

# South Gippsland Landcare Network

# Annual Report

## 2013/2014



# South Gippsland Landcare Network

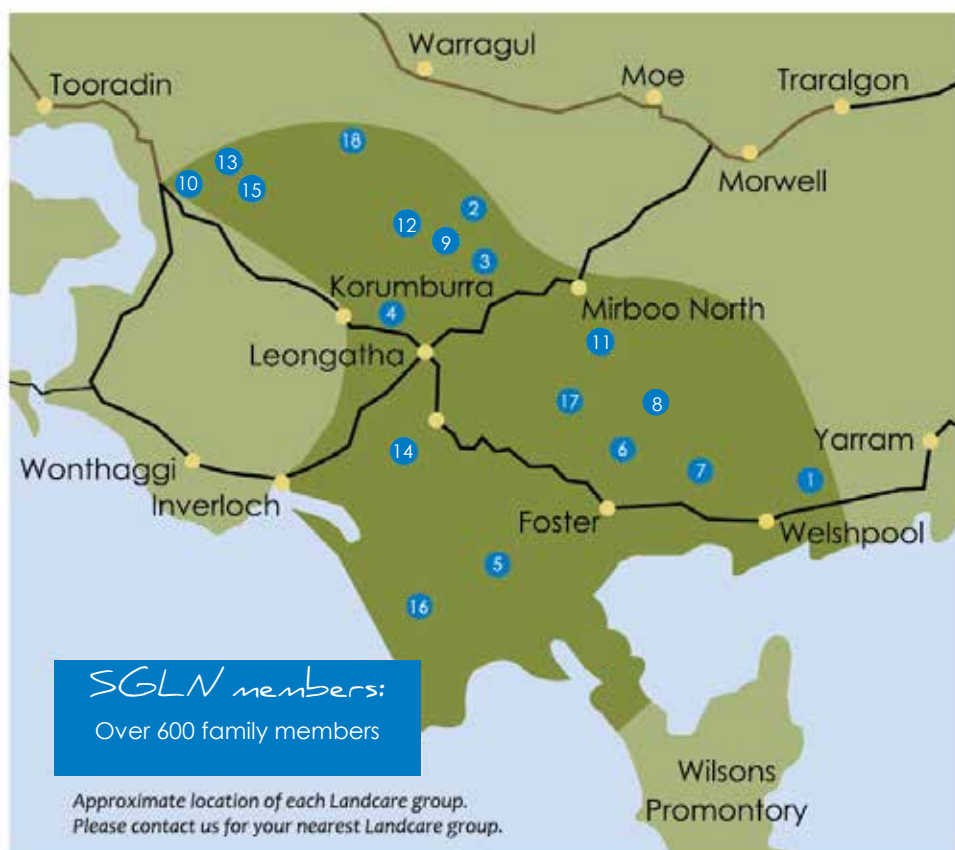
## Statement of Purpose

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

## Network Overview

The South Gippsland Landcare Network (SGLN) was formed in 1995 by a key group of volunteers. The South Gippsland Landcare Network today covers 4000 square kilometres across the South Gippsland Shire and areas of Cardinia, Bass Coast and Baw Baw Shires. The Network encompasses 19 Landcare Groups from Nyora in the West across to Welshpool in the East and from Mirboo North down to our southern most group, Fish Creek which extends to Wilson's Promontory.

The SGLN is managed by a volunteer Board of Management, Executive and administration support is provided by the Network Coordinator - Jenny O'Sullivan.



## A Network Snapshot: 2013/2014

- 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 Friends of Turton's Creek
- 9 Hallston Landcare
- 10 Loch Nyora Landcare
- 11 Mardan/Mirboo North Landcare
- 12 Mt Eccles/Wild Dog Valley Landcare
- 13 Mt Lyall Landcare
- 14 Nerrena Landcare
- 15 Poowong Landcare
- 16 Tarwin Landcare
- 17 Tarwin Valley Landcare
- 18 Triholm Landcare
- 19 Equine Landcare (not geographically based)

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## Executive Summary

### Working Together in 2013-2014

Our nineteen Landcare groups and South Gippsland Landcare Network have achieved a lot in 2013-14. We appreciate the ongoing support of landholders, local businesses and organisations for the work we do to improve the environment and encourage sustainable farming across south Gippsland. This includes

- Over 35000 plants planted
- 35 ha revegetated
- 43 ha remnant protected
- 89 ha of weeds controlled and
- 15 field days or information sessions run

Working together, partnerships and relationships are important to both our Landcare Groups and the South Gippsland Landcare Network.

We had cluster meetings in November where neighbouring groups met with the new network coordinator in Loch, Hallston and Fish Creek to discuss what was working well and what could be improved across the groups and networks. Over 80 Landcare members attended and there was great sharing of ideas and discussion about both sustainable agriculture and improving environmental outcomes in South Gippsland. This was followed by workshops with Viv McWaters in June at Sale, Foster and Warragul where ideas and processes were shared across Landcare networks in Gippsland.

We have been working closely with other agencies and the community.

This includes:

- Working closely with DEPI, WGCMA, Port Phillip CMA and SGW in delivering programs to the South Gippsland community.
- Working closely with South Gippsland Shire Council project officers exploring opportunities with sustainability projects and roadside weeds.
- SGLN staff attended South Gippsland Sustainability Festival – Nicole gave a presentation on Strzelecki Koalas and ran a kids session. Fosky Koala made an appearance (thanks Kate).
- Presented to WGCMA and Port Phillip Boards on the value of Landcare with Kellie Nichols
- Spoken with Friends of Groups (Cape Liptrap, Agnes Falls & Sandy Point).
- Engaged community members in the Citizen Ecologist program through:
  - Recording koala sightings on koala map via the FOSK website (80 to date);
  - Koala scat collection for PhD project;
  - School visits – Fish Creek and Traralgon Kindergartens
- Regional Partnerships being maintained through involvement in the Regional Koala Working group.
- Leongatha Primary School - National Tree Day

- Leongatha Secondary College - Assembly for Turkish Students.
- Donated \$600.00 to Venus Bay Koala Project to purchase Manna Gum seedlings
- Koala education sessions at Wilson's Promontory National Park
- SGLN also donated 100 bags and stakes to Loch Primary School to assist with the establishment of a shelterbelt beside the school oval, letter of support from the Network sent to accompany their application for a South Gippsland Community Grant.
- Meeting with Grade 6 Environmental Leaders and Principal Rob Higgins at Leongatha Primary School to give out FOSKY bags, soft koala toys and educational material for two students to take to China in April.
- Attendance at an Autumn Tree Planting Day on Frank & Jeannie Dekker's property, Hallston.
- Presented at SG shire's Town and District meeting in June at Foster
- Active involvement in both West Gippsland CMA and Port Phillip CMA Landcare Forums
- SGLN staff are on many committees overseeing projects in the region
- SGLN will be presenting a paper at the National Landcare Conference on Working with CMA in September 2014.
- Quarterly newsletters and regular network notes to members and supporters

Local radio, print and social media are important for us to communicate with the wider community. Activities include:

- Radio interview with ABC Gippsland to promote koala scat workshops.
- Radio interview on community radio about Landcare in the region
- Numerous article in local and state papers about our activities

Website, facebook and twitter maintained and updated regularly



Landcare members at the cluster meeting held at Malcolm and Carol Cock's property in Hallston.

## Chairperson Overview

***In the ten years I've been on the SGLN Board, tenure of funding for projects and education has been a constant challenge for our Network.***

Our politicians have responded to our request to fund projects over three to five year time frames instead of year by year in order to offer acceptable tenure to our staff but what comes next? Available State and Federal funding is dispersed via competitive tender and compared to places that have very serious environmental issues, we sit low on the radar. If it wasn't for the support of our State Government and local CMA, SGLN would be a shadow of its current self. The Federal Government's recent budget cost shifted half of Landcare's funding to work-for-the-dole and rebadged it as the Green Army. The Minister regards this program as a ripping success because of the large number of applications from Landcare Networks wishing to access subsidised/free labour for projects. In our case, in the absence of funding for supervisors, materials, tube-stock, transport and tools then availability of "free" labour is inconsequential. That's not to say SGLN didn't get a lot done in the last year because we did.

Jenny O'Sullivan replaced Belinda Brennan as our Network Coordinator in October 2013 and after the initial overload of information quickly adapted to the demands of the position. Jenny brings her own brand of knowledge, experience and passion to the Network. As Chair of the Employment Steering Committee I've often said that if our staff don't believe they have the best job going, then maybe they should reconsider their employment options. Not surprisingly, we have very enthusiastic staff. Nonetheless, we are indeed blessed to have a team who successfully deliver a wide variety of projects with the enthusiasm only found in true believers of what Landcare strives to achieve. On behalf of the Board I thank Jenny, Kate and Nicole for their efforts over the year.

Our Network conducted several workshops, field days and training sessions as part of the Healthy Soils and Demonstrating Sustainable Farm Practices projects.

The Friends of Strzelecki Koala Project continued to enjoy strong interest this year with project applications far out-weighting the project funding available and has delivered 42 ha of remnant habitat protected and 19 ha of revegetation funding approved. Education and data collection is an important component of the FOSK project and to that end the Network delivered several school visits, scat collection training sessions and promotional appearances by "Fosky" the koala.

The Network held three group cluster workshops which gave representatives from each of the groups the

opportunity to network and give the Network valuable feedback on our activities.

The Network also facilitated the creation of a Friends of Turton's Creek group which is a significant step forward for a much neglected but absolutely precious piece of wet forest located north of Foster.

SGLN partnered with the other networks within the WGCMA's boundaries to deliver the Waging War on Invasive Species Project via the Community Weeds Taskforce. This project involves the delivery of several weed control workshops starring our old friends ragwort, blackberry and bridal creeper amongst others, ACUP training and some on-ground control works. SGLN and the CWT were disappointed not to get represented on the recent Shire Rate Review Committee. The CWT will continue to push for a better legislative framework, better education of landowners and better enforcement.

The Corner Inlet Connections project has been funded for a further five years and this year has focussed on fox control. The Network has facilitated fox control coordination around Corner Inlet which has been an outstanding success. Unlike our friends at Bass Coast Landcare Network who are also doing a lot of good fox control work, we haven't fielded any queries from landowners wishing to know how and where they can relocate the foxes on their property so as to avoid poisoning. In case anybody who reads this is in doubt, as far as the CWT is concerned the only good weed, fox, rabbit or ferrel animal is a dead one - but we do try to exterminate our pest species humanely.

Finally, on behalf of the Board I would like to thank our sponsors, strategic partners, project partners and dedicated Landcarers for their ongoing passionate support and engagement.

As I come to the end of my two year term as Chair I would like to thank the Board for their input and support. It has been a pleasure representing the Network as Chair and working with our Board members, staff and stakeholders. Reflecting on my recent demeanour, at our last meeting I asked the Board if I had become too cynical and negative to which the instant retort came "Don't worry Mark, that's just you doing you!" They know me well and that is why I enjoyed being Chair of the Network so much.



**Mark Uren**

*Chair - South Gippsland Landcare Network*

## Board Member Profiles

### Board Meetings

Meetings held in the 2013/14 financial year were:

- **Board Meeting 32:** 9th August 2013
- **Annual General Meeting:** 14th September 2013
- **Board Meeting 33:** 11th October 2013
- **Board Meeting 34:** 14th January 2014
- **Board Meeting 35:** 17th March 2014
- **Board Meeting 36:** 19th May 2014

### Mark Uren - Chair

**[Attended 5 of 5 board meetings]**

#### Mardan Mirboo North Landcare Group

Mark has been a member of the SGLN Board for over 10 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. Mark also took on the role as Chair of the South Gippsland Community Weeds Taskforce in 2013.

### Mark Walters - Vice Chair

**[Attended 4 of 5 board meetings]**

#### Poowong Landcare Group

Mark Walters has operated an accounting and financial planning business in Melbourne for the past 25 years. Five 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.

Mark has also put in 25ha 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.

### Dawn Marotti - Secretary/Treasurer

**[Attended 5 of 5 board meetings]**

#### Arawata Landcare Group

Dawn and her husband Mark made a tree change from Melbourne to South Gippsland in 1993. They started tree planting on their small acreage but quickly ran out of space. In 2000 they bought 60 acres of steep hill country in Kardella, known locally as 'ragwort hill'.



After 18 months of intense weed spraying they had made a significant impact and were fortunate enough to have their hard work recognised, winning the Dick Howarth Award for Individual Landcarer. Dawn has been an active member of Arawata Landcare for the last nine years and has held the position of Secretary/Treasurer for the past six years.

Dawn and Mark have planted over 6,000 trees on the creek and steep gullies on their farm. They are particularly interested in establishing wildlife corridors to connect with surrounding plantations and a sanctuary for giant gippsland earthworms, prevalent along creek banks of their property. Dawn joined the SGLN Board in 2008 and values the opportunity this provides to contribute to the regional network.

### Diana Droog

**[Attended 4 of 5 board meetings]**

#### Franklin River Landcare Group

Diana is a semi-retired business woman, who has a passion for native fauna and flora. Diana was a Financial Controller, Compliance Officer and Company Secretary for Cumpston Sarjeant for 15 years.



Normally residing in Hawthorn, Diana and her husband regularly come to South Gippsland to revegetate their 15 hectare property on Corner inlet, south of Toora. She is an active member of Franklin River Landcare Group and has been on the SGLN Board since October 2011.



## Damon Stynes

[Attended 1 of 5 board meetings]

### Agnes River District 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 District Landcare Group Executive for seven years and on the SGLN Board for three years, including two years as Vice Chair.

## Rosemary Trease

[Attended 5 of 5 board meetings]

### Mardan Mirboo North Landcare Group

Rosemary has been a member of the SGLN Board for seven 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 nine 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. Rosemary received a highly commended in the DPI Sustainable Farming Award - West Gippsland at the State Landcare Awards.

## Arie Bos

[Attended 2 of 5 board meetings]

### Agnes River District 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 number 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 District 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.

## Jean Carnell

[Attended 4 of 5 board meetings]

### 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.



Jean and Mike 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 over 11 years.

Jean received a highly commended for the Australian Government Individual Landcarer Award at the State Landcare Awards in 2011.

## **Anthea Spehr**

**[Attended 4 of 5 board meetings]**

### **Loch Nyora Landcare Group**

Anthea moved to South Gippsland in 1992. Over a period of several years she helped revegetate a 50 acre property at Arawata. During this time she joined the Arawata Landcare Group.

Anthea has since moved to Loch and is on the committee of the Loch Nyora Landcare Group.

She joined the SGLN Board in September 2012.



## **Frank Dekker**

**[Attended 4 of 5 board meetings]**

### **Hallston Landcare Group**

Frank has been a resident of Hallston his entire life. He is married to Jeanne and together they have two beautiful daughters Evie, 14 and Simone, 13.

He is heavily involved in numerous sporting clubs particularly tennis, badminton and golf. While he spent a short period of his life teaching, his working life has predominantly been spent as a dairy farmer. Initially as a farm hand, then as a share farmer and now owning the family farm.

The Landcare movement has long interested Frank and he feels the principles of sustainable agriculture need to be explored to care and protect our valuable land. The Hallston Landcare Group required a new secretary and with experience in this type of role, Frank was only too happy to follow Mike Carnell's excellent role as past secretary. The Hallston Landcare Group has a strong core of members and is steadily expanding its membership. a new secretary and with experience in this type of role, Frank was only too happy to follow Mike Carnell's excellent role in the position. The Hallston Landcare Group has a strong core of members and is steadily expanding its membership.



## **Stephen Hoole**

**[Attended 1 of 5 board meetings]**

### **Allambee Community Landcare Group**

Stephen has been a Board member for five years. He is a member of the Allambee Community Landcare Group. He has been involved in Landcare for about nine 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 and his family are now living at Allambee having finished building a house as an owner-builder. Stephen is currently working as a Family and Youth worker based in Morwell. He hopes to remain in the area and continue his involvement in Landcare and the local community for a long time to come.



## **Phil Piper**

**[Attended 4 of 5 board meetings]**

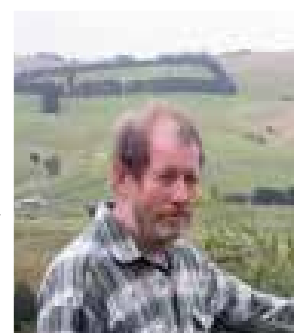
### **Mardan Mirboo North Landcare Group**

Phil joined Landcare in 2001 and was a founding member and inaugural Treasurer of the Mardan Mirboo North Landcare group which formed in 2002.

In 2006 he went from Treasurer to President, a role which he still fills today. In the 2007 Better Farming Landcare Awards he won the Dick Howarth Individual Landcarer Award.

Phil and his wife Kate live fairly self-sufficiently on a steep 10 acre block near Mirboo North. Phil, with the help of Landcare and the group, has revegetated all the steep gullies of his property and the 55 acre property next door with tube stock that now nearly looks like natural bush.

Phil has always been passionate about the care of our beautiful land and is particularly concerned about the threat of coal and coal seam gas to our environment. Phil joined the Board in 2012.





## South Gippsland Landcare Network Staff

SGLN employed four staff members in the 2013/14 financial year. Staff profiles, roles, time allocation and funding source are listed below.

Belinda Brennan, , Network Coordinator - 3.5 days/ week

Jenny O'Sullivan, Network Coordinator - 2.5 days/ week

Kate Williams, Landcare Project Officer, Three days per week

Nicole Walsh, Landcare Project Officer FOSK, full time,

### Belinda Brennan Network Coordinator

**Time:** 0.7 FTE (3.5 days/week)

**Funding:** Victorian Local Landcare Facilitator Initiative and Project Management Funding. To July 2013.

Belinda was South Gippsland Landcare Network Coordinator's for the past six years and has over 20 years' experience in Landcare both in Victoria and in Western Australia. At the 2011 State Landcare Awards, Belinda won the Australian Government Local Landcare Facilitator/ Coordinator Award. Belinda left the role early in July 2013, with Kate Williams acting as Network coordinator until Jenny O'Sullivan was employed in October.



Above - Belinda Brennan and Mark Walters at the 2013 AGM  
Below - Jenny O'Sullivan and friend



### Jenny O'Sullivan Network Coordinator

**Time:** 0.5 FTE (2.5 days/week)

**Funding:** Victorian Local Landcare Facilitator Initiative, Healthy Soils Sustainable Farms and Project Management Funding.

#### Profile:

Jenny is passionate about sustainable agriculture, particularly in Gippsland where she and her husband run a 680ha beef and sheep property. Jenny's interest in developing sustainable food systems began in 1998 when she initiated the development of Gippsland Natural beef. In 2002 she managed the Gippsland Beef and Lamb Environmental Management Systems (EMS) Pilot Project. Meat sold from properties with the Gippsland EMS is marketed under the brand Enviromeat. In 2007, Jenny was the driving force behind the "The Future Food and Fibre Project". This project explored the concept of sustainability across a range of Gippsland agricultural businesses, and paved the way for the Healthy Soils, Sustainable Farms – tackling soil acidification in West Gippsland project. More recently, Jenny and her husband Paul have created an exciting agri-tourism business, Gippsland Food Adventures that is promoting Gippsland as a premium food region. Food and wine lovers are taken onto the farms, vineyards and into the restaurants where good quality Gippsland produce is made or served.

#### Roles:

- Executive support to Board and Public Fund Management Committee
- Strategic planning and partnership coordination
- Budget development and management including preparation of funding applications
- Staff Management
- Liaison and partnership development, South Gippsland Shire
- Corporate sponsorship and business partner support
- Project Management – Turtons Creek Strategic Plan
- Delivery of Victorian Local Landcare Facilitator Initiative
- Liaison/ representative role
  - Gippsland Sustainable Agriculture Network
  - Corner Inlet Steering Committee
  - Regional and State Landcare

## Kate Williams Project Officer

**Time:** 0.6 FTE (part time)

**Funding:** Corner Inlet Connections (Federal Government), Victorian Environmental Partnership Project (State Government), Victorian Landcare Grant 2013/2014 (State Government)

### Profile:

Kate 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, natural resource management and environmental project management. Qualified with a Bachelor of Environmental Science majoring in Conservation Ecology (Deakin University) and a Diploma of Environmental Management (Swinburne University of Technology).

### Roles:

- Coordination and delivery Corner Inlet Connections project.
- Working with WGCMA for the delivery of the Cape Liptrap to Bunurong Biodiversity Project in the Tarwin and Fish Creek areas
- Coordination and implementation of Network Information System for all SGLN membership and contact data
- Site assessments and assisting with the delivery of the Friends of the Strzelecki Koala-Habitat for Life project in the southern half of the Network area
- Coordination and delivery of the Victorian Landcare Grants project; Waging war on weeds through Landcare Network collaboration
- Executive Support for the Community Weeds Taskforce
- Editor of South Gippy News (quarterly newsletter)
- SGLN weeds and Network website - maintenance and further development.



## Nicole Walsh Landcare Project Officer

**Time:** 1.0 FTE (full time)

**Funding:** Project Funding - TLS, Giant Gippsland Earthworm and Friends of Strzelecki Koala, Demonstrating Sustainable Farm Practices

### Profile:

Nicole has been with the Network since May 2013. Nicole had worked for 14 years in Tasmania, in the beautiful Tamar Valley. She worked for a number of years as a Planning Officer with the Parks and Wildlife Service before moving into natural resource management in 2005. Nicole worked for Tamar NRM for three years as Project Officer where she managed a grant to help landholders fence remnant bush and riparian areas from livestock. She has Bachelor of Education majoring in Environmental Science and a Graduate Diploma in Natural Resources from the University of New England, Armidale.

### Roles:

- Coordination and delivery of Friends of Strzelecki Koalas – Habitat for Life Project
- Executive support for the South Gippsland Koala Working Group
- Upgrading and maintenance of FOSK interactive website
- Targeted Land Stewardship - Westernport region
- Coordination of the Giant Gippsland Earthwork Project
- Participation in the Demonstrating Sustainable Farm Practices Project for Westernport





## 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.

### 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. SGLN plays an active role in the Regional Landcare Forum throughout the year.

#### Port Phillip Westernport Catchment Management Authority (PPWCMA)

SGLN works closely with the PPWCMA in the delivery of services to landholders in the Westernport part of the Network.

#### South Gippsland Water (SGW)

SGW is a long term supporter of the Network providing \$10,000 in 2013/14 for our One Million Trees project. This is the fifth year they have supported the project.

#### Melbourne Water (MW)

SGLN works with Melbourne Water (MW) staff on improving awareness of riparian and water management and accessing advice and funding to conduct works on Landcare member's properties. SGLN hosted a display at the Dairy expo this year in partnership with Melbourne Water.

## Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI)

SGLN works cooperatively on a number of projects with DEPI. The Corner Inlet project is just one example where local DEPI staff were involved in site assessments, development of Soil Erosion Management Plans and conducting Ifarm training.

We also work closely with DEPI, Catchment & Community Programs Branch in Melbourne delivering an Ecotender monitoring contract and the use and development of the EnSym program for all site visits, project mapping and calculations of the environmental benefit of all on ground projects.



Top - ifarm class of 2014  
Above - Koala Scat field day  
Bottom left and right - Sustainability festival





## HVP Plantations

Over recent years, SGLN has developed a relationship with HVP with our Friends of Strzelecki Koala Project. HVP are undertaking Koala census work on their properties which is helping feed valuable information into research on the plight of our Strzelecki Koalas.

HVP was also actively involved in the development of the Turtons Creek Strategic Plan as one of the largest landholders in the Turtons Creek catchment.

## Michael's Supa IGA

The South Gippsland Landcare Network is now part of the Michaels SUPA IGA Community Rewards Program. All funds raised as part of the program are directly allocated to SGLN's One Million Tree Program. Effectively points for trees (more correctly indigenous plants).

The money will be used for grants to Landcare members to protect and enhance our natural environment. In September, Michael Lorenz handed over a cheque for \$320 for last years community rewards points. This will go directly to plants as part of our OMT project.

## Monash University – Gippsland Campus

The Friends to Strzelecki Koalas project is working closely with Monash University. Part of the citizen ecologist program has been to help educate community members on the collection of koala scats for DNA testing. This information will help Monash determine the range of the Strzelecki Koala population.

Dr Wendy Wright, Senior Lecturer in Biology & Ecology, School of Applied Sciences & Engineering, Monash University Gippsland Campus is on the FOSK steering committee.

## South Gippsland Shire

We have been working with the South Gippsland Shire to build a better relationship and ideally get more actively involved in the joint delivery of services for the South Gippsland environment. The Shire and SGLN work closely a number of issues including

- Actively working with Shire on Sustainability Network and sustainability projects
- Actively involved and supporting the development of the Strategic Plan for Turtons Creek.
- Actively involved in the South Gippsland Community Weeds Taskforce.

*Faye Wedrowicz, Federation University PhD student, Kate Williams, SGLN Landcare Project Officer, Linda Mintz, Boolara South Landcare member and Andrew Medew*

## 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. The West Gippsland Catchment Management Authorities (WGCMA) Regional Landcare Plan 2013-2018 provides the framework to guide regional support for Landcare. The Plan was endorsed by the region's five Landcare Networks and the WGCMA in early 2014 and it reflects the principles of the Victorian Landcare Program Strategic Plan.

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 "Healthy Soils Sustainable Farms project is another way we work closely with our neighbouring Networks.

SGLN is also a key player in the Regional Landcare Forum facilitated by the WGCMA.

## 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 Demonstrating Sustainable Farm Practices Project.

## Business Partner Program

For the past three years, SGLN has a business partner program which provides benefits to our members as well as supporting our local businesses. We welcomed Brown and Wigg on board last year, they are offering a very generous discounts on all herbicides.

We have 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.



## Landcare Group Reports

There were 19 Landcare Groups in the South Gippsland Network area in 2013/14, including the newly formed Friends of Turton's Creek Group.

**There are currently 627 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	Judy Bacon	Hugh Sarjeant
Foster North	Corrie Greven	Rob Jones
Fish Creek	Graeme Nicoll	Robin Stevens
Hallston	Steven Reinisch	Frank Dekker
Loch Nyora	Ron Barnacle	Peter Tacey
Mardan Mirboo North	Helen Hasty	Ilan Goldman
Mt Eccles/ Wild Dog Valley	Vicki Kenney	Sonya Holt
Mt Lyall	Geoff Ferrier	Frank Bujega
Nerrena	Kevin Hughes	Jill Vella
Poowong	Mark Walters	Wendy Davis
Tarwin Lower	Anne Box	Anna Burggraaff
Tarwin Valley	Mick Stuart	Jenny Keitley
Triholm	Tania Murray	Wilma Mackay
South Gippsland Equine	Larissa Judd	Iznaya Kennedy

### Network Memberships

There are currently 31 Network members.



**See Appendix 3: SGLN Landcare Group Boundaries Map**

Left - Landcare members at Hallston cluster event discussing pasture  
Right - Amongst the vines at the Waratah Hills cluster event

## Agnes River District Landcare Group

At a group level the Agnes River District Landcare Group had a quite year. A couple of members were involved with the Corner Inlet Blackberry Action Group assisting with planning and undertaking weed control within targeted areas of the Corner Inlet catchment.

Several members in the Hazel Park area have formed a fox control group. The group coordinated a shooting pulse in May and they are planning to undertake further control using baiting in conjunction with shooting.

Protecting and enhancing the Agnes River and its tributaries remains a priority for the group. A number of members fenced off and revegetated riparian areas as part of the Australian Governments Corner Inlet Connection program administered by the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority. This work not only creates biodiversity linkages but reduces the amount of nutrient and sediment run off to Corner Inlet, benefiting the seagrass meadows that support a range of marine life.

## Allambee Community Landcare Group

This year the group held its 20th Annual General meeting. Whilst only four formal meetings have been held throughout the year, all have been well attended by our steady group of financial members. Our informal end of year social gathering at Mt Worth was well patronised as usual, with the relaxed atmosphere providing the opportunity for much discussion on Landcare and other issues.

Our earlier meetings continued with a focus on the anti-Coal Seam Gas issue. Several members volunteered their time to survey the landholders in our area to gauge their response to the CSG issue. Their efforts were met with an overwhelming response in favour of opposing any CSG Exploratory drilling in the Baw Baw Shire and Allambee district. Many additional signatures were gathered on the anti CSG petitions, and these were then sent to the premier's office.

During the past year three of our members have received funding through the network to perform fencing and revegetation projects on their properties. One project has funding via the "Strzelecki Koala Habitat for Life" to fence and revegetate an area to provide improved wildlife corridors. This project will be extended in coming years provided suitable funding can be obtained. The other two landholders received grants to fence and revegetate areas which have suffered damage from soil erosion and landslips.

Continual weed control is an ongoing issue, with members tackling their blackberries, thistles and ragworts as a routine part of their farming practice. Members are vigilant to keep on top of these weeds

and are frustrated when some adjoining landholders put very little effort into their weed control measures.

A farm walk was held recently on the Lackman property to inspect the environmental works which have been performed on their land. Since purchasing this property, they have performed extensive weed management measures to eradicate the blackberry and ragwort problem which was evident on purchase. Several marginal land areas and gullies have been fenced and revegetated and improvements to the pasture and water quality were observed.

In the coming months, another farm walk is planned to visit a property which has older and more established revegetation projects, which will provide a contrast to the younger plantings on the Lackman property.

## Allambee South Landcare Group

The group held their AGM in October with guest presenter, Peter Wright (vertebrate pest controller) discussing the various techniques and options for fox control.

A number of members are involved with the Landcare Networks Waging War on Weeds project that will deliver on-ground blackberry, ragwort and thistle control this spring (2014).

The group area is a key priority for the protection and enhancement of Koala habitat and several members are undertaking fencing and revegetation works as part of the Landcare Networks Friends of the Strzelecki Koala, Habitat for Life project.

## Arawata Landcare Group

Pine trees have been removed at the Korumburra Reservoir, (managed by South Gippsland Water) and the area is due to be revegetated with indigenous plants. The group are pleased with this outcome as they felt the area was in need of enhancement.

Several members were involved with the Andersons Inlet Erosion Control project funded through the state government in 2013 which provided incentives for the management of erosion and landslips including fencing, reseeding with deep rooted perennial pasture or revegetation using indigenous species. Given that the group's area has been widely affected by landslips, the group has applied for a Communities for Nature grant to hopefully receive further funding. The outcome of the application will be known in roughly October 2014.

Weeds were again prominent with our attendance on the Community Weeds Taskforce under the Landcare Network, thanks to CWT members the Whitakers, Syd Whyte and Dawn Marotti.



## Franklin River Landcare Group

The Franklin River Landcare group continues to play an active role in the local community including maintaining the Kodak Koala Reserve, roadside weed control and management of signage advertising in the Franklin River Reserve rotunda.

A Corner Inlet Connections sign is due to be installed in the rotunda in September 2014 with committee members Judy and Rea providing input into the signs content and design.

At the groups AGM in February the group thanked outgoing president Michael Green and his wife Anne for their involvement over many years. Wonderful ambassadors of Landcare, the Greens were presented with a brooch in the shape of a tree by incoming president, and long term group member Judy Bacon to mark the occasion.

Several group members carried out self-funded on ground works, (fencing and revegetation) and part funded works as part of the Corner Inlet Connections and the Friends of the Strzelecki Koala, Habitat for Life project.

Group Secretary, Hugh Sarjeant and his wife Diana Droog worked closely with the Corner Inlet Blackberry Action Group to spray weeds on several roadsides in the group area using the Franklin River Landcare group's handy 200 litre spray unit.



## Foster North Landcare Group

Foster North has had another busy year. Our membership was up to 61 although several have not renewed this new financial year. Nearly 50% of our members are based in Melbourne.

We had continued our quest to have the Turon's Creek area protected and succeeded in obtaining Minister for the Environment, Ryan Smith's assurance that Turon's Creek Scenic Reserve would be protected from the surrounding logging. Committee members took part in the Network's Strategic Plan Working Group which we hope will continue to protect the environment around the creek. We also lodged a submission to Council as part of the South Gippsland RV Strategy in the hope that camping at the Turon's Creek camping ground would become permit only to avoid damage to the area but unfortunately our attempts failed. We will continue to lobby DEPI to return the camping area to a picnic ground the same as Agnes Falls which does not suffer from the same vandalism as Turon's Creek.

Through our affiliation with the Foster Community Association we continue to lobby Council for improvements to the environment at the quarterly Shire Town and District meetings. At these meetings it is interesting to hear what is happening in other parts of the Shire.

Our meetings have been well attended with lots of input from members. Some meetings are replaced with field days at member's homes such as an environmentally friendly weed control and identification day during which we exchanged ideas of non poisonous ways of weed removal and treatments. A well attended Christmas luncheon took place on a property overlooking Wilsons Promontory which included garden walks.

Foster North members have been fortunate to obtain grants again to continue revegetating our Koala Corridor and replacing trees that had been destroyed by deer in the gullies. We have been rewarded by seeing more koalas in the area and some in the very trees we have raised from seed and planted ourselves. Our trees and understory plants are proliferating and it is encouraging to see the lyrebirds expanding their territories into the new growth.

Top - A large fallen tree at the property of Foster North Landcare Groups Secretary and Treasurer, Robert and Vivienne Jones.  
Bottom - Franklin River Landcare group members, Michael and Anne Green (on left) are presented with a brooch by group President Judy Bacon to mark their significant contributions to Landcare.



*Fish Creek Beefcheque group at the Wallis' farm*



*Frank and Jeanie Dekker at a Hallston Landcare Group planting day at the Dekkers dairy farm.*

## Fish Creek Landcare Group

The Fish Creek Landcare group continues to focus on encouraging the local community in ecological management of bush and farm land, with protection of creeks and drains, and maintenance of a healthy balance between agriculture, remnant vegetation and wildlife.

We are encouraging farmers, interested locals and a significant lifestyle/weekender population to meet this focus with education, native vegetation planting, fencing, weed management and organising interesting walks. Our priority this year has been the Fish Creek and adjoining waterways and environment, including improving animal health (with particular interest in the platypus).

Our group has 70 members (this includes families) with very diverse needs and involvement, and an executive committee of 8. Our meetings are bimonthly and we encourage all members to attend and participate in discussion.

Activities for the past year include:

- "How healthy is Fish Creek" talk with Mark Cairns (director of endangered species recovery) and night walk along the creek.
- Summer walk along the Hoddle Range to highlight the diverse terrain, vegetation and views, with a geologist and botanist with us. This is a track in progress and we are working with other local groups to profile it to the general public.
- "Winter walk" along Fish Creek with 2 speakers from WGCMA.
- Working with local bodies and WGCMA to manage Fish Creek. This plan has been a long term vision and is a work in progress.

## Hallston Landcare Group

The group have had a productive year with a number of group tree plantings undertaken on local farms; one at the Dekker's dairy farm and the other at Malcom and Carol Cox's beef farm.

A number of members have participated Landcare Network projects including the Friends of the Strzelecki Koola, Habitat for Life Project and the Andersons Inlet Erosion Control project both funded through the state government.

The group was fortunate to pick up a number of new members throughout the year and our committee meeting have been well attended.

Late last year group members Malcom and Carol Cox hosted a Landcare group cluster event as a way of connecting with adjoining Landcare groups and enabling the valuable share of information.

An on-going project for the group is the maintenance of the Hallston Avenue of honour lookout and picnic area. The trees that were planted at the site last year were a success and the area is well used which is great to see, the site really benefits the whole community.

## Loch Nyora Landcare Group

It has been a quite year for the group. Late last year group members John and Patricia Fleming hosted a Landcare group cluster event as a way of connecting with adjoining groups and enabling the valuable share of information.

Weeds were again prominent with our attendance on the Community Weeds Taskforce under the Landcare Network, thanks to CWT member Patricia Fleming.



Cluster event hosted by the Fleming family of the Loch/Nyora Landcare Group

## Mardan Mirboo North Landcare Group

The group continues to lobby in strong opposition for Coal Seam Gas Extraction. In February the community of Mirboo North celebrated the declaration of Mirboo North becoming CSG free by hosting a day at Mirboo North's picturesque Baromi Park, featuring speeches, a colourful street parade, live music, an art exhibition and stalls showcasing local produce.

As part of the Jim Harvey bequest, the group worked with the Mirboo North Secondary College Landcare Cadets to grow and allocate trees to several landholders in the area. A number of members also received assistance with tree planting and fencing as part of the Friends of the Strzelecki Koala, Habitat for Life project.

Ian and Helen Hasty hosted a well-attended 'creating koala habitat' farm walk in May in partnership with the Landcare Network as part of the Friends of the Strzelecki Koala, Habitat for Life project. Wildlife carer Claire Davis presented on how to care for injured wildlife and shared many interesting stories including one about the time she rescued and cared for a seal pup. That pup was named 'Tarwin' and it went on to live at the Melbourne Zoo where it still lives to this day.

## Mt Eccles/Wild Dog Valley Landcare Group

A number of members received assistance with tree planting and fencing as part of the Friends of the Strzelecki Koala, Habitat for Life project.

Weeds were again prominent with our attendance on the Community Weeds Taskforce under the Landcare Network, thanks to CWT member Frank Hirst.

## Mt Lyall Landcare Group

The Group held the 22nd Annual General Meeting and Dinner at The Gilded Lily and was attended by approximately 40 members. We were privileged to have Lavinia Zirsack and Kate Hamley provide a very interesting and informative presentation on biosecurity and exotic incursion response and awareness. The presentation addressed the probable causes of the eucalypt dieback in our area.

Our first committee meeting was held in October at which the Executive was established.  
President, Jeff Ferrier;  
Vice President, Paul Cook;  
Secretary, Frank Bugeja;  
Treasurer, Lyn Mitchard;  
Newsletter Editor, Kevin Wilton;  
Equipment Officers, Bill Loughridge and Harold Hillberg  
Committee members: Lisa Williams, Marlene Marsden, Anne-Mette McNamara, Alison Potter, John Vitale and Gilmore Douglas

Our Network Project Officer Nicole Walsh continued her valuable assistance throughout the year and chaired the meeting for the election of committee members during the AGM.

Mt Lyall Group acknowledged the great work, help and input to our Group of Belinda Brennan during her time as the Network Coordinator. Her commitment and enthusiasm was greatly appreciated.

The Group Membership has been maintained at around 50 landholders and our financial position continues to be very sound.

Members participated in CMA/Landcare and Melbourne Water projects and educational initiatives throughout the year and attended many interesting and informative field days and demonstrations. Of particular interest was a visit to the Dutson Downs Compost manufacturing site.

Following on from the AGM presentation on Eucalypt dieback, we have planned a Field Day to visit die back locations identified by members. The date for this activity is still to be finalised.

Members continued to monitor the weed situation at both the Athlone and Mt Lyall Primary school sites. The Athlone School was closed at the end of 2013 however the Group will continue to work on weed control in the wetlands development.

The group continues to provide members with an inventory of plant and equipment for weed control for loan and/or hire and is very ably maintained by Harold Hillberg and Bill Loughridge. Details are provided in the Group Newsletter- Contact Bill or Harold directly to arrange pick up.

The Mt Lyall Group Newsletter was produced and delivered by email and/or post to all members during the year. Our 23rd AGM is planned for Wednesday October 15th, 2014 at the Poowong Hotel.



*Eucalyptus dieback.*



## Nerrena Landcare Group

During the past year we have held two events. The first was held on Monday 9th September. We went on a trip to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Cranbourne with the program including a specialised horticultural tour at 11.00am with the Garden's Australian orchid expert. The group subsidised the cost of the talk, and we hired a bus to take us to Cranbourne, which was driven by member Mike Vella. Leaving Leongatha at 9.00am and returning at 3.00pm the visit to the gardens was enjoyed by the 20 or so attendees.

Visiting the orchid houses was a great experience, seeing how these plants are cultivated. With our 'orchid eyes' tuned in, the group was free to get some lunch and wander around the rest of the garden to see the plantings. On the way to the lookout, we saw several species of orchids in flower by the track. Some of us were also lucky enough to see some bandicoots.

Nerrena Landcare group was involved with a CFA initiative to increase disaster preparedness in rural communities. Together with other Koonwarra community organisations, Kevin and Jill met in to discuss what we could in the face of a major disaster.

After deciding that the most likely disaster to affect the area was wildfire, and that we would subject to outside control during the event, the time we needed to be focussing on was the aftermath of the disaster. Presentations to the community meetings convinced us that connected communities are more resilient and members cope and recover from adversity better than communities that lack that vital relationship.

Although Koonwarra is well served with community organisations, members of one group may not know members of another. The committee decided to hold an event where locals could meet one another and discuss how we could develop and reinforce our local identity and the value of this connection. The Nerrena Landcare group had a vital role in this, becoming the auspicing organisation for the get together.

Over 60 people attended the event on November 15th 2013. We gathered at the Koonwarra Hall meeting our neighbours and establishing and refreshing friendships. Sausages were sizzled on the CFA barbeque, and participants placed models of their homes on the CFA burn table laid out as a model of Koonwarra. The brand new fire truck was on display, and Captain Koala made an appearance which was a real hit with the many kids.

Harry Forrester acted as MC for the night and introduced local identity Ken Caithness who spoke about the history of the township followed by CFA brigade leaders Ross Considine, Wayne Walker and Peter Hanily who spoke about fire plans and how Koonwarra brigade can help people with their planning.



*Nerrena Group members and communittee members burn a model of Koonwarra at the Landcare group auspiced event.*

The model town of Koonwarra was sacrificed by fire to aid our understanding of how wildfire would impact our township. It was very clear that areas with leaf litter and on upwards slopes had much greater chance of burning. A salutary lesson in keeping the area around your home clear of litter.



*Nerrena Landcare Group at the Royal Botanic Gardens*

The event was a hit with all attending. Locals who couldn't make it this year expressed hope that it could become an annual event. The Koonwarra community has a Facebook page as a result of this initiative. Any further community get-togethers will be announced through this medium.

We were planning to have a field day in March discussing controlled burning for fire control and bushland management. Unfortunately the CFA person who was running this project, Mike McStephens project funding ended at the end of the financial year, and he ran out of time to make this happen for us. We have been in contact with the new fire officer with responsibility for this area, Craig Dunshea and when he can he will organise this with the group.

Our next event will be during Landcare week, with a bike ride and property visits on Sept 6, starting from the Koonwarra farmers markets.

## Poowong Landcare Group

Poowong and district Landcare Group were very happy to complete a 20 year project on the Bass River between Bena and Poowong.

This project concentrated on 5 km of the Bass River and the riparian area. In 1991 the river was covered in blackberries up to 3 mts high with ragwort and thistles infecting the surrounding area. Land Victoria, who were responsible for the land asked Poowong Landcare if they would take on the job to restore it to its iconic status as a project. The group decided to take it on.

The first grant was received to rehabilitate the Giant Earthworm habitat. We started by having the DNRE bulldoze tracks into the blackberries so that we could get in and spray them. This was in May 1996. This was followed for many years until we had got the weeds under control.

We were fortunate to receive funding from Dept. of Natural Resources and Environment, Federal funding via the NHT programs and the State "Weeds initiative Program".

Once the weeds were under control, we started planting the denuded areas with indigenous plants and many thousands of trees, shrubs and grasses, which now provide food and habitat to many species of birds and animals with the water quality vastly improved.

Mostly the members planted, but we had help from the Australian Conservation for Nature groups, Loch Primary school children and Cubs with Scouts. We had to hire an excavator to remove large hawthorns in the drainage line and fence off the area. It has taken six years to get control of the hawthorns.

In early 2014 the group planted out the drainage lines, and celebrated the end of the project. On this day we had the help of 11 people from Melbourne and 12 of our members, who helped plant and water the seedlings. We thank them and Melbourne Water, who gave us a grant for the plants. This was your Melbourne Water drainage rates at work.

The tiny camping ground on the Bass River is very popular with visitors from all over Australia and they come to enjoy a beautiful bushland setting. We are very proud of our efforts and the result.

## Tarwin Valley Landcare Group

It has been a productive year for the group with a number of tree planting days held. During July, group members planted trees at Martin Stone's property and in November a planting day was held at Russell and Jenni Swans' farm. 460 plants were planted at the Swans' place in 60 minutes, not a bad effort. Both days were finished off with a welcome BBQ lunch.

A Christmas catch up was held at the Meeniyah Pub to wish everyone the best for the festive season. Group Secretary, Jenny Keitley has also been busy at the South Gippsland Seedbank volunteering to assist with processing locally sourced native seed.

## Tarwin Landcare Group

The group continues to function with steady membership number and a core of dedicated members. Activities in the past year undertaken include:

- A walk and BBQ at Michael Buckley's place at Venue Bay. Michael has dedicated a great deal of time and commitment to protecting and restoring the Coast Banksia Woodland on his property in the 3rd estate.
- The group are planning to enhance an area of bush next to the Tarwin recreation reserve by formalising a walking path to protect the native vegetation. As part of this, the group are keen to learn more about the history of the area and plan to invite local historians to be involved.
- The group have been working with the Friends of Venus Bay Peninsula to build a Koala corridor that will allow Koalas to move safely from Venus Bay to Tarwin Lower.
- Landcare members in the group area with properties over 2 ha were eligible to apply for the State Government's Cape Liptrap to Bunurong Victorian Environmental Partnership Program with successful/non-successful applications known by the end of September 2014.



Tarwin Landcare Group at Michael Buckley's place.



## Triholm Landcare Group

We currently have between 20 and 25 financial members. Three of our members moved out of the area in the last year and we wish Peter and Marg Demergue, Peter and Senga Hateley and Kevin and Alma Smith all the best for the future in their new communities.

Russell Hupfield retired as President last year. We thank Russell and Janette for all their hard work over the sixteen years that Russell was President. We welcome Tania Murray as our new President and know that she will do a great job.

We have not held any formal meetings this year but Field days were held on Peter and Wilma Mackay and Bob and Robyn Grays' properties and one is also coming up on Tania Murray's property at the end of August.

We also received a community support grant and Glen Duncan received assistance to repair and revegetate a huge landslip on his property.

Weeds will once again be the main focus of the group for the coming year.

## South Gippsland Equine Landcare Group

It has been a busy year for the group with a number of events and activities held. In the latter half of 2013, Brown and Wigg hosted a presentation by Martin Connell from Hygain and Kaeren Langdon at Great Southern Saddlery hosted a John Kohnke evening at Leongatha. The events were attended by several group members and generously supported the South Gippsland Landcare Group through donations raised at the door (cold coin entry).

A workshop on managing horses and planning your horse property was held on the 15th of March 2014 at Korumburra. The workshop was facilitated by Jane Myres from Equiculture. The group learnt how, by following good land management practices, you can reduce illness and injury to your horse/s, allow more natural behaviour for your horse/s, reduce feed bills, avoid spending money on the wrong facilities, increase the value of your property and enhance the wider environment all at the same time.

The group is planning an information evening on Hendra virus in August 2014 with guest presenter Amanda McCartney from Zoetis.

The group executive has been actively promoting upcoming events, webinar's and sharing snippets of information via their Facebook page: South Gippsland Equine Landcare Group. Several 'Hoof Notes' newsletters have also been produced and distributed to members as a way of communicating upcoming events etc.



Above - Bob Gray shows Nicole Walsh trees in his agro-forestry operation



Above - Loch/Nyora hosted cluster event discussion



Above - South Gippsland Equine Landcare Group Hendra virus seminar



Above - Larissa Judd and Fleur Stefani, South Gippsland Equine Landcare Group President and Treasurer with Veterinarian Dr John Kohnke displaying the group's farm gate sign.



## Network Projects 2013/2014

### South Gippsland Landcare Network Honour Roll

Landcare members were honoured for outstanding service at the SGLN's Annual Dinner in 2013.

Adding to the 74 certificates awarded last year to celebrate 25 years of Landcare, seven of our Landcare members received Gold certificates for 20-25 years service, two members were awarded a Silver certificate for 15-19 years service and five members received Bronze certificates.

The Network will include the presentation of Honour roll certificates at its Annual Dinner each year to continue to recognise the great work that Landcare members continue to achieve.

Gold Honour Roll Recipients	SGLN Group
Harold Hillberg	Mt Lyall
Martin Stone	Jindanook/Tarwin Valley
Ken and Wendy Cecil	Poowong
Jeffrey Clark	Poowong
Phillip Garrett	Poowong
Adrian and Wendy Tilling	Poowong
Kelvin Olsen	Triholm

Silver Honour Roll Recipients	SGLN Group
Tom McNamara	Mt Lyall
Arnold & Phillip Atkins	Poowong

Bronze Honour Roll Recipients	SGLN Group
Denyse Menzies	Mardan Mirboo North
Ray Saunders and Debbie Birkett	Mardan Mirboo North
Graeme and Rosemary Trease	Mardan Mirboo North
Scott and Suzanne Wightman	Mardan Mirboo North
Margot and Jim Folley	Poowong



Honour Roll recipients L to R: Martin Stone, Jeff Clark, Mark Walters deputy Board Chair who made the presentations, Graeme Trease, Rosemary Trease and Suzanne Wightman

### One Million Trees for South Gippsland



The South Gippsland Landcare Network in partnership with South Gippsland Water, Michaels Supa IGA and the South Gippsland Landcare Fund aims to revegetate the South Gippsland catchment with indigenous, endemic species.

Landholders who undertake a One Million Trees for South Gippsland funded works project improve the environment for all South Gippslanders by;

- improving water quality by protecting waterways and reducing erosion. Waterway plantings filtering high nutrient runoff from paddocks.
- Improving landscape connectivity creating biolinks to allow movement of animals and birds through the landscape leading to improved genetic diversity.
- Increasing productivity on farms by providing shelter and therefore creating microclimates where the soil, animals and waterways are protected from extremes of temperature and wind. Production in sheltered areas can improve by up to 20% compared to unsheltered areas.

- Sequester carbon in the trees and plants.

## Achievements for 2013/14:

- Four projects were funded during the 2013-2014 financial year.
- Three of these projects occurred in waterways that form part of the South Gippsland catchment.
- One project revegetated a landslip site at Strzelecki to prevent further sediment movement into a tributary of Wilkur Creek.
- In total 6443 locally sourced endemic plants went into the ground across the four project sites which resulted in the revegetation of 5.32 hectares of Landcare members in the South Gippsland catchment.



Looking downstream on a tributary of the Tarwin River (West Branch) that runs through a Nerrena property. 145 metres fenced and revegetated. Photo: Neville Stuart

## Healthy Soils: Sustainable Farms

Healthy soils are important to maximise production and improve environmental conditions. By using nutrients more effectively, improving ground cover, soil organic matter, plant health and dry matter yield, a healthy soil can improve water use efficiency and quality, reduce salinity, erosion and nutrient loss through runoff and leaching, sequester carbon and reduce emissions such as nitrous oxide, methane and carbon dioxide.

The West Gippsland Healthy Soils -Sustainable Farms project assists farmers to access and make sense of the latest science, identify soil constraints within their production system, implement best practice and trial

innovative approaches to manage these constraints. Information is shared through discussion groups, field days, web based communication, regional forums and the Gippsland Sustainable Agriculture Network (GSAN).

As a part of the project the West Gippsland CMA will support a number of sites across Gippsland over the next 5 years, where farmers are demonstrating innovative practices.

In the last year SGLN has:

- Facilitated training by Nick Dudley of DEPI I-farm training with 11 landowners
- 2 visits to demonstration area at David Hall's Foster North looking at biological management and inputs for soil and pasture health
- 50 farmers attended Field Day looking at What is limiting pasture production at Rob Bell's with John Gallienne and linking with Grasslands Society
- Individual plan developed for Rob Bell as part of the process
- A soil course is planned for September 2014 in Fish Creek



Above - Many farmers attended Rob bell's Pasture day at Meeniyan  
Below - John Gallienne leading pasture discussion



## Friends Of Strzelecki Koalas



### Habitat for Life Project

This is Year 2 of the Friends of Strzelecki Koala (FOSK) Habitat for Life program which is a community based four year program aiming to protect and support the unique Strzelecki Koala population in the Strzelecki Ranges. The project aims to do this through a combination of strategic on ground projects on private properties across South Gippsland and an extensive community education and volunteering program.

This project is managed by the South Gippsland Landcare Network and has been supported over four years by Victorian Government Communities for Nature Funding.

The Strzelecki Koala population is unique in Victoria as they are believed to be a genetically intact example of a wild population of koalas, unlike other regions around the State which have been affected by repopulated translocations from island colonies with a low genetic base. It is therefore feasible that this population will better withstand threats such as disease and climate change than other populations in Victoria. Maintaining this population could be crucial to the future survival of koalas in Victoria.

The overall aim of this project is to protect, enhance and restore vegetation in South Gippsland as part of a strategic Network wide attempt to improve Strzelecki Koala Habitat. This will be done through the identification of priority areas for habitat preservation and revegetation activities that will enhance existing habitat and improve connectivity across the landscape.

This project targets specifically those groups in areas likely to contain Strzelecki Koalas such as Hallston, Allambee Community, Allambee South, Mt Eccles/ Wild Dog Valley, Arawata, Tarwin Valley, Nerrena, Mardan/Mirboo North and Foster North Landcare Groups.



The Friends of Strzelecki Koala mascot, Fosky is a hit with kids at the Sustainability Festival

### Achievements for 2013/14:

- 2013/2014 saw the implementation of the Koala Habitat Protection, Enhancement and Restoration plan for the South Gippsland Landcare Network. This plan will guide the remaining two years of the project. The plan was sent to all members of the project steering committee, as well as to all Groups who have a Koala Action Plan.
- Project Officers undertook 34 sites visits on projects across the Network. This involved undertaking a Habitat Hectares assessment for remnant sites. All sites were mapped through an environmental modelling system called Ensym. Projects ranged from fencing neglected remnant bush on long-lost gullies in the Strzelecki Hills, to creating corridors across pasture to allow safe passage for koalas from stock.
- 5 school visits were made within SGLN to deliver koala awareness activities tailored to specific age groups. This included school visits with Fosky the mascot Koala to Fish Creek and Traralgon Kindergartens, Athlone Primary School as part of their Sustainability Day and Wilson's Promontory Summer Education Program for adults and children.
- Koalas Go Global initiative with visits made to Leongatha Primary School and Leongatha Secondary College to promote the Habitat for Life Project as part of the Turkish and Chinese exchange students that visited the two schools during 2013.
- National Tree Day at Leongatha Primary School in July 2013.
- A community planting day at a Habitat for Life project site was held in September 2013 at Hallston.
- Three training workshops were held in Foster,



Boolarra and Woodside to train volunteers in the identification and collection method of Koala scats to assist with the Strzelecki Koala genetic project being undertaken by a PhD student at Monash University was held in December 2013.

- A field day that concentrated on restoring koala habitat was held in May 2014.

The FOSK website that went live in December 2012 has attracted over 86 koala sightings so far. The website is an important tool for engaging the community and increasing awareness of koalas in South Gippsland.

## Facts and Figures:

- 42.88 hectares of remnant protection was funded.
- 18.96 Hectares of revegetation was funded.
- 15,849 local native plants planted.
- 9.36 kilometres of remnant and revegetation fencing installed.



Above - Community Planting Day on Habitat for Life Project site at Hallston



Above - the object of our attentions.

## Corner Inlet Connections



In 2013/2014 the Australian Government funded the Corner Inlet Connections program for a further five years.

The overarching project, supported by the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (WGCMA), will continue to protect the Corner Inlet Ramsar site by addressing critical threats including reducing sediment and nutrient loads from the catchment as well as threats within the site. This year the SGLN component of the CIC program focused on improving land management and increasing community awareness on the impact of foxes to the Corner Inlet Ramsar site.

A fox control seminar was held on April 7 2014 where diverse group of landholders convened at the Welshpool Hotel to reflect on the continuing issue of fox control in our region. The event was co-hosted by the South Gippsland and Yarram Yarram Landcare Networks in partnership with Parks Victoria.

The guest speaker was Fraser Barry from Swifts Creek. Fraser has extensive personal experience with wild dog and fox predation on his 4,000ha property. Fraser's cooperative approach and willingness to alter current practices based on new information, has led to a dramatic decrease in dog and fox numbers and equally dramatic increase in lambing percentages. After the 2009 bushfires, increased predation reduced the lambing percentage to 20% today it is at 110%. The group also heard from Parks Victoria Ranger, David Farrar about their fox control program in and adjacent to the Corner Inlet Ramsar site that has been running since 2010. Through consistent baiting and trapping, a fox free status has been achieved on Dream Island, Little Snake Island, Clonmel Island and a 95% reduction of foxes on St Margaret Island.

Following the fox control seminar, an action learning group was established for landholders in the Agnes & Franklin River catchment. The group is comprised of seven landholders over a contiguous area of 1,432 hectares. Since forming in May, the group has coordinated a shooting and 1080 baiting program.

To build on the success of the fox control seminar and the action learning group, a fox control demonstration day is scheduled for spring 2014. The day will involve local contractors and Parks Victoria to showcase techniques and modern technologies used for controlling foxes.



Above - (From left) SGLN Project Officer, Kate Williams, YYLN Project Officer, Bronwyn Johnson and Parks Victoria Ranger, David Farrar at the fox control seminar at Welshpool.



Above - from left to right - David, Kate and Bronwyn discussing all things vulpine.

To facilitate improved land management in regard to reducing nutrient and sediment loads entering the Corner Inlet Ramsar site, SGLN hosted erosion control field day on March 21 2014.

The event was held at a property at Mt Best with guest speakers, Tony Gardner from the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (WGCMA) and Nick Dudley from the Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI). Tony discussed the importance of riparian management in agricultural systems advocating stock exclusion and revegetation using native plants. Nick spoke about the management of soil erosion on steep grazing country using a whole farm management approach.



Members of the Agnes and Franklin River Fox Action Group. Jan Gordon, Neil Cook, Jack Dawson and David Grylls (Ron Gordon and Vince Brugman are missing from the photo).

## Cape Liptrap to Bunurong Victorian Environmental Partnership Program

2013/2014 marks the first year of a five year project that aims to improve the quality and extent of native vegetation within the Cape Liptrap to Bunurong area of South Gippsland.

The Bunurong Coast contains the unique Cape Liptrap Coastal Park ecosystem and other coastal reserves. It supports endangered, rare and vulnerable Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs), as well as species listed under the EPBC Act and the FFG Act.

The Victorian Environmental Partnership Program (VEPP) project is being run in partnership between the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (WGCMA) and the South Gippsland Landcare Network (SGLN). The project has been funded by the Victorian Government.

In year one of the program, landholders competitively tendered for contracts to undertake actions which improve native vegetation and biodiversity outcomes. This ensures the best value for money projects are funded to achieve the highest priority natural resource outcomes for the area. Works will then be monitored over the next four years to show improvements made to the environment.

In 2013/2014 SGLN were responsible for managing the expression of interest (EOI) process to ensure that a desirable level of landholder participation was achieved. This involved a direct mail out to all landholders of a minimum property size of 2ha within the targeted area and newsletter advertisements and promotion through community media.

## Landcare Number Plates for Victoria

Thirty five numberplates have been sold this year. Thirty went to a Northern CMA to cover their fleet of cars. We have 35 left to sell.

We have advertised in local papers and the Weekly Times.



The CMA fleet cars with Landcare numberplates



### Demonstrating Sustainable Farm Practices in Western Port, Port Phillip and Yarra Catchments Project

The 'Sustainable Farm Practices' projects assists farmers to access and make sense of the latest science, identify soil constraints within their production system, implement best practice and trial innovative approaches to manage these constraints.

As a part of the project we will support farmers with training across the catchment over the next 5 years. Farmers are also encouraged to set up demonstration sites on farms to trial innovative practices.

SGLN has a farmer on the farmer steering group and has three demonstration sites on farms across the catchment.

We have also commenced a series of days with a focus on sustainable farming. The first was held at Bob Gray's property looking at beef, sheep and agroforestry.

#### Project achievements:

- Project launch on March 18th at Trever Mills, Drouin South
- Farmer Reference Group established with Bob Gray as SGLN farmer representative. First meeting held and 22 applications for demonstration sites assessed. Three approved in SGLN.
- Discussion group commenced linking with local Landcare Groups.
- First session of discussion group looking at sustainable farming on steep slopes on April 28th at Bob Gray's was very successful. Had great feedback from the day and the notes.
- SGLN to organise 3 day tour for project in March 2015 around Westernport.
- SGLN commenced scoping study on farmers markets, the value for local producers and what consumers are looking for with respect to sustainable agriculture.



Bob Gray shows his tree planting cred at the field day.

### Waging War on Invasive Plants through Landcare Network Collaboration

Waging War on Invasive Plants through Landcare Network Collaboration is a cross network project between Bass Coast Landcare Network, South Gippsland Landcare Network and Yarram Yarram Landcare Network focussing on invasive plant control and building Landcare's capacity through targeted on-ground works, field days and landholder training, (ACUP courses).

Through this project, the scope of the Community Weeds Taskforce (CWT) has been broadened to encompass all five Landcare networks within West Gippsland and extend invitations to the other Shires covered by these networks.

The CWT has also been involved in the selection of nine sites for invasive plant control within the Strzelecki Ranges. Weeds including blackberry, ragwort and thistles are targeted for control across 40 hectares.

A series of weed related field days, forums and information sessions have been held across West Gippsland throughout the year. In the SGLN area, a ragwort control forum was held on Wednesday March 11 at Leongatha. Thirty eight people attended and shared their experiences with managing ragwort using a variety of techniques including pasture management, grazing (sheep), and mechanical and herbicide control.

Local Agronomist, John Gallienne and Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI) Biosecurity Area Manager Gippsland, Scott McArdle were guest presenters on the day. John explained that ragwort is a symptom of soils that are low in phosphorus and high in aluminium and iron. To correct this balance, lime along with fertiliser (supplying phosphorus, potassium and sulphur) is required in addition to sowing pasture. Scott from DEPI provided an update on the regions compliance programs and flagged some of the State Prohibited weeds to be on the lookout for, namely the aquatic weeds.

Landholder training in safe chemical use, storage and handling was provided at a subsidised rate through the project. Nine landholders in SGLN completed the AvgVet Farm Chemical Users Course (ACUP) in mid-2014 at Leongatha. The course was delivered in partnership with Community College Gippsland and Bass Coast Landcare Network.

A Weed Control Calender is also being produced as part of this project for distribution across West Gippsland.

This project is supported by West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority through funding from the Victorian Governments Victorian Landcare Grants initiative.



## Westernport Targeted Land Stewardship



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. It is funded by the Victorian Investment Framework.

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

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

### Achievements for 2013/14:

Due to a reduction in overall investment in the program, the 2013/2014 Land Stewardship program adapted to an entry level format that provided of grants up to \$3000 for vegetation projects and \$2000 for soil projects.

Projects were of a high standard and will greatly contribute to the overall environment in the Westernport Catchment. Five were completed in the SGLN area. Two landholders pulled out and one never received his management agreement but will re-apply for funding in 2014/15.

### Facts and Figures:

- One SGLN landholder received \$2,000 to undertake soil improvement actions on 9.19 ha of land. Actions included application of chicken manure, application of lime, oversowing of grass species and a soil health plan.

- SGLN landholders received \$11,300 to undertake 3.79 ha of vegetation projects such as remnant protection and revegetation of wet areas.
- This included 1920 metres of fencing and 6122 tubestock.



Above - Joe and Kylie Green have established a shelterbelt on two sides of their property to connect to some remnant roadside vegetation along Timms Road in Poowong North.



Above and below - Discussing farming on steep slopes



## Friend of Turtons Creek

The beautiful Turtons Creek valley includes a waterfall set in spectacular wet forests, located approximately 20 kilometres north of Foster in the beautiful Strzelecki Ranges. The waterfall is an iconic destination in the Prom Country.

Passion for the Turtons Creek and the Falls was evident during the development of a Strategic Plan for the area. Over sixty individuals, South Gippsland Shire, HVP, DEPI, Landcare groups and members and The Foster Community Association were actively engaged and involved in the development of the Plan. Issues identified as threatening the Turtons Creek area included

- Weed infestations along the creek, and willows in the creek
- The damage done by users such as large groups monopolising the campground, leaving rubbish and camp fires not fully extinguished, damaging the trees and local tracks
- Contamination of the waterway from campers
- Habitat protection

The Vision for Turtons Creek and the Falls is: To recognise the natural beauty and heritage values of the Turtons Creek area, and to protect, restore and enhance the area enabling tourism and recreational opportunities that are in harmony with these values. Four key themes for action to achieve the Vision for Turtons Creek and Falls were developed:

1. Biodiversity and Waterway Protection
2. Weed Control, Rubbish removal and Road Maintenance
3. Tourism and Recreation including Community Education and Awareness
4. Enhance Campground and Falls Area

After community presentation in Foster, locals formed a friends of Turtons Creek group. SGLN has been successful accessing two grants for the Friends of group from Communities for Nature, and South Gippsland Shire Council.

DEPI and Shire have also been working on areas identified in the Turtons Creek strategic plan.

Action to date:

- \$8000 for blackberry spraying along road and creek by DEPI- completed Northern section last summer. \$7000 for this coming year to follow up.
- \$10000 committed by shire plus staff time to run

a Significant Landscape Overlay (SLO) project around the Turtons Creek area

- \$5000 small project from shire matched by funding we have from CMA to upgrade walking track from little Turtons Creek to Turtons Creek. We will hire Parks Vic for a few days to drive the works. Also some signage.
- Communities for Nature grant to Develop integrated weed control program for all land tenures along Turtons Creek, Map weeds and engage all landholders to undertake strategic weed control work. Also to develop community campaign to "adopt a section of Turtons Creek" for weed control and rubbish removal.
- SGLN to host Friends of Turtons Creek group.



Above - friends of Turtons Creek; L-R Janet Coogan, Geoff McKinnon, Chris Rankin, David Wilkin and Peter Gannon





## Financial Overview 2013/2014

### Financial Report –Landcare Network

Opening Balance: 1st July 2013                      \$319,480

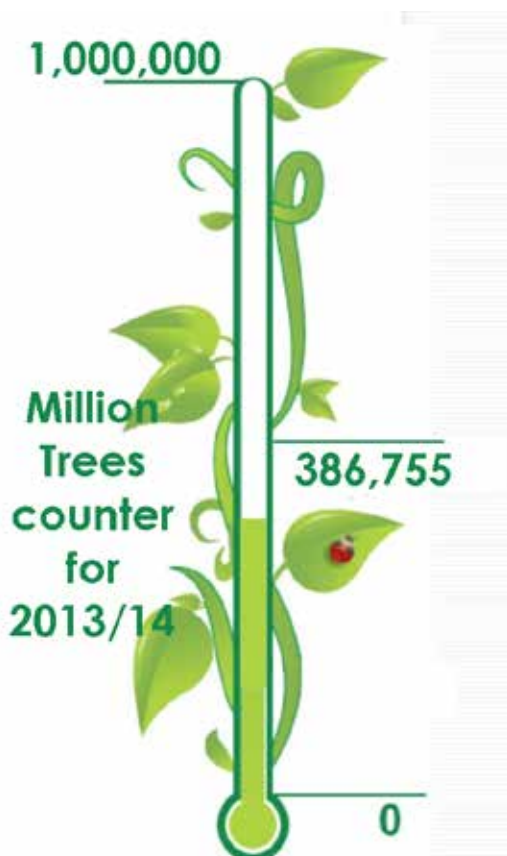
Closing balance: 30th June 2014                      \$265,524

For the 2013/2014 financial year SGLN received an income of \$551,849 a drop of \$350,854 from the previous year. This reflects a number of three year projects being completed in the previous year, and the current difficult environment for attracting new funding for projects.

Total expenses for the year were down by \$150,029. The reduction in expenses occurred due to the completion of some projects, as well as lower employment costs - the Network co-ordinator position is now 2.5 days a week compared with 3.5 days the previous year. Kate Williams has also moved to 3 days a week working with SGLN.

The board continues to look closely at how SGLN can streamline its operations and reduce costs further with minimal impact on services. In this tough environment SGLN has managed to maintain on ground works in the region of \$266,500.

Profit and loss statement and balance sheets are in Appendix 1 with auditor's report



### Financial Report- South Gippsland Landcare Fund

The South Gippsland Landcare Network Inc. (ABN 52166526533) and its public fund South Gippsland Landcare Fund was entered into the register of Environmental Organisations on the 16th December 2009 and is entitled under the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 item 6.1.1 subsection 300-55910 to receive tax deductibility donations.

The South Gippsland Landcare Fund was established to receive public donations for Landcare projects in South Gippsland. This will 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 objectives of the SGLN as defined in the role and statement of purpose.

The South Gippsland Landcare Fund has not been active in this financial year.

Opening Balance 1st July 2013                      \$3771.20

Closing balance: 30th June 2014                      \$3501.25

Profit and loss statement and balance sheets are in Appendix 2 with auditor's report

## Appendices

1. SGLN Audited Financial Statement 2013/14
2. South Gippsland Landcare Fund Audited Financial Statement 2013/14
3. Map of Landcare Group Boundaries
4. South Gippsland Landcare Network Strategic Plan 2010-2015



## Appendix 1: SGLN Audited Financial Statement 2013/14

### SOUTH GIPPSLAND LANDCARE NETWORK INC. A0011936S

#### INCOME STATEMENT

for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014

INCOME	2014	2013
Grant Income		
Bass Coast Landcare Network	6,500	22,000
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	50,000	-
Department of Environment and Primary Industries	108,000	235,000
Federal Government	3,950	-
Melbourne Water	-	1,000
Pests, plants and animals	-	3,217
Port Phillip & Westernport CMA	-	44,909
South Gippsland Shire Council (Koala bequest)	-	30,000
South Gippsland Water	10,000	10,000
Westernport Catchment Sustainable Farms	30,280	-
Westernport Water	4,000	-
W.G. Catchment Management Authority	302,000	499,625
Total Grant Income	514,730	845,751
Other Income		
Annual Dinner Ticket Sales	1,064	987
Awards	-	-
Collections	320	-
Donations	3,990	320
Equipment Hire/Sale	-	2,500
Interest Income	6,701	8,082
Memberships	4,282	6,401
Miscellaneous Income	2,177	265
Newsletter Income	5,182	2,805
Number Plates	10,500	16,500
Training	826	4,002
Sponsorship	1,727	14,500
Produce Sales	350	590
Total Other Income	37,119	56,952
TOTAL INCOME	551,849	902,703
EXPENSES		
Committee	733	2,598
Employment	254,745	346,139
Operating		
Accounting	6,352	7,312
Audit	1,420	1,320
Bank Charges	-	-
Donations	-	213
Grants and Awards	9,450	5,500
General	28,621	36,292
Information Technology	4,015	6,035
Insurance	2,354	2,273
Memberships	-	-
Meeting Expenses	2,956	5,527
Printing & Stationery	557	944
Reference Resources	-	-
Telephone	60	420
Travel & Accommodation	262	27,574
Total Operating Costs	56,047	93,410
Promotions	34,175	53,640

**SOUTH GIPPSLAND LANDCARE NETWORK INC. A0011936S****INCOME STATEMENT (CONTINUED)***for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014*

	2014	2013
<b>On Ground Works</b>		
Chemicals	4,623	5,288
Contractors	40,464	33,678
Culverts & Troughs	-	-
Deposits – tubestock	-	-
Fencing	77,807	137,155
General	74,536	8,514
Native Plants	68,925	83,406
Pest animal control	-	-
Seed	150	2,005
Weed Management	-	-
<b>Total On Ground Works</b>	<b>266,505</b>	<b>270,046</b>
<b>Monitoring &amp; Evaluation</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Training &amp; Education</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>352</b>
<b>Group Support</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>613,156</b>	<b>766,185</b>
<b>SURPLUS \ (DEFICIT) FOR YEAR</b>	<b>(61,307)</b>	<b>136,518</b>

**BALANCE SHEET***for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014*

	NOTE	2014	2013
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents		265,524	329,324
GST Receivable		-	-
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>265,524</b>	<b>329,324</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Credit Card		219	2,538
GST Payable		7,132	7,306
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>7,351</b>	<b>9,844</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>258,173</b>	<b>319,480</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Opening Balance		319,480	182,962
Surplus \ (Deficit) for year		(61,307)	136,518

## SOUTH GIPPSLAND LANDCARE NETWORK INC. A0011936S

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014

#### 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 Reform Act (Vic) 2012*. 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 Reform Act (Vic) 2012* 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

	2014	2013
Cheque Account	258,690	213,699
Cash Deposit Account	6,834	115,625
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>265,524</b>	<b>329,324</b>



**SOUTH GIPPSLAND LANDCARE NETWORK INC. A0011936S**

**STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE**

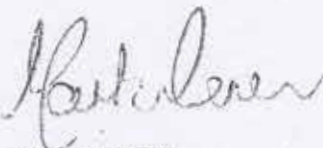
*for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014*

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, 2014 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  
9 September 2014



DAWN MAROTTI  
TREASURER

S J Hughes BCA, CA, ACSA  
Principal  
L J McKenzie BCom, CA  
Principal

REGISTERED COMPANY AUDITORS  
INTERNAL AUDITORS  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

CARDELL  
ASSURANCE AND AUDIT

## 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 2014, 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 Reform Act (Vic) 2012*. 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 2014 and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Section 92(2)(a) of the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act (Vic) 2012* 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 Reform Act (Vic) 2012*. 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

12 September 2014

Liability limited by a scheme approved under  
Professional Standards Legislation

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W [www.cardell.com.au](http://www.cardell.com.au)

**Appendix 2:** Landcare Fund Audited Financial Statement 2013/14**SOUTH GIPPSLAND LANDCARE FUND INC. ABN: 52 166 526 533****INCOME STATEMENT***for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014*

INCOME	2014	2013
Donations	-	1,499.25
Interest	16.05	14.47
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>16.05</b>	<b>1,513.72</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Audit fee	286.00	212.75
Bank charges	-	-
Carbon Offset Project	-	-
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>286.00</b>	<b>212.75</b>
<b>SURPLUS \ (DEFICIT) FOR YEAR</b>	<b>(269.95)</b>	<b>1,300.97</b>

**BALANCE SHEET***as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014*

	NOTE	2014	2013
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents		3,501.25	3,771.20
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>3,501.25</b>	<b>3,771.20</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		-	-
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>3,501.25</b>	<b>3,771.20</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Opening Balance		3,771.20	2,470.23
Surplus \ (Deficit) for year		(269.95)	1,300.97
<b>EQUITY</b>		<b>3,501.25</b>	<b>3,771.20</b>



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

### **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

*for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014*

#### **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**

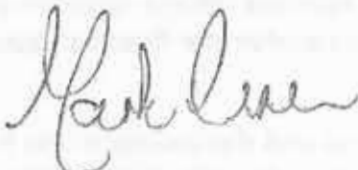
*for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014*

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, 2014 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:



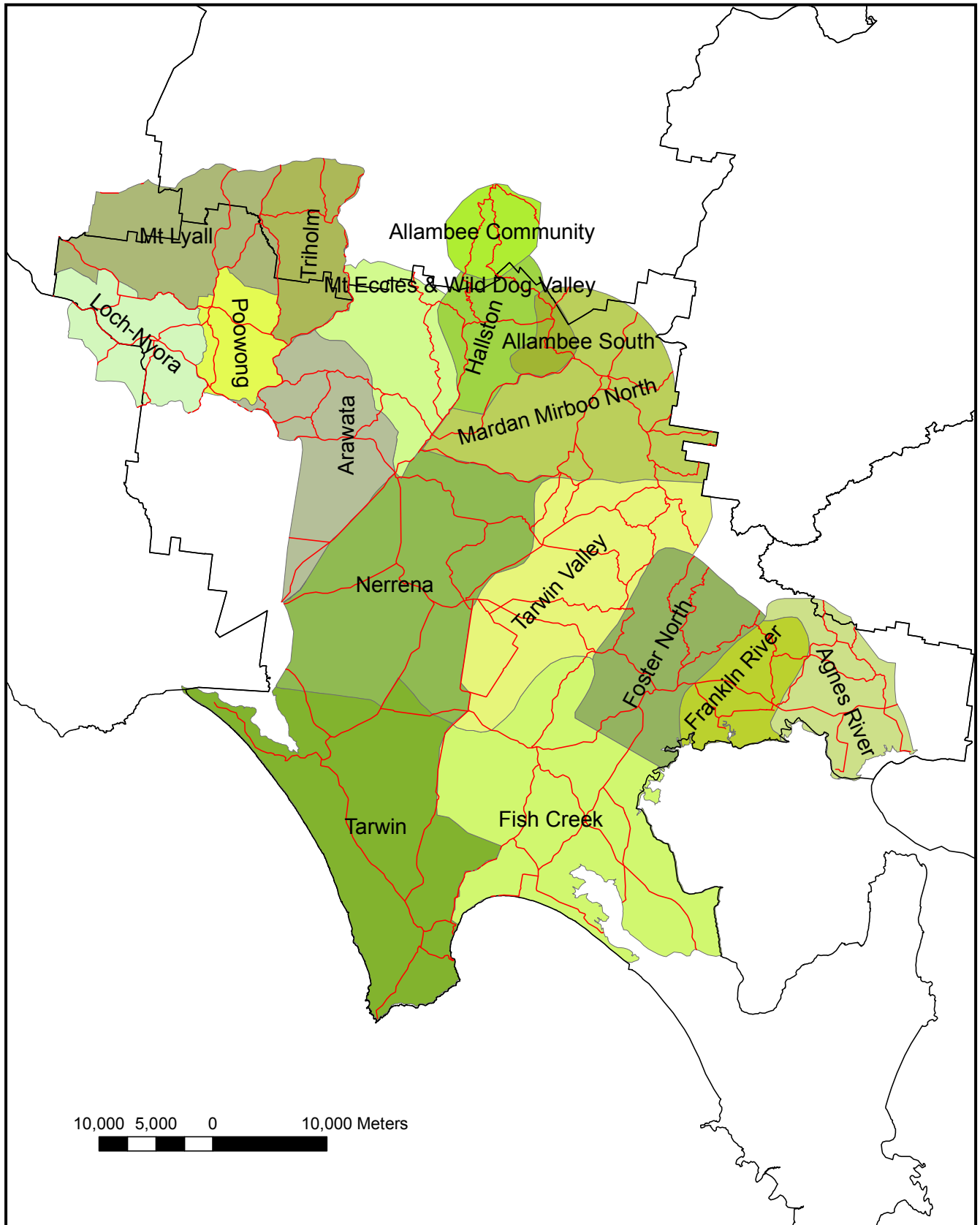
MARK UREN  
CHAIRPERSON



DAWN MAROTTI  
TREASURER

9 September 2014

**Appendix 3:** SGLN Landcare Group Boundaries Map





## Appendix 4. SGLN Strategic Plan 2010 - 2015

### 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

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

The South Gippsland Landcare Network thanks the following organisations for their support in 2013/2014



Cardell Assurance & Audit



The following local businesses support Landcare in South Gippsland



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Original design by Innovative Creation, Traralgon -0438 684 218 | Desktop published this version by J Vella - 0419 382379 | Printed by Larkin Printers - 5662 3284