



## **Presidents Report 2019/20**



My first item this year is a big call out to all our members to consider getting further involved in NDLG by joining the Committee. Four committee members are stepping down, taking a hard earned break after spending more than a decade each in the role.

NDLG needs you!!!

Please put up your hand for a Committee role. It is only one meeting per month which will now be held at the Newham Hall when it is available.

Your committee this year continued to be highly active in our local area, and as being members of the Upper Deep Creek Landcare Network. (UDCLN) and Upper Campaspe Landcare Network (UCLN). A very big thank you to all our Committee members.

Our NDLG membership levels have remained steady with approximately 100 member households. This remains a very strong member base for our continued local activities.

Activities have been heavily curtailed in the last six months due to the Covid situation. This unfortunately meant we had to cancel many educational and social events.

Prior to government restrictions the group held successful educational and social events

- \* Hands-on session planting and weeding at Hanging Rock Reserve
- \* Preparation morning for a future biochar workshop
- \* Kolora field day – 30 years of farm management – property visit
- \* AGM with talk by Ian Tenby on living with wildlife
- \* Make your own Nesting Box workshop with Miles Geldard
- \* Our annual Christmas BBQ get together

We have continued with

- \* Provision of services to members (Auger, Tools, Plants, Sprayers, tree guards etc).
- \* Quarterly newsletters with reports covering events, projects, reviews, and related special interest articles

Our participation in the Upper Deep Creek and Upper Campaspe Landcare Networks provides members with access to additional relevant events, education opportunities and their newsletters. I am now Secretary of the UDCLN.

Members of the Committee have applied for financial grants throughout the year to assist in our Group's funding and it is due to their hard work that we have been successful in several applications. A big thank you to those folk involved.

We continue to use the financial funding received for the further development of the Cobaw Biolink. The Biolink contains high quality remnant vegetation on public and private land. It also provides habitat connectivity for native species between Mount Macedon and the Cobaw State Forest. Currently the main focus is on Monument Creek (Deep Creek in sections) and eastern riverine systems. Control of Gorse at Twin Bridges Bushland Reserve which is on Monument Creek continues. The group has acquired additional nesting boxes for Brush-tailed Phascogales, a pole camera for monitoring nest boxes and a motion-sensor camera for use by members wishing to record wildlife on their property.

## **Special Interest Groups**

### ***Roadside Management Group***

The Roadside Management Group has continued their great work this year. Specific roadsides have been allocated to our Landcare Group by the MRSC for the removal of gorse, blackberry, broom etc. We also received assistance from a Council grant for the purchase of equipment and herbicides.

Of course this cannot be done without enormous volunteer labour. The very invasive Chilean Needle Grass was also a focus of attention around our patch. The group continues to be instrumental in improving the contribution of the Shire to roadside management with contributions to the MRSC roadsides management strategy. We are always looking for additional members to this group. Please put your hand up, come along to join us and receive some fine plant education. We see some fabulous wild flowers when in season too.

### ***Pest Control***

Our animal pest control coordinator is Sue Barker. Local landowners can arrange contact via the committee who can assist with organising programmes.

### ***Water Watch***

Newham Primary School is continuing the programme. In addition Karl Kny monitors Garden Hut Creek and provides results to Melbourne Water.

### ***Clean Up Australia***

The contribution by members to Clean Up Australia day continues, organised by Nick Massie. A substantial amount of rubbish in March was collected, particularly drink and food packaging, paper, Hanging Rock exit receipts... We encourage all our members to pick up rubbish at every opportunity. This will reduce the litter in the Newham area and contribute to the health of our environment. No brainer really!

### ***Propagating Group***

Continues to grow indigenous native plants to order for Melbourne Water and funded Landcare projects, with surplus sold cheaply to members. Some of the funds raised have supported science programs and landscaping projects at Newham Primary School.

### ***Wesley Park***

N&DLG provides ongoing support for plantings and park maintenance.

### **Educational**

Several events have been held this year (see above list) to impart knowledge to our members and guests. Most are held at the Newham Mechanics Institute. Our seminars endeavour to be relevant to our broad membership and to provide a reference point for members to establish long term plans for the enhancement of their properties and our surrounding environments.

### **Lobbying**

The Group makes submissions to Macedon Ranges Shire Council and to various Government bodies. One example this year was the Newham Roadsides Fauna Monitoring Project in partnership with MRSC which is ongoing. Our committee is also participating in the review of the MRSC roadsides management plan.

The committee continues to be engaged actively on Roadsides and Hanging Rock, along with encouraging the Council to maximise their environmental focus. We are seeing some success with greater cooperation between Council road grading activities and Landcare involvement. There is still a way to go.

### **Future Directions**

#### ***Update-***

As reported last year, we continue to work on and formulate long term strategies for our Newham and District Landcare Group. An ongoing action plan is established based around the key priorities that members have previously identified. We are currently working more closely with our neighbour Landcare Groups such as Deep Creek.

- Activism/political involvement.
- Creation of a MAP or PLAN of biolinks and habitat corridors.
- Renewable energy technology.
- Education, creating awareness.
- Other interests such as on-property working bees, group activities, land use planning and coordination with like minded groups

### **Committee**

A big thankyou to our dedicated and hardworking Committee. The commitment of your valuable time, input and dedication to maintaining the group's direction is truly appreciated by all.

(Helen Scott, Secretary and website; Hilary Roberts past Treasurer; Rob Lawrence our new Treasurer; Penny Roberts, Karl Kny V.P.; Nick Massie, Jim Sansom, Doug Dalglish). We also acknowledge the contribution of David Bonsall who is production editor for our wonderful newsletter.

## *Newham & District Landcare Group*

Thanks also the Macedon Ranges environmental staff, in particular Michelle Wyatt, Krista Patterson-Major, William Terry and Beau Kent whose encouragement and cooperation is important in helping to deliver much of our program.

### **In closing:**

Please remember that your committee is focused on the needs and interests of all our members. Your requirements of the committee can be communicated by telephoning a committee member, attending a committee meeting or at one of our many events. Please also check the group's website (<https://newhamlandcare.info/>) which has been extensively and continuously upgraded by the hard work of our Secretary, Helen Scott. Copies of minutes of meetings are available should you like to receive them.

We encourage all members who feel the motivation / need to set up a project or activity within the context of our Landcare objectives. Please feel confident of our support. We believe strongly in community building - we want our members to feel that they belong, and to become more involved in broader community Landcare issues.

Thank you to our members for their participation, feedback and involvement in all things Landcare. Be proud of all that has and will be achieved.

Howard Stirling  
President  
August 2020