



Newham & District Landcare Group

Presidents Report 2021/22

Our vision is to enhance biodiversity and natural ecosystems within the local environment.

Your Committee again this year continued to be highly active in our local area, as well as being Committee members of the Upper Deep Creek Landcare Network. (UDCLN) and Upper Campaspe Landcare Network (UCLN).

A big thank you to all our Committee members for their hard work in all things NDLG.

Our NDLG membership levels have again remained steady with 120 member households and we welcomed several new families. This high membership level gives us a very strong member base for our continued local activities.

The big one of course was our group winning the Australian Community Media Victorian Landcare Community Group Award in November 2021. We held a small gathering at the Newham Hall on the night of the presentations due to Covid restrictions and watched our acceptance video. What a fabulous recognition for NDLG and our wonderful members! We have also been nominated for the ACM National Landcare Award with 24 August 22 being the announcement date.

Whilst our activities have again been heavily curtailed by the ongoing Covid19 situation, we were able to hold a few more educational and social events...

- ❖ Kolora property Field Day
- ❖ AGM held in December 2021
- ❖ Annual Christmas BBQ social event
- ❖ Participated in Clean up Australia Day
- ❖ Eucalypt and Snow Gum identification day on country
- ❖ Natures Playmates event with guided activities for children
- ❖ Platypus information evening with Geoff Williams
- ❖ NCCMA grant events and planting days on properties (3)
- ❖ Snow Gum project report launch with Macedon Ranges Shire Council
- ❖ Dinner for new members

We have been able to continue with:

* Provision of services to members (Auger, Tools, Plants, Sprayers, tree guards, wildlife cameras etc.).

* Quarterly newsletters with reports covering events, projects, reviews, and related special interest articles

Landcare Networks

Our participation in the Upper Deep Creek and Upper Campaspe Landcare Networks provides members with access to additional relevant events and education opportunities (eg on seed collection, plant propagation, pollination, seed balls), and their newsletters.

Grants

Members of the Committee have again applied for financial grants throughout the year to assist in our group's funding and for projects. It is due to their hard work that we have been successful in several applications, such as a Victorian Landcare grant for the Langethy Creek rehabilitation project. 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 a main focus is on Monument Creek (Deep Creek in sections) and eastern riverine systems. The group has acquired additional nesting boxes for Brush-tailed Phascogales along with providing 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, albeit reduced due to the impacts of the restrictions and weather. Specific roadsides have been allocated to our Landcare Group by the MRSC for the removal of gorse, blackberry, broom etc. We also received further financial assistance from a Council grant for the purchase of equipment and herbicides. A special mention to Jane Trikojus who has worked tirelessly on Jim Road.

Of course this cannot be done without enormous volunteer labour. The very invasive Chilean Needle Grass remains a focus of attention around our patch. The group continues to be instrumental in improving the contribution of the Shire to roadside management.

We are always looking for additional members to this group. Please 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. We hope to see Heskett Primary School participating very soon.

Plant orders

We provide annual indigenous plant ordering facilities for members. We obtain their ordered plants from commercial suppliers at a heavily discounted price to members. Get in early with

your orders to ensure the plants will be available to you. We are now utilising TreeProject for the bulk of our plant numbers.

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 and partnerships

The Group makes submissions to Macedon Ranges Shire Council and to various Government bodies. We continue the Newham Roadsides Fauna Monitoring Project in partnership with MRSC. Our committee also participated in the review of the MRSC roadsides management plan recently and are engaged in an ongoing capacity. We were a partner in 2022 with MRSC in a collaborative and very successful research project called *Adapting to Climate Change - Monitoring Snow Gum Health*.

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 and Landcare Networks, and Macedon Ranges Shire Council, who we thank for their support.

- 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 huge 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; Rob Lawrence, Treasurer; Karl Kny V.P., Doug Dalgleish, Natasha Gayfer, Stephen Mahon who has now left the district). Penny Roberts thankfully continues to attend!! We also acknowledge the contribution of David Bonsall who is production editor for our wonderful newsletter publication, and Fran Spain who has stepped up this year in his absence.

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, to set up a project 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 2022