

North Central Landcare

2015-16 Report Card

Landcare is vibrant and varied across the North Central Catchment Management Authority (CMA) region. Over 140 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 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 2015-16 year from across the catchment.

Regional Landcare Coordinator

The Victorian Government invested \$142,000 into the North Central Regional Landcare Coordinator position in the 2015-16 year. This funding supported Landcare Networks, Landcare Groups, Network Chairs, a regional community grants program review and delivery of capacity building and knowledge-sharing events, key priorities in 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 THIRD ANNUAL CHICKS IN THE STICKS EVENT IN CARLSRUHE

CO-HOSTED THE 2015 RABBIT BUSTER ROADSHOW IN CONJUNCTION WITH FOUR LANDCARE GROUPS

WORKED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NORTH CENTRAL WATERWATCH PROGRAM TO DELIVER A VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION EVENT CITIZEN SCIENCE FORUM AND MONTHLY EDITIONS OF THE NORTH CENTRAL CHAT NEWSLETTER

Regional Landcare Facilitator

The Australian Government invested \$210,000 in the region 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 resources whilst providing much needed support.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

LAUNCHED THE SOIL HEALTH GUIDE AND TRAINING WORKSHOPS

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

HOSTED THE 2016 FUTURE FARMING EXPO IN SWAN HILL

WORKED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NORTH CENTRAL WATERWATCH PROGRAM AND REGIONAL LANDCARE COORDINATOR TO DELIVER MONTHLY EDITIONS OF THE NORTH CENTRAL CHAT NEWSLETTER

HOSTED THE SECOND 'INSPIRING WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE' COURSE COMPLETED BY 19 RURAL WOMEN



Community Grants Program – North Central Victoria

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

The North Central CMA created the community grants program in 2015-16 to allow community groups and individuals to apply for available grant funding in one streamlined process, 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

\$304,000 INVESTED THROUGH THE VICTORIAN LANDCARE GRANTS AND THE NATIONAL LANDCARE PROGRAMME

35 LANDSCAPE SCALE PROJECTS FUNDED

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

146 HA OF REVEGETATION

600 HA OF LAND TREATED FOR WEEDS

18 HA OF PEST ANIMAL CONTROL

5.6 KM OF FENCING

34 COMMUNITY EVENTS INVOLVING 1478 PEOPLE



VLG Case Study Malmsbury Landcare Group

Malmsbury Landcare Group received their third year of consecutive funding through the 2015-16 North Central CMA Community Grants program, to continue their Malmsbury Common and Channel Reserve projects.

The group has worked on staging their projects across years, involving the whole community in works to rehabilitate the riparian vegetation and condition of the Coliban River at Malmsbury.

Spring 2016 saw heavy rains and flooding across the catchment, and the Coliban River spilled out across the project site. September flooding washed away two jute rolls from the eastern bank of the Coliban River after the primary school had successfully planted the area. Only a few plants were lost but more had to be purchased and planted to allow for thicker revegetation. Heavy rain made accessing sites difficult and planting was then delayed by three weeks to enable respraying and removing prior to planting. Access to site was impossible for vehicles, so the site had to forgo mulch. In addition, the usual labour source from the nearby Justice Centre was unavailable, so the group had to dig deep and find a solution.

What was to be a routine planting for this seasoned group soon became an incredible community effort. Volunteers from Landcare and the general community rose to the challenge, preparing and planting the sites in just over 100 hours. Twelve volunteers planted over 2000 plants in a four-hour period one wet October Saturday. The efforts of Landcare volunteers and the community in the difficult weather conditions were simply extraordinary.

Forming a partnership with La Trobe University, students came onsite after planting, to map and record historic and recent revegetation work. This allows the groups projects to be formally recorded, creating a legacy for the group to share with incoming members. This spatial record can be added to and shared with land managers, residents and within the group itself as projects continue to expand for this passionate group.



2015-16 Snapshot

HIGHEST PRIORITIES FOR LANDCARE GROUPS

Pest and weed
control

Revegetation

Repairing
land
degradation
(e.g. erosion,
salinity)

Threatened
species
management

Capacity
building



AVERAGE NUMBER OF MEMBERS PER GROUP

38.1

INCREASED
FROM 35.8

88%

OF LANDCARE
ACTIVITY IS
POWERED BY
VOLUNTEERS

10

SUPPORTED BY 10 LOCAL
LANDCARE FACILITATORS

GROUP ACTIVITY RATING

67% of groups are more active
than 5 years ago



49421

ESTIMATED VOLUNTEER HOURS



*This data has been collected from 59 Landcare Groups and Networks

83% GROUPS USING A NRM PLAN TO GUIDE ACTIVITY

37% OF GROUPS ARE USING SOCIAL MEDIA



141

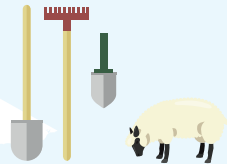


NUMBER OF LANDCARE AND COMMUNITY NRM GROUPS

LANDCARE SUPPORT INVESTMENT IN NORTH CENTRAL REGION



OVER
\$650,000



NUMBER OF COMMUNITY GRANTS

35 PROJECT GRANTS

53 MAINTENANCE GRANTS

1 START UP GRANT



PERCENTAGE OF GROUP HEALTH RATINGS

TRAIL BLAZERS

Our group has its own identity and strives for excellence. We are clear on what we are trying to achieve and our role in achieving it.

10%

THRIVING

We are very motivated and have an action plan that we actively work towards. We have good geographic representation from our local area.

22%

ROLLING ALONG

Our group has an action plan or plans to develop one. We feel we are making progress and are working within our current capabilities.

31%

STABLE

Our group is in a stable situation and achieving what it needs to.

19%

SURVIVING

Our meetings are irregular and only a few core members come. There are little or no onground works happening.

14%

STRUGGLING A LITTLE

Our activities are often prompted by a funding round or a call from the support person. Our group feels like it is dwindling in interest and numbers.

5%

BARELY HANGING ON

We have effectively stalled. We meet rarely (or have chosen to be in recess) and are not currently undertaking any group activities or projects.

0%

