



## Presidents Report 2024 - 2025

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

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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. The Cobaw Biolink continues to be our defining project and this year we have been working with Biolinks Alliance and the Upper Deep Creek Landcare Network on the Deep Creek Biolink which begins in our area.

Our latest estimate for the Group Health Survey for Landcare Victoria for 2024 – 2025 is as follows:

- Members – 128 family groups
- New members – 12 families
- Total hours of environmental volunteering – more than 2,000 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:

- Continued planting and weed control 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.
- It has been very exciting to engage with the Traditional Owners – the Taungurung on selecting an indigenous name for the Triangle. After much discussion the Taungurung Language Reference Group have offered the Taungurung word DUGAN (which means ‘showing signs of life’) for the site and we have invited the Taungurung People to hold a Healing Country ceremony there.
- We are supporting Paul Carter in his project to produce a documentary on the importance and challenges of creating a Biolink from Mount Macedon and Hanging Rock along the Maribyrnong headwaters all the way to Melbourne.

- 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.
- At our last AGM historian Professor Tom Griffiths talked about “This Continent of Smoke: fire in our lives and landscapes” covering the major fire events in Victoria’s colonial history.
- Our Christmas BBQ at Wesley Park was a lot of fun and well attended again.
- We held a Bushfire Risk and Biodiversity Information Night with the CFA Vegetation Management Team followed by a Field Day on a member property with the CFA team as well as Fire Ecologist David Cheal and local Fauna Ecologist Tanya Loos.
- Another evening was spent with Tanya Loos where she talked about Living with Wildlife and brought some copies of her book along. Tanya is also the Avian Influenza Response Coordinator and spoke about the issues around H5 Bird flu and how to detect and manage it.
- Dr Ross Colliver gave us a presentation on the Water Think Tank – a group focused on understanding the issues around managing water in the Maribyrnong catchment.
- From water to fire - Martin Roberts, Project Manager – Djandak Wi with the Dja Dja Wurrung traditional owners gave a presentation on Cultural Burning and then spoke about Ecological Burning and burn processes.
- We are now incorporated and planning to register as a charity.
- Our presence on Instagram and Facebook is growing. 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 discussing the importance of Biolinks. Presentations have been given to the entire student population of Newham Primary and further field days for interested schools with Junior Landcare Groups are planned. We are engaging with Braemar Woodend Campus on developing the Biolink between Hanging Rock and Woodend along Five Mile Creek which traverses the campus. Woodend Landcare is looking to assist.
- Four newsletters were distributed this past year, with write ups of our events and activities and guest contributions. They are always much appreciated.
- We participated on Clean Up Australia Day again.
- More than 3,000 native plants were distributed to members in the Cobaw Biolink area at no charge.
- 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.

- We continue to review our member survey for ideas for events and activities. 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 Landcare project we will very happily support you.
- A special thanks to the committee of Paul Carter, Bruce Hedge, Penny Roberts, Helen Scott, Howard Stirling, Jess Szigethy-Gyula, Trish Thorpe and Jane Trikojus with support from Richard Matthews on social media and Ian Scott for taking the minutes.

Thanks again to all our organisers, participants, supporters and facilitators.

*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 2025