

LachLandcare Inc.



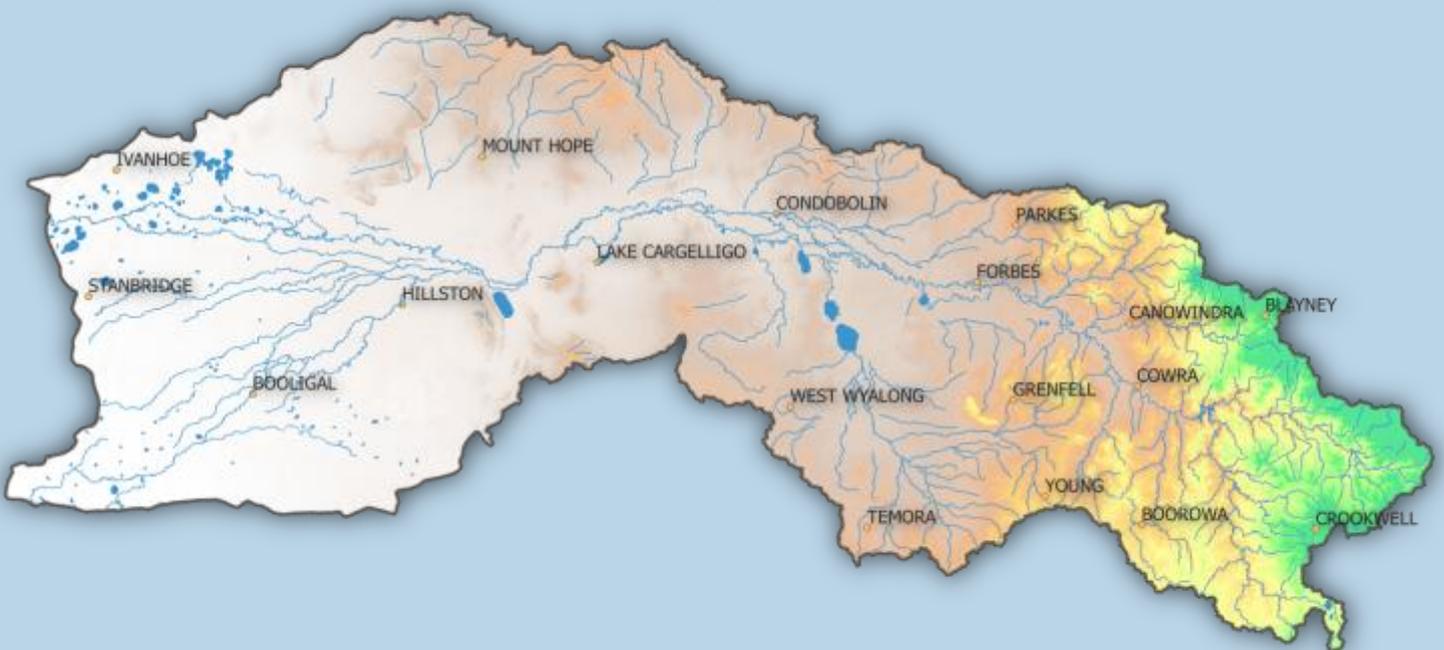
**ANNUAL REPORT
2014 - 2015**



LachLandcare

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The Lachlan Catchment in central western NSW features a broad geographic diversity that includes the temperate forests, woodlands and grasslands of the east, and the semi-arid woodlands, mallee and shrublands of the west. The catchment area is 86,554km², which is 8% of the total Murray Darling Basin area. It is essentially a terminal system with the Lachlan River ending in the extensive wetlands of the Great Cumbung Swamp. The region includes important wetlands of national significance, is home to a variety of threatened flora and fauna, and is a key agricultural region in NSW, producing fine wine, food and textiles. (Source: NSW Department of Primary Industries; Australian Government Department of Environment).



*Creating resilient landscapes & communities
in the Lachlan Catchment*

CONTENTS

1.	Foreword	1
1.1	Statement of Purpose	1
1.2	Objectives	1
2.	Chairs Report	2
3.	Executive Committee	5
3.1	Committee Members	5
3.2	Executive Committee's Report	7
4.	Landcare Support	12
5.1	Regional Landcare Facilitator	12
5.2	LachLandcare Regional Coordinator	15
5.3	Landcare Support Officers	16
5.4	Landcare Snapshot	19
5.	Events & Highlights	23
5.1	Central West Lachlan Landcare	23
5.2	Upper Lachlan Landcare	27
5.3	Young District Landcare	31
5.4	Condobolin and Districts Landcare	35
5.5	Boorowa Community Landcare Group	37
6.	Financial Report	41
6.1	Independent Auditors Report	41
6.2	Income and Expenditure	43
6.3	Balance Sheet	44
6.4	Notes to the Financial Statement	45
6.5	Statement by Members of the Committee	48
	Acknowledgements	49



FOREWORD

Statement of Purpose

LachLandcare Incorporated operates a Board of community Landcare delegates that provides governance, training and support for all of our district Landcare networks. LachLandcare advocates, communicates and mentors the Landcare philosophy, action and outcomes in the Lachlan to create resilient landscapes and Communities. LachLandcare facilitates and builds collaborative partnerships, and optimizes resource investments to help communities and landholders to restore the health of communities and landscapes. LachLandcare has a proven track record of planning, resourcing and delivery of biodiversity, landscape services, productivity, community and financial outcomes.

Objectives

Create Partnerships: Create partnerships with government, non-government organisations, and business and corporate interests, to co-invest and provide technical advice and support to Landcare projects, and record and present the results Landcare achieves.

Develop Projects: Build and promote catchment-wide projects, ready for delivery by local Landcare groups, that fit local priorities and which align and influence regional state and national NRM strategies.

Advocate and Promote: Advise and collaborate with investors, planners and policy makers on behalf of the Landcare community, and keep local Landcare up to date with policy development and co-investment opportunities.

Secure Facilitation: Secure a sustainable model for facilitation of expanding landcare community networks, and employ landcare support staff, for the long term.

Increase capacity: Facilitate learning between and carers and groups to build knowledge, expertise and capacity so that successful approaches are replicated across the catchment and to proactively expand the landcare network.





CHAIRS REPORT

It has been a year of challenges and successes for LachLandcare since the last AGM. The major challenge we have faced is adapting to the changing Landscape of funding available to Landcare groups in the state and the adjustment to the new Local Land Services areas. I am very proud to say that LachLandcare voted to retain its current objectives and purpose in the Lachlan catchment area, as we have adapted to these large challenges.

I feel the continuation of LachLandcare is a reflection of the strength of Landcare as an organization and movement in Australia, one which is best managed by the community and one not solely reliant upon government funding for its survival. LachLandcare has braved the storm which saw the catchment split into 5 Local Land Services areas. There are four areas in our region that we have continued negotiations with through-out the last 12 months to do our best to secure funds for our districts and continue our support of their essential natural resource management projects and initiatives.

Landcare in the catchment has maintained its function and achieved great outcomes, during this period of uncertainty. The strong volunteer base and enthusiastic nature of landcarers has been critical for the survival of all groups, at a time when the tenuous nature of our funding model has been most evident and tested.

It is at this time of year that I feel it useful to acknowledge LachLandcare's Statement of Purpose, and highlight that we have delivered on these intentions and goals once again.

- LLi operates a Board of Community Landcare Delegates that provides governance , training and support for all our district Landcare networks
- LLi advocates, communicates and mentors the Landcare philosophy, action and outcomes in the Lachlan to create resilient landscapes and communities
- LLi facilitates and builds collaborative partnerships, and optimizes resource investments to help community and landholders to restore the health of communities and landscapes
- LLi has a proven track record of planning, resourcing and delivery of biodiversity, landscape services, productivity, community and financial outcomes.





The last 12 months saw the Regional Landcare Facilitator (RLF) position in the Lachlan moved to be the responsibility of the individual Local Land Services. With that change we lost Leanne Leihn who has been our diligent, productive and ever willing RLF for the last 6 years. The 2014/2015 annual report is a testament to the amazing amount of work Leanne did in her final months as RLF for the Lachlan catchment. The Annual Report is also a testament to the enormous amount of enthusiasm, energy and productivity generated by all of our district groups and the number of successful projects initiated through-out the catchment. We were all very sad to see Leanne leave LachLandcare with the change in the RLF model and again I feel, LachLandcare's ability to operate successfully and effectively for 6 months of this year essentially without an RLF and still support its district is a testament to the strength and resilience of the organisation and the drive of its committee.

Another highlight of the year has been our new Regional Coordinator Angela McCauley, who has brought with her a wealth of experience and skill, and has very easily picked up the role of coordinator with enthusiasm and effectiveness. LachLandcare very much looks forward to the continued association and involvement of Angela within the organisation.

An additional highlight of the year was the announcement of the Landcare NSW district coordinator funding, which will hopefully see our districts retain their current level of support. We very much thank the support of Rob Dulhunty, Sonia Williams and Landcare NSW over the last 12 months, and the solid alliance and mentoring they have given us has been invaluable. One of the challenges we faced along with the change in the funding structure and RLF positions was the withdrawal of Mid-Lachlan and Central Tablelands Landcare from our organization, sadly I feel a result of the dependence of Landcare groups on government funding. We trust that both of these district groups see the value of a membership with LachLandcare and would always be welcome to rejoin the organisation.

Opportunities we will embrace in the future include:

- Applying to the Landcare NSW Coordinator funding opportunity to support sub regions within the Lachlan catchment, some extending outside of our traditional catchment area;
- The continued engagement with our Coordinator Angela McCauley to explore non-government funding opportunities;
- Fine tune our governance and help clearly define our value proposition to any likely funding bodies and organisations;
- Investigate the opportunity to obtain DGR status, to strengthen our funding model;
- Strengthen the current relationship with our LLS boards and actively partner with them regarding NRM activities and projects in their areas;





- Strengthen our partnership with Murrumbidgee Landcare Incorporated (MLi), with whom LachLandcare currently has a foundation of co-hosting the Riverina RLF position. We very much look forward to working closely with MLI in the future.

I must thank the Chairs of our districts members that we support in the Lachlan. The Executive Committee very much appreciate the time you commit to LachLandcare gatherings and events. I know your Landcare Support Officers greatly appreciate your involvement and guidance, and your contributions at our quarterly meetings are invaluable in keeping LachLandcare relevant and supportive to your districts.

And thank you to the Landcare Support Officers and their committee members who keep the district Landcare movement alive and ticking. You guys make it happen. We wouldn't be here without you. I trust the relationship we have with each other remains both strong and productive.

Thanks again must go to my committee. You have all performed as one might expect of dedicated Landcarers, with diligence and commitment. Thank you to Mark Shortis as Deputy Chair, Tony Slade as Treasurer, and Keith Hyde and Mary Bonet as Landcare NSW representatives. Emma Thomas has done a fantastic job this past year again in her role as Secretary. And also a thank you to our other additional executive committee members Nerida Croker and Margot Jolly. The entire committee's involvement in all matters, from strategic to the mundane, is very much appreciated. Thank you to all of you for being patient with the ups and downs of the past 12 months and for the support you have given when needed.

In conclusion, LachLandcare Incorporated doesn't have to reinvent the role that it plays within the catchment, it simply needs to review and establish a sustainable funding model that continues to create sustainable social, cultural and environmental change. Its core role of supporting its districts will not change, it is still highly relevant, it will adapt to the changing funding landscape and tap into new opportunities to secure long term funding for itself and its member districts.

Cheers

Charlie Arnott
Chairperson-LachLandcare Inc





EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Committee Members



Charlie Arnott (Chair)

Charlie Arnott is a biodynamic farmer and grazier, keen environmentalist and long-time supporter of the Landcare movement. He has held secretarial and chairperson roles in the Boorowa District Landcare Group from 1997-2011, and chair of LachLandcare since 2008. He has received a number of NRM and farming awards including the 2009 Primary Producer Award in the Lachlan Catchment Natural Resource Management Awards, 2011

Lachlan Regional Winner of the Conservation Farmer of the Year awards, and 2011 National Carbon Cockey awards Winner for Outstanding Leadership. He has been recently nominated in The Weekly Times Coles Farmer of the Year competition, and is the Landcare Australia Sustainable Farmer ambassador.

Charlie uses organic and Biodynamic principles, and Generative and Holistic Management practices, to manage his soils, grasses, trees and animals, ensuring that all aspects of the environment are considered in a holistic fashion, giving due consideration to the intricate relationships and balance that exists between all living things within the boundaries of his property Hanaminno at Boorowa.

Charlie includes the education of other farmers in organic/biodynamic production principles as an enterprise on his farm and makes his own Biodynamic preparations and compost on farm to enhance the fertility of his pasture, landscape and products. He has a Degree with Honours of Rural Science. Charlie has established tens of thousands of native trees on 'Hanaminno' since taking over the management of his family property in 1997, resulting in improved biodiversity, productivity and resilience of the ecology and landscape. Charlie is passionate about growing clean healthy beef, which he sells direct to consumers and via Sydney butcher shops, under his brand Charlie Arnott Natural Grass Fed Beef www.charliearnott.com.au , and co-founded the 'Butcherman' association of independent butchers across Australia.



Mark Shortis (Vice Chair)

Mark has been a long-term advocate of the importance of soil health in underpinning the sustainability of agriculture and maintaining a stable society. His connection with the land had its foundation in a rural upbringing at Condobolin. To support his vision Mark has contracted to Landcare networks and Catchment Management bodies to deliver knowledge & skills, help landholders develop and deliver land rehabilitation initiatives, and

source government investment to drive on-ground actions. As a primary producer situated in the Lachlan catchment near Grenfell NSW, Mark is currently rehabilitating degraded country using remineralisation, biological amendments and Holistic Management principles. Mark loves the ethic of Landcare, and other grassroots movements seeking to underpin our shared commonwealth of biodiversity and culture, and he has been involved in catchment- level landcare since 2002 and biological farming and gardening from 1989 onward.





Tony Slade (Treasurer)

Tony Slade completed a Farm Management Diploma at Orange Agricultural College in 1992. Tony has worked across Australia on iconic stations in Queensland and NSW. Tony worked with CSIRO developing the Graze Plan and first models of the Grazing for Profit training program which has risen to popularity. Tony with wife Janine and three children now manages the family property Mulguthrie, near Condobolin running a feedlot, grains and livestock operation. Tony is an entrepreneur recently starting an Oat Milling business in Condobolin, producing pet food and sustainably utilising all waste products. Tony is passionate about Landcare and Total Property Care which supports a healthy ecosystem of the soil, nutrient and water cycles while running a profitable business. Tony is an advocate of continuing education on soils, vegetation, water control structures and innovation which he mentors through his role as Chair of the Condobolin Districts Landcare Group. Tony is a family member of the Herman Slade Foundation.



Emma Thomas (Secretary)

Emma is a consultant working in the agribusiness sector, facilitating strategic planning and business growth strategies. Emma holds representative roles with National Farmers Federation – NRM Committee, Regional Development Australia, and Grain Growers Limited. Emma is passionate about building strong partnerships with like-minded organisations and philanthropic donors, and is currently developing a partnership strategy for a sustainable funding model for LachLandcare in the Lachlan valley. At home, Emma runs a mixed farming operation near Forbes in partnership with husband Murray and three young boys. We aim to work in harmony with nature by increasing the resilience of the environment using regenerative practices to manage soil health, ground cover and minimise our footprint. Emma holds a Masters in Environmental Business Management and is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



Nerida Croker (Executive)

Nerida lives at Fullerton, NSW on a sheep and cattle property. She is a founding member of Fullerton Hadley Landcare Group and current President Chairperson of Upper Lachlan Catchment Co-Ordinating Committee Inc., where she has been a member for 15 years. Nerida has an extensive history in Landcare, including the formation of Fullerton Hadley Landcare, Landcare Support Officer for Upper Lachlan Landcare, the development of Upper Lachlan Landcare Network, and member of Lachlandcare and executive committee. There have been many achievements through this work, notably establishing new partnerships with NRM and conservation organisations including the Great Eastern Ranges, Community Environment Network - Land for Wildlife, Foundation for National Parks Association, River Restoration Centre, and strengthening the partnership with Greening Australia. In addition to her Landcare work, Nerida is also involved with a number of local community organisations, including the Rural Fire Service, CWA, Crookwell Historical Society, St John's Bolong Church and Anglican Women's Group, and Crookwell Breast Cancer Support Group. Nerida has been instrumental in delivering a number of projects this year, including: 20 million trees, Green Army, Australian Government Biofund, 25th Anniversary Grants, and GER Kanangra Boyd to Wyangala. Nerida also enjoys patchwork and making quilts for family and friends, and spending time with her grandchildren.





Executive Committee's Report

Strategic Overview

In November 2014 LachLandcare held a Strategic planning and partnerships forum in Condobolin. This was aimed at building alliances with our partnerships and asking for their insight what opportunities and issues LachLandcare should be aware of. From this our Strategic Plan 2015-2017 was developed.

Our **Purpose** is to maintain resilient landscapes and communities in the Lachlan catchment.

Where do we want to be? LachLandcare has a clear plan for what our future will look like. What we will be able to show when we have achieved our purpose is:

- ✓ LachLandcare is successfully managing a sustainable funding model
- ✓ There is adequate staffing to deliver the Strategic Plan
- ✓ Our partnerships deliver resilient landscapes and communities in the Lachlan
- ✓ LachLandcare sets the benchmark for sustainable agriculture and this brand strongly promotes sustainable produce for the Lachlan.

Our Strategic Focus

Leading **and influencing**

- ✓ Advocates, communicates and mentors the Landcare philosophy
- ✓ Facilitates and builds collaborative partnerships, and optimizes resource investments to help

Partnerships **and facilitating investment in eco-system services**

- ✓ Community and landholders to restore the health of communities and landscapes
- ✓ Facilitates planning, resourcing and delivery of eco-services, sustainable productivity and resilient community outcomes.

Building **a robust organisation**

- ✓ Provides governance, training and support for all our district Landcare networks
- ✓ Strategic, Financial and Risk management

Brand **awareness and promotion**

- ✓ Establishment of a brand for Sustainable produce in the Lachlan
- ✓ Explore commercial opportunities for LachLandcare (social enterprise)





Leading and Influencing

LachLandcare continues to advocate on behalf of its members and has delivered perhaps its most important achievement to date. This was achieved by strong lobbying in the lead up to the NSW elections in March 2015. In particular, with Minister Katrina Hodgkinson and one strategic stakeholder Central West Local Land Services – Chair Tom Gavel. In February, LachLandcare hosted an informative visit to Weddin Community Native Nursery to understand more about the outstanding work that is being achieved by our members. The Weddin Community Native Nursery in Grenfell kindly provided a venue with support from Weddin District Landcare. There was a display of the extensive work being achieved by a coordinated program through a number of our Landcare groups who identify and collect seed from native flora across the Lachlan. These seed collection activities are revenue generating, supplying organisations such as the Roads and Maritime Services. Successful lobbying earned an election commitment of long term funding to Landcare, through \$15 million 2015-2019 for the NSW Landcare Support Program. LachLandcare will work towards being a recipient of this funding when it is rolled out in 2016 – 2019.



Charlie Arnott presents Minister Hodgkinson with the LachLandcare Incorporated Annual Report at the Weddin Community Native Nursery.



Tony Slade Minister Hodgkinson, Mikla Lewis (LSO - YDL), Heather McLeod (LSO - BDLG), Tom Gavel (Chair CWLLS), Lawrie Dwyer (GM CWLLS) Keith Hyde (HCL/LNSW)



Leanne Leihn (Lachlan RLF), Nerida Croker (Chair - ULL), Tony Slade (Chair - CDL), Kate Kirk (LSO CDL) Minister Hodgkinson, Hannah Troth (LSO- WDL) Emma Thomas (Secretary - LLI Mikla Lewis (LSO YDL) Heather McLeod (LSO - BDLG) Tom Gavil (Chair CWLLS) Charlie Arnott (Chair - LLI) Lawrie Dwyer (GM - CWLS) Keith Hyde (HCL/LNSW)





Partnerships and Planning

Partnerships and Facilitation of investment in eco-systems services - Collaboration with Key Stakeholders

LachLandcare continues to build solid relationships with the relevant Local Land Services and the Regional Landcare Facilitators which are regionally based within the new Local Land Services boundaries; this now involves five Local Land Services (LLS) regions. LachLandcare are actively engaged with South East, Central West Central Tablelands and Riverina LLS; and no active groups in the Western LLS region.

Relationships are strong in delivering the Great Eastern Ranges project Kanangara Boyd to Wyangala link in the Upper Lachlan with thanks to Mary Bonet (Landcare Support Officer – Upper Lachlan Landcare) and Nerida Croker (Chair – Upper Lachlan Landcare). Numerous communities across the catchment have young people gaining skills and valuable experience in the Green Army and 20 Million Trees programs which have been successful in Condobolin and Upper Lachlan.

LachLandcare Executive Committee is working closely with its strategic partners in Central West, Central Tablelands, South East and Riverina Local Land Services, including Chairs, General Managers and Regional Landcare Coordinators, in addition to other non-government organisations such as Lake Cowal Conservation Centre and Murrumbidgee Landcare Incorporated. We believe in open communication with all our partners throughout the region and will endeavour to keep everyone informed and engaged in 2016.



Condobolin and Districts Landcare hosted the LachLandcare Think Tank yesterday - it was a fantastic day thanks to our inspirational guest speakers - Ally Coe (Wiradjuri Corporation), Mal Carnegie (Lake Cowal Foundation) and Lisa McFadyen (AgValue)





As we develop our networks and seek a sustainable funding model, we will develop partnerships that will engage the community at a regional or catchment scale. Lest we forget - the Lachlan, the reason we are all here. LachLandcare has a significant role to play in maintaining resilient landscapes and communities in the Lachlan river catchment, by bringing together the many and varied stakeholders that work to protect the natural resources in the catchment. Projects and programs deliver real benefit to the environment and create resilient and productive communities.

We achieve this with thanks to our most important partners, our district members, whom are the foundations of what we do and represent the regions that embrace the Lachlan River. LachLandcare adds value for our district members, by improving natural resource management opportunities through training and mentoring, representation and advocacy across the region, and securing ongoing funding.

Securing funding to support the Landcare Support Officer network and projects has been a key focus of the LachLandcare Incorporated work in 2015. Success this year include securing funding from:

- South East (Upper Lachlan / Boorowa Landcare Support Officer);
- Central West (Central West Lachlan / Condobolin and District / Weddin Landcare Support Officers);
- Central Tablelands (Regional Landcare Facilitator Contract); and
- Riverina (Microbats in the Young Shire Project, Riverina Regional Landcare Facilitator Contract co-hosted with Murrumbidgee Landcare Incorporated).



Regional boundaries for Local Land Services (LLS) in the Lachlan Catchment





Building a Robust Organisation

LachLandcare will walk the walk, not just talk the talk. So we have begun a process of transformation. LachLandcare has moved from the planning to the implementation phase. The Strategic Plan was built out of the findings from our Planning and Partnerships Forum held in Condobolin in November 2014, facilitated by Les Robinson. The workshop invited several of LachLandcare key partners to present their organisations' work and ideas for partnerships and issues that LLI should take into consideration in planning for the future. This proved very successful and from this the LachLandcare Strategic Plan 2015 - 2017 was generated. Core details from the Plan are as follows:



We have engaged Angela McCauley as the LachLandcare Inc. Regional Coordinator, who will implement much of Strategic plan fundamentals such as a review of governance structures, project planning, management and evaluations; and developing partnerships.

Kate Kirk has been an avid Administration Assistant. Thanks to Kate's efficient office skills the work of LachLandcare is being managed very efficiently. The Executive Committee is implementing three Sub Committees for Governance, Partnerships and Project Management, which will streamline the functions of the committee and tap into specific skills which will add value to achieving the Strategic Plan 2015 - 2017

Operational Elements: The LachLandcare Strategic Plan is a rolling three year plan for 2015 - 2017, it is a fluid document and will should be updated to reflect new opportunities as they are identified.

1. **Health Checks** with all districts and LSOs plus implementation of risk management strategies
2. **Annual Project Planning Cycle** to identify relevant projects for presentation as investment opportunities for the network.
3. **Reporting and Evaluation** of outcomes to ensure continuous improvement in the activities of LachLandcare
4. **Partnership Strategy** to build positive relationships which lead to knowledge transfer and informed decisions about co-investment into sustainable agricultural productivity and natural resource management in the Lachlan region

Brand Awareness and Promotion

The foundations have been established to develop a strategy to build a sustainable funding model. 2016 will be the year of identifying the value proposition of LachLandcare and inviting partners to work with us to deliver outcomes for natural resource management in the Lachlan.





LANDCARE SUPPORT

Regional Landcare Facilitator

This past 12 months has been a busy time for LachLandcare with a wide range of activities and assistance provided to support Landcare and sustainable production groups in the Lachlan. LachLandcare was successful in hosting the Regional Landcare Facilitator position until February 2015. There is no longer a Regional Landcare Facilitator position in the Lachlan as a result of the new Local Land Services boundaries, and as a result of this we lost long term Landcare advocate Leanne Leihn. We thank Leanne for the support and guidance during her role as Regional Landcare Facilitator for the Lachlan for 6 years. LachLandcare continues to liaise with all Regional Landcare Facilitator positions across the catchment.

The Regional Landcare Facilitator provided assistance to LachLandcare through support to negotiate outcomes between stakeholders and groups, working proactively with LachLandcare Districts and Local Lands Services staff to develop mutual projects and in allocating resources and funding. A significant project to note was the development of a ten-member partnership in Condobolin and leading the first grant application to secure Green Army funding to address regional NRM Issues. Partners included farmers, Condobolin and District Landcare, Lachlan Shire Council, Lake Cowal Foundation, Wiradjuri Condobolin Corporation, Condobolin Local Aboriginal Land Council, Western Plains Regional Development, Condobolin & District Historical Society, NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service, and Central West Local Land Services, with support from Barrick Gold Mine and LachLandcare. This partnership is now being duplicated to be delivered in Lake Cargelligo (also part of the Lachlan shire) and will build on the success of the first round of the Green Army project in Condobolin.

LachLandcare is the co-host for the Riverina Regional Landcare Facilitator in partnership with Murrumbidgee Landcare Incorporated. LachLandcare will provide oversight for the Young District Landcare Group in the Riverina and ensure they receive ongoing support to deliver natural resource management outcomes.

Building Capacity of Landcare Districts

Our districts are still delivering outstanding results in a challenging and ever changing environment. It has been a struggle to source funding, with limited support from Local Land Services, and a new program at a Federal level with Green Army and 20 Million Trees.

Relationships are going from strength to strength in delivering the Great Eastern Ranges project Kanangara Boyd to Wyangala link in the Upper Lachlan with thanks to Mary Bonet (LSO – Upper Lachlan Landcare) and Nerida Croker (Chair – Upper Lachlan Landcare). A number of communities across the catchment have increased the number of young people gaining skills and valuable experience in the Green Army and 20 Million Trees programs which have been successful in Condobolin and Upper Lachlan.





Networking across the Lachlan

LLI and Districts attended the Landcare Muster in the South East region hosted by their Regional Landcare Facilitator and ongoing attendance at the NRM Working Group with the Central West Regional Landcare Facilitator. Training attended by our district members included Extend Extension and Strategic Planning and Partnership forum with Les Robinson.

LachLandcare continue to support our members in nominations for awards, such as Boorowa Community Landcare Group in the NSW Landcare Awards supporting their ongoing project with North Sydney Council and Bushcare Group and Boorowa Council. LachLandcare also applies for grants to support activities at a regional level such as training and capacity building through the Sustainable Agricultural Forum.

A number of our Executive Committee are active members of the Local Land Services Community Advisory Groups, both Margot Jolly and Emma Thomas participate with the Central West Community Advisory Group. Other groups are still to allocate positions.

The LachLandcare web presence and social media profile continues to grow and strengthen through advertising, radio announcements, attendance at field days, workshops and Facebook.



Pru Goward MP, James Bell and Nerida Croker at the Willow Vale Mill Restaurant Laggan during the Upper Lachlan Catchment Coordinating Committee inaugural Landcare champions awards ceremony





Funding for LSOs and Districts

All Landcare Support Officers were supported in their role through funding from Local Land Services except for Young. Young received project specific funding for a Microbats nesting box project. The groups are able to leverage this money by sourcing additional funds from external grants and have delivered an extensive array of activities across the Lachlan.

Upper Lachlan Landcare, Boorowa District Landcare Group and Hovells Creek: Upper Lachlan Landcare and Boorowa District Landcare received Landcare support officer funding for the 2014 - 2015. Through this funding they delivered:

- Plant Identification field day
- Soil health workshops (three)
- Feral Fox Fighters
- School visits (five) and Archibull Prize
- Soil Carbon Management workshops
- Archibull Prize
- Crookwell Connections - a Green Army projects
- Crookwell Connectivity Challenge - a 20 million trees
- 25th Anniversary Landcare grant - Healthy Farm Dam Habitat
- 25th Anniversary Landcare grant - Integrated Pest and Weed Management
- 25th Anniversary Landcare grant - Roslyn Landcare 'Linking Landscape'
- Biological control workshop, St Johns Wort, Serrated Tussock and Blackberry
- Integrate Control of Noxious Weeds workshop
- Endangered birds workshop and Bird monitoring

Central West Lachlan Landcare Condobolin and Weddin (Central West)

- Women in Ag Workshop - The real WAGs of the Central West
- Farmlink Stubble Management field day
- The Bird is the Word workshop
- Eco Day
- Healthy Farm Dam - Healthy Habitat
- Green Army
- Plan ahead - Save Lambs

Young (Riverina)

- Seed collection program
- Microbats
- Special day for our wetland wonderland
- Orchids and Other Woodland Wonders
- Wattle Day Walks
- Gullys Get a Second Chance
- Bird Trails
- Landcare workshop to help local farmers





LachLandcare Regional Coordinator



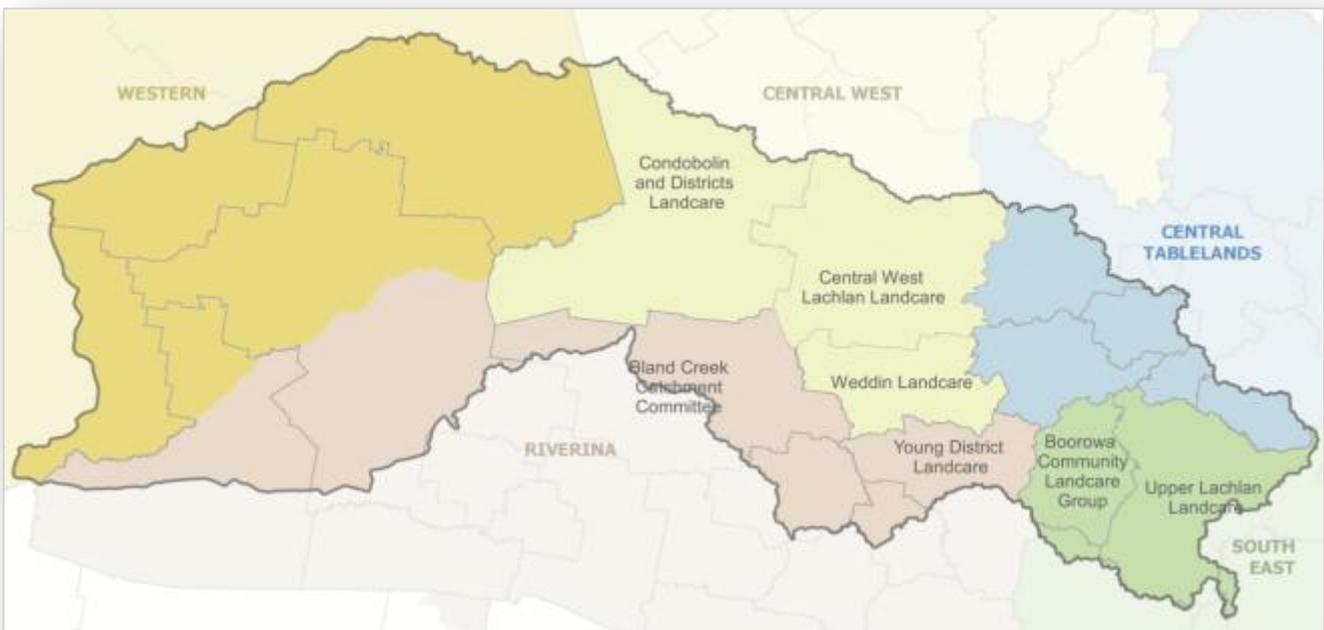
Angela M°Cauley B. Sc. (Geog.)

I was thrilled to join LachLandcare Inc. in September 2015 and to become part of a dedicated and passionate group of people working to support their communities and promote sustainable land use in the Lachlan catchment.

I had the pleasure of meeting many Landcare Support Officers who work throughout the region during a recent round of meetings to discuss partnership bids for NSW Local Landcare Coordinators. It was great to see the collaborative nature of the Landcare network in action and to learn about some of the terrific work that groups are involved in. I also heard about some of the challenges facing landcare and my aim over the coming months is to work with our Landcare Members and the LachLandcare Committee to develop solutions and strategies to overcome these hurdles and to build the capacity and strength of Landcare in our region.

I look forward to the journey ahead.

The map below shows where our members are located in the Lachlan Catchment relative to our partners and stakeholder boundaries for Local Government Areas (grey lines) and Local Land Services boundaries (coloured background).





Landcare Support Officers

Landcare groups throughout the Lachlan catchment are supported by a dedicated network of Landcare Support Officers (LSOs) who work tirelessly to bring resources, expertise, and capacity building initiatives to their Districts. The LSOs working for our member groups have shared some of their Landcare highlights from 2015.

Condobolin and Districts Landcare



Kate Kirk

The highlight of my year has been the opportunity to host a Green Army Team in Condobolin. We had a brilliant team made up of local Indigenous youth and a dedicated supervisor. They worked on a wide variety of activities from tree planting and weed control to fauna surveys and Indigenous artefact preservation. In forming the projects that the team worked on we were able to make some very valuable partnerships with other local organisations and these partnerships are leading to the creation of other exciting projects for our community.

Young District Landcare



Mikla Lewis OAM

2015 marks my second year with Young District Landcare (YDL) and it's been a full-on year. With a focus on biodiversity, we have aimed at holding an activity or event most months. The highlights of these have been the workshops on fungi, wattles and orchids, which have catered for a growing number of interested community members who then became part of our increasing network of members and supporters. Our relationship with Young Shire Council is one of mutual support through the Environmental Initiatives Committee, the rehabilitation of riparian and woodland areas in town, and the development of Bird Trails of the Young Shire, a project initiated by YDL. Ongoing funding from the Riverina LLS for our Microbats in the Young Shire project has enabled us to develop a good relationship with all the schools whilst working towards habitat protection and community awareness. Another highlight has been working in collaboration with other landcare groups, particularly Mid Lachlan and Weddin Landcare, on various events and projects, enabling us to combine our skills to create a better event and reach a larger number of people. In 2016 we would like to see the re-establishment of Young district groups and a greater emphasis on sustainable farming projects and activities. With the ongoing support of LachLandcare and Riverina Landcare, a new office in the Millard Centre in Young, and a new Management Committee of ten enthusiastic locals with a wide range of interests and skills, the future of YDL moving into 2016 is looking bright.





Central West Lachlan Landcare Inc



Marg Applebee

Marg has recently been appointed as the Landcare Support Officer for Central West Lachlan Landcare. This year they have achieved the Aussie Backyard Bird Count during National Bird Week, and the Local National Park walks. The highlight of Marg's year has been working in partnership with Parkes Public School at Bushmans Dam to show kindergarten students water bugs, wetlands, habitats, plants and worm farms.

Upper Lachlan Landcare



Mary Bonet

The Upper Lachlan Catchment Coordinating Committee held its inaugural Landcare champions awards ceremony in April. The event which ran over 2 days with an awards ceremony at the beautiful Willovale Mill Restaurant in Laggan followed by a champions tour to visit the work of the Landcare champions at Roslyn and the property of Margie Fitzpatrick at Currawang.

Nerida Croker, chairperson of the Upper Lachlan Catchment Coordinating Committee, presented 5 champions awards at the ceremony officiated by MC James Bell with guest speaker Pru Goward MP. Guests included deputy Mayor, James Wheelwright, chair of South East Landcare, John Carter and Chair of LachLandcare Inc, Charlie Arnott, Aaron Smith from South East Local Land Services, South East Regional Landcare Facilitator, Peter Pigott, and chairs and members from many of the Landcare groups in the Upper Lachlan catchment.

The first award was to John and Mary Walsh, of Mt Pleasant Dalton, for outstanding and long term contributions to natural resource management in the South East Region. John and Mary are founding and continuing members of the Jerrawa Creek Landcare group for the past 22 years and founding and continuing members of the Upper Lachlan Catchment Coordinating Committee Inc. for the past 24 years.

Also winning awards were Roslyn Landcare group and South East LLS for their ongoing schools education program that they have been running for the past 6 years and Fullerton Hadley Landcare for its innovative approach to engaging with new and absentee landholders in the region.





The energetic and dynamic Margie Fitzpatrick of Australind, Currawang, was recognized as a champion in sustainable agriculture and 15 year old Luke Granger, of Blakeney Creek, received a champion's trophy for his passion and commitment to soil health.

The event was supported by South East Local Land Services and supported by South East Landcare. To find out more about Landcare in the Upper Lachlan Shire please contact local Mary Bonet Upper Lachlan Landcare coordinator on ph 0459352892 mary@upperlachlanlandcare.org.au

Boorowa Community Landcare Group



Heather McLeod

This has been an extremely busy year full of achievements and challenges. We were proud to have celebrated our 15 year partnership with North Sydney Bushcare Group, a long standing relationship that has resulted in over 40,000 plantings on local properties and reserves around Boorowa. Some of our other achievements for the year include field days and demonstrations on Endangered Birds, Noxious Plants and Pest Management, Coordinated fox baiting program, tree planting weekends, school visits, and a new partnership with the Great Eastern Ranges Initiative.

Weddin Landcare



Hannah Troth

This year our local community nursery was the venue for an important meeting to discuss the future of Landcare in our region. We met in the grounds of the nursery with Katrina Hodgkinson (our local State member and the Minister for Primary Industries) and Lawrie Dwyer and Tom Gavel from Central West Local Land Services. It was an excellent opportunity for Weddin Landcare to showcase the nursery and demonstrate what can be achieved with Landcare and other partnership support, and a dedicated volunteer group.





Landcare Snapshot

This section provides a summary of Landcare activities that have taken place throughout the Lachlan catchment during 2014-2015. They include projects funded through independent organisations, Local Land Services, and other partner contributions.

Project partners and sponsors include:

- 2PK Radio
- 97.9 Valley FM
- Art4Agriculture - Crookwell High School
- Australian Government
- Birdlife Australia
- Birds in Backyards
- Blakney Creek/Biala Landcare Group
- Breadalbane Public School
- Central West Local Land Services
- Department of Primary Industries
- Forbes Advocate
- Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife
- Green Army
- Heffernan's Creek Landcare
- Holbrook Landcare
- Lachlan Valley Branch of the National Parks Association
- LachLandcare Inc
- Local Land Services (Central Tablelands, Riverina, South East, Central West)
- National Parks Association of NSW
- NRMA Insurance
- Parkes Champion Post
- Parkes Shire Council
- Skillset
- Sheep Connect NSW
- South East Local Land Services
- St Mary's Primary School
- Yass Area Network
- Yass Valley Council
- Young Shire Council
- NRMA Insurance



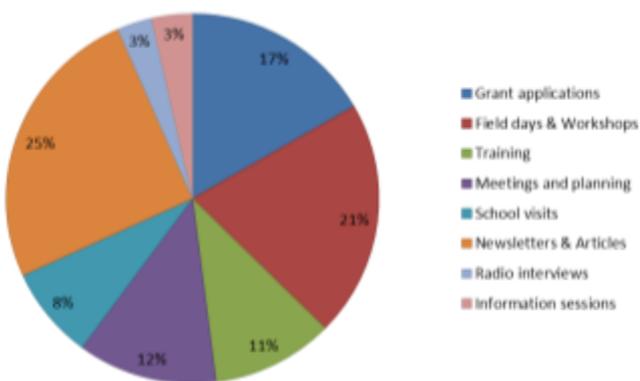


Some of the Landcare activities for 2014-15 are profiled on the following pages and a quick tour of the types of events is shown on the regional map (Page 21). In summary, Landcare projects and activities ranged from field day demonstrations to grant applications, school visits and social media. Information provided by those Landcare Districts who are member organisations of LachLandcare¹ recorded over 437 Landcare events in the catchment that reached out to around 400,000 people (Table 1). Social media activities including web site visits, blogs and Facebook entries, constitute a significant portion of these numbers and tend to overwhelm summary statistics and play down the significance of other activities in delivering on-ground outcomes. As such, the graphs shown below exclude social media events.

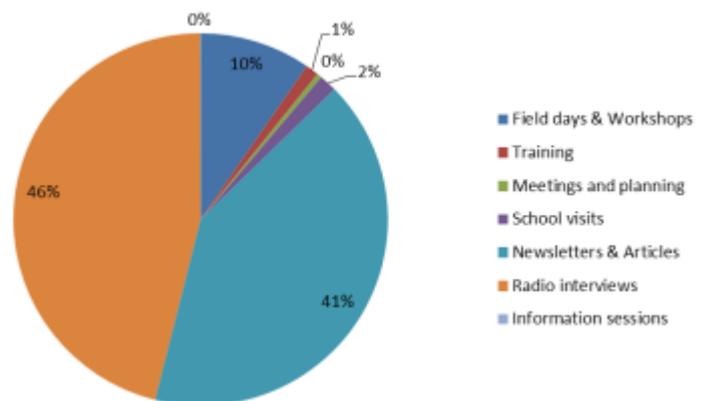
Table 1: Summary statistics for Landcare Activities in the Lachlan Catchment

Activity / Event	Number of Events	People Reached
Website / Facebook updates / Blogs	239	347,120
Grant applications	33	0
Field day demonstrations & Workshops	41	4,689
Training & Educational Material	21	547
Meetings (LLS, AGM, partners) and planning	24	216
School visits	16	738
Newsletters & Articles	50	20,161
Radio interviews	6	22,500
Information sessions / walks	7	20
TOTAL	437	395,991

EVENTS



PEOPLE REACHED

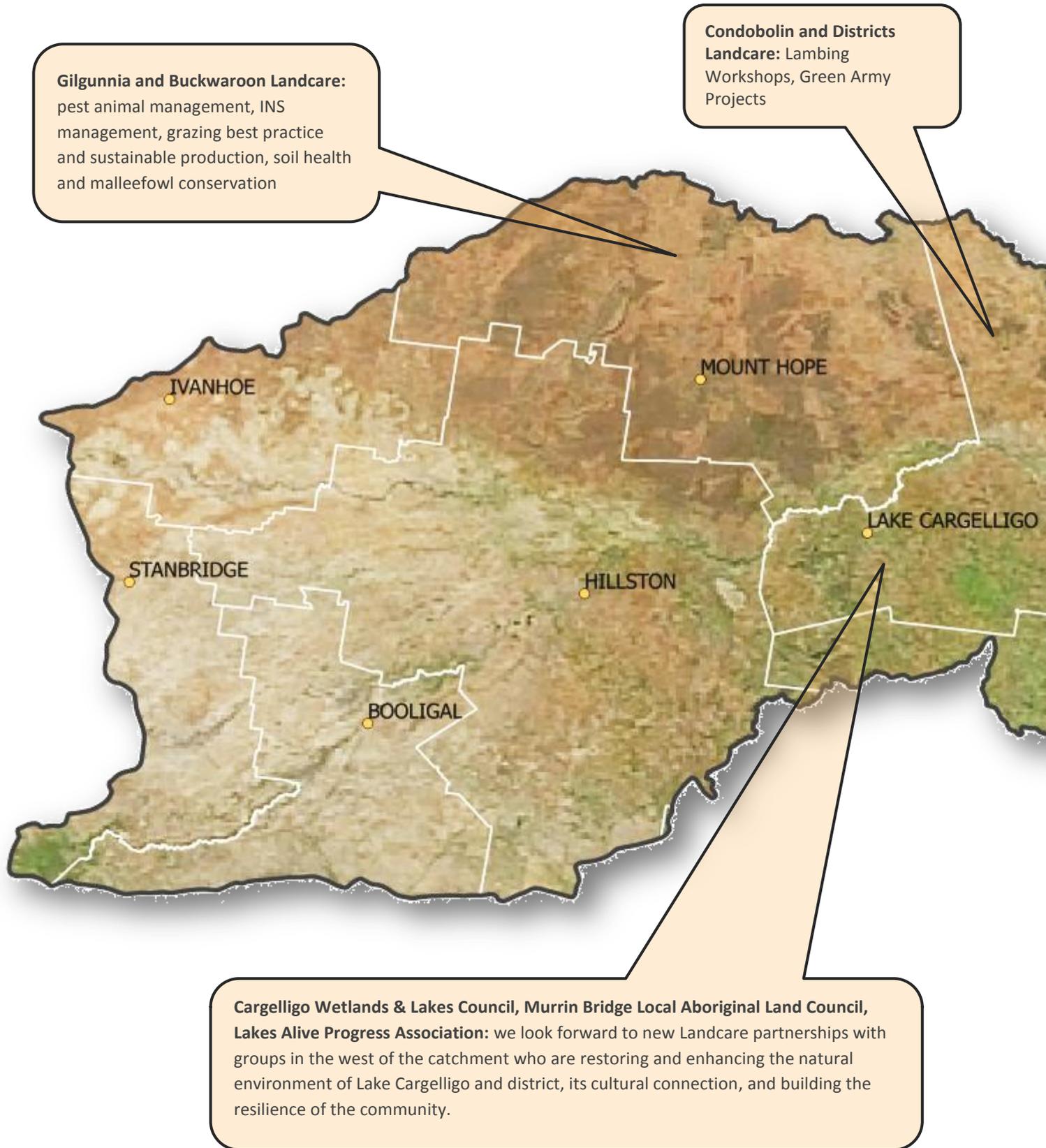


¹ This snapshot is based on summary statistics provided by: Condobolin and Districts Landcare; Central West Lachlan Landcare; Upper Lachlan Landcare; Young District Landcare; and Boorowa Community Landcare Group.





Take a Tour of Landcare in the Lachlan





Trundle Bruie Plains & District Landcare Group:
Holistic Farm Management workshops, fencing, Soil Erosion Projects, Saltmarsh Walks, Farmers Markets

Central West Lachlan Landcare:
The Bird is the Word bird watching workshops, Green Army projects, Eco Day, Women in Ag Program

Neville Landcare: the protection of breeding ground for Macquarie perch, other threatened species, and the control of invasive species; capacity building for Cultural Heritage mapping and management; and Green Army projects.



Young District Landcare: Seed collection, habitat for Microbats, Wattle Day Walks, Bird Trails of the Young Shire, Landcare Workshops, Box Gum Woodland conservation.

Upper Lachlan – Boorowa District – Hovells Creek Landcare: Green Army Project, Archibull Prize, Feral Fox Fighters, and Workshops on Healthy Farm Dam, Noxious Weeds, Soil Carbon, and Endangered Birds.





EVENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

Plan Ahead – Save Lambs



A pre-lambing workshop to maximize productivity and increase lamb survival

A pre-lambing workshop hosted by Condobolin & Districts Landcare, Central West Local Land Services, NSW Sheep Connect & Department of Primary Industries. The workshop, held in March at Bundemar Merino Stud, was timed prior to lambing season for sheep breeders to hear the latest information on pre-lambing management and lamb survival.



Dr Gordon Refshauge from NSW Department of Primary Industries was able to help producers maximise their productivity by looking at ewe nutrition and implementing a range of management tools to increase lamb survival and weaning rates.





Green Army Team

The Green Army team look after riparian areas and Indigenous artefacts in the Condobolin District



Condobolin and Districts Landcare hosted a Green Army team in Condobolin during 2015, funded through the Australian Government’s Green Army Project. The team worked on a variety of environmental projects enhancing the district. These included planting over 3,500 trees, fencing sensitive riparian areas, working on-country to rehabilitate the land and protect Indigenous artefacts, and removing invasive pine and boxthorn infestations.

They had many mentors, including Mal Carne-gie - Lake Cowal Foundation, Craig Ridley - Central West Local Land Services, Ally Coe - Wiradjuri Condobolin Corporation and mem-bers of Condobolin Local Aboriginal Lands Council, Lachlan Shire Council, Condobolin & District Historical Society, Western Plains Re-gional Development, as well as Indigenous el-ders. This project has been a great success—for all the participants and partners involved. It has led to strong partnerships between Landcare and other community groups and the chance to develop exciting projects going into the future.



Planting trees with Team Supervisor, Brian Clemson (top left).

Meeting the Back Track Team (above).

Planning meeting with Landcare, Indigenous Elders, and Lachlan Shire Council (left)



The Bird is the Word

Bird Watching Workshops hosted by Central West Lachlan Landcare (CWLL), Parkes Shire Council and the Lachlan Valley Branch of the National Parks Association.



In the lead up to the Aussie Backyard Bird Count commencing on 19 October, Central West Lachlan Landcare, Parkes Shire Council and the Lachlan Valley branch of the National Parks Association are ran two bird identification workshops. The first workshop was held on Sunday, 18 October and kicked off with a BYO lunch at Yarraman Lane, just off the Wellington Road at Parkes. The second workshop was targeted specifically at kids on Monday, 19 October at 4pm from Bushman's Hill.



It was lovely to have a visit last month from our little friends in kindergarten at Parkes Public School at Bushman's Dam a few weeks ago. This has become an annual tradition with the kids learning about water bugs, wetlands, habitat, plants and worm farms. They covered a lot in one morning!

We had ten budding bird enthusiasts at our walk along with their parents. Martin Bell led us on a walk between Bushman's Hill and Bushman's Dam in Parkes. We spotted approximately 20 bird species in this area. In flight, in trees, on the ground and on the water. The birds didn't disappoint.

We were fortunate to have the expertise of Kath Mann and the Parkes Shire Council team, Michael Chambers, Elizabeth Briton and John Morrison.





These walks kicked off the Bird Week with locals encouraged to record bird species in their backyards every day for a week during October and the results will give us a snap shot of birds in our area.

These workshops gave you an overview of birds to keep an eye out for in our local area and what we can be planting to encourage native birds into our gardens. Our local NPA group lead our walks and we were fortunate that the birds didn't disappoint on both days. It is just amazing to see what is out there if you take the time to look and listen. We have a significant bird population in our local area, so let's get out and appreciate it!



Some of the species that were seen during our walks: Red Rump Parrot (top left), Black Faced Cuckoo-Shrike (above left), and the White Faced Heron (above centre), and the Magpie (above right).





Eco Day

Workshops, presentations, and bags of goodies.

Central West Lachlan Landcare hosted this years Eco Day at the Central West Livestock Exchange. Student groups from nine schools in the Parkes, Forbes and surrounding areas had the opportunity to attend workshops on the day on making worm farms; tree propagation and planting; frogs in the Lachlan with PhD student Amelia Walcott; Wiradjuri story telling; weeds; and a saleyards tour. The day finished up with a 'hands on' workshops from Paul Kirk (AKA The Snake Man) and a presentation from the Taronga Zoo Mobile. All students went home with a recycled Forbes Advocate or Champion Post newspaper bag which were handmade especially for the day, using excess newspapers. They included some goodies including a tree guard to put around their seedlings when they got home. Funding to run Eco Day activities was made available through the Central West Local Land Services (information by Danielle Littlewood, Central West Regional Landcare Facilitator).





Women In Ag Program

The real WAGs of the Central West



Central West Lachlan Landcare’s 2015 Women in Agriculture program was launched in December 2014 under the theme of ‘The Real WAG’s of the Central West’. The event was held at Eat Your Greens Eugowra which provided a great environment for the 30 participants who came along to the launch.

The event had been highly publicized receiving strong results online, reported on 2PK radio and featured in both the Parkes Champion Post and Forbes Advocate.

The keynote speaker Lisa Paton from Neville Landcare, who has trained as a Climate Leader through Al Gore’s program presented both her personal experiences and motivations for being involved in the training and programs as well as informative facts and information that sparked much discussion amongst the participants.

Tegan Nock, a young local farmer, then spoke enthusiastically about the opportunities for Women in Agriculture, the strong leadership that women in the Central West play in the industry and her excitement of the development of the Women in Ag program for 2015. Her key message is that women must do more to promote and support the small wins of local women – not just wait for the big events.



Central West Lachlan Landcare project officer Christie Elemam shared the group’s journey during their Reconciliation Action Plan and the need for this to be embraced by all sectors of our community. CWLL Chair, Margot Jolly, made an excellent MC who kept the conversation flowing amongst all attendees.

Results from the topics indicated that women are seeking information and training in both traditional and non-traditional roles in agriculture for women including: Communicating Effectively (11), Energy Saving on Farms (11), Family Direction (9), Waste 2 Art (8), Mental Health First Aid (7), Insurance (5) and Fermenting Workshop.





Healthy Farm Dam – Healthy Habitat

Healthy farm dam- healthy habitat program- Fish, Frogs and aquatic plants workshop



As part of the Upper Lachlan Landcare – healthy farm dam- healthy habitat program a workshop was held in Dalton in April this year to discuss the importance of aquatic plants to both biodiversity and productivity. Luke Pearce from DPI Fisheries gave a presentation on the benefits of water plants, why they are missing from our waterways and how it directly impacts on threatened species such as the locally significant Southern Pygmy Perch and Yellow Spotted Bellfrog. The group of 40 participants then went on to a site in Blakney creek where these two threatened species occur to discuss the important features of this waterway which have helped the survival of these species and to discuss ways that we can improve our farm dams and creeks to provide refuges for these species throughout the district.

An exciting moment of the day was spotting one of the very rare Yellow Spotted Bellfrogs.



This project was facilitated by Luke Pearce from DPI Fisheries and Vince Heffernan from Blakney Creek/Biala Landcare Group

Project Partners: DPI Fisheries; SE LLS: Blakney Creek/Biala Landcare Group; Upper Lachlan Landcare

Project Location: Dalton & Blakney Creek





Soil Carbon Management

A workshop to Dig, Sniff and Look



The workshops ran over 3 days with 4-6 weeks in between each session addressing a wide range of soil care concepts for building and managing carbon in soils. 25 participants attended the workshops in the shed and out in the paddock, to learn how building soil carbon impacts three aspects of the soil; Physical- improves soil structure & water retention; Biological- creates energy for microbes, increases biodiversity thus sustainability; and Chemical- allows the soil to hold more nutrients and increases soils cation exchange capacity. Gwyn explained that building soil carbon levels is a natural outcome of good farming.

Some of the topics include how to accurately take soil samples and interpret soil tests; how to score and record their soil health without the need for soil tests; getting to the “root” of soil health problems; results of the soil audit and carbon tests; what fertilisers to use and why; and providing monitoring and recording tools to assist decision making including the popular 10 paddock concept.



The workshop was hosted by Brian Frost at “Hildden” Bannister and facilitated by biological agronomist – Gwyn Jones.



Project Partners: Heffernan’s Creek Landcare; Holbrook Landcare; Upper Lachlan Landcare

Date: 3 day series August/September/October

Location: “Hildden” Bannister





Green Army

Crookwell Connectivity Challenge

As part of the Upper Lachlan Landcare –Crookwell Connectivity Challenge- Green Army program, the team spent two weeks working on landscape restoration and rehydration projects at Margie Fitzpatrick’s property “Australind” at Currawang. The team were trained by Cam Wilson from Earth Integral on a range of Landscape repair techniques for the rehabilitation of erosion gullies and rehydration of the surrounding landscape. The team managed to complete 5 different repair structures using rocks, brush and timber. Local Member for Hume- Angus Taylor, came to inspect the work of the Green Army with members of the public and Green Army service providers.



This project was facilitated by Cam Wilson- Earth Integral and Upper Lachlan Landcare

Date: November/December 2015

Project Partners: Green Army, Skillset/Campbell Page, Upper Lachlan Landcare





Archibull Prize

Local young farming champions showcase the regions food and fibre



Upper Lachlan Landcare sponsored 3 local schools to enter the Archibull prize in semester 2 2014. The Archibull Prize is an integrated program to engage secondary and primary school students in agricultural and environmental awareness through art, design, creativity and teamwork. The schools were given a blank, life-sized fibreglass cow for students to create an artwork based around their learning of chosen primary (food or fibre) industry to explore and showcase and were paired with Local Young Farming Champions, Jasmine Nixon and Adele Offley, alongside Landcare and community members who shared their sustainable farming journey and worked with the students throughout the duration of the project. The three schools each kept a blog about their learning. All three schools were highly commended with the two primary schools- St Mary's and Breadalbane, receiving an award at the Archibull presentation at Homebush Bay.

The Archibull artworks were displayed in the Crookwell Library and then at the Crookwell Show as part of the Landcare tent in February. The project was facilitated Lynne Strong, Art4Agriculture, Adele Offley, Jasmine Nixon and Upper Lachlan Landcare. Our project partners included: Art4Agriculture- Crookwell High School, St Mary's Primary School and Breadalbane Public School





Wattle Day Walks

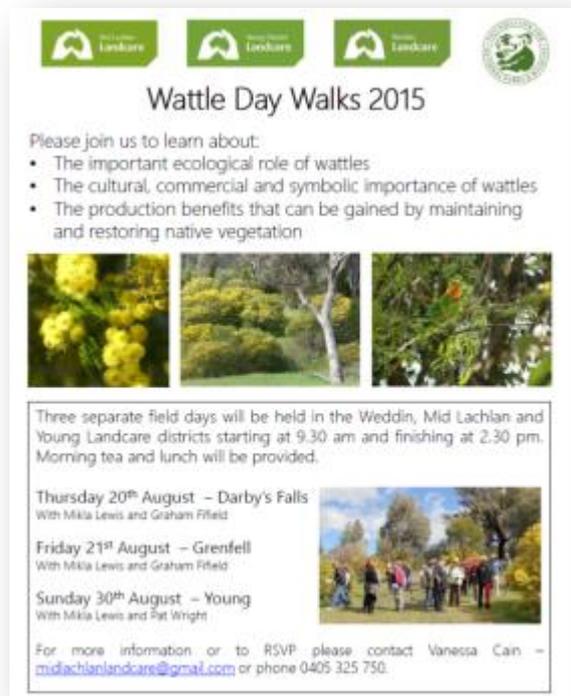
An opportunity to see the diversity and beauty of wattles and to learn about how they benefit stock, wildlife habitat, and insect control



In August the landscape reveals its golden glory, with local wattles lighting up gardens, roadsides and bushlands. Unfortunately wattles are rarely seen on productive private property, except in fenced-off plantings or in remnants on hillsides or in back paddocks. To highlight the diversity and beauty of wattles, Weddin Landcare, Young District Landcare, and Mid Lachlan Landcare collaborated on providing residents of Grenfell, Young and Cowra with opportunities to see the their local wattles first hand.

Three Wattle Day Walks were held – at *Rosemont* in Grenfell, *Olde Milong* in Young, and at *Darby's Falls / Wyangala Dam* near Cowra. The Wattle Day Walks were funded by grants from NRMA Insurance and the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife. These events included presentations from guest speakers, free wattle plants, a book on local grassland flora, wattle literature, and an opportunity to identify wattle specimens. The guest speakers were Mikla Lewis (Young District Landcare), Graham Fifield (Greening Australia), and Pat Wright (Australian National Botanic Gardens).

Volunteers at the Weddin Community Native Nursery, situated at the Grenfell TAFE, kindly offered to give a brief guided tour before the walk at Grenfell. Graham Fifield from Greening Australia was on hand to discuss Whole of Paddock Rehabilitation (WOPR) as a cheap and easy method for returning wattles and eucalypts into grazing paddocks for multiple benefits, such as wildlife habitat and insect control, and benefits for stock as shelter, food and internal parasite control. Pat Wright highlighted the lesser known facets of the role wattles have played in the history and prehistory of Australia, their uses and symbolic importance to all Australians. There was also a demonstration in the use of the Local Land Services' direct seeding machine, using wattle seed collected on *Rosemont* last summer.



Wattle Day Walks 2015

Please join us to learn about:

- The important ecological role of wattles
- The cultural, commercial and symbolic importance of wattles
- The production benefits that can be gained by maintaining and restoring native vegetation

Three separate field days will be held in the Weddin, Mid Lachlan and Young Landcare districts starting at 9.30 am and finishing at 2.30 pm. Morning tea and lunch will be provided.

Thursday 20th August – Darby's Falls
With Mikla Lewis and Graham Fifield

Friday 21st August – Grenfell
With Mikla Lewis and Graham Fifield

Sunday 30th August – Young
With Mikla Lewis and Pat Wright

For more information or to RSVP please contact Vanessa Cain – midlachlanlandcare@gmail.com or phone 0405 325 750.





Bird Trails of the Young Shire

Sharing the beauty of our native birds and tapping into the tourism potential that nature provides



Young District Landcare and Young Shire Council's Environmental Initiatives Committee are working together to create a new tourism initiative, with a sub-committee formed to develop Bird Trails of the Young Shire. Bird Trails - or bird routes as they are sometimes called - have been around for more than 10 years in NSW. There are close to 20 shires and regions participating, including the surrounding shires of Grenfell and Cowra, as well as shires in the Riverina.



Nankeen Kestrel (left), Superb Fairy Wren (centre) and Boobook Owl (right). Photos: The Young Witness, 12 August 2015

The scheme is designed to attract visitors and tourists with an interest in bird watching, encouraging them to explore areas that are known for high bird activity. The information is made available on a brochure that contains a map identifying the sites, a list of the species that may be found at each site, some general information about the flora, fauna and geography of the area, and a complete list of all the birds known to live in the Young Shire. The brochure will be interactive, allowing participants to tick each species as they see it and add to the list by reporting sightings of birds not listed on the brochure. A printed version will be available at certain offices and shops around town while a digital copy will be available from various websites. Each site will be identified by a sign that will include the site name and number, a picture of the bird emblem and possibly other information, such as species found at the site.





Box Gum Woodland gets another Chance

Rehabilitating the Box Gum Grassy Woodland Endangered Ecological Community at Chance Gully with plantings of Yellow Box, Blakely's Red Gum, Apple Box and Kurrajong



Days of soaking rain provided ideal conditions for a morning's planting at Chance Gully in Young. Twenty people, including seven children, took part in the planting, which was organised by Gumtree Nursery and Young District Landcare, with the support of Young Shire Council. The Council recently removed the overgrown woody weeds that were choking out the native plants growing in the gully, then mulched the area in readiness for replanting with local native plants.

Chance Gully, which runs alongside Cram Avenue, consists of a unique Box Gum Grassy Woodland. This woodland plant community is listed as an Endangered Ecological Community and consists of Yellow Box, Blakely's Red Gum, Apple Box and Kurrajong trees, as well as some wattle species, forbs (wildflowers) and native grasses. The Young Shire is fortunate to have such a rare plant



community growing so close to town. Young District Landcare jumped at the chance of revegetating the site and will provide ongoing planting, weeding and general maintenance of the area.

As part of their Microbats in the Young Shire Project, Young District Landcare recently installed a number of microbat roosting boxes at the site. These will be monitored over time for microbat usage. The plantings will enhance the Microbats Project and complement the roosting boxes by



providing future habitat, not only for microbats, but for a suite of woodland birds, mammals and reptiles that call the gully home. The funding for the plants was donated by a Landcare supporter and the plants were grown by Gumtree Nursery and Weddin Community Native Nursery in Grenfell.



Microbats in the Young Shire Project

The community go batty with Anabat detectors and bat boxes to help look after some of our smallest mammals



Young District Landcare recently held a ‘Bat Night’ as part of their Microbats in the Young Shire Project, funded by Riverina Local Land Services, with special guest presenter from the Australasian Bat Society Inc, Stan Flavel. WIRES Weddin-Lachlan Branch assisted with the organisation of the night and information sheets. During the night participants took a walk to the Arboretum and creek with the Anabat detector, which was an eye-opener for most people as they had not heard the sonar sounds of microbats before. We were able to detect a number of different species. The project has generated greater public awareness and knowledge of microbats in the Young Shire and



brought together many groups who share an interest in their conservation, including Young schools, Young Shire Council, Young Golf Club, Young Aboriginal Land Council elder, Young Community Gardens, Young Men’s Shed, WIRES Weddin Lachlan Branch and Australasian Bat Society.

This project has also led to improved habitat for microbats through the installation of 60 roosting boxes and the planting of over a thousand local native plants by landholders, residents, Council, and the Young Golf Club. The bat boxes were well made by Young Men’s Shed, who spent more than four weeks cutting and assembling 60 boxes made from plywood supplied by Young Building Supplies. Lachlan Valley Tree Services (LVTS) did all the box installations. Ten schools participated in the program and were very enthusiastic about having a bat box installed in the school grounds. Ten roosting boxes were also installed at Chinaman’s Dam to provide habitat for a number of local microbats that frequent the dam, including the water-loving Southern Myotis (*Myotis macropus*), which forages low over water for flying insects. It also eats aquatic insects and tiny fish, catching them by raking its claws across the surface of the water. To complement the boxes, three information signs about Microbats in the Young Shire have been erected at the Dam and at Arboretum Park and Young Golf Club. A fact sheet *Wildlife in the Young Shire – Microbats* has also been produced.



The Men’s Shed finish one of the bat boxes with only 59 to go. Photo: The Young Witness, 8 August 2014

With a second year of funding for the project from Riverina LLS, we will be continuing and expanding the project by researching the ecosystem services provided by microbats to farmers and orchardists.





North Sydney Bushcare Group



Volunteer tree planting visit celebrates 15 year partnership

NSBG celebrated their 15th Anniversary visit on September 12-14th.

A unique and long standing relationship between two environmental group country (BCLG) and the other from the city (NSBG) – and their respective councils continues to grow. Since 2000 NSBG have planted in excess of 40,000 plants around Boorowa on local properties and reserves. NSBG is particularly interested in developing habitat for our beautiful and critically endangered Superb Parrot. NSBG planted 1000 native trees and shrubs to connect existing plantings at 'Hawk Hill' hosted by Elizabeth and Peter Mason. Later in the afternoon they admired the view from the top of Hawk Hill. The next day, hosted by Michael Corkhill, they planted 1300 trees and shrubs at 'Gilray' to rehabilitate two gullies that flow into the Boorowa River. They were treated to billy tea, sponge cakes and a delicious campfire lunch, all prepared by Michael. Trees were watered in with the local fire truck. A simple ceremony to celebrate the 15th anniversary was held at 'Heathfield' at sunset, hosted by Steve and Lydia Jarvis. The ceremony was attended by volunteers from BCLG, NSBG, North Sydney Mayor Jilly Gibson and Boorowa Mayor Wendy Tuckerman. Heathfield's extensive tree plantings created a perfect backdrop. An updated Memorandum of Understanding was signed by all parties and framed certificates were presented. A BBQ dinner followed, sponsored by Boorowa Council and prepared by BCLG volunteers.

During the weekend NSBG carried out bird surveys at 5 sites they had planted years earlier. A relaxing Sunday morning was spent in town, scouring the antique store and craft shops for bargains, stocking up on local jams, honey and other produce. Before heading home, the group visited Boorowa's first conservation reserve at 'Red Hill'.

NSBG has prepared a poster display in the old NRMA shop window and has produced a special anniversary newsletter. Paper copies have been distributed to Boorowa businesses. NSBG will be back early next September with 2 small buses and about 35 volunteers. BCLG is seeking hosts for future volunteer visits. Landholders are responsible for all fencing and site preparation, sourcing trees, assisting on site and feeding the volunteers. The document 'Tree Planting with Volunteers' is available to assist landholders with preparation.





Tzu Chi Foundation Volunteer Tree Planting

Helping to restore land degraded by dryland salinity



The Tzu Chi Foundation celebrated their 5th Anniversary visit to Boorowa on September 19-21st. The Tzu Chi Foundation is a Buddhist compassionate relief charity whose existence is reliant on donations and the volunteer efforts of their members. The foundation dedicates itself in the fields of medicine, education, environmental protection and international relief work. This group is particularly interested in helping to restore land degraded by dryland salinity. The volunteers are mostly International Students on their term break, whilst attending university in Sydney. Some live in Sydney but others call Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, China and Korea home. They camp at the Boorowa Central School over the weekend. Tzu Chi volunteers planted over 900 trees and shrubs on the Pudman Creek at 'Springfield' and on the Boorowa River at 'Suffolkvale'. Farm manager Alan Munns and his staff hosted the volunteers for the day. A delicious vegetarian lunch was prepared by 'Pantry on Pudman'. Alan thrilled the visitors with a working dog demonstration. His talented collie brought sheep right down to this big group some of whom had their first experience holding a tiny lamb!

A celebratory dinner was held at the Top Pub, sponsored by BCLG and a community grant from the Bendigo Bank Foundation. The same grant covered the cost of a coach for the weekend, driver accommodation and also bought tools for the planters to use. Bright city lights usually hide the night sky where these volunteers come from; they were amazed to be able to identify the Southern Cross and Scorpio before heading off to bed. The next day the volunteers planted almost 2000 trees along the Boorowa River at 'Strathmore'. Daryl Quinlivan, his family and friends were the hosts and prepared a home cooked vegetarian feast for the volunteers. A dedicated Tzu Chi 'documentation team' visited sites planted several years ago to record progress and report online, to an international audience. BCLG is seeking hosts for future volunteer visits. Landholders are responsible for all fencing and site preparation, sourcing trees, assisting on site and feeding the volunteers. The document 'Tree Planting with Volunteers' is available to assist landholders with preparation. The Tzu Chi foundation usually visits Boorowa in April each year with up to 50 volunteers and a large coach.



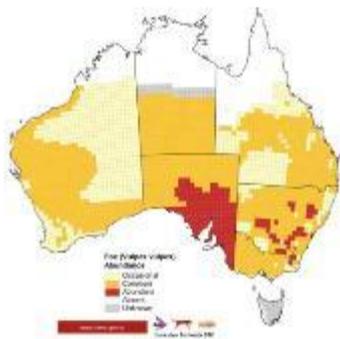


5th Coordinated Fox Baiting Program



Landholders, Landcare Community and Local Land Services come together to coordinate autumn and winter baiting programs

Boorowa Community Landcare Group (BCLG) ran its 5th Coordinated Fox Baiting program from July 8th -31st August 2014. BCLG has coordinated autumn and winter baiting programs every year since 2012. The first three programs were in partnership with the Livestock Health and Pest Authority (LHPA). This was the 2nd program working with Local Land Services South East. Again, BCLG sponsored landholders to obtain their 1080/Pindone Accreditation. A morning and an evening training course were held prior to the commencement of baiting. Approximately 30 more landholders gained accreditation. Sixteen local landholders volunteered as coordinators. Ten local 'drop off' locations were arranged for the collection of baits. The program continues to be fine-tuned. Fresh and manufactured fox baits were available. Coordinators were issued free baits, in return for calling up and organising bait orders with neighbours. Legally required signage was provided free of charge and additional drop off dates were arranged to encourage landholders to use fresh baits.



This program has been an excellent example of cooperation between landholders, Boorowa Community Landcare Group and Local Land Services. We would also like to acknowledge the assistance of the staff from the Boorowa LLS office. Having a Biosecurity Officer relocated to Boorowa has been of great benefit to the program. Another round of coordinated fox baiting will take place in autumn 2015. Upper Lachlan Landcare groups are now running a similar program which they have called 'Feral Fox Fighters'. BCLG will adopt the 'Feral Fox Fighter' branding to give both programs greater recognition over a large area. We will be issuing 'Feral Fox Fighters' corflute signs to participating landholders next year, to promote the program and encourage neighbours to join in.





Feral Fox Fighters

Together we can make a difference



Jerrawa Creek Landcare Group formed a partnership with the Yass Area Network of Landcare Groups [YAN] and the Yass office of South East Local Land Services to manage this project and we were later joined by the Yass Valley Council. Our aim was to involve as many new people as we could in joining local fox action groups as well as having those land managers going it alone joining group exercises. South East Local Land Services ran a series of free 1080/Pindone accreditation courses and we offered all participants corrugate gate signs promoting the *Feral Fox Fighters* project.



The project more than met its objectives. Some 101 land managers attended the initial rounds of 1080/Pindone accreditation courses. These people were owners of land totaling at least 29,412 ha in total. Further to that, at least five new co-ordinated fox baiting groups were formed from the project and an existing one increased in size.

Partners: Project funding from Lachlandcare and Central Tablelands Local Land Services. Assistance and support from the Upper Lachlan Landcare Network, South East Local Land Services, and the Yass Area Network.





FINANCIAL REPORT

Independent Auditors Report

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF LACHLANDCARE INC.
ABN: 25 956 426 818**

Report on the Financial Report

I have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of LACHLANDCARE INC. (the association), which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2015, and the income and expenditure statement for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the statement by members of the committee.

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The committee of the association is responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 and for such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and 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 conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about 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 judgment, 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 entity'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 an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating 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 I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Independence





**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF LACHLANDCARE INC.
ABN: 25 956 426 818**

Auditor's Opinion

In my opinion:

The financial report of LACHLANDCARE INC. is in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 including:

- (i) giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2015 and of their performance and cash flows for the year ended on that date; and
- (ii) complying with the Australian Accounting Standards.

The financial report also complies with International Financial Reporting Standards as disclosed in Note 1.

Name of Firm: AR Williams & Co (Parkes) Pty Ltd
Certified Practising Accountants (CPA)

Name of Director: _____
Matthew Christopher Gaiter

Address: 19a Church Street, Parkes NSW 2870

Dated this 20th day of August 2015





Income and Expenditure

LACHLANDCARE INC.

ABN: 25 956 426 818

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

	Note	2015 \$	2014 \$
INCOME			
Funding			
LSO Funding		62,500.00	203,250.00
RLF Funding		91,000.00	150,000.00
CFI Funding		-	(16,458.37)
Sundry Funding		1,000.00	2,141.80
		<u>154,500.00</u>	<u>338,933.43</u>
Membership Fees		140.00	150.00
Donations			
General Donations		-	100.00
Donation - AR Williams & Co (Parkes) Pty Ltd		454.55	454.55
		<u>454.55</u>	<u>554.55</u>
		<u>155,094.55</u>	<u>339,637.98</u>
OTHER INCOME			
Interest Received		2,368.66	5,995.85
		<u>2,368.66</u>	<u>5,995.85</u>
		<u>157,463.21</u>	<u>345,633.83</u>
EXPENDITURE			
Auditor's Remuneration		1,454.55	1,454.55
Bank Charges		28.25	17.25
Licensing Fees		93.91	52.00
Meetings and Workshops		8,616.39	3,000.00
Program Costs			
RLF Contract		103,316.30	137,963.34
LSO Payment		53,780.47	157,091.68
CFI Expenses		909.09	-
		<u>158,005.86</u>	<u>295,055.02</u>
Strategic Planning Costs		2,000.00	2,446.95
		<u>2,000.00</u>	<u>2,446.95</u>
		<u>170,198.96</u>	<u>302,025.77</u>
(Loss) Profit before income tax		<u>(12,735.75)</u>	<u>43,608.06</u>
(Loss) Profit for the year		<u>(12,735.75)</u>	<u>43,608.06</u>
Retained earnings at the beginning of the financial year		135,477.00	91,868.94
		<u>135,477.00</u>	<u>91,868.94</u>
Retained earnings at the end of the financial year		<u>122,741.25</u>	<u>135,477.00</u>





Balance Sheet

LACHLANDCARE INC.
ABN: 25 956 426 818

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30 JUNE 2015

	Note	2015 \$	2014 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	2	120,293.25	121,334.00
Trade and other receivables	3	4,698.00	14,143.00
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>124,991.25</u>	<u>135,477.00</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>124,991.25</u>	<u>135,477.00</u>
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and Other Payables	4	2,250.00	-
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>2,250.00</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>2,250.00</u>	<u>-</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>122,741.25</u>	<u>135,477.00</u>
MEMBERS' FUNDS			
Retained earnings	5	122,741.25	135,477.00
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS		<u>122,741.25</u>	<u>135,477.00</u>





Notes to the Financial Statement

LACHLANDCARE INC.
ABN: 25 956 426 818

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Preparation

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 2009. The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historic 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 stated otherwise, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

Impairment of Non-Financial Assets

At the end of each reporting period the association determines whether there is an evidence of an impairment indicator for non-financial assets.

Where this indicator exists and regardless for goodwill, indefinite life intangible assets and intangible assets not yet available for use, the recoverable amount of the assets is estimated.

Where assets do not operate independently of other assets, the recoverable amount of the relevant cash-generating unit (CGU) is estimated.

The recoverable amount of an asset or CGU is the higher of the fair value less costs of disposal and the value in use. Value in use is the present value of the future cash flows expected to be derived from an asset or cash-generating unit.

Where the recoverable amount is less than the carrying amount, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss.

Reversal indicators are considered in subsequent periods for all assets which have suffered an impairment loss, except for goodwill.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

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





LACHLANDCARE INC.
ABN: 25 956 426 818

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

Revenue and Other Income

Revenue is recognised when the amount of the revenue can be measured reliably, it is probable that economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the entity and specific criteria relating to the type of revenue as noted below, has been satisfied.

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and is presented net of returns, discounts and rebates.

Interest revenue

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest rate method.

Rendering of services

Revenue in relation to rendering of services is recognised depends on whether the outcome of the services can be measured reliably. If this is the case then the stage of completion of the services is used to determine the appropriate level of revenue to be recognised in the period. If the outcome cannot be reliably measured then revenue is recognised to the extent of expenses recognised that are recoverable.

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

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of GST. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included as part of receivables or payables in the balance sheet.





LACHLANDCARE INC.
ABN: 25 956 426 818

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
2 Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Cash at Bank - Working	1,793.03	2,113.75
Cash at Bank - Reserve	51,265.05	91,207.75
Cash at Bank - Term Deposit (206378)	28,936.91	28,012.50
Cash at Bank - Term Deposit (213172)	38,298.26	-
	<u>120,293.25</u>	<u>121,334.00</u>
3 Trade and Other Receivables		
Current		
Input Tax Credits	<u>4,698.00</u>	<u>14,143.00</u>
4 Accounts Payable and Other Payables		
Current		
GST Payable	<u>2,250.00</u>	<u>-</u>
5 Retained Earnings		
Retained earnings at the beginning of the financial year	135,477.00	91,868.94
(Net loss) Net profit attributable to the association	<u>(12,735.75)</u>	<u>43,608.06</u>
Retained earnings at the end of the financial year	<u>122,741.25</u>	<u>135,477.00</u>





Statement by Members of the Committee

LACHLANDCARE INC.
ABN: 25 956 426 818

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the committee the financial report as set out on pages 1 to 6:

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of LACHLANDCARE INC. as at 30 June 2015 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that LACHLANDCARE INC. 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:

President: 
Charlie Arnott

Treasurer: 
Tony Slade

Dated this 14th day of October 2015

LACHLANDCARE INC.
ABN: 25 956 426 818

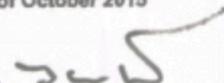
CERTIFICATE BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

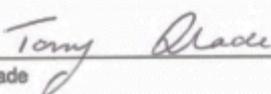
We, Charlie Arnott of 'Hanaminno' Via Brial Road, Borrowa NSW 2586 and

Tony Slade of 'Peoria' Condobolin NSW 2877, certify that:

- (a) I attended the annual general meeting of the association held on 14th October 2015.
- (b) The financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2015 were submitted to the members of the association at its annual general meeting.

Dated this 14th day of October 2015

Committee Member: 
Charlie Arnott

Committee Member: 
Tony Slade





Acknowledgements

LachLandcare Incorporated Annual Report 2014 – 2015.
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Graphics

Footer *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* fruit – NSW Flora, Royal Botanic Gardens

Landcare Logo and National Landcare Program Logo

Maps produced by Geomancia Pty Ltd

Back Cover: Google Earth, 2015

Events & Highlights

Project summaries provided by:

Central West Lachlan Landcare

Upper Lachlan Landcare

Young District Landcare

Condobolin and Districts Landcare

Boorowa Community Landcare Group





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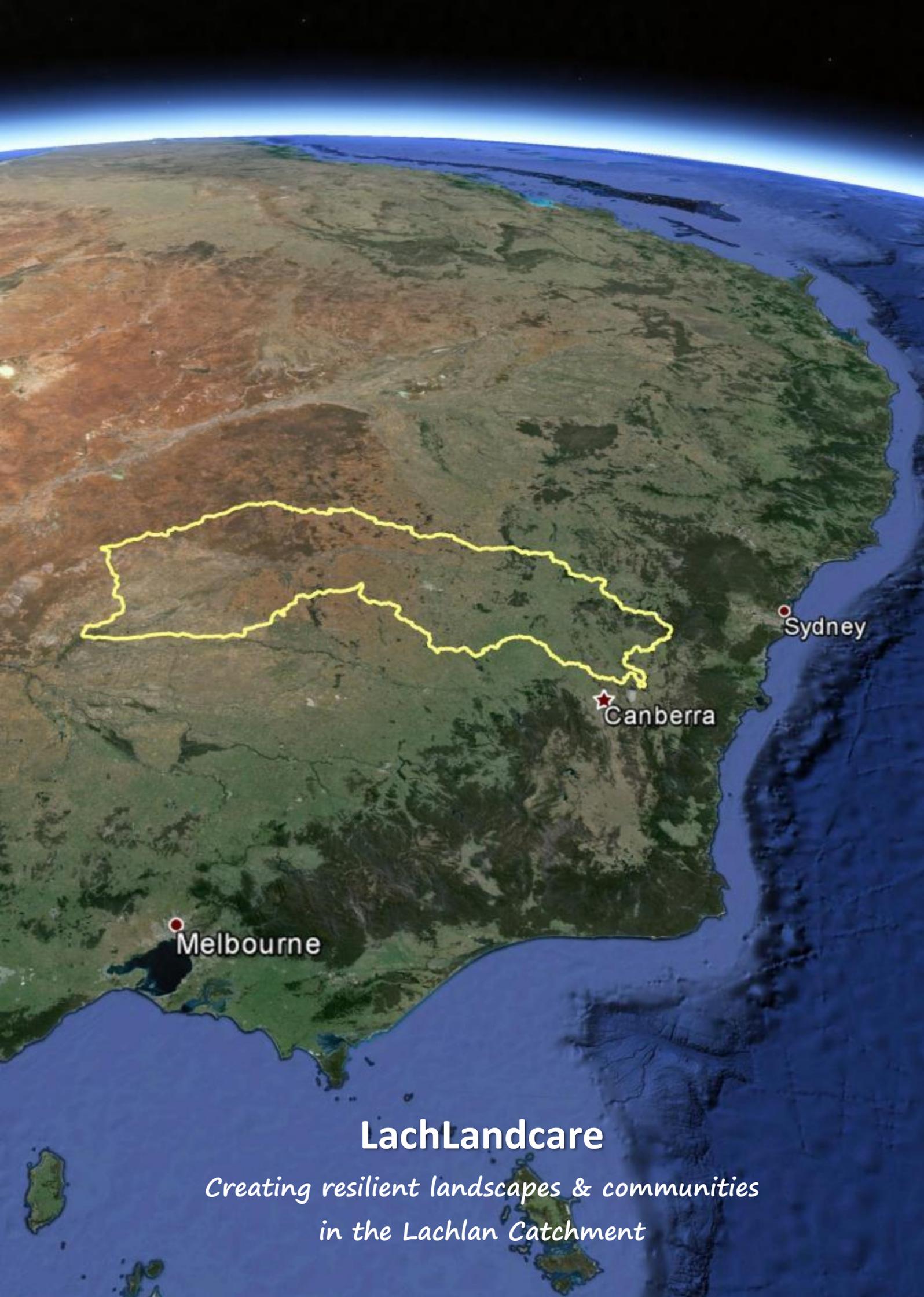


PARKES SHIRE COUNCIL



FORBES ADVOCATE





Melbourne

Canberra

Sydney

LachLandcare

*Creating resilient landscapes & communities
in the Lachlan Catchment*