

A landscape photograph of a grassy field with trees and a cloudy sky. The foreground is filled with tall, dry grass. In the middle ground, there are several trees, including a large, leafy tree on the left and a bare, skeletal tree on the right. The background shows a flat horizon under a sky with large, dramatic clouds. The overall tone is natural and serene.

Loddon Plains Landcare Network Inc.

Annual Report 2021-2022

Healthy environment. Healthy landscapes. Sustainable communities

To protect and enhance biodiversity across the Loddon Plains

Our Member Groups

- › Bendigo Creek Floodplain Group
- › Canary Island Landcare
- › East Loddon Landcare
- › Fairley Bael Bael Sandhill Lake Landcare
- › Friends of Kooyoora
- › Friends of Terrick Terrick National Park
- › Inglewood Urban Landcare
- › Kamarooka Landcare
- › Loddon Vale Landcare

- › Mologa Landcare
- › Mt Korong Eco-Watch
- › North Central Landcare
- › Northern Plains Conservation Management Network
- › Northern United Forestry Group
- › Salisbury West Landcare
- › Terricks Ridge Landcare
- › Wedderburn Conservation Management Network
- › Wychitella District Landcare

Our Supporters and Stakeholders



LODDON PLAINS LANDCARE NETWORK

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The GOANNA logo image depicts images of circles, dots, wheat grains, water droplets, leaves, and solid wavy lines embedded into the shape of a goanna. These images represent the People, Agriculture, Irrigation, Conservation, Diverse Communities, Corridors, and Bio links of revegetation throughout the Loddon Plains. This image embodies the guiding principles of our Network, illustrating that by working together, the potential for socially acceptable landscape change and long-term sustainable agriculture can be realized. The GOANNA acronym represents 'Group Organised Action Nurturing Natural Assets' which is what we are achieving. It also is a great image as our Network's area has two species of Goanna, the Tree Goanna (*Varanus varius*), sometimes known as the Lace Monitor, and the Sand Goanna (*Varanus gouldii*).



Loddon Plains Landcare Network Inc. (LPLN) acknowledges the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land on which we live and work.

We acknowledge the rich living cultures, traditions, and connections of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people, their intrinsic connection to land and place, and the significant contribution that Traditional Owners have made to managing and caring for the Country for thousands of years.

LPLN conducts its work on Dja Dja Wurrung and Barapa Barapa & Wemba Wamba Country.

We pay our respect to Elders and leaders past, present, and emerging for the contributions that they have made, those that they will continue to make, and support them in their actions of self-determination and leadership.



Presidents Report

I would like to start by thanking the Committee of Management for all the time and effort they have put in throughout the year.

I would like to thank Danny for all his hard work and time with the Network and acknowledge his successes. I wish Danny all the best for the future.

The Network has had many successes during the year with projects progressing and new ones starting. These have included:

- Kerang Rabbit program involved 38 landholders giving out 1.31 tonnes of bait product and impacting 14,400ha of private land.
- Department of Transport funding for priority planting and restoration of 5 sites
- Bird monitoring program continues, and we thank the dedicated bird monitoring participants who volunteer their time.
- the first year of the Loddon Plains Future Farmers Regenerative Agriculture Group.
- Collaborations have begun with Djarra for targeting wheel cactus locally.
- Danny presented at the National Landcare conference 2021.
- Network Assisted Salisbury West Landcare group to obtain a grant to create corridor connections to the Loddon River.

In June 2022, LPLN Inc. was awarded Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status. Having this status will benefit LPLN Inc. greatly. It will allow people to recognize the great work that occurs across the Loddon Plains.

I would also like to welcome our new facilitator, Will Sanson who has recently taken on the role, and wish him all the best.

Colleen Condcliffe- President, LPLN Inc.



Facilitator report

Firstly, I would like to thank my predecessor Danny Pettingill for all the hard work and dedication he has shown while being the Landcare Facilitator of the Loddon Plains Landcare Network and wish him well in the future.

Some of the highlights for LPLN during the 2021-22 year included:

- Kerang Rabbit program involved 38 landholders giving out 1.31 tonnes of bait product and impacting 14,400ha of private land surrounding the RAMSAR wetland site.
- Department of Transport funding for priority planting and restoration of 5 sites in key locations across the Loddon Plains which were in Inglewood, Calivil, Wedderburn, Mysia, and Salisbury West.
- Bird monitoring program continues and we thank the dedicated bird monitoring participants who volunteer their time to the program.
- The first year of the Loddon Plains Future Farmers Regenerative Agriculture group was a success with workshops being held online, in person, and on the farm.
- Collaborations have begun with Djarra for targeting wheel cactus locally, including at Mt Buckrabunyule.
- Danny presented at the National Landcare conference 2021.
- LPLN assisted Salisbury West Landcare group to obtain a grant to create corridor connections to the Loddon River.

I would like to Thank the Committee of Management for their support and advice since taking on this role. I would also like to thank all our supporters including Beth Mellick from Wettenhall Environmental Trust and Staff at the North Central Catchment Management Authority. I would also like to thank, all government bodies including but not limited to Parks Victoria, Djarra, DELWP, and the Department of Transport. The support from Philonthropic organizations and Government is vitally important to our organization and without it, the achievements, projects, events, and outcomes of the LPLN would not be possible. I would also like to acknowledge the work of previous LPLN staff John and Lisa along with the works crew for their contribution to the Loddon Plains.

I am confident there are some very exciting times ahead for the LPLN and I look forward to sharing these with all our supporters and groups in the future.

Lastly thank you, to all the individuals and groups that make up this great Network. You are what makes Landcare and without you, LPLN would not exist. Thank you for your tireless work and dedication to conservation, community, agriculture, and biodiversity. Thank you for welcoming me and sharing your knowledge and time. I look forward to the times ahead and I am keen to continue LPLN's great work and build on what has already been achieved.



Will Sanson- Landcare Facilitator LPLN.

Bottom right: Will at the Johnson Swamp planting day (KL)



Landcare Group Activities Report

Wedderburn CMN

Has been busy throughout the year, activities have included: a Butterfly Garden at Wedderburn Kindergarten, Bendigo TAFE Camps with TAFE Agriculture and Conservation Land Management Students, Control of Cactus roadside infestations, Community Engagement with Loddon Mallee Interchange, working with the Victorian Mallee fowl Recovery Group (VMFRG), Spring Soaks program monitoring grazing pressure of kangaroos and the protection of *Viminaria juncea* and *Leptospermum continentale*, Nest Boxes with a focus on sugar gliders and phascogales and have applied for funding to set up a seed orchard with a focus on the cultural food and fibre. - Trudy Nelsson.

Mount Korong Eco-Watch (MKEW)

Mt Korong Eco-Watch has had three main focuses over the past year - Eradicating Wheel Cactus and Indian Fig from Mt Korong and adjoining land, developing a Cultural Burning project with Djaara on private land near Mt Korong, and propagating and planting from their nursery.

- Each winter/spring MKEW aims to have at least 4 cactus stabbing bees. MKEW has been doing this for 4 years and has managed to make a complete pass over Mt Korong NCR and adjoining farmland, with the cooperation of farmers. In 2022 they have completed 2 cactus stabbing bees.
- The Cultural Burning project is still in its planning stage. In 2022 Bendigo TAFE students conducted pre-burn flora surveys, and we recently had a site visit by two Djaara women trained in cultural burning, with a view to having a Cultural burning workshop and demonstration in autumn 2023
- MKEW has a small, volunteer-run nursery producing local-provenance plants for revegetation works by MKEW at Mt Korong and for others to use in local projects. This year plants went to Bush Heritage, LPLN, Damien Cook for planting at Johnson Swamp, Friends of Kooyoora, and local landholders for their own blocks.

- Kate Lee



left: Ian Fraser with an Indian fig cactus. Right: Threatened yellow Tongue daisy grown by MKEW for Johnson swamp (KL)



Friends of Kooyoorra (FoK)

The production of the “Orchids of the Inglewood & Kooyoorra Areas – Field Guide. The first print run sold out within a few months. We have just received the books of the second print. We received 50% sponsorship of the first print run from Djaara and \$ 3,500 from Bush Heritage for the second print run. The draft of the group's next publication of a Field Guide of the local Butterflies, Dragonflies, and Damselflies is progressing well. They are planning to have it completed, printed, and released prior to Christmas this year. They successfully applied for a grant from the Parks – Volunteer Innovative Fund. Friends of Kooyoorra have been awarded \$ 13,517 for a project titled “Bush Colours” which is aimed at producing a free Flora Field Guide and conducting related activities in conjunction with Djaara especially aimed at children. Friends of Kooyoorra have also hosted a birding weekend and many tours within the local area. During the year Fok has strengthened their relationships and partnerships with local stakeholders. - Rob Scholes



Left: FoK volunteers photographing local wildflowers (RS)

Groups are re-engaging.

Groups in the Region are re-engaging in Landcare Activities after the tough few years as a result of COVID. It hasn't been easy lately with people having to isolate themselves due to sickness and the ever-changing public health requirements. Well done to all the groups that have pushed through and are now able to re-engage and plan future ideas, projects, and events. These groups have included Loddon Vale along with other groups across the Network area.



GOANNA Projects

The GOANNA Project (Group Organised Action Nurturing Natural Assets) is Loddon Plains Landcare Network's landscape-scale restoration project. The project delivers community projects, monitoring, and education programs across the region. The Loddon Plains is home to diverse natural and cultural assets. The importance of the region as a primary food production area both locally and internationally is also recognized, through this program LPLN delivers community-led project outcomes in collaboration with our supporters such as the Wettenhall Environment Trust and North Central CMA.

Loddon Plains Future Farmers Regenerative Agriculture Group

The first of the LPFF events, "Understanding your Soils", was held online in September 2021 with 32 participants and over 60 registrations. A trial was documented in Llanelly (early 2022) focussing on biological fertilizer application in comparison to synthetic fertilizer looking at yield results and soil benefits. Two events were held with multispecies cropping specialist Jade Killoran with 13 attendees at the event. The event was held onsite at the Good shed along with a paddock visit to a local farm. Farm visits occurred throughout the year with soil collections being finalized in June albeit under unfavourable weather conditions.

NCCMA Landscapes assessment project PIIC

North Central Catchment Management Authority (NCCMA) contracted LPLN to undertake landscape assessments until the end of June worth \$18,000 to the network. 18 assessments were to be completed. During January Danny and Lisa completed 2 landholder site assessments with further assessments planned. During early February, 8 landholder assessments were completed with future assessments identified. 6 assessments were completed in 2021, combined 14 have been completed since April 2021. By May the final of the 25, assessments were booked (bookings impacted due to prime sowing and shearing season). 60% of landholders are interested in assessing and revisiting old projects.

Landholders seemed genuinely pleased that these sites and projects were re-visited with most sites having works undertaken a decade ago. Consultation occurred throughout May and June with works proposed for 16 different Landholders. the project works for the financial year completed with plans presented to NCCMA with works totalling \$100,000-\$120,000 being provisionally accepted.



Above: Dam sunset Powlett Plains (JvT)



Department of Transport planting project

Confirmation of funding received in early 2022

Project to focus on Key areas identified from LPLN Blueprint for Action, which was:

- Calivil creek Blackbox planting.
- Salisbury west roadside planting extension
- Wedderburn wattle reintroduction into the landscape
- Mysia bushland expansion planting
- Inglewood Morningstar revegetation

Sites were identified with works planned and some works complete.



Above: Mysia revegetation works. (JvT)

Calivil Creek discussions were had in relation to a fenced-off area to create more of a corridor and improve the riparian zone.

Mysia remnant Blackbox identified along Mysia East rd. Project planning focussed on planting this area. Planting occurred on the 5th and 6th of April. A follow-up site visit was conducted which discovered that approximately 25 planted trees have not survived. Four main species suffered *Eutaxia microphylla* var. *Microphylla*, *Disphymacrassifolium* ssp. *clavellatum*, *Eremophila divaricata* ssp. *divaricata*, *Atriplex lindleyi* (the latter being listed as rare or vulnerable). These plants were all watered since planting by Landholder Chris Rothhacker.

Wattle re-introduction Wedderburn Endangered subspecies, *Wallowa* (*A. euthycarpa*) identified as not being present at Mt Korong. Sparsely found on metamorphic slopes and rocky outcrops, the only seed is currently found near Wychitella. Spring collection and growing are planned to work with the Wedderburn Conservation Network.

Salisbury West Roadside The Department of Transport had given the approval to conduct small replacement/interplacement works. This was to be conducted along Bridgewater- Serpentine Rd where the previous planting had occurred. Plants were ordered and collected from Goldfields, Neangar, and Korong Eco Watch nurseries. Plantings were undertaken in June 2022. Plantings were undertaken by LPLN staff and families.

Morning Star Inglewood site identified and initial visit conducted, issues surrounding easements and regulatory assessments have impacted the progress of this site. Discussions and Engagement have taken place to involve local schools and community groups.



Kerang Rabbit Project

The Proposal was accepted in late 2021 for a plan to deliver a rabbit control program. The program focussed on the Kerang Community in and surrounding the RAMSAR Site and neighbouring private land. The project is worth \$24 197 in capacity and delivery. Prior to the day, 25 landholders had registered an intention to participate, uptake tracking similar to the previous two programs in landholder participation, volumes, and area impacted. One-for- One pick-up baiting day was held on February 23rd, 2022. 38 landholders participated, covering 150 linear kilometres of trail. 1.31 tonnes of product were provided to the landholders. 2650 ha of land treated, impacting 14400ha of Private Land. Private landholders contributed \$5, 863 with an in-kind labour value of \$13,900. Strong demand for the program was attributed to the promotional article written in the Gannawarra times.



Pale Yellow Water Lily monitoring project

Monitoring is to happen twice yearly in April and November until 2024. Pre-treatment monitoring occurred in late November 2021, prior to contract spraying with the project being updated at a RAMSAR committee meeting.

Victorian Landcare Grants - Salisbury West Connections, Wheel Cactus trailer

LPLN has been successful in assisting Salisbury West Landcare group in obtaining ~\$29 000 in funding for project *Salisbury West Connection Corridors* including working with group members to deliver fencing and plantings as a first stage of the *Powlett Plains Woodland Restoration* project. The grant will also fund landscape workshops and design workshops to develop efficient and appropriate landscape plantings. The project includes \$8 610 in capacity funding and \$18 709 in on-ground works.

Collaborations- Djarra (Dja Dja Wurrung) talks have begun about collaboration between LPLN and Djarra, particularly about working together for the management of **Wheel Cactus** locally (since Nov 2021) particularly with Bush Heritage taking over the Mt Buckrabunyule property.



Top: Kerang rabbit baiting day delivery, bottom: Mt Buckrabunyule (JvT)



Bird Monitoring Project Summer bird monitoring surveys have been completed for sites over the 2021-2022 summer. The Network is very Thankful for the tireless effort of our Volunteers. This program is very important to the network, citizen science, and the Loddon Plains region. LPLN recognized the importance of Birds in our landscape and the important role bird monitoring participants play which has led to the development of the Loddon Plains Bird Day Out which will be held in the coming year.

National Landcare Conference

DP was a presenter at the National Landcare conference 2021 where he talked about the On-Farm Value of Biodiversity Through Sustainable Agriculture Practices.

Wimmera Biodiversity Seminar

October provided an opportunity to present as part of the Wimmera Biodiversity Seminar on the topic Designing Resilient and Adaptive Landscape Restoration Projects to over 100 participants with a further 87 views of the recording online.

Other presentations and engagements

Presentations on soils and landscape themes have also been presented to Melbourne Polytechnic and Charlton Trade and Training College.

LPLN attended a workshop to provide further feedback as part of the biodiversity 2037 evaluation.



Above Left: Tree Goanna Along Boort-Kurting Rd. Above Right: Golden Moth Orchid, Fiery flat (JvT)



LODDON PLAINS LANDCARE NETWORK

FINANCIAL REPORT

As of 30 June 2022,	
Assets	
Bank	
Charity Fund Account - 10400	\$2,137.60
Debit Card - 10000	\$312.71
Operating Account - 10300	\$171,211.44
Term Deposit - 10200	\$15,907.22
Total Bank	\$189,568.97
Current Assets	
Accounts Receivable	\$34,706.45
Total Current Assets	\$34,706.45
Fixed Assets	
Provision for depreciation	-\$10,411.07
Vehicles at Cost	\$44,131.31
Total Fixed Assets	\$33,720.24
Total Assets	\$257,995.66
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$8,134.79
DELWP Grant Funding in Advance	\$29,427.50
Department of Transport Revegetation	\$13,105.13
Funding in Advance Pyramid Hill	\$4,716.55
GST Pre-Conversion	\$15,593.71
Loddon Plains Future Farmers	\$25,674.48
Mt Korong Eco - Watch Auspice Account	\$534.16
Pale Yellow Lily Monitoring	\$1,590.03
Payroll Liabilities PAYG	\$5,964.00
Salisbury West Landcare	\$22,454.01
Super Payable	\$3,863.59
Supporting Wheel Cactus Control (843)	\$24,535.23
Wettenhall Grant 2021	\$16,562.00
Total Current Liabilities	\$172,155.18
Net Assets	\$85,840.48
Equity	
Retained Earnings	\$85,840.48
Surplus/(Accumulated Losses)	
Total Equity	\$85,840.48



Loddon Plains Landcare Network Inc. Committee of Management

President

Colleen Condiffe

Treasurer Secretary

Mal Brown

Members

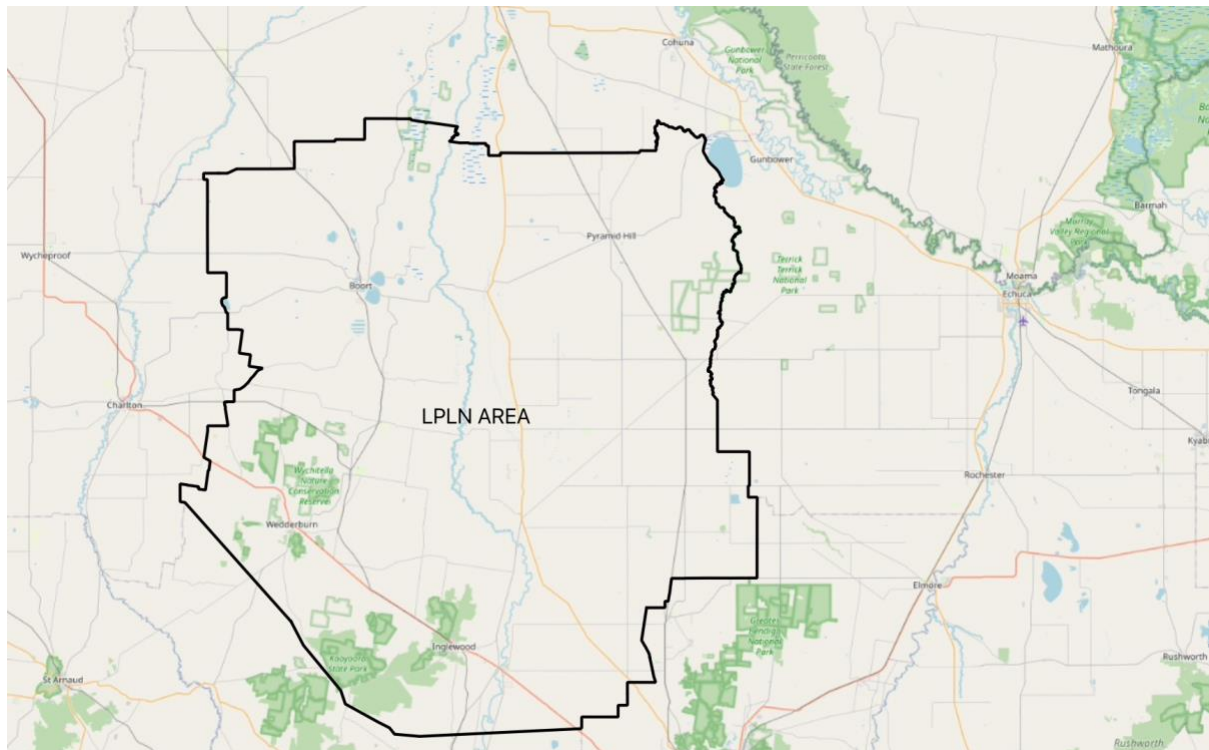
Trudy Nelsson

James Nelsson

Chris Rothhacker

Jenny Spence

John Childs



2021-22 Annual Report prepared by Will Sanson for Loddon Plains Landcare Network Inc.

Photos: Will Sanson unless otherwise credited.

Photo Credits:

JvT- John van Tiggelen

KL-Kate Lee

RS- Rob Scholes



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