



WORKING TOGETHER TO
CARE FOR OUR COUNTRY

JULY 2019

LANDCARE IN FOCUS



Celebrating 30 years of Landcare

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Contact our editorial team
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submissions will be published.

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CELEBRATE 30 YEARS OF LANDCARE BY SHARING YOUR LANDCARE STORY

In recognition of the incredible work that has been achieved by the Landcare movement during the past three decades, Landcare Australia is curating a collection of stories that represent the Landcare spirit.

Landcare is also seeking stories to celebrate 25 years of Landcare Tasmania and 21 years of the Landcare Association of South Australia.

If you have a story about a Landcare project or person that has made, or is making, a difference to the environment and local community, we would love to hear it!

Submissions can be made at the Landcare Australia website
landcareaustralia.org.au or by emailing
30years@landcareaustralia.org.au.

The Landcare 30 Year Anniversary is supported by...



National
Landcare
Program



FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

**SENATOR THE HON.
BRIDGET MCKENZIE,
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE**

Over the last 30 years, Landcare has been bringing together people from all sections of Australian society for the noble cause of improving our environment and creating more productive farmland.

It is a partnership that has delivered economic, social and environmental benefits for farmers and communities.

Landcare has gone from strength to strength and we now have over 6000 Landcare groups and hundreds of thousands of volunteers across Australia, working on the frontline to ensure the parts of Australia we manage are taken care of and passed onto future generations.

Landcare has been so successful that it is being replicated in many other countries.

Australian farmers have an international reputation as sustainable land managers and Landcare has played a significant role in promoting innovative agricultural practices.

We need to be proud of this reputation and promote it to a wider audience.

Landcare and agriculture are intrinsically linked, with agricultural land making up around 60 per cent of the nation.

By making a difference and helping to create healthy soils, vegetation and supporting biodiversity, Landcarers have a genuine impact on the prospects of the nation.

The work of Landcare is central to Australian agriculture continuing to succeed sustainably to meet the goal of growing to a \$100 billion industry by 2030.

As the Agriculture Minister, I want to see Landcare continue to succeed, backed by the Australian government's more than \$1 billion investment over five years in the second phase of the National Landcare Program.

Landcare is a great community movement.

Congratulations to all who have played a role in reaching this 30-year milestone.



WE NEED LANDCARE NOW MORE THAN EVER

**DR SHANE NORRISH,
CEO LANDCARE AUSTRALIA**

As we prepare to mark a significant milestone, it's evident that in 2019 and going forward, the concept of Landcare is more important than ever before.

Thirty years ago, Landcare was born from the indomitable Australian can-do spirit and a passion for combined sustainable agriculture and natural resource management.

And today, it has developed and evolved into a sweeping, inclusive movement which continues to smash barriers and bring communities closer together.

In this special issue of Landcare in Focus, you'll hear from a diversity of groups and individuals and their remarkable efforts to preserve our unique landscape.

And represented through their dedicated and passionate work is the enduring message of inclusivity and community support.

Landcare is voluntary. Nobody is ever saying 'you have to join in' but when you do, everyone is welcome. It's not a closed club.

Around the world, Landcare represents a community coming together with one common goal – local people working on local issues.

Anybody who lives and breathes Landcare wants to bring the most value to their immediate environment. That's what it's all about.

It only takes a small amount of people to roll up their sleeves and get their hands dirty. Their work captures and motivates others to be a part of that process.

It's seeing that you can make a difference rather than sitting back and wondering when someone is going to do something about it.

We are moving into challenging times in regards to environmental issues. The scale and impact has never been like it is now.

But Landcare offers every single one of us the opportunity to preserve our own individual pocket of this great landscape.

And as we move into the next 30 years, Landcare will continue to help protect not only the health of the unique Australian natural environment, but the prosperity of our lasting community spirit.



Photo:
Jack Bassingthwaite

INSTEAD OF COMPLAINING, WE DECIDED TO TAKE ACTION

**LISA REDMAN, HENLEY DUNES
CARE GROUP, SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

Established in May 2018, Henley Dunes Care Group is one of the newest groups to join the Landcare movement. Landcare in Focus chats with co-founder, Lisa Redman about how the group got started.

TELL US HOW HENLEY DUNES CARE GROUP BEGAN...

Last year concerns were raised with the local council over the eroding conditions of the dunes along Henley Beach. Their solution was to install a fence to prevent foot traffic from accessing them which my neighbour, Bernadette, and I believed was a short-sighted strategy. Instead of complaining we decided to take action and present a more sustainable solution to the problem. We made a proposal to the council that was cheaper, focused on revegetation and replanting, and engaged the community, which the council was happy to support and this became the catalyst for Henley Dunes Care Group.

HOW OFTEN DOES THE GROUP MEET?

Every month on a Sunday for two hours. We're not a large group – we're 6-10 regular volunteers – but we can have up to 40 people turning up to lend a hand at any time. Our motto is "come as you are, when you can". We have people from all ages, of all abilities and from all nationalities turn up to lend a hand. Just the other month we had a young Argentinian couple join us, who'd just moved into the area. They were looking to connect with other locals and get involved in the community.

WHAT CAN PEOPLE EXPECT FROM ONE OF YOUR DUNE CARE EVENTS?

A great day out in a beautiful environment planting trees, removing rubbish or installing fences! You work hard but at the end of the day you walk away with the enormous satisfaction that you've done something to care for the environment and connect with other people along the way.

To find out more about Henley Dunes Care Group visit henleydunes.org

Lisa Redman (middle) with volunteers at a Henley Dunes Care Group event



The 54,000-hectare property is now home to 95 per cent of the world's black-eared miners

COMMUNITY SPIRIT RESTORES NATURE IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Once operating for 120 years as a pastoral station, Gluepot Reserve is an international model of what can be achieved through the passion of volunteers and their commitment to biodiversity conservation and the sustainable use of the landscape.

BirdLife Australia purchased the 54,000-hectare property in 1997 after recognising the need to protect the area due to its significance as home to a diverse variety of nationally-threatened flora and fauna. Since then, Gluepot has developed into Australia's largest community managed and operated conservation reserve.

According to Gluepot Reserve chairman Duncan MacKenzie, the owners at the time were planning to burn significant areas of the property to increase grazing fodder.

"Agriculture and grazing are very important in order to feed us, but there needs to be a balance," he said.

"Six threatened species of birds were at risk of losing their habitat from the burns. Something had to be done to prevent this."

In just 10 weeks \$300,000 was raised to purchase the property and BirdLife Australia became custodians of its first publicly-funded reserve.

Situated 64 kilometres from the Murray River in South Australia's Riverland, the success of Gluepot Reserve comes down to the generosity and commitment of its volunteers. Thanks to their efforts, the reserve is now home to 22 nationally threatened bird species, 53 reptile species and 12 bat species.

"We are proud to say that Gluepot Reserve is now home to 95 per cent of the world's black-eared miners and we protect all biota or animal and plant life of the reserve," Duncan said.

To find more about Gluepot Reserve, visit their [Facebook page](#).

INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION TO TAKE ACTION

MEGAN ROWLETT,
INTREPID LANDCARE

While the appetite to lead change is ripe with the next generation, reversing the damage that has been done and saving what's actually left can seem like an overwhelming and almost impossible task for many. With this sentiment can come a perception that there will never be any change.

But as twenty young intrepid Victorians from across the Yarra and Dandenong Ranges in Victoria recently saw and heard firsthand, change is happening every day all around us, and it's the leadership of an often invisible movement of volunteers that are creating hope for the future.

The Intrepid Landcare Leadership Retreats, an immersive fusion of outdoor adventure and conservation activities, personal and leadership development,

and community and cultural connections, offer young people a jam-packed weekend which fast-tracks their understanding of what is happening locally with landcare and other conservation organisations. It also supports the growth of a new community of young people eager to act and lead for the environment in whatever way they choose.

Planting native grasses for Tasmanian Devil bedding, hearing about regional efforts to save the Leadbeater's Possum and critically endangered Helmeted Honeyeater, followed by connecting with patrons of the conservation movement (some who've committed over 50 years of their life to a cause!) was the start of an inspiring weekend.

Welcomed with open arms to Wurundjeri Country at Coranderrk by Uncle Dave Wandin, authentic conversations offered a deepened understanding of the impacts of colonisation, Indigenous land management, and touched on what a

future working together to heal country (and our own relationships) might look like now and into the future.

What emerged out of the weekend was not that the task ahead is impossible. For these young people, they went on to design a whole suite of youth-led projects, and the ideas are still flowing!

It was the actions of the Landcare movement which inspired a realisation that we are all capable of having an impact. That no matter who you are, where you are from and what you can give, every action matters in the pursuit of a healthier global environment. Even if it's one reserve, one threatened species at a time.

This retreat would not have been possible without the support of Port Phillip & Westernport CMA and the Yarra Ranges Landcare Network.

For more information, visit intrepidlandcare.org

The Intrepid Landcare Leadership Retreats fast-tracks young people's understanding of landcare activities in their communities



BREATHING LIFE BACK INTO 40,000 HECTARES IN WA

In a pocket of WA's South West, 40,000 hectares of once denigrated land represents the heart, resilience and dedication of the Landcare ethos.

Situated to the north of Albany, the Ranges Link - Stirling to Porongurup, is a transitional zone between the ecological wealth of the Stirling Range and Porongurup National Parks. And little over a decade ago, approximately 65% of the native vegetation of the area has been cleared for agriculture with cropping and grazing being the predominant land use.

Initiated as part of the Middle Oyster Harbour Project, a \$1.5 million plan implemented by the Oyster Harbour Catchment Group, the project has since regenerated this landscape with native vegetation from tall karri forests to mallee-heath over the course of eleven years since 2009. This has welcomed the return of endemic species including the rare Western Whipbird and the endangered Carnaby's black cockatoo.

And project officer, Heather Adams, attributes much of the success of the project to sponsorship by Mt Barker Chicken, facilitated by Landcare Australia.

'Initiated by Keith Bradby of Gondwana Link, the contribution by Mt Barker Chicken was remarkable with a total of \$260,000 committed for Ranges Link from 2009 to 2017,' she said.

'Together with our Ranges Linkers, as we call ourselves, this sponsorship and funding from various State and Federal Government programs has helped continue the on-ground activities in the Ranges Link area - another 180 Km fencing, revegetation and weed control.

'We have also been able to do flora and fauna surveys and encourage landholders to control pest animals - specifically foxes, cats and rabbits by organising district shoots and offering bounties.'

The project is part of Gondwana Link, one of the largest and most ambitious ecological programs in Australian history. Designed to protect and restore ecological resilience within one of the world's biodiversity hotspots, from the south-western corner of Australia to the edge of the Nullarbor Plain, the completed Gondwana Link will stretch for 1000 kilometres.

For more information, go to gondwanalink.org



The project is part of Gondwana Link, one of the largest and most ambitious ecological programs in Australian history. Credit: Paula Deegan

TACKLING WEEDS AND MAKING FRIENDS ALL PART OF THE ADVENTURE

They have been described as one of Australia's most dedicated Landcare groups. But for Mount Isa Landcare, travelling hundreds of kilometres through north-west Queensland to pull up weeds in hot and dry conditions, is all in a day's work to do something positive for the environment.

The group calls these journeys "landcare adventures" where volunteers have the opportunity to spend a day or weekend out in the bush enjoying nature and good company while removing noxious weeds and cleaning up rubbish.

Mount Isa Landcare president Mark Van Ryt said it is a great way to see the

outback with a purpose.

"One of our core principles is for people to join in and have a good time, but it's more than just having fun and enjoying nature. We want to achieve something positive for the environment with each bush outing," Mark said.

There are always new residents moving to and leaving the mining town. The transient nature of Mount Isa means it can often be difficult to connect with the local community.

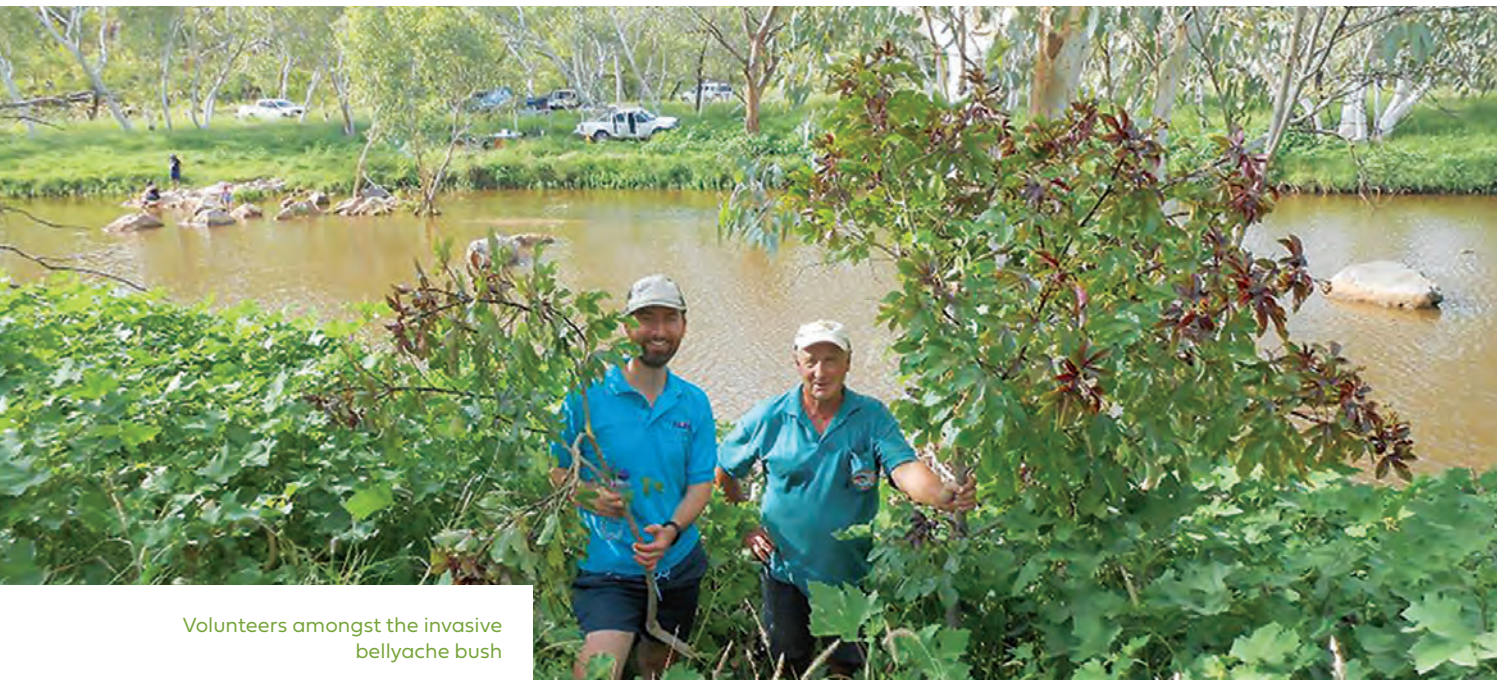
"We love inviting people who are new to town on our adventures," Mark said.

"It's a unique opportunity for them to

make friends and experience the area. I invited my dentist to come along one weekend. He asked me, 'Is that like gardening - in the bush?' I said, 'Yeah, it's exactly like that!'"

When Mount Isa Landcare first started 27 years ago, its focus was on encouraging water wise gardening, cane toad eradication, tree planting and habitat rehabilitation.

The group now targets noxious weeds invading the area's riparian environments and range lands and lends a hand cleaning up rubbish in more remote locations.



Volunteers amongst the invasive bellyache bush

Over the last 12 years the group have been integral in defeating the invasive bellyache bush along the Corella River, an achievement that is believed to be an Australian first. The bush, which has been declared a weed of national significance in Queensland, is native to tropical America and is highly poisonous to humans and animals. It also grows aggressively, out-competing native vegetation and reducing biodiversity.

The group's strategy in overthrowing this weed has been to remove every bush before it has the chance to flower and seed.

"Ten years ago we were pulling out as many as 15,000 bushes a year," Mark said.

"On a recent adventure we found only eight bushes. We're proud of our efforts, which is the result of persistence and community action."

The most difficult and ongoing battle the group faces is tackling rubber vine on the George Creek and Leichardt River.

Regarded as one of the worst weeds in Australia, it was introduced in the 1870s as an ornamental plant and was popular in north Queensland mining settlements, like Mount Isa, due to its ability to flourish in harsh conditions. Sadly, the plant has become invasive to waterways, creating habitat for feral animals and preventing stock and native animals from accessing water.

Last year the group hosted a productive weekend taking volunteers out on a Landcare adventure to cut, spray and burn thickets of rubber vine on the George Creek.

"While a lamb and vegetables were roasting on the camp oven for our dinner, the team got to work destroying 90% of the vine," Mark said.

"It's hard work but we make lots of memories."

The group would like to expand their efforts further, increasing the number of events they host but this takes time and money. The group is managed entirely by volunteers who juggle full-time jobs with their weekend adventures.

"I believe we offer a fantastic experience that most people wouldn't dare do on their own. But with the support of the group, people feel confident trying something different and learning more about what the Australian wilderness has to offer," Mark said.

"It would be amazing to be resourced with a local Landcare facilitator who can take this concept to the next level."

Visit Mount Isa Landcare on Facebook for more information



Mount Isa Landcare group are working to eradicate rubber vine

INVOLVING KIDS ENCOURAGES THEM TO LOVE NATURE AND RESPECT THE OUTDOORS

Huon Valley Roamers Landcare began in 2014 with a vision to instil in every generation a love of caring for the environment, particularly amongst children.

The group, which meets in the southernmost local government of Australia – the Huon Valley Council, Tasmania – has a strong focus on event-based activities for families.

Roamers’ president Michelle Storer says the group’s greatest success and passion has been engaging with youth and kids.

“A large part of what we do is focused on educating future generations and inspiring them to love nature and respect the outdoors,” Michelle said.

“This is strategic because there are long-term benefits to engaging children. If they are involved in caring for the environment from a young age they are

more likely to continue being involved later in life.”

Events such as fungi walks, bat monitoring nights, rubbish collecting and veggie growing challenges offer fun, family-friendly learning opportunities with hands-on experiences.

In particular, the group’s bat monitoring nights have been widely popular. There are at least eight bat species regularly inhabiting Tasmania, but until recently no one has been able to identify how many of these live in the Huon Valley.

Using a grant from Huon Valley Council, the group purchased bat monitors which can be plugged into a phone. These devices enable different bat species to be identified by recording bat calls in real-time and applying GPS location tags.

“My son and his friends came out on one of these nights and were really excited

when they could hear the bats,” Michelle said.

“Previously they thought bats were gross, but now through this experience, they have a great appreciation for them.”

Children of the Roamers’ executive committee are also invited to group meetings and participate in suggesting ideas for events.

“We are constantly building on and evolving our vision to ensure our members are learning and having fun sharing their Landcare experiences,” Michelle said.

“Involving the kids at every level gives them a sense of achievement and nurtures excellent advocates for the natural environment.”

To learn more about Huon Valley Roamers Landcare, visit their Facebook page



‘It was really interesting to see different coloured fungi and bats up close’
Arabella Crane, 7



Nestled between Ross and Campbell Town on the Midland Highway, Tasmania, lies ‘Lewisham’ an ethical wool producing property

REFLECTIONS OF A LANDCARING FARMER

RAE YOUNG

Nestled between Ross and Campbell Town on the Midland Highway, Tasmania, lies ‘Lewisham’ an ethical wool producing property. Owned and operated by Lindsay and Rae Young, the approach at Lewisham is simple: utilising landcare principles to farm with the landscape and ensure sheep have a good life free from hunger, thirst, discomfort, illness and disease.

The aim of Lewisham is to create one big insectarium. That’s what we want and so we continue to fence, plant and manage differently in the hopes that one day this will be achieved. We figure if you bring the insects back, the rest will follow. As long as the basics are there, like a place to live and food to eat, the insects will come.

The trouble with insects and spiders is they are small and they often get bad press as well, especially spiders. But they are necessary for a healthy world and we must cater for them. The world at large is suffering from a serious decline in insects and arthropods and we want to reverse that trend on our patch. If we encourage diverse and abundant life, it may help us get through the dramatic vicissitudes in climate that we are experiencing.

Planting has been happening at

Lewisham since 1998 and continues. Not every year but when it is feasible. Last year we used funding from Landcare Tasmania to fence four paddocks into 16 paddocks, improving productivity, soils and diversity. We also planted 18,000 trees and shrubs into 18 hectares that was fenced off. This area is now teeming with a range of insects because the sheep never get in there and consume all the ‘homes’.

When you drive around and look at a paddock which has not been grazed for two to three months, with grass knee high, it is covered in gossamer, egg sacs and life. Drive or walk through a recently grazed paddock and the abundance is missing.

Small paddocks and intense grazings equals ubiquitous life, exactly what the landscape needs. This year we are planting another 20,000 trees and shrubs on 20 hectares that have been fenced off with a grant from the Australian Government National Landcare Program.

Measuring the improvements that result from planting can be difficult. However, if common sense prevails you can see the difference. There is no question about why you may give up land and invest. The result of all this effort for us is a flock of satisfied sheep, a couple of gratified farmers and lots of good quality wool.



THIRTY YEARS OF CARING FOR

On a bright July morning in 1989, the late Bob Hawke sowed the seeds of a grassroots movement that has since flourished into a symbol of national pride.

Standing on the banks of the Murray River, the former Prime Minister launched Landcare as a national movement, born from a collaborative approach towards sustainable agriculture and natural resource management.

Thirty years later, Landcare has become the biggest environmental management movement in the country, now boasting over 6000 community groups and hundreds of thousands of dedicated volunteers.

However, the principle of partnership between community, agriculture and conservation was harnessed many years before Bob Hawke's iconic Statement of the Environment.

As far back as the 1950s, many Australian communities had already practiced this collaborative grassroots approach to confronting environmental issues.

Concentrating on soil conservation, salinity control programs and rural tree decline, pioneering groups like Warrenbayne-Boho Land Protection Group were established in the 1970s.

Fast forward to the early Eighties, the emergence of land conservation

“Landcare is an incredible social movement. As it continues to evolve and expand, so too will the strong sense of wellbeing and community it brings to preserve and protect the unique Australian landscape.”



Heather Mitchell and Joan Kirner at Winjallock celebrating the 10th anniversary of Landcare in Victoria. Photo: Landcare Victoria Inc. archives.

1986

The term LandCare was coined by Horrie Poussard (who worked for the Department) in 1986, when the program was initiated and the first Landcare group was formed

Joan Kirner, Victorian Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands, and Heather Mitchell, Victorian Farmers Federation president, collaborate and launch an autonomous, community-based Landcare program across the state. The Landcare movement begins when farmers at Winjallock near St Arnaud in North Central Victoria form the first Landcare groups, birthing the pioneering Victorian Landcare program.

1989

In a speech at Wentworth in New South Wales on July 20, Bob Hawke announces 1990 will be the year of Landcare and the 1990s the Decade of Landcare. On October 10, Landcare Australia Limited was formed.

1990

The Decade of Landcare begins with farmers across Australia tackling environmental issues in their local areas primarily through sustainable agriculture. The iconic Landcare 'caring hands' logo is created by graphic designer Cliff Burke with Landcare Australia.

1991

Landcare Australia hosts the first Landcare Awards in partnership with the Australian Government's National Landcare Program. The awards recognise the achievements of those working towards sustainable land use and undertaking on-ground action to protect, enhance or restore an area in their local community.

1994

Landcare Tasmania is formed with an inaugural AGM in September to set the agenda for a 'grassroots' focus on the Landcare movement.

1998

Junior Landcare is launched in May, encouraging young people to get involved with their local Landcare group and a range of environmental projects.

1999

Landcare Association of South Australia is formed.

OUR COUNTRY THE LANDCARE STORY



Bob Hawke with one of the architects of Landcare, Phillip Toyne of the Australian Conservation Foundation. Photo: Landcare Victoria Inc. archives.

district committees grew legs after a significant dust storm suffocated the city of Melbourne in 1983, following years of incremental crippling drought.

The term ‘Landcare’ was officially coined in 1986 in Victoria when the late Joan Kirner, then Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands, and Heather Mitchell, then president of the Victorian Farmers Federation, joined forces after being inspired by the influential works, such as those at Warrenbayne-Boho.

“I think the kind of miracles in halting land degradation are being created by the community and that is what Warrenbayne-Boho are all about,” Ms Kirner said at the time.

The momentous collaboration saw a group of farmers at Winjallock near St Arnaud in North Central Victoria, form the first Landcare groups. For these trailblazer Landcarers, it made sense to work together to tackle their shared environmental problems.

By 1989, having seen the growth and success of Landcare in Victoria, a successful partnership between Rick Farley of the National Farmers’ Federation and Phillip Toyne of the Australian Conservation Society proved an alliance between agriculture and environment could be successful.

“It might have been an irresistible

political alliance but it was such an unlikely one – radical greenies and conservative farmers,” Mr Toyne said during his address at the Rick Farley Memorial Lecture in 2006.

It was enough to convince Bob Hawke, and on that July morning in 1989, during his Wentworth address, he launched the National Landcare initiative, committing \$320 million to the program. Prime Minister Hawke also declared the 1990s as ‘the Decade of Landcare’. Landcare Australia was formed in October 1989 and was designed as a conduit between community, government and the corporate sector.

Motivated by a ‘bottom-up’ philosophy, Landcare groups emerged across Australia with the common objective to tackle local environmental issues by working together and creating positive change in their community.

Unique to any other community movement, are the partnerships created between the Australian Government, state and territory governments, local councils, research organisations, farming groups, business and industry, natural resource management agencies and community stakeholders. Over the 30 years, Landcare peak bodies have been established in each state and territory including the formation of the National Landcare Network. From Landcare groups and Landcare farmers,

the movement has evolved to now involve Coastcare, Rivercare, Dunecare, Bushcare, ‘Friends of’, Urban Landcare, Indigenous land management, Junior Landcare (including early learning childhood centres, schools, Scouts, Girl Guides and youth groups) and other community groups involved in restoring and protecting their local environment.

“When National Landcare was first started back in 1989, they were hoping to achieve about 2000 groups around the country,” Landcare Australia chief executive officer Dr Shane Norrish said. “Now there are more than 6000 with hundreds of thousands of volunteers. It has surpassed all expectation.”

As the movement celebrates 30 years of national Landcare, it honours its greatest asset – its people. From retirees to families, surfers to farmers and business people to students, it is the passion of these people, mostly volunteers, that is the driving success behind Landcare.

“The majority of Landcare groups draw on their volunteers, their motivation and enthusiasm,” Dr Norrish said.

“Landcare is an incredible social movement. As it continues to evolve and expand, so too will the strong sense of wellbeing and community it brings to preserve and protect the unique Australian landscape.”

2004

Queensland Water and Land Carers is formed.

2007

Landcare NSW is formed. Community land carers from all over NSW meet at the Landcare Muster in Tamworth and agree to form Landcare NSW Incorporated, a peak body for grassroots Landcarers.

2008

Australian Landcare International is started, promoting and assisting other countries to use the Landcare model. Today more than 20 countries participate in the landcare model.

2009

The National Landcare Network is formed, bringing together the peak Landcare bodies from each state and territory to represent and support the thousands of Landcare groups, facilitators and volunteers across Australia.

2013

WA Landcare Network is formed following a community forum held in Perth, hosted by the National Landcare Network.

2015

Landcare NT is officially launched, having previously existed as the NT Landcare Council. Landcare ACT is formed.

2016

On the 25 November 2016 Landcare celebrates its 30 year anniversary in Victoria.

2019

Landcare and Landcare Australia celebrate their 30th anniversary. Junior Landcare celebrates 21 years of encouraging young people to care for our land. Landcare Tasmania celebrates 25 year anniversary. Landcare Association of South Australia celebrates 21 year anniversary.





CELEBRATING LANDCARE LEGENDS

Landcare owes much to the vision of the late Bob Hawke. He was a champion of the movement since its inception and he remained a strong advocate and supporter of the Landcare community throughout his life.

Not long before he passed away, Bob took the opportunity to reflect on what Landcare has achieved over the past 30 years and recognise the tireless efforts of those who share the Landcare vision.

To the Landcare community,

I am very proud to be part of what has become a great Australian success story - Landcare.

In 1989, the year the not-for-profit organisation Landcare Australia was formed, I proudly announced that 1990 would be the Year of Landcare, and the 1990s the Decade of Landcare.

Landcare, originating in Victoria, is now one of the largest volunteer movements in Australia with thousands of people and countless communities working together to solve local environmental issues.

The Landcare movement has grown from groups of sustainable farmers, Landcare groups and networks, and First Nations peoples, to now include Bushcare, 'Friends of' groups, Coastcare, Junior Landcare and community groups who identify as Landcare.

Over these thirty years, Landcare has evolved into a powerful movement of volunteers who donate their time, skills and expertise to benefit all Australians. Landcare has played a leading role in changing Australia's approach to sustainable agricultural practices, environmental protection, conservation of land, waterways, coasts, biodiversity and landscapes.

Landcare and Landcare Australia continue to thrive with the movement being more important now than ever.

Thank you to all the passionate, committed Landcare volunteers and countless other supporters who share the Landcare vision.

The Hon. Bob Hawke AC

AND THE AWARD GOES TO...

It's almost time to celebrate groups and individuals across the country for their outstanding contributions to the Australian landscape, sustainable farming, biodiversity and communities at the 2019 State and Territory

Landcare Awards. And there's still time to nominate your inspiring Landcare Champion. Nominations remain open in the ACT, Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia and Tasmania* for nine national categories. There are also

Landcare Conference events this year hosted in Western Australia, New South Wales, Tasmania, South Australia and the Northern Territory. These events will bring together the Landcare community to share their stories, and promote great

work and achievements.

Learn more at
landcareaustralia.org.au.

***Nominations for the awards in NSW, Victoria and WA are now closed.**

CELEBRATE YOUR LOCAL LANDCARE CHAMPIONS AT THE 2019 STATE & TERRITORY LANDCARE AWARDS

Friday 30 August
Wednesday 25 September
Thursday 3 October
Wednesday 23 October
Saturday 26 October
Tuesday 29 October
Friday 8 November
Date to be confirmed

Victorian Landcare Awards
Northern Territory Landcare Awards
Western Australian Landcare Awards
New South Wales Landcare Awards
Tasmanian Landcare Awards
South Australian Landcare Awards
Queensland Landcare Awards
Australian Capital Territory Landcare Awards

For more information visit LANDCAREAUSTRALIA.ORG.AU/LANDCAREAWARDS2019



PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY





Revegetation and strategic stock management has revitalised Gordon Williams' property 'Eastlake'.

RESILIENCE IN TIMES OF DROUGHT

The devastation from the drought of 1965 that lead into the early 1980s forced Gordon Williams, and his late father John, to re-evaluate their land management practices.

The New England grazier has farmed on 'Eastlake', a 1200 hectare property between Uralla and Walcha in NSW, for 47 years during which he has witnessed crippling drought conditions devastate his pastures and livestock.

Gordon and John decided to undertake revegetation and strategic stock management to revitalise pasture and soil conditions, improving drought resilience in the process. Nearly 40 years later the work undertaken at a grassroots level with his wife Wendy, has seen him considered successful in land regeneration practices.

"We commenced revegetating 'Eastlake' in 1981 to reverse the loss of native tree cover due to New England dieback to improve shelter for livestock and pastures and increase farm profitability," Gordon explained.

"Once we began revegetation, aesthetics, amenity and the positive impact on the capital value of the farm became important motivations. Increasing the farm's biodiversity and resilience, and conserving native flora and fauna, also motivated us."

Revegetating the missing understorey with direct seedling of wattle and eucalyptus and planting Bursaria and other shrub species has dramatically changed shelter and biodiversity. Gordon reported less rainfall run-off because of better ground cover and retained herbage

mass, as well as having better growth due to fertility, shelter and plant species.

Gordon's long-term native revegetation program has been hailed a success in ecological restoration and landscape repair.

“Country that’s denuded and bare will never be worth as much on the market as a property that’s well-managed with good shelterbelts and a healthy ecosystem.”

In 2014, Eastlake was selected as one of 15 sites to reconnect and revitalise the landscape in partnership with the

Northern Tablelands Local Land Services and Southern New England Landcare.

"I don't think there's any doubt that if we can improve biodiversity in our agricultural systems, there will be huge advantages. Birds, spiders and other species prey on bugs and keep them in balance," Gordon said.

"Country that's denuded and bare will never be worth as much on the market as a property that's well-managed with good shelterbelts and a healthy ecosystem. It is about balancing production and the environment and finding a sweet spot that fits your operation."

To read more about Gordon Williams' work at Eastlake, go to snelandcare.org.au

FROM CITY TO BUSH

For the past 25 years, Bushcare volunteers from North Sydney Council have travelled five hours to Boorowa in southwest New South Wales as part of a unique Landcare partnership that brings together like-minded people from the city and country.

Birthered from a desire for city dwellers wanting to do something proactive to help address issues in the bush, the Building Bridges to Boorowa program is a partnership between North Sydney Council, Boorowa Community Landcare Group (BCLG) and Hilltops Council.

Every year around 40 Bushcare volunteers make the journey in September to spend three days assisting landholders with revegetation projects.

Over the years, the tree planting partnership has seen more than 60,000 native trees, shrubs and ground covers planted on local properties. The results have brought improved soil salinity, reduced erosion, restored habitat, improved water quality and created wildlife corridors.

It's no small task preparing an area for planting. Substantial work is undertaken by local landholders in the lead-up to these weekends to ensure the volunteers can maximise their impact and operational objectives are met. Each planting area needs to be fenced off to protect the new trees from livestock, weeds treated, and the soil needs to be loosened to allow for easy planting. But the efforts are well worth it. What a group

of volunteers can achieve in a weekend can take a landholder a year to complete.

Volunteers brave all sorts of weather conditions. They've planted in the cold, the wind, the rain and even the heat. But while the weather may change, the warm country welcome and hospitality has remained the same and many seeds of friendships have been sown along the way.

While much has been achieved through the Building Bridges to Boorowa program, its benefits go far beyond impressive statistics. It is the friendships that have grown alongside these plantings that truly symbolise the value of this program and the model it provides for others to embrace.



Building bridges to Boorowa volunteers in 2014



The trial site in December 2018 showing strong tree and pasture growth

THE MANY BENEFITS OF MULTI-STOREY FARMING

**PETER RONALDS,
WESTERN PORT CATCHMENT
LANDCARE NETWORK**

Clinton and Michelle Tepper purchased their 45-hectare beef farm at Buln Buln near Warragul, Victoria in 2011. Clinton has worked as a forester since leaving university and has been involved with planting millions of trees on hundreds of different farms all over Victoria.

However, he would often become dispirited when he heard people complain about problems caused by trees on their farms – including weed and pest animal issues, fire and damaged fences.

Clinton was determined to develop a practical method to add value to trees on farms while reducing some of the common problems they can cause.

In partnership with the Western Port Catchment Landcare Network, Clinton proposed a design for trees to be planted with a larger space between them allowing pastures, crops and cattle to better utilise the land around the trees to fill feed gaps and provide protection, while offering additional income opportunities.

The term ‘multi-storey farming’ came from Clinton’s trade as a forester where the top, middle and lower layers of a forest are referred to as storeys.

According to Clinton, the results were evident from the first planting.

“We realised we could offset the costs of the tree planting by using the space between the trees for early production opportunities. This was a game changer,” Clinton said.

The system is continually changing in its physical appearance, with the early crops providing protection for the trees, followed by the trees growing and then providing shelter and cover for livestock and the crops. It also allows for livestock grazing and for the pasture or crops between the rows to be harvested for hay, silage or grain.

Clinton stresses that the system is about optimising soil use and photosynthesis through using deeper reserves of soil and intercepting more sunlight, which creates a more robust, productive and diverse system.

“ Clinton’s design is relatively simple: plant trees further apart and manage the additional space between for crops, pasture and/or livestock. This system allows for a natural symbiosis to occur, improving sustainability, resilience and productivity. ”

The multi-storey trial area on the Tepper’s property was established in 2014. A 1.2-hectare exposed location was selected with the hope it could provide future shade and shelter for livestock. Clinton planted the trees in 13 rows, at 5.25 metres apart. Within the row trees were planted two metres apart.

A mix of silvertop ash, spotted gum and silver wattle were planted. Within one month of planting the trees, different blends of pasture and cereal crops were planted in the rows between the trees. Cattle were first grazed on the site 14

months after planting and now the site is included as part of a standard grazing rotation.

Five years after establishment, the results show that the system works. The trees have grown quickly and more than 70 different types of pasture and crops have been trialled.

Tree management activities are also having a positive impact on soil in the trial area. Tests show good nitrogen levels, decreased sodium and increased soil carbon, bacteria, fungi and mycorrhiza compared with the control site.

The multi-storey farming concept that Clinton and Michelle have created can be applied to other types of trees and the grazing of chickens, pigs, sheep or other animals. It can also be adapted to suit any farm of any size.

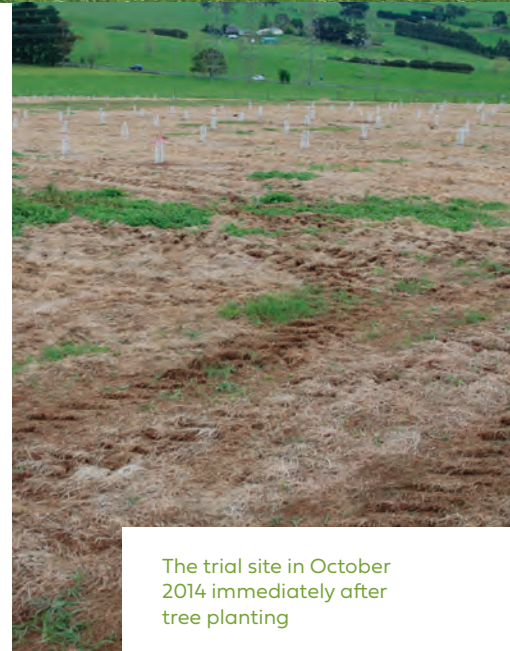
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Stage two of the multi-storey farming system is in the process of being established.

“The results of the demonstration trial are changing the direction of where we’re going with the farm,” Clinton said.

For more information about multi-storey farming, contact Peter Ronalds: peter@wpcln.org.au

This story was originally published in the Victorian Landcare & Catchment Management magazine.



The trial site in October 2014 immediately after tree planting



Clinton Tepper checking the trees on the multi-storey farming trial site in 2014.

WALLY KERKHOF

BEST FRIEND OF THE CARNABY'S BLACK COCKATOO

**RACHEL WALMSLEY,
MOORE CATCHMENT COUNCIL**

Wally has always been interested in nature, particularly birds.

During the Sixties and Seventies, he worked on farms in the Moora district of Western Australia where he started noticing the number of Carnaby's black cockatoos decreasing in the area. Once a familiar sight in the northern agricultural region their numbers have dramatically declined and now the bird

species is threatened with extinction.

Historically, the Moora area is important for Carnaby's due to the abundance of large salmon gums and wandoo which provide nesting hollows. Unfortunately, their demise has been swift due to the fragmentation of habitat caused by large-scale clearing, creating a lack of suitable breeding trees and forage plants.

Concerned with the Carnaby's decline around Moora, Wally began developing a design for an artificial breeding log constructed from fallen salmon gums and wandoo, in the hope of reviving the

population in the area. Over the years the design has been improved and modified, with each log lovingly created and taking many hours to finish. The logs have been a huge success, increasing the population of Carnaby's in Moora from a dozen pairs in the 1980s to a healthy flock today of 92 breeding pairs!

In 2010, the Kerkhof Carnaby Group (KCG) formed to help Wally carry out his important work in Moora and further afield. The Moore Catchment Council has been supporting Wally and the KCG since 2012, assisting with funding to help build nesting logs, promoting their

work, running community awareness events and documenting Wally's knowledge of Carnaby's and log making.

The increase in the Carnaby's population around Moora is the result of one man's vision against many odds. Wally is a true Landcare legend. There will only ever be one Wally and we honour his efforts!

To download Wally's Nesting Log Construction Guide visit moorecatchment.org.au/news-and-resources/publications/



A happy Carnaby's black cockatoo in their new nest

FIGHTING FIRE WITH FIRE

Covering over 20,000sq km, the Arnhem Land plateau is a rugged, ancient sandstone formation of sheer escarpments and gorges located 350km from Darwin in the Northern Territory.

The sandstone heathlands of the plateau are a significant ecological community of native shrubs, grasses and animals, many of which are threatened by destructive wildfires, disturbance by feral animals and invasion by weeds.

The Bininj Aboriginal people of West Arnhem Land have owned and cared for this country for more than 60,000 years. Today, Traditional Owners and Indigenous ranger groups are working in partnership with scientists, natural resource management organisations and government to help protect the plateau.

Territory Natural Resource Management

is supporting a collaborative five year regional approach to protecting significant places and species in the West Arnhem and Kakadu region through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

As part of the regional approach, Indigenous rangers, scientists and other experts gathered at a workshop hosted by TNRM, to plan activities to enhance management of the West Arnhem and Kakadu region.

A priority from the workshop was actioned in May, when TNRM, together with the Jawoyn Association and Kakadu National Park organised a fire management camp at Jeywunaye (Sleizbeck) on the upper Katherine River, surrounded by the rugged Arnhem Plateau.

The camp aimed to implement fine scale early dry season burning to help protect the fragile sandstone heathlands from hot extensive wildfires later in the season.

The camp was attended by 60 Traditional Owners and Indigenous rangers from Kakadu, Jawoyn and Mangarrayi. The rangers conducted fine scale ground burning and were dropping into sites in the rugged sandstone country by helicopter, to walk ground burning lines, offering the opportunity to share ideas about what good fire and healthy heath country looks like.

For more information visit: territorynrm.org.au



The camp aimed to implement fine scale early dry season burning to help protect the fragile sandstone heathlands from hot extensive wildfires later in the season

FROGWATCH KEEPS CHECK ON CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE ACT

**ANKE MARIA HOEFER,
ACT FROGWATCH COORDINATOR**

Phenological changes describe modifications to plant and animal life cycle events that are influenced by seasonal and habitat factors. And phenological responses to a warming climate have been described for many species, including frogs.

With a permeable skin, through which they 'drink' and breathe, frogs are highly sensitive to pollutants such as pesticides, detergents and other chemicals in their aquatic and terrestrial environment. Making them a perfect natural barometer for environmental health.

Based on this feature, frogs have been called an indicator species and any

change in their behaviour will carry a series of implications for ecosystem performances.

The ACT and Region Frogwatch Program, run by the Ginninderra Catchment Group, has been monitoring frog populations across the Capital Region since 2002.

Every year, the Frogwatch Citizen Science project involves hundreds of volunteers of all ages making for the city's ponds and urban wetlands after dark to collect data on distribution and abundance. Frogs can easily be identified by their species-specific mating call, which is only emitted by the male frogs.

Most of the local frog species breed in spring, triggered by a range of parameters, such as temperature and

rainfall. To catch this flurry of breeding activities, the annual FrogCensus has always been run each October, with a focus on the National Water Week.

However, this all (climate)-changed in 2015. Years' worth of data and observations strongly indicated a shift in the onset of the breeding activities to late winter rather than spring. To closely monitor this phenological response, the Frogwatch Climate Change Project, funded by the ACT Government, was launched.

Run as an addition to the annual FrogCensus, the project has involved weekly monitoring at 15 survey sites across the ACT, starting in early June and finishing at the end of October.

While facing the prospect of freezing

cold nights throughout winter and committing to a five month period could easily have proved a deterrent, Frogwatch volunteers have jumped at the chance to be involved in a climate change related project.

And after four years, the data has been handed over to scientists from the Australian National University and the University of Canberra to identify trends between the years and a comparison of the 2015-2018 data with historical frog call data from the region will be scrutinized. Stay tuned for the publication of the findings....

For more information on Frogwatch and how to get involved, visit ginninderralandcare.org.au or get in touch at frogwatch@ginninderralandcare.org.au for more details.

Most of the local frog species, including the whistling tree frog (pictured) breed in spring, triggered by a range of parameters, such as temperature and rainfall. Credit: Matthew Frawley



WORKING TOGETHER TO
CARE FOR OUR COUNTRY

Over the last 30 years we have been working together to represent and support the thousands of landcare groups, facilitators and volunteers across Australia who protect the environment in their local communities through sustainable land management and conservation activities.



National
Landcare
Program



QWaLC
QUEENSLAND WATER & LAND CARERS



LANDCARE AND THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT

A UNION OF 30 YEARS



Stakeholders gather for a Landcare event in 1986 Photo: Landcare Victoria Inc. archives.

The Australian Government first met Landcare in 1986 in a small town in rural Victoria. It would not take long to make the union official. In July 1989 the government, led by the late Bob Hawke, with support from both sides of the political family announced the upcoming 1990s to be the ‘Decade of Landcare’.

The unwavering partnership of the Australian Government and Landcare has produced an internationally renowned approach to caring for our country’s soil, water and biodiversity, and supporting productive farming. The Landcare partnership model has proven to be the most resilient relationship in terms of delivering environmental, social and economic benefits and it

continues to influence broad-scale community participation in natural resource management today. With 30 years of continuing adaption, relevance, and contribution stemming from the partnership, it is timely to celebrate success, and in doing so take a closer look at the elements which have made this 30-year union a national triumph.

There is no one model for a successful partnership, though there is one key ingredient in all partnerships: the motive or belief that working together is more effective than working in isolation. The Landcare partnership was formed on, and has been maintained over, a shared vision and clear reasons to collaborate. These reasons have evolved over the decades as understandings about environmental issues increased. Yet the underlying purpose of encouraging the integrated management of Australia’s soil, water, vegetation and biodiversity, remains a driving factor for the accomplishments and longevity of this partnership.

The philosophy of Landcare has always been community owned and driven, bi-partisan in nature and encouraging a holistic approach to land and water management. The Australian Government, regardless of political persuasion, has always valued and supported Landcare’s ability, its focus, and delivery of outcomes. Analysis of three decades of information on the partnership between the Australian Government and the Landcare movement has identified 20 critical factors for its ongoing success, listed below.

There is another key influential factor in the success and growth of the Landcare movement, the ‘Fairy Godmother’ factor; A high level person or organisation willing to invest more than their share of

financial, human, and political capital to make the effort a success.

Many people brought the need for the Landcare movement to the attention of Australia’s leaders in the late 1980s and before. However, it is in the passion and leadership of Bob Hawke, then Prime Minister, where we find an enduring element of a good partnership – high level, credible, passionate and courageous leadership. Champions take on much of the risk associated with establishing a partnership, and provide the generosity and sheer force of will that helps to build trust. The partnership between the government and Landcare may not have been the achievement we are celebrating today without the high level leadership from the Fairy Bob-mother.

The Landcare partnership has been an enduring, relevant and successful relationship for the Australian Government since its inception 30 years ago. Perhaps most importantly, the environmental issues of soil loss, and land and water degradation are increasing in intensity, as is the need for increased sustainable agricultural production. There is no denying the need for the Landcare partnership remains current and necessary. The alliance delivers locally legitimate results for national and international environmental issues, and continues to adapt, grow and share.

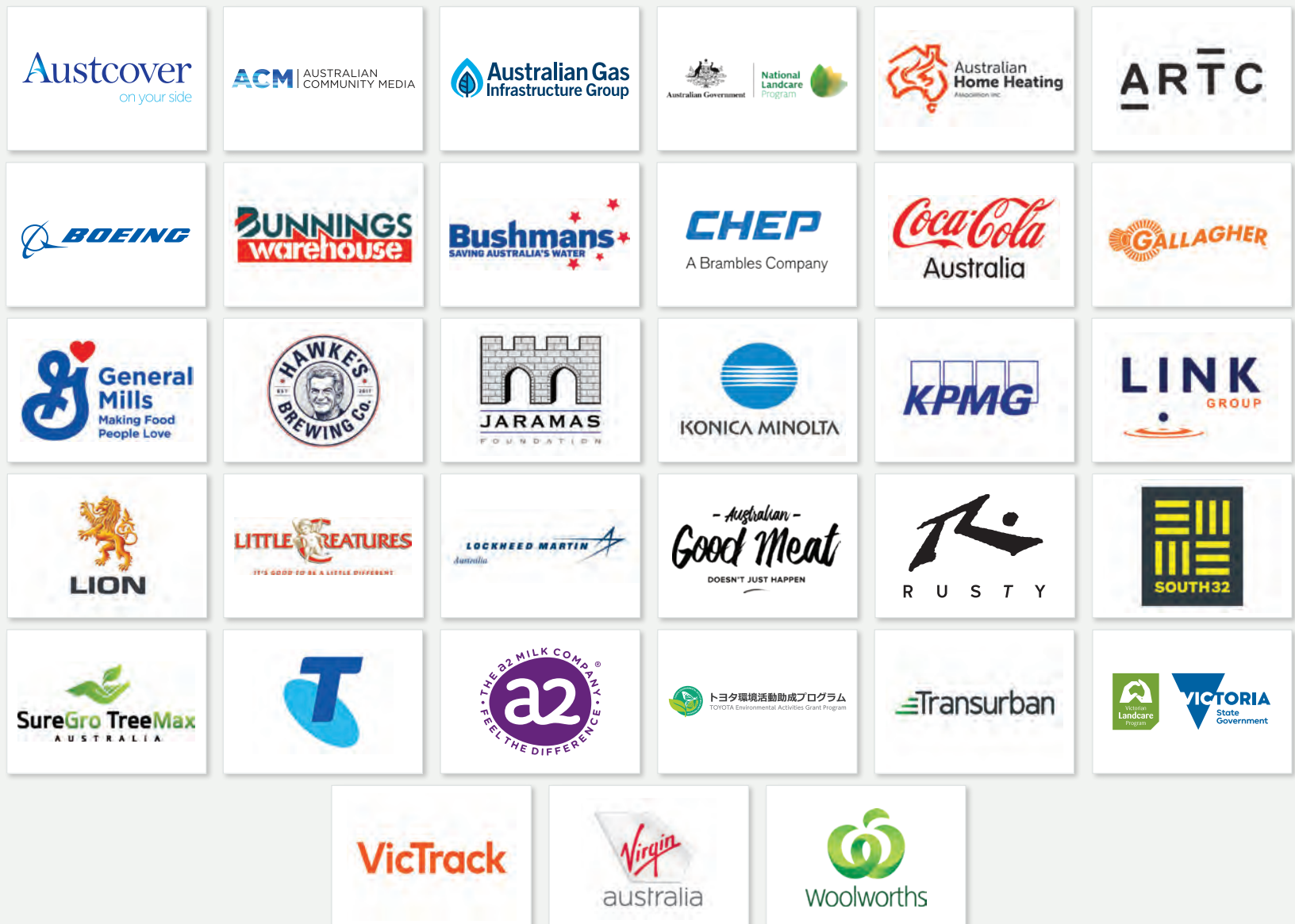
The Australian Government’s National Landcare Program continues to be a key part of the Australian Government’s commitment to protect and conserve Australia’s water, soil, plants and ecosystems, as well as supporting the productive and sustainable use of these valuable resources.

CONTEXT	MEMBERSHIP	PROCESS & STRUCTURE	COMMUNICATION	PURPOSE	RESOURCES
<ul style="list-style-type: none">History of collaboration and cooperation;The Partnership ‘group’ is seen as a legitimate leader;Favourable political & social climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Mutual respect, understanding and trust;Diverse cross section of members;Collaborations/ issues are locally grounded and identified by members;Ability to communicate and compromise	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Members have influence and share a stake in the outcomes;Multiple layers of participation and involvement;Flexibility;Clear roles, policy guidelines and legislative frameworks in place;AdaptabilityAppropriate pace of change	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Open and frequent, across many platforms. Sharing knowledge has engendered trust in the Landcare partnership;Informal relationships are strong and communication links	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Clear, credible, attainable goals and objectives;Shared vision (long term strategy);Unique purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Sufficient funds, personnel, materials and time;High level, skilled leadership, drive and support

Thank you



Landcare Australia has a 30-year history developing meaningful partnerships with a variety of organisations who are committed to making a positive impact on the environment and the communities that seek to protect it. Support from our partners helps us facilitate quality, hands-on landcare projects and programs that benefit all Australians.



www.landcareaustralia.org.au