

# Newham group wins state ACM Landcare award

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Local News

The incredible work of a dedicated group of families in the Newham district has been recognised at the 2021 Victorian Landcare Awards.



Newham and District Landcare Group with the state award. Back row (l-r) - Alice Aird, Karl Kny, Sue Massie, Natasha Gayfer, UDCLN facilitator Clare Watson. Front row (l-r) - Hilary Roberts, Penny Roberts, Helen Scott, Howard Stirling, Rob Lawrence .

ADVERTISING

Newham and District Landcare Group took out the ACM Landcare Community Group Award for its efforts in protecting and restoring the environment.

The group's major project - the Cobaw Biolink - earned particular praise.

Since 2006, the project has involved pest plant and animal control, revegetation, rehabilitation of waterways and roadside activities to provide habitat connectivity for native species on public and private land.

The group has been successful in attracting \$500,000 in funding to support on ground works with more than \$600,000 in in-kind or cash contributions.

More than 140,000 tubestocks have been planted in the Cobaw Biolink, many of which stemmed from the Newham Primary School's propagating group.

Newham and District Landcare Group secretary Helen Scott said she was "very thrilled" for the group to have won the award.

"It's really great to have," Ms Scott said.

"There's been a hell of a lot of work and it's nice to have that acknowledged.

"It's recognition of the fabulous people who worked through this.

"We're a special community group. We have 120 member families. Membership is \$20 which it has been since we started in 2004."

Ms Scott said the group runs a lot of community based activities, including Clean Up Australia Day and working bees on properties.

She said the group had a great partnership with the Macedon Ranges Shire which was highlighted through their current joint project of checking the health of Snowgums in the district.



Newham and District Landcare Group members with the state award. From left is Alice Aird, Hilary Roberts, Karl Kny, Penny Roberts, Helen Scott with award, Howard Stirling, Sue Massie, Natasha Gayfer, Rob Lawrence, UDCLN facilitator Clare Watson.

"Melbourne Water has also been fantastic with their support over the last 16 years," she said.

Another major project of the group has been connectivity for species along roadsides.

"Advocating for the importance of roadsides with high conservation values, highlighting habitat and the connectivity benefits of these roadsides, has been a major focus for us now for many years," Ms Scott said.

The Victorian Landcare awards were held online on Friday and was opened by Linda Dessau AC, Governor of Victoria, with a welcome by Energy, Environment and Climate Change Minister Lily D'Ambrosio.

The Newham and District Landcare Group's award acceptance video was shown during the ceremony.

In it, Ms Scott paid tribute to the group's first president Jim Sansom who founded the group in 2004 with a meeting of 60 people.

Penny Roberts, past president for several years and a major driver of Newham Landcare's projects and events, thanked member families.

"Member families are at the heart of our group and community and demonstrate just how much can be achieved when we work together towards a worthy goal. It's been quite a journey," she said.

The group will go forward as the Victorian nominee for the ACM Landcare Community Group Award at the 2022 National Landcare Awards in Sydney next year.