



Latrobe Catchment Landcare Network

Strategic & Implementation Plan

April 2019 to December 2022

Adopted at Board meeting 10 April 2019

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 Latrobe Landcare community.

<u>Objectives</u>	<u>Implementation</u>
<p align="center">1 <u>Caring for the Land</u></p> <p>a) Promote understanding of sustainable agriculture through publicising and facilitating best land management practices</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Organise field days as required * Publicise Grazfert and other appropriate farm improvement programs * Facilitate local applications to National and State Landcare Program grants
<p>b) In order to enhance biodiversity across the LCLN area, promote perception of the environment and economy as co-dependent, recognising the reality of climate change.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Encourage and/or initiate activities that enhance biodiversity, e.g. making, installing and monitoring nest box, wombat mange treatment, platypus monitoring. * Discourage illegal culling of native fauna e.g. wombats. * Facilitate groups to work with public land managers * Promote citizen science initiatives. * Facilitate dissemination of scientific research methods and outcomes * Increase awareness of vegetation classes through use of mapping * Encourage landscape-wide perspectives including the use of bio-links * Disseminate knowledge of past, present and potential location of threatened species of flora and fauna eg platypus, galaxis, red gum plains, Gippsland earth worms, burrowing crayfish, koala, frogs etc * Promote awareness of Government Biodiversity policy and encourage activities consistent with it.
<p>c) Provide sources of information and of resources to land managers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Provide groups with a template for a local brochure * Continue to distribute set of 6 leaflets on weeds, * Liaise with Local Government for distribution
<p>d) Facilitate on-going and long-term weed and pest control in partnership with community, government and organisations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Facilitate waterway health in conjunction with WGCMA, Waterwatch * Encourage feral animal and bird control * Continue facilitating Indian Myna trapping program. * Prepare and distribute list of safe biological controls * Incentivise training in OzChem, ACUP and 1080/FoxOff use and encourage use of approved list of contractors * Build on membership discount arrangement with local business service providers

<u>Objectives</u>	<u>Implementation</u>
<p align="center">2 <u>Landcare Groups & Memberships</u></p> <p>e) Sustain existing membership and build new membership of the Latrobe Catchment Landcare Network through Groups, Sub-Groups and independent members</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Affirm Landcare as a grass-roots organisation – community members mobilising one another, and getting on with doing things * Provide leadership to build governance skills which are required to sustain groups e.g. sourcing and securing funding, succession planning, promotion * At least one staff person to visit each group at least annually
<p>f) Cater for diversity of groups, ages and interests</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Recognise the changes in membership which are occurring: ageing, changing focus; * Recognise the various types of land holders and look for appropriate ways to engage with each of them; * Brainstorm alternative ways for groups to function from the traditional evening meeting. * Look for ways to encourage and support Landcare groups that are no longer undertaking active work, but have a useful social purpose; [moved from 5v]
<p>g) Build capacity of membership and facilitate sharing of ideas amongst the Landcare community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Identify where people have a passion, and work with that; * Widely tell good news stories * Pizza Nights and AGM – give members the opportunity to speak about their experiences.
<p>h) Provide skills and resources for groups to recruit new members</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Promote alternative ways of interacting without formal meetings, eg email, Facebook. * Facilitate interaction between Intrepid participants and traditional Landcare groups; and look for other ways to engage with young people *
<p>i) Provide groups with skills and expert advice</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Focus support on sustainable design of projects and how to apply for funds * Make available a list of resource people and groups for special interests e.g. fauna, flora * Promote use of State L/C Magazine as a tool for telling good stories. * Assist applicants to source necessary and helpful data eg threatened species * Make available list of local native plant nurseries and other local environmental contractors;
<p>j) ensure a timely process for Board ratification of Sub-Groups proposals and decisions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * possibly by a Board email approval process
<p align="center">3 <u>Funding</u></p> <p>k) Maintain and develop funding of staff and projects</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Advocate for full State Government support of staff positions; * Generate sufficient income through project management fees to finance shortfall in Government funding of staff; * Use Objectives a) and b) as key criteria for seeking project funding;
<p>l) Develop Network and group capacity to secure funds from government and philanthropic sources by serving as a conduit between funding sources and project ideas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Resource groups to access funding for work on private property * Use e-news & other means to inform about funding options and programs * Provide assistance in knowing how to maintain adequate record-keeping for applications and acquittal of projects

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<p>m) Seek local sponsorship/funding opportunities with businesses and corporations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Offer corporate tree planting/environment days – partnership opportunities. * Seek development of corporate packages and manage ongoing administration. * Publish LCLN ‘Prospectus’ / information booklet [moved from c)] * Groups encouraged to approach local business for sponsorship * Develop and publicise list of calendar dates that are opportunities for targeted, promoted and partnered activities eg National Tree Day, World Water Day, Clean-up Australia, Environment Day, Threatened Species day, Bird Week, etc.
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>4 Collaboration and Partnerships</u></p> <p>n) Build strategic partnerships with local, regional, state and national government departments and agencies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Use resources beyond LCLN – rest of WGCMA area + other areas * Build communication channels for regional Landcare staff with groups and members * Focus on projects that build partnerships * Assist in informing people about the Vic Government’s Bio-Diversity and other policy statements – so they can be held accountable to proper implementation. * Dept of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (formerly DEDJTR), DELWP; Agriculture Victoria * WGCMA * Baw Baw, Latrobe and Wellington LGAs
<p>o) Develop and strengthen strategic partnerships with other organisations with common goals in natural resource management and community programs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Indigenous organisations * Land for Wildlife; Clean-up Australia * BeefCheque; Agro-Forestry Network * Friends groups and West Gippsland Seedbank. * Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists * 4WD and gun clubs; Blaze Aid * Rotary, Lions, Apex * etc
<p>p) Create linkages with younger generations through youth and educational institutions and organisations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Identify models of groups working with schools and promote to all Landcare groups including do’s and don’ts of setting up a project/partnership with a school * Gipps TAFE, Federation University * Maintain support for group at Federation Uni * Support Landcare’s Intrepid initiative
<p>q) Tap into the expertise, skills, knowledge and Networks of the Landcare membership</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Develop an “Expert Bank” , utilising the current ageing L/c members who have vast knowledge of farming and environment; * Tap into contemporary enthusiasm for citizen science

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<p><u>5 Education, Communication & Promotion</u></p> <p>r) Provide information on using best practices to enhance the local environment and sustainable farming</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Noting again Landcare is more than ‘weeds & trees’ but is holistic; * Principally through e-news; * Facilitate members learning about complex land management issues, eg & esp soil
<p>s) facilitate regular information exchange through multiple formats</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Principally through e-news; * Manage and update LCLN webpage * Encourage groups to share their own newsletters * Develop use of social media
<p>u) Communicate Network Board direction, actions and achievements to membership and to decision-making bodies at all tiers of government, corporations and community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Provide information to Councillors, MPs, etc
<p>v) 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;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Cultivate relationship with journalists in Latrobe Valley and Warragul papers, ABC * Promote events in local area through local methods (general store, local publication * Promote in the wider community (ABC Gippsland and other local radio, WIN TV, Prime 7, local newspapers) * Encourage local groups to attend local markets and events and help them with resources * Broaden pool of people who can use Education Trailer at events * Develop advocates and spokespeople to promote Landcare publicly
<p><u>6 Board and Governance</u></p> <p>w) Ensure the Network staff and Board members are clear on their roles, purpose and priorities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Provide clear induction materials for new Board members, including map of Network area, former Annual Report, LCLN Rules, Strategic Plan & Implementation Plan. * Develop clear succession planning to ensure full board membership
<p>x) Ensure the Network works within the rules of its Constitution</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Board members and staff utilise the LCLN Rules to clarify processes whenever necessary
<p>y) Develop leadership skills of Board members,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Access governance and other training * Undertake a network bus tour every 2nd year
<p>z) Board to ensure staff are appropriately supported and encouraged</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Utilise the WGCMA to provide employment services and use its opportunities to access resources * Board members to personally adhere to the Code of Conduct and positively support staff.