

North Central Landcare 2016-17 Report Card



Landcare is vibrant and varied across the North Central Catchment Management Authority (CMA) region. Over 150 groups actively address local and landscape scale issues through direct volunteer action involving on ground works, skill and capacity building activities and engaging community events.

Landcare remains a key stakeholder for land managers, industries and government agencies to collaborate with and share in the natural resource and sustainable agriculture benefits of cooperatively delivered projects.

This report card provides a snapshot of regional Landcare investment achievements for the 2016-17 year from across the catchment.

Regional Landcare Coordinator

The Victorian Government invested \$149,000 for the North Central Regional Landcare Coordinator position in the 2016-17 year. This funding supported Landcare Networks, Landcare Groups, Network Chairs, a regional Community Grants Program and the delivery of capacity building and knowledge-sharing events and key priorities from the North Central Regional Landcare Support plan 2014-2018.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

TWO ANNUAL LANDCARE NETWORK CHAIRS MEETINGS

FOUR ANNUAL LOCAL LANDCARE FACILITATOR MEETINGS

SUPPORTED SIX FORMAL LANDCARE NETWORKS, SEVERAL CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT NETWORKS AND A LANDCARE CONSORTIUM

SUPPORTED THE FOURTH ANNUAL 'CHICKS IN THE STICKS' EVENT IN LEXTON

CO-HOSTED THE INAUGURAL NORTHERN RIVERS ROUND-UP EVENT, FOR LANDCARE NETWORK FACILITATORS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GOULBURN BROKEN CMA

SPONSORED THE CENTRAL VICTORIAN BIOLINK ALLIANCE CONFERENCE HELD IN BENDIGO

MONTHLY EDITIONS OF THE NORTH CENTRAL CHAT NEWSLETTER

Regional Landcare Facilitator

The Australian Government invested \$216,000 in the region over the past year to facilitate and develop a skilled and capable Landcare community by improving the knowledge and skills of farmers, land managers and communities to adopt sustainable land management practices and better manage our natural resources. This funding enabled the Regional Landcare Facilitator to work with groups and networks to deliver field days, training courses, farming forums and practical soil health workshops whilst providing much needed support.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

PROMOTION OF THE SOIL HEALTH GUIDE AND TRAINING WORKSHOPS

SUPPORTED THE FOURTH ANNUAL 'CHICKS IN THE STICKS' RURAL WOMEN'S EVENT

CO-HOSTED THE 2017 FUTURE FARMING EXPO IN ROCHESTER IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GOULBURN BROKEN CMA

ATTENDANCE AT THE 2016 NATIONAL LANDCARE CONFERENCE IN MELBOURNE

SUPPORTED A FARM FIELD DAY IN SUTTON GRANGE FOCUSED ON SUSTAINABLE AND BIODIVERSE FARMING

Community Grants Program – North Central Victoria

The program is funded by the Victorian Government's Victorian Landcare Grants (\$204,000), Regional Riparian Action Plan (\$90,000) and the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme (\$100,000) and allocated through a competitive grants process.

The North Central CMA created a streamlined community grants program to allow community groups and individuals to apply for funding through a single annual online process, therefore accessing a larger funding pool.

The grants support community groups and individuals to undertake on ground and capacity-building activities that protect, enhance and restore the local landscape through community led action.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

\$349,000 INVESTED THROUGH THE VICTORIAN LANDCARE GRANTS, REGIONAL RIPARIAN ACTION PLAN AND THE NATIONAL LANDCARE PROGRAMME

44 LANDSCAPE SCALE PROJECTS FUNDED

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

213 HA OF REVEGETATION

235 HA OF LAND TREATED FOR WEEDS

15 HA OF PEST ANIMAL CONTROL

15.9 KM OF FENCING INSTALLED

53 COMMUNITY EVENTS INVOLVING 1143 PEOPLE

VLG Case Study Avon Plains Banyena Landcare Group

The project commissioned Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation to conduct a detailed Cultural Heritage Assessment of the Avon Plains Lakes and built on a previous preliminary cultural heritage inspection of Walkers Lake funded by the Avon Plains Banyena Landcare Group.

This preliminary inspection was prompted by concerns amongst group members who, while supporting the recreational values and the social benefits provided by Walkers and the other Avon Plains lakes, also wanted to protect the environmental and cultural heritage values present at these lakes as well.

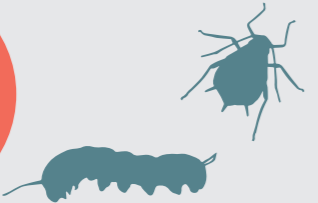



Over two days in July 2017, a cultural heritage survey was conducted at three lakes supported by archaeologists, Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation staff, Landcare group volunteers and interested members of the community who were invited to join in. The project built significant relationships between Dja Dja Wurrung, local community and Landcare, with President Prue McAllister reporting that **"The feedback from the field days and bus trip has been overwhelmingly positive and greatly lifted the profile of the Landcare Group. The booked out event demonstrated the level of interest people have in recognising and protecting Cultural Heritage values."**



2016-17 Snapshot

*Data is taken from 72 "Supporting Landcare In North Central" Group Health surveys

HIGHEST PRIORITIES FOR LANDCARE GROUPS

- Pest and weed control** 
- Revegetation** 
- Repairing land degradation (e.g. erosion, salinity)** 
- Threatened species management** 
- Capacity building** 