



LachLandcare
Inc.

LachLandcare Inc.

Creating resilient landscapes and communities



Key Achievements 2017-18

Integrity • Respect • Trust

• Volunteerism •

• Continuous Improvement •

The Lachlan



OUR MISSION

LachLandcare operates a Committee of community Landcare delegates that provides governance, training and support for Landcare groups and networks in the Lachlan. It also provides support for landcare activities where there are no formal operating district networks. LachLandcare advocates, communicates and mentors the Landcare philosophy, action and outcomes to create resilient landscapes and communities in the Lachlan. LachLandcare facilitates and builds collaborative partnerships, and facilitates 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 delivering sustainable agriculture, biodiversity, productivity, community and financial outcomes.

Objectives

The principal objects of LachLandcare which are identified in our Constitution are:

- ❖ sustainable natural resource management in the ecological, social, cultural and economic interests of the Lachlan catchment and its surrounding regions;
- ❖ an inclusive leadership network that is responsive to the needs of the community and its landcare groups and Districts;
- ❖ a landcare network which is coordinated, with strong partnerships and the commitment and capacity to work collaboratively;
- ❖ a landcare network which is robust, resilient and able to grow; and
- ❖ a landcare network which is understood, valued and supported by government, business, and philanthropic and other organisations.

2017 – 2018

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Our Journey

Strong Foundations

LachLandcare Incorporated (LLI) was founded in 2009 as an umbrella organisation to represent grassroots Landcare throughout the Lachlan catchment. Our vision is to create resilient landscapes and communities in the Lachlan catchment through *creative partnerships and strategic action*.

Over the past eight years LLI has transformed into an efficient and effective network underpinned by rigorous governance and a team of passionate and committed staff and volunteers. LachLandcare offers a range of services to its members with the view to coordinating landscape scale change for environmental, sustainable agriculture and community outcomes:

- ❖ Advocate – speak out and negotiate for the interests of network members at local, regional and state levels
- ❖ Strategist – set a clear strategic direction for the network and develop the necessary capacity to achieve this
- ❖ Broker – source funding and connect to information and expertise that meets the interests of members
- ❖ Project manager – set up systems to manage projects, staff and finances and keep working relationships within the network transparent and accountable
- ❖ Group facilitator – support member groups so that they can maintain membership, capacity and effort and stay connected to wider landscape issues
- ❖ Community catalyst – extend the influence of Landcare to other landholders and decisions makers in the community

With changes to institutional boundaries, LachLandcare remains the only community representative body for natural resource management that focuses on the whole of the Lachlan catchment.

Foreword from the Chair

Welcome again to the LachLandcare Annual Report for the year ending 30th June 2018.

I am delighted to report another very positive year in which we have worked closely with stakeholders to produce benefit to the landcare community across the Lachlan region.

This has been a year of further consolidation for LachLandcare, midway through the Local Landcare Coordinator Initiative, and as we come to the end of the 2015 -2017 Strategic Plan. We are now provided with a wonderful opportunity to reflect on what has been achieved over this time and consider future directions with our members and stakeholders, in preparation for a new Local Landcare Coordinator Initiative bid.



It has been a privilege to Chair LachLandcare Incorporated Executive Committee for this year. The team has worked together well with one aim – improvement of the sustainable management in the Lachlan. We have been developing new partnerships to ensure this occurs, working closely with four Local Land Services Regions - Central West, Riverina, South East and Central Tablelands – along with other State government agencies such as the Office of Environment and Heritage, Department of Primary Industry and local governments.

As can be seen by this report, there has been a myriad of activities, including education, capacity building, grant writing, providing information to local landholders, increasing community involvement in landcare in urban areas of the region and much, much more.

I encourage you to learn about what has been achieved by a dedicated team of volunteers supported by our professional Landcare Coordinators.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Emma Thomas'.

Emma Thomas
Chair – LachLandcare Incorporated

Our Partners

Our Project Partners

We are working with partners and collaborators throughout the Lachlan catchment to deliver a number of landcare projects and initiatives. We are supported in their work by over 70 partners which include:

- ❖ Local Land Services (Central West, Riverina, South East, Central Tablelands)
- ❖ Landcare NSW
- ❖ Lake Cowal Foundation
- ❖ Temora Shire Council
- ❖ Lachlan Shire Council
- ❖ Hilltops Council
- ❖ Goulburn Mulwaree Council
- ❖ Bland Shire Council
- ❖ Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet
- ❖ Office of Environment and Heritage
- ❖ Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder
- ❖ Department of Primary Industry
- ❖ Lower Lachlan Community Services
- ❖ Foundation for National Parks
- ❖ National Parks and Wildlife Service
- ❖ Birds NSW
- ❖ Greening Australia
- ❖ WIRES
- ❖ Southern Tablelands Arts
- ❖ FarmLink
- ❖ Central West Farming Systems
- ❖ Schools throughout the Catchment
- ❖ Mid Lachlan Landcare
- ❖ Central West Lachlan Landcare
- ❖ Central Tablelands Landcare
- ❖ Tarlo-Middle Arm Landcare
- ❖ Wingecarribee Bushcare

Our Members

LachLandcare Inc. is delighted to have the support of our District Members, who contribute to governance and capacity to deliver landcare initiatives throughout the region:

Condobolin and Districts Landcare were founded in 2000 with the aim of improving the long-term productivity, profitability and sustainability of our land and communities.

Young District Landcare operates as an independent and voluntary group of producers, landholders and community members who share a common interest and regard for landcare outcomes for the community, farm businesses and landscapes

of the district. Their aims are to identify and raise awareness of natural resource degradation issues, encourage adoption of sustainable natural resource management practices, and foster cooperation within the community.

Weddin District Landcare is production and biodiversity focused, with the objective to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the Weddin Shire whilst promoting sustainable agricultural practices. Grenfell Urban Landcare (a sub-group of Weddin Landcare) was formed in April and immediately established a 'Friends of Company Dam Reserve' group to explore and protect the flora and fauna of Company Dam Reserve. Weddin Community Nursery is another successful sub-group operated by Weddin Landcare.

Upper Lachlan Landcare was formed by the Upper Lachlan Catchment Coordinating Committee to support Landcare activities in the Upper Lachlan Region. They act as the umbrella Landcare Group for the 13 Landcare Groups of the Upper Lachlan catchment and assist local groups with events, projects, funding applications and brokering partnerships with Government and other agencies.

Boorowa Community Landcare Group (BCLG) was established in 1989 to address the issue of dryland salinity on agricultural land. They host community-based workshops and field days, volunteer tree planting weekends, and a coordinated fox baiting program.

Hovells Creek Landcare Group (HCLG) formed in 1995 and has since grown into an important self-help, local area, support body of some 50 farm family members. They act as a professional body to organise field trips, on-farm workshops and field days, as well as managing funding support for important environmental projects. Some regional activities are organised in association with our Boorowa, Crookwell or Cowra based Landcare associates.

Our People

LachLandcare Committees

The LLI Local Landcare Coordinators and Project Officers were well supported by the LachLandcare Executive Committee, which met five times during the year. At the last 2016-17 AGM it was agreed to add objects to the Constitution, which would enable LLI registration as a charity.

LachLandcare Executive Committee members for 2017-18 were:

Chair: Emma Thomas (also Landcare NSW rep (west))

Deputy Chair: Charlie Arnott

Treasurer: Mark Shortis

Secretary: Steph Drum

Public Officer: Mark Shortis

Member: Keith Hyde (Hovells Creek) (also Landcare NSW rep (east))

Member: Nerida Croker (Upper Lachlan)

Member: Kris Dunstan (Temora-Bland)

Member: Mal Carnegie (Temora-Bland)

Our General Committee members for 2017-18 was:

James Maslin (Weddin District Landcare)
Brian Allen (Condobolin and Districts Landcare)
Kath McGuirk (Boorowa Community Landcare Group)
Katrina Hudson (Young District Landcare)
Margot Jolly (Central West Lachlan Landcare)

Lachlandcare also has two local steering groups which guide the work of the coordinators in Lake Cargelligo and Temora-Bland.

Lachlan Landcare Staff

LachLandcare and its members are fortunate to have the expertise and enthusiasm of a dedicated team:

Anne Duncan (MBA, BSc(Hons), BSc. (For)), General Manager LachLandcare. Anne has extensive experience in natural resource management and running organisations. Her background includes forestry, wildlife research and strategic planning, rural and remote natural resource management, parks and wildlife, botanic gardens, fisheries and water management. Anne has worked in government at all levels, including as Regional Manager for Parks and Wildlife in Tasmania and Director of the Australian National Botanic Gardens. Currently she works from her own consulting business while completing a PhD in business strategy and sustainability.

Mikla Lewis OAM, Local Coordinator for Weddin and Young. Mikla has been a resident of Grenfell since 2000, where she manages a property with her partner for both biodiversity conservation and sheep production. Mikla has an extensive background in natural resource management and sustainable agriculture and has worked with native animals and plants all her working life. She has been employed as Coordinator for Young District Landcare since 2014 and Weddin Landcare since the beginning of 2016.

Mary Bonet (M. Env. Mgmt., B. L arch, Dip Journalism), Local Coordinator for Yass Goulburn. Mary was born and raised in the Goulburn District, where she currently manages a small farm and works as a freelance consultant. Mary is a Landcare professional with years of experience in Landcare and NRM. Mary has held various roles with community groups at district, regional and state level.

Megan Harris (M. Sust. Agric), Local Coordinator for Bland-Temora to Dec 2017. Megan is based just out of Temora where she lives on a small scale off-grid farm with a micro poultry enterprise. Megan has a background in environmental science and sustainable agriculture and has spent much of her professional career in the carbon forestry sector in plantation establishment, management and systems development with CO2 Australia.

Britt Turner (B. Env Sc.), Local Coordinator for Bland-Temora from Dec 2017 Britt is a Temora local, growing up on a sheep and cropping farm at Milvale. A recent graduate, Britt has worked in ecology and water sciences throughout Hay and Hillston along the Lachlan River doing reptile, bird, fish and vegetation surveys. She has also done research into invasive animals, as part of her studies, mostly deer, and the social conflicts associated with them. Britt is keen to share her passion for the environment and farming in the community.

Libby Roesner (PhD), Local Coordinator for Condobolin District. Libby has worked in the field of agriculture and natural resource management since 1989. She studied Agricultural Science at Sydney University and completed her PhD in Soil Science. She was the Pasture Research Agronomist and Coordinator for Grain and Graze at the Condobolin Research and Advisory Station. In 2008, Libby and her husband purchased their farm at Condobolin situated on the Lachlan River where they grow both irrigated and dryland crops, run sheep, and spell horses on native and improved pastures.

Andrew Lucas, Lake Cargelligo Local Coordinator. Andrew has extensive experience in small business, nursery management and innovative employment programs, such as the Green Army.

John Daly (B.Env.Sc.), Sustainable Agriculture Project Officer. John grew up in Cowra on the banks of the Lachlan River. After studying Environmental Science and Geology he returned to Cowra and the family farm in 2014. After studying Alan Savory's Holistic Management techniques he and the family have begun to improve the diversity of their native pastures and health of the soil while running their prime lamb enterprise.

Linda Thomas (B.App.Sc.(Agric)), Sustainable Agriculture Project Officer from June 2017. Linda grew up on a farm near Lake Cargelligo and is currently a farmer near West Wyalong. She has a professional background in Agriculture, having worked as a technical officer for soils at the Central West Farming Systems, including on acid soils and salinity. Linda has also worked in the region in mining and agroforestry. In her spare time, Linda is involved in the Lachlan Fold Wildlife Action Group, a group which promotes habitat protection and restoration around West Wyalong.

Ciara Hall, Finance and Administration Manager. Originally from Ireland, now a resident of Condobolin, Ciara manages bookkeeping and payroll for LachLandcare as well as other administration.

Ruth Aveyard, Coordinator for Upper Lachlan Landcare, has had a long-term interest and passion for natural resource management. She has had previous experience working on the biological control of weeds, grain storage and at the local Livestock Selling Exchange. Ruth lives in Goulburn, NSW and enjoys the social interactions and extension work her position as coordinator brings. She is committed to deliver better outcomes for landholders and their landscapes.

Linda Cavanagh, Coordinator for Boorowa Community Landcare Group and Hovells Creek Landcare Group. Linda has a background in Agricultural Science and Holistic Management and has lived and worked on properties in South West NSW for 25 years, promoting the symbiosis of agricultural productivity with thoughtful land management. A co-ordinator with Boorowa Community Landcare Group (BCLG) since 2016, she extended to include Hovells Creek Landcare Group (HCLG) in 2017. Linda works with her landcare committees, members and the community to build collaborative partnerships to support and promote biodiversity, well-being and productive landscapes.

Highlights

Continuing to Successfully Deliver Regional Landcare Investment

As a project manager and facilitator this financial year, LachLandcare continued the delivery of over \$975,000 of investment sourced for Landcare in the Lachlan catchment from the following initiatives and partnerships:

- ❖ Local Landcare Coordinator Initiative, (Landcare NSW in partnership with Local Land Services);
- ❖ Rebalancing a Vegetative Landscape project in partnership with Central West Lachlan Landcare, Weddin Landcare, Condobolin District Landcare and Central West Local Land Services;
- ❖ Healthy Soils for Healthy Farms project, funded under the National Landcare Program
- ❖ South East Landcare Champions, funded under the National Landcare Program
- ❖ SE Landcare Support Program
- ❖ Saving our Superb Parrot, funded under the NSW Save Our Species Program

As a project partner, we have continued to contribute to regional partnerships and communities of practice for the South East, Central West, Riverina and Central Tablelands regions. As an organisation focused on continuous improvement, we have established sub-committees; held planning meetings to identify priorities in the catchment; developed policies and procedures; and recruited support staff and project staff to deliver good governance and project outcomes.

Region-wide Events and Activities

Healthy Soils Workshops



We delivered the Healthy Soils for Healthy Farms capacity building project, which aimed to develop the understanding of soil health throughout the Lachlan Catchment. The project, funded through the National Landcare Program, facilitated delivery of six one day workshops by agro-ecologist David Hardwick in August and September 2017. Workshops were held in all areas - Currawang, Rye Park, Milvale, West Wyalong, Tullibigeal and Mossgiel and were attended by over 60 people. Several u-tube videos were also developed as resources for farmers interested in soil health.

LachLandcare Member Survey

As part of preparation for a new Strategic Plan a survey of LachLandcare Stakeholders

was undertaken. Main findings included:

- ❖ Current annual \$10 membership fee should be maintained
- ❖ Mixed skill and representative based committee model should be maintained
- ❖ Priorities for collaborative action were identified as
- ❖ Weeds;
- ❖ Regenerative agriculture/ soils; and
- ❖ Landscape approach to revegetation
- ❖ Most important services of LachLandcare were Broker, Facilitator and Advocate

Landcare NSW Conference recognises our Lachlan Landcare Champions

All staff attended the Landcare NSW conference and muster held from 25-27 October 2017, which was attended by over 300 people. Lachlandcare presented a poster paper and made several nominations for Landcare NSW awards, with great success:

- ❖ In the Individual Landcarer Award, Ms Mikla Lewis, from Weddin and Young District Landcare and Mr David Marsh from Boorowa Community Landcare were both recognised as champions, with Mr David Marsh going forward to represent NSW at the National Awards.
- ❖ The Fairfax Landcare Community Group award was taken out by the Friends and Residents of Goulburn Swamplands group, affectionately known as FROGS.
- ❖ Crookwell potato farmer Mr Garry Kadwell won the Australian Government Innovation in Agriculture and Land Management award for leadership in the discovery and application of innovative land management practices that deliver improved natural resource management and farm productivity outcomes. Garry's highly productive property "Rosedale" is recognized as a leading sustainable farming enterprise and is a model for the integration of conservation into property management and the benefits that it can have for both improved productivity and biodiversity outcomes.
- ❖ The final NSW champion from the LachLandcare region is Mr. Ross Webster from Yass Landcare who took out the inaugural NSW Fish Habitat Partnership Individual Award. Ross has been a champion of the Yass River and its habitat for over two decades.

These awards highlight the hard work and innovation that is going on all over the Lachlan region and inspires us to try and build on and connect these efforts.

Governance Workshop guides committees

A significant catchment highlight for Landcare committees in the Lachlan was a workshop on Good Governance by well-known “Governance Guru” Steven Bowman. It was facilitated by Lachlandcare with funding from Landcare NSW, Murrumbidgee Landcare, National Landcare Program and CWLLS, and was attended by over 30 people at the Young RSL.



Local Landcare Highlights

Local Landcare Coordinators were able to provide communities with many opportunities for collaboration and projects across multiple locations. These projects are diverse, engaging, supportive, and at the heart of the landcare movement.

In 2017-18 Lachlandcare Local Landcare coordinators:

- ❖ Organised over 70 events and workshops to engage the public with landcare
- ❖ Engaged over 13,300 people in eight communities
- ❖ Wrote over 685 Media articles/facebook posts
- ❖ Worked with over 70 partner organisations
- ❖ Facilitated a range of on-ground outcomes on both landholder properties and as part of community activities including; tree planting (over 2700 trees), fox baiting (80,000ha) and installation of bat boxes.
- ❖ Developed over 20 resources for the public about landcare and biodiversity

Examples of the work Coordinators are involved in are profiled in the case studies presented on the following pages. The overall success of the Local Coordinator program is illustrated in the statistics above.

Our Coordinators also continue to share the knowledge, experience and training benefits that arises from participation in four Communities of Practice that operate across the multiple regions of Local Land Services we intersect with. In addition, LachLandcare maintains its own community of practice through regular team meetings and staff training events. In addition, coordinators attended a total of 25 days of training, including topics such as first aid, facilitation, communication along with conferences such as Conservation in Action. All coordinators have work-plans against which progress is evaluated every six months.

Goulburn Yass Landcare

The main achievements for Goulburn and Yass in 17 -18 successfully promoted our Landcare region to the wider community. We held a range of events to showcase the work that our volunteers have been doing to improve our local environment. We held tours to outstanding properties and group activities with over 200 attendees in total at these events and recognizing the work of 8 local champions in Goulburn/Yass regions. We also promoted our local champions at the State Landcare level and can proudly boast one group and three individuals receiving recognition at the NSW Landcare Awards in Albury last October. FROGS Landcare Goulburn (Community Group Award), Garry Kadwell – Innovative Agriculture, John Ives - Innovative Agriculture and Ross Webster- Fish habitat Award.

Another highlight was the Climate Conversation event in Yass. This event was a sell out with over 220 people from school students through to leaders in regenerative agriculture attending a very inspiring event. In March 2018, we launched a new education collaboration for local schools – Kreative Koalas.

Key Local highlights

- ❖ NSW Landcare Awards Albury
- ❖ SE Champions bus trips- Goulburn and Yass
- ❖ Climate Forum – Yass
- ❖ Collaborating with Local Councils, Government Agencies in particular OEH, local organisations (such as WIRES and Southern Tablelands Arts, and neighbouring Landcare regions.

Weddin District Landcare and Young District Landcare

Both Young and Weddin Landcare Districts have focussed on engaging their respective communities in promoting the use of sustainable agricultural practices throughout the region while maintaining and enhancing biodiversity. We have achieved this by ensuring that our organised events showcase the value of biodiversity in farming. These included Wattle Day Seed Collecting workshops, regenerative farming field days and Native Bee/Pollinator workshops,. In the last year of our long-term Microbats in the Young District project, we have focussed on exploring and promoting the value of microbats on farms, running a very successful Microbats on Farms workshop in June and producing an Educational Resource Package for landholders, schools and community groups. A highlight of the year was attending and presenting a poster at the Australasian Bat Society Conference in Sydney in April, with Young District Landcare Committee member (now Chair) Anne Lemon.

Urban Landcare activities have been promoted through plantings on four Council reserves in Young and restoration of Vaughn's Dam TSR in Grenfell. The plantings in Young have been funded through three different sources while the Vaughn's Dam project is being funded through two sources.

By running activities to cater for a wide range of community interests, we have engaged and built input from the community, increasing our email contacts and memberships as a result. Weddin Landcare conducted a very successful Community Survey of rural landholders earlier in the year, seeking input for the future direction of its projects and activities. Newsletters and updates, social media posts and use of local newspapers and radio to promote events, all ensure the continued engagement of the community.

The sustainability of the Landcare groups has been nurtured through regular committee meetings, dedication and long-term commitment of committee members, promotion of the groups through the media, maintaining a Facebook and website presence through the invaluable work of Landcare Support Officer Vanessa Cain, attendance of committee members at the Good Governance workshop, and building the financial health of the groups through successful grant writing and reporting, and encouraging paid membership (Young only).

Key Local highlights

- ❖ Continuing to promote integration of agriculture and biodiversity
- ❖ Microbat project completion
- ❖ Urban landcare progress

- ❖ Social media profile

Condobolin and Districts Landcare

Condobolin & District Landcare aims to improve the long-term productivity, profitability and sustainability of our land and communities. They are located in the heart of NSW and cover the towns/regions of Condobolin, Lake Cargelligo, Derriwong, Ootha, South Gipps, Moonbi, Warroo, Mt Hope, Gilgunnia, Euabalong West, Vermont Hill and Four Creeks.

Condobolin & District has had a busy year organising over 20 different events and activities, these varied from bird watching walks and tree and seed planting activities to regular community gardening group meetings. They also ran the inaugural and very successful primary school's "Environment Day" involving five local schools and nine informative presenters. They ran a "Think Tank" to discuss regenerative agriculture, screened a movie and ran a "Grazing Revolution" bus tour to look at these activities further afield. They have also held grazing training days with landholders. The fox-baiting groups have been popular and have seen an increase with over fifty landholders involved in eleven neighbourhood groups this year. This initiative has proven worthwhile as an activity to get landholders coordinated and working together. The Local Landcare Coordinator has held several meetings with local Landcare committees and with community groups and has also commenced the "Boomerang Bags" movement in Condobolin working with the local High School and community volunteers to encourage the reduction of plastic bag use in the community.

Key Local highlights

- ❖ Renewed local enthusiasm and activity
- ❖ Successful school environment day
- ❖ Fox baiting groups facilitating collaboration
- ❖ Boomerang bags starting conversations

Temora-Bland Landcare



After a slow start, Temora Bland is moving ahead, holding 12 events this year, ably and enthusiastically supported by Temora Shire Council and the Lake Cowal Foundation. New Coordinator Britt Turner is a local who's enthusiasm for the role is paying dividends in terms of local knowledge and persistence. Both Temora and Bland have community gardens and this provides a focus for "urban landcare"

in each community. A "swift parrot" breakfast on World Environment Day provided a wonderful introduction to "birding" for 20 enthusiasts and was a highlight for all concerned. Hopefully it is the first of many. Temora-Bland now has its own Facebook page which has 314 regular followers.

Key Local highlights

- ❖ Increasing enthusiasm for community gardens

- ❖ Building local engagement
- ❖ Swift parrot breakfast engagement

Lake Cargelligo Landcare

Lake Cargelligo Local Coordinator Andrew Lucas has spent most of his limited time on developing a partnership between LachLandcare, Murrin Bridge Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC), Skillset Environment and Lower Lachlan Community Services – the Grass Roots initiative. Commencing in January 2018, it built on the successful elements of the Green Army model by establishing a social enterprise business to meet the multiple needs of a broad range of sectors, such as land and water management, conservation and monitoring, and agriculture. The Grass Roots team have been contracted by National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH), and Western Local Land Services (LLS) to do a variety of land management tasks, including weed control and wetland restoration. The participants have gained invaluable experience and on the job training in biodiversity and habitat restoration, wetland monitoring and water delivery, biosecurity, revegetation and other natural resource management activities, while benefiting from Traditional Owner mentoring. The Grass Roots team at Lake Cargelligo Landcare with Andrew Lucas (Left).



Key Local highlight

- ❖ The Grass Roots Team!

Upper Lachlan Landcare

Upper Lachlan Landcare supports and enables people in the Upper Lachlan to care for the environment and improve our landscape. A significant recent achievement has been the participation of local landholders with our Upper Lachlan Landcare Grazing Group. The grazing group creates an opportunity for local landholders to come together and share their knowledge and experience so everyone can learn. We host seasonal round table meetings, guest speakers, farm tours, one on one farm visits and facilitate shared conversations. In September, we were very excited to host a morning with Charles Massey speaking and 60 people attending. It was inspiring to hear Charles share the stories of so many landholders successfully using regenerative farming practices and realising the three-fold outcomes of better outcomes for themselves, their landscapes and their profits.

Another recent focus for Upper Lachlan Landcare has been to update our constitution and review all our core working documents. Whilst these activities don't have a direct, on-ground outcome they are vital to have in place to enable us to target our efforts in a purposeful, relevant and resilient manner.

A clear recent highlight has also been our partnership with a total of 8 organisations

in the Saving Our Superb Parrot Project funded by Office of Environment and Heritage. This has been a wonderful opportunity to provide funding directly to local landholders to plant habit restoring paddock trees. It has also been enormously beneficial to work together, sharing information and resources across such a large geographical area but, more importantly, across such an extensive knowledge base. This project is an excellent example of how we can achieve so much more when working collectively.

Key Local highlights

- ❖ Upper Lachlan Landcare Grazing Group participation
- ❖ Saving Our Superb Parrot Partnership Project
- ❖ Developing sound management processes
- ❖ Building connections with local schools and school age students
- ❖ Supporting good mental health with our members

Boorowa Community Landcare Group

Boorowa Community Landcare Group (BCLG) has run events and regular members' activities on a vast range of topics from regenerative agriculture, pasture cropping, fodder shrubs, grazing, fruit tree pruning, bees, drones & other technology. This has been supported by the Community Industry Landscape Fund of the National Landcare Programme Stage 1, which has now concluded.

A key highlight has been the formation of BCLG Next-Gen Grazing Group, which was re-branded earlier this year to Re-Gen Grazing Group, so as not to define 'who we were' but rather 'what we were doing'. A series of planning meetings identified the desire to go on farm and share knowledge on each other's properties, and the group has been meeting bi-monthly since early 2017, utilising Scott Hickman as a facilitator. Implementation of the Environment Trust "Land and water connections for Superb parrots and Pygmy Perch in the Pudman Catchment" project has funded birdwatching, seed collecting and riparian restoration activities as well as on-ground works by 6 landholders.

BCLG was a key driver in running the south east sub-region champions events, including: Mini Muster in Boorowa (7th December 2017), Landcare Champions Event Yass (18th November 2017), Landcare Champions Event Boorowa-Hovells Creek (24th March 2018), and the forum: Join the Climate Conversation, Rural Communities Making a difference (25th May 2018). All of these events were very successful culminating in 220 people at the Climate Conversation in Yass.



BCLG recognises a need to emphasise the important role of Landcare in building drought resilience and the need for ongoing funding support for coordinators. The Regen-Ag group and local champions with profile, such as Boorowa Landcare NSW Award winner Mr David Marsh, can play a key role in widely promoting the benefits of landcare in media and social media.

Key Local highlights

- ❖ Formation of Re-gen Grazing Group
- ❖ Success of Environment Trust grant – land and water connections for Superb parrots and Pygmy Perch in the Pudman Catchment
- ❖ Partnership with North Sydney Bushcare and visit to Coal Loader in North Sydney
- ❖ South east sub-region partnership events
- ❖ Partner in successful partnership project bid for Superb Parrots
- ❖ David Marsh recognised as NSW Landcare Champion

Hovells Creek Landcare Group

HCLG continued to work on its Environment Trust project, planting more paddock trees and patches to contribute to restoration of the K2W east-west flyway. To date 1205 trees have been planted, with another season to come.

The Group also continue to plan their activities to maximise impact and have sought funding for containment of serrated tussock in the Wyangala area and for erosion mitigation in the Hovells Creek, Boorowa River and Maryamma Creek catchments, which are contributing to sedimentation in the Lachlan River.



HCLG was a part of the south east sub-region champion events and the successful Superb Parrot project bid, in partnership with BCLG and LachLandcare.

Key Local highlights

- ❖ Continuing on-ground works in Great Eastern Ranges initiative
- ❖ Project planning for catchment projects
- ❖ South east sub-region partnership events
- ❖ Partner in successful partnership project bid for Superb Parrots

Case Studies

BLAND – TEMORA LANDCARE

Pulling a swifty: A Swift Parrot winter walk through Ingalba Nature Reserve, Temora

The issue. The Swift Parrot is an endangered species, which migrates from Tasmania to the Riverina each winter to feed on winter flowering eucalyptus trees. Unfortunately, the Riverina community is not very familiar with the species or the importance of the local vegetation to its survival.



The solution. To help celebrate World Environment Day on the 5th of June, a “Birds of the Bland” Breakfast was held at the local Ironbark woodlands of Ingalba Nature Reserve, Temora. This was run as part of a large Environment Trust funded project to protect Swift Parrots and their habitat. The project is managed by the Australian National University and is a large collaboration of research and community organisations across the range of the species. It was monitoring carried out as part of this project, which identified a large population of the birds residing in the Temora area during 2017. Accompanied by guest speaker Debbie Saunders, a Swift Parrot expert from the Australian National University, local bird lovers soaked in a wealth of knowledge along the walk, with binoculars trained to the canopy.



The impact. 22 people, from as far away as Wagga Wagga, Cootamundra, Young, Temora and Narrandera, came out in the cold before the crack of dawn to participate in the educational morning. With many resources on hand people flicked through bird books, pamphlets and posters during the tasty BBQ breakfast. As well they took full advantage of the opportunity to chat and tell stories. This event was a “first” in the area and showed that there was great interest in bird walks in the region, and as a result more nature walks planned for the future.

Partners: Australian National University, Riverina Local Land Services, Murrumbidgee Landcare, Wagga Wagga City Council.

Key points

- 22 people participated in the educational morning.
- Raised awareness of the endangered Swift Parrot.
- Enable people to connect, network and build partnerships.
- Increased use of local nature reserves.

GOULBURN –YASS LANDCARE

Landcare Champions – Stronger Together

The Opportunity. Goulburn/Mulwaree Landcarers teamed up with neighbouring Landcare and Bushcare networks of Wingecarribee and Upper Lachlan to share knowledge, support and encourage participation and recognise local champions. This is part of developing a skilled and capable Landcare community in the South East Local Land Services region and was funded under the National Landcare Programme.



The Issue. There are hundreds of Landcare and Bushcare volunteers across our region who are working on local environmental issues in their area, dedicating many hours every week for years and even decades. Whilst the work is appreciated by the local communities, often our volunteers do not have the opportunity to step back and reflect on what they have achieved.

The Solution. Three regions, Goulburn/Mulwaree, Wingecarribee and Upper Lachlan, have teamed up for a Landcare exchange and champion celebration. The first activity involved 80 participants from the 3 regions on a tour of some of the

bushland, creek and wetland rehabilitation sites in the Wingecarribee Shire. This enabled people to see what the different groups are working on, hear about challenges and achievements and get advice on how to overcome some of these challenges. It was also an opportunity for the members to reflect on their own achievements. Following the success of this tour a second tour was arranged to

Key points

- Sharing knowledge is an important part of landcare
- Take the time to acknowledge what has been achieved.
- Recognising and thanking Champions in our community rewards us all.
- Together we are stronger

visit two sites in the Goulburn/Mulwaree region with over 100 attending from the 3 regions. This was topped off by a sit-down lunch with the announcement of 13 Landcare Champions.

The Impact. This exchange is helping to develop stronger relationships between Landcare and Bushcare groups within the networks and across the sub-region. Having the opportunity to visit a site and see what can be achieved over time is very inspiring for new groups and participants starting out. And hearing how groups have overcome adversities and challenges, and developed new and innovative approaches can be extremely useful information to other groups. The Celebration of our local champions is also something that can inspire us all - we are all rewarded when we recognise an individual or a group for their efforts.



Partners: Wingecarribee and Upper Lachlan Landcare, SE Local Land Services.

CONDOBOLIN & DISTRICTS LANDCARE

Condobolin Primary Schools Environment Day 2017

The Issue. Primary students from the Condobolin region have limited access and exposure to a variety of environmental information and expertise.

The solution. Landcare Coordinator Libby Roesner was aware that Landcare groups in the Central West and at Mudgee had held a collaborative "Environment Day" to engage students from local schools to a range of environmental issues and presenters and proposed to do the same. The aim was to give local students an opportunity to obtain a range of environmental information and get up-close with a range of activities and exhibits that would otherwise be unavailable to them.



Primary Students from all the local primary schools were invited to attend the "Environment Day" at St Joseph's Primary School on the 17th October 2017. Students in Stages 2 and 3 (Years 3 to 6) from Condobolin Public School, St Joseph's Primary

Condobolin, Tullibigeal Central School, Bogan Gate and the Condobolin MET School participated. Nine presentations were organised: "Photographing Nature" with local photographer Warren Chad; "Why Recycle" by Sue Clarke from Net Waste; "Potting-up with Paper" by Sally Russell from Lake Cowal Conservation Centre, "Looking at Local Weeds" by Laurie Thompson from Lachlan Shire Council; "Drawing Frogs" by local artist Karen Tooth, "Wonderful Water Bugs" by Mal Carnegie from the Lake Cowal Foundation; "Get Hooked - It's Fun to Fish" by Brett Smith and Russell Spencer from NSW DPI - Fisheries; "Soil Sense" by Anne Earney and Condobolin High School Students and "Recycled Art" by Heather Blackley and Jamie Coffill from Waste2Art. The students participated in five 25 to 30-minute workshop sessions.

The impact. Children were left with a wealth of knowledge and information to inform future choices in their home, community and environment. It was also a fun day of learning experiences showcasing the wide variety of environmental and sustainable resources and expertise in our local area. This provided an opportunity to learn and ask questions of experts and for the students to mix with children from different schools. The students and teachers thoroughly enjoyed the day including a delicious sausage sizzle for lunch. Partnerships and relationships were forged between all the organisations participating in delivering the Environment Day too.



Partners. Lake Cowal Conservation Centre and Foundation, Lachlan Shire Council, NSW DPI Fisheries, Condobolin HS, Waste2Art, Net Waste.

YOUNG DISTRICT LANDCARE

Growing the Bottom Line Field Trip – Exploring the integration of biodiversity and farming



The issue. On-farm conservation activities such as revegetation can improve habitat and connectivity for native birds and other animals, increase resilience to the impacts of climate change, help protect soil and waterways, address salinity and erosion issues, and provide shelter for livestock. Demonstrating that managing for increased biodiversity can help with increasing

productivity and profitability is key for facilitating the wider adoption of conservation practices in grazing and cropping systems.

The solution. Growing the Bottom Line invited participants on a field trip to visit award winning farmer David Marsh at his property 'Allendale' near Boorowa. David discussed a range of topics including why planning is important, how he's managed drought, why he began planting trees, the landscape changes he's observed over the past four decades, and how practicing holistic management and undertaking revegetation has increased biodiversity and productivity. Nicki Taws from Greening Australia also discussed how they have been able to observe biodiversity improvements by monitoring birds on the farm. The Growing the Bottom Line field trip was funded by a Riverina Local Land Services Foundational Grant



The impact. Operating a profitable business is a priority for any farming family. Sustainability of resources is also important to maintaining a viable business. Clearly demonstrating the link between managing for increased biodiversity leads to increased productivity and profitability empowers and inspires landholders. Twenty-seven participants spent the day engaged with David's first-hand account and joined in the conversation with many questions. Feedback from the day illustrates the enthusiasm felt by participants, with one stating that it was the best day in the field he had ever been to.

Key points

- Managing for increased biodiversity helps to improve productivity
- Demonstrating success leads to change
- Birds are a useful indicator of biodiversity improvements

Partners. Riverina Local Land Services, Greening Australia

UPPER LACHLAN LANDCARE

School Connections in the Upper Lachlan

The Issue. Upper Lachlan Landcare felt they would like to encourage and support school age children in our region to develop a positive connection with their living environment. Children with a better understanding of the many interactions, co-dependencies and complex systems that support a healthy environment will be much better placed to ensure our landscapes are supported into the future.

The Solution. In the past few months we have created a range of events to appeal to school age students. We have hosted a Waterbug Investigation day, presented a series of talks on endangered species and conducted regular water quality monitoring at a local creek. Students have displayed varying levels of interest and engagement, reflecting the diverse range of personalities found in one classroom.



Key points

- Encouraging children to connect with the environment is a key role to develop future landcarers
- Both students and staff can also find it fun.
- Invest in teacher capacity

The Impact. Of particular note, however, has been the enthusiasm expressed by the teachers. They appear very keen to connect with opportunities for practical learning. By being present at the school we have also been able to link in with some existing school programs, such as the presentation of STEM projects, furthering the opportunities to work together. A key learning for Upper

Lachlan Landcare has been to build the connection with the teacher, and this will in turn fuel the connections with the students.

So far, our school connection program has been very encouraging and we are looking forward to planning a targeted and worthwhile program in 2019.



BOOROWA COMMUNITY LANDCARE GROUP

Building long term understanding between the city and the country - Boorowa school visit to Coal Loader Sustainability Centre

The issue. North Sydney Bushcare staff and volunteers have been coming to Boorowa for over eighteen years to plant tree lanes as a way of promoting understanding between the city and the country. However, awareness has to work two ways and this was the second visit of Boorowa school children to experience what sustainability means in a city setting.

The solution. BCLG facilitated a two-day excursion by Boorowa Primary School to Coal Loader Sustainability Centre at Waverton. The Coal Loader platform is one of Sydney's largest publicly accessible green roof spaces and is also close to remnant bush around Balls Head point on Sydney harbour. The visit was led by North Sydney Bushcare team who explained both stories of the indigenous history of the site and the cultural uses of plants. The excursion included camping and a barbeque at the site and mapping their walk across the Sydney harbour Bridge to the Rocks.



The impact. Students from Boorowa learned about bushcare in the city. The green roof project showcased community "urban harvest" plots (vegetables, fruit trees, aquaculture) irrigated by recycled stormwater, a performance space, as well as heritage interpretation of the original coal loading operations. They also learned skills to navigate their way to Sydney (via train from Goulburn) and around the city (for 6 students it was their first visit to Sydney). Finally, students learnt about historic establishment of the English colony and the time when sailors, whalers and traders made The Rocks their home.

Key points

- Connecting country landcare to city Bushcare and building mutual understanding
- Integrated social learning experience for children to learn about sustainability.

Partners: Hilltops Council, North Sydney Council Bushcare, South East Local Land Services, Boorowa Central School.

HOVELLS CREEK LANDCARE GROUP

Sharing valuable expertise on conservation ecology – a visit by Milton Lewis to Hovells Creek

The issue. Milton Lewis has spent many years within traditional aboriginal communities, learning their cultural practices, caring for people, animals and country. In this process, he learnt much about the aboriginal use of fire, burning to increase the vigour of native grasses, enhancing conditions for ecological benefit with respect for country. Milton says he is still learning although he is now also teaching the practices to some aboriginal communities where the knowledge has been lost. Milton carried out research into why the Gouldian Finch, which was common in large numbers in northern Australia, is now disappearing. By knowing more about where Gouldian populations are, and understanding more about where their breeding sites and feeding areas are, we will be able to focus management of wildfire or grazing pressure at key population sites.



The solution. Milton's focal project during this period was to investigate causes for the decline of the endangered Gouldian finch. The answer lay in the changed fire regime that was being carried out by graziers to reduce the dominant spear grasses and he found that a varied regime of cool burns resulted in the grasses seeding in a manner such that the finches could access the seed. In summary, he discovered that different species of grasses interact in a variety of ways depending on the intensity of the burn and the season in which the fire occurs. He was then able to design management plans for specific habitats and regions occupied by finches and opened a new exciting area of research for future ecologists.

The impact. Milton has observed that whilst the use of right type of fire, at the correct time of year can enhance ecology, hazard reduction burns can often be too hot, with a flame height that will scorch leaves in canopy. He discussed the incorporation of cool burns as a management tool to decrease the density of unwanted grasses and to promote biodiversity. Milton Lewis has worked with Russell Hill, Wiradjuri descendent in a programme called 'Paddocks Alight' - Traditional burning in the Lachlan, combining traditional fire culture and modern science to manage landscape and pass on traditional knowledge.

Key point

- Milton Lewis shared his knowledge and experience with projects that utilise cultural burning and land management for both biodiversity and people.

Partners: SE Local Land Services

The Organisation

Strategic Plan

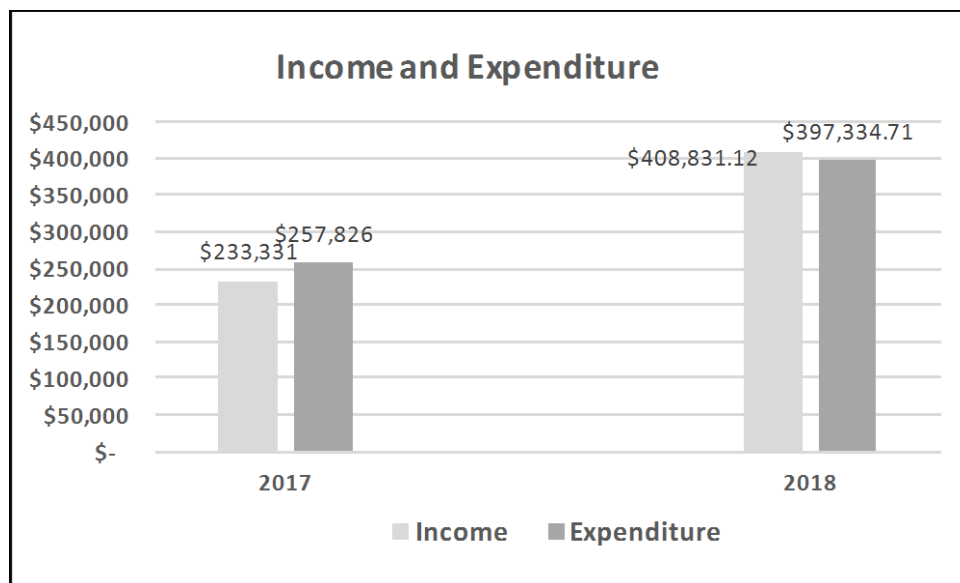
LachLandcare has a clear vision for the future that focusses on creating resilient landscapes and communities in the Lachlan. In 2015, LachLandcare released a three-year strategic plan to outline how we would achieve this vision. The strategic plan focussed on delivering four key strategies: Leading and Influencing; Building a Robust Organisation; Partnerships and Investment in Ecosystem Services; and Brand Awareness and Promotion. The Strategic Plan has continued to form the basis of annual operational planning for LachLandcare for 2017-18. In summary Lachlandcare has continued to make excellent progress, in the context of its limited resources. However now is the time for review and this is a high priority task for the 18-19 Executive Committee.

Financial Summary

Detail of the Lachlandcare financial situation can be accessed in the full financial report. The long-term financial sustainability of operation of Lachlandcare as a regional landcare network remains challenging.

Income and Expenditure

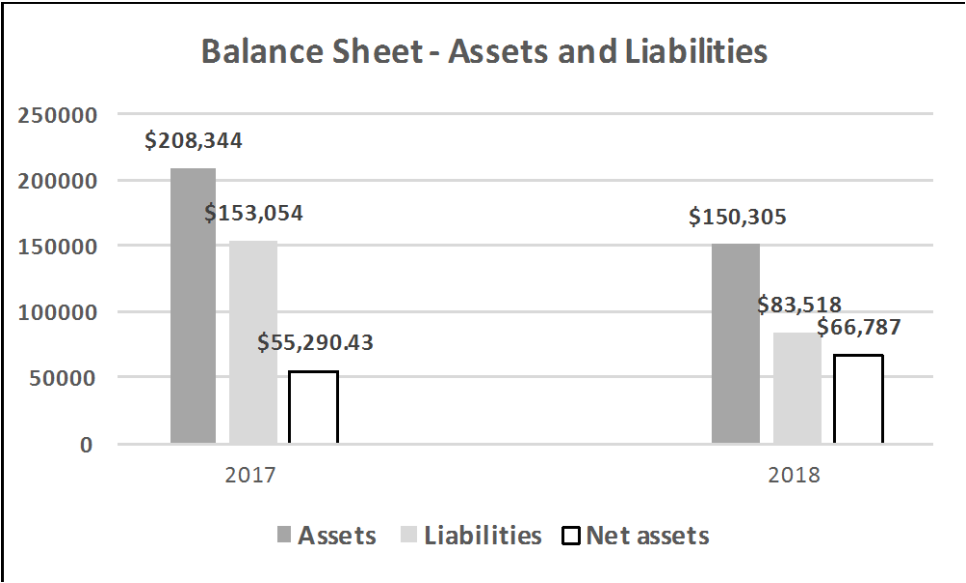
The income received by LachLandcare for the 2018 financial year was \$408,831.12. Total expenditure for 2018 was \$397,334.71. Compared to 2017, the level of activity was higher, in line with a period with low staff turnover and stability of arrangements.



Assets, Liabilities and Net Assets

Total assets held by LachLandcare in 2018 are \$150,305.07, compared to \$208,344.37 in 2017, reflecting spending against grants underspent in 2017. Similarly, liabilities have decreased from \$153,054 to \$83. At the end of 2018 the

unexpended grant liability was \$67,396.





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