

# Landcare in North Central

2018-19 Report Card



## Celebrating Landcare's contribution to catchment health

Landcare in our region was as active as ever during the 2018-19 year. Currently 154 active groups are working across the landscape on projects focussed on soils, threatened flora and fauna, pest plant and animal control, waterway health, revegetation and wildlife corridors, protecting remnant habitat and community engagement and education programs.

During the year, more than 3,300 members volunteered over 80,000 hours to Landcare valued at \$2.4M. Since July 2018, groups have secured \$11,566.40 of corporate investment through Landcare Australia, welcomed 412 new members and more than 5,600 non-members who have participated in Landcare action throughout the year.

The future of Landcare is in good hands, Landcare groups partnered with 84 schools and engaged 3,628 students throughout the year. Furthermore, a total of \$25,358 was invested through the 2018 Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants.



Local Landcarers lending a helping hand at the Landcare Week market stalls in Castlemaine.

Photo: Courtesy of Asha Bannon [Connecting Country]

## Victorian Landcare Grant achievements

The Victorian Landcare Grants (VLG) provide an annual opportunity for Landcare Groups to secure funding for local priority projects. In 2018-19 the North Central VLG program invested a total of \$183,709 to fund 12 Project Grants and 43 Group Support Grants.

Between July 2018 and December 2019, 12 Landcare groups completed the following works:

- 985 participants involved in 21 engagement events
- 3.9 km of rabbit-proof and stock exclusion fencing
- 51.6 ha of revegetation established
- 38 ha of rabbit harbour control
- 70 ha of weed control targeting gorse, blackberry willow and spiny rush.
- 106 Nest boxes installed for Brush-tailed phascogales.

## Top 5 Landcare priorities



Vegetation protection and enhancement



Pest plants and animals



Sourcing project funding



Threatened species protection



Waterway protection

## Regional Landcare Coordinator

The Victorian Government invested \$157,600 in the North Central Regional Landcare Coordinator position. This funding supported Landcare Networks; Landcare groups; facilitator training and delivery of the VLG program. The role contributed to the delivery of capacity building and knowledge-sharing events and initiating the first Intrepid Landcare group in the region.

### Key Achievements

- 11 North Central Chat newsletter editions distributed to more than 1,800 people
- Landcare promotional stall at the 2018 'This Farm Needs a Farmer' field day in Kyneton
- Co-hosted the 2018 Chicks in the Sticks, Echuca. The sixth annual event was held in partnership with Goulburn Broken CMA. It was attended by 80 women and focussed on rural women's visibility and wellbeing in rural communities
- Co-hosted the 2019 Northern Rivers Roundup, Moama, supporting 25 Landcare Facilitators peer-to-peer learning
- iMap and Grant writing workshops held in Daylesford and Castlemaine supporting VLG applicants
- Membership on the Victorian Catchment Management and Landcare Magazine editorial committee
- Supported North Central Landcare nominees at the 2019 National Landcare Awards in Brisbane.



National Tree Day planting with Eppalock Primary School students.



## Regional Agricultural Landcare Facilitator

The RALF program is funded and supported by the Australian Government's National Landcare Program Regional Land Partnerships Initiative. The RALF supports farmers to continue, and take up, sustainable land management practices and adapt to the challenges of changing market demands and climatic conditions.



Lessons learnt and experiences shared as part of a Holistic Management Field Day in Sidonia.

### Key Achievements

- Four farmer groups focussing on increasing soil carbon, maintaining ground cover, soil health and reducing inputs.
- Representation on CMA Sustainable Agriculture Steering Committee and the North Central Dry Seasonal Conditions Coordination Group
- Partnerships with four universities assisting students by identifying farmers and study sites. Research topics included dung beetles, capeweed, grassland management and the use of compost and livestock in increasing soil organic carbon.
- Over 40 agricultural related social media posts were promoted on the North Central CMA social media platforms resulting in an audience reach of 35,235 people who are connected to social media.
- Supporting three projects to apply for Smart Farms Small Grants. A successful grant submission secured \$100,000 into the region to deliver regenerative grazing workshops.



## For more information

Telephone 03 5448 7124 or visit [www.nccma.vic.gov.au](http://www.nccma.vic.gov.au)

