



Newham & District Landcare Group

Presidents Report 2015/16

This year the group has again been highly active in the local area in addition to participating in two Landcare networks - the Upper Deep Creek and Upper Campaspe. Participation in these Landcare networks increases our profile and gives members access to additional events.

Excellent work has been undertaken by the Roadside Management Group, both on-the-ground and strategic.

Our 2013 Communities for Nature grant concluded its activities this year after 2.5 years. On-ground works were undertaken on both private (32 properties) and public land (Hanging Rock Reserve and roadsides).

Membership remained steady with just over 100 member households – over 35% of the Newham population

Highlights have been:

- 20km of roadsides with significant remnant vegetation were surveyed by a botanist/land ecologist and delivery of a report and mapping of these.
- Support for Newham Primary School in developing 'environmental awareness' through funding of specialist sessions at Newham and on excursions and camps.
- Over thirteen different functions in the year.
- Plantings on private property and public land (Hanging Rock).
- New Members function and Christmas BBQ
- Provision of services to members (Auger, Tools, Plants, Sprays, tree guards etc).

Special Interest Groups

Roadside Management Group

The Roadside Management Group continued their great work this year with further roadsides mapped and follow-ups undertaken. Specific roadsides have been targeted for the removal of gorse, blackberry and broom and the group has been instrumental in improving the contribution of the shire to roadside management.

Pest Control

Rabbits are an ongoing problem and will continue to be so unless individual landowners take responsibility for removing harbour and effectively dealing with warrens.

Over the last 2 years works have been undertaken at Hanging Rock, surrounding roadsides and on some adjacent properties, funded by our Communities for Nature grant and matching financial support from Council.

Water Watch

Newham Primary School is active in the programme and in addition monitoring of Garden Hut Creek for Melbourne Water is continuing. It will be interesting to see the levels of contaminants now it's wet given that this summer all the creeks failed to flow.

Clean Up Australia

Clean Up Australia day was a successful activity helping to reduce litter in the Newham area and contributes to the health of the environment.

Wesley Park

N&DLG provided ongoing support to maintain the areas planted with indigenous native plantings.

Social

Social activities continue to be a focus of the committee as we believe a strong social network will enhance the aims of the group and its members. The new member's night and Christmas bar-b-que were again a great success. A bar-b- que was held for young members at the Newham Primary School and this was a great success. The committee was pleased to provide these events at no door charge.

Educational

Some five events were held to impart knowledge to our members and guests. Mostly held at the Newham Mechanics Institute, these again proved popular with topics on moths, gliders and site inspections. Our seminars endeavour to be relevant and give a base for members to have a long term plan for the development of their properties.

The Committee is focused on needs and interests of members, which can be communicated in many ways.... Ring a committee member; attend a committee meeting or one of the many events that are held.

Independence is encouraged... anyone can set up a project or activity within the broad context of our landcare objectives and be assured of our overall support.

We believe strongly in community building — we want our members to feel that they belong - and to become involved in broader community landcare issues.

Lobbying

This year the committee has been engaged actively on Roadsides and Hanging Rock in encouraging the Council to maximise the environmental focus. This has caused some conflict locally but your committee believes this is unfortunately necessary to ensure environmental values are not compromised.

Committee

Thanks again go to our dedicated and hardworking Committee for their time, sense of humour, input and drive to keep us moving forward (Helen Scott, Secretary; Hilary Roberts, Treasurer; Penny Roberts, Past President; Jim Sansom, Karl Kny, Luke Spielvogel, Doug Dalglish, Howard Sterling). I acknowledge David Bonsall who manages the newsletter publication.

Above all, thanks to our members for their participation, feedback and friendship - keeping our group vibrant, interesting and one that we can be proud of.

Nick Massie,
President
July 2016