

South Gippsland Landcare Network Annual Report 2010/2011



**'Landcare
Making a
difference'**



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 18 Landcare Groups from Nyora in the West across to Welshpool in the East and from Mirboo Nth, down to our southern most group at Yanakie near Wilson's Promontory.

The South Gippsland Landcare Network (SGLN) is managed by a volunteer Board of Management. Executive and administration support is provided by the Network Coordinator - Belinda Brennan.



A Network Snapshot:

2010/2011

- 1 Agnes River Landcare
- 2 Allambee Community Landcare
- 3 Allambee South Landcare
- 4 Arawata Landcare
- 5 Fish Creek Landcare
- 6 Foster North Landcare
- 7 Franklin River Landcare
- 8 Hallston Landcare
- 9 Jindinook 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 Prom Plains Landcare
- 17 Stony Creek Landcare*
- 18 Tarwin Landcare
- 19 Triholm Landcare

* Jindinook Landcare and Stony Creek Landcare merged to form Tarwin Valley Landcare Group, in late 2010/11.

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Executive Summary

Another great year for Landcare in South Gippsland, we had a number of new projects on the go and this will not only deliver high quality on ground outcomes but also assisted in raising awareness across the region. In 2010/11, South Gippsland Landcare Network (SGLN) undertook 13 projects totally \$615,000, delivering

- 55,545 plants in the ground
- Over 27ha of land revegetated
- 253.5ha remnant vegetation protected
- 22.13km of fencing was erected
- 2kg of direct seeding completed
- 467ha of weeds controlled
- 25.8ha of land under soil management actions
- 11 information sessions/ field days delivered
- 5 farm planning and management training courses delivered.

Whilst it is the Network that is coordinating the work, it is a dedicated band of Landcare volunteers that undertake the on-ground work. The figures do not include funds that the individual Landcare groups may have received or account for the many thousands of hours that members put into protecting and enhancing the environment in South Gippsland. The Network currently has 18 Landcare Groups, with over 700 members - most of those family memberships. They are out there planting trees, spraying weeds, managing soil, and protecting our precious waterways. It is the Network's role to support the Landcare groups to undertake this vital work.

The enthusiasm for Landcare was evident early in the year with our AGM attracting over 50 attendees and more nominations than positions available on the Board. We have a wealth of knowledge and experience on the SGLN Board from a group of Landcare volunteers committed to Landcare and delivering the highest value outcomes to our Landcare community.

At the AGM we also launched our new website. This website offers net surfers the opportunity to find out what's happening in South Gippsland Landcare and contact the network for information about anything found on the pages. Designed to for ease of use, the website offers users a complete package of all things Landcare with simple navigation tools, and one click downloading of all the newsletters, information sheets and photos the Network publishes.

The Board finalised the 2010-2015 Strategic Plan with a heavy emphasis on the delivery of services and funding to our Landcare members. The Jindinook and Stony Creek Landcare Groups have been in recess for a number of years, but with many people in these areas still enthusiastic about Landcare, the Network



has worked with some key volunteers and the new Tarwin Valley Landcare Group was created. The Jindinook and Stony Creek has now closed with all their members and many more joining the Tarwin Valley Landcare Group. The Network was successful in receiving Victorian Landcare Grant (VLG) funding for some small grants to help kick start members natural resource management work. The Arawata and Fish Creek Landcare Groups also received \$5,000 each from VLG for their group projects.

The Mardan Mirboo North Landcare Group was successful in receiving \$20,000 for rejuvenating by revegetating the bare hills and gullies in and around Mardan. The project will target 6 properties, 8.3ha revegetation, 2.5m fencing, 10,000 tubestock and 1kg indigenous seed. Well done to Mardan Mirboo North and another 10,000 trees to our One Million Trees target.

The Cape Liptrap Bunurong Biolink Project focused on protecting and enhancing remnants in the Tarwin area and was a huge success with over double the applications received that we were able to fund. The project is running for a second year in 2011/12 so hopefully many who missed out will be successful in the second year. The project will result in 61.4 hectares of land in total to be fenced out on 22 different sites involving 10 landholders; resulting in 55ha of remnant vegetation protected, 6.4ha of revegetation work, 9300 tube stock, and 2kg of seed for direct seeding.

The Tarwin Catchment Enhancement project was a fantastic example of the benefits of our partnership with WGCMA. The WGCMA Board funded the project with the aim to protect and enhance areas in the upper reaches of the East and West Branches of the Tarwin River Catchment. By fencing out the highest quality remnants in these upper reaches of the catchment and revegetating areas that link into these remnants, the project plans to enhance these upper catchment remnant gems and enhance their quality and connectivity with other stands.

Close to 200ha of our remnant gems will be protected. A fantastic example of working together having outstanding outcomes for our natural resources.

Landcare is not just about trees. A healthy soils project we delivered in conjunction with the WGCMA and the other Landcare Networks in West Gippsland was very well received. An introduction to soils day and then the "Soils Big Day out" were two workshops held, both were very well attended and as the project is continuing in 2011/12, the opportunity for further learning and more landholders to get involved will be welcomed by everyone.

The Westernport region of the Network continued with the Targeted Land Stewardship Project in conjunction with Bass Coast and Westernport Landcare Networks. The combination of farm planning training, soil health management actions and revegetation and waterway protection funding has been well received and has seen the project go from strength to strength in the past twelve months.

In a joint project with Friends of Venus Bay, the Network has been successful in receiving \$11,550 for Bridal Creeper control works from Community Coastcare funding. The project protected indigenous coastal vegetation through targeted containment and eradication of bridal creeper using integrated control.

The Network continued the new landholder program which aims to get new people involved in Landcare, ideally their local Landcare group, and commence on-ground NRM work. The Board committed \$6,000 in small grants for new landholders for natural resource management work from the interest generated in 2009/10.



Mirboo North Secondary College Cadets.

The South Gippsland Landcare Network Awards held on Friday 13th May had a Landcare version of black Friday with weeds and pest animals galore, 95 people came together to enjoy a superb night showcasing the finest Landcare has to offer. The Landcare Awards recognises the outstanding efforts of the South Gippsland Landcare community in the protection, rehabilitation and reinstatement of our natural resources.

The Award winners were:

- Dick Howarth Memorial Award
for an individual Landcarer
Winner: Jean Carnell
- Primary Producer Award
Winner: Rosemary and Graeme Trease
- HVP Young Landcarer Award
Winner: Leongatha Lyrebird Guides
- Education Award
Winner: Mirboo North Secondary College Cadets
- VicRoads Bushcare Award
Winner: Paul Stewart and Ann Bullen
- South Gippsland Water Rivercare Award
Winner: Ross, Marj and Tim Pearson
- WGCMA Group Award
Winner: Fish Creek Landcare Group

Partnerships and the joint delivery of projects for mutual benefit were a priority in 2010/11, traditional partners such as the West Gippsland and Port Phillip Westernport Catchment Management Authority, South Gippsland Water and Melbourne Water continued and were strengthened. While new partnership with HVP, SPAusnet and a range of community organisations certainly added a new dimension to the Network and the services we can deliver.

The Landcare Network would not continue to function without the generous support of the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority, South Gippsland Water and Melbourne Water and for that we extend our thanks.

Yours in Landcare
South Gippsland Landcare Community

Chairperson Overview - Mark Uren

Good evening and welcome to the Annual General Meeting of the South Gippsland Landcare Network.

This year sees the 25th Anniversary celebrations for Landcare in Victoria. Whilst we can look back at 25 years of outstanding achievements in sustainable land management and habitat protection and enhancement, the tenure of funding for these activities remains a year to year, project by project proposition. It was evident to the Board some years ago that we would have to look beyond a simple mix of tenuous State and Federal funding to maintain our staff, infrastructure and activities. As part of the Board's strategy to increase the diversity of funding for the Network, we started looking at iconic projects which might attract semi-government and private funding.

Two of these projects, One Million Trees and the Strzelecki Koalas have been successful in attracting a total of \$40,000 and \$65,000 respectively to date. These numbers clearly demonstrate simple ideas can grow to very successful projects but also indicates the need to develop projects which have wider public appeal than simply water catchment quality, habitat enhancement or sustainable agricultural practices.

This year saw us launch the South Gippsland Landcare Fund which gives individuals or organisations the ability to make tax-deductible donations to the Network. Whilst the use of these funds is quite prescriptive, we do have enough flexibility to continue our support for on-ground works. Like our gift cards, the Fund is a work in progress and the Board is confident that over the next few years, with our continued support, like the Million Trees and Koala Projects, the Fund will become a significant source of funding for the Network's activities. Projects like these take years to develop and become financially successful, but they have proven that perseverance pays. This year also saw the successful application for funding totalling \$615,000 across 13 projects including the Corner Inlet Connections Project and the Tarwin Catchment Enhancement Project. Most of the funding for these Projects came via the WGCMA and has been crucial in enabling us to retain the staff we have.

It's worth noting that funding has changed to the extent that in the last few years we have seen funding for facilitators dry up and replaced by funding for Project Officers. This implies we must have projects to manage in order to keep the staff we have, but, sadly the days of facilitators directly assisting groups are long gone. We still await news of funding arrangements for the Network Coordinator's position beyond the middle of next year.

The diverse nature of our funding puts greater governance demands on the Network. In order to stay ahead of the governance game, so-to-speak, one of the duties of the Board in the next year will be to review and expand our sub-committees with the view to not only implement best practice standards of governance, but also help focus on key areas of concern to the Network. One of those areas of concern is membership. SGLN member numbers are not growing significantly and we only have a small percentage of commercial farmers as members. The Board is currently working on several strategies to improve this situation but I can see the need for a specialist subcommittee to look at nothing else but growing membership. Relevance to commercial farmers will be top of the agenda for this sub-committee. When the final structure of these committees has been determined by the incoming Chairman and Board, then our wider membership will be invited to fill vacancies on these committees.

A key component of an organisation's ability to leverage its influence is to form partnerships. In the last two years we have seen further development of partnerships with organisations such as South Gippsland Water, HVP, Melbourne Water, WGCMA, Westernport CMA and SP Ausnet. One of our more novel partnerships was with the General Practice Alliance who provided funding to present "You Won't Die Laughing" which saw 195 people enjoy an entertaining evening and learn something about looking after your physical and mental health. Our membership can expect to hear of more partnerships in the near future.

If the health of an organisation can be judged by the enthusiasm of its members, if not its gross numbers, then we do indeed have a very healthy organisation. It is a pleasure to work with staff and, volunteers that show so much passion and enthusiasm for what they do.

Firstly, our staff. We have been fortunate that in the last couple of years have seen very low staff turnover enabling us develop stability, continuity and expertise within the network. You need only to attend the Mirboo North Arty Gras or our Awards night to see our staff going the extra yard for the cause. I wish to thank Courtney, Jill, Kathleen and Kate for efforts above and beyond what any normal employer expects. Whether it is suited-up as a Koala or ragwort, promoting Landcare or managing one of our Projects you all do an outstanding job and multiply your efforts by showing other workplaces what "team" is all about.

Tony Gardner has moved over to the WGCMA and we thank Tony for his contribution to the Network during his stay with us along with Geoff Trease who worked part-time for the Network on the Tarwin Project.

Belinda is our Network Coordinator and Executive Officer. Belinda does an outstanding job in support of the Network, staff and Board. Anyone who works with Belinda quickly understands how lucky we are to have her as part of our Network, let alone running it. The Network is also blessed to have a diverse, talented and effective Board. Board meetings are rarely boring and a pleasure to Chair - a task I will miss. Our exchanges are open, honest and productive.

I wish to thank the Board for their time, dedication and support in my two years as Chair. To those of our wider membership who are members of the Public Fund Committee of Management etc special thanks for your contribution.

Finally, I would like to thank all our partner organisations and sponsors. In particular, the WGCMA for the ongoing strident support. That support is often "inkind" and reveals itself in the form of administration assistance from Janine Clark and Network support from Phil McGarry and Martin Fuller.



Mark Uren
Chair - South Gippsland Landcare Network



Mark Uren and Damon Stynes at the 2010 AGM.

Before



After



Board Members: Peter and Jan Fell's Landcare work.

Network Overview

South Gippsland Landcare Network Strategic Plan 2010-2015

In 2010/11, the SGLN Board finalised their Strategic Plan for 2010-2015. The Plan focuses on the importance of the local Landcare Groups and supporting their on ground activities. The Plan focused on 6 key themes.

Key Theme: *Caring for the Land*

OBJECTIVES

- Promote landscape change and sustainable farming through best land management practices
- Provide information services to all landholders so they can look after their land
- Facilitate weed and pest control in partnership with community, government and individuals
- Work to enhance the biodiversity of the region

Key Theme: *Landcare Groups & Membership*

OBJECTIVES

- Encourage, support and sustain member Landcare Groups to ensure their continued survival and growth
- Service the needs of the Landcare groups
- Identify priorities for on ground works
- Build South Gippsland Landcare Network Membership

Key Theme: *Funding*

OBJECTIVES

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

Key Theme: *Collaboration & Partnerships*

OBJECTIVES

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

Key Theme: *Education, Communication & Promotions*

OBJECTIVES

- Communicate clear Landcare messages with the aim of increasing the profile of the network
- Lobby political organisations to secure funding and recognition

Key Theme: *Governance*

OBJECTIVES

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

It was produced in a reader friendly A3 version. Appendix 1: Copy of SGLN Strategic Plan 2010-2015.

Role of South Gippsland Landcare Network

The role of the South Gippsland Landcare Network is

- i. Network-wide Landcare planning,
- ii. Attracting funds from commonwealth, state and local governments and from other sponsors for network-wide projects,
- iii. Planning, entering into and maintaining working relationships with governments, statutory agencies and sponsors,
- iv. Coordinating and managing network wide projects and on-ground works,
- v. Coordinating and supporting staff engaged under the auspices of SGLN and/or its members, in conjunction with any employing agency,
- vi. Promoting SGLN internally and externally,
- vii. Reviewing, and advising on, policies, strategies and plans of all levels of government relating to Landcare objectives and projects,
- viii. Establish a public fund to attract funds for the delivery of projects that preserve, protect and enhance the environment of South Gippsland.

South Gippsland Landcare Network Board

The SGLN Board is made up of 12 volunteer Landcare members. Each member is appointed for a two year term with executive positions being appointed annually. The AGM held in September 2010, was a great night, we had over 50 people attend the AGM and had an election with more nominations than positions. Four new members were elected to the Board. Thank you to our retiring members Peter Hinksman, Val O'Loughlin and Syd Whyte for their efforts on the SGLN Board.

SGLN Board Members

*New in 2010

Chair	Mark Uren	Mardan Mirboo North Landcare Group
Vice Chair	Damon Styne*	Agnes River Landcare Group
Secretary/ Treasurer		
& Gippslandcare Rep	Jean Carnell	Hallston Landcare Group
General Member	Rosemary Trease	Mardan Mirboo North Landcare Group
General Member	Arie Bos	Agnes River Landcare Group
General Member	Stephen Hoole	Allambee Community Landcare Group
General Member	Jan Fell	Foster North Landcare Group
General Member	Peter Fell	Foster North Landcare Group
General Member	Dawn Marroli	Arawata Landcare Group
General Member	Robert Jones*	Foster North Landcare Group
General Member	John Fleming*	Loch Nyora Landcare Group
General Member	Mark Walters*	Poowong Landcare Group

Board Members

Meetings held in the 2010/11 financial year were:

- **Board Meeting 13:** 23rd August 2010
- **Annual General Meeting and Board Meeting 14:** 11th September 2010
- **Board Meeting 15:** 14th October 2010
- **Board Meeting 16:** 9th December 2010
- **Board Meeting 17:** 10th February 2011
- **Board Meeting 18:** 14th April 2011
- **Board Meeting 19:** 9th June 2011

Network Overview



2010/11 South Gippsland Landcare Network Board.
Back Row: Peter Fell, Arie Bos, Mark Uren, Mark Walters,
Stephen Hoole, Damon Stynes. Front Row: Dawn Marotti,
John Fleming, Rosemary Trease, Jean Carnell, Jan Fell,
Rob Jones.

Board Member Profiles

Mark Uren - Chair

Mardan Mirboo North Landcare Group

Mark has been a member of the SGLN Board for over 6 years. Mark originally comes from Melbourne where he worked as an IT Manager. In 2003 he established a native seed business and developed several novel techniques to collect and process native seed for specific revegetation projects. Mark has collected large quantities of seed for projects such as the Basslink Offset Project in Giffard and the Delatite Arm Revegetation Project on Lake Eildon. More recently he has been involved in Bushfire Recovery work in the Latrobe Valley and most recently was the Project Manager for the GippsTAFE Bushfire Recovery and Community Jobs Project which employed about 40 trainees and works crew to assist with bushfire recovery activities in the Latrobe Valley.

Damon Stynes - Vice Chair

Agnes River Landcare Group

As Chief Executive Officer of Professional Relocations Pty Ltd, an international company that looks after the relocation of employees around the globe for many of the world's leading companies, advising on policy, sourcing housing, schooling and coordinating advice on migration, taxation and property, Damon brings a commercial acumen to the SGLN Board.

Prior to this role where Damon was instrumental in Professional Relocations receiving the award for *Best Relocation Service Provider in Asia Pacific*, he worked at Price Waterhouse, PKF and Arthur Andersen in Senior Professional Consulting Roles. Damon and his wife Katie own 117 acres running between the Agnes River and South Gippsland Highway in Toora. Damon has been involved in Landcare on the Agnes River Landcare Group Executive for 5 years and more recently on the SGLN Board as vice Chair for 12 months.

Jean Carnell - Secretary/Treasurer

Hallston Landcare Group

Jean made a tree-change with husband Mike from Melbourne to Hallston in 2000. They were lucky to find a beautiful small acreage with bush, birds, animals and a creek. They joined the Hallston Landcare Group and quickly became part of the local community. They have planted about 2000 trees on the property to provide wild-life corridors; many have survived in spite of the predations of the local wallabies.

Jean became a member of the SGLN Steering Committee and since then has served on the various Network Management Committees and the Board. Jean's passion is for the improvement of biodiversity in our region, and has been President of the South Gippsland Seed Bank for about 9 years.

Rosemary Trease

Mardan Mirboo North Landcare Group

Rosemary has been a member of the SGLN Board for 4 years. Graeme and Rosemary Trease farm 130 hectares (320 acres) of country, first selected by Graeme's family in 1884. The property, "Seven Streams" is named for the tributaries of Berry's Creek, part of the Tarwin River catchment that flow through the property. When Graeme first bought the land from his father, there were no trees on it at all, apart from some rows of conifers. This was one half of the present farm, in 1987; the Trease's bought the other half from Graeme's uncle. The property is a dairy farm, farmed organically for the past eight years. As part of her Diploma of Agriculture studies, Rosemary developed a whole farm plan which aimed to improve the productivity of the farm, whilst increasing biodiversity and the water quality in the property's waterways.

Arie Bos

Agnes River Landcare Group

Arie Bos has been involved with the South Gippsland Landcare Network for many years. As a landholder of 200 acres and some roads and perches. Arie has fenced off and planted all the creek banks and a couple of steep bits over the years. Arie has had the honour to receive a couple of Landcare awards - local and state. He is a passionate gardener, and is engaged in running a small food garden with the pupils of Toora Primary School. Arie is a life member of the Welshpool Horticultural Society and Chair of the Agnes River Landcare Group. Arie has achieved a body of work that includes working with volunteers, management committees and Landcare groups to restore the environment in his local area and is rightly recognised by all as a Landcare champion.

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Stephen Hoole

Allambee Community Landcare Group

Stephen has been a Board member for 2 years and sits on the finance sub committee. He is a member and Vice President of the Allambee Community Landcare Group. He has been involved in Landcare for about 6 years now after purchasing a 40 acre bush block in Allambee at the end of 2005. Stephen and his family's initial interest were to meet people in the local area and learn more about caring for the land in general. The enjoyment that knowing local people and the property brought attracted Stephen to Landcare and he joined the SGLN Board in 2009. He has enjoyed the experience immensely. Stephen is now living at Allambee and building a house as an owner-builder. Stephen spent many years working in the Information Technology field before retraining in 2003. He now does community work as a Family and Youth Worker and works as an Executive Coach in the corporate world. He hopes to remain in the area for a long time to come and continue his involvement in Landcare at the local level and with the Network. Stephen and Rob Jones have served on the Friends of Strzelecki Koalas Sub committee and provided guidance and support to staff.

Dawn Marotti

Arawata Landcare Group

Dawn is retired on a small 60 acre farm running beef cattle. She has been a member of Arawata Landcare group for about 8 years, and has been Secretary/Treasurer for 5 years. Dawn and her husband Mark, have planted about 4,000 trees on the creek sides and steep areas of our block. Dawn and Mark were the recipients of the Dick Howarth Award for Individual Landcarer in 2001 for outstanding weed control. Dawn joined the SGLN Board in 2008. Dawn believes she still has plenty to offer Landcare (and we agree!!)

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Jan Fell

Foster North Landcare Group

Peter and Jan made the 'tree change' some ten years back, coming from inner city Melbourne. Purchasing a small 4.5 hectare block that had been 'let go' and over run with weeds. Joining the Foster North Landcare group enabled them to take on a revegetation and tree planting project across all 4.5 hectares, meeting and making new friends along the way. Jan worked as an R.N. Div 1 for some 40 years, training at Prince Henry's Hospital (before it closed), moved up to Assistant Director of Nursing - Southern Health. Obtained a Grad. Dip. in Business Management and holds a private pilots licence. Jan has been a member of the Board since 2008.

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Peter Fell

Foster North Landcare Group

Being Jan's other half, Peter thought it best to move with her to Foster. Their only regret is not having made this move many years sooner. Over the ten years and with the help of Landcare a total of 16,500 trees (tube stock) have been planted to date and still planting. The target is 20,000! Peter has worn several caps in Melbourne prior to moving to Foster, including an Ambulance Officer, owned a retail confectionery shop and last before the move a successful packaging and marketing business. Hobbies include flying - being the holder of a private pilots licence. Peter was elected to the SGLN Board in 2007.

Network Overview

John Fleming

Loch Nyora Landcare Group

Starting off in 1984 with the South Gippsland Farm Tree group, John and Tricia Fleming have been landcarers from wayback. Instrumental in forming the Fish Creek Landcare Group in 1992 and both being office bearers of some form in following years the Flemings have been actively involved in Landcare ever since. John helped establish the South Gippsland Indigenous Seed Bank at Leongatha. In 1995 they were nominated for the Landcare Primary Producer Award for "innovative farm management at Fish Creek and long involvement with regional Landcare". Moving to Nyora in 2003 the Flemings became involved with the Loch/Nyora Landcare group not only as office bearers but also very much involved with getting their hands dirty with numerous community tree plantings along the way. Despite leaving Fish Creek in 2003 the Flemings were presented with a Life Membership to the Fish Creek Landcare group a few years later in 2006-07. John was a member of the SGLN Board in the past including a stint as Chair of the Board and also was vice chair of Gippslandcare for 2 years during this period. John returned to the SGLN Board in 2010, bringing a wealth of experience

Mark Walters

Poowong Landcare Group

Mark Walters has operated an Accounting and Financial Planning business in Melbourne for the past 25 years. Four years ago he purchased 240 acres of rolling hills at Loch. He runs beef cattle on the property. The farm had very little vegetation on it and Mark is in the process of revegetating the gullies and providing shelter belts for stock. Both Landcare and Melbourne Water have provided assistance for this.

He has also put in 25 ha of commercial timber plantation for saw log timber. Mark was involved in the Slow the Flow project in Westernport as a cluster representative and was appointed to the SGLN Board in 2010.

Robert Jones

Foster North Landcare Group

Rob was a teacher/ school principal for 38 years and has a lifetime interest in plants and animals, especially those from aquatic environments.

After retiring Rob and his wife Vivienne, purchased a property in Woorarra West which featured remnant forest and land that had been cleared for farming.

They built their new home and moved from Melbourne to settle in this most scenic spot in Victoria.

Rob has been involved in Landcare since 2003 and is also a member of Land for Wildlife and Friends of Strzelecki Koala. As Secretary of the Foster North Landcare Group, Rob's aim is to increase the Group's profile and operation. Personally he and Vivienne are revegetating their property with more trees for increase koala habitat. Rob and Stephen Hoole have served on the Friends of Strzelecki Koalas Sub committee and provided guidance and support to staff. Rob joined the SGLN Board in 2010.



Our Strzelecki Koala and Board Member Rob Jones at Foster Market.

South Gippsland Landcare Network Staff

SGLN employed seven staff members in the 2010/11 financial year. Staff profiles, roles, time allocation and funding source are listed below.

- **Belinda Brennan**, Network Coordinator
- 3.5 days/week
- **Tony Gardner**, Landcare Project officer, Westernport
- 4 days/week to Nov 2010
- **Jill Vella**, Landcare Project Officer, West Gippsland
- 2.5 days/week
- **Kate Williams**, Landcare Project Officer, Corner Inlet
- full time
- **Kathleen Bartlett**, Landcare Project Officer Westernport
- full time Jan 2011 onwards
- **Geoff Trease**, Landcare Project Officer, Tarwin
- 1 day/ week, Sept 2010 - June 2011
- **Courtney Lever**, Project Support Officer
- 1 day/week



SGLN Staff - Celebrating 25 years of Landcare in 2011.
Back: Belinda Brennan, Jill Vella, Front: Kate Williams,
Courtney Lever, Kathleen Bartlett.

Belinda Brennan **Network Coordinator**

Time: 0.7 FTE (3.5 days/week)

Funding: Victorian Landcare Grant and Project Management Funding

Profile:

Belinda has been South Gippsland Landcare Network Coordinator's for the past four years and has over 20 years experience in Landcare both in Victoria and in Western Australia. This experience is at all levels of community and government. Belinda has a significant understanding of how Landcare operates at all levels and the impact of decision making on the Landcare community. Belinda has Bachelor of Applied Biology, as well as Certificate IV in Workplace Training and Assessment and Certificate IV in Governance. As Network Coordinator, Belinda has developed, coordinated and overseen the delivery of over \$1.8 million worth of projects for the Network over the past four years.

Roles:

- Executive support to Board and Public Fund committee of management
- Strategic planning and partnership coordination
- Budget development and management including preparation of funding applications
- Staff Management
- Gippsland Sustainable Agriculture Network liaison
- Liaison and partnership development, South Gippsland Shire

- Representative on South Gippsland Shire Sustainability Strategy Reference Group
- Coordination of Friends of Strzelecki Koala project
- Corporate sponsorship and business partner support

Jill Vella **Landcare Project Officer, West Gippsland**

Time: 0.5 FTE (2.5 days/week)

Funding: Project Funding - range of projects and SGLN funds

Profile:

Jill has been with the Network for 3 years working 2.5 days a week as a Project Officer. Jill came to Landcare from Waterwatch where she was the project officer for the NCI project for three years. A deer farmer with a laboratory background- Jill has qualifications in Biological and Environmental Testing (Chisholm Institute) and Agriculture (Melbourne University).

On the Koonwarra property that she farms with her husband Michael, they run approx 300 deer on 42 hectares.

Roles:

- Coordination and delivery of New Landholder program
- Coordination and delivery of One Million Trees program
- Coordination and delivery Healthy Soils : Sustainable Farms project
- South Gippy Newsletter - coordination of article and collation, arrange distribution
- Maintenance and development SGLN website

Network Overview

Kate Williams

Project Officer, Corner Inlet Connections

Time: 1.0 FTE (full time)

Funding: Project Funding: Corner Inlet and SGLN Pest Plant and Animal Funding

Profile:

Kate Williams has been employed by the Network as a Project Officer since March 2010. Prior to working with the Network, Kate has fulfilled environmental roles within State (Vicroads, Metro North West Region, Sunshine VIC) and local government (Mitchell Shire Council, Broadford VIC). Past and current roles have focused on pest plant and animal extension/education, land management and environmental project management. Qualified with a Bachelor of Environmental Science majoring in Conservation Ecology (Deakin University) and Diploma of Environmental Management (Swinburne University of Technology).

Roles:

- Coordination and delivery Corner Inlet Connections project
- Project coordination - Bridal Creeper and Gorse projects
- Executive Support for Community Weeds Taskforce
- SGLN weeds website - maintenance and further development

Tony Gardner

Officer: Westernport; July - November

Time: 0.8 FTE (4 days/ week)

Funding: Project Funding - Targeted Land Stewardship and Melbourne Water

Roles:

- Targeted Land Stewardship (TLS) - Westernport region
- Melbourne Water partnership (funded to December 2010)
- Referral of landholders to MW stream frontage programs

Note: Tony finished in the position in November 2010, to take up a position with the WGCMA as the Project Coordinator for the Healthy Soils: Sustainable Farming Project. Kathleen Bartlett replaced Tony in the Landcare Project officer, Westernport role in January 2011.

Kathleen Bartlett

Landcare Project Officer, Westernport Jan 2011- Ongoing

Time: 1.0 FTE (full time)

Funding: Project Funding - TLS, PPWCMA/Melbourne Water, Cape Liptrap to Bunurong

Profile:

Kathleen Bartlett works full time in the Westernport area of the Network on the Targeted Land Stewardship and Melbourne Water Stream Frontage projects. Kathleen has been working for the South Gippsland Landcare Network for 6 months after graduating from RMIT University with a double degree in Social Science (Environment) and Environmental Science.

Roles:

- Targeted Land Stewardship - Westernport region
- Melbourne Water partnership (funded to June 2012)
- Referral of landholders to MW stream frontage programs
- Delivery of Cape Liptrap to Bunurong Biodiversity Project in Tarwin and Fish Creek areas

Geoff Trease

Landcare Project Officer, Tarwin

Time: 0.2 FTE (1 day/week) Nov 2010 - June 2011

Funding: Project Funding - Tarwin Project

Profile:

Geoff was the part time South Gippsland Seed Bank manager for four years until June 2011. Prior to his Seed Bank role, Geoff was a Landcare project officer in the Bass Coast Landcare Network.

Roles:

- Joint delivery of the Tarwin Catchment Enhancement Project

Courtney Lever
Project Support Officer

Time: 0.2 FTE (1 day/week)

Funding: SGLN Funds

Profile:

Courtney studied Bachelor of Environmental Science (Hons) at Monash University and majored in Biology and Geography. Courtney has just completed her honours thesis in Geography and graduated from University in July 2011. Courtney has been working at the South Gippsland Landcare Network since November 2009 starting her role at the Network as a summer vac work and continuing on as a project support officer. Currently Courtney works part time as a project officer working on the Friends of Strzelecki Koala Project.

Roles:

- Conversion of paper based maps/ farm plans for Mt Lyall Landcare Group
- One Million Trees Data Recording
- Coordination of Friends of Strzelecki Koala project (Jan 2011 onwards)
- Project support across all Network projects

South Gippsland Landcare Network Website: www.sgln.org.au

At the AGM in 2010, SGLN launched our new website. The website offers net surfers the opportunity to find out what's happening in South Gippsland Landcare and contact the Network for information about anything found on the pages. Designed to for ease of use, the website offers users a complete package of all things Landcare with simple navigation tools, and one click downloading of all the newsletters, information sheets and photos the Network publishes.



Network Overview

South Gippsland Landcare Fund

The South Gippsland Landcare Fund was established to receive public donations for Landcare projects in South Gippsland. This will also allow SGLN to access a greater range of funding opportunities as many philanthropic trusts require deductible gift recipient (DGR) status when granting funds.

The objective of the fund is to support the environmental objects of the South Gippsland Landcare Network as defined in the Role and Statement of Purpose

The Fund progressed slowly but steadily over the 2010/11, receiving \$1,149.25 in donations in 2010/11 and \$4.25 in interest.

The Landcare Fund was launched at a late afternoon function on 3rd June 2011. Heather Campbell, CEO of LAL spoke about "Landcare is Good Business", along with presentations from Westpac, South Gippsland Water and Martin Fuller, WGCMA - all focused on how important Landcare is and the benefits from a partnership with SGLN to get works done and raise community awareness. It was a very successful event with a number of people and businesses to follow up in the new financial year.

A Public Fund brochure was developed along with a donation form. These are distributed at various field days and to potential partners etc. See Appendix 2 for a copy of the Fund Brochure.

The Fund doesn't just benefit the Network based projects, it is also available for groups to utilise to help raise funds for their projects. Landcare group projects are registered with the Fund and the Landcare Group works with the Public Fund Management Committee to raise funds and manage the project.

The Fund has been working a range of alternatives to attract donations to the Fund and Landcare Projects. Options included payroll deduction, sponsoring a project, one off donations and merchandise around the Friends of the Strzelecki Koalas.



South Gippsland Landcare Fund

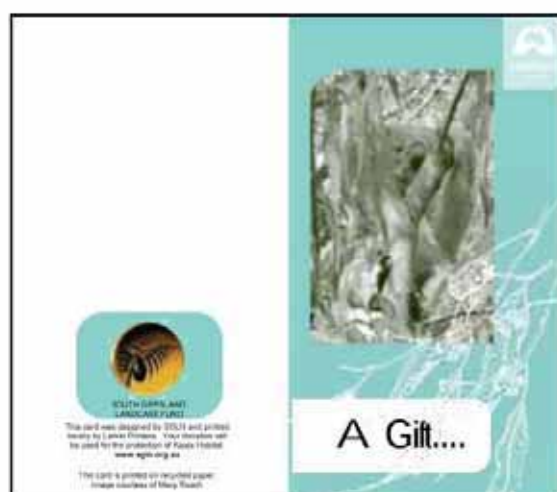


How Can You Help?
Make a tax deductible
donation
All donations
over \$2
are tax deductible



The Fund set up facilities to be able to donate to the Friends of Strzelecki Koalas or other Landcare projects on line, this allowed us to take credit card donations. This was particularly useful for donations for the koala cards last Christmas. Remember all donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible. Click on the link www.givenow.com.au/southgippslandlandcare or access via the new website.

The Fund developed Koala donation cards for Christmas 2010. The cards were for \$20 or \$50 and \$800 was raised via the sale of the cards. Due to this huge success the Network has developed two general koala gift cards which can be used for any occasion. The koala gift cards are now available for purchase an excellent gift for anybody. These have not been as popular in the initial stages but are available and advertised in a range of areas.



Renee Carmody, a local artist and Friend of Strzelecki Koala, produced a koala bookmark which was also sold via donation raising, \$114.00 at the Foster market in December 2010. The focus on the koala project as a community fund raiser is just one of the areas the Fund is working on.

We have also received a number of enquiries from other Networks including Bass Coast and Southern Otways about tax deductibility and establishment of a Landcare Fund. This is obviously an area that more Landcare Networks will be looking at as Government funding is more targeted.

See Appendix 3 for the Audited Financial Statements for South Gippsland Landcare Fund. Thank you to Cardell Accounts who have for the second year in a row, reduced the cost of the audit by \$200 as a donation in recognition of the nature of the Fund.

South Gippsland Landcare Network Partners

SGLN is primarily funded based on projects that have been developed in partnership with other agencies. Partnerships with all sectors of the community are vital for the Network to deliver high quality projects. The Network is in the unique position in that we have access to all sectors of the community and government and can develop and implement projects that involve a range of stakeholders. As with any good partnerships the benefits flow both ways.

Publicity for our partners and holding joint field days/ information sessions and community involvement are common themes with all our partners.

The strength of the Network, its professional and leadership role it plays in West Gippsland is evident in the number of organisations continuing to support the Network and the range of new partners supporting the Network in recent years.

SGLN partners include;

West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (WGCMA)

WGCMA hosts the Network staff and provides human resources support as a package of employment. The Network delivers a range of projects on behalf of the WGCMA. WGCMA are able to access larger scale funding and the Network provides access to the community and the on ground delivery of projects such as the Cape Liptrap to Bunurong Biodiversity Biolink, Tarwin Catchment Enhancement project, and Corner Inlet Connections. We have been actively involved in policy and planning sessions with the WGCMA including the Invasive Plant and Animal Strategy, Biodiversity forum and the Regional Landcare Forum.

Port Phillip Westernport Catchment Management Authority (PPWCMA)

As SGLN covers two CMA regions, we have partnerships with both CMAs. We work closely with the PPWCMA in the delivery of services to landholders in the Westernport part of the Network. The PPWCMA in conjunction with Melbourne Water fund the PPWCMA Community NRM Coordination program which runs from Feb 2011 to June 2012. As for the WGCMA, we play an active role in policy and planning discussions at a CMA level.

Network Overview

South Gippsland Water (SGW)

SGW is a long term supporter of the Network providing \$20,000 a year for three years for the One Million Trees project. SGW have also sponsored the Rivercare Award for our local Awards night for the past two Awards. Prior to the One Million Trees project, SGW sponsored SGLN (\$5,000) for a range of education and community resources. SGLN and SGW have a joint display at the South Gippsland Shire Sustainability Festival. (pictured below)



Melbourne Water

SGLN works with Melbourne Water (MW) staff on referral to and delivery of MW Stream Frontage program. MW and PPWCMA provide joint funding for the Community NRM Coordination Program.

South Gippsland Shire

The Network has been slowly developing a relationship with the South Gippsland Shire. The development of the Shire's Sustainability Strategy has seen Landcare recognised as a key player in the sustainable future for South Gippsland. The Network was asked to be involved in the Sustainability Strategy Development Reference Group. Thus ensuring the natural environment and sustainable farming stay high on the priority list. The partnership will continue to grow over the coming years as Landcare proves it is a credible and viable option for the delivery of long term sustainable services. The Shire is an integral player in the Community Weeds Taskforce and has provided funding for production of weed fact sheets.

GPA (General Practice Alliance) South Gippsland

SGLN partnerships are not just with environmentally based organisations, a concern for rural health amongst SGLN Board members has lead to partnerships with medical and other support services. Landcare is not just about planting trees, it is about looking after the people who look after the land. On a number of occasions SGLN has partnered GPA and in particular their rural community support officer to offer and promote opportunities for landholders to access health services in a farmer friendly way.

HVP Plantations

Over recent years, SGLN has developed a relationship with HVP with our Friends of Strzelecki Koala Project. HVP have developed a Koala Atlas for all their plantations, and are providing SGLN with mapping and information about koala habitat and the key areas for the creation of biolinks. HVP have also supported SGLN with covering costs of presenters for our recent koala information evening with over 60 people attending. Example of mapping provided. (pictured below)



Landcare Networks in West Gippsland

SGLN is one of five Landcare Networks (LN) (Yarram Yarram LN, Latrobe Catchment LN, Maffra and District LN, Bass Coast LN) in West Gippsland. We play an active role in working with the other Networks to promote Landcare across the region and deliver high quality outcomes. The joint delivery of projects such as soil health program is another way we work closely with our neighbouring Networks. SGLN is a key player in the Regional Landcare Forum. SGLN has actively supported other Networks in the region in governance and constitutional issues and in the processes associated with establishing a Landcare Public Fund and deductible gift recipient status.

Landcare Networks in Port Phillip Westernport

As SGLN covers two CMA regions, we play an active role with the Westernport Landcare Network and the Bass Coast Landcare Network in the delivery of the Targeted Land Stewardship Project and the Community NRM Coordination Program project.

Business Partner Program

For the past two years, SGLN has a business partner program which provides benefits to our members as well as supporting our local businesses. Six businesses came on board offering a range of discounts depending upon the products and services they offer.

We also work directly with a range of community organisations to support and promote environmental initiatives.



"Koalas" and "Trees" form a corridor with the Strzelecki Koala at the Mirboo North Arty Gras.

Community Partnerships

Primary School Projects

Mirboo North Primary School, Koala Corridor project, children involved in display and float at Arty Gras.

Leongatha Lyrebird Guides

Leongatha Lyrebird Guides, joined the Network, working on Koala projects and environmental initiatives such a Landcare garden and sustainability challenge.



Laura Brennan & Ashleigh Challis at the guide planting.

South Gippsland Bee Keepers

South Gippsland Bee Keepers recent partnership to help promote native species and the biodiversity for honey production as part of the overall ecosystem.

Secondary School Projects

Secondary school, Mirboo North Secondary College Landcare Cadets, support and assistance in the establishment of nursery for the propagation of indigenous plants for local Landcare Group plantings.

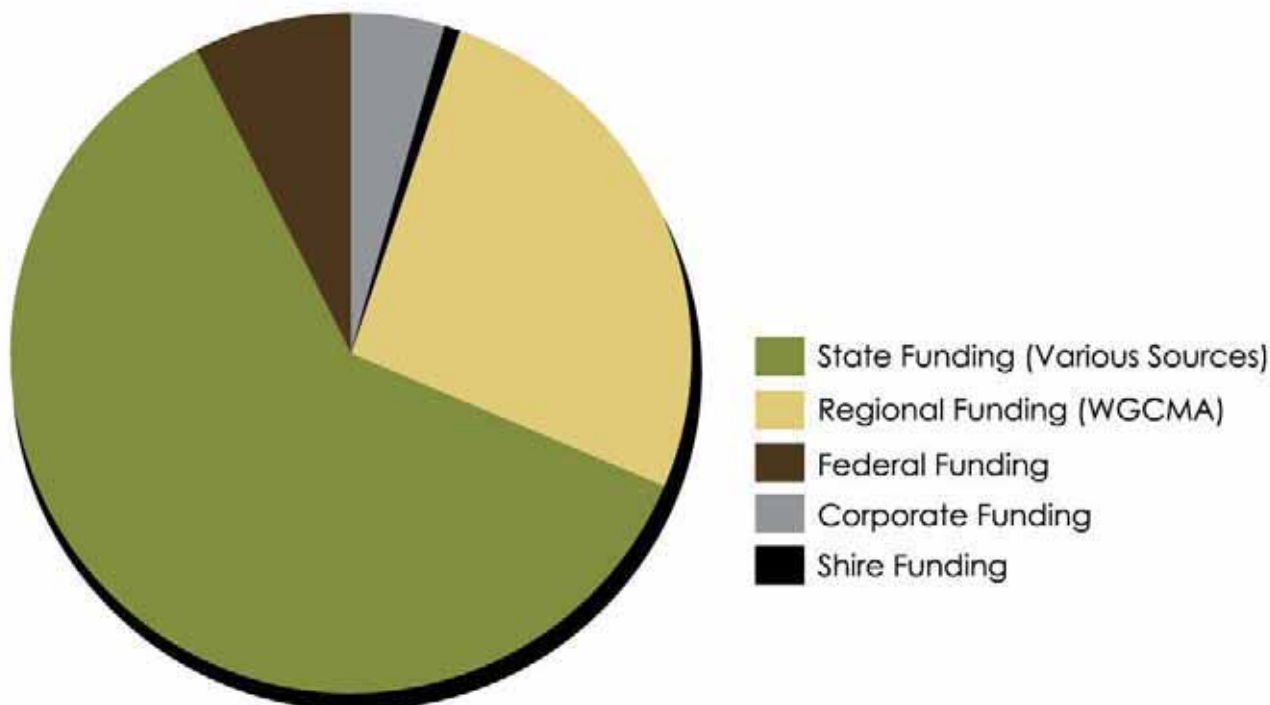
Financial Overview

Project Funding Received and Purpose

Project Details	Funding Received From	Funding Received	Project Completion Date
Tarwin Catchment Enhancement Project	West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (WGCMA) (\$60,000 held in WGCMA accounts for salaries)	\$200,000	30/9/11
Corner Inlet Connections	Caring For Our Country (CFoC) via WGCMA	\$90,000	30/6/11
Cape Liptrap to Bunurong Biodiversity	Victorian Government - Victorian Investment Framework via WGCMA	\$75,600	30/9/11
Targeted Land Stewardship - joint project with Bass Coast Landcare Network and Cardinia Environment Coalition	Victorian Government - Victorian Investment Framework (via BCLN)	\$68,782	30/06/10
Network Support Funding	Victorian Landcare Grant - Administered by WGCMA for Network Coordinator position (held in WGCMA accounts for salaries)	\$60,000	30/06/11
One Million Trees project - on ground works	Sponsorship from South Gippsland Water	\$20,000	Ongoing
Healthy Soils: Sustainable Farms	CFoC via WGCMA	\$25,000	30/6/11
PPW Community NRM Coordination Program	Port Phillip Westernport Catchment Management Authority (PPWCMA) and Melbourne Water	\$16,500	30/06/12
Bridal Creeper Control	Community Coastcare (via DSE)	\$11,500	30/9/11
Friends of Strzelecki Koalas	LAL (SPAusnet)	\$11,000	30/11/11
Soil Health Research project - Part of TLS project	Victorian Government - Victorian Investment Framework (via BCLN)	\$10,000	31/12/10
Gorse control program	Victorian Gorse Taskforce	\$9,220	31/12/10
Carbon Offset Program	South Gippsland Shire	\$5,000	30/6/12
Tarwin Valley Landcare Group	Victorian Landcare Grant via WGCMA	\$5,000	31/12/11
Sustainable Development Alliance	South Gippsland Shire	\$4,600	31/12/10
Land Stewardship Replication Trial	DSE via BCLN	\$4,025	31/12/11
Total		\$615,227	

Note: These figures are based on project allocation. Not all funds received in 2010/11 financial year.
See Appendix 4 for Audited Network Financial Statement 2010/11

Source of Project Funding



SGLN Supporters and Partners

Supporters and Partners:

- West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority
- Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority
- South Gippsland Shire Council
- Caring For Our Country - Australian Government
- Evans Petroleum Gippsland Pty Ltd
- South Gippsland Water
- Melbourne Water
- Cardell Assurance & Audit
- HVP Plantations
- State Government Victoria
- SP AusNet

Local Business and Partners:

- Leading Edge Computers
- NRI Agmart
- Elders Insurance
- Terraflora Landscape Centre
- South Gippsland Hire & Sales
- Countrywide Clothing & Safety Supplies

SGLN Award Sponsors:

- West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority
- HVP Plantations
- South Gippsland Water
- Barry Hill Tree Action Nursery
- South Gippsland Shire Council
- Evans Petroleum Gippsland Pty Ltd
- Vic Roads
- Department of Primary Industries

Landcare Group Reports

There were 18 Landcare Groups in the South Gippsland Network area in 2010/11.

There are currently 702 Landcare members in the South Gippsland Landcare Network area.

Landcare Group	President	Secretary
Allambee Community	Evelyn Lillie	Judy Lackman
Allambee South	Tom Butcher	Lyn Butcher
Agnes River District	Arie Bos	Garry Ardley
Arawata	Syd Whyte	Dawn Marotti
Franklin River	Michael Green	Hugh Sarjeant
Foster North	Corrie Greven	Rob Jones
Fish Creek	Gary Wallis	Robin Stevens
Hallston	Peter Pavey	Mike Carnell
Loch/Nyora	Ron Barnacle	Dallas Handley
Mirboo North Mardan	Phil Piper	Carole Cash
Mt Eccles/ Wild Dog Valley	Ron Holt	Dianne Brew
Mt Lyall	Geoff Ferrier	Frank Bujega
Nerrena	Sue Miles	Louise Matthews
Poowong	Steven Halliday	Wendy Davis
Prom Plains Sub Group	Rob Knight	N/A
Tarwin Lower	Margaret Windisch	Sue Svenson
Tarwin Valley	Jeanette Hill	Russell Swan
Triholm	Russell Hupfield	Wilma Mackay

Note: The Jindinook and Stony Creek Landcare Groups officially closed in 2010/11 after many years in recess. The area is now covered by the new Tarwin Valley Landcare Group. This reduced the Landcare Group number from 19 in 2009/10 to 18 in 2010/11.

Network Memberships

There are currently 75 Network members which include 18 Prom Plains sub group members who are required to be SGLN members for insurance purposes as a Sub group and 12 Friends of Strzelecki Koalas members.

See Appendix 5: Map of Landcare Group boundaries

Agnes River & District Landcare Group

After the excitement (Arie Bos State Landcare Award and visit to Canberra for the National Awards) last year we've been embarrassingly quiet this year. No major projects on the go, just a bit of maintenance on the public sites that we have an interest in: Hazel Park Flora Reserve and the Welshpool/Port Welshpool Trail. The Group hosted the Nerrena Landcare group in early February for a look around our group area followed by a BBQ at Arie's. Jill and Kate were in attendance to share their knowledge and we found it to be a very worthwhile and enjoyable event. We hope to hold similar events as host or hostess in the future. We recommend other Landcare groups visit or host other groups, it is a fantastic experience and you learn lots. We had Kate along at our last meeting with her detailed map of groundworks in our district, it created quite a bit of interest and highlighted areas (in particular gullies) that need some input.

Allambee Community Landcare Group

With a steady group of 16 financial families the Allambee Community Landcare group has held four meetings since the last Network AGM.

In October 2010 we held a "Weeds Field Day" at the property of Stephen Hoole. Carolyn Ferguson, the Pest Plant and Environment officer for the Baw Baw Shire, was our guest speaker. Carolyn brought along many samples of weeds for our members to identify and spoke of the varying roles of the shire and the landholder's responsibility with regard to weed control. Members and friends then took a walk around Stephen's property and identified the various weeds that were apparent and suggested appropriate control measures. Stephen's bush pathway also presented the group with many different indigenous plants that were readily identified by Ian Cornthwaite (Strzelecki Plant Farm owner). The afternoon concluded with a BBQ supplied by the group and it was a good chance for all to catch up.

Our January get together at Mt Worth Park was well attended, with some members bringing along friends to join in our casual social afternoon. At our AGM in March we welcomed Belinda Brennan and Geoff Trease to the meeting. It was great to have Belinda outline the happenings at the network and Geoff provided the group with further information about the Tarwin River Enhancement Project. As a result of his talk, several of our members have undertaken projects to fence, plant and protect many areas of significance along Watkins Creek - a tributary of the Tarwin River.

Due to the extremely heavy rainfall earlier in the year many of our landholders have been delayed with their projects as access to these areas is impossible until things dry out a little.

In May we invited Steve Wentworth from HVP Plantations to talk to the group about the work they are doing in the Strzelecki ranges with particular attention to the Strzelecki koala habitat. Steve noted that in the past 60 years the amount of forested area in the Strzelecki ranges has drastically increased. 10,000 ha of plantation and 6,000 ha of native forest were lost during the 2009 Gippsland fires and it is anticipated it will take 8 years to replant the burnt areas.

Allambee South Landcare Group

The Allambee South Group restarted in 2010/11 after a couple of quiet years. The Group received \$11,000 via the Network for a Friends of Strzelecki Koala project. The funding was provided by SPAusnet. With recent wet weather, there has been delays in the on ground works component of the project, with the work expected to be completed by December 2011. A number of members were also involved in the Tarwin Catchment Enhancement Project. The Network has provided the group with an AO size aerial of the group area - this will be used by the group members for future planning. The Group has a spray unit available for members and despite wet weather, the unit continues to be popular with a focus on weed control amongst group members.

Arawata Landcare Group

Tree planting was again lower this year for our group where individuals did their own thing. The Reservoir project is nigh on complete with Martin Chatfield who now works for South Gippsland Water as Environmental Officer around their storages. There is still some tidying up to do at the Western reservoir, sow down in the short term, tracks to finish and fencing as well. Weeds was again the biggest issue that we could focus on this year as we managed to have the DPI do the only Enforcement in the State. WGCMA through Phil McGarry opened up a Grant opportunity for the group to apply for \$5500 for which we were successful in the last 2 weeks. To enhance the fund, the group has spoken to Brett Vurlov, SGW regarding matching the funds for which each individual will have apply for 500 trees to compliment the grant.

Landcare Groups

Fish Creek Landcare Group

The Group continues to flourish with a membership of 84 and our focus remains with public education, enhancement of bush corridors in the local district and support of local members (larger landowners and many "weekender" members). Our activities have included tree planting day along the Fish Creek rail trail, "Geology around Fish Creek" - an evening presentation by Gary Wallis which was very well attended. Fish Creek Landcare group won the WGCMA Group Award. A submission has now been presented for State awards, an evening public presentation by Bob Wilson on "weeds" which was well attended by the general public and members, funding received from WGCMA for the "Dividing Creek" project. A committee member is trialling a winter dung beetle colony and assistance to a private landowner in an extensive planting along the Hoddle Range to link remnant vegetation. At AGM - guest speaker is Ross Batten "Farming practices in Iceland", our summer farm walk program is in the planning stages.



Foster North Landcare Group

Foster North Landcare Group has 51 property members. As Foster is the "Gateway to the Prom" and mainly a tourist town one third of our members are City based with hobby farms in the district. All though our membership is consistent, City members have little time to attend our bi-monthly meetings or are unable to be involved in field days or plantings. Our new Committee is endeavouring to revitalise the Group and raise the Group's profile by improved communication, a new logo and guest speakers at alternate meetings. Our recent meeting featured local vet David Lucas who gave an excellent presentation on the koalas of Snake Island and upcoming meetings will have presentations on the Bird Life of the Corner Inlet area and on Fox eradication.

Many of our members are retired and some find it too labour intensive to plant or weed as much as they would like to so we have become affiliated with South Gippsland Secondary College as our Junior Landcare members. We hope this partnership will result in new joint projects for both age groups. The College is interested in establishing a wetland area near the rail trail just out of Foster which will benefit adjacent farms, bike riders, bush walkers and tourists not to mention being a great educational tool.

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Franklin River Landcare Group

The major activity for the Group was the completion of the plaque at the Rotunda. The group is also seeking restoration of camping rights at the reserve, and additional advertising. The Rotunda is used by the Group for Landcare notices, and as a minor fundraiser – space is available for paid advertisements.

The Group has been seeking restoration of camping rights at the reserve at the back of the Rotunda, and Councillor Jeanette Harding has indicated she will offer support in this endeavour.

Also, Jeanette is aware of the problem of individuals removing dead timber from public land, to the detriment of habitat. The issue that is still a priority for the Group as is the better control of roadside weeds. The Group is also looking at options for a fox control program in conjunction with David Farrar of Parks Victoria.

Hallston Landcare Group

Again we have had a successful year, continuing the revegetation of the Tarwin Upper Reaches Project and gaining a number of new members.

We have completed the 8th stage of the Tarwin West Upper Revegetation Project (TWURPS to our friends) with the help of a Community Action Grant.

This adds to the previous 7 stages (about 5 kilometres and 3000 trees and understorey) of the 'Upper Tarwin West Biodiversity Link' which have been completed including the:

- removal of Willows and control of other weed species including blackberry and thistle.
- revegetation of the riparian zone of the Upper West Branch of the Tarwin River.
- promotion of the project to the wider community.

This was achieved despite several floods on the river during the winter causing some delay in delivery. This project has been in progress now for 8-10 years and has seen a significant change in the riparian flora along a stretch of about 6 kilometres. The process has been laborious due to the Willow and weed infestation and soggy conditions this year, but persistence has paid off.

At the recent Hallston Landcare AGM new office bearers have taken up the reins. The President is Stephen Reinisch and the Secretary is Frank Dekker. Our membership has grown this year to fifteen, which we regard as steady progress for a sparsely populated area.

Finally we are proud to have the current Dick Howarth Memorial Award winner on our team (Jean Carnell).



Stage 8, 2010/11, Willow Clearing.

Loch/Nyora Landcare Group

It is probably fair to describe the 2010/11 year as 'steady' - no remarkable high points but no major set backs either. And, while the membership declined a little, the work of our Group continued on many fronts. Throughout the year we were represented at the South Gippsland Landcare Network (SGLN) by our past president and current committee member, John Fleming. Max Crawford continued in his role as liaison for the Hilda Falls project. Peter Siggins has our books and finances in excellent order, Daryl Smith represents us on the Slow The Flow project, Dallas Handley has managed to fulfill all his secretarial duties despite full time work and regular commutes to Melbourne. And the remaining committee members including deputy president Rosemary Knox, Denis Casey and Carmen Barnacle all shared the load. And while our work continues on many fronts at the very local Nyora/Loch level - supervising tree grants for plantings on public and private land; promoting sustainable landcare practices; implementing projects such as the one at Hilda Falls; supporting the SGLN Landcare Awards; providing weed control advice; and making planting and weed control equipment available - there is also much great work going on in the region via the SGLN. And beyond the regional group we have other active stakeholders, not the least of which is Melbourne Water.

That level of activity promises to continue in the new financial year and we encourage all our current members to take advantage of the myriad programmes that cover everything soil health through managing land slips and weed control, to revegetation.

While I described the year just gone as 'steady' it was pleasing to see the LNLG nominated for a regional award. Although the Fish Creek group narrowly beat us, the nomination showed the LNLG is recognised as an active and effective Landcare group, not only in the past year but over the nearly two decades of its existence.

Our priority project is Hilda Falls since it is such a valuable asset to the local community. Recently we planted nearly 500 trees and that will be followed up by 2 weed control activities between now and the new year. Our main focus at the moment is around membership growth and retaining current members. another area of focus for us is around weed control on public/private land and engaging local/state government.

Landcare Group Reports

Mardan/Mirboo North Landcare Group

A great year for Landcare in Mardan-Mirboo North with 4 new members, great community exposure including Arty Gras Display at Mirboo North on Mothers Day Weekend and monthly tree- bee activity throughout the year.

The Mardan Mirboo North Landcare Group was successful in receiving \$20,000 for "rejuvenating by revegetating the bare hills and gullies in and around Mardan. The project will target 6 properties, 8.3ha revegetation, 2.5m fencing, 10,000 tubestock and 1kg indigenous seed. The funding was received from the Community Action Grant as a part of the Federally funded 'Caring for Our Country' Program.

The group was successful at the SGLN Landcare Awards with Graeme and Rosemary Trease winning the Primary Producer Award and the Mirboo North Cadets winning the Education Award. Good luck to them at the State Landcare Awards in November.



Mt Eccles/Wild Dog Valley Landcare Group

No report received.

Mt Lyall Landcare Group

Our membership has been maintained at around 50 plus landholders (albeit some un-financial) and our financial position remains sound. Our first Group activity in November was a farm Walk at the Poowong North property of Anthony and Robyn McNamara followed by an informal BBQ.

A second activity was a farm walk and power point presentation at the property of Joe Seawright and Chris Johnson followed by an enjoyable supper. Joe and Chris' project was subsequently nominated in the 2011 South Gippsland Landcare Awards but unfortunately were unsuccessful on this occasion. Lyn Mitchard and Frank Bugeja attended the Awards dinner at Meeniyan supporting Joe and Chris. The Group has purchased an additional 100 trees to complete the road closure project adjacent to the Ferrier's property. The Group continues to provide members with an inventory of plant and equipment for loan and hire very ably maintained by Harold Hillberg and Bill Loughridge. A soil corer was purchased this year. Members of the executive have represented the Group at a number of formal meetings. Lyn Mitchard and Frank Bugeja attended the launch of the Westport Targeted Land Stewardship Project and the Healthy Soil- Linking Soil Carbon and Soil Acidification with Farm Management Practices Project at Barnacle's property at Loch.

Lyn Mitchard, Sandra Verlaet and Frank Bugeja attended the Network Information Session at the Poowong Football Clubroom.

A significant number of members attended a very informative presentation by Geoff McFarlane on Climate at the Poowong Hotel. Frank Bugeja attended the Healthy Waterways Conversation held by Melbourne Water at Lang Lang, one of many workshops held to develop the next three year Strategic Plan. In addition, members have participated in discussions related to weed problems in the district, establishment of Women in Farming Conversation group and Westport suspended sediment research. Members have participated in formal training courses organised by the Network including I Farm and FarmPlan 21. Members attended a DPI presentation/ workshop on the Management of Wet Soils, Drainage, Tracks and Land Slips at Tetoora. One of the highlights of the year- Three members of the group have been nominated for the 2011 Landcare Long Service Honour Roll, Lyn Mitchard, Marlene Marsden and Bill Loughridge.

Nerrena Landcare Group

This year we have tried to hold a meeting once a quarter with activities every month.

Our activities this year have included:

- Toyota National Tree Day plantings at Leongatha with the Leongatha Primary School and also at Stony Creek with the Southern Rail Trail Friendship Group
- Tree planting days at Stuart & Janine Evans property
- Planting trees at Paula O'Loughlins property
- New members day at Stuart & Veronica Greaves property which was a great afternoon spent wandering around their riverbank
- South Gippsland Landcare Network AGM in Leongatha
- Agnes River Landcare Group visit to see their long term projects followed by a BBQ at Ari Bos' home
- Rail Trail walk just before daylight savings ended
- Laying of a wreath at the Meeniyah ANZAC day service
- Attendance by 12 members at the Bi Annual Landcare Dinner
- High Tea at Miles' by 19 members and friends

This year we also nominated Coral Hughes for the Dick Howarth Landcarer Award and although she didn't win we are very honoured to have her in our club as she brings a great wealth of knowledge and experience which she shares with all.

Our group now has 17 family memberships and we welcome all the new members. We trust that we can help our members who want some assistance with planting trees, or any another projects that can improve our local area.

This group cannot function without the dedication of a group of people. Louise who is our Secretary, Coral our Treasurer, Stuart and Veronica who look after our property, Jill, Zoe and Richard who just pick up the odd jobs that need doing.

Poowong Landcare Group

The group has had a range of guest speakers over the past year including Gil and Meredith Freeman talking about sustainable gardens and bush tucker plantings; Kate Williams and Kathleen Bartlett explaining the various weed programs and the targeted land stewardship program; WVEKILM contractor Jeff Cochrane on combating weeds. One of our members, Mark Walters was elected to the SGLN Board. Many groups members met at Mark's farm and after Mark explained his methods and expectations, we retired back to his shed to have a very short meeting and witness the design features of the building. The Group hosted a climate and carbon meeting which was well attended with people coming from as far away as Bairnsdale, Fish Creek and Mornington. Our Xmas break up was held at the Poowong Hotel for great food and lots of chatter.

Many members attended the SGLN Landcare Awards where Jeff Clark was nominated for an Award. (just missed out though). We held a weed action meeting and as a result of correspondence with the Minister for Agriculture and Food Security, Mr Peter Walsh, he sent one of this team leaders to talk about what we want and how to get it. We farewelled Tony Gardner who took up a position with the WGCMA and have welcomed his replacement Kathleen Bartlett.



Prom Plains Landcare Sub Group

The Group didn't hold any activities in the past year. A number of the members were involved in Corner Inlet and Bunurong projects on an individual basis. With 18 financial members of the sub group, there is still a lot of interest in Landcare with members attending various events hosted by the Network and other groups.

Landcare Group Reports

Tarwin Landcare Group

The Tarwin Landcare group has been actively involved in the Cape Liptrap to Bunurong project with a number of members successful in receiving funding. The group hosted a weather information evening which was well attended.

With a lot of interest in farm planning following a presentation by Tony Gardner, the group had planned to run a Farm Plan 21 course, unfortunately due to limited resources and timing for DPI the course did not go ahead. The computer based farm planning system – Ifarm course was run instead. The group hopes to be able to direct people into Farm Plan 21 courses locally that are planned for 2011/12. Weed control and working with Parks Victoria on coordinated fox program are priorities for the group.



Tarwin Valley Landcare Group BBQ.

Tarwin Valley Landcare Group

The formation of the new Tarwin Valley Landcare Group just snuck into the 2010/11 financial year. The Tarwin Valley Landcare Group held its inaugural meeting in June 2011 and with a number of landholders already actively involved as SGLN members, the group is up and rearing to go. Tarwin Valley Landcare Group covers the areas of the Jindanook and Stony Creek Landcare groups, which have both closed. SGLN supported the group's establishment and has received a small grant from the Victorian Landcare Program to help establish the group including a small grants program.



Belinda Brennan signing up a new Tarwin Valley member.

Triholm Landcare Group

The Group have not been very active this year as in having meetings but a few of our group have got funding through Melbourne Water and the Targeted Land Stewardship program. We have 30 odd financial members and when we have a meeting we usually have between 8 and 16 members attend. Most of us have been trying to keep our heads above the mud this winter and Russell had a hip replacement done. The Group nominated Anne Bullen and Paul Stewart for a Bushcare Landcare Award which they won. The group was successful in receiving a Support Grant from the PPWCMA. Triholm meet with DPI to enforce compliance with weeds. Group member Hannah Staben was also nominated for Landcare Award.

Network Projects 2010/2011

One Million Trees for South Gippsland



Aim: Plant one million trees in South Gippsland over the next 5 years.

The outcome will be the protection of our valuable remnant vegetation by increasing the extent of vegetation across the area and improving the resilience of high value ecosystems to the ever changing environment we live in.

The South Gippsland Landcare Network is developing partnerships to revegetate South Gippsland with indigenous species to provide shelter for farm animals and pastures and habitat for native animals. Trees help stabilize creek and river banks and filter runoff so nutrients don't enter the water. Trees store carbon and so are vital to the health of the planet. In 2009/10 and 2010/11, the Network received \$20,000 in sponsorship from South Gippsland Water for our One Million Trees project. This sponsorship will continue with another \$20,000 being allocated to the project in 2011/12. In 2010/11, twenty six projects were funded, resulting in 16,310 indigenous trees/ shrubs planted and an additional 8,000 plants which will be planted as a result of 14 propagation kits.

Achievements for the project include:

- Re-vegetating areas adjacent to Tarwin River and tributaries, Middle Tarwin
- Continuing re-vegetation project Tarwin River, Allambee South. This is the second round of funding for this project, which is to restore vegetation in the riparian zone after willow removal. Landholder also grows plants for this project with a million trees propagation kit.
- On going coastal re-vegetation project Walkerville.
- Contribution to 44ha of noxious weed control, Trida (this is in preparation for a re-vegetation project)
- Re-vegetation steep site flowing into Agnes River, Toora
- Control noxious weeds along Bridge Creek and tributaries Fish Creek area and re-vegetate

- Re-vegetation partnership with the West Gippsland CMA to provide plants for riparian plantings after willow removal along the Tarwin River on 4 properties. SGLN provided the plants, the CMA removed the willows and planted the tubestock

Note: SGLN will coordinate a river health field day at a number of these sites in 2011/12; this will showcase the partnership approach to improving the health of our rivers and the results of agencies working together.

Last season our One Million trees count was 87,237 indigenous plants planted. Plants that have been funded and will be allocated this season are 55,545 plants from SGLN projects, 10,000 from Mardan Mirboo North, so excluding any private plantings we will be at 152, 691. A little behind where we might like to be, but we will get there as funding opportunities arise.



One million tree planting.

The program will get a huge boost with the Department of Sustainability Ecotender approving 100 revegetation projects in South Gippsland over the next 5 years.

Network Projects 2010/2011

Corner Inlet Connections



The South Gippsland Landcare Network is working with a range of organisations over 3 years to protect and enhance Corner Inlet as part of the Corner Inlet Connections (CIC) project. Being developed in 2010/11, the Corner Inlet Catchment Profile (CICP) Project provided Landcare Groups and landholders with a verified (ground truthed) baseline map of all vegetation and NRM works within the Corner Inlet Catchment Ecosystem. In years 2 (2011/12) and 3 (2012/13) of the project, on-ground works will focus to manage stream based processes in agricultural zones. The key aim of the project is to reduce the amount of sediments and nutrients entering Corner Inlet from the catchment.

Increasing landholder awareness of environmental issues and the impact of their actions on the health of Corner Inlet is an integral part of the CIC. SGLN and Department of Primary Industries ran a Farm Plan 21 course in October/ November; this was primarily aimed at primary producers. Participants in Farm Plan 21 look at how the aerial photos can be used in a digital form. (pictured below).



Given there are a number of smaller landholders, SGLN hosted an Environmental Best Management Practice (EBMP) on Farms workshop on two consecutive Saturdays, February the 19th and 26th 2011.

The facilitated workshops aimed to assist local landholders in developing processes that achieve environmental outcomes.

The South Gippsland Landcare Network and the Wonyip Landcare Group hosted a quoll information evening on Sat 5th Feb. The evening was to gauge interest in the possibility of a Quoll Corridor from Wonyip to Wilsons Prom. Sixty people attended the evening with another 10 apologies. Given the level of interest, SGLN organised a bus trip to Moonlight Sanctuary in Pearcedale to see their quolls, another information session with Jenny Nelson, quoll expert from DSE and a planning committee meeting to see how we get his project started. The project area aligns with Victorian and Federal priorities for biolinks and protection and enhancement of catchment of Corner Inlet.

Indigenous Heritage Presentation by Robert Andy. Over 40 people attended and were captivated by Robert Andy, Indigenous facilitator for the WGCMA who spoke about the history of the Gunai Kurnai people and country, one of over 1200 Tribes Australia wide. It was a brilliant presentation.

An alternative blackberry control field day was held in April at Foster in conjunction with Department of Primary Industries and Victorian Blackberry Taskforce.

Enhancing the Cape Liptrap to Bunurong Biodiversity Biolink

The Enhancing Cape Liptrap to Bunurong Biodiversity Biolink Project is coordinated by the South Gippsland Landcare Network through a partnership with the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority and the Victorian Government through the Department of Sustainability and Environment.

The Enhancing Cape Liptrap to Bunurong Biodiversity Biolink project aims to increase ecological resilience and connectivity between Andersons Inlet, Cape Liptrap and the Strzelecki Ranges. Strategic habitat linkages have been established across private land that, where appropriate, link to areas of public land set aside for biodiversity conservation

The project is targeting high quality remnants and the creation of biolinks. This is a great project, where we are working in partnership with the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority is helping to deliver on ground outcomes for our local Landcare members.

This project has targeted primarily the Tarwin Landcare Group and the parts of Fish Creek Landcare Group. We were fortunate to receive a lot of high quality projects with a good degree of connectivity to other remnants.

Achievements of the Project in 2010/11;

- 55 hectares of remnant vegetation protected
- 6.4 hectares of revegetation
- 10420m fencing
- 9300 indigenous plants planted
- 2kg of seed direct seeded



Remnant stand to be protected as part of Cape Liptrap to Bunurong project.

Tarwin Catchment Enhancement

The aim of this project was to protect and enhance areas in the upper reaches of the East and West Branches of the Tarwin River Catchment. By fencing out the highest quality remnants in these upper reaches of the catchment and revegetating areas that link into these remnants, the project will enhance these upper catchment remnant gems and enhance their quality and connectivity with other stands. The project was funded by the WGCMA Board and delivered by SGLN.

Project Achievements:

- 198.5 Ha remnant vegetation protected
- 7345m fencing
- 210 ha weeds controlled
- 600 indigenous plants planted



Valuable natural assets that will be protected as part of the Tarwin Catchment Enhancement Project.

New Landholder Program

The new landholder program is welcoming people into Landcare, directing them to their local Landcare group, producing a range of educational information and running a range of events to target our new and existing Landcare. In 2010/11, the SGLN Board allocated funds from interest generated in 2009/10 to continue our new landholder program. The Network and Landcare Groups received 92 new members in the 2010/11 financial year. The Board plans to continue this program in 2011/12.

The small grants projects are a maximum of \$500 per landholder and are focused on kick starting their natural resource management activities.

SGLN worked with a group of Landcare members to deliver a Tree Change Discovery Day on Sunday 20th March 2011. There were 10 properties open on the day and the committee matched interested people with the relevant hosts based on their interests and needs. Properties open include a hobby farm with donkeys, bees and revegetation, an olive grove plus cattle agistment, an owner-builder earth contrasted home and rural lifestyle blocks where owners have made a tree change, found new jobs, new friends and a new life. Promotion of the day was targeted at the Metropolitan media.

Network Projects 2010/2011

Cont. New Landholder Program

In 2010/ 11, 14 projects were funded with 3,385 plants and over 200 hectares of weeds controlled.

Examples of projects undertaken by our newest Landcare members include;

- Willow removal and re-vegetation, Meeniyan
- Noxious weed control and re-vegetation, Yanakie
- Replant failed (due to drought) direct seeding site, Leongatha South
- Blackberry control, Franklin and Little Franklin River
- Re-vegetate steep site and weed control, Mirboo.

Targeted Land Stewardship



The Western Port Targeted Land Stewardship provides support and funding to landholders to deliver effective environment management on their land. The program uses a land stewardship approach, encouraging and paying farmers for land stewardship activities that provide ecosystem services that benefit the wider community (such as healthy waterways from revegetation) that are not absorbed in current markets.

These outcomes include:

- On ground waterway and biodiversity works
- Payment for soil improvement works
- Whole Farm Planning and computer mapping training courses
- Soil Health Training courses
- Discussion groups and field days

South Gippsland Landcare Network is working with farmers in the Loch/Nyora, Poowong, Triholm and Mt. Lyall area as part of this program.

In 2010/211, 14 projects were funded.

Achievements of the Project in 2010/11

- 5.55 hectares of revegetation
- 3400 fencing
- 9450 indigenous plants planted
- 25.08 ha of soil health management actions



Kathleen Bartlett and Jess Horton doing a pasture transect as part of the TLS program.



Friends of Strzelecki Koalas

The Friends of Strzelecki Koala project is a three year project which aims at increasing habitat and ecological resilience of the landscape for Strzelecki koalas and other important native species.



HVP Plantations have come on board as a strong supporter of our Friends of the Strzelecki Koala Project. HVP manages much of its native vegetation in Gippsland for the unique Strzelecki Koala and has worked with the Australia Koala Foundation to prepare a Koala Habitat Atlas for HVP's Strzelecki estate. We are working with HVP to identify key areas for revegetation and weed control to enhance koala habitat. The mapping HVP has completed will allow us to target funding to maximize the benefit to our koala populations.

The Fund developed Koala donation cards for Christmas 2010. The cards were for \$20 or \$50 and \$800 was raised via the sale of the cards. Due to this huge success the Network has developed two general koala gift cards which can be used for any occasion. The koala gift cards are now available for purchase an excellent gift for anybody. These have not been as popular in the initial stages but are available and advertised in a range of areas.

Renae Carmody, a local artist and Friend of Strzelecki Koala, produced a koala bookmark which was also sold via donation, raising \$114.00 at the Foster market in December 2010.



We were successful in receiving \$10,000 from SPAusNet for revegetation activities in the upper Tarwin as part of the FoSK project. This project is aimed at the Upper Tarwin West branch and is focused on revegetation and weed control work to compliment remnant protection work. The project will involve identification of key remnant patches and identification of revegetation area to create biolinks.

In the December edition of the Victorian Landcare Magazine, there was a two page spread on SGLN and our biodiversity projects highlighting our FoSK project.

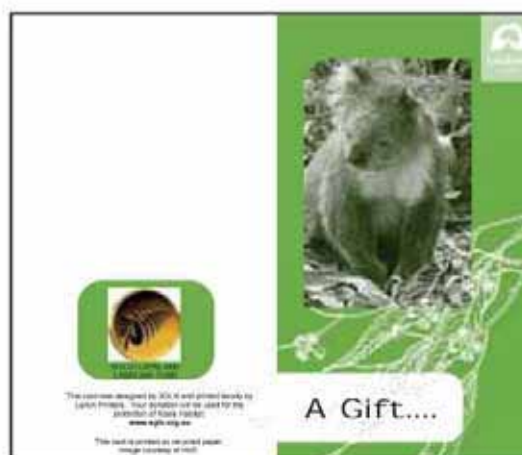
The more we can get the message out and raise people's awareness, the greater the chance we can attract funding for on ground works. Our Strzelecki Koalas are regarded as unique and we all need to work together to bring the pieces of the jigsaw that is Koala protection together.

Sixty people on Saturday 28th May listened to a range of speakers talk about the various aspects of koala protection, rehabilitation and research.

The evening was hosted by the Friends of Strzelecki Koalas, a sub group of the South Gippsland Landcare Network. The group is focused on education and remnant protection and revegetation activities to create biolinks across the landscape. This work is vital to create more habitat for our koalas and keep them safe from cars, dogs and even cow attack. The evening highlighted how this work is just one piece in the koala puzzle.

Guest speakers include Colleen Wood, (Southern Ash Wildlife Shelter) about the wildlife centre, her work at Sandy Point, how the community can be involved etc, Peter Menkhurst (Koala Guru) - natural history, current status - Australia, Victoria and Strzelecki's, Richard Appleton (HVP) - Koala Atlas, and Wendy Wright (Monash University); work Monash University is trying to undertake, where the research on koalas is heading and how much research is currently being undertaken.

We had a Friends of Strzelecki Koala display at the Arty Gras in Mirboo North on 7th May. The display and float in the parade generated a lot of interest. The Mirboo North primary School Children joined us in the parade dressed as koalas and trees.



Example of koala gift cards.

Network Projects 2010/2011

SGLN Landcare Awards

On a cold, wet and wintery night, 95 people came together to enjoy a superb night showcasing the finest Landcare has to offer. The South Gippsland Landcare Network Awards held on Friday 13th had a Landcare version of black Friday with weeds and pest animals galore. A thistle presenter, weed sponsors and a rabbit nominee were just some of the costumes for the night.

The Landcare Awards recognises the outstanding efforts of the South Gippsland Landcare community in the protection, rehabilitation and reinstatement of our natural resources.

A presentation by Network Coordinator, Belinda Brennan on what has been happening in the Network over recent months set the scene for a wonderful night. Music by Southern Connections was a perfect compliment to the scenes of wonder as displays of what each nominee had been doing flashed on the screen.



Just a selection of the weed and pest costumes that appeared at the Landcare Awards.



Our Award winners and nominees.

The Award winners were:

- Dick Howarth Memorial Award
for an individual Landcarer
Winner: Jean Carnell
- Primary Producer Award
Winner: Rosemary and Graeme Trease
- HVP Young Landcarer Award
Winner: Leongatha Lyrebird Guides
- Education Award
Winner: Mirboo North Secondary College Cadets
- VicRoads Bushcare Award
Winner: Paul Stewart and Ann Bullen
- South Gippsland Water Rivercare Award
Winner: Ross, Marj and Tim Pearson
- WGCMA Group Award
Winner: Fish Creek Landcare Group

A great night doesn't just happen without a lot of support both financial and in time and the South Gippsland Landcare Network thanks our sponsors for their support. South Gippsland Water, VicRoads, HVP, West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, South Gippsland Shire Councillor Mimmie Jackson, Knights Toyota, Evans Petroleum, Tree Action Nursery and Department of Primary Industries.

SGLN used judges external to the Network to ensure fair and impartial decisions and they are also thanked; Dan Garlick, YYLN Network Coordinator, Bruce Atkins, Coastcare Facilitator, Nick Dudley, Regional Landcare Facilitator, and Roger Simpson, WGCMA Funding Coordinator.

Thank You to our supporters for the donation of gifts for door prizes - So!Me!, Mushroom Crafts, Leading Edge Computers, Leongatha Newsagent, Great Southern Saddlery, AgMart, Stony Creek Go Karts and Retravision.

Healthy Soils: Sustainable Farms

This project is part of an overall WGCMA project titled: "Healthy Soils Sustainable Farms: Building Carbon & Managing pH in West Gippsland". The project is being run in conjunction with 5 Landcare Networks and WGCMA Landcare Facilitator position. SGLN has delivered 2 soil information workshops. The project is funded from Australian Government Funding Caring For Our Country via West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority.

Achievements for 2010/2011:

The first soil workshop was targeted at landholders who may not have had the background knowledge to attend any of the many workshops and courses held in the South Gippsland area. By increasing the knowledge base of these people, it was hoped that they could be engaged and encouraged to further participate in soil programs. John Mulvany of OnFarm Consulting and Fiona Baker Beef Industry Officer, Department of Primary Industries along with Jill Vella from SGLN conducted the workshop.

The 2nd workshop on 27th May 2011 - Soil Health Discovery Day Big Day Out. The day attempted to cover a great deal of ground, visiting two sites in quite different parts of South Gippsland. In the morning the bus transported the soil explorers to the Hallston Hall where Malcolm Cock gave an overview of the Strzelecki Sustainable Pasture Trial. Many Gippsland farmers have north facing slopes, and the Health Soil Project was interested to find out the lessons learned and the results obtained from a project that aimed for soil improvement and pasture establishment on a slope. After lunch the field day moved to the Fish Creek property of Jenny and Graeme Cope, who have been dairy farming on this property for only three years. After an intense three years of soil and pasture improvement, the property - formally a beef farm - milks 600 cows. The Copes use a biologically based soil improvement system which involves inoculation the soil with a microbe culture, and the application of composted manure to feed the biology along with lime.

PPW Community NRM Coordination Program

The project was funded jointly by Melbourne Water and PPWGCMA until December 2010. Negotiations with Melbourne Water and PPWGCMA in early 2011, recognising the success of the project, and funding opportunities that has arisen saw the reinstatement of this project.

The PPW Community NRM Coordination Program will deliver support and capacity building services to key sectors of the community in the PPWGCMA area, leading to on-ground work that contributes to achievement of natural resource management targets and priorities for the region. The funding is used to compliment and expand the Targeted Land Stewardship Program and deliver community capacity building activities across the Westernport catchment. The project will run from February 2011 to June 2012.

List of Appendices

1. SGLN Strategic Plan 2010-2015
2. Landcare Fund Brochure
3. Landcare Fund Audited Financial Statement 2010/11
4. SGLN Audited Financial Statement 2010/11
5. Map of Landcare Group Boundaries



South Gippsland Landcare Network Strategic Plan 2010 - 2015



Statement of Purpose

South Gippsland Landcare Network, through community action, helps to preserve, protect & enhance the long-term sustainability of farming and the environment in South Gippsland.



Natural Resource Management Challenges

- Changing land use
- Threats from pest plants and animals
- Water use and protection of waterways for in streams health
- Urban fringe moving closer
- Climate change influencing weather patterns, sea levels and flooding
- Changing economics and politics of agriculture
- Ageing of the farming community

Friends of the Strzelecki Koalas



Friends of Strzelecki Koalas - Habitat for Life is a community based three year project to increase habitat and the ecological resilience of landscape for Strzelecki Koalas and other important native species.

The project will involve identification of key remnant patches and revegetation areas to create biolinks. On ground works will be a key component of overall project, starting in year one and becoming a larger part of the project in years two and three.



South Gippsland Landcare Fund



The South Gippsland Landcare Fund has been established to raise funds to protect and enhance the natural environment of South Gippsland.

How Can You Help?
Make a tax deductible donation...

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible

Key Theme: Caring for the Land

OBJECTIVES

- Promote landscape change and sustainable farming through best land management practices
- Provide information services to all land holders so they can look after their land
- Facilitate weed and pest control in partnership with community, government and individuals
- Work to enhance the biodiversity of the region

Key Theme: Landcare Groups & Membership

OBJECTIVES

- Encourage, support and sustain member Landcare Groups to ensure their continued survival and growth
- Service the needs of the Landcare groups
- Identify priorities for on ground works
- Build South Gippsland Landcare Network memberships

Key Theme: Funding

OBJECTIVES

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



Key Theme: **Collaboration & Partnerships**

OBJECTIVES

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

Key Theme: **Education, Communication & Promotion**

OBJECTIVES

- Communicate clear Landcare messages with the aim of increasing the profile of the Network
- Lobby political organisations to secure funding and recognition

Key Theme: **Governance**

OBJECTIVES

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

South Gippsland Landcare Network

Two catchment ecosystems

- Bunurong
- Corner Inlet

The Bunurong Catchment Ecosystem maintains important environmental values within this highly productive agricultural landscape. These values are contained within a diversity of physical habitat, including forests, waterways, wetlands, and coastal and marine areas.

Corner Inlet catchment is a beautiful and internationally significant place that supports vibrant communities and healthy economies. Corner Inlet is a Ramsar wetland, renowned for its incredible coastal value as a site for international migratory birds.



Aim: Plant one million trees in South Gippsland over the next 5 years.

The outcome will be the protection of our valuable remnant vegetation by increasing the extent of vegetation across the area and improving the resilience of high value ecosystems to the ever changing environment we live in.



Above: Linda Whitaker from the Arawata Landcare Group with the results of her 500-seed propagation kit.





A Network Snapshot:

- 1 Agnes River Landcare
- 2 Allambee Community Landcare
- 3 Allambee South Landcare
- 4 Arawata Landcare
- 5 Fish Creek Landcare
- 6 Foster North Landcare
- 7 Franklin River Landcare
- 8 Hallston Landcare
- 9 Jindinook 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 Prom Plains Landcare
- 17 Stony Creek
- 18 Tarwin Landcare
- 19 Triholm Landcare

The South Gippsland Landcare Network or 'SGLN'

The South Gippsland Landcare Network was formed in 1995 and today covers more than 4000 square kilometres.

Within the Network there are nineteen Landcare groups from Nyora to Welshpool, and from Mirboo North down to Yanakie.

The groups use action plans to address local issues such as sustainable productivity, water quality, soil erosion, weed management, remnant vegetation protection and revegetation.



Get Involved:

To learn more or become a Landcare member, please give us a call...

South Gippsland Landcare Network

PO Box 419, Leongatha VIC 3953 Phone: (03) 5662 5759 Email: sgln@landcare.net www.sgln.org.au

The South Gippsland Landcare Network is supported by:





South Gippsland Landcare Fund



*'Landcare
Making a
difference'*

The South Gippsland Landcare Fund has been established to raise funds to protect and enhance the natural environment of South Gippsland.





One Million Trees

- Help plant 1,000,000 indigenous plants in 5 years
- **Outcome:** protection of our valuable remnant vegetation by increasing the extent of vegetation across the area and improving the resilience of high value ecosystems to the ever changing environment we live in



Network Projects

Friends of the Strzelecki Koalas



- Protection and active management of remnant vegetation and fencing
- Increasing areas of vegetation by strategically connecting koala habitat areas
- Reducing threats to the vegetation such as pest plants and animals



Soil Health

- Soil Health Education Programs
- Trials and demonstrations into new and innovative ways to improve soil health and productivity

Community Education and Awareness

- Producing reader friendly fact sheets eg: how to control ragwort, blackberries etc
- Information days, new landholder packs, and site visits for new landholders
- SGLN website: www.sgln.org.au - ready access to information and support

Pest Plant and Animal Control Programs

- Support coordinated Pest Plant and Animal Control Programs across public and private land
- Grants for landholders to undertake coordinated Weed Control Programs



Quoll Corridor

- Creation of biolinks for Quolls and other native species from Wonyip to Wilsons Promontory
- Increasing areas of vegetation and connecting areas of remnant vegetation in the Corner Inlet area

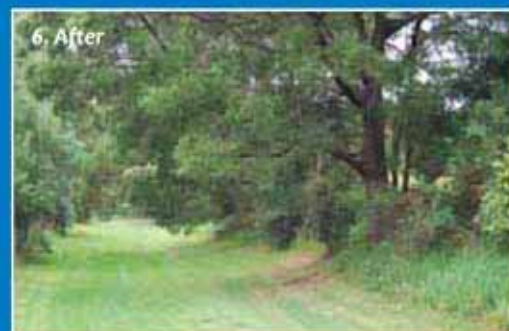
Junior Landcare

- Support local schools and community groups to undertake education and awareness program
- Linking local schools to local Landcare groups for cooperative planting programs



Support a Local Group Project

- Revegetation ■ Waterway Protection
- Pest Plant Control Programs ■ Roadside Weeds
- Education & Awareness ■ Weed Control Programs
- Biolinks ■ Soil Health



A Network Snapshot:

- 1 Agnes River Landcare
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- 13 Mt Lyall Landcare
- 14 Nerrena Landcare
- 15 Poowong Landcare
- 16 Prom Plains Landcare
- 17 Stony Creek
- 18 Tarwin Landcare
- 19 Triholm Landcare

**Become a
Member
Today!**

Over 700 families are members of Landcare in South Gippsland.

Sponsor A Project

We can tailor a project to suit your budget and level of involvement.

How Can You Help?
Make a tax deductible donation

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible

One - Off Donations

To donate by cheque, please make the cheque payable to; **South Gippsland Landcare Fund** and mail to PO Box 419, Leongatha Victoria Australia 3953 Include your details so we can send you a receipt.

For credit card donations click on the 'Give Now' link on our website www.sgln.org.au Cash donations are also welcome.



Donation Gift Cards

Would you like to give a gift that looks after our koalas and is tax deductible?

If you donate at least \$20.00 to the South Gippsland Landcare Fund, we will send you a gift card that you can give as a gift to anyone. It explains that you have donated to our Friends of Strzelecki Koala project and that 100% of the donation will be used to protect and enhance our koala environment.



Employee Payroll Deductions

Encourage and support your employees to give regularly to the Landcare Fund. A tax deductible receipt will be issued at the end of the year.

Where Does My Money Go?

The funds will be used in two ways:

1. Funding for landholders to undertake on ground works such as fencing for remnant vegetation protection, tree planting to create biolinks and protect our waterways, and weed control.
2. Education programs that help landholders to understand their responsibilities, identify threats and develop solutions to pest plant and animal control, revegetation and land use.

The South Gippsland Landcare Fund is a public fund listed on the Register of Environment Organisations under Item 6.1.1 of subsection 30-55(1) of the Income tax Assessment Act 1997.

South Gippsland Landcare Network

PO Box 419, Leongatha VIC 3953 Phone: (03) 5662 5759 Email: sgln@landcare.net www.sgln.org.au

The South Gippsland Landcare Network is supported by:



Appendix 3: Landcare Fund Audited Financial Statement 2010/11

Financial Statements

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended June 30th, 2011

INCOME	2011	2010
Donations	1,149.25	663.25
Interest	4.52	0.14
TOTAL INCOME	1,153.77	663.39
EXPENSES		-
Bank charges	8.19	
TOTAL EXPENSES	8.19	-
SURPLUS \ (DEFICIT) FOR YEAR	1,145.58	663.39

BALANCE SHEET

as at June 30th, 2011

	NOTE	2011	2010
ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents		1,808.97	663.39
TOTAL ASSETS		1,808.97	663.39
LIABILITIES		-	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES		-	-
NET ASSETS		1,808.97	663.39
EQUITY			
Opening Balance		633.39	-
Surplus \ (Deficit) for year		1,145.58	663.39
EQUITY		1,808.97	663.39

Financial Statements

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended June 30th, 2011

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts. The committee has determined that the fund is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts and the following Australian Accounting Standards:

AASB 112	Income Taxes
AASB 1031	Materiality
AASB 110	Events after the Balance Sheet Date
AASB 117	Leases

No other applicable Accounting Standards, Australian Accounting Interpretations or other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board have been applied.

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 or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following material accounting policies, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

Income Tax

The fund is exempt from income tax under section 50-5 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

Fixed Assets

The fund has no fixed assets.

Leases

The fund has not entered into any leases.

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

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

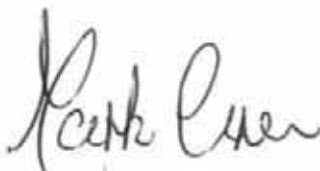
for the year ended June 30th, 2011

The committee has determined that the 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 committee the financial report as set out on pages 1 to 4:

- I. presents a true and fair view of the financial position of South Gippsland Landcare Fund as at 30 June, 2011 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 Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:



MARK UREN
CHAIRMAN
6 September, 2011



JEAN CARNELL
TREASURER
6 September, 2011

Appendix 4: SGLN Audited Financial Statement 2010/11

Financial Statements

SOUTH GIPPSLAND LANDCARE NETWORK INC. A0011936S

INCOME STATEMENT

for the year ended June 30th, 2011

INCOME	2011	2010
Grant Income		
Bass Coast Landcare Network	99,292	93,439
GVEHO	-	1,500
DSE	11,550	19,500
Melbourne Water	-	49,000
South Gippsland Shire Council	9,200	-
Port Phillip & Westport CMA	16,500	12,216
PPA	1,240	1,000
W.G. Catchment Management Authority	350,580	104,900
Total Grant Income	488,362	281,555
Other Income		
Annual Dinner Ticket Sales	291	-
Weed Programs	-	45,739
Collections	5,750	3,908
Equipment Hire	570	1,383
Interest Income	8,824	5,865
Memberships	451	240
Miscellaneous Income	12,351	15,472
Newsletter Income	750	250
P & A	-	6,300
Sponsorship	32,650	20,000
Donations	-	2
Total Other Income	61,637	99,159
TOTAL INCOME	549,999	380,714
EXPENSES		
Committee	13,421	1,915
Employment	240,429	146,114
Operating		
Accounting	2,340	1,669
Audit	1,185	1,825
Bank Charges	35	35
General	2,120	17,431
Information Technology	4,502	9,984
Memberships	-	20
Meeting Expenses	7,502	4,037
Printing & Stationery	1,194	1,663
Reference Resources	172	252
Telephone	2,014	650
Travel & Accommodation	32,032	28,022
Total Operating Costs	53,096	65,588
Promotions	30,341	17,416

SOUTH GIPPSLAND LANDCARE NETWORK INC. A0011936S**INCOME STATEMENT (CONTINUED)***for the year ended June 30th, 2011*

On Ground Works		
Chemicals	481	3,142
Culverts & Troughs	200	730
Deposits – tubestock	-	1,720
Fencing	71,647	25,302
General	62,640	24,097
Native Plants	19,739	40,360
Pest animal control	-	2,945
Seed	-	4,720
Weed Management	15,845	67,969
Total On Ground Works	170,552	170,985
Monitoring & Evaluation	423	183
Training & Education	9,063	1,162
Group Support	-	1,050
TOTAL EXPENSES	517,325	403,913
SURPLUS \ (DEFICIT) FOR YEAR	32,674	(23,199)

BALANCE SHEET*for the year ended June 30th, 2011*

	NOTE	2011	2010
ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	2	220,193	196,501
GST Receivable		8,391	-
TOTAL ASSETS		228,584	196,501
LIABILITIES			
GST Payable		-	591
TOTAL LIABILITIES		-	591
NET ASSETS		228,584	195,910
EQUITY			
Opening Balance		195,910	219,109
Surplus \ (Deficit) for year		32,674	(23,199)
EQUITY		228,584	195,910

Financial Statements

SOUTH GIPPSLAND LANDCARE NETWORK INC. A0011936S

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended June 30th, 2011

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (Vic). The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1981 (Vic) and the following Australian Accounting Standards:

AASB 112	Income Taxes
AASB 1031	Materiality
AASB 110	Events after the Balance Sheet Date
AASB 117	Leases

No other applicable Accounting Standards, Australian Accounting Interpretations or other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board have been applied.

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 or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

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

Income Tax

The association for purposes of the income tax act is exempt from income tax.

Fixed Assets

The association has no fixed assets.

NOTE 2: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2011	2010
Cheque Account	8,383	42,515
Cash Deposit Account	211,810	153,986
TOTAL	220,193	196,501

SOUTH GIPPSLAND LANDCARE NETWORK INC. A0011936S

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

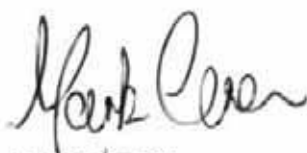
for the year ended June 30th, 2011

The committee 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 committee the financial report as set out on pages 1 to 4:

- I. presents a true and fair view of the financial position of South Gippsland Landcare Network Inc. as at 30 June, 2011 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 Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:



MARK UREN
CHAIRPERSON
6 September 2011



JEAN CARNELL
TREASURER
6 September 2011

Cardell Assurance & Audit

Registered Company Auditors

B. J. Hughes, BCA, CA, ACIS

L. J. McKenzie, B. Com, CA, (Associate)

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF SOUTH GIPPSLAND LANDCARE NETWORK INC.

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 2011, the income statement for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the statement by the committee.

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The committee of the association is responsible for the preparation 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 *Associations Incorporation Act (Vic) 1981*. This responsibility also includes such internal control as the committee determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the association's preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view, 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. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

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

Auditor's Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report gives a true and fair view of the financial position of South Gippsland Landcare Network Inc. as at 30 June 2011 and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Section 30(3A) of the *Associations Incorporation Act (Vic) 1981* and the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial report.

Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution and Use

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist South Gippsland Landcare Network Inc. to meet the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act (Vic) 1981*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

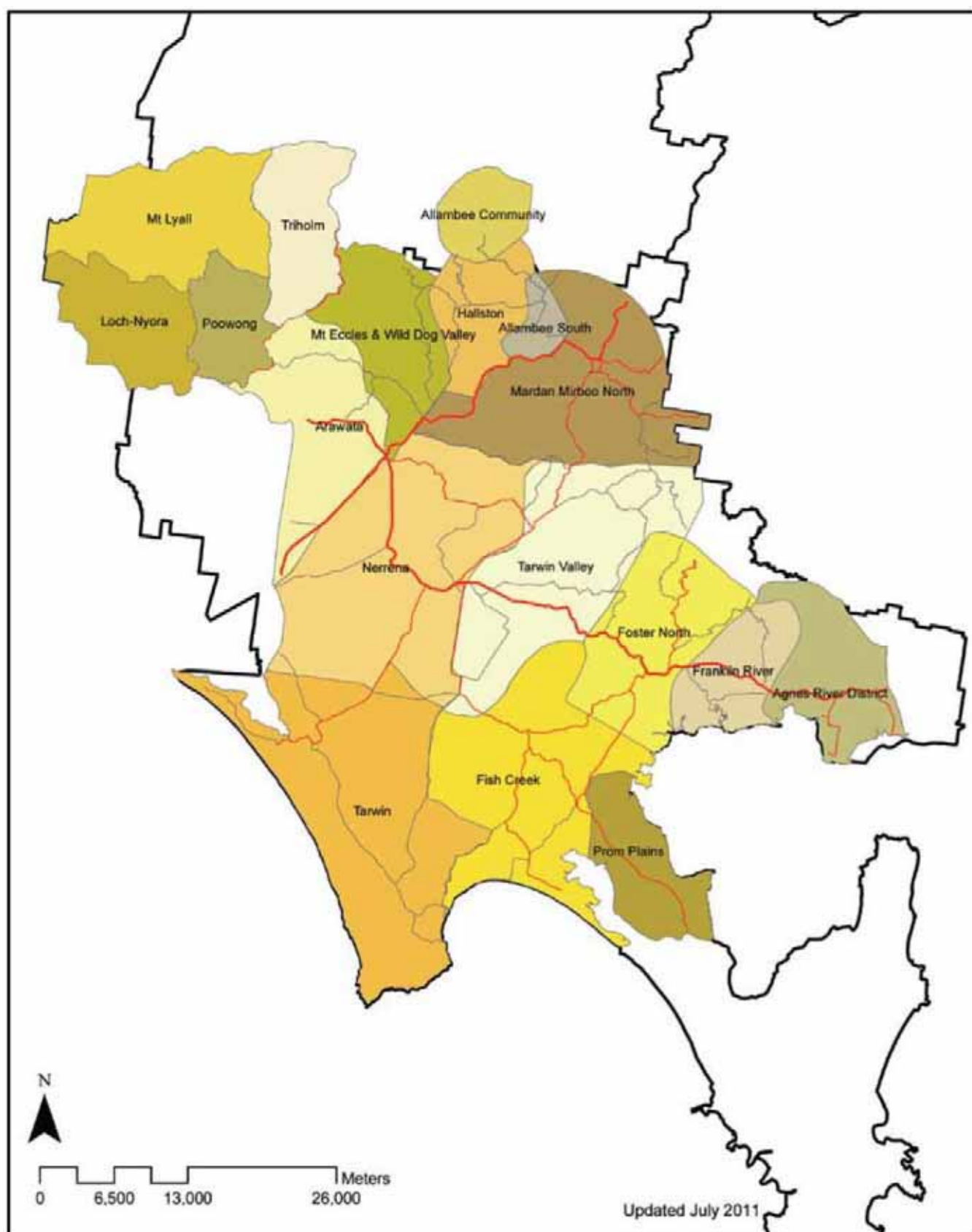
CARDELL ASSURANCE & AUDIT



Barry J. Hughes
3A Billson Street
Wonthaggi Vic 3995

7 September, 2011

Appendix 5: Map of Landcare Group Boundaries







The South Gippsland Landcare Network thanks the following organisations for their support in 2010/2011



Cardell Assurance & Audit



SGLN Award Sponsors



The following local businesses support Landcare in South Gippsland

