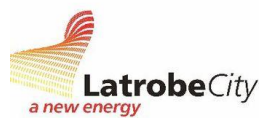




Annual Report

2021/2022





Latrobe Catchment Landcare Network would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country and recognise their continuing connection to land, sea, culture and community. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

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Board Membership

Membership of the LCLN board is open to all adult Landcare members of LCLN.

Executive Board

Chair: Peter Devonshire
Deputy Chair: Daryl Marks
Treasurer: Phil Darton
Secretary: Ian Hill

LCLN Board Members

Alison Craven
Caroline Doolan
David Frances-Foreman

Background – Latrobe Catchment Landcare Network

Latrobe Catchment Landcare Network (LCLN) covers a large catchment area across Baw Baw, Latrobe City and Wellington Shires. The network encompasses Landcare Groups from Warragul in the West across to Rosedale in the East, from the ridge of the Great Divide in the North to the ridge of the Strzeleckis in the South.

LCLN was formed in 1999, with the aim of helping to preserve and promote natural ecosystems in the Latrobe region. Our large catchment area spreading across three shires supports 19 local Landcare Groups within our Network, as well as manage projects with local partners.

The area includes significant remnants of the critically endangered Gippsland Red Gum Grassy Woodland with many old growth paddock tree remnants still remaining. Supporting these ecosystems is important to us as many threatened or endangered species such as the Greater Glider and powerful owl heavily rely on the fragmented pockets of good quality habitat.

LCLN's mission is to support our 19 Landcare groups, whilst engaging with local communities to help promote and restore the local environment. Landcare is not just about planting trees, its more than that! We work with citizen science, local school groups or similar organisations to run events to help educate our community on local issues. Each of the 19 groups between the Latrobe and West Gippsland region involve themselves in best practice land management activities. Our groups are highly diverse and include many rural focused groups with a wide range of active environmental projects. We also have two urban groups and a number of local primary schools involved in Junior Landcare.

The Networks core responsibility is to provide support to the groups to enable and assist them to achieve their objectives and goals.

Statement of Purpose

Latrobe Catchment Landcare Network encourages community activities that support environmental and farming sustainability, and provides leadership and management for the Network to strengthen and build capacity in the catchment.

To achieve our core purpose, four key areas have been identified and these will assist in guiding the activities undertaken by the Network annually.

1. Caring for the Land

- ❖ Promote best land management practices, understanding and provision of information for
 - Regenerative agriculture
 - Biodiversity
 - Pest and Weed Control
- ❖ Promote perception of the environment and economy as codependent, recognising the reality of climate change.
- ❖ Facilitate on-going and long-term weed and pest control in partnership with community, government and organisations

2. Caring for the People

- ❖ Sustain existing and build new memberships of the Latrobe Catchment Landcare Network catering for diversity of groups, ages and interests.
- ❖ Build the capacity, skills and resources for groups and members and facilitate the sharing of skills, expertise and knowledge between members.
- ❖ Support groups and members with skills and expert advice
- ❖ Promote Landcare in the wider community including the many benefits of Landcare; and affirm the social role of Landcare including meeting like-minded people, skills, knowledge development, health & fitness and socialising

3. **Collaboration, Partnerships and Funding**

- ❖ Develop and strengthen strategic partnerships with
 - local, regional, state and national government departments and agencies
 - other organisations with common goals in natural resource management and community programs
 - philanthropic, business and the corporates
- ❖ Strengthen and encourage opportunities with younger people
- ❖ Maintain and develop funding of staff and projects
- ❖ Develop Network and group capacity to secure funds from government and philanthropic sources by serving as a conduit between funding sources and project ideas
- ❖ Seek local sponsorship/funding opportunities with businesses and corporations

4. **Board and Governance**

- ❖ Ensure the Board and staff are clear on their roles, purpose and priorities within the LCLN constitution.
- ❖ Supporting groups to meet their governance requirements
- ❖ Ensure Board and staff have appropriate governance skills
- ❖ Board to ensure staff are appropriately supported and encouraged

Chair Report

Unlike previous years we have not been advertising to replace staff this year. From that perspective it has been a stable year with our staff settling into their respective roles which has been both constructive and productive. They have developed into a dynamic partnership and I thank them for the way in which they have gone about their work and tackled the unforeseen. Marnie had quite a health scare which she is still addressing; thanks to Kelsey for her willingness to cover for her.

On another front we have outgrown the complications of Covid although the new strains are just as debilitating while perhaps not so fatal. It has enabled activities to reach a new normal and I hope we can continue on a positive path.

As a board we have revisited our employment arrangements with WGCMA and approached Latrobe City Council to see how we could work within their organisation. We believe we have the best of both worlds now: we continue to have strong affiliations with WGCMA who are committed to Landcare in a big way and we are now developing new links with LCC and GLAWAC. Our staff will be part of the Natural Resource group which includes GLAWAC, based at the Council nursery in Morwell. This is in its early stages and there are still a few teething problems to resolve but the potential for stronger partnerships is real. We have relocated our Landcare trailer from Cowwarr to Morwell which makes it far more accessible to most of the Landcare groups.

As part of the relocation to LCC we have engaged Marnie, on a contract basis, in an Executive Officer role to assist with the bedding down of the staff withing LCC, seek additional project work to manage and review our strategic direction. This has been successful to the point that we are seeking to increase the working hours of our staff and rearranging roles to best suit capabilities, interests and achievability.

Another consequence of our relocation within LCC has been the need to forge new arrangements for accountancy and bookkeeping which has been ably done by Treasurer Phil and Marnie.

As part of our ongoing updating of strategic documents, we have reviewed our governance procedures and the redrafted and circulated constitution is ready for approval this evening. This work was led by LCLN independent member Belinda Brenan (on a voluntary basis) and involved Ian Hill, Caroline Doolan and David Francis-Foreman from the board. Many thanks to them for this work.

This year we say goodbye to two board members: Caroline Doolan and Nathan Misiurka. Caroline is relocating to Queensland for family reasons and Nathan as a staff member of LCC would potentially be in a constant "conflict of interest" position and with reluctance we accepted both resignations.

I thank the other members of the board; Phil Darton as Treasurer and Ian Hill, as well as Alison Craven and Darryl Marks who with me stand for reelection. John Cahill, a member of the Gippsland Rail Trail group has nominated to join the board. John has a wealth of NRM experience professionally and has been involved with many Gippsland voluntary NRM groups.

Again I ask all groups to discuss who they might encourage to join the board. Remember, without a functioning board we will lose our staff and support for the groups we assist.

In recent times we have commenced the advertising process for a new staff member. This is to replace Marnie Ellis as Landcare Facilitator, facilitating the Latrobe Landcare groups. Marnie will remain as Executive officer while she works through her health and medical changes. This hopefully will remove most of the time-consuming aspects of her employment, still give her a challenge as she addresses her health and keeps her focused on LCLN into the future.

There are still some wonderful opportunities for LCLN to be involved: The Lake Narracan wetland development, the Strzelecki Alpine Biolinks Group which includes the rehabilitation of the closing coal mine and a Greater Glider research project, initially based in native forest near Boolarra. The Greater Glider project is running well but to address some of the others we need sufficient staff time to develop and find funding. Our recent step hopefully will put us in that position.

With the coming year I believe we can look forward to further developing our partnerships with GLAWAC and LCC as well as broadening our involvement with other partners, existing and new. I hope all groups are prepared to be part of a revitalized Landcare movement in Gippsland.

Peter Devonshire

Treasurer's Report

This report is presented in conjunction with the audited 2021/2022 Financial Statements.

2021/2022 became a year of transition for the Network with the decision, after much evaluation and discussion, to move our hosting arrangements from West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (WGCMA) to Latrobe City Council (LCC). The transition was completed in time to start the new financial year (2022/2023) with the LCC. The audited Financial Statements presented with this report cover the final year with the WGCMA.

The decision to move to LCC was made to reduce the costs to the Network. These costs have been exceeding income for several years, as noted in these and previous Financial Statements.

The long association the Network has had with WGCMA has been a very productive one and all the CMA staff have been incredibly supportive of the Network particularly through this last year with the decision to move to the LCC. In the financial area, sterling support has been given to the Network by Kerry Shearer, Sam Shannon and Lucy Laurie-Rhodes.

Considerable work was done through the year by the Network Coordinator, Marnie Ellis, Network Chair, Peter Devonshire and Nathan Misiurka from LCC to analyse and model the costs and benefits of moving from the WGCMA to LCC. This formed a strong financial case for the Board to evaluate in making its decision to move.

A significant consequence of moving away from the WGCMA was that the Network needed to take full control of its bookkeeping and financial management, previously provided by WGCMA. This presented the opportunity to re-evaluate how financial information is organised and reported. The Network engaged Cardell Chartered Accountants to provide advice on setting up our chart of accounts and appropriate accounting software. After this initial work, the Network has now engaged Elite Bookkeeping to provide bookkeeping services.

We look forward to the new reporting flexibility and responsiveness this greater control will give the Network. This will be reflected in the 2022/2023 financial statements presented at next year's AGM.

Phil Darton,

Co-ordinators Report

Latrobe Catchment Landcare Network has had a busy year assisting groups to find their groove after Covid. It appears that most groups are once again active and are continuing to find their new normal. Our Landcare groups have done an amazing job in adapting their events, meetings and working bees as needed and should all be congratulated on being such a resilient bunch during some very trying years.

Kelsey Tong joined the Latrobe Network in August 2021 and has proven to be a super asset to the Network with her great attitude and her many skills that she brings with her. Kelsey has been responsible for the Network website upgrade making it easier for Landcare groups to share information more broadly across our region. She also took care of the social media platform this past year which has seen increased traffic since Kelsey took over.



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The network has seen some great initiatives by groups and the enthusiasm amongst the Landcare volunteers never ceases to amaze me. From gauze control and blackberry control along Flynns Creek to farm walks, revegetation on public and private land and platypus surveying along Narracan Creek.

The network continues to support Junior Landcare in local schools, while supporting the agricultural groups to explore and promote regenerative farming practices and local landholders to exclude stock from waterways and revegetate for wildlife corridors. It's fair to say that Latrobe Landcare is diverse and that's what makes it unique.

The Board made a decision early in the year to revisit our employment arrangements with WGCMA and approached Latrobe City to see how Landcare could possibly work in their organisation. Kelsey and myself have since moved offices and are now employed by Latrobe City. This move has presented many opportunities as we work from the same location as GLaWAC works crew and Latrobe City Environmental team. The opportunity to collaborate and share knowledge is exciting and one I believe can benefit all of our local Landcare groups.



This year we planted approximately 10,000 trees during National Tree Day celebrations with volunteer assistance from 6 local school groups who participate annually and a corporate planting event with AGL. Energy Australia has been a long standing supporter of National Tree Day and AGL has expressed interest to join us again next year for an even bigger corporate planting event.

Due to Covid in 2020 and 2021, there were some hangover projects that the Network has been busy finalising with local landholders. Most of these were revegetation projects and the landholders were all successful in completing these in the extended timeframe.

There are many new and exciting projects coming on board during 2022/2023 including funding for shade and shelterbelts and for rare plant protection and we look forward to bringing you the details in early 2023.

Marnie Ellis

Group Reports



Mountain Rivers Landcare Group

On the 15th of January 2022, Baw Baw Shire promoted the 'Erica Expo'.

This was a very successful event incorporating a Wood chop event and many stalls and displays from local businesses. Also, many activities and fun for the kids.

Mountain Rivers Landcare Group obtained the Landcare Display trailer as their contribution to the Expo. Thanks Kelsey. Members were present at the trailer to answer questions and distribute pamphlets throughout the day. Kelsey also gave up her time to answer questions at the trailer on the day.



Pictured are Mountain Rivers Landcare Group Secretary, David Lowe and member Mal Deveson (Moondarra Blueberries) at the Landcare Display Trailer.

Neerim District Landcare Group

The Neerim & District Landcare Group has been fairly inactive through the year with the one highlight being the ongoing Tarago Catchment Healthy Farms project funded by Melbourne Water. The Group works with landholders in the Tarago Catchment to improve water quality in the Reservoir. This is achieved by identifying where water runoff from the farms can be improved by fencing and planting in runoff areas and the control of weeds and installation of stock watering troughs. Nine properties were involved in the program over the last 12 months.

The challenge in 2021/2022 has been reigniting interest in working together as the community and our members come through COVID. While some groups have been successful in flicking the switch to community engagement we haven't quite made it yet.

A first step back to full engagement has been to offer free indigenous plants to members for an autumn 2023 planting. There has been a positive response to this and we expect to be planting next year. We have also started planning for some community engagement activities for next year and expect to be in a position to announce these towards the end of this year.

Glengarry Landcare Group

Glengarry Landcare ran a couple of great community events including a Clean Up Australia Day which saw some new local community members and their families participate.



To celebrate National Tree Day, Glengarry Landcare decided to concentrate their efforts in revegetating an old stock route running from Toongabbie to the Latrobe River. The National Tree Day planting along the stock route saw many new faces including the local scout group, neighbouring landholders, local school students and their parents. The 48 people in attendance managed to plant, guard and water in 500 trees before enjoying a BBQ lunch at the property of a Glengarry Landcare

member.

The Landcare group works closely with the Gippsland Plains Rail Trail Committee and frequently has working bees along the trail at Eaglehawk Creek (between Glengarry and Toongabbie) where we undertake maintenance of newly planted trees. Glengarry Landcare also continues with “Learning with Landcare” where a guest speaker is invited to share their knowledge at each meeting. We have been fortunate enough to learn about bee keeping, bird watching and compost making with many more sessions to come in the following year.

Friends of Land and Water Landcare

The Friends of Land & Water Landcare group have been kept busy this past year taking care of new plantings (about 150 bushes) and have gained great pleasure from watching the progress (and survival!) of the new plants.

The biggest group challenge has been finding people fit and willing to work outdoors. Age and a variety of medical conditions present quite a challenge for this group of people, as may be imagined.

Recruiting younger and stronger volunteers is essential: there has been some recent success, in the shape of one new Landcare worker (and one new Water Watch person). Everyone in the group has been alerted to look out for new talent. Notices have been posted in the Community Newsletter and via a mailbox drop.



Flynn Farm Discussion Group

The Flynn Farm Discussion Landcare Group has approximately 20-25 financial members.

The highlight for this financial year has been the opportunity to get together for physical meetings post Covid restrictions. We have had a variety of guest speakers including a financial consultant, the local district vet, animal nutritionists and agronomists. We have also gained a few new young members which is awesome.



We gained funding for gorse control (\$5000 to be used over 3 years). Works have already begun on spraying for 2022.

No challenges for the year, apart from getting motivated to apply for grants etc - admin side of things

Good opportunities include works on Flynn's creek, tree planting, membership expansion.

Narracan Landcare Group

Amalgamation with Delburn Group has expanded the Narracan Landcare Groups areas of interest and provided a larger group of members. This has also provided a pool of people who are fulfilling Landcare aims of planting more trees.

We have a great support in our two local facilitators. This is for encouragement and celebration, as well as practical assistance.

Everyone is busy managing their busy lives and it appears that people are overwhelmed with the challenges of their workplaces during this time. The Narracan Landcare Group has been having difficulty managing effective co-operation with official organisations such as Baw Baw Shire council with the Environmental contact having retired. The local newsletter (Narracan news) is no longer producing the newsletter and this has proven difficult as it means we do not have ready access to people in our area.

The Narracan Landcare Group will work with our Landcare Facilitator in the coming 12 months to work on widening our contacts with local individuals and organisations and share our Landcare successes.



Boolarra Landcare Group

We have grown our membership this year which is pleasing but the active group remains static and elderly. Our focus for working bees has been the Old Mill Site in Boolarra as we mowed a few acres of grass and have not had help from Corrections Victoria since Covid arrived. We also maintain 6 km of walking tracks through the forest. Our main problems are caused by falling trees which need to be cleared to keep the tracks open. We also get sink holes, which could be dangerous, and these need to be managed. We have managed to eradicate most of the ragwort and thistles but still have some areas of blackberry. We also remove weeds from the tracks to keep them open and wheelchair friendly. The Billy Goat slasher is very useful to mulch the weeds and blackberries at the site. The debris we clear from tracks is put into a pile for DELWP to burn.

Tree planting has been another focus as last year's storm and floods wiped out both recent plantings and mature trees.



Many farmers have been busy removing the fallen trees, re fencing and then re planting. We were able to obtain a good tree allocation and members were able to obtain more so have been working hard on this.

We are wanting to plant at Primrose Park on the Morwell River, devastated by the storms, but it has been too wet. We'll have a planting day as soon as things dry out a bit.

We meet each month to discuss issues of interest. We obtained wombat mange management kits from Mange Management Inc. and publicised this issue in our local paper. Those who wanted kits were able to contact the group and get a free kit. Wombats treated with the kits make an amazing recovery, regaining their eyesight and growing their hair back.

The water in the upper Morwell River is monitored for quality each month and readings are taken at the Morwell River Falls and at Apex Park. These results are sent to Water Watch. We also try to keep an eye on the Morwell River Falls reserve and know we need a working bee there and at Apex Park. Apex Park receives minimal attention from Latrobe City, DELWP and WGCMA as nobody seems to want the responsibility for looking after it. We planted trees there a couple of years ago to deter motor bikes from running down the bank from the road and this has been quite successful. It was also damaged in the big storm and needs more re vegetation work. In the past we have used the Billy Goat slasher to clear blackberries along the riverbank but there's still a lot more work to be done here.

Yinnar Yinnar South Landcare Group

The Yinnar, Yinnar South Landcare Group were happy when Covid restrictions were eased and we could once again meet together and carry out activities. Some of us had been busy through the period of restrictions because we had seeds to collect, and nurture, and seedlings that needed to be planted, but we worked as individuals to do this. At last we could gather. We gathered to plant trees, remove weeds, host and attend workshops, run a stall at the Yinnar Market, and to plan these and future activities.

We have been lucky that our seed collecting efforts have been supported by a volunteer taking on sorting, cleaning, and data recording tasks, aided by others in the group. We bought proper seed sorting sieves and trays with a grant last year and these are fantastic. We are looking forward to collecting more seed later this year.

Challenges for us has been ongoing problems from earlier floods and fires, with access to some sites still restricted due to road closures and landslips. One of our planting sites is on dauntingly steep country. We strapped a piece of metal mesh to a couple of poles to form a litter so we could carry seedlings and tools. Another version uses two plastic tubs strapped to poles. The growing population of deer and wandering sheep obliges us to protect planted seedlings with a combination of robust and expensive (and heavy) fencing and guards.

It is common for us to undertake projects that involve business and public bodies, but difficulties are encountered when personnel in these agencies change or are redirected. It has not been easy to navigate a couple of current projects for this reason.

We see good opportunities in the years ahead for our group to engage with more people, leading to increased revegetation of local private and public lands. This year two Yinnar farming couples planted seedlings along watercourses through their properties with our assistance. At the Yinnar Market there was strong interest from the passers-by for our seedlings. The younger generation on farms are seeing the importance of returning trees to the land for shade and protection and soil improvement, and bringing back birds and predatory insects by reintroducing native flowering plants. Developing an orchard of pollinating species for ongoing seed supply is one of our future projects.

Cowwarr Landcare Group

We survived the pandemic, thus far, touch wood (any native species will do)..... Dodged major flooding thru two La Nina years. Kept up the maintenance effort on our Swing Bridge Reserve revegetation area.

'Normal' rainfall in a period when we've given up on the concept of 'normal'; it is heartening to observe the resilience of nature. Small plantings have been achieved for Cowwarr Primary School and our group upon Rail Trail near Cowwarr. Tubestock mostly raised by Cowwarr Primary School.



We still plan a major track development at our leased plot of flood-prone flood-plain at Swing Bridge Reserve, Cowwarr Weir. Plans have to be updated, funds have to be leveraged through finding suitable grant funding, quotes sought and the project managed.

In spite of declining numbers and ageing members means we can stave off putting the group into hibernation, but not achieve much more. Pandemic restrictions continue to restrict gatherings.

We expect future funding rounds will become scarce for the medium term future as 'pump priming' public funds evaporate and the national debt is swung down.

We also used to rely on periodic visits from Fulham works gang, but have heard nothing positive about a resumption. Declining volunteerism and an ageing membership are 2 of our biggest group challenges.

Friends of Mount Worth State Park

After the disruptions surrounding the COVID epidemic, 2021/22 has seen Friends of Mount Worth return to our normal schedule of monthly working bees. Members have contributed a total of 611 volunteer hours over the past 12 months. Our main focus has been on continuing to improve the Moonlight Creek track. The aim is to give visitors a better walking experience and make it easier for the Friends group and Park rangers to maintain and protect the park environment. The most noticeable improvement has been poisoning and cutting back the blackberries.



Thanks are due to the West Gippsland Bushwalkers, who spent a day in February working with the Friends group to side-trim and re-bench more than 2 km of track. While there is still plenty of work to do, it is in better condition than it has been for years.

In addition to track maintenance, the Friends hosted the Mount Worth Trail Run. It is the fourth time the Friends have held the event. To protect the park, it was limited to a maximum of 80 runners. The weather was kind, everyone enjoyed the day and we raised more than \$3000. It will enable the Friends to continue improving the tracks and protect the natural environment of the park.

Tanjil Valley Landcare Group

The past 12 months has seen a return to close to normal operations for our group. One change we made has been having to find a new home for our monthly meetings after the CFA excluded outside groups from using their facilities. Meetings are now held at homes of members.

The walking track at Blue Rock Lake continues to be the group's main focus. Established in 2015 over 8,000 indigenous plants have been planted along the 1.2km length of the original track.



National Tree Day is always a significant event for us, this year we had 47 volunteers helping with planting. Many thanks to Energy Australia for their support of National Tree Day over many years. Further support from Energy Australia, through a \$5000 grant, led to the redevelopment of a disused section of Blue Rock Road which has

added a further 900 metres of length to our walking track.

This new section of track winds through about two hectares of native bush, which our group has started to rehabilitate by removing weeds such as sweet pittosporum and blue bell creeper.

We also participated in Clean up Australia Day this year, but numbers were low due to Covid concerns. However, we did remove a large trailer load of rubbish from around the Lake and along local roads.

With member numbers remaining stable, in the mid-20s, the groups future looks healthy. We look forward to 2023 as we plan for a Community Environmental Festival with thanks to Baw Baw Shire for providing funding for the event.

Finally, I'd like to thank Marnie and Kelsey for their work over the past year and wish them well as Latrobe Catchment Landcare Network makes a significant transition away from operating under the umbrella of West Gippsland Catchment Authority, to operating under the umbrella of Latrobe City.



Springsure Hill Landcare Group

Springsure Hill Landcare Group currently has 44 households as members, representing 75 adults and 9 children. This is a net increase of 8 households since 2021-22.

Our highlight has been expanding our group and our program, with more activity than for almost a decade.

Our successful Victorian Landcare Grant application was our first major funding for years. We received around \$29K to protect and expand endangered vegetation classes by fencing, planting and direct seeding on four members' properties. Working bees have involved many members and friends.

The project has included a parallel educational component for all members.



In March we celebrated 25 years of our Group with a Community Day helped significantly by a Baw Baw Shire Council grant. Over 150 people enjoyed interactive native fauna shows, live music, displays, Landcare resources, an art competition for primary schools, and food.

We have recruited 25 properties to plant 25 free native plants to mark our 25th anniversary, with Habitat Creations generously providing the plants.

A frog night, a family focussed Bug afternoon, a regen farming field day with Warragul Beefcheque and a field day on EVCs have all been well attended.

People join Landcare for many reasons. The challenge is to have a diverse program that caters for multiple needs and interests while maintaining a clear action-oriented focus. We've also tried to expand the number of volunteers engaged in planning, organising and conducting our activities.

Our large membership base has a wonderful array of knowledge, skills and willingness. This sets us up for a good future if we harness it well.

Gippsland Agroforestry Network

With the opening up of access for face to face events, GAN has resumed field days and gatherings. The 2020 Master Tree Growers course was completed in November 2021, one of the longer courses in living memory.

We held our AGM for 2021 at Bob and Robyn Gray's reviewing the ongoing thinning program for spotted gum, yellow stringybark and southern mahogany at Torwood. The recent storm damage unfortunately seems to favour the better formed and growing trees. Peter Ronalds gave a very interesting report on the carbon status of the soil under reduced pasture within the plantation.



After a couple of false starts, the Spidermann demonstration finally occurred at Budgeree where Peter Devonshire had carried out some late thinning (14 year) in spotted gum and yellow stringybark. The low ground impact of this machine opens up many potential activities for farm foresters.

GAN also partnered with Bass Coast Landcare Network running a series of inspections and discussions on GAN Members properties. These ranged from Frank and Sharon Hirst's with their trees planted in the early 1990's at Ranceby, Dan and Millie 's evolving sawmilling business at Fish Creek to Cere's Fairwood facility at Preston.

Immediate plans for the coming months include further involvement at Larder Park with Vicforests and AGM at Korumburra. Watch out for the revised GAN Website and the Landcare Portal for Landcare members.

Thanks to those who have enabled all this to happen. David Bennett, Bob Gray, Penny Richards, David Francis-Foreman, Jon Hauser, Frank Hirst from committee, The IFA team led by Jacquie Martin and the LCLN team led by Marnie Ellis.

Network Project Reports

Protecting Platypus in Narracan Creek and Morwell River

Five landholders are involved in the Protecting Platypus project and are undertaking fencing and revegetation works along Narracan Creek and Morwell River.

The objectives of this project are:

1. Promote an understanding of riparian health and function
2. Enhance the biodiversity streamside and ensure platypus habitat is protected
3. Reduce the sediment run off entering into the Latrobe River system
4. Reduce Creekside erosion
5. Promote Platypus conservation



Landholder agreements have been signed and fencing works will take place before April 2023 with tubestock available for planting in May 2023.

The second part of the project is Platypus conservation and education. Platypus workshops will be held in 2 local primary schools and these will be run by the Platypus Education Group. They will teach students about the platypus and healthy waterways.

The Australian Platypus Conservancy will also hold a webinar highlighting the features that make the platypus so special, explain its conservation needs and how to go about helping these animals.

This project was made possible with funding from Energy Australia.

Farmers Digging Deeper Project

This project will support 315 farmers across the region to increase their knowledge of soil health and to better understand the links between soil health, farm productivity and profitability. The project will also help farmers develop management pathways to actively improve their farms soil health and condition.

On 115 farms the project will collect:

- 540 soil carbon core samples;
- 184 soil chemistry samples; and
- 115 soil biology samples.



A series of soil health interpretation training workshops and field days will further support farmers knowledge on soil carbon, natural capital accounting opportunities, and practices proven to increase soil health and productivity.

Five on-farm demonstration sites will be established throughout the region to measure the soil health impacts of multi-species pastures and regenerative grazing management.

The South Gippsland Landcare Network will also form a farmer discussion group focusing on soils and regenerative agriculture. This will compliment an already active discussion network managed by all partners across the region.

This 2-year regional project will run until April 2024 and will be facilitated by the Western Port Catchment Landcare Network. Key partners include Bass Coast Landcare Network, Latrobe Catchment Landcare Network, Mornington Peninsula Shire, South Gippsland Landcare Network & Melbourne Water.

This project is supported by Western Port Catchment Landcare Network, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program

Greater Gliders

Greater Gliders are Australia's largest gliding mammal. Listed as **'vulnerable'** nationally and as **'threatened'** in Victoria, there are many threats to their survival, most notably the lack of continuous suitable habitat within their known areas of occupancy, and the lack of tree hollows. The 2019/2020 fire season resulted in a mass reduction and loss of viable habitat for Greater Glider populations in Victoria.

Up until early 2018, historic records of Greater Glider populations within the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas were low. However since 2018, Greening Australia have added 118 Greater Glider records within the Boolarra South area, and these records now represent some of the highest densities of Greater Gliders known in Victoria.

This project will survey this local colony to better understand the population size, range and family groups. It is being undertaken a part of the larger Strzelecki-Alpine 'Biolink' project, which seeks to protect and enhance important habitat corridors extending from the Strzelecki Ranges in the south to the Baw Baw and Alpine Ranges in the north.



It will inform planned re-vegetation of corridors and waterways of private land holdings adjoining the 350 hectare study area and future planning scheme protections.

The project will install up to 20 next boxes with wireless, motion-triggered camera surveillance. As part of the 'Citizen Science' approach, selected schools will be able to log in and access the camera footage, making involvement quick, easy and convenient. The survey will be completed by Federation University with support from Greening Australia, Landcare and Latrobe City Council, who will assist the coordination of a range of citizen science and school-based programs.

This project was made possible through the Victorian State Government - 2021 Community Volunteer Action Grants

Bug Blitz



On the 16th of June, Year 11 students from Lavalla Catholic College swapped the classroom for some hands on learning at the Traralgon Railway Reservoir Conservation Reserve. It was a great opportunity for local school students to develop an understanding of the diverse world of bugs and build an appreciation for small critters.

Many creepy crawlies were found including spiders, stick insects, water bugs and many more. Big shout out to John and Mitch from Bug Blitz Trust. This workshop was made possible with funding from Latrobe Valley Authority.

This project made possible with funding from Latrobe Valley Authority.



National Tree Day 2022

This years National Tree Day events were attended by many primary school students from:

- Baringa Special Development School
- Grey St Primary School
- St Michaels Primary School
- Glengarry Primary School
- Cowwarr Primary School



These planting took place in a wide range of places including Traralgon Railway Reservoir Conservation Reserve, multiple sites along Gippsland Plains Rail Trail and Moe Yallourn Rail Trail.

AGL came on board this year for some corporate volunteering and assisted in planting 1000's tubestock along Gippsland Plains Rail Trail at Eaglehawk Creek. AGL have flagged that they would like to be involved again next year.

This program made possible with funding from Energy Australia and AGL.

Audited Financial Reports

July 13, 2022

AUDITORS REPORT

To the members of the LaTrobe Catchment Landcare Network:

Report on the Financial Report

I have audited the accompanying financial report, being a general purpose financial report of the LaTrobe Catchment Landcare Network, which comprises of the Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2022, the Income Statement, Statement of Changes in Equity and Statement of Cash Flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the Committee's Report.

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Committee of the association are responsible for the preparation of the financial report, and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1, is appropriate to meet the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*. The Committee's responsibility also includes such internal control as the Committee determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on my audit. I have conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the association's preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view, in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances but not for the purpose of expressing the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

I believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting my audit, I have complied with the independence requirements of the Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

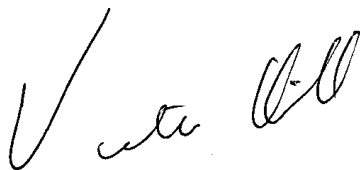
Auditor's Opinion

In my opinion the financial report of the association has been prepared in accordance with the *Association Incorporation Reform Act 2012* including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the entity's financial position as at 30 June 2022 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards as referred to in Note 1 to the financial statements.

Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution

Without modifying my opinion, I draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist LaTrobe Catchment Landcare Network to meet the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*. As a result the report may not be suitable for another purpose.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Victor Hill', with a large checkmark-like flourish at the beginning.

Victor Hill, FIPA

July 14, 2022

**Latrobe Catchment Landcare
Network**

Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2022

Bonnor Accounting Pty Ltd
Taxation & Accounting Services
PO Box 2015
Traralgon 3844

Phone: 03 5174 1170

Latrobe Catchment Landcare Network

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Statement by Members of the Committee

Latrobe Catchment Landcare Network
Detailed Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2022

	Note	2022	2021
		\$	\$
<hr/>			
Current Assets			
Bendigo Operating Chq Account		166,595.31	209,508.58
LCLN Sub Groups Account		3,600.11	10,917.17
LCLN Debit Card		235.06	1,927.81
Trade debtors		38,500.00	-
Total Assets		<u>208,930.48</u>	<u>222,353.56</u>
Current Liabilities			
Tax Payable		525.80	(1,188.00)
Total Liabilities		<u>525.80</u>	<u>(1,188.00)</u>
Net Assets		<u>208,404.68</u>	<u>223,541.56</u>
Members' Funds			
Opening Balance Equity		28,302.41	28,302.41
Accumulated surplus (deficit)		180,102.27	195,239.15
Total Members' Funds		<u>208,404.68</u>	<u>223,541.56</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Latrobe Catchment Landcare Network
Income and Expenditure Statement
For the year ended 30 June 2022

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Income		
Landcare Members	90.24	200.00
Regional Contributions	115,914.35	91,809.00
Sponsorship Income	9,690.91	3,000.00
Landcare Employment Contribution	-	51,636.36
Interest received	20.53	78.64
Miscellaneous Income	12,045.45	376.73
Participant Contribution	-	2,477.27
Rebates & refunds	500.00	-
Total income	138,261.48	149,578.00
Expenses		
Audit Fees - External	1,614.55	1,614.55
Bank fees & charges	67.20	33.00
Conference/Seminar costs	54.55	-
Consultants fees	1,090.91	17,685.00
Contractors	16,624.13	15,214.55
Education And Training	8,560.00	2,272.73
Fares & Accommodation	827.00	-
Incentives/Grants Paid	24,258.63	4,904.09
Insurance	695.62	1,346.55
Leases/Rentals	-	204.00
Materials	1,926.90	3,083.83
Meeting Expenses	2,994.55	560.51
Minor Equipment	-	3,360.18
Postage	22.73	-
Project Event Catering	-	253.00
Reimbursemet Of Project Funds BC	5,009.37	-
Remuneration	73,063.56	85,841.65
Reimburseable Expenses	-	203.45
Repairs & maintenance	796.44	262.10
Stationery	164.23	-
Subscriptions/Publications	951.49	284.73
Telephone/Communication	-	344.67
Trees	14,676.50	10,888.87

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Latrobe Catchment Landcare Network
Income and Expenditure Statement
For the year ended 30 June 2022

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Uniforms, Medicals Etc	-	178.18
Total expenses	153,398.36	148,535.64
Profit (loss) from ordinary activities before income tax	(15,136.88)	1,042.36
Income tax revenue relating to ordinary activities	-	-
Net profit (loss) attributable to the association	(15,136.88)	1,042.36
Total changes in equity of the association	(15,136.88)	1,042.36
Opening retained profits	195,239.15	194,196.79
Net profit (loss) attributable to the association	(15,136.88)	1,042.36
Closing retained profits	180,102.27	195,239.15

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Latrobe Catchment Landcare Network
Statement of Changes in Equity for the year ended 30/06/2022

	Notes	Retained Earnings	Total
Balance at 01/07/2020		194,196.79	194,196.79
Comprehensive income			
Profit attributable to the members		1,042.36	1,042.36
Other comprehensive income for the year			
Total comprehensive income for the year attributable to members of the entity		<u>1,042.36</u>	<u>1,042.36</u>
Balance at 30/06/2021		<u>195,239.15</u>	<u>195,239.15</u>
Comprehensive income			
Profit attributable to the members		(15,136.88)	(15,136.88)
Other comprehensive income for the year			
Total comprehensive income for the year attributable to members of the entity		<u>(15,136.88)</u>	<u>(15,136.88)</u>
Balance at 30/06/2022		<u>180,102.27</u>	<u>180,102.27</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Latrobe Catchment Landcare Network
Statement of Cash Flows
For the year ended 30 June 2022

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
<hr/>		
Cash Flow From Operating Activities		
Receipts from customers	99,740.95	194,819.36
Payments to Suppliers and employees	(151,684.56)	(153,799.21)
Interest received	20.53	78.64
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities (note 2)	<u>(51,923.08)</u>	<u>41,098.79</u>
Net increase (decrease) in cash held	(51,923.08)	41,098.79
Cash at the beginning of the year	<u>222,353.56</u>	<u>181,254.77</u>
Cash at the end of the year (note 1)	<u><u>170,430.48</u></u>	<u><u>222,353.56</u></u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Latrobe Catchment Landcare Network
Statement of Cash Flows
For the year ended 30 June 2022

2022

2021

Note 1. Reconciliation Of Cash

For the purposes of the statement of cash flows, cash includes cash on hand and in banks and investments in money market instruments, net of outstanding bank overdrafts.

Cash at the end of the year as shown in the statement of cash flows is reconciled to the related items in the balance sheet as follows:

Bendigo Operating Chq Account	166,595.31	209,508.58
LCLN Sub Groups Account	3,600.11	10,917.17
LCLN Debit Card	235.06	1,927.81
	170,430.48	222,353.56
	170,430.48	222,353.56

Note 2. Reconciliation Of Net Cash Provided By/Used In Operating Activities To Operating Profit After Income Tax

Operating profit after income tax	(15,136.88)	1,042.36
Changes in assets and liabilities net of effects of purchases and disposals of controlled entities:		
(Increase) decrease in trade and term debtors	(38,500.00)	45,320.00
Increase (decrease) in sundry provisions	1,713.80	(5,263.57)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	(51,923.08)	41,098.79
	(51,923.08)	41,098.79

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Latrobe Catchment Landcare Network

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 30 June 2022

Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporations Act of Victoria and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012. The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity. These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with requirements of AASB101 'Presentation of Financial Statements' AASB107 'Statement of Cash Flows', AASB108 'Accounting Polices, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors, AASB1048 'Interpretation of Standards' and AASB1054 ' Australian Additional Disclosures'.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

(a) Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE)

Leasehold improvements and office equipment are carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

The depreciable amount of all PPE is depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

Leasehold improvements are amortised over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements.

(b) Impairment of Assets

At the end of each reporting period, the entity reviews the carrying values of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, is compared to the asset's carrying value. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the income statement.

(c) Employee Benefits

Provision is made for the association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

(d) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

Latrobe Catchment Landcare Network

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 30 June 2022

(e) Revenue and Other Income

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable after taking into account any trade discounts and volume rebates allowed. For this purpose, deferred consideration is not discounted to present values when recognising revenue.

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest rate method, which for floating rate financial assets is the rate inherent in the instrument. Dividend revenue is recognised when the right to receive a dividend has been established.

Grant and donation income is recognised when the entity obtains control over the funds, which is generally at the time of receipt.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

(f) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Tax Office. In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the assets and liabilities statement are shown inclusive of GST.

Latrobe Catchment Landcare Network
Statement by Members of the Committee
For the year ended 30 June 2022

In the opinion of the Committee the Balance Sheet, the Income Statement, Statement of Changes in Equity, Statement of Cash Flows, and Notes to the Financial Statements:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of Latrobe Catchment Landcare Network as at 30 June 2022 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with accounting policies outlined in Note 1 of the financial statements.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the association will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:

Peter Devonshire

Chairman

Phil Darton

Treasurer

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.