

President's Message 2012

At the end of the 25th year anniversary of Landcare, it is worth looking back on the history and achievements of our Landcare group over its much shorter life.

Did you know that the inaugural meeting for the Newham & District Landcare Group occurred on May 2nd 2004? This meeting was instigated by founding president Jim Sansom, and was attended by 55 people who unanimously voted to form a Landcare group in the Newham District to complement existing groups in nearby areas. The first committee was big - 9 members - and enthusiastic, and since then 20 different members have served on the committee.

The scope of projects and activities of our group has been wide. There have been plantings and weed control on 18 local private properties, Wesley Park, Newham Primary School and Deep Creek. There are also broader landscape projects including the clearing of willows and revegetation of Deep Creek from Newham to 3 Chain Road and the creation of a biolink from the Cobaws to Mt Macedon. To carry out all these works, to buy equipment, and to support and promote Landcare activities in the area, grants of over \$300,000 have been secured.

But Landcare is not only about weeding and planting.

Specialists have given talks on:

- Weeds, rabbit and fox control, local flora and fauna, wildlife care, wildlife landscapes, property and horse management, revegetation and regeration techniques, local geology, biodiversity, fungi, farm forestry, energy efficient retrofitting of houses, soil improvement, honeybees, sustainable revegetation, property covenants.

Practical activities included:

- Wildflower walks, biological surveys, demo of the bunny blaster, inspection of clearing and revegetation projects, how to use equipment, walk the Jim Jim, basketry, plant propagation, bat netting and ID, Clean Up Australia.

Several subgroups are very active, each with a particular focus:

- Roadside weed management - the Weedies.
- Primary School liaison including the Waterwatch Program and plant propagation group.
- Wesley Park management.

And then there are the social activities - dinners on the hill, new members dinners, winter dinners, with dancing, and December BBQs, have been enjoyed by all over the years.

What a lot has been achieved - and thankyou to all who have contributed. With current membership at 108 properties/families, we hope that the next seven and a half years will be just as busy and successful as the first.

Jenny Waugh
