

South Gippsland
Landcare Network

ANNUAL REPORT

2017 / 2018



2017/18 ANNUAL REPORT South Gippsland Landcare Network

Statement of Purpose

To support and develop a sustainable, integrated approach to food and fibre production and environmental management, and for the protection and enhancement of the environmental values of South Gippsland.

Network Overview

The Network was formed in 1995 and today comprises an affiliation of 15 Landcare Groups involving around 800 community volunteers. The South Gippsland Landcare Network area is land of opportunity and potential that stretches from the lush farmlands surrounding Mirboo North, to Wilson Promontory, down the Cape Liptrap Coastal Park, through the fertile Tarwin Valley, and all the way to the emerald green rolling hills of Loch.

SGLN

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This report serves as a summary of SGLN's achievements and financial records in 2017/18. SGLN believes it is reflective of the role SGLN has played in promoting and delivering sustainable land use and management in South Gippsland over the last 23 years.

As you read through each section, we hope you will gain a better insight into who we are as Landcarers in our local community.

Thank you for your interest, we hope you enjoy reading the report.

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Executive Summary

Thank you for your interest in this years Annual Report. In reading this report, I draw your attention to the reporting against the 'Key Themes' of the SGLN 2015-20 Strategic Plan, (p. 8-13) and the Landcare group reports (p. 16-21). These sections provide a true scene of the current state of the Network. I would like you to be assured that SGLN is in a good place;

- SGLN has the respect of agency partners and the community.
- SGLN has an active and vibrant network of groups and members.
- SGLN has solid working relationships with a wide range of stakeholders.
- SGLN has a solid reputation for delivering high quality projects on budget and on time.
- SGLN is in a more secure financial position than last year.

How do we know this?

We know that we have the respect of agency partners because we are invited, and actively involved, in the delivery of collaborative projects such as Corner Inlet Connections, and new projects such as Biodiversity Response Planning along the Bunurong Coast with the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, and Threatened Species Protection in the Western Strzelecki's with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

We know that we have the respect of the community because new landholders are actively seeking us out, our membership numbers are steady. Landcare members and groups rely on us for providing an efficient and effective framework for the sharing of information and resources. They engage with us on social media, they make contact via phone, email and in person.

We know that we have an active and vibrant network of groups. Sure, some groups are more active than others, but if the Landcare group cluster catch up's planned for October 2018 are anything to go by, Landcare in South Gippsland is very much alive and well. The amount of work that has been achieved and continues to be achieved is worth celebrating. Groups are turning their focus to Landscape scale projects, catering for producers and lifestyle property owners alike, and promoting the Landcare ethos with positivity and gusto.

We know that we have a solid working relationship with a wide range of partners because we actively collaborate and work with; the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, Port Phillip & Westernport Catchment Management Authority, Melbourne Water, Parks Victoria, The Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning, Agriculture Victoria, South Gippsland Shire Council, and the Yarram Yarram, Latrobe, Western Port Catchment and Bass Coast Landcare Networks.

We know that we have a great reputation for delivering high quality projects on budget and on time because we have a high success rate of obtaining grant funding, and we receive feedback from the investors to the effect that we are delivering accordingly.

SGLN would not be in the position it is today without you; the Landcare volunteers, staff and sub-contractors to SGLN, our agency and business partners, and the SGLN Board. For this, we are sincerely thankful.

Throughout the year, Jill Vella has acted as Network Coordinator whilst I was on maternity leave. When I returned from leave in February 2018, Jill stayed on to assist with network operations and project delivery.

Jill's contributions to SGLN during this time have been significant; delivering projects, developing a new

website and membership database, overseeing Board and governance operations, facilitating the successful merger of a number of groups, undertaking new landholder site visits, producing countless communication, media and marketing outputs. On behalf of SGLN affiliated groups and members, I sincerely thank you Jill.

Jenny O'Sullivan has done an amazing job of delivering extension work and overseeing soil improvement management plans over the past four years, (as a contractor) through the Healthy Soils Sustainable Farms project, (coordinated by the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority through funding from the Australian Governments National Landcare Program). Your knowledge and enthusiasm for agriculture is far reaching and inspirational to others; thank you Jenny.

I would like to acknowledge the ongoing support and comradeship provided by staff at the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority to SGLN. Namely from Martin, Fuller, Belinda Brennan, Tanya Cowell, Janine Clark, Marnie Ellis, Dan Garlic, Kathleen Brack, Tony Gardner, Shayne Haywood, Matt Bowler, Richard Allen and Justine Lomax. Each of you have contributed to the success of SGLN in some way, shape or form so thank you.

Many current Board members are not re-nominating for a position on the SGLN Board at the 2018 AGM. I would therefore like to thank you for your contributions which have included, but are not limited to;

- Attending and participating in bi-monthly meetings to; monitor the management of operations and the affairs of the organisation, and represent the interest of members in the governance of the organisation
- Representing SGLN at Farm World and the Sustainability Festival and South Gippsland Dairy Expo

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- Instigating the Landcare Number Plates initiative
- Distributing information booklets to real estate agencies and information centres
- Overseeing the delivery of over 1mil worth of projects. Including of note; the Friends of the Strzelecki Koala-Habitat for Life project, Bunurong Biolink project, Corner Inlet Connections and Sustainable Farming in the West Gippsland and Westernport Catchments
- A Michaels IGA Leongatha plant sale
- Being part of the Landcare in

West Gippsland 'Green carpet' events

A special thank you to retiring Board member, Jean Carnell who has served on the SGLN Board for 15 years. An incredible achievement, thank you Jean we wish you the best for the future.

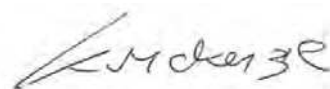
For the Board members that are looking to re-nominate, or have a standing position on the Board, and to all our affiliated groups, members, agency and business partners. I have this to say to you;

The future for SGLN looks bright. We have a raft of new projects to deliver, and many more on the horizon. The SGLN Board post the October 12, 2018, AGM will have the strategic vision and capacity

required to drive this organisation forward. Plus, we will have the addition of a project officer soon, and a new maternity leave Network Coordinator commencing in November. All these factors combined will bring a renewed energy and relevance to Landcare for the South Gippsland community as we know it.

I look forward to what 2019 and beyond brings.

Yours in Landcare,



Kate McKenzie
SGLN Network Coordinator

Chair's Report

Spring has finally sprung. After a cold, windy winter some warmth has finally arrived to get the grass moving and plants and animals active again.

We are coming up to our AGM and the end of our year as a Board, it is also the end of my two-year term as Board Chair.

I must thank all Board members for their time and effort towards SGLN. To those Board members continuing, I wish you all the best towards the success of SGLN and to those

finishing up, thank you for all you have done, and may you stay involved in Landcare in some form into the future.

I would also like to thank Jill Vella for fulfilling the role of acting Network Coordinator and staying on to deliver projects with SGLN over the 12 months leading up to June 30, 2018.

Lastly, I would like to thank Kate McKenzie for her tireless efforts towards our Network, I hope everything goes well with her expanding family and you will be

greatly missed by all involved in Landcare.

I do wish the South Gippsland Landcare Network all the best in all its future endeavours.

Yours in Landcare,

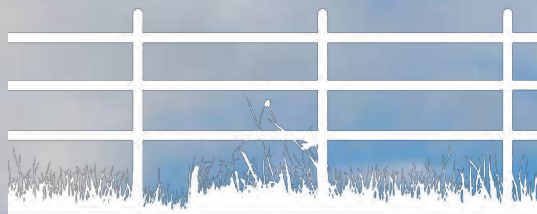


Frank Dekker,
Chairman SGLN



THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

2017/18 FACTS AND FIGURES



5.68 km
Fencing



Subscribers to
monthly Network
Notes e-newsletter
844



21,401
Plants

Area of weed control
34.73 Ha





713

↑105 from last year

SGLN Memberships

450 



871

↑130 from last year

4 Kilograms
of seed
sown



Total area protected/
enhanced by fencing:
21.15 Ha



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 vision

"To support and develop a sustainable, integrated approach to food and fibre production and environmental management and for the protection and enhancement of the environmental values of South Gippsland".

Our mission

"To assist land owners and managers to protect or improve the land for a sustainable future. To grow a community who share information, innovation and support for an ecologically sustainable South Gippsland, and to support and promote Landcare values and membership within South Gippsland".

Our people

SGLN Board

Frank Dekker, Chair
Mark Walters, Vice Chair/
Employment Steering Committee
Russell Swan, Treasurer/
Employment Steering Committee
Jean Carnell, Secretary/Landcare

Fund sub-committee

Libby Anthony, General Member/
Employment Steering Committee/
Landcare Fund sub-committee

Ray Saunders, General Member/
Landcare Fund sub-committee

Helen Hasty, General Member

Bob Grey, General Member

David Layton, General Member

Mark Uren, General Member/
Employment Steering Committee

SGLN Staff

Jill Vella, Network Coordinator July 2017-Feb 2018, assisting Network Coordinator Feb-June 2018.

Kate McKenzie, Network Coordinator Feb-Jun 2018

Consultants and contractors engaged by SGLN to assist with program delivery

Jenny O'Sullivan, Gippsland Food Adventures

Bass Coast Landcare Network

Niels Olsen, SoilKee

Matt Harms, OnFarm Consulting

Declan McDonald, SESL Australia

Lisa Warne, Lisa Warn Ag Consulting Pty Ltd

Chris Alenson (soil scientist)

John Gallienne, John Gallienne & Co Pty Ltd

Nick Dudley, DEDJTR

The nurseries that grow our plant stocks.

The South Gippsland Seed Bank

Mick Green, Drift Media

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.

- Those who made donations to the Landcare Fund, or have contributed in other ways.
- Attendees and volunteers at our talks, excursions, tree plantings and other community events: with particular thanks to guest presenters and to landholders whose properties the events were held at.
- 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, South Gippsland Shire Council 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.



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

What has been done in this area?

- The two-year 'Innovative Solutions to Controlling Agricultural Weeds' project concluded with a follow up field day at the trial site at Fish Creek in April 2018.
- The four-year 'Healthy Soils, Sustainable Farms' project, (funded by the Australian Governments National Landcare program coordinated by the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority) concluded on June 30, 2018 with a number of field days, soil plans, and the Soilkee renovator trial site being finalized throughout the year.
 - * A field day to explore the results of the trial was held in May 2018 at Ross and Madeline Battens property at Buffalo. Results of the trial are available via <https://www.wgcma.vic.gov.au/for-landholders/gippsland-soil-trials/soilkee-renovator-soil-pasture-demonstration>
 - * A field day to explore opportunities for renewable energy in a grazing enterprise was held at Jillian Station and Bruce Whittaker's Walkerville property in November 2017.
 - * Six soil management plans were developed for grazing properties by Agriculture Consultant, Lisa Warne
- The four-year 'Demonstrating Sustainable Farm Practices' project, (funded by the Australian Governments National Landcare Program coordinated by Western Port Catchment Landcare Network) concluded on June 30 2018 with a number of field days, demonstration sites and case studies finalized
 - * A field day exploring the results of controlling azolla in farm dams was held at the Torwood property of Bob Grey in November 2017
 - * A field day exploring the economics of agroforestry versus conventional grazing was also held at Bob Grey's in November 2017
 - Case studies for these trial sites, as well as a trial site looking at mitigation techniques for tunnel erosion, were developed and can be found via <http://www.wpcn.org.au/resources/case-studies/>
- The four-year 'Corner Inlet Connections' project, funded by the Australian Governments National Landcare program coordinated by the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority) concluded on June 30, 2018 with a report on the extent of coastal saltmarsh and mangroves in Corner Inlet produced to assist with future works planning
- On ground works to protect and enhance biodiversity of South Gippsland were delivered as part of two projects during the year
 - * The first project, 'Regional Community Grants' funded by the Australian Government and coordinated by the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority delivered;
 - Area of revegetation completed (Ha): 18.74
 - Plants planted (No.): 20,151
 - Direct Seeding (kg of seed sown): 4
 - Length of fencing completed (km): 5.687
 - Area protected by fencing (Ha): 21.15
 - Area of weed control (Ha): 34.73
 - Weed species treated: Blackberry, ragwort, thistles, sweet reed grass, pasture grass in plantations, English ivy, willow
 - * The second project, 'West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority Landcare Support Grants' delivered (at SGLN level);

- 24 landholders planted 1,250 plants on their properties

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

What has been done in this area?

- Promote and support groups whenever possible and as requested
- Working with and assisting the Nerrena/Tarwin Valley, Mardan Mirboo North, Franklin River and Arawata/Mount Eccles Wild Dog Valley Landcare groups with the delivery of the 2018 West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority Landcare Support Grants
- SGLN Board members were assigned groups to act as a liaison between groups and the Network
- Assisted the Friends of Turtons Creek to become an independent group (they were previously a sub-group of SGLN)
- Processing new memberships as required
- In May SGLN hosted an event for Landcare group executives' titles 'Landcare we need to talk!'. The event sought feedback from the groups on what they want to see/what support they require
- The Network continues to process memberships for SGLN members and on behalf of the Franklin River, Friends of Turtons Creek and Foster North Landcare sub-group
- Assisting the South Gippsland Equine Landcare Group with the process of formally closing
- SGLN Staff and Board members attended meetings when invited and time permits
- 'New Landholder Welcome pack' developed and distributed to real estate agents, information centres and when families join a new group
- Network staff, Board and group members encourage new landholders to join their local Landcare group
- Delivery of a 'small grants for small project' grants program as a way of engaging members and encouraging new memberships

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

What has been done in this area?

- SGLN applied for funding through the submission of ten grant applications throughout the year, (either in partnership with another organisation or applying in our own right). Of the ten applied for, SGLN were successful in receiving six. These are as follows, and are either currently being delivered or scheduled to be delivered post July 1 2018
 - * Water Quality Monitoring in Corner Inlet, CoastCare grant
 - * Reinvigorating Landcare in South Gippsland, Victorian State Government Grant
 - * Climate Change Land Capacity and Capability Project, Victorian State Government Grant
 - * Water Quality Monitoring for Turtons Creek, Victorian Landcare Grant
 - * Biodiversity Response Planning, Threat Reduction along the Bunurong Coast (Victorian State

Government Grant)

- * Biodiversity Response Planning, Threatened Invertebrate Protection in the Western Strzelecki's (Victorian State Government Grant)
- The SGLN Landcare Fund, via the SGLN Landcare Fund Committee has been actively seeking tax deductible donations via newsletter promotions and attendance at field days. A raffle, (of donated local produce and services) to raise funds was organized during the year, it will take place in November 2018
- Funding support was also provided through Michaels Super IGA Community Rewards Program

Key Theme: Education, communication & 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

What has been done in this area?

- SGLN extension services were provided to landholders at two public events throughout the year which included;
 - * The Lardner Field Days in April
 - * The Southern Gippsland Sustainability Festival in April
- Via the Community Weeds Taskforce, SGLN continues to lobby the Victorian Government for improved resourcing for weed control compliance
- SGLN extension services were provided to new and prospective Landcare members through a one-on-one property visit
- SGLN has an active and engaging social media presence on Facebook and Twitter
- SGLN has a solid web presence with increasing resources on sustainable land use and management available
- A range of educational field day, farm walks and events were held by SLGN throughout the year including;
 - * A field day to explore the results of the trial was held in May 2018 at Ross and Madeline Battens property at Buffalo. Results of the trial are available via <https://www.wgcma.vic.gov.au/for-landholders/gippsland-soil-trials/soilkee-renovator-soil-pasture-demonstration>
 - * A field day to explore opportunities for renewable energy in a grazing enterprise was held at Jillian Station and Bruce Whittaker's Walkerville property in November 2017.
 - * A field day exploring the results of controlling azolla in farm dams was held at the Torwood property of Bob Grey in November 2017
 - * A field day exploring the economics of agroforestry versus conventional grazing was also held at Bob Grey's in November 2017
 - * A field day was held at Fish Creek in April to share the results of the two-year 'Innovative Solutions to Controlling Agricultural Weeds' project trial
- A "Landcare, we need to talk" event was held in May 2017. The event was largely about gauging the needs of Landcare groups, as well as increasing the profile of Landcare, and the sharing of information amongst groups
- SGLN extension services were provided to Mirboo North Secondary College Cadets through Landcare depot tours and by facilitating planting opportunities at member properties
- Indigenous plants were provided to Leongatha Specialist School, and the Foster Community Association as a way of increasing the profile of Landcare, and providing a service that will result in tangible environmental benefits

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- A Grazfert course was run in Leongatha in May for landholders in the Corner Inlet catchment. Nick Dudley from Agriculture Victoria facilitated the course.
- SGLN staff presented at numerous functions and to groups to promote Landcare
- An 'Attenborough Natter' event was held in May to honour the 93rd Birthday of Sir David Attenborough and highlight the profile of Landcare. The event received good coverage in print and digital media with a segment on ABC Radio Gippsland
- SGLN business partners support our projects and provide additional promotional opportunities, in particular the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, Michaels Super, IGA, Bass Coast Landcare Network, DELWP Gippsland, ABC Radio Gippsland and local newspapers; The South Gippsland Sentinel Times and The Great Southern Star

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
- Linking in to state and federal grants

What has been done in this area?

Working in collaboration and partnerships with a range of business and agency partners is fundamental to the success of SGLN. There is not one project or task that SGLN does without input from other organization.

Throughout the year, SGLN has collaborated with the following organisations, and in the following capacity;

Organization	Collaboration/Partnerships
West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority	Co-delivery of projects; Corner Inlet Connection, Healthy Soils Sustainable Farms, Victorian Environmental Investment Project, Biodiversity Response Planning. State Government Landcare Facilitator Initiative. Collaborative projects on private land. Regional Landcare Forums. Training opportunities.
Western Port Catchment Landcare Network	Co-delivery of the Demonstrating Sustainable Farm Practices project. Co-hosting a site at Lardner Field Days.
Bass Coast Landcare Network	Sub-contracting of landholder property visits to SGLN. Co-hosting a site at the Southern Gippsland Sustainability Festival. Co-delivery of Climate Change Land Capacity and Capability Project
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Project delivery; State Government Landcare Facilitator Initiative, Water Quality Monitoring in Corner Inlet, Reinvigorating Landcare in South Gippsland, Victorian Landcare Grants, Biodiversity Response Planning
Agriculture Victoria	Grazfert, Community Weeds Taskforce, Farm Planning
South Gippsland Shire Council	Community Weeds taskforce, sustainable agriculture support, support for Landcare groups working on public land managed by Council
Trust for Nature	Covenant advice and referrals, specialist knowledge
Greening Australia	Referrals for on ground works, specialist knowledge promotion of extension/education
Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority	Regional Landcare Forums, Support Grants, extension and advice
The Landcare Networks of; Latrobe, Yarram and Maffra	Cross promotion of events, sharing of information, ideas and resources. Co-delivering on projects as opportunities arise.

Key Theme: Governance

Objectives

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

What has been done in this area?

- The SGLN Board met 7 times throughout the year at bi-monthly board meetings and for a budget and planning meeting in April 2018
- A summary of key discussion points and decisions made at each SGLN Board meeting was provided to Landcare group executives following each SGLN Board meeting to provide transparency and keep groups informed of Network happenings
- SGLN Board members were assigned a Landcare group or groups to act as a liaison between SGLN and the groups as a way of providing a two-way sharing of information
- A 2019-2021 SGLN Business Plan was endorsed by the Board in June 2018. It is available for download via the SGLN website www.sgl.n.net.au > SGLN > Network Documents
- SGLN staff and Board members attended group meetings on invitation throughout the year to answer any questions, find out what the groups are working on etc. and provide an update on SGLN's activities
- SGLN Board members were involved in a range of Network wide initiatives and programs. Mark Walters attended the two-day Regional Landcare Forum retreat at Wilsons Promontory in May, and Mark regularly attended the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority Regional Landcare Forums in Traralgon. Frank Dekker also attended the Regional Landcare Forums.
- Board members fulfilled their duties on the various SGLN Board sub-committees. For the Landcare Fund; Ray Saunders, Jean Carnell and Libby Anthony. For the Employment Steering Committee; Russell Swan, Libby Anthony, Mark Walters and Mark Uren. For the grants and project Committee; Libby Anthony and Ray Saunders
- To comply with the Landcare Victoria Inc 2018 Model Rules, SGLN adopted the following policies throughout the year;
 - * SGLN Child Safety Policy (July 2017)
 - * SGLN Code of Conduct (for SGLN members) (June 2018)
- To encourage volunteer participation with SGLN the following documents were adopted for use;
 - * SGLN Volunteer your interests and skills application form
 - * SGLN Volunteer Agreement
 - * SGLN Administration Officer
 - * SGLN Media and Communications Officer
- To ensure SGLN can meet the needs of the Landcare community irrespective of grant funding, a Fee-for-Service Policy, Procedure and Menu was endorsed by the SGLN Board during the year.
- All the above-mentioned documents are available for download via the SGLN website at www.sgl.n.net.au > SGLN > Network Documents



The year IN PICTURES 2017/18

Nyora Primary tree day planting



National threatened species day cake competition entry. Didn't win but tasted great!



Controlling Azolla in farm dams field day



Agnes River LC Group music in the forest event



July

August

September

October

November

December

Committing herbicide with steam and a UAV at the ragwort field day



The economics of agroforestry versus traditional grazing field day



Loch Nyora LG Group AGM



SGLN AGM. Suzanne Wightman is the Dick Howarth award winner



Allambee Community LC Group working bee at Mt Worth



Fish Creek LG Group AGM



Healthy Soils Sustainable Farms field day
Using renewable energy to power a grazing enterprise

Triholm LG Group lobbies the Victorian government for the enforcement of ragwort control



Mardan Mirboo North LC Group tree planting days

Friends of Turtons Creek Clean Up Australia Day



West Gippsland CMA Landcare support grants program



Controlling Ragwort in pastures field day



Healthy soils sustainable farms Soilkee demonstration site field day

January

February

March

April

May

June

Sothorn Gippsland Sustainability Festival



Franklin River AGM



Allambee Community AGM



Agnes River LC Group tree planting with Foster Secondary College students



Agnes River Landcare Group

[Sourced from the group's Facebook page](#)

The group hosted a tree planting day at the Toora North property of Bryan Watterson on Sunday the 20th of August. The team of planters were treated to lunch and billy tea to finish.

For lovers and music and trees- the group hosted a 'Music in the Forest' event on Sunday the 19th of November 2017 at Toora North. Internationally acclaimed flutist, Lisa-Marie McGrath from the USA performed to the group.

The area below the Agnes River Falls 'the gorge' is an ongoing project for the group. Members are working with agencies such as the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority and South Gippsland Water, as well as private landholder and local schools to

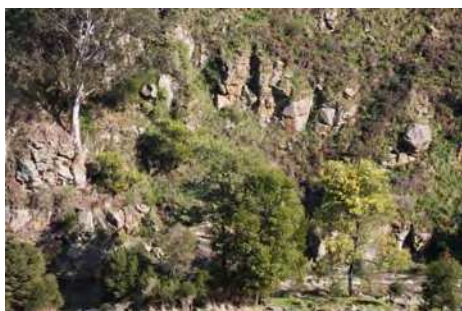


Photo: the stunning beauty of the Agnes River gorge below the Agnes River waterfalls is a current focus for the group. Photo courtesy of Bryan Watterson.

realise the areas potential.

Allambee Community Landcare Group

[By Group President, Judy Lackman](#)

Our group has a fairly constant membership with good attendance at all of our organised events/meetings throughout the year. In October we assisted the Friends of Mount Worth Group with one of their monthly working bees. On a cold and misty morning, the added numbers were welcomed to help with the distribution of gravel along parts of the walking tracks around the Moonlight Creek picnic area. A fallen tree was also cleared from the path to allow for the numerous trailer and

wheelbarrow loads of gravel to be distributed. The Mt. Worth Friends Group are to be commended on all the work they do volunteering their time in the upkeep of pathways and track maintenance of the area. Our group provided a lunch on completion of the morning's work.

A few of our members have taken up our offer of providing 150 indigenous plants for use on their property. The drier than normal conditions over summer and the increasing deer population in our area, were not ideal for plant survival, so not all members have availed themselves of the offer. Despite the lower rainfall figures, ragwort has managed to thrive over the summer, and once again there were a few grossly negligent landholders who have not maintained their weed control program. We are extremely disappointed with the lack of action and enforcement by the controlling government bodies.

The close proximity of the large Darnum/Ellinbank fire in March had all our area on high alert for a few weeks, and we were forced to enact our fire plans on the extreme weather days. Fortunately, the CFA crews, strike teams, and aerial water bombers kept us safe and eventually had things under control. Fire awareness and fire plans are something we all need to have in place particularly when living in the Strzelecki ranges.

At our last AGM, our committed and dedicated treasurer of more than 13 years, Ursula Jansen, stood down from the position and we thanked her for all her great work in keeping our finances in such good order. After the meeting the group heard the highlights/lowlights of the construction of Stephen and Nuala's off grid home, incorporating numerous environmentally friendly techniques and materials to produce their home of which they are extremely proud. Nuala has taken on the role as our treasurer, and we welcome her to the committee.

Allambee South Landcare Group

[By Group President, Lyn Butcher](#)

Allambee South Landcare Group have been in recess for several years,

however, we are enjoying the benefits of works carried out by the group, sometimes with the help of Mirboo North Secondary College students or Scouts during its earlier active years. Trees planted for shelter belts and revegetation projects etc. have mostly grown well and are now providing valuable wildlife corridors, windbreaks and erosion control for quite a number of properties. More recent plantings were unfortunately less successful due to challenging weather conditions or being eaten by rabbits or wombats.

The Landcare spray tanker has been used by a good number of locals during weed seasons. The war on blackberries has been very successful over a period of time and rabbit and fox control has been an ongoing problem that members and other locals have been dealing with.

It is hoped the group will become active once more in the near future as there are quite a number of new residents in the area.

Arawata Landcare Group

[By Group President, Syd Whyte](#)

As President of the Arawata Landcare Group the year 2017/18 I would like to present this report.

SGLN manpower arrangements continually change, where we Kate McKenzie has resumed after the birth of Isla; where Jill Vella has filled that role admirably. Jill was very qualified to fill that demanding role trying to hold the Network together with all the roles and the reporting to accommodate administration. Hence grants where groups need professional input as the process is technical and lethargic and this where we need facilitators. Jill has improved the membership port that is more accommodating the needs of the groups. Her time was 0.6/person/week...time poor.

Membership was enhanced with the admission of the Wild Dog Valley/Mt Eccles LCG whom were about to go into recess and on advice from Jill Vella have elected to join ALCG which took place at our last AGM 010617. This gave us a boost of 15 members and a committee executive in Pat Spinks as treasurer.

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Nick assisted in applying for a grant through Jill SGLN where we were successful in getting of 5K to carry out works on "Hammons Bush" which is common ground for both Arawata and MTEC/WDVY. Nick secured the SGSC works team ably assisted by David Meikle to do significant ground works clearing and maintenance. We had a 1 bbq in December combined with a working bee and a follow up to review works in March where we returned to the hall for the meeting.

DEDJTER continue to be a blocker when responding to calls for weed complaints. There continues to be a groundswell of angst regarding the bland replies with the large infestations of ragwort and blackberry. This season has been very responsive for weeds and now with the odd farmer electing to be become organic we need to remind them that they still have to comply with the community standard.

Danny O'Brien in consultation with the CWTF managed to coordinate an executive meeting with representatives of Jaala Pulford Team convened at the CMA office Leongatha. This meeting with prominent members of concern reminded the team that their performance is extremely poor where we had met all the expectations regarding community engagement however lacked their support to implement enforcement. Several members really laid it on the line and we found lies in their delivery whether they were in consultation with the opposition party with respect to forthcoming elections.

"We need to talk" workshop with lunch at Djinta Djinta organised 11-05-18 by the network where 20 participants from most groups and some BCLC network delegates also. This was facilitated by Michelle Croker from Yackandandah and Craig Kenny who has recently purchased land at Trida. This discussion was to ensure a vibrant future for Landcare and dealt with strategic plans, cooperation, cluster, vitality, demands, health of groups/ Landcare, education and projects.

Fish Creek Landcare Group

By Group President, Robin Stevens

We have a membership of 61 with very diverse needs and involvement, and an executive of 10 members. We hold bimonthly meetings and encourage all members to attend and participate in planning and discussion, and we have representatives on several local community groups.

Projects the group has supported or been involved in over the past year are varied and include:

- Supplement planting of a previous project on the Great Southern Rail Trail at Fish Creek
- The Sandy Point Koala project
- A farm walk in October 2018 on a large revegetation project of wetlands and farm land on the Yanakie Isthmus
- Development of a flow chart for members as a resource, outlining water catchment authorities and land management services in the west and south Gippsland region. It includes government and local contact details.
- Representative to the 2018 National Landcare conference in Brisbane.
- Commenced planning for our major long term project "putting fish back into Fish Creek" We plan to work with the community and private land owners from the headwaters of Fish Creek to the Fish Creek township and beyond. We hope to access funding and create an aerial map of the area to begin with, then move onto the educational phase and finally on ground works.

Each year delivers a wide range of projects and interests for the Landcare groups, and Fish Creek Landcare group looks forward to our next year of challenges and activities.

Franklin River Landcare Group

By Group President, Judy Bacon

We held our Annual Meeting in February and all office bearers were

returned unopposed. We have had a very quiet year so far. Our Rail Trail Planting has recovered slightly after the frost damage in June 2017. We will assess the situation in June 2019 to determine whether any further planting is to be done.



Photo: Executive and general members of the Franklin River Landcare group undertaking a tree planting on the South Gippsland Rail Trail at Toora with Frank Smolders (far left) of F&M Revegetation at Fish Creek. Photo courtesy of Judy Bacon.

Franklin River Reserve Planting- we had weeds and blackberries sprayed on the other side of the River of the Reserve and plan to revegetate the area in October 2018.

Friends of Turtons Creek

Sourced from the group's Facebook page

Younger members of the group participated in a Youth Forum on Wednesday the 6th of September 2017, to provide input into South Gippsland Shire Councils Youth Strategy. The Shire Council wanted youngsters, (aged 12 to 25) to let them know what's great (and/or not-so-great), about living in South Gippsland, how they'd like to influence the issues that matter to them, and how they'd like to get more involved in their community / local government. The ever so fab YLab ran proceedings followed by pizza! Thanks to Mirboo North & District Community Foundation, South Gippsland Shire Council and SG Youth Strategy for delivering this event.

Members participated in social media training on Monday the 21st of August 2017. The workshop was delivered by Mac&Ernie Social Media Training through funding from the Mirboo North & District Community Foundation. Helpful tips and tricks were learned.

The group participated in Clean Up

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Australia day on Sunday the 4th of March 2018.

With 7 adults and 3 kids on clean up, 1 dog on entertainment, and 2 caterers from the Country Women's Association providing an eagerly awaited lunch at the end, we collected 3 big bags of rubbish, 2 big bags of recyclables, 3 dilapidated chairs (1 that appeared to have been converted to an open commode!) and a kettle.

In amongst the rubbish bags was an entire tent that had been pulled out of the creek! Hard to imagine the circumstances leading to that!

The group were successful in receiving a 2018/19 Victorian Landcare Grant in June 2018 that will enable them to undertake water quality monitoring of Turtons Creek. The project will involve Mirboo North Primary School and the broader community.



Photo: members of the Friends of Turtons Creek and neighbouring Landcare groups that took part on the 2018 Clean Up Australia day activities.

Hallston/Wooreen Landcare Group

The group recently updated their mission and vision statements. The mission of the group is to promote sustainable agricultural production to all landowners, to encourage and support the control of weeds and pests, and promote the protection and enhancement of waterways, remnant vegetation and biodiversity.

The groups vision is to engage widely throughout the Hallston/Wooreen area to involve all landowners in Landcare activities, encourage participation by all landowners in identified Landcare projects, and identify activities and projects that will benefit all people in the area

Loch/Nyora Landcare Group

By Group President, Rosemary Knox

I took over as President in February following the resignation of Tricia Fleming. Jo Rayner is Secretary and John Fleming is Treasurer.

Our group was formed in May 1996 (so has been operating for over 22 years.)

Our immediate past projects and on-going have been

- Weed control along the disused railway line from the Loch railway station to Hilda Falls and its rehabilitation
- Nyora PS revegetation project (cleaned up site and planted 500 native tube stock)
- Loch Memorial Reserve planting (130 tube stock on eastern boundary)
- Local walks. We've been to Hilda Falls and from Hookers Road bush to Nyora station (including the turntable)
- Butterfly attracting species plantings

Proposed projects include

- Working with Loch PS on a joint project
- South Road truck stop, we have contacted Vic Roads
- Wark Project following the passing of Graham Wark from Boundary Road Loch....perhaps \$3000 from the Wark bequest
- Suggestions have been a "Wark Walk", garden seat, bee hives.
- Discussion will continue with the family.
- Support of walking track on the rail trail Nyora to Jeetho

A priority of the LNLG is to increase membership of the group. Current membership is \$35 per financial year. Our AGM is to be held on Sunday October 14th at the Loch Winery with a guest speaker and for lunch.

Mardan Mirboo North Landcare Group

By Group President, Suzanne Wightman

Our group continues to function enthusiastically with a steady membership and a core of dedicated members.

In February our group formally expressed our support for the Preserve Our Forests Campaign and its opposition to the proposed logging in Mirboo North by VicForests.

In April we had the Vice President's Most Excellent Lunch organized by Doug at the Jindivick Store with, Rob Youl (President, Australian International Landcare) as the guest speaker. His talk was very informative in regard to the growth of Landcare overseas.

At our June meeting our speaker was Faye Wedrowicz, and she gave a very interesting presentation to the group on the strength of the genetics of Strzelecki koala population.

Our famous 'Tree Bees' are going strong, one of the 'Tree Bees' this year included the Mirboo North Scouts. They were excellent in helping out with getting trees planted and they will receive a badge for their work. The landowner was very pleased with the day as 1400 trees were planted; we then enjoyed a BBQ lunch together.

Friends of Baths Road Reserve are a part of our group; the Reserve is in Mirboo North. There is a working bee once a month to maintain the Reserve. We received funding from the Mirboo North Community Bank to renew the signage for the walking tracks in the park.

Phil Piper has retired from being on our committee this year and will be moving out of the area. Phil has been either a Treasurer or President since the start of our group in 2002. Phil was also a member of the South Gippsland Landcare Network board for a number of years. We will miss Phil very much as he was a very active member, attending functions, workshops, holding and attending meetings, speaking to members and encouraging them to look after the environment.

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The Mardan Mirboo North Group thanks Phil very much for his dedication and friendship and wishes him well on his new venture.

Mt Lyall Landcare Group

By Group President, Geoff Ferrier

I would like to thank all our committee for their wonderful support during the year. Our membership has grown to 45 with the addition of 3 new members. I would like to welcome Alan Ditchburn & Susan Scally along with Peter Lockwood to Mt Lyall Landcare. I hope they gain lots of knowledge and support from our group that enables them to implement good environment and sustainable practices on their properties.

We had a few social events this year and I would like to thank Leesa for organising a car rally for our group. This saw us venturing down towards the swamp area and finishing at Bayles.

Our second event was a film night held at Lyn Mitchard's. We watched some great footage of Faye and Bill Loughridge's trip on the Canning Stock Route along with another trip on South Africa. Thank you to those members who supported these events.

Some of our members attended the Slippery Slopes and Giant Earthworm session at Poowong CFA. A farm walk also took place on this day at the property of Alan & Bev Gregg's farm who have had sighting of Giant Earthworms. Great day had by those who attended.

Our group also continues to maintain the Old School site on Mt Lyall road. Our members spent time spraying the weeds and doing some general maintenance of this site.

Thank You all again for another great year.

Nerrena/Tarwin Valley Landcare Group

By Group President, Sue Miles

This year has been exciting with our BlackSpur Creek Wetlands project ramping up and an amalgamation of two groups – Nerrena and Tarwin Valley.

Following on from our meetings at the

Meeniyen Hotel on 6th August 2017 it was resolved that the Nerrena and Tarwin Valley Landcare Groups merge. This led to some administrative work to make sure that we could legally combine the two groups, which now covers most of the area around the middle of the Tarwin River catchment basin.

We did not have any meetings until the new year when we held a walk around Luke Biram & Melissa Ellis property near the Koonwarra Recreation ground and the Blackspur Creek Wetlands Project. Matt Bowler from West Gippsland CMA walked around with us and gave us valuable information about wetland restoration and assisted Mel and Luke with questions they had about their revegetation project.

As the days got shorter we had a walk down the South Gippsland Rail Trail from Meeniyen towards Leongatha followed by dinner at the Meeniyen Hotel. Sue Miles had organised a list of questions to be answered by members, which opened our eyes to what is contained in that walk. We found many weeds, birds, seeds and plants and information about the trail that many of us didn't know.

After dotting all the i's and crossing all the t's we held the Amalgamation Annual General Meeting in June. At this meeting we decided to call the Group Nerrena / Tarwin Valley Landcare Group.

Our Group applied for several grants this year. We were successful at obtaining funding for the Nerrena Cricket Club and Luke Biram & Melissa Ellis's revegetation projects from the SLGN Group Support Fund.

We also applied for funding through the Community Skills Development Grants Program for Citizens Science Workshops so that we could develop a monitoring program for the BlackSpur Creek Wetlands project. These workshops are to be held in October.

The BlackSpur Creek Wetlands project is connected to the upgrade of the South Gippsland Highway at Koonwarra and Kate Walsh, our Project Manager, and other members have attended many meetings around this event. We have also sent letters of support in relation to changes to the VicRoads project. Kate

has sent our regular updates on the project to a large range of stakeholders and interested people.

Our group looks forward to a busy year as we start off our monitoring of our project and we see the commencement of the new section of the South Gippsland Highway which will impact on our area.

Thanks must go to all the previous office bearers of both Nerrena and Tarwin Valley Landcare Groups whose work helped to enhance our area.

Thanks also goes to the group members who have given so much of their time to our project and will continue to do so.

Thanks to the SGLN staff for their support and assistance with funding and administrative support involved with the amalgamation. We do appreciate it.



Photo: meeting at the Meeniyen Hotel
Photo courtesy of Jill Vella

Poowong Landcare Group

By Group President, Mark Walters

Here is a snapshot of some of the events that took place over the past 12 months;

- A meeting held with Ministers Danny O'Brian and Peter Walsh. Jeff Clark and I attended. The meeting was aimed at having enforcement for farmers who don't deal with their weeds. I note that it is now National Party Policy.
- We looked at weed spraying using remote control helicopters.
- Some of us met with Gavin Brock from Melbourne Water over weed spraying along the Bass River. It is an ongoing

issue with sporadic attempts to control the problem. As was pointed out to Gavin, unless sustained and regular effort is put up it's a complete waste of time and money.

- Weed flyers were printed and will be used prior to the coming weed season.
- Euphorbia in Soldiers Road was sprayed by Jeff and Elvie Clark.
- A Christmas function and tour of my farm was held, and observations made of the different methods of planting over a number of years.
- A Bass River Walk from Wendy Davis was born. This is an ongoing project.
- Silage wrap recycling was brought up, and the need for education is a must. So few farmers recycle their wrap or even know how to go about it.
- On a sadder note, we lost a regular attendee to our Landcare meetings in Ray Boys. He is sadly missed.

Special thanks to office bearers and Poowong Landcare members including Jeff and Elvie Clark, John Jefferies, Steve and Bernie Halliday, Jo and Rob McLeay, Sue and Peter Jacques and Wendy Davis.

Tarwin Landcare Group

By Group President, Debbie Birkett

My vision remains the continuation of the work of protecting and preserving our natural places and repairing degraded areas through regeneration and revegetation. A vision I'm sure is shared by all our members.

Last month Ray and Debbie represented our executive at a South Gippsland Landcare Network workshop at Djinta Djinta, with Landcarers from a number of local groups. It was good to have Kate Williams/McKenzie back in her role and acknowledge the work of Jill Vella in holding the maternity leave position.

It was interesting to have a bigger

picture view of what's working, what's not, opportunities and gaps, facilitated by Michelle and Craig. Data from 2013, 2014, 2016 and 2018 was presented, with many themes repeated over those five years, and across the groups in our network, presumably further afield too.

Across our network, there were many positive projects and achievements, relating to soils, revegetation, weed and pest control, site visits, land management, partnerships, sharing expertise, skills development, practical experience and support, and social and community connection. All goals of Landcare Australia.

On the other hand, there were many shared frustrations, including committee fatigue, changing demographics, limited funding, reduced capacity, ageing members, and attracting members especially young people. In many areas, like ours, farmers had done so much work in the past, they want now to maintain it.

Groups overall were described as "tired but buoyant", perhaps somewhat accurate of our own group, hanging in there rather enthusiastically, with many great ideas, but limited time, money and person-power to implement them. Of course, groups go through cycles of activity, rest and maintenance, just as nature does.

Succession planning within Landcare groups was an issue, with often limited offers to take office positions. Our group has a policy of maximum three-year term for president position, so I'm inviting all members to start thinking about 2019.

Ray and Debbie attended the Network AGM at Mirboo North in October 2017, it was a great night and we encourage members to attend in future years.

Our group summary of interests and projects includes the same nine major areas of focus and concern. These were farmland care, small landholders, township spaces, indigenous nursery, diversity and education, wildlife habitat and care, parks and reserves, indigenous and history, and river/ waterways.

Our biggest and ongoing project is the Shared Pathway revegetation between

Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower. Michael and Colleen and a small band of assistants have been working away most weeks, making steady progress to the point of more than half of the 5km being sprayed, planted, guarded and mulched. Weeding has been done between planting seasons.

Bald Hills Wind Farm Community Grants Program has provided a grant of \$1950 to assist with cost of plants, guards and mulch. South Gippsland Shire have donated truckloads of mulch as well as tree guards toward this project.

Farmland care= in October we held a working bee at Breen's farm to plant 300 trees. Farmers now give a report at each general meeting, and Anne Box initiated tonight guest speaker to appeal to farm members.

Our Small Grants Project invites farmers and others to apply for up to \$1000 for planting and associated costs. Applications are open until end of June.

Small landholders= Members assisted Michael and his partner with their participation in the Victorian Open Garden Program, including holding a Landcare information stall. Their 15-acre property looked magnificent, after obviously a lot of hard work preparing it for the special weekend. Michael donated \$500 to Landcare group from this activity, thank you very much.

The Small Grants Project offers up to 8 members and town residents the chance to access \$250 to plant indigenous natives in their yards or a community area.

Township spaces= Under the leadership of vice president Michael, we planted in several town community spaces= IGA/café, VB store, church Labyrinth, and plans for school garden and VB park. Potential still exists for mapping of township spaces and habitat, and for identification of significant trees or areas.

Indigenous nursery= Silver Banksia Nursery folded under that name and passed to VBCC. Michael continues to propagate and sell from home but holds onto his dream of a community-based semi-commercial nursery in Tarwin

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Lower, focusing on indigenous species for revegetation on farms and gardens.

Diversity/education= Our Landcare network offers a wide range of educational events and site visits through the year, for members to gain knowledge and skills.

No formal partnerships at present, but many groups we assist and collaborate with, including Friends of Venus Bay Peninsula Inc., local businesses, school and church.

Wildlife habitat and care= underpins much of our interest. The bike track planting has a goal of providing a corridor for koala movement, as well as other benefits. A future wildlife and habitat expo could be held for community awareness. Small landholders and farmers are all important in providing habitat. Potential still exists for supporting local wildlife carers.

Parks and reserves= ideas were frequently discussed but no specific actions taken. Potential remains for partnerships with the Shire for care of the Fauna Reserve and health centre reserve. Perhaps a longer-term project?

Indigenous and local history= A bunch



Photo: Executive and general members of the Tarwin Landcare Group participating in Clean Up Australia day along the Tarwin River. Photo courtesy of Debbie Birkett

of indigenous greenery was laid on behalf of the group at Anzac Day, along with many other community groups. This focus area could be taken up by interested members for research and reporting. Malcolm continues working toward an excursion to historic Snake Island.

River and waterways= Landcare members again participated in Clean Up Australia Day, by collecting litter along the roadsides and river banks from the roundabout to the last fishing platform. Michael coordinated a meeting with representatives of South Gippsland Shire and Dept of Environment, Land Water and Planning.

General meetings were held approx.

quarterly= in October, December and March with executive meetings on the in-between months. Participation at meetings, activities and working bees has been around 5 to 10 members. I hope that people have been able to contribute and benefit in ways that are relevant to them. There is always more to do, but I think our year has been productive.

Thank you to each member for your involvement.

Triholm Landcare Group

By Group President, Bob Gray

Our group has had a major focus over the past year on weed control on local farms. Ragwort and thistles are the culprits with blackberry not far behind.

A community information campaign involving roadside signs, a pamphlet drop-off in letterboxes and an article in the Weekly Times have been the emphasis.

Recently we have worked with the Mt Worth Landcare Group to obtain a grant from the Victorian Blackberry Taskforce to employ a person to assist local farmers to develop action plans to help the control their weeds.



All photos in this report unless otherwise credited are used with the kind permission of Janine Clark, Country Life Photography, Nerrena. We thank Janine very much for the use of her wonderful images.

SOUTH GIPPSLAND LANDCARE
NETWORK INC.

A0011936S

SPECIAL PURPOSE
FINANCIAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30 JUNE 2018

SOUTH GIPPSLAND LANDCARE NETWORK INC.

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INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

INCOME	2018	2017
Grant Income		
Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning	85,727	56,950
Origin Energy	-	5,546
Port Phillip & Westernport Catchment Management Authority	-	500
Westernport Catchment Landcare Network	33,000	27,000
West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority	193,263	140,648
Total Grant Income	311,990	230,644
Less returned grant funds:		
Department of Agriculture and Water Resources	-	(4,890)
Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning	-	(14,643)
Natural Heritage Trust	-	(1,144)
Total returned grant funds	-	(20,677)
Net Grant Income received	311,990	209,967
Other Income		
Advertising	3,127	435
Interest income	1,622	2,207
Memberships	3,118	2,937
Other income	14,377	3,213
Recoverable costs	3,456	6,817
Training courses	-	770
Total Other Income	25,700	16,379
TOTAL INCOME	337,690	226,346

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report.

SOUTH GIPPSLAND LANDCARE NETWORK INC.

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INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

EXPENSES	2018	2017
Board expenses	450	2,272
Employment expenses	110,929	173,288
Operating		
Audit	2,000	1,500
Bank charges	447	492
Catering	529	2,779
Computer Software & Support	2,356	3,951
Grants and Incentives	1,250	4,483
Insurance	2,790	2,937
Meeting Expenses	1,354	3,090
Membership Fees	6,279	611
Printing & Stationery	1,268	3,593
Postage	267	315
Telephone	436	300
Travel & Accommodation	-	1,768
Total Operating Expenses	18,976	25,819
Advertising & Promotions	2,212	3,519
On Ground Works		
Catering – Field Days	1,051	1,567
Consultants	29,657	64,812
Contractors	32,003	49,429
Fencing	33,716	48,878
Materials	473	2,729
Trees	18,655	37,052
Total On Ground Works	115,555	204,467
Training & Education	849	906
TOTAL EXPENSES	248,971	410,271
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	88,719	(183,925)

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report.

SOUTH GIPPSLAND LANDCARE NETWORK INC.

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BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30 JUNE 2018

	NOTE	2018	2017
ASSETS			
Cheque account		92,017	6,323
Cash reserve account		25,606	25,471
Term deposit		76,543	75,639
Total cash at bank		194,166	107,433
Accounts receivable		1,468	336
GST receivable		6,502	5,627
TOTAL ASSETS		202,136	113,396
LIABILITIES			
Accounts payable		400	352
Credit card		100	127
Unexpended grant funding	2	76,011	56,567
Funds held for other groups	3	30,275	30,955
TOTAL LIABILITIES		106,786	88,001
NET ASSETS		95,350	25,395
MEMBERS' FUNDS			
Opening balance		25,395	209,320
Current year surplus / (deficit)		88,719	(183,925)
Movement in grant funds		(18,764)	-
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS (Refer Note 4)		95,350	25,395

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report.

SOUTH GIPPSLAND LANDCARE NETWORK INC.

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STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	NOTE	2018	2017
Operating receipts		359,300	243,093
Payments to employees and suppliers		(274,189)	(428,478)
Interest received		1,622	2,207
Net Cash provided by / (used in) Operating Activities	2	86,733	(183,178)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Transfers to term deposits		(904)	(25,639)
Net Cash used in Investing Activities		(904)	(25,639)
NET INCREASE / (DECREASE) IN CASH POSITION		85,829	(208,817)
CASH AT BEGINNING OF YEAR		31,794	240,611
CASH AT END OF YEAR	1	117,623	31,794

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report.

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

1. RECONCILIATION OF CASH:

For the purpose of the Statement of Cash Flows, Cash includes cash on hand and in at call deposits with banks and term deposits with a maturity date of no more than one month net of bank overdrafts.

Cash at the end of the year is shown in the Statement of Financial Position as:

	2018	2017
Cheque account	92,017	6,323
Cash reserve account	25,606	25,471
Total cash	117,623	31,794

RECONCILIATION OF CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES WITH OPERATING DEFICIT:

Operating surplus / (deficit)	88,719	(183,925)
Changes in Assets and Liabilities:		
(Increase) / Decrease in Receivables	(1,132)	(336)
Increase / (Decrease) in Payables	(854)	1,083
Net Cash provided by / (used in) Operating Activities	86,733	(183,178)

SOUTH GIPPSLAND LANDCARE NETWORK INC.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

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 *Associations Incorporation Reform Act (Vic) 2012*. The Board has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals 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

All fixed asset purchases were 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) Employment expenses

Employment expenses are invoiced from West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority on a gross cost basis, inclusive of all employment related costs and other office overheads. All obligations for leave and other entitlements are included within the total cost and therefore there are no liabilities are required to be recorded by South Gippsland Landcare Network Inc.

e) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Tax Office. In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the balance sheet are shown inclusive of GST.

Cash flows are presented in the cash flow statement on a gross basis, except for the GST component of investing and financing activities, which are disclosed as operating cash flows.

SOUTH GIPPSLAND LANDCARE NETWORK INC.**A0011936S****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018****NOTE 2: UNEXPENDED GRANT FUNDING**

The association receives funding from numerous sources relating to specific projects. The balance of each specific project is calculated at the end of the financial year is outlined below:

Project	2018	2017
Arawata erosion project	-	3,563
Biodiversity Blitz Nyora	-	5,546
Corner Inlet catchment project	-	(160)
Corner Inlet Coast Care project	13,374	-
Demonstrating sustainable farms	6,474	-
Healthy soils 2- sustainable farms	-	3,639
Mardan Mirboo North Group project	-	7,174
Ragwort project	-	18,612
Regional Community grants – works	34,296	7,682
Regional Community grants – project management	-	349
Reinvigorating Landcare	11,000	-
Stockyard creek urban watering plan	3,668	-
Victorian Landcare grant	-	10,162
WGCMA support grant	7,199	-
Total	76,011	56,567

NOTE 3: FUNDS HELD FOR OTHER GROUPS

The association holds funds on behalf of the following organisations. The balance of the amount held at the end of the of the financial year is outlined below:

Foster North	3,080	2,963
Prom Plains	-	2,397
Turton's Creek Falls	24,919	25,595
South Gippsland Equine Landcare Group	2,276	-
Total	30,275	30,955

NOTE 4: MEMBERS FUNDS

SGLN activities	20,159	5,565
SGLN newsletter	3,084	731
Collections & memberships	4,054	6,176
One million trees project	9,339	7,051
Landcare number plates	-	626
Salaries	58,714	5,246
Total	95,350	25,395

SOUTH GIPPSLAND LANDCARE NETWORK INC.

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STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

The Board has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

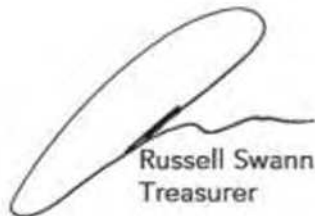
In the opinion of the Board the financial report as set out on pages 1 to 7:

- I. presents a true and fair view of the financial position of South Gippsland Landcare Network Inc. as at 30 June, 2018 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
- II. at the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that South Gippsland Landcare Network Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board and is signed for and on behalf of the Board by:



Frank Dekker
Chairperson



Russell Swann
Treasurer

17 September 2018

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF SOUTH GIPPSLAND LANDCARE NETWORK INC.

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of South Gippsland Landcare Network Inc., which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2018, the income and expenditure statement and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes to the financial statements including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the statement by members of the Board of Management.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report, in all material respects, gives a true and fair view of the financial position of South Gippsland Landcare Network Inc. at 30 June 2018, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Section 100(2) of the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act (Vic) 2012* and the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial report.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report.

We are independent of South Gippsland Landcare Network Inc. in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the "Code") that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling South Gippsland Landcare Network Inc.'s financial reporting responsibilities under the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act (Vic) 2012*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Other Information

The Board of the association is responsible for other information. The other information comprises the information included in the association's annual report for the financial year ended 30 June 2018 but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the Board for the Financial Report

The Board of the association is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report, is appropriate to meet the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act (Vic) 2012*. This responsibility also includes such internal control as the Board determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Board either intends to liquidate the association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but it is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, other the override of internal control
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and relates disclosures made by the Board of Management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Board of Management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the association to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the Board regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify from our audit.

CARDELL ASSURANCE & AUDIT

Lyndal J. McKenzie

3A Billson Street

WONTHAGGI VIC 3995

20 September 2018

SOUTH GIPPSLAND

LANDCARE FUND

ABN: 52 166 526 533

SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR
THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

SOUTH GIPPSLAND LANDCARE FUND**ABN: 52 166 526 533****INCOME STATEMENT****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018**

INCOME	2018	2017
Donations	429.00	1,190.00
Interest	23.58	19.34
TOTAL INCOME	452.58	1,209.34
EXPENSES		
Bank fees	-	3.97
TOTAL EXPENSES	-	3.97
SURPLUS FOR YEAR	452.58	1,205.37
LESS:		
Grant paid to SGLN	(3,000.00)	-
NET RESULT FOR THE YEAR	(2,547.42)	1,205.37

The accompanying notes form part of the financial report.

BALANCE SHEET**AS AT 30 JUNE 2018**

	2018	2017
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	2,465.07	5,012.49
TOTAL ASSETS	2,465.07	5,012.49
TOTAL LIABILITIES	-	-
NET ASSETS	2,465.07	5,012.49
Opening balance	5,012.49	3,807.12
Surplus / (deficit) for year	(2,547.42)	1,205.37
EQUITY	2,465.07	5,012.49

The accompanying notes form part of the financial report.

SOUTH GIPPSLAND LANDCARE FUND

ABN: 52 166 526 533

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

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 on the Register of Environmental Organisations.

The Board of the South Gippsland Landcare Network Inc. act as trustees for the Public Fund and have determined that 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 (GST)

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

SOUTH GIPPSLAND LANDCARE FUND

ABN: 52 166 526 533

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

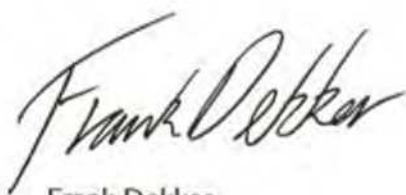
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

The Board of South Gippsland Landcare Network Inc. have determined that the Public Fund is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

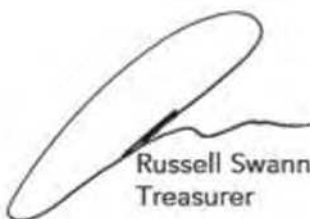
In the opinion of the Board the financial report as set out on pages 1 to 3:

- I. presents a true and fair view of the financial position of South Gippsland Landcare Fund as at 30 June 2018 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
- II. at the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that South Gippsland Landcare Fund will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board and is signed for and on behalf of the Board by:



Frank Dekker
Chairperson



Russell Swann
Treasurer

17 September 2018

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF SOUTH GIPPSLAND LANDCARE FUND

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of South Gippsland Landcare Fund, which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2018, the income and expenditure statement for the year then ended, notes to the financial statements including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the statement by members of the Board.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report, in all material respects, gives a true and fair view of the financial position of South Gippsland Landcare Fund at 30 June 2018, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial report.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report.

We are independent of South Gippsland Landcare Fund in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the "Code") that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling South Gippsland Landcare Fund's financial reporting responsibilities under the *Department of the Environment* as a Deductible Gift Recipient entity. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Other Information

The Board of South Gippsland Landcare Network Inc. as trustees of the Fund, are responsible for other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Fund's annual report for the financial year ended 30 June 2018 but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the Board for the Financial Report

The Board of South Gippsland Landcare Network Inc. as trustees of the Fund are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report, is appropriate to meet the requirements of the *Department of the Environment* as a Deductible Gift Recipient entity. This responsibility also includes such internal control as the Board determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Board either intends to liquidate the Fund or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but it is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

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- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fund's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and relates disclosures made by the Board.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Board's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Fund to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the Board regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify from our audit.

CARDELL ASSURANCE & AUDIT

Lyndal J. McKenzie

3A Billson Street

WONTHAGGI VIC 3995

20 September 2018

If you have enjoyed this report why don't you **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.givenow.com.au/landcaretrees
2. Become a member: www.sgln.net.au/membership/sign-up/

Thank you for your enthusiasm and support!

Follow us on facebook:- [@southgippslandlandcarenetwork](https://www.facebook.com/southgippslandlandcarenetwork)

Like us on Twitter:- [@SGLandcare](https://twitter.com/SGLandcare)



National
Landcare
Program

