

North Central Landcare 2017-18 Report Card



Landcare across the North Central CMA region continues to deliver lasting change through community driven action that restores waterways, promotes sustainable agriculture, creates habitat and connects urban and rural communities to their surroundings. Beyond the measurable outcomes such as onground works, field days, signage, publications and training opportunities, Landcare's strength and longevity is because of the intangible attributes of the movement that build social connections, community cohesion and one that encourages a sense of place for those involved.

This report card is a snapshot of regional Landcare investment achievements for the 2017-18 year and goes part way to describing the enormous range of positive impacts Landcare makes in the region.

Regional Landcare Coordinator

The Victorian Government invested \$153,800 in the North Central Regional Landcare Coordinator position for the 2017-18 year. This funding supported Landcare Networks; Landcare groups; Network chairs and the regional Community Grants Program. It also contributed to the delivery of capacity building and knowledge-sharing events and key priorities as identified in the 2014-2018 North Central Regional Landcare Support Plan.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

TWO LANDCARE NETWORK CHAIR MEETINGS AND FOUR LOCAL LANDCARE FACILITATOR MEETINGS

SPONSORED THE '2018 BREAKFAST WITH THE BIRDS' EVENT AT HIRD SWAMP

THREE 2017 VICTORIAN LANDCARE AWARD WINNERS- CONNECTING COUNTRY; TARRANGOWER CACTUS CONTROL GROUP AND IAN HIGGINS

SUPPORTED SEVEN LANDCARE NETWORKS; A NUMBER OF CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT NETWORKS AND A LANDCARE CONSORTIUM

HOSTED THE FIFTH ANNUAL 'CHICKS IN THE STICKS' RURAL WOMEN'S EVENT AT WALKERS LAKE

DELIVERED SOCIAL MEDIA, CHEMICAL USERS AND IMAP TRAINING EVENTS

MONTHLY EDITIONS OF THE NORTH CENTRAL CHAT NEWSLETTER

Community Grants Program- North Central Victoria

The 2017-18 grants program was funded by the Victorian Government's Victorian Landcare Grants (\$191,000), Regional Riparian Action Plan (\$45,000) and the Australian Government's National Landcare Program (\$100,000) allocated through a competitive grants process.

The grants support community groups, Landcare Networks and farmers to undertake onground and capacity building activities that protect, enhance and restore the local landscape through community led action.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

\$336,000 INVESTED THROUGH THE COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM- NORTH CENTRAL VICTORIA

38 LANDSCAPE SCALE PROJECTS FUNDED

48 GROUPS SUPPORTED THROUGH GROUP MAINTENANCE GRANTS AND START-UP GRANTS

102 HA OF REVEGETATION

140 HA OF LAND TREATED FOR WEEDS

15.5 KM OF FENCING INSTALLED

32 COMMUNITY EVENTS INVOLVING 816 PEOPLE

Regional Landcare Facilitator

The Australian Government invested \$222,160 in the region over the past year. The funding helped facilitate and develop a skilled and capable Landcare community by improving the knowledge, skills and awareness of farmers, land managers and communities to sustainably manage our natural resources. The funding also enabled the Regional Landcare Facilitator to support and work with groups, networks and communities to deliver field days, training courses, farming expos and practical soil health workshops. Combined, these activities attracted more than 300 participants and provided opportunities to strengthen existing partnerships with stakeholders.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

PROMOTION OF THE SOIL HEALTH GUIDE AND DELIVERY OF TRAINING WORKSHOPS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH AGICULTURE VICTORIA

SUPPORTED THE FIFTH ANNUAL 'CHICKS IN THE STICKS' RURAL WOMEN'S EVENT AT WALKERS LAKE

CO-HOSTED THE 2017 FUTURE FARMING EXPO IN DONALD IN PARTNERSHIP WITH WIMMERA CMA

ATTENDANCE AT THE 2017 REGIONAL LANDCARE CONFERENCE IN CANBERRA

CO-HOSTED HOLISTIC MANAGEMENT FARM FIELD DAY IN SIDONIA FOCUSED ON PLANNED GRAZING AND SOIL HEALTH

CONDUCTED TWO GRAZING MANAGEMENT MASTERCLASSES FOCUSED ON IMPROVED GRAZING MANAGEMENT AND ANIMAL HEALTH

UPDATED AND REPRINTED THE WEEDS IDENTIFICATION GUIDE- NORTH CENTRAL VICTORIA

CO-HOSTED A FUNDAMENTALS OF FARM MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PLAN2FARM AND MURRAY DAIRY

VLG Case Study Kara Kara Conservation Management Network

From its base in St Arnaud, the Kara Kara CMN works to conserve an ecologically-diverse region of temperate woodland which is home to a vast array of native plants and wildlife. In 2017, the Network ran a project titled 'Bringing Nature Home' with the aim of encouraging the local community to create habitat for native wildlife where they live.

The 'Gardening for Wildlife' seminar series targeted urban and peri-urban gardeners, while the 'Farms for Wildlife' series targeted broad-acre farmers and owners of 'lifestyle' properties.

The seminars support Kara Kara CMN's objective to create habitat for threatened flora and fauna where remnant native forest is still relatively widespread, but where understorey is often lacking and natural tree hollows are in short supply.

Native wildlife weren't the only ones to benefit from the project.

Thanks to these seminars, the Kara Kara CMN was able to increase community involvement in its revegetation and nest-box programs, with at least 11 landholders either participating for the first time or broadening their existing involvement.



2017-18 Snapshot

Data is taken from 56 'Landcare Group Health' surveys during the 2018-19 Victorian Landcare Grants.

MEMBERSHIP AND VOLUNTEER HOURS



37*

AVERAGE MEMBERS PER GROUP



242

NEW LANDCARE MEMBERS



10

SUPPORTED BY

LOCAL LANDCARE FACILITATORS



24%

of groups have engaged with a Traditional Owner group or an Aboriginal organisation in the past 12 months.



\$400,000+

was invested into the region through Landcare Australia and Victorian Landcare Program projects.



59%

of groups are using an NRM plan to guide activity.



151

Number of Landcare and Community NRM Groups.

PERCENTAGE OF GROUP HEALTH RATINGS

TRAIL BLAZERS

Our group has its own identity and strives for excellence. We are the holder of expert knowledge concerning our area. We are clear on what we are trying to achieve and our role in achieving it.

ROLLING ALONG

We have an action plan that we actively work on. Our projects tend to be large in scale. Our committee is very motivated and can explain why the group exists, even if other members cannot. We have a broad and active membership.

10%

34%

MOVING FORWARD

Our group/network has an action plan, or intends to develop one. We feel we are making progress. We actively seek assistance from our support person, but we may still be dependent on a dedicated few. We are 'chugging' along, but we are not stretching ourselves right now - we are working within our current capabilities.

STRUGGLING ALONG

Our activities are often prompted by a funding round or a call from the support person. Our office bearer positions were difficult to fill. We have few new members. We haven't got around to action planning yet - (or we have one that we don't use)

38%

16%

JUST HANGING ON

We don't have an action plan (or we don't use it). Our meetings are irregular and only a few core members come, (or our meetings are non-existent). We don't really have agreed goals. There are little or no on-ground works happening, and if so it happens in an ad-hoc manner.

2%

