



Newham & District Landcare Group

Presidents Report 2016/17

This year the committee has again been highly active in the local area in addition to membership of the Upper Deep Creek Network.

We have been successful with several grants for local environmental improvement works. I note specifically the excellent work undertaken by the Roadside Management Group.

Participation in The Upper Deep Creek Network maintains our profile and gives access to events.

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

Highlights have been:

- Over twelve different functions in the year.
- Plantings on private property and public land (Hanging Rock). A three year Community for Nature Grant of \$157,000 concluded with on-ground works on 32 private properties and public land.
- New Members function and Christmas BBQ
- Support for Newham and Hesket Primary Schools environmental education and promoting care of our environment
- Support for formation of Hesket and Kerrie Valley Landcare Group
- Provision of services to members (Auger, Tools, Plants, Sprays, tree guards etc).
- Newsletters published quarterly with reports of events, projects, reviews, and articles

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 with the arrangement of a tour of Council Staff to highlight areas of concern.

Pest Control

Rabbits are a problem this year and while Council has been active at Hanging Rock local landowners need to do more.

Water Watch

Newham Primary School is active in the programme and with a fantastic contribution by Jenny Waugh motivating the students. In addition Karl Kny monitors Garden Hut Creek and provides results to Melbourne Water. The “normal” winter flow showed an improved quality.

Clean Up Australia

The contribution by members to Clean Up Australia day was down on numbers this year. However a substantial amount of rubbish was collected but less than previously, no doubt showing we are making a difference. Remember greater number of attendees means greater clean up, reduced litter in the Newham area and contributes to the health of the environment.

Wesley Park

N&DLG provided ongoing support for plantings and park maintenance, thanks to Jane Trikojus for her maintenance activities.

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 two new members' nights and Christmas barbecue were again a great success. A barbecue was held for young members at the Newham Primary School and again generated a large turnout from parents and pupils. The committee was pleased to provide these events at no door charge.

Educational

Four events were held to impart knowledge to our members and guests. Held generally at the Newham Mechanics Institute these again proved popular with topics on climate change, frogs, weeds and environmental planning. 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 held, and check the website.

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 their environmental focus. This is having success with greater cooperation between Council grading activities and Landcare involvement. Our committee is also participating in the review of roadsides policy. Next year we anticipate contributing to the Review of the Hanging Rock and East Paddock master plan expected to be issued for comment by MRSC.

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 and website; Hilary Roberts, Treasurer; Penny Roberts, Past President; Karl Kny, Vice President; Jim Sansom, Luke Spielvogel, Doug Dalglish). I also acknowledge the contribution of David Bonsall who manages 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 2017