



Presidents Report 2023 - 2024

Our Mission is to enjoy and enhance our natural ecosystems, to protect them for future generations and to champion community involvement along the way.

It has been another busy and active year for our group. Thank you to all the organisers, participants, facilitators and supporters in our varied activities. There are too many of you to name individually but all your efforts define our success.

Our group is growing in numbers as we continue the Landcare tradition as a grass-roots organization, with a clear focus on the importance of developing biolinks in partnership with other Landcare networks.

We recently filled out a Group Health Survey for Landcare Victoria and the results were quite revealing. Some of the key information for 2023 – 2024 is as follows:

- Members – 116 family groups
- New members – 10 families
- Total hours of environmental volunteering – 2,350 hours
- Estimate of time spent on the following areas
 - Natural Resource Management projects – 30%
 - Learning and training, presentations, field days – 15%
 - Administration, reporting, meetings – 25%
 - Communication, newsletters, website, socials – 30%

Some of our Newham and District Landcare Group activities over the year have been:

- Our Roadside Management Group (affectionately known as “the weedies”) had multiple working bees on our high value roadsides. They are always good fun given that they are usually followed by a social catch up at a local home or the Newham Store.
- We had multiple planting days on the Triangle - corner Andersons Road and Boundary Road, followed by lunch. It is setting a fantastic example of what can be achieved on rehabilitating degraded land.
- John Walter held a light sheet survey to identify pollinator insects during an evening at the Triangle and also presented a very informative update on the Pollinator Project at Newham Hall.
- It was a lot of fun working on planting days on member properties. Thank you to our hosts for the lunches and many thanks to the organisers.

- Our committee had a bit of a review of our Vision, Mission and Values as part of creating a new brochure. I hope you have seen a copy of it.
- Our Christmas BBQ at Wesley Park was a lot of fun and well attended again.
- We now have a presence on Instagram and Facebook. Thank you to our social network gurus. The website is continually updated and is a great resource: <https://newhamlandcare.info>.
- We continue to engage with Primary Schools. At Newham we helped out on native plantings and gave presentations on platypus and the importance of biolinks. We also held a field day for Lancefield's St Mary's Primary School.
- Three newsletters were distributed this past year. They are always much appreciated.
- We participated on Clean Up Australia Day again.
- More than 3,000 native plants were distributed to members and we held a number of information and giveaway sessions in Wesley Park and at the Newham store.
- Stephen Murphy – author of “Recreating Country” held a book launch of his updated work and gave a presentation at Kolora, followed by a field walk discussing his insights and recommendations. It was fun to watch some of our members attempt to mimic and present the perspectives of some of his chosen native wildlife.
- A major initiative has been our member survey which has resulted in many insights and recommendations. This will play an important part in setting our agendas for the coming years. Thank you to members for your continued support of the group and its activities and for your welcome feedback and suggestions. If you would like to establish a project in line with our objectives we will very happily support you.
- A special thanks to the committee of Paul Carter, Doug Dalglish, Bruce Hedge, Kathy Mexted, Penny Roberts, Helen Scott, Howard Stirling, Jess Szigethy and Jane Trikojus for their ongoing input and enthusiasm.

Thanks again to all our organisers, participants, supporters and facilitators. As we have stated in our new brochure –

We believe in building a healthy and resilient landscape through community involvement, education and fun.

Together we can sustainably improve the health of ourselves, our community, and our environment, while recognising the Traditional Owners of the land on which it is our privilege to live.

Karl Kny
July 2024