receipts		
Donations	40,260.00	
Landcare Membership	922.71	618.14
Miscellaneous	500.00	54.55
Network membership	218.18	59.09
Recoverable costs	3,007.35	7,665.91

This Cash Flow Statement Should be read in conjunction with the attached Audit Report



FINANCIALS

YARRAM YARRAM LANDCARE NETWORK



Regional Contributions	426,708.10	582,828.81
Seed sales	19.60	-
Services	1,900.00	-
Sponsorship		2,327.27
Add back GST on supplies	38,932.02	59,117.94
Refunds from ATO for BAS	45,125.00	20,982.64
Total Receipts	551,578.26	673,654.35
Net Cash used in operating Activities	- 7,713.30	- 1,905.29
Cash Flows from Investing Activities		
<i>Payments</i>		
Plant & Equipment		-
Minor Equipment	1,057.84	68.18
	1,057.84	68.18
<i>Receipts</i>		
Sale of Assets		-
Interest income	8,867.00	15,275.18
	8,867.00	15,275.18
Net Cash used in Investing Activities	7,809.16	15,207.00
Cash Flows from Financing Activities		
<i>Payments</i>		
-	-	-
<i>Receipts</i>		
-	-	-
Net Cash provided by financing activities	-	-
Net increase (decrease) in cash held	95.86	13,301.71
Cash at beginning of the reporting period	532,424.85	519,123.14
Cash at end of reporting period	532,520.71	532,424.85

This Cash Flow Statement Should be read in conjunction with the attached Audit Report



Working towards a sustainable future

LIVINGSTON STREET YARRAM VIC 3971 • 1300 094 262 • WWW.YYLN.ORG.AU