



SOUTH GIPPSLAND LANDCARE NETWORK



2015/2016

ANNUAL REPORT

56.18 ha
REMNANT
VEGETATION
PROTECTED

NUMBER OF
PLANTS FUNDED
56,526

HABITAT ENHANCED THROUGH
REVEGETATION AND/OR
WEED CONTROL

71 SITE
MANAGEMENT
PLANS

THE NO
OF LAND
HOLDERS
WHO UNDERTOOK ON-GROUND
WORKS VIA SGLN

54

15,673.4
METRES OF STOCK PROOF
FENCING ERECTED

SOUTH GIPPSLAND LANDCARE NETWORK

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

South Gippsland Landcare Network, through community action, helps to preserve, protect and enhance the environment of South Gippsland by working with government agencies and local businesses to achieve natural resource management outcomes.

NETWORK OVERVIEW

The South Gippsland Landcare Network (SGLN) was formed in 1995 by a key group of volunteers. The South Gippsland Landcare Network today covers 4000 square kilometres across the South Gippsland Shire and areas of Cardinia, Bass Coast and Baw Baw Shires. The Network encompasses Landcare Groups from Nyora in the West across to Welshpool in the East and from Mirboo Nth, down to our southern most group at Fish Creek which extends to Wilson's Promontory.



A NETWORK SNAPSHOT 2015/2016

- | | |
|----|---|
| 1 | Agnes River Landcare |
| 2 | Allambee Community Landcare |
| 3 | Allambee South Landcare |
| 4 | Arawata Landcare |
| 5 | Fish Creek Landcare |
| 6 | Foster North Landcare (sub-group) |
| 7 | Franklin River Landcare |
| 8 | Friends of Turton's Creek (sub-group) |
| 9 | Hallston Landcare |
| 10 | Loch Nyora Landcare |
| 11 | Mardan/Mirboo North Landcare |
| 12 | Mt Eccles/Wild Dog Valley Landcare |
| 13 | Mt Lyall Landcare |
| 14 | Nerrena Landcare |
| 15 | Poowong Landcare |
| 16 | Tarwin Landcare |
| 17 | Tarwin Valley Landcare |
| 18 | Triholm Landcare |
| 19 | Equine Landcare
(not geographically based) |

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SOUTH GIPPSLAND LANDCARE NETWORK

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary	04
Chair's Report	05
About SGLN	06
Landcare Groups and Members	07
Caring for the Land	10
Education and Training	11
Collaboration and Partnerships	13
Communications and Promotions	14
Appendices	
1. SGLN Audited Financial Statement 2015/16	15
2. Landcare Fund Audited Financial Statement 2015/16	20
3. SGLN Strategic Plan 2015 - 2020	23

SOUTH GIPPSLAND LANDCARE NETWORK

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Hello and welcome to the 2015/2016 Annual Report for the South Gippsland Landcare Network (SGLN). We are excited to share the achievements of SGLN over the past 12 months with you and thank you for your interest.

Last year SGLN reviewed and updated our Strategic Plan to define key objectives over the next five years. The plan focuses on six key themes; caring for the land, Landcare groups and members, funding, education, communication and promotions, collaboration and partnerships and governance.

The six elements of the SGLN Strategic Plan 2015-2020 frame the many activities of SGLN over the last year and form the structure of this annual report.

We strive to benefit our environment, both in South Gippsland and beyond. This year, with assistance from State and Federal governments, SGLN has assisted landholders to erect over 15,000 metres of fencing to exclude stock from either remnant vegetation or revegetated areas.

Landcare groups and members are core to the Landcare movement. We are constantly inspired by the commitment and innovation displayed by groups and their members as they pragmatically respond and adapt to emerging threats and future pressures. This year we facilitated three 'Landcare group cluster catch-ups' across the region. The catch-ups provided an opportunity for neighbouring groups to network, share ideas, and plan for the future.

We seek to be financially independent and secure so that we can continue to provide grants, education and training to the community. A reduction in income has disappointingly resulted in a net loss this year, which means we will be working diligently to recover our financial health over the coming months and years.

SGLN on-ground works and training and education programs, (funded by State and Federal government) are our main source of revenue and are well supported by the South Gippsland community. The remaining part of our revenue, plus a great deal of goodwill and in-kind contribution, comes from our partnerships with a range of agencies.

These partnerships are essential for us to achieve our desired outcomes in many areas, from protecting and enhancing habitat to working with schools, industry groups and more.

We aim to provide clear, reliable information on sustainable land management and farming practices. We pride ourselves on offering the community access to

training and education on a range of topics relevant to land management.

Over the year, we have delivered a wide range of field days, farm walks and training sessions. At each of these events we have engaged the professional services of specialist consultants (when necessary) to ensure that only the highest quality of service and training is delivered.

I would like to thank all our partners for their generous support, in particular the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority who continue to enable our ongoing growth and development. I would also like to thank SGLN Project Officer Nicole Walsh, former Network Co-ordinator Jenny O'Sullivan and the SGLN board for their significant contributions, commitment and enthusiasm to Landcare in the region.



Kate McKenzie



Network Coordinator, Kate McKenzie was the recipient of the Manpower Young Landcare Leader Award at the Victorian Landcare Awards in August 2015. Pictured with SGLN Chair, Mark Walters and The Hon. Linda Dessau AM, Governor of Victoria.

SOUTH GIPPSLAND LANDCARE NETWORK

CHAIR'S REPORT

It has been a very eventful year for Landcare and farming in general. Last seasons extremely dry spring and summer is all behind us with good rains in recent months. The grass has been growing well. Many of our members have been hit by the dairy crisis, a situation which is still playing out.

One of the focuses for us this year has been establishing how we are tracking against our 2015-2020 Strategic Plan. This involved assessing our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to inform the development of strategies which will help to ensure the continued growth and success of the Network.

The assessment process yielded some interesting results. The diversity and number of projects we deliver is a major strength of the Network.

This year alone we have either delivered, or are in the process of delivering, 14 different projects. Projects ranging from threatened species protection in the Strzelecki Ranges, to Demonstrating Sustainable Farming in the Westernport Catchment.

A successful local producer's dinner was held at the Moos in Meeniyah and as usual, many field days. There is always room for improvement, for more effective ways of doing things. In 100 years time much of what we do today will seem ridiculous and archaic. Many of us resist change. I believe there is always a better way to do almost everything so why not be open to change?

Talking of change, one of the big changes in both our Network and the Bass Coast Network is how trees are planted. We are finally starting to catch up with the rest of Australia on this. Hiko's are so much cheaper than tube stock. To give you an example this year I planted over 8000 plants. It took two people two days to complete. That's 2000 trees planted per person per day. The result is arguably better as there is a closer fit between the seedling and the soil, as no soil is removed in the planting process.

I would remind you that up to 20% of a farm can be revegetated without any loss to productivity. Animals that have shelter in the winter eat less and shade is vital for animals when it is hot. Above a certain temperature cattle stop eating.

Not to mention the research that shows that rural land values are substantially increased by revegetating waterways and shelter belts.

A reduction in staffing levels over the past 12 months has been a challenge. However, 'necessity is the mother of invention' as they say. The impact has seen greater use of automation for service delivery and increased involvement by Board members in operational matters.

We are also fortunate to have access to a range of highly proficient contractors and consultants who have assisted

us with projects. Among them are soil scientists, ecologists, agronomists, facilitators and editors, all of whom are highly regarded in their respective fields.

We also revisited our core values as an organisation. Inclusiveness, positivity, transparency and honesty are the values that we believe in, and that guide how we treat our customers, and each other.

Coal seam gas. This has been a constant threat to our water quality and potential loss of the best productive land in Australia. There are many of you who have worked tirelessly over the last five years to fight this destructive industry. The battle has now been won in Victoria.

Let me remind you of the importance of social media. It is the way of the future. It is the way knowledge and information is being disseminated. If you are not involved you are being left behind.

My time as chair has all but come to an end. The Network is in great shape with a vibrant board and dedicated staff. Over the last two years a big thank you to the two Network Co-ordinators. Jenny O'Sullivan was a star and Kate Williams has filled the position with competence and enthusiasm. Nicole Walsh has been terrific also.

A big thank you to an awesome board who put in hours of voluntary work, not to mention all of you especially the office bearers.

We recognise the importance of local business and supporters and thank them for their financial assistance.

At the time of writing this, more than 30 people have applied for funding for revegetation projects, which is far more than any other network in the region. Testimony to the health of SGLN.

Thank you for helping be part of this vital journey.



Mark Walters

Chair - South Gippsland Landcare Network

SOUTH GIPPSLAND LANDCARE NETWORK

ABOUT SGLN

Governance

SGLN is a not-for-profit organisation managed by a voluntary board with representatives elected from the membership. The board appoints a Network Coordinator to oversee the activities of the organisation.

SGLN is hosted by the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (WGCMA) who provide information technology, accounting and human resource services to SGLN.

Our people

SGLN Board

Mark Walters, Chairperson

Frank Dekker, Vice Chair

Jean Carnell, Treasurer and Landcare Fund sub-committee member

Arie Bos, general member

Helen Hasty, general member

Sally Jelbart, general member

Dawn Marotti, general member and Landcare Fund sub-committee member

Margaret McDonald, general member and Landcare Fund sub-committee member

Phil Piper, general member

Russell Swan, general member

Mark Uren, general member

SGLN Staff

Kate McKenzie, Network Coordinator/SGLN Secretary

Nicole Walsh, Project Officer

Consultants engaged by SGLN to assist with program delivery

Jenny O'Sullivan, Gippsland Food Adventures

Declan McDonald, SESL Australia

David Stewart, Small Farm Services Victoria

Lisa Warne, Lisa Warne Ag Consulting Pty Ltd

Chris Alenson (soil scientist)

Ruth McFarlane, Hazelwood Forestry

Jill Vella (EcoTender monitoring and publication editor)

Linda Rowley, Linda Rowley Coaching and Development

Aaron Jenkin, Aquatica Environmental

Volunteers and other contributors

SGLN would like to thank and acknowledge the many other people and groups who have contributed over the past year. We apologize to any one that we have inadvertently missed.

- Landcare Fund sub-committee of the SGLN Board: Margaret McDonald, Jean Carnell, Belinda Brennan and Dawn Marotti
- Those who made donations to the Landcare Fund, or have contributed in other ways.
- Landholders involved in koala monitoring programs and the volunteers who have assisted by completing on-line surveys.
- Attendees and volunteers at our talks, excursions and other community events: with particular thanks to guest presenters and to landholders whose properties the events were held at.
- The South Gippsland Koala Working Group. Special thanks to Richard Appleton, Hancock Victorian Plantations; Stephen Hoole (former chair); Susan Taylor, Department of Environment Land Water and Planning and Faye Wedrowicz, Federation University.
- The enthusiastic and skilled members of the South Gippsland Community Weeds Taskforce (CWT)
- Landholders and other land managers involved in on-ground works programs.
- Other groups with complementary objectives operating in the local area: such as Trust for Nature, Friends of the Venus Bay Peninsula Inc., South Gippsland Conservation Society, Greening Australia, Birdlife Australia and CoastCare.
- Government agencies at the local, state and national levels that have provided support for our projects and activities.
- And, very importantly, all of our members, who provide support and motivation for everything that we do – either directly or indirectly. It is greatly appreciated.

SOUTH GIPPSLAND LANDCARE NETWORK

LANDCARE GROUPS AND MEMBERS

There were 17 groups and two sub groups of SGLN in 2015/2016. There are currently 446 member families in the SGLN area.

With 2016 marking 30 years of Landcare in Victoria, the movement continues to address on-going threats such as weeds, whilst embracing new technologies and adapting to land use change and seasonal variability.

The groups and their members continue to do an incredible job in raising awareness, and facilitating community engagement when and where possible.

Excerpts of Landcare group reports are presented below as a 'snap-shot' of activities during 2015/2016. A full copy of the Landcare group reports will be published in the summer 2016/17 edition of *South Gippy Landcare News*.

Clearly, the relevance and importance of Landcare has not diminished over its three decades despite the tremendous contribution it has made right across Victoria - weeds remain a problem in many districts, especially on public land and small, private holdings, and there is a major need for education as more people from cities relocate to regional areas with little or no experience of maintaining their newly acquired land in a sustainable way. For our group, the highlight for the year just past was the opportunity to work with Bass Gas on rehabilitating some of the land around their Lang Lang site. We are hopeful that the help and guidance provided will result in some extensive revegetation there."

Ron Barnacle- President, Loch Nyora Landcare Group

The extremely low rainfall throughout the Allambee district during spring (the lowest for 10 years) provided very little incentive for new plantings, with maintenance of existing ones more of a focus. Numerous mature plantations of pine and eucalypt throughout the Allambee, Mt Worth and Hallston areas have recently been harvested resulting in a vastly different landscape in our region. The construction of access tracks, soil disturbance and removal of vegetation have exposed the steep slopes of the Strzeleckis making them more vulnerable to wind, rain, soil loss and erosion. The resultant loss of shade, shelter and habitat across the slopes has meant wildlife have sought new homes. On a positive, one member was excited to have their first sighting of a koala on their property (which was residing in a tree planted by them 8 years prior) before it moved on to find a new home in an adjoining remnant vegetation corridor."

Judy Lackman- Secretary, Allambee Community Landcare Group

"This is our 24th year of continuous activity and membership, and there have been many changes in focus during this time. We have 50 active family memberships, which now includes a large number of smaller holdings (rather than the bigger beef and dairy members of early days) either permanent or weekenders. This has reflected through to our role in the community and activities offered over the past few years.

A range of interesting and engaging projects were held throughout the year including for example; revegetating a small section of the Great Southern Rail Trail on the Fish Creek township outskirts and guided walks, along Fish Creek and through the town, and a farm walk to view early stage EMS (environmental management systems) practises on an organic pig farm".

Robin Stevens- President, Fish Creek Landcare Group



ABOVE - Award winning Landcarers. Fish Creek Landcare group members, Graeme and Gillian Nicoll received the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources, Regional Innovation in Sustainable Farm Practices Award for West Gippsland. The award was presented by The Hon Linda Dessau AM, Governor of Victoria at the 2015 Victorian Landcare Awards.

A meet and greet BBQ was held in June, designed as a way to encourage new members and the broader community in the activities of the group. Hammon's Bush remains a focus for the group, with a number of working bees held throughout the year in conjunction with committee meetings "

Sonia Holt- Secretary, Mt Eccles Wild Dog Valley Landcare group

SOUTH GIPPSLAND LANDCARE NETWORK

Allambee South Landcare Group have not met in the last year as members were preoccupied with managing enterprises during a most challenging period. The difficult seasons needed our complete focus.

There was some planting done by Mirboo North Secondary College students on a section of the Tarwin River. Unfortunately, the success rate of plant survival was very low because of the very dry conditions prevailing over a long period of time. Some replanting has since been carried out with varying success as a result of wombat predations.

The coming spring shows enormous promise and hopefully we will be able to get our enterprises back on track and have an opportunity to refocus and look once again at Landcare activities."

Lyn and Tom Butcher- Secretary and President of Allambee South Landcare Group

Overall a very successful year. Over the last 12 months we have had 5 members receive grants from the Network for tree planting with three out of the five completed to date. These 'treebees' were held as usual on a Sunday morning for a couple of hours and were followed by a social BBQ.

Well done to Libby Anthony, as we received two grants from the Federal Government. One for \$2,500 for a projector and hi-vis vests. The other for \$36,000 is for the delivery of three half day sustainability presentations.

The Baths Road Reserve area has about 2km of bushwalking tracks through tall gum tree forests, native plants and fern gullies. You can gain access to the area from the swimming pool or the car park opposite the Town Hall. Thanks to Viki's vision and passion and the hard working volunteers and in conjunction with the local shire and our year nine Landcare cadets from the Mirboo North Secondary College, this reserve in the middle of Mirboo North is slowly being returned to its original splendor."

Phil Piper- President, Mardan Mirboo North Landcare Group

It has been another eventful year at Poowong Landcare. We have had a regular attendance at our meetings, and we have tried to make these more of a social event by gathering 30 minutes early for refreshments and a chatter.

There have been some interesting projects, none more so than the "One Tree Per Child Program". This was a funded project which we ran in conjunction with Poowong Primary School. Every student at the school was involved in the planting of 600 trees. The event was attended by Member for McMillan Russell Broadbent, the Mayor, and local councillors, with members of staff and parents all playing a part. A big thank-you to Jeff Clark for organising this event.

Poowong Landcare had an information stand at the Poowong Family Day held at the Poowong Oval. We visited Steve & Bernie Halliday's property to see how the direct seeding that was carried out 2 years ago was progressing. It was going very well. A lot of our members were at Jo and Rob McLeay's place recently to help with the planting of their gully region. We participated in the Sword-Grass Butterfly project, with most members receiving plants to attract the butterfly. There was limited success due to the lack of rainfall after the plants went in."

Mark Walters- President, Poowong Landcare Group



ABOVE - Mardan Mirboo North Landcare group members the Roberts family with Alex Campbell (centre back) at a 'treebee' day at the Robert's Mardan property. Photo courtesy of Libby Anthony.

This has been a relatively quiet year in terms of outdoor activities however our membership has been maintained at around 40 landholders and our financial position is very sound.

The committee decided to continue the groups participation in the red fruit saw sedge and sword grass project and we look forward to the publication of an information brochure and the feedback field day next November.

Members continued to monitor the weed situation at former Mt Lyall Primary school. A field day and BBQ was held on site in June to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the planting. A Poowong Primary School teacher attended and was keen to hear about the history of the site."

Frank Bugeja- Secretary, Mt Lyall Landcare Group

SOUTH GIPPSLAND LANDCARE NETWORK

Roadside Blackberry spraying in the Toora area has been undertaken in partnership with the Corner Inlet Blackberry Taskforce.

In May 2016 we had a farm walk at Dave Hutchinson and Lyndell Shields place at Wonga/Mt Best followed by tea.

At a recent South Gippsland Shire meeting it was decided the shire, with consultation with the Lower Franklin River Landcare group, will manage the future of the Franklin River Reserve. A draft has been drawn up by the shire and it will be implemented.

We have already had meetings with the shire and it is looking good for the ongoing improvements to the reserve. We are a small group but have very pleasant social events."

Judy Bacon- Lower Franklin River Land Protection Group

The focus for **Triholm Landcare Group** in 2015/16 has been educating the community on weed control via pop-up signage and the distribution of flyers, with ragwort, blackberry and thistles the target species.

2015/2016 was a year of reinvigoration for the **Agnes River Landcare Group** with a number of events taking place, in addition a new executive committee forming. A highly popular and inspirational evening was held at the Toora North property of Bryan Watterson in April, focused on all things 'Agnes River'. Over 30 guests were treated to delicious food made by Elizabeth Collins. The group have been working with neighbouring Landcare groups and have a community tree planting day planned for August 2016.

2015/2016 has been a moderately busy one for the **Friends of Turtons Creek Falls** having received a grant for the survey of South Gippsland Spiny Crayfish and habitat rehabilitation. The grant was part of the Threatened Species Protection Initiative, Community Volunteer Action Grants, funded by the Victorian Government. As part of the grant, a community event was held on a hot summers day in March where participants learnt about the ecology of the crayfish by aquatic ecologist, Aaron Jenkin. Aaron is scheduled to do survey work in spring, with a follow-up community day planned for November 2016. The group also worked in conjunction with South Gippsland Shire Council and DELWP to have blackberry control undertaken during the summer.



ABOVE - Peter Gannon, Friends of Turtons Creek Falls with Aaron Jenkin electrofishing as part of the community day in March 2016.

The year has been a quiet one for the group, with members focusing on individual projects. The two major events that brought the group together over the past year were the annual Christmas catch-up and plant sharing BBQ day. The annual Christmas catch-up was held at the Meeniyah Hotel. The group shared some great food and conversation over a couple of drinks. It is always nice to chat with like-minded people about plans for their properties and to gain knowledge from those that have put in the hard yards over the years.

The second annual plant sharing BBQ day was held at Meeniyah at Tandra Park this year. The group purchased 1,000 tubes from The Green Patch Nursery next door and members that attended were able to pick 100 plants. Although it was slow year as far as group activities go, I feel it was still positive with plants going in the ground and members still focused on fighting the good fight."

Mick Stuart- President, Tarwin Valley Landcare Group

The past year has been a quiet one for the group, with members busy undertaking individual projects and just busy with life in general. An information evening on fire and horses was held at the Fish Creek Hotel in December. CFA Community Safety Coordinator, Kerry Senior presented on topics ranging from how to assess your property for fire risk, through to horse friendly assembly areas. We are really looking forward to a session planned for this October with independent equine nutritionist, Carol Layton."

Larissa Judd- President, South Gippsland Equine Landcare Group

SOUTH GIPPSLAND LANDCARE NETWORK

Nerrena Landcare Group has not met much over the year, except for the working group preparing the Black Spur Creek Wetlands project plan. This has involved many hours of meetings, literature reviews, mapping and list making. I am pleased to report that the plan is ready to be presented to the group and interested locals at a meeting to be held in early October. We are extremely grateful to the Shire of South Gippsland for giving us a grant to employ Michelle Harris to prepare the plan, bringing together the inputs of the LC group, VicRoads, the WGCMA, DELWP, and other agencies."

Jill Vella- Secretary, Nerrena Landcare Group

This past year has been about trying to bring numbers back into our group. Our Xmas breakup at Michael Buckley's was a nice night enjoyed by about 12 of us. Thank you Michael for showing us around your garden, nursery, and for opening your house for all to enjoy a nice meal. Then in May we had a day at our farm which was well attended. Thanks to Jenny O'Sullivan for being MC on the day. There were many stories of yesteryear shared by my dad, my aunty Liz and uncle Stan Dunlop, and also Dave Webster. We had a drive after the chat and checked out some of the work we've done over the past 20+ years. The grass trees are my favourite, and if anyone wants to come and have a look, just phone and you'd be more than welcome.

I'll finish off by saying a big thank-you to Ray Saunders and Debbie Birkett for all their work, and Val O'Loughlin for her work as group treasurer."

Rod Cope- President Tarwin Landcare Group

The Arawata Landcare group continues to meet on the first Wednesday evening of each new season. Its a chance for members to get together for a social catch up to share stories and discuss their plans for the weeks and months ahead. A number of members completed projects on their properties as part of 25th Anniversary Landcare Grants funded by the Australian Governments Landcare Programme. The group has also worked with the Korumburra Secondary College. 2016/2017 will no doubt be another lively year for the dedicated group.

CARING FOR THE LAND

The past 12 months has seen the co-ordination and implementation of seven different on-ground works programs on private land. Each had similar actions including; installation and repair of fencing for the exclusion of grazing animals; weed control focusing on environmental pest plant species; and revegetation in the form of direct seeding, tubestock planting and facilitated natural regeneration.

Each of the 54 landholders participating in the on-ground works program received an initial walk and talk with SGLN staff discussing management aspirations and concerns. Sites are selected for funding based on a range of criteria specific to each of the on-ground works programs and the funding available. Landholders are guided by work standards and the timing of activities is undertaken as per a stewardship management plan and agreement developed by SGLN.

The seven different on-ground works programs include;

- **Strzelecki Ranges, Corner Inlet to the Bunorong Coast – Enhancing the Biolink** supported by the West Gippsland CMA, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare programme
- **Restoring Landscapes across central South Gippsland** supported by the West Gippsland CMA, through funding from the Victorian Government Landcare programme
- **Friends of the Strzelecki Koala-Habitat for Life** funded

by the Victorian Government's Communities for Nature programme

- **Strzelecki Ranges South Gippsland- building biodiversity and saving our soils** supported by the 25th Anniversary Landcare grants funded through the Australian Government's National Landcare programme
- **One Million Trees for South Gippsland** funded by South Gippsland Water
- **Shade and Shelter for Livestock Production** funded by the Southern Gippsland Agricultural Climate Adaptation Project

“Many thanks for facilitating the Landcare program, and for your helpful advice and assistance with obtaining the Landcare grant. We have learned a lot, and are keen to continue with the revegetation work, now that we have made a start and have a better idea of what is involved.” **Dinah Gragg of Fish Creek, Strzelecki Ranges, Corner Inlet to the Bunorong Coast – Enhancing the Biolink project participant.**

“Thank you for your assistance and support in getting this work done and particularly for providing the additional 1,000 trees- all greatly appreciated.” **Ian Salmons of Leongatha, Restoring Landscapes across central South Gippsland project participant.**

SOUTH GIPPSLAND LANDCARE NETWORK

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

SGLN's annual education and training program continued to draw considerable interest from across the district.

Thirteen education and community events were attended by more than 400 participants who learned about, (among other topics) pasture management, soil health for new and long term farmers, bush foods, and improving on farm biodiversity.

SGLN has also coordinated a number of trials and demonstration sites including; the use of a Soilkee renovator in pasture improvement, various methods to address tunnel erosion, the treatment of azolla on farm dams and agroforestry.

Many of the field days were generously hosted by local landholders. All workshops and field days involved specialist presenters covering theory and practical information designed to increase participant's skills, knowledge and engagement.

Education and training was made possible via the following projects;

- **Healthy Soils Sustainable Farms** supported by the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare programme
- **Demonstrating Sustainable Farming Practices** supported by Westernport Landcare Network, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare programme
- **Shade and Shelter for Livestock Production** funded

by the Southern Gippsland Agricultural Climate Adaptation Project

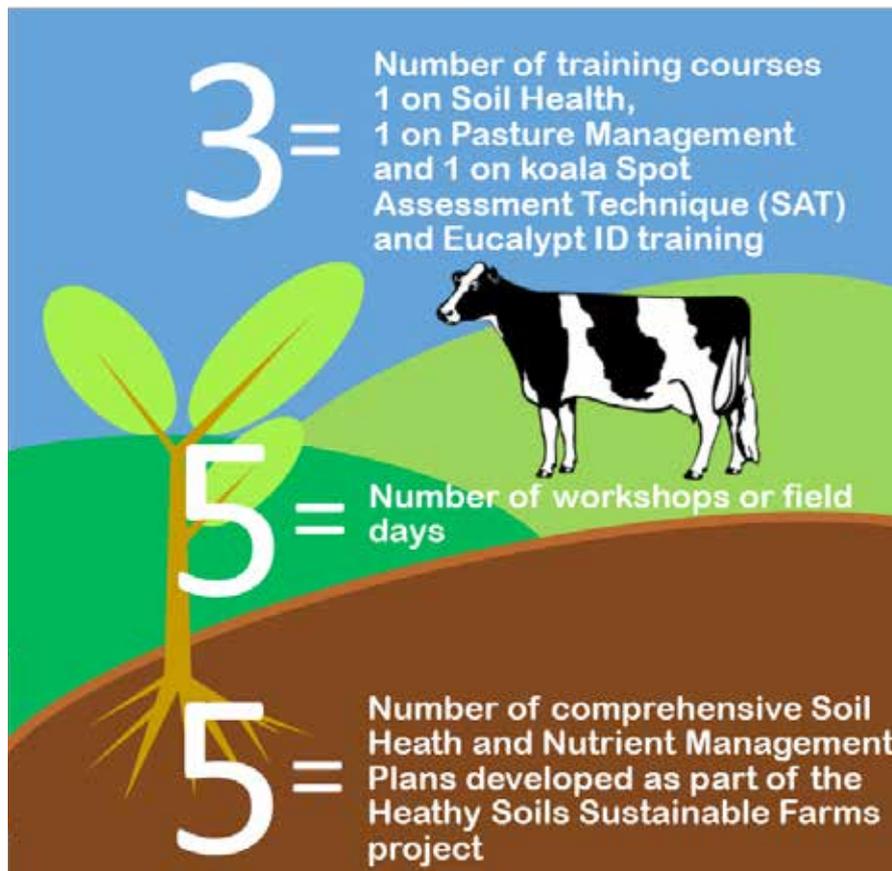
- **Friends of the Strzelecki Koala-Habitat for Life** funded by the Victorian Government's Communities for Nature programme

“This program has been very valuable. As new farmers- it has made us more aware of how to improve our business. We are now more aware of soil management and how you need knowledge in many areas as they all interact. Also more aware of impact of weeds and how to manage them. Aware of the importance or correct grazing pressure for plants.” **Healthy Soils Sustainable Farms participant, Janine Taylor of Tarwin Lower.**

“A very useful exercise. It has helped me make sense of the soil tests we have done over quite a few years.” **Healthy Soils Sustainable Farms participant, Clive and Gis White, Fish Creek.**

“One of the best field days I have attended. David Stewart had practical experience combined with sound data- excellent!” **Demonstrating Sustainable Farming Practices Pasture Course participant, Mark Walters of Loch.**

“An outstanding workshop in every respect. Inspiring to see a young couple going to significantly improve their farm in partnership with a range of agencies. A special thanks to Jason and Sarah Keays for their hospitality.” **Agricultural Climate Change Project, Shade and Shelter workshop participant Nigel Sherlock.**



SOUTH GIPPSLAND LANDCARE NETWORK



Photo left; Participants in the Heathy Soils Sustainable Farms project at a field day on Ron and Janine Taylors Tarwin Lower Property. From left; Jenny O'Sullivan (facilitator) Bruce Whittaker, Elizabeth Landy, Janine and Ron Taylor, and Tony Landy.

Photo right; Tony Gardner, (Heathy Soils Sustainable Farms Project Manager with the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority) explaining the results of a pasture trial at a field day at Ross and Madeline Batton's Buffalo beef property.



Photo left; A koala Spot Assessment Technique (SAT) and Eucalypt ID training day was held at Morwell National Park in November. Many thanks to Richard Appleton of Hancock Victorian Plantations, Jenny Wolswinkel (Seeds of Gippsland) for their presentations as well as Russell Cluning and Ruth MacFarlane of Hazelwood Forestry for their help on the day.

SOUTH GIPPSLAND LANDCARE NETWORK

COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

SGLN recognises that collaboration is key when it comes to delivering successful, effective outcomes. SGLN has a strong working relationship with a number of government agencies, and local organisations.

Aside from the initiatives and programs already mentioned elsewhere in this report, the following initiatives and programs were also delivered as a direct result of collaboration;

FarmPlan21 and iFarm computerised mapping course

SGLN partnered with the Department of Economic Development Jobs Transport and Resources (DEDJTR) to assist with the delivery of a whole farm planning iFarm computerised mapping course throughout April-May 2016. The course equipped twenty two participants with the skills, knowledge and tools to enable them to plan for the future sustainability of their farming enterprises.

South Gippsland Community Weeds Taskforce (CWT)

Having formed in 2006, the CWT remains a vibrant and committed player in the space of regional pest plant and

animal education and management. The CWT meets six times a year and is co-hosted by SGLN in partnership with the Bass Coast Landcare Network.

Local Schools

Local educational institutions are a valued partner of SGLN. These partnership enable mutually beneficial outcomes from the perspective of enhancing student learning and assisting SGLN with program delivery whilst raising the profile of Landcare.

Throughout the year, students have assisted with tree planting activities on member properties, and participated in environmental programs facilitated by SGLN. The following schools have partnered with SGLN in 2015/2016; Leongatha Specialist School, Mirboo North Secondary College, Leongatha Secondary College, South Gippsland Secondary College, Fish Creek Kindergarten and the Leongatha 2nd Scouts.

Photo below; Graduates of the Farm Plan 21 course coordinated by Nick Dudley, Regional Manager South East, Meat and Wool Services and Land Health, DEDJTR.



SOUTH GIPPSLAND LANDCARE NETWORK

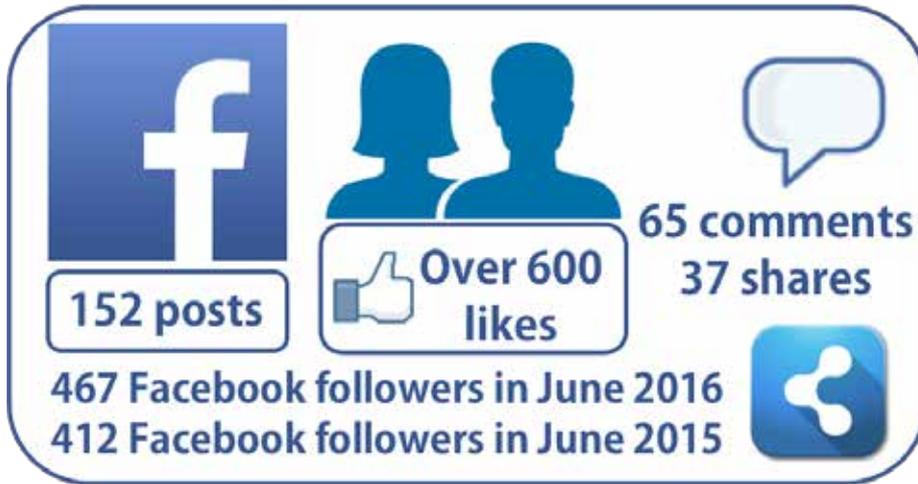
COMMUNICATION AND PROMOTIONS

SGLN is committed to sharing relevant information to Landcare members and business partners as a way of encouraging active participation in natural resource management.

Throughout the year, 3 editions of the South Gippy News newsletter were produced and distributed to 702 recipients

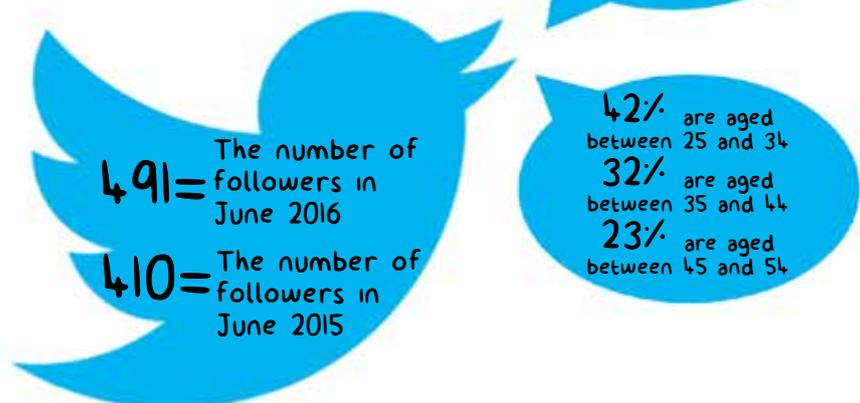
each time via post or email. The production of the newsletter is made possible by advertising revenue raised from a number of local business. SGLN is thankful to those businesses for their continued support.

The SGLN e-newsletter 'Network Notes' was distributed to 575 recipients on a monthly to bi-monthly basis.



Twitter Followers are primarily Victorian, however there are followers from each of the states and territories in Australia

- ### APPENDICES
1. SGLN Audited Financial Statement 2015/16
 2. South Gippsland Landcare Fund Audited Financial Statement 2015/16
 3. South Gippsland Landcare Network Strategic Plan 2015-2020



SOUTH GIPPSLAND LANDCARE NETWORK

APPENDIX 1: SGLN Audited Financial Statement 2015/16

SOUTH GIPPSLAND LANDCARE NETWORK INC. A0011936S

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29/07/16
Accrual Basis

South Gippsland Landcare Network Balance Sheet Prev Year Comparison As of June 30, 2016

	Jun 30, 16	Jun 30, 15	\$ Change	% Change
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Chequing/Savings				
WBC Cash Reserve Account	179,668.33	407,804.30	-228,135.97	-55.90%
WBC Cheque Account	60,942.63	59,160.86	1,781.77	3.0%
WBC Term Deposit	50,000.00	0.00	50,000.00	100.0%
Total Chequing/Savings	<u>290,610.96</u>	<u>466,965.16</u>	<u>-176,354.20</u>	<u>-37.80%</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>290,610.96</u>	<u>466,965.16</u>	<u>-176,354.20</u>	<u>-37.80%</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>290,610.96</u></u>	<u><u>466,965.16</u></u>	<u><u>-176,354.20</u></u>	<u><u>-37.80%</u></u>
LIABILITIES				
Current Liabilities				
Accounts Payable				
Accounts Payable	0.00	1,825.09	-1,825.09	-100.0%
Total Accounts Payable	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,825.09</u>	<u>-1,825.09</u>	<u>-100.0%</u>
Credit Cards				
WBC Corporate VISA Card	550.00	703.37	-153.37	-21.80%
Total Credit Cards	<u>550.00</u>	<u>703.37</u>	<u>-153.37</u>	<u>-21.80%</u>
Other Current Liabilities				
Tax Payable	-6,780.62	5,610.55	-12,391.17	-220.90%
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>-6,780.62</u>	<u>5,610.55</u>	<u>-12,391.17</u>	<u>-220.90%</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>-6,230.62</u>	<u>8,139.01</u>	<u>-14,369.63</u>	<u>-176.60%</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u><u>-6,230.62</u></u>	<u><u>8,139.01</u></u>	<u><u>-14,369.63</u></u>	<u><u>-176.60%</u></u>
NET ASSETS	<u><u>296,841.58</u></u>	<u><u>458,826.15</u></u>	<u><u>-161,984.57</u></u>	<u><u>-35.30%</u></u>
EQUITY				
Retained Earnings	458,826.15	0.00	458,826.15	100.0%
Net Income	-161,984.57	458,826.15	-620,810.72	-135.30%
TOTAL EQUITY	<u><u>296,841.58</u></u>	<u><u>458,826.15</u></u>	<u><u>-161,984.57</u></u>	<u><u>-35.30%</u></u>

SOUTH GIPPSLAND LANDCARE NETWORK

SOUTH GIPPSLAND LANDCARE NETWORK INC. A0011936S

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29/07/16

Accrual Basis

South Gippsland Landcare Network

Profit & Loss

July 2015 through June 2016

	<u>Jul 15 - Jun 16</u>
Income	
ADV - Advertising	3,331.36
GRA - Grants	359,599.45
INT - Interest	4,352.91
MEM- Memberships	4,872.42
OTH - Other Income	2,704.55
PRO - Project Transfers	309,313.71
REC - Recoverable Costs	7,945.28
TRA - Training Courses	3,272.73
Total Income	<u>695,392.41</u>
Expense	
01 - Advertising	2,045.17
02 - Audit Costs	1,520.00
03 - Bank Charges & Fees	528.64
04 - Bookkeeping	1,906.59
05 - Catering	
05 - Field days	2,681.23
06 - Catering - Other	4,879.39
Total 05 - Catering	<u>7,560.62</u>
07 - Consultants	41,135.00
08 - Contractors	25,557.49
09 - Education & Training	1,842.64
10 - Employment Costs	
10 - Network Co-ordinator	174,649.78
11 - Project Officer	116,757.48
Total 10 - Employment Costs	<u>291,407.26</u>
13 - Fares & Accommodations	508.62
14 - Fencing	90,686.43
15 - Incentives/Grants Paid	6,485.00
16 - Insurance & Registrations	2,915.84
17 - Internal Transfers	309,313.71
18 - Materials	1,657.45
19 - Meeting Expenses	743.42
20 - Photocopying & Printing	7,747.16
21 - Postage	363.42
22 - Promotions & PR	5,054.70
24 - Stationary	407.09
25 - Telephone	420.00
26 - Travelling Expenses	180.50
27 - Trees	54,089.86
28 - Membership fees	963.64
29 - Board Honarariums	1,900.00
30 -Computer Software & Support	436.73
Total Expense	<u>857,376.98</u>
Net Income	<u><u>-161,984.57</u></u>

SOUTH GIPPSLAND LANDCARE NETWORK

SOUTH GIPPSLAND LANDCARE NETWORK INC. A0011936S

South Gippsland Landcare Network Cash Flow Statement For the year ended 30 June 2016

	2016
Cash Flow from Operating Activities	\$
<i>Payments</i>	
Advertising	2,045.17
Auditors Remuneration	1,520.00
Bank Charges	528.64
Board Honorariums	1,900.00
Bookkeeping	1,906.59
Catering	7,560.62
Computer Software and Support	436.73
Consultants	41,135.00
Contractors	25,557.49
Decrease of 2015 Accounts Payable	1,812.54
Education & Training	1,842.64
Fares and Accomodation	508.62
Fencing	90,686.43
Incentives/Grants Paid	6,485.00
Insurance & Registration	2,915.84
Materials	1,657.45
Meeting expenses	743.42
Memberships	963.64
Photocopying & Printing	7,747.16
Postage	363.42
Promotions & PR	5,054.70
Remuneration	291,407.26
Stationery	407.09
Telephone expenses	420.00
Travel Reimbursement	180.50
Trees	54,089.86
Add back GST on acquisitions for year	50,072.75
Payments to the ATO for BAS	12,240.00
Total Payments	<u>612,188.56</u>
<i>Receipts</i>	
Advertising	3331.36
Grants	359599.45
Landcare Membership	4,872.42
Miscellaneous	2,704.55

This Cash Flow Statement Should be read in conjunction with the attached Audit Report

SOUTH GIPPSLAND LANDCARE NETWORK

SOUTH GIPPSLAND LANDCARE NETWORK INC. A0011936S

Recoverable costs		7,945.28
Training Courses		3,272.73
Add back GST on supplies		31,173.66
Refunds from ATO for BAS		18,582.00
Total Receipts		431,481.45
Net Cash used in operating Activities	-	180,707.11
Cash Flows from Investing Activities		
<i>Payments</i>		
Minor Equipment		
		-
<i>Receipts</i>		
Interest income		4,352.91
		4,352.91
Net Cash used in Investing Activities		4,352.91
Cash Flows from Financing Activities		
<i>Payments</i>		
-		-
<i>Receipts</i>		
-		-
Net Cash provided by financing activities		-
Net increase (decrease) in cash held	-	176,354.20
Cash at beginning of the reporting period		466,965.16
Cash at end of reporting period		290,610.96

This Cash Flow Statement Should be read in conjunction with the attached Audit Report

SOUTH GIPPSLAND LANDCARE NETWORK

SOUTH GIPPSLAND LANDCARE NETWORK INC. A0011936S

Vic Hill Audit
SMSF Auditor
ABN 38 697 418 852

PO Box 10
Yarragon 3823
Telephone 0417360113
E-Mail: vichillaudit@gmail.com

July 29, 2016

AUDITORS REPORT

Scope

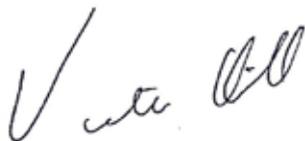
I have audited the Profit & Loss Statement, Balance Sheet and Cash Flow Statement for the South Gippsland Landcare Network for the period 01 July 2015 to 30 June 2016. The organisation is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial statements and the information contained therein. The financial statements and records have been provided as a Quickbooks file. I have conducted an independent audit of the financial statements in order to express an opinion on them to organization.

My audit has been conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. My procedure included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial statements. I have not physically confirmed the existence of non-current assets, this being outside the scope of the audit engagement. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with the requirements of Australian Accounting Standards so as to present a view of the company which is consistent with my understanding of its financial position and its operations and cash flows.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Audit Opinion

In my opinion the accompanying Profit & Loss Statement, Balance Sheet and Cash Flow Statement presents fairly in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards, the financial performance of the South Gippsland Landcare Network as at 30 June 2016 and the result of its operations for the period then ended.



Victor Hill, FIPA

SOUTH GIPPSLAND LANDCARE NETWORK

APPENDIX 2: SGLN Landcare Fund Financial Statement 2015/16 SOUTH GIPPSLAND LANDCARE FUND INC. ABN: 52 166 526 533

SOUTH GIPPSLAND LANDCARE FUND

ABN 52 166 526 533

BALANCE SHEET

FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

ASSETS	2016	2015
Cash at Bank	3807.12	3517.03
TOTAL ASSETS	3807.12	3517.03
TOTAL LIABILITIES	-	-
NET ASSETS	3807.12	3517.03
EQUITY		
Opening Balance	3517.03	3501.25
Surplus/(deficit) for year	290.09	15.78
EQUITY	3807.12	3517.03
INCOME	2016	2015
Donations	275	-
Interest	16.33	15.78
TOTAL INCOME	291.33	15.78
EXPENSES		
Bank Fees	1.24	-
TOTAL EXPENSES	1.24	-
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR YEAR	290.09	15.78

The accompany notes form part of the financial report

SOUTH GIPPSLAND LANDCARE FUND

ABN 52 166 626 533

Notes to Financial Statements

For the Year ended 30 June 2016

Note 1: Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Commonwealth Department of the Environment as a Deductible Gift Recipient of the Register of Environmental Organisations.

The board of the South Gippsland Landcare Network Inc. act as trustees for the Public Fund and have determined the Public Fund is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared on a cash basis and is based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

(a) Income Tax

No Provision for income tax has been raised as the association is exempt from income tax under Div 50 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

(b) Fixed Assets

Fixed Asset purchases are treated as an item of expense

(c) Revenue

All revenue is recognised when the entity obtains control over the funds which is generally at the time of receipt.

(d) Goods and Services Tax

Income and expenditure are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of an item of expense.

SOUTH GIPPSLAND LANDCARE NETWORK

SOUTH GIPPSLAND LANDCARE FUND INC. ABN: 52 166 526 533

Vic Hill Audit
SMSF Auditor
ABN 38 697 418 852

PO Box 10
Yarragon 3823
Telephone 0417360113
E-Mail: vichillaudit@gmail.com

August 2, 2016

AUDITORS REPORT

Scope

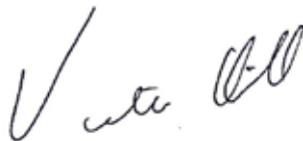
I have audited the Profit & Loss Statement, Balance Sheet and Cash Flow Statement for the South Gippsland Landcare Fund for the period 01 July 2015 to 30 June 2016. The organisation is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial statements and the information contained therein. I have conducted an independent audit of the financial statements in order to express an opinion on them to organization.

My audit has been conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. My procedure included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial statements. I have not physically confirmed the existence of non-current assets, this being outside the scope of the audit engagement. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with the requirements of Australian Accounting Standards so as to present a view of the company which is consistent with my understanding of its financial position and its operations and cash flows.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Audit Opinion

In my opinion the accompanying Profit & Loss Statement and Balance Sheet present fairly in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards, the financial performance of the South Gippsland Landcare Fund as at 30 June 2016 and the result of its operations for the period then ended.



Victor Hill, FIPA

SOUTH GIPPSLAND LANDCARE NETWORK

APPENDIX 3: SGLN Strategic Plan 2015 - 2020

SOUTH GIPPSLAND LANDCARE NETWORK STRATEGIC PLAN 2015-2020

In 2014/15 the SGLN reviewed and updated their strategic plan for the next 5 years. The plan focusses on 6 key themes.

KEY THEME: CARING FOR THE LAND

OBJECTIVES

- Promote best land management practice landscape change and sustainable farming through best land management practices
- Work to protect and enhance the biodiversity of the region
- Facilitate weed and pest control in partnership with community, government and individuals

KEY THEME: LANDCARE GROUPS AND MEMBERSHIP

OBJECTIVES

- Encourage, support and sustain members and groups to ensure their continued survival and growth
- Service the needs of the members and groups
- Identify priorities for on ground works
- Build and retain Landcare membership

KEY THEME: FUNDING

OBJECTIVES

- Identify areas for funding across the SGLN
- Seek funds for priority projects through government grants, corporate business, philanthropic organisations and other avenues

KEY THEME: EDUCATION, COMMUNICATION AND PROMOTIONS

OBJECTIVES

- Educate members and the community about sustainable land management
- Communicate clear Landcare messages to increase the profile of Landcare
- Lobby political organisations to secure funding and recognition
- Provide information services to all landholders so they can look after their land

KEY THEME: COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

OBJECTIVES

- Work with other groups and organisations to enhance outcomes for the Landcare members, groups and Network priorities
- Deliver projects for partner organisations to achieve mutual aims

KEY THEME: GOVERNANCE

OBJECTIVES

- Ensure the members are clear on their roles, purpose and priorities
- Ensure everyone works within the rules of the constitution

Produced in a reader friendly A3 version. Contact Network for a copy.

GET INVOLVED!

ALTHOUGH WE ARE VERY PROUD OF THE QUALITY AND DIVERSITY OF INITIATIVES DELIVERED, WE NEED YOUR HELP!

IN ORDER TO CONTINUE OUR WORK IN CARING FOR THE LAND, BUILDING THE COMMUNITY AND PROVIDING PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS FOR A CHANGING ENVIRONMENT, WE RELY ON THE SUPPORT OF OUR COMMUNITY.

THERE ARE TWO WAYS YOU CAN HELP SGLN:

1. DONATE www.sgln.org.au/support-sgln
2. BECOME A MEMBER www.sgln.org.au/membership

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ENTHUSIASM AND SUPPORT!

THE SOUTH GIPPSLAND LANDCARE NETWORK THANKS THE FOLLOWING ORGANISATIONS FOR THEIR SUPPORT IN 2015/2016

