



Loddon Plains Landcare Network Inc.
Annual Report 2022-2023

Table of contents

GOANNA & Acknowledgement of Country

Presidents Report

Facilitators Report

Committee of Management (CoM)

Member Groups

Our Achievements and Highlights

- Protecting and enhancing Biodiversity throughout the Network
- Social Media Reach

Landcare Group Activities

GOANNA Project

- Department of Transport Revegetation
- Salisbury West Corridor Connections Project
- Protecting Investment Increasing Capacity
- Kerang Rabbit Program
- Bird Day Out
- Bird Monitoring Program
- Women's Day
- Loddon Plains Farming Community Gathering
- Canary Island- Leaghur Biodiversity Restoration Project
- Regenerative Agriculture Project

Financial Report

Partners and Supporters

Front page caption –

LPLN facilitator Will Sanson with St Mary's Primary School Students.

300 trees and shrubs have been planted at Inglewood's Morning Star mine reserve.



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 realised. 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.





President's 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. Thank you to the Staff for all their hard work and dedication to the Network and local community during the past year. Thank-you to all the landholders that have come on board and joined the Land-Care Community this year particularly those who have given up land for trees. We are making significant progress in community engagement and development throughout the Loddon region.

Bridgewater and Inglewood Schools are actively participating in Landcare.

A big thank you to Will our Facilitator. His continued work as the Network's employee helps our volunteers do what they do best.

Colleen Condcliffe, OAM

President

Loddon Plains Landcare Network Inc.



Landcare Facilitator's report

This year has been a challenging year both my first year with LPLN, along with the late 2022 floods which ravaged our region. I would like to acknowledge the great community spirit of our Landcare community that has come together post-flood to help each other and encourage anyone struggling to reach out to their community or support services. Our Agricultural community continues to be challenged as we come out the other side in the recovery from COVID, particularly relating to the rushed process of the AEMO VNI West option 5 & 5a which would severely impact our Loddon Plains Farming community and important environmental assets.

At a network level we have had some great successes, in particular, the staff expansion with the on-ground works contracted by the North Central Catchment Management Authority which led LPLN to undertake works across 10 properties covering more than 20ha of vegetation and weed control while undertaking 25 landholder assessments to assess previous environmental works.

As the world of volunteering changes and evolves our successes have been shown in events with our Loddon Plains farming community gathering held at the Goods Shed in March with Jeremy Forbes of HALT; Warren Davies the unbreakable farmer, and Cameron Mason playing music with over 40 people in attendance supported by the National Centre Farmer Health, and Inglewood District Community Enterprise. We also had great success with our women's day in Bridgewater with over 40 women and children reconnecting post-floods, which included tree planting and basket weaving supported by Women's Health Loddon Mallee and the Loddon Shire Council

Our Regenerative agriculture program has seen great success with trial sites, soil tests, and many workshops featuring guest speakers on topics including, native grasses, native grazing, and holistic management. As part of the Volunteer Innovation Fund, we have also held one bird-watching workshop with Simon Starr in March which was well attended with another bird event to be held in 2023-24.

Our volunteer bird monitors contribute greatly to our network and citizen science and have continued undertaking Quarterly Bird Monitoring surveys throughout the Loddon Plains and we thank them for their dedication to this important role they play.

Our groups are what makes the Loddon Plains Landcare Network and are the essence of Landcare. Many of our groups have been re-engaging post COVID while some unfortunately are struggling with ageing members and declining rural populations. Our network is vibrant and strong, I am hopeful our groups will flourish into the future with your involvement. Many of our groups are doing great things involving Revegetation, Species conservation, Regenerative Agriculture, Agroforestry, Indigenous Engagement, and community connectivity.

A final thank-you to those who have helped me and the Network throughout the year, especially our staff and dedicated volunteers. As we approach our 15th year, your support and volunteer achievements are more important than ever as we continue to pursue our organisation's objective to protect and enhance biodiversity throughout the network area.



Will Sanson
Landcare Facilitator & GOANNA Project worker
Loddon Plains Landcare Network Inc.



Tree planting at Salisbury West

Honouring a life of compassion and community service:

In Loving Memory of Michael Moore

In a world often marked by chaos and self-centeredness, there are individuals who shine like beacons of light, illuminating the path to kindness and compassion. Michael Moore, a dedicated and selfless volunteer, was one such extraordinary soul who touched countless lives during his time with us. His wish was to not make a fuss about his passing but to celebrate a life lived in service to others.

Michael was a true embodiment of the spirit of volunteerism. He dedicated countless hours and boundless energy to causes that were close to their heart. He was instrumental and significant as a founding member and Secretary of the Loddon Plains Landcare Network from 2009 to 2016. Michael has volunteered many, many hours, working for the Wedderburn CMN, Loddon Plains Landcare Network, and the Friends of Kooyoora. He has been a key driver in protecting our local Mallee Fowl population, raising awareness of the extent and importance of community involvement, putting together projects to improve local habitat, and building connectivity between key sections of our land management communities. He was passionate about mentoring and teaching students, and supporting others in their environmental conservation efforts, Michael was always at the forefront, leading by example.

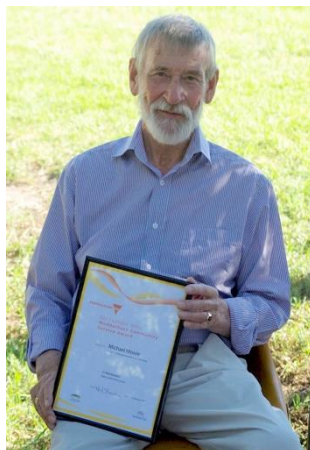
The impact of Michaels work was immeasurable. He not only provided essential assistance to those who asked, but also served as an inspiration to those around him. His quiet, yet unwavering commitment to making the world a better place motivated others to join the cause, creating a ripple effect of kindness and generosity.

Michaels' presence was like a beacon of hope in our community. His smile, warmth, and his genuine concern for others and the environment, uplifted everyone he encountered. In times of despair, Michael reminded us that there is always a way to make a difference, no matter how small the act of kindness may seem.

As we reflect on the life of Michael Moore, let us not only mourn the loss of a beloved volunteer but also celebrate the legacy of compassion he leaves behind. Michael Moore has shown us that a single individual can spark change, that selflessness can light up the darkest corners of the world, and that kindness knows no boundaries.

In his memory, let us all be inspired by his passion, dedication, and volunteerism, continuing the work that Michael was so passionate about. Let us be inspired to lend a helping hand, be compassionate and kind, to offer a listening ear, and to make our communities and the world at large a better place.

As with all people who achieve, their success depends on the support and work of their wives which enables them to accomplish so much. Michael is survived by Maureen, his loving wife of over 50 years, who shared his passion for volunteering and the environment.



Prepared by Trudy Nelsson.

LPLN Inc MEMBER GROUPS

Inglewood Urban Landcare Group
Friends of Kooyoorra
Friends of Terrick Terrick National Park
Northern Plains Conservation Management Network
Wedderburn Conservation Management Network
Northern United Forestry Group
Salisbury West Landcare Group
Loddon Vale Landcare Group
Wychitella and District Landcare Group
Canary Island Landcare Group
Mologa and District Landcare Group
Terricks Ridge Landcare Group
Mt Korong Eco Watch
Fairley Bael Bael Landcare Group
Bendigo Creek Floodplain Group
East Loddon Landcare Group
Kamarooka Landcare Group
North Central Landcare Group

Member reports of LPLN Member Groups

Salisbury West Landcare Group

Arron Lock

Salisbury West has been busy implementing the Salisbury West Connections Corridors Project and holding social events. Our farmers have been planting tree lines throughout Salisbury West, Powlett Plains and Fiery Flat. This project was great to work with LPLN to host events at Powlett hall with guests Ken Wellard from Neangar Nursery and Naomi Fountain from Djandak along with visits to the swamp and a previous tree line. During the year we also held a weather station talk with Leet from Agbyte over breakfast talking about our weather stations. Many of our members have been involved with LPLN's Regenerative Agriculture program including trial sites and attendance at holistic management courses.



One of the tree lines group members implemented. (AL)

Loddon Vale Landcare Group

Sue Bennett

The Loddon Vale Landcare Group arranged a trip to several local farms for the interest of community and group members in March. Our first stop was to see Adam and Penny Caspani of “Gladfield Flowers” where we were treated to a wonderful display of amazing flowers, despite it being at the end of the season. Adam explained the processes used in his plantings, the soil mixes and soil improvement techniques, as well as their plans for the future. Who knew that Basil flowers were a sought after item for flower decorations?

From there we travelled to Nola and Noel Cocking’s farm, where they have been trialling using Guano instead of other fertilisers.

Nola discussed why they had chosen to embark on this enterprise and how the Guano is sourced and delivered. She then went on to show us one of their multi-species crops and explain the benefits they are seeing and the improvements they still hope to see.



Finally our trip took us to Greg and Jo Bear’s farm, where they discussed the enjoyment they get from their wetland area, and the satisfaction they achieve from their regenerative agriculture farming methods leading to improved soils on their farm.



Loddon Vale and Canary Island landholders enjoying a social lunch at the wetland. (AP)

Friends of Kooyoora

Robert Scholes

During the period the Friends have continued to build on its relationships and involvement with partner organisations and land managers. In particular the new Parks Vic. staff based at Inglewood Vaughn Gale and James Stewart and with the Parks Regional Community Engagement Officer Lil Waters. Likewise the appointment of Will Sanson as LPLC facilitator has led to greater engagement and support from that body.

The Friends also has continued to work in conjunction with DJAARA on several projects. During the period the Friends through its work on local rare and threatened species has and is having increased engagement with DEECA on their fuel reduction and weed programs. The success of Friends during 2022/23 can be mainly attributed to input from its committee members. I would particularly like to thank Jean McClymont our Treasurer and Michael Barkla the Vice-convenor for their support. Other notable contributors have been Janine Clifton for acting as our Minute Secretary, Sue Briggs for her IT support, Roberta Foster and Jeanette Schultz for their on-going contributions and input over the period.

During 22/23 period, the organisation has prioritised its limited resources into the following project and activity areas:

The publication of a Field Guide of the local Butterflies, Dragonflies and Damselflies, which we are planning to have completed, printed and launched at this year's AGM.

The printing of the Butterflies, Dragonflies and Damselflies Field Guide has been made possible by the proceeds raised from the on-going sales of the Friend's first publication "Orchids of the Inglewood; Kooyoora Areas – A Field Guide. A second print run of the book was done in 2022 after the first run sold out.



Kooyoora Ephemeral Soaks monitoring program has been ongoing. (RS)

On-going work has been carried out on the documentation of the areas rare and threatened flora species. With resources supplied by Djaara, a comprehensive listing of our local flora species has been entered onto spreadsheets and most of the locally rare and endangered species identified. With support from Parks Vic further data updating and field work verification is being undertaken to enter data into the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas and other data bases to be used in determining local land management planning and works.

The Bush Colours Project – which is aimed at producing a free Flora Field Guide and conducting related activities in conjunction with Djaara especially aimed at children. In 2022 the "Friends" successfully applied for a grant from Parks Vic – Volunteer Innovative Fund and were awarded \$13,517 towards this project. Work is progressing on this project with species content and draft layout being completed. The "Friends" have recently engaged the Tarnagulla PS students and staff as partners in this project and is also receiving photographic input from its members and the public for content to go into the book. Due to the Park closures and the

late announcement of the grant funding we are now having to apply for an extension to the completion date for this project into 2024.

A very successful photographic workshop was held in conjunction with the above Project. The “Friends” successfully applied for a grant from the Parks – Volunteer Growth Fund and were awarded \$ 1,995 towards the purchase and instalment of a series of weather monitoring stations around the park in order to study the effects of climate and climate change on the unique ecosystems associated with the Kooyoora Ephemeral Soaks and other vulnerable flora species and ecosystems within the area. Three monitoring stations have been selected and ordered, placement negotiations with prospective landholders held and agreements between the parties drafted. It is anticipated that these stations will be placed over the next month.

Additional historical climate records have also been obtained from landowners in the area to help build a picture of the climate impacts on our local ecosystems.

The Kooyoora Ephemeral Soaks monitoring program has been ongoing throughout the 2022/23 period. The spring rains in 2022 providing a opportunity for the group to gain valuable and previously unrecorded insights to how these systems function. Many of the rarer flora species associated with these systems were found in previously unrecorded areas.

The Kooyoora Spring Festival held in September 2022 was well attended and proved to be a very successful event even though impacted by rain. The presentations on the Saturday by Julie Radford and Michael Barkla were highly informative and well received as alternative wet weather options. The weather did clear on the Sunday and two wildflowers’ tours were able to be conducted.



Photographic workshop was well attended. (RS)

The post covid period has proved challenging for the Friends of Kooyoora as it has with many volunteer organisations. Coming out of the covid period has seemingly seen a shift in people’s life priorities. As people seem more intent on making up for time and opportunities lost, there has been a notable drop in the number of people willing to commit to volunteer undertakings especially amongst younger people. This is leaving the organisation very much with an aging demographic of volunteers who are not being replaced by a younger generation. This combined with ever increasing demands of bureaucracy and regulation means, the future survival of many small volunteer organisations such as ours appears to be challenging.

Lack of volunteer commitment and resources combined with those increasing demands of bureaucracy and regulation has meant that the “Friends” has over the period had to limit the programs and activities it could undertake or provide.

Although increasing our accessibility and resources available to our members and the public at large through the opening of our Resource Centre at Bridgewater, we have seen little uptake or interest in what the organisation must provide. As such the organisation is closing its Resource

Centre at Bridgewater and moving its office into the LPLN complex at Inglewood for a six-month trial period.

It is envisaged that due to lack of resources and volunteers the “Friends” projects and activities for the 2023/24 period will largely be limited to those projects outlined above. Some other projects which had previously been envisaged to be commenced in 2022/23 such as the proposed Historical Project, working with Dr Fred Cahir from the Federation University and working in partnership with Djaara have already been cancelled. The greatest challenge currently facing the Friends of Kooyoora for 2023/24 and beyond is recruiting new (younger) members to our committee with fresh ideas and skills, plus the recruitment, retainment, and training of volunteers to manage and conduct its current and future programs and activities.

Mt Korong Eco-Watch

Sally Gardner

MKEW has continued its once per month meeting and volunteer activities on the Mt Korong NCR throughout the year. We received a Community Volunteer On-Ground Biodiversity Action Grant in late 2021. The funds were for partnering with Dja Dja Wurrung to undertake cultural burning. The project activities took place in May 2023 following some delays caused by the pandemic, floods and seasonal limits on applying fire to the landscape. Below are some excerpts from a short article describing the weekend of workshops and activities published in the Landcare newsletter for NAIDOC week Building partnerships on Country (landcarevictoria.org.au) and subsequently for Landcare Week. Also appearing in the Loddon Herald, Thursday June 8, 2023: Building partnerships on Country Partnerships facilitate a Djarra cultural burn and learning about Djarra women’s digging stick farming. Mount-Korong Eco-Watch (MKEW), a volunteer land-care organisation, and Dja Dja Wurrung have partnered with support from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) in undertaking a project to build their relationship around cultural burning and women’s digging stick farming practices. The project was led by Djarra women, Aunty Marilyn Nicholls and Bec Phillips, with invited Djarra Cultural Burners and their families also joining Aunty Marilyn and Bec on Country for the burn.



Djarra community members and MKEW volunteers and others after a cultural burn at a Cassinia Environmental property near Mount Korong May 16, 2023 (KL)

MKEW Chair Sally Gardner was involved from the beginning and said that the delays were actually quite beneficial: “It gave us time to build trust and to develop and sustain the relationship and commitment to Djarra getting onto the land to “Heal Country”.

The project took place at two properties in the Mount Korong region on Dja Dja Wurrung Country. At one site, the focus was on Djarra women’s digging stick farming led by Auntie Marilynne, who is a respected elder and traditional ecological knowledge holder of Country and plant uses. Auntie Marilynne has lived most of her life around the Murray (Milloo) River system and its waterways. She has connections to freshwater and saltwater Country through her Wadi Wadi, Barapa Barapa, Latji Latji, Jupagalk, Dja Dja Wurrung, Yorta Yorta, and Ngarrindjeri ancestries. “Under the guidance of Auntie Marilynne and Bec, we were welcomed onto Country and inducted into the cultural and ecological setting of Djarra women’s farming practices,” Sally said. “Volunteer participants planted kangaroo grasses around the in-flow zone of a dam using the extraordinarily well-designed traditional digging sticks.”

A cultural burn took place at the second site on an area of grassland with Auntie Marilynne and Bec and Djarra Cultural Burners with their families. Volunteers from Landcare Networks in the area were also present. “... It was clear that for Djarra this slow, cool burn, taking place as a peaceful family occasion different from the burns normally undertaken by government agencies, was indeed a healing event. Those of us watching from a respectful distance understood our great privilege in being witness to gestures of deep spiritual significance.”



Djaara women, Auntie Marilynne Nicholls and Rebecca Philips, with members of MKEW planting kangaroo grasses on Country using traditional digging sticks (SG)

The project has led on to an invitation from Landcare Victoria to collaborate in a women led project to create a peer to peer learning opportunity as part of the 2024 Landcare forum.

Farm Dam Rejuvenation seminar and on-ground workshop

The Community Volunteer On-Ground Biodiversity Action Grant also provided funds for a seminar on using farm dams and other small water bodies or seasonal water pooling to create wetland environments, delivered by Damien Cook and Auntie Marilynne Nicholls. This approach is clearly of widespread interest and the online seminar was very well attended and well-received. An on-ground assessment and planting day will be conducted by Damien and Auntie Marilynne during spring (date TBA).

Restoration of the Fiery Flat Bushland Reserve

In May, a MKEW member led an application to the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal's (FRRR) Strengthening Rural Communities program for funds to restore the Fiery Flat Bushland Reserve. The reserve a little to the north of Mount Korong needs fencing to protect its precious habitat from stock incursions as well as from illegal firewood harvesting. Result of application TBA.

Gazania linearis

In March 2023 MKEW submitted a letter to Loddon Shire Council requesting Council action on the extensive invasion of Gazania into roadside flora and native bushland. The letter was co-signed by representatives of 10 farming and conservation groups.

As Loddon Shire Council responded saying it receives no funding to treat Gazania, MKEW intends to pursue a change of classification for the species as a weed of significance so that funding can be sought by the Shire.

Cactus Eradication

Our regular round of 4 winter Cactus stabbing bees in Mt Korong NCR took place, with diminishing numbers of Wheel Cactus and Indian Fig found and treated. Thanks to Will for volunteering at working bees and attending some MKEW monthly meetings.



MKEW volunteers and LPLN Facilitator Will Sanson Beside the Cactus chemical trailer at Mt Korong (KL)

MKEW also assisted Inglewood Landcare and several local landholders with cactus-stabbing. Bendigo Orienteers are now sharing location data of cacti with us which saves a lot of legwork! The new young team at Parks Victoria have also been supportive of our cactus eradication efforts and responded to our concern about Bridal Creeper and Horehound in and around the NCR by obtaining funding for treatment of these weeds over three years.



Wheel Cactus stabbing.

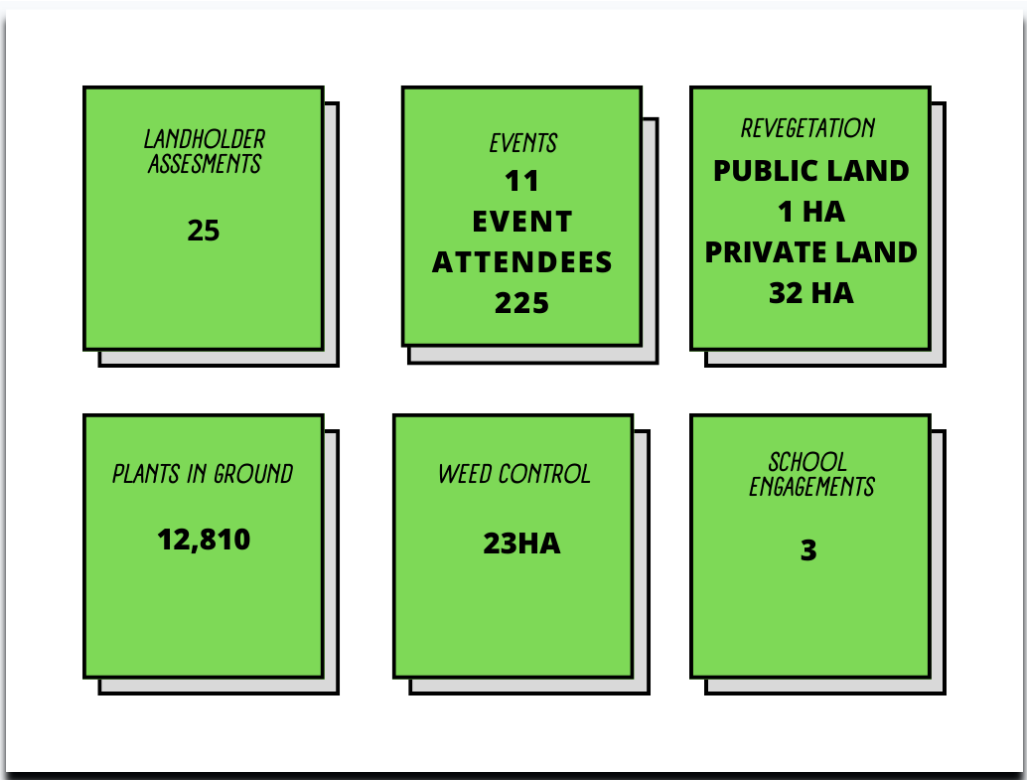
MKEW Nursery

Propagation was hampered in spring 2022 by flood damage to access to the nursery. Plants were supplied for local plantings to Bush Heritage, Cassinia Environmental, LPLN and some private landholders, including covenanters at Korong Ridge Conservation Estate. Bendigo TAFE students and LPLN visited the nursery in April for a propagation morning.

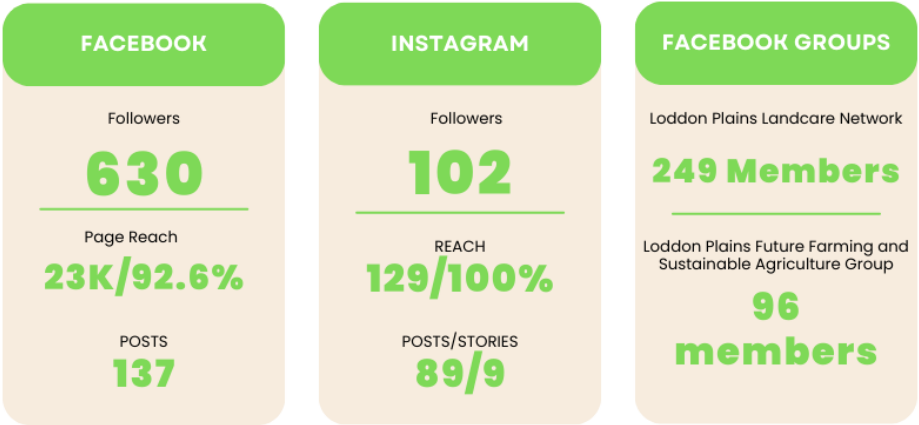


Pimelea spinescens (Spiny Rice-flower) recovery project continued with seed collection, propagation and a planting.

Protecting and Enhancing Biodiversity across the Loddon Plains



SOCIAL MEDIA



GOANNA Project.

Department of Transport Revegetation (Department of Transport and Planning, previously Department of Transport)

Morningstar - Inglewood

LPLN undertook restoration works on the parkland site in Verdon Street Inglewood. Weeding was undertaken by Bendigo TAFE work experience students. 18 students from St Mary's Inglewood along with Staff planted approximately 300 seedlings of Indigenous species.



Landcare Facilitator Will Sanson Speaking to St Mary's PS Inglewood students at the Morningstar reserve prior to planting. (AP)



Gus Gould (LPLN) Weeding at Morning Star with Bendigo TAFE Volunteers Boden Kupke and Naomi Austin (AP)

Wedderburn Wattles reintroduction

LPLN contracted the Wedderburn wattle project out to member group Wedderburn Conservation Management Network (WCMN). WCMN volunteers collected five grams of *Acacia euthycarpa* subsp. *Oblanceolata* seeds were collected throughout private property in the local Wedderburn area. The seed was collected from five plants with the project including plant identification, collection of seed, and germination.

Salisbury West Landcare Connection Corridors Project (Victorian Landcare Grants)

LPLN undertook the Salisbury West Connection Corridor project assisting the Salisbury West Landcare Group. The project included five participating landholders planting native treeline shelterbelts for stock benefit and biodiversity restoration on private farmland between the Loddon River and Mt Korong with linkages to the Hope Creek and Powlett Swamp. The project also included two events held at the Powlett Hall featuring Ken Wellard of Neangar Nursery speaking about palatable fodder planting along with Naomi Fountain of Djandak speaking about Kangaroo Grass Harvesting. The Events and tree planting days combined included 49 volunteers which resulted in 3520 seedlings being planted and 14kg of Native grass seed being directly seeded throughout Salisbury West, Fiery Flat, and surrounding areas.

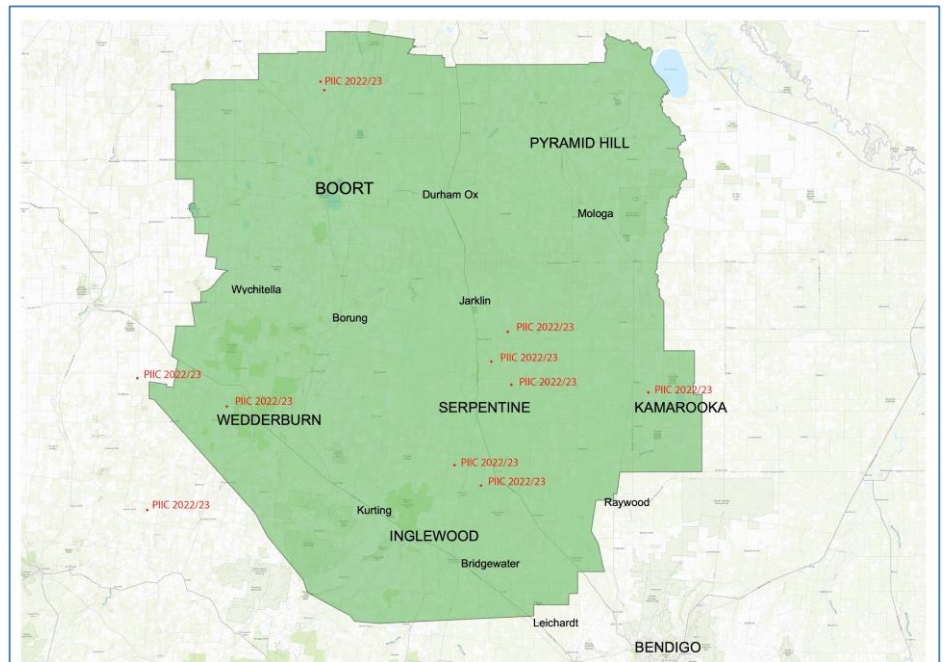


Clockwise from top left: Various community members attending a Kangaroo grass workshop at the Powlett Hall. (AP) Community members inspecting a shelterbelt tree planting with Ken Wellard (WS). Tree planting in Salisbury West (AP)

Protecting Investment Increasing Capacity - PIIC (North Central CMA)

Landholder Assessments

North Central CMA contracted LPLN Inc to undertake 25 landholder assessments on individual properties with works being undertaken by the NCCMA in the early 2000s. These assessments proved beneficial for LPLN, Landholders, and the NCCMA as they provided opportunities for landholders to have contact with Landcare and provide feedback while identifying opportunities for future works.



Above: PIIC on-ground works 2022-23 undertaken by the Loddon Plains Landcare Network (LPLN) on behalf of the North Central Catchment Management Authority (NCCMA).

On-ground Works

LPLN was contracted by the North Central CMA to undertake revegetation works as an improvement and extension to previous CMA work on Private Land. Works included Planting approximately 9000 native seedlings across more than 20ha and undertaking treatment of 20ha of woody weed control with 10 landholder agreement contracts. This was undertaken with compressed timelines and completed within a 3-month period resulting in the employment of three part-time local Loddon Shire residents (Andrew, Gus, and Charlie). Although the PIIC project is contracted by the NCCMA it has been beneficial in engaging landholders in Landcare and interacting with different people throughout the Loddon Shire and Northern half of the North Central CMA region, many of whom would not have been involved in Landcare before.



Kerang Rabbit Program (Funded by North Central CMA)

LPLN has once again been involved in the Kerang Rabbit Program, this year collaboration with the North Central CMA to deliver one-for-one rabbit bait and flood recovery information assisted by Nick Hunter. The event promoted the Network and reminded landholders of the need for consistent pest management, particularly surrounding the sensitive areas of the Kerang Wetlands RAMSAR Site.

Rabbit Baits awaiting collection from landholders (WS)



Bird Day Out

Funded by: Parks Victoria and Victorian Government.

In March approximately 20 avid bird enthusiasts gathered at the Inglewood Goods Shed to listen to renowned bird expert tour guide Simon Starr of Firetail Birdwatching tours and Birding Victoria with a field trip into the Inglewood Nature Conservation Reserve and Mt Korong.

Bird watchers at Mt Korong NCR (WS).



The Bird Day Out complements LPLN's Volunteer bird monitoring program for quarterly bird surveys. The event was funded through the Parks Victoria volunteer innovation Fund with the aim of getting more participants into parks and out in nature.

Bird Monitoring

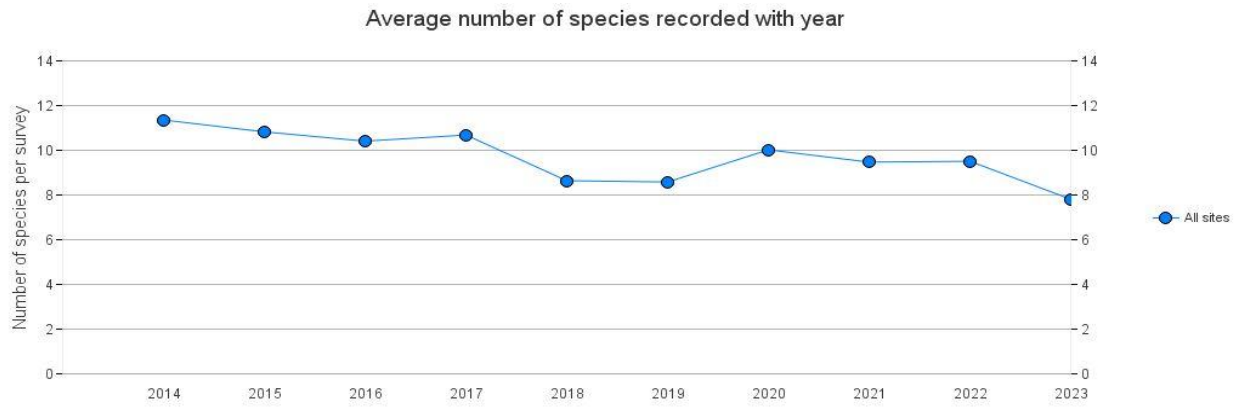
Supported by: Wettenhall Environment Trust.

Since 2014 LPLN has been undertaking a Volunteer Bird Monitoring Program on a quarterly basis which was set up by the Wettenhall Environment Trust.

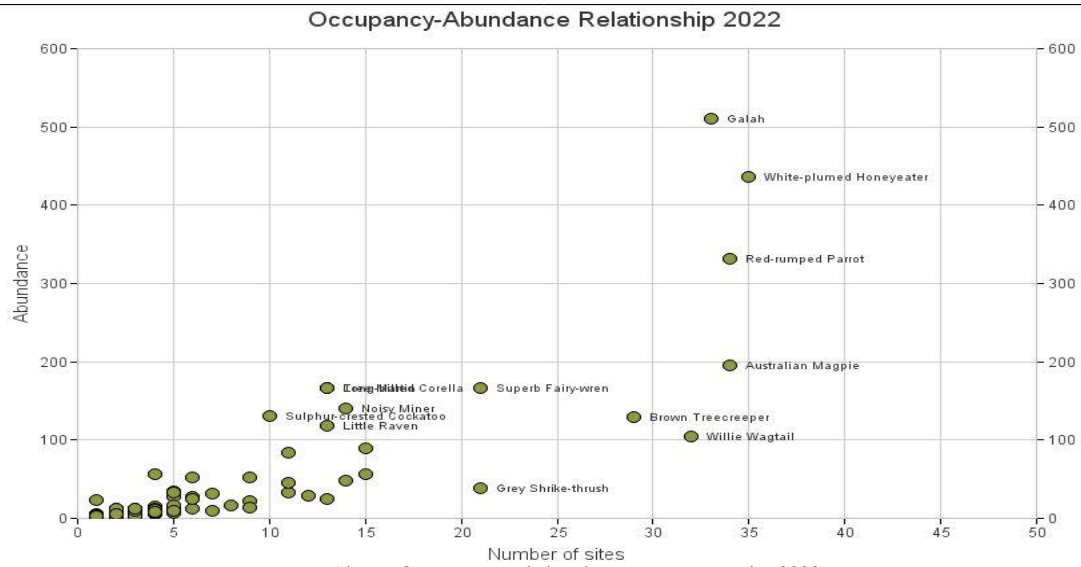
In 2022 LPLN Volunteer Bird Monitoring participants conducted 108 surveys. In 2023 LPLN Volunteer's conducted 37 surveys.

We are incredibly thankful to our dedicated volunteers.

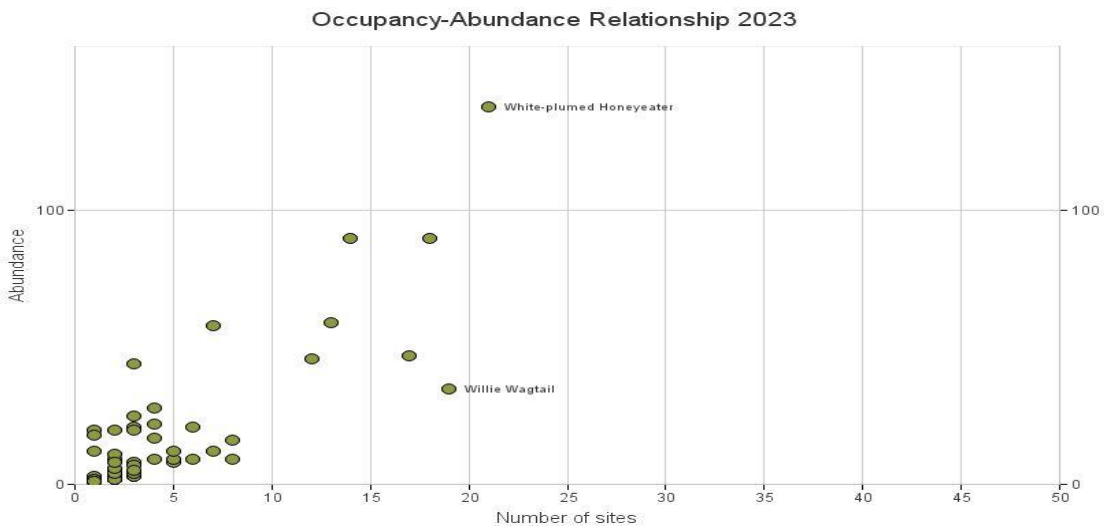
The volunteers conduct 20-minute, 2ha surveys throughout identified priority sites within the network area. The graphs show that throughout the network sites average numbers of species recorded each year has slowly declined making the citizen science work that our bird monitors do even more important and demonstrated the need for habitat restoration and the benefit of Landcare.



Above: Number of species recorded each year since 2014 (program Inception) per survey.



Above: Occupancy and abundance rates per species 2022



Above: Occupancy and abundance rates per species 2023

Women's Day “Women by the Water”

Funded by Women's Health Loddon Mallee, Victorian Government and Loddon Shire Council. Our new employee Charlie Emich organised the 'Women by the Water-Day' at the end of June. It was a huge success, with more than 40 local women and children participating in tree planting and Indigenous craft workshops.



Participants at the Women's Day event by the Loddon River.

The event was right by the Loddon River in Bridgewater, a stunning and environmentally significant spot. Dja Dja Wurrung Elders helped make the day really special, especially by hosting a Welcome to Country for everyone on the day. The event landed a feature spot in the local newspaper, significantly promoting our Network. The event was supported by the Women Health Loddon Mallee Flood recovery funding, along with the Loddon Shire Council's Community Event Promotion funding.



Aunty Marilynne and Aunty Kathy demonstrating indigenous craft and weaving workshops. (Photo's used with consent)

Loddon Plains Farming Community Gathering

Funded by National Centre for Farmer Health and Community Bank Inglewood and District Community Enterprise.



Jeremy Forbes, Mal Brown and Warren Davies at the event (AP).

On 16 March the Loddon Plains Landcare Network hosted a farmer gathering at the Inglewood Railway Goods shed (LPLN Headquarters) as part of the flood recovery program.



Attendees at the Farming community event (AP)

The event included Cameron Mason (country singer), Warren Davies-the Unbreakable Farmer, Jeremy Forbes (Hope Assistance Local Tradies HALT) with catering from the Inglewood Lions Club.



Above: Cameron Mason performing at the Inglewood Goods Shed (AP)

The event was attended by many government and non-government agencies with interests in Mental health, support services, Agriculture and community. The Event was well attended with more than 40 individuals in attendance.



Katie Shacklady, Gus Gould, John Penny, Ruth Penny and Will Sanson at the event (AP).

Canary Island-Leaghur Biodiversity Restoration Project

Funded by the Ross Trust



Canary Island Project Landholders at a Project discussion meeting at a Loddon Vale Shearing Shed (WS)

LPLN, working with landholders, will assess the landscape and identify its biodiversity assets. We will assist to protect, restore, and enhance local Lignum swamps (EVC status vulnerable) and Chenopod grasslands (EVC status Endangered) and their associated species, and mitigate the threatening processes to promote natural capital and biodiversity benefits. We will undertake pest plant and animal control, revegetation of degraded areas, and reconnect existing linear habitat along roadsides and creek lines, by widening buffers, replanting with appropriate vegetation, and where necessary put in stock exclusion fencing, creating habitat opportunities

for local Grey Crowned Babbler (*Pomatostomus temporalis*) listed as vulnerable and Tree Goanna (*Varanus varius*) listed as endangered on the threatened species list. LPLN have installed remote cameras on some of the private properties involved with the Canary Island Project.



LPLN Landscape Project Officer Charlie Emich with Bendigo TAFE Volunteers Boden Kupke and Naomi Austin (AP)



Deer, Kangaroo, Fox and White Neck Heron captured on our remote camera's.

LPLN engaged Paul Foreman (Blue Devil Consulting) to undertake desktop and in-field surveys to establish baseline data. Through these surveys, 12 additional species of rare and threatened flora were identified within the project area.



Above: One of the Canary Island Project Sites along the Penny Royal Creek (WS) *Grey-crowned Babbblers* – PHOTO: Chris Tzaros

Regenerative Agriculture Program (North Central CMA) Loddon Plains Future Farming Group

The group and program support a range of farming enterprises from mixed farms, cropping and grazing enterprises and part-time or lifestyle farmers, and is one of 3 North Central CMA-supported regenerative agriculture programs. LPLN Contracted Danny Pettingill- Previous LPLN Facilitator of “firetail environments” to deliver the program. The program included expert farming and Regenerative Agriculture guest speakers including Colin Seis, Brian Wahlberg, Iestyn Hocking, and Mirinda Thorpe which included workshops, field days, and presentations. The year's programs included 3 trial sites across landholders in Kurting, Fiery Flat, and Salisbury West. These trial sites focussed on multispecies perennial pastures mixed with lucerne, chemical, and fertilizer trials along with strategic grazing trials.



A field visit to a Kurting property with Colin Seis to discuss Native Pasture (WS) .

Governance



The Loddon Plains Landcare Network Committee of Management and Landcare Facilitator Will Sanson after the 2022 Annual General Meeting in Inglewood. (CE)

Committee of Management

President

Colleen Condliffe OAM - Salisbury West Landcare Group

Secretary and Treasurer

Mal Brown

Ordinary Members

Neil James - Salisbury West Landcare Group

Chris Rothacker - Loddon Vale Landcare Group.

James Nelsson - Wedderburn Conservation Management Network.

John Childs - Friends of Terrick Terrick National Park, Northern Plains Conservation Management Network & Northern United Forestry Group.

Absent from photo - Jo Bear (prior to April 2023) - Canary Island Landcare Group.

Employment Subcommittee

Colleen Condliffe OAM & Mal Brown.

Company Bookkeeper

Bruce Dolphin

Financial Information

Balance Sheet

Loddon Plains Landcare Network Inc.
As at 30 June 2023

30 JUN 2023

Assets

Bank

Charity Fund Account - 10400	3,533.91
Debit Card - 10000	947.59
Operating Account - 10300	181,102.10
Term Deposit - 10200	16,066.29
Total Bank	201,649.89

Current Assets

Accounts Receivable	200.00
Total Current Assets	200.00

Fixed Assets

Provision for depreciation	(16,817.82)
Vehicles at Cost	29,631.31
Total Fixed Assets	12,813.49

Total Assets	214,663.38
---------------------	-------------------

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	11,307.41
Canary Island - Ross Trust	18,750.00
DELWP Grant Funding in Advance	29,869.00
Funding Kill Cactus Project	12,500.00
GST Payable	(886.74)
Loddon Plains Bird Day Out	7,560.00
Mt Korong Eco - Watch Auspice Account	1,582.63
Payroll Liabilities PAYG	5,756.00
Super Payable	1,647.16
Total Current Liabilities	88,085.46

Total Liabilities	88,085.46
--------------------------	------------------

Net Assets	126,577.92
-------------------	-------------------

Equity

Current Year Earnings	40,737.44
Retained Earnings Surplus/(Accumulated Losses)	85,840.48
Total Equity	126,577.92

*The North Central CMA has paid the completion payment for the PIIC project 2022/23 project works for \$50,000 ex GST Not included in report as paid after the financial year for works completed within the previous year.

Profit and Loss

Loddon Plains Landcare Network Inc. For the year ended 30 June 2023

2023

Trading Income

Contribution to Overheads - Projects	37,220.00 *
Grant Income	348,999.43
Income - other	115.56
Interest Received	3,245.66
Total Trading Income	389,580.65

Gross Profit

389,580.65

Operating Expenses

Accounting/Bank Fees	4,423.01
Admin Other	2,407.62
Depreciation	6,406.75
O H & S Costs	2,847.60
Office Expenses	3,207.52
Other Expenses	18,059.42
Project Catering	1,797.76
Project Contractor Expenses	71,220.97
Project Contribution to Overheads	37,220.00 *
Project Events	1,052.20
Project Materials	48,628.37
Salary Costs	111,221.19
Sundry Expenses	4,143.46
Superannuation	11,140.46
Travel Expenses	7,096.69
Vehicle Expenses	17,970.19
Total Operating Expenses	348,843.21

Net Profit

40,737.44

Note

* Contribution to overheads as income and as an expense.

They are the same \$ amount but the net effect is that Income and Expense are overstated. These amounts are internal transfers.

LPLN may change the way they are reported in future.

Partners and Supporters



North
Central
CMA



Australian Government



NATIONAL CENTRE FOR
FARMER
HEALTH



Victorian
Landcare
Program

Note

Loddon Plains Landcare Network Inc. may be noted as LPLN or “Loddon Plains”
North Central Catchment Management Authority may be noted as North Central CMA, NCCMA, or the CMA.

Ross Trust refers to the RE. Ross Trust.

National Centre for Farmer Health may be referred to as NCFH.

Inglewood & Districts Community Enterprises may be referred to as IDCE or Community Bank

Photos:

WS - Will Sanson

AP - Andrew Perryman

AL - Arron Lock

SB - Sue Bennett

KL - Kate Lee

SG - Sally Gardner

CE - Chris Earle (Loddon Herald Provided with consent)

RS - Rob Scholes

Loddon Plains Landcare Network Inc.

ABN 89 233 623 945





Loddon Plains Landcare Network Inc.
Annual Report 2022-2023