



2020/2021
ANNUAL REPORT

**BUILDING RESILIENCE
IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES:
THE WELLBEING BENEFITS OF
PARTICIPATING IN LANDCARE**





OUR VISION

ALL AUSTRALIANS CARING FOR THE LAND AND WATER THAT SUSTAINS US

Landcare Australia is proud to acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the Country on which we live and work. We value and respect their deep and continued spiritual and cultural connections to the land, waters and seas, and pay our respects to their Ancestors and Elders past, present and future.

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*COVER: 2020 Bob Hawke
Landcare Award Finalist
Andrew Stewart from Yan
Yan Gurt, Victoria.*

*INSIDE COVER: L-R Dr Shane
Norrish CEO Landcare
Australia, the Hon. Sussan
Ley MP Minister for the
Environment, Donna
O'Neill, Director Corporate
Citizenship, KPMG Australia,
Doug Humann AM Chair
Landcare Australia, Dr Alison
Southwell CEO Holbrook
Landcare Network.*



About Landcare Australia

OUR VISION

All Australians actively caring for the land and water that sustains us.

OUR PURPOSE

- Empowering individuals and communities
- Sustainable management of natural and productive landscapes
- Building resilient ecosystems and communities.

Landcare Australia is a national not-for-profit organisation established more than 30 years ago that supports the landcare community with funding, capacity-building, on-ground projects, information, networking and promotion of landcare achievements.

Together with the landcare community, our efforts improve biodiversity, build resilience in Australia's food and farming systems and create stronger communities. As a leader in the environmental sector, Landcare Australia has strong expertise in designing, managing and completing challenging and complex major ecological restoration projects involving large scale revegetation and carbon abatement.

Established in 1989 by the late former Prime Minister, the Hon. Bob Hawke AC, Landcare Australia supports over 6,000 groups and 140,000 volunteers with landcare projects that are focused on sustainable land management practices and environmental conservation.

Landcare Australia has worked collaboratively with federal, state and local governments and their agencies, Landcare peak bodies, corporate and philanthropic partners, sponsors, community groups and individuals to support the landcare community. This long-standing engagement with local community-led environmental initiatives has led to the organisation's renowned reputation and trust by Australians.

Landcare Australia develops campaigns in partnership with stakeholders to:

- support the sharing of knowledge and promote the development of community leadership and resilience;
- recognise and celebrate the achievements of the landcare community;
- encourage participation in landcare activities and the recruitment and retention of volunteers;

- attract government, corporate and philanthropic funding and in-kind support for good quality, hands-on projects and programs that will improve environmental outcomes; and
- support the adoption of sustainable agriculture practices that will deliver a more productive and profitable agriculture industry.

For over three decades, Landcare Australia has worked at the forefront of community and corporate engagement in natural resource management and environmental project delivery. Custodian of the 'caring hands' logo, Landcare Australia manages the Landcare, Coastcare, Junior Landcare and Landcare Farming brands on behalf of the landcare movement. The Landcare brand is recognised and trusted, with consistently positive attitudes in local communities towards landcare projects, and 78 per cent awareness among Australians of the landcare 'Caring Hands' logo.

The funding and in-kind contributions raised from partnerships and sponsors supports Landcare Australia to develop programs that are practical, deliverable and community focused.

Through this support, Landcare Australia achieves a diverse range of positive environmental and community outcomes. These include:

- a sustainable approach to integrated land management;
- environmental protection, enhancement and conservation of land, water, waterways and coasts;

- natural habitat restoration to enhance biodiversity;
- building resilience in Australia's food and farming systems;
- creating social cohesion and wellbeing in communities.

With the impact of a changing climate, and natural disasters like drought, bushfires and flood, landcare has never been so important.

What makes Landcare Australia unique to any other national environmental organisation is effective partnerships and people. Across Australia, our partnerships support thousands of people involved in landcare who are volunteering to protect local ecosystems that contribute to the sustainability and productivity of our land and water assets for the benefit of all Australians.



About the Landcare Movement

Landcare evolved in Victoria through an initiative of Joan Kirner, (then Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands) and Heather Mitchell, (then President of the Victorian Farmers Federation).

With the generous support of community members, farmers and Victorian departmental officers, Heather Mitchell and Joan Kirner were able to launch 'Landcare' in a small town in central Victoria in November 1986.

Many Australian communities had already begun practising 'Landcare' decades earlier; accounts from some of our most enduring Landcare groups show grass roots environmental issues being tackled as early as the 1950s. In January 1988, Australia's first official Dunecare groups formed on the New South Wales Mid North Coast at Hat Head, Diamond Beach, Scotts Head and Diggers Beach.

In 1989, the national landcare movement was officially recognised with Rick Farley of the National Farmers Federation (NFF), and Phillip Toyne of the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF), successfully encouraging the Hawke Government to commit to supporting the emerging movement.

Landcare became a national programme on 20 July, 1989 in Wentworth NSW, when the Australian Government with bipartisan support, announced its "Decade of Landcare Plan" and committed \$320 million to fund the National Landcare Program. This was also the year that the national not-for-profit organisation Landcare Australia was established.

The national formation of the landcare movement brought farmers and conservationists together to resolve environmental issues. In his speech to launch Landcare, former Prime Minister Bob Hawke AC spoke about the importance of co-operation to care for the land.

"The degradation of our environment is not simply a local problem, nor a problem for one state or another, nor for the Commonwealth alone. Rather, the damage being done to our environment is a problem for us all – and not just government – but for all of us individually and together."

Over the last 30+ years, landcare has evolved to become one of the largest volunteer movements in Australia. There are thousands of people and countless communities working together towards sustainable land use and undertaking on-ground action to protect, enhance or restore an area on behalf of the community. The Landcare model has been so successful it has been adopted in over 20 countries.

Landcare plays a leading role in advocating a balance between Australian sustainable land management practices and environmental conservation.

Landcare activities deliver a diverse range of positive environmental and community outcomes. These include the environmental protection, enhancement and conservation of land, water, waterways and coasts, natural habitat restoration to enhance biodiversity, building resilience in Australia's food and farming systems, and helping create social cohesion and wellbeing in communities.

From the coast to the country, and from urban cities to the outback, landcare's greatest asset is its people. With over 6,000 groups and 140,000 volunteers, the landcare movement is diverse and encompasses farmers and farming systems groups, landowners, landcare groups and networks, Traditional Owners, Bushcare and 'Friends of groups, Coastcare, Dunecare and Rivercare groups, Landcare facilitators and coordinators, youth groups and other community groups involved in protecting, enhancing or restoring their local environment. The Junior Landcare program provides a pathway for children to become lifelong landcarers starting with early learning childhood centres through to primary and secondary schools.

What makes landcare unique to any other community movement is the very large number of active groups, and the effective partnerships created between business, researchers, natural resource management agencies, government and community. These partnerships build local community ownership of issues, unlock volunteer knowledge, capability and capacity to create better outcomes for the environment and those that seek to protect and enhance it.

In the last three decades landcare has achieved a great deal of good work. Yet there is much more to do. With the impact of a changing climate, and natural disasters like drought, bushfires and flood, landcare has never been so important.

Landcare Australia will continue to work in partnership with multiple stakeholders to support the landcare community so they can continue to restore and protect the environment in communities across Australia.

Landcare is about working together caring for the land to preserve our natural resources and biodiversity for generations to come. Landcare enables people to actively care for the natural environment in their community.

The landcare movement is supported by the National Landcare Network and the peak bodies across Australia: Landcare Victoria, Landcare Tasmania, Landcare ACT, Landcare WA, NT Landcare, Queensland Water and Land Carers, Landcare NSW and Landcare South Australia.



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Message from the Chair Doug Humann AM

This year has been noteworthy for most every person, and every landcarer in the country, as we have all been impacted to some extent by the global pandemic. The pandemic has brought sadness and suffering and the need for resilience and steadfastness, which are features of the landcare character. For some people and for long periods landcare groups have not met or have had their numbers for meeting restricted. This has been truly difficult and we salute Australians all.

On top of the pandemic the country faced drought, devastating bushfires and floods. Throughout this period volunteers have continued to deliver support, care and comfort to Australian communities and local environments and never has there been a greater need for passionate, tireless landcarers.

At a time when many among us have been dealing with increased isolation, mental health and financial stress, evidence has long indicated that volunteering and 'giving back' helps us to reconnect with each other and with the land and water that sustains us. For decades, those involved in landcare have testified to a greater sense of self, both physically and mentally, resulting from an enhanced link with their local environment. This in turn has boosted community wellbeing.

It has long been the desire of people involved in landcare to quantify the significance of these tangible benefits. Thanks to a partnership between KPMG Australia and Landcare Australia, new data indicates landcare volunteers benefit from a significant increase in mental and physical wellbeing – and a significant decrease to their healthcare costs. According to the new report launched by Federal Minister for the Environment the Hon. Sussan Ley, and published by KPMG Australia, 'Building resilience in local communities: The wellbeing benefits of participating in Landcare', landcare volunteers avoid \$57million in healthcare costs due to boost in mental and physical wellbeing.

With more than 1,000 landcare volunteers and coordinators surveyed, KPMG Australia also interviewed people involved in various landcare activities from across the country. Almost half of all participants reported clear improvements in their mental wellbeing through their involvement with landcare, which is clearly a significant benefit for individuals and their communities.

The KPMG/Landcare Australia report was one of many outstanding products of our partnerships with business, government and other organisations, and I would like to thank all of our many partners, in particular the Australian Government, for their ongoing support of Landcare Australia and the landcare movement.

It's almost two years since some of the worst bushfires in recent history left a huge impact on the Australian landscape, and the recovery of habitat and communities is ongoing. Landcare Australia is working together with the National Landcare Network, and five of the State and Territory Landcare organisations (QWaLC, LNSW, LACT, LVI and LASA) to jointly deliver a \$14 million Landcare Led Bushfire Recovery Grants Program from May 2021 to June 2022. Funding has been provided by the Hon. Sussan Ley, Minister for the Environment, the Hon. David Littleproud, Minister for Agriculture and Northern Australia, and the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, through the Bushfire Recovery Program for Wildlife and their Habitat. With the 111 projects supported by the Landcare Led Bushfire Recovery Grants, landcarers on the ground are making a tremendous contribution to the recovery effort in their local area.

We celebrated the launch of the National Parliamentary Friends of Landcare in March at Parliament House in Canberra, the event was hosted by the National Landcare Network and Landcare Australia. A significant acknowledgement of landcare's continuing positive impact, the Parliamentary Friends of Landcare initiative demonstrates the bipartisan support for landcare and the invaluable



role landcarers play in caring for our country's vital natural assets. Thank you to Co-chairs of the National Parliamentary Friends of Landcare, New South Wales Senator Perin Davey and Victorian Senator Raff Ciccone, and their parliamentary colleagues, for championing the work of landcare.

In 2020, Landcare Australia developed a new Strategic Plan with the valuable input of a diverse range of landcare stakeholders. Our new Strategic Plan is enabling productive relationships with the landcare community, robust operational capacity and development of innovative services. In addition to strengthening connections with Landcare groups and organisations, we are working hard to build meaningful links with Traditional custodians, as the original landcarers and youth as the new landcarers that will continue to grow the movement. We are also rebuilding connections to the agricultural sector, where landcare groups have traditionally played a significant role in validating and supporting practice change.

We are reviewing our internal operations and developing new services for current and new partners. When the late Bob Hawke delivered his Statement of the Environment address launching the Decade of Landcare more than thirty years ago, he spoke passionately about Australian

communities 'working together' to restore and protect our landscapes for future generations. He spoke to the enduring and unique spirit of landcare volunteers across the nation. In implementing the new plan, Landcare Australia aims to generate greater impact for landcarers and partner organisations in protecting our invaluable natural assets.

Landcare volunteers, groups and other organisations involved in landcare activities, have shown that by working together, exploring innovations and sharing knowledge, the landcare movement remains at the heart of our country's efforts to build resilient communities and productive, biodiverse landscapes.

(L-R) Dr Shane Norrish CEO Landcare Australia, Dr Alison Southwell, CEO Holbrook Landcare Network, Doug Humann AM Chair Landcare Australia, the Hon. Sussan Ley, Minister for the Environment, Marcus Richardson – farmer and property owner, Holbrook Landcare Network Board Member



Message from the CEO

Dr Shane Norrish

Despite the challenges presented by these uncertain times, the landcare community has evolved and successfully adapted in extraordinary ways. When COVID-19 restrictions required a temporary halt in on-ground projects and activities, landcarers successfully embraced a new normal, preparing and developing future plans through Zoom meetings and distanced communication. And in the true spirit of landcare, the community provided support and solidarity to those who needed it the most. At this year's National Landcare Conference, we honoured the passionate landcare groups and volunteers who again and again, demonstrate extraordinary strength in the face of unprecedented adversity.

After a series of COVID-19 enforced delays, the 2020 National Landcare Conference finally took place in August 2021 – and I think all who attended will agree it was worth the wait. Observing the necessary public health and safety restrictions, it was ultimately decided to host the entire conference on a virtual platform, creating a multitude of logistical challenges.

However, all involved, from organisers to technical coordinators, from panellists to speakers, pulled together in an extraordinary example of landcare solidarity and delivered a landmark event which reflected not only the heritage of the landcare legacy but the future of the movement in an ever-evolving modern Australian society.

As an iconic part of the event, the National Landcare Awards celebrated the outstanding achievements of passionate and dedicated landcarers who are continuing to do incredible work in the fields of sustainable agriculture, conservation, community awareness and Cultural Land Management. Congratulations to all the winners and nominees for their inspirational work.

Special acknowledgement to the winner of the inaugural General Jeffery Soil Health Award, Emeritus Professor Lyn Abbott from WA and Bob Hawke Landcare Award winner, Andrew Stewart from Victoria. Professor Abbott's award recognised her decades of dedication to the fields of soil science and soil biology, and supporting huge numbers of farmers and others to better understand and manage their soils. Andrew Stewart has been a tireless landcarer for many years resulting in outstanding ecological restoration and improved productivity on his family property. Andrew has also provided selfless guidance to thousands of others to improve management of natural assets. Their passion and dedication will encourage a new generation to restore, protect and preserve our landscape. I would also like to acknowledge the continued investment of the Australian Government in supporting these awards, which recognises the important role that individuals and groups play in validating, promoting and sharing knowledge with others in their community and across Australia.

We continue to build great relationships with our various corporate partners that are a driving force for change, and are extremely appreciative of the much-needed resources and support they provide for Landcare community projects. As an example, through our alliance with Woolworths, our Junior Landcare program has grown and evolved in helping develop students' skills and knowledge to become the landcarers of the future. In the 2020/2021 financial year, Woolworths Junior Landcare Grants were awarded to over 1,600 schools and early learning centers across Australia. Our Junior Landcare Learning Centre supported by Woolworths became a destination for educators and youth groups seeking interesting environmental education activities aligned to the school curriculum.

Through our partnership with Country Road, we have been working with Cotton Australia and the Cotton Research and Development Corporation to engage cotton growers in biodiversity restoration projects in the Namoi Valley

in Northern NSW. The work is part of Country Road's commitment to supporting local communities and creating a better natural environment. The cotton farmers involved in The Biodiversity Project and their local communities will benefit from native revegetation work that improves native habitat and regional biodiversity, stabilises soils along the river bank and improves water quality.

As result of the corporate, philanthropic and government partnerships supporting the exceptional work of the landcare movement, Landcare Australia has been able to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that are at the core of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as adopted by United Nations member states in 2015. Through

supporting communities, helping build resilience in food and farming systems, managing major ecological restoration projects and educating about environmental values, you will see in this report that Landcare Australia's work makes a strong contribution towards many of the SDGs.

The enduring effects of extreme events will continue to present immense challenges but I am certain that the restoration and preservation of Australia's natural assets is served extremely well by the caring hands of the landcare movement. Together, we will continue to demonstrate the value of landcare and strengthen the resilience of local communities.



An aerial photograph of a forest. The trees are mostly bare, with some green foliage visible. A winding dirt path is visible through the trees. The ground is a mix of brown and green. The overall scene is a dense forest with a clear path.

2020-2021
HIGHLIGHTS

Landcare Australia and the National Landcare Network welcome the launch of the Parliamentary Friends of Landcare



Pictured (L-R): Doug Humann AM, Chair Landcare Australia; Senator Davey, Senator Ciccone and Dr. Patrick O'Connor, Chair, National Landcare Network.

In March, the Parliamentary Friends of Landcare was formally launched at Parliament House in Canberra with special guests including Senators and Members of Parliament, national and state landcare organisations, landcare groups and volunteers, and landcare supporters from across the country.

The launch of the Parliamentary Friends of Landcare will help to strengthen and promote the national bipartisan support for landcare in the Australian parliament. The Parliamentary Friends of Landcare enables members of parliament to directly connect with landcare groups in their electorate.

The establishment of this group is a boost for everyone involved in landcare activities, and a welcome recognition for the invaluable role landcarers play in caring for our country and building resilient, productive landscapes.

Representatives from Landcare Australia and the National Landcare Network thanked the Co-chairs, New South Wales Senator Perin Davey and Victorian Senator Raff Ciccone, and their parliamentary colleagues for championing the work of Landcare.

Landcare Australia Chair, Doug Humann AM said, "Drought, bushfires and now Covid-19 have made more difficult and critical our task of restoring health to our landscape and providing for a long-term sustainable future. A cohesive landcare movement is now more important than ever to the future of our natural assets and people."

Landcare Australia signs up to the 'Darwin Agreement' to support the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration



Landcare Australia along with 12 other prominent Australasian environmental restoration organisations announced the formation of a Consortium to collaboratively support the recommendations of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration – with more in the process of signing up.

The consortium agreement, referred to as the 'Darwin Agreement', was initiated at the SERA2021 Darwin conference where eight major restoration organisations presented talks on what the UN Decade means for their ongoing work in restoration in Australia.

Against a backdrop of environmental crises, the Consortium urges concerted support of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration by all sectors of society – policy makers, industry and communities – to retain ecosystems, reduce our impacts upon them and to repair ecosystems to optimise potential for humanity to revive the natural world that supports us all.

There is a clear message from the United Nations Environment Program who initiated the UN Decade; if we do not succeed well within the next 10 years, we lose our best chance of averting catastrophic climate change and the species loss and ecological collapse that will result. What we stand to lose is millions of plant and animal species, the livelihoods of millions of people and the lifestyles upon which previous generations have strived to build stable and successful societies.

Each of the Consortium members has a long track record of working for environmental conservation including ecosystem restoration and commits to promoting the goals of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, with particular focus on:

- Reinforcing and clarifying our common purpose to help conserve and restore Australasian ecosystems
- Promoting public awareness of the UN Decade as a focal opportunity for integrated restorative action by all sectors of society
- Promoting best practice ecosystem restoration
- Supporting a united communication voice around the UN Decade.

Member organisations:

- Australian Association of Bush Regenerators
- Australian Coastal Restoration Network
- Australian Network for Plant Conservation
- Australian Seed Bank Partnership
- Bush Heritage Australia
- Gondwana Link
- Great Eastern Ranges Initiative
- Greening Australia
- Landcare Australia
- National Landcare Network
- Restore Australia
- Society for Ecological Restoration Australasia
- World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Australia.

Landcare Led Bushfire Recovery Grants Program



Climate testing eucalyptus trees and koala drone monitoring were among 111 projects to land funding from \$14million Landcare Led Bushfire Recovery Grants

Coinciding with the release of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report, an inspiring roster of innovative landcare bushfire recovery projects tackling the impacts of climate change were awarded funding from the Landcare Led Bushfire Recovery Grants program.

Funded by the Australian Government, the \$14million program is supporting 111 projects in regions impacted by the Black Summer bushfires of 2019/2020.

Projects include Australian National University's joint initiative with Upper Snowy Landcare volunteers in a series of temperature and drought trials, testing the climate resilience of native Eucalyptus species.

Queensland University of Technology has joined forces with organisations, Noosa and District Landcare and

Watergum, to test drive a new program powering drone monitoring of koala and native species.

And Far East Victorian Landcare will work closely with Threatened Species Conservancy in a push to assess the dwindling numbers of rare and endangered butterflies impacted by the fires in East Gippsland two years ago.

Other projects include training communities to monitor and recover critical mangrove habitat on the NSW South Coast, the restoration of Macquarie perch habitat in alpine waterways, and helping greater and yellow-bellied gliders in South-East Queensland.

The Landcare Led Bushfire Recovery Grants are providing funding for local and regional activities supporting bushfire recovery for fire-affected plant and animal species, ecological communities and natural assets.

The program provides eligible local landcare programs, environment networks, and community groups with

access to grant funding up to \$50,000, and larger partnership projects of up to \$300,000. The funding includes \$4million available for projects that will benefit forests and coastal ecosystems in the East Gippsland bushfire impacted region.

To date, the Australian Government has committed \$200 million for wildlife and habitat recovery through the \$2 billion National Bushfire Recovery Fund.

TOP: Epicormic growth on bushfire impacted trees in East Gippsland. Credit Annette Ruzicka

TOP PAGE 18: Eucalyptus in the Snowy Monaro after impacts of dieback and extreme temperatures. Credit Zach Simpson

BOTTOM LEFT PAGE 18: QUT Prof. Grant Hamilton is researching a koala drone detection system for Landcare groups around the country. Credit QUT

BOTTOM RIGHT PAGE 18: Little blue butterfly. Credit Luis Mata

Restoring the Australian landscape



TOP: Gold Coast conservationists working with Watergum utilised funding for the planting of 400 trees to eventually be harvested as food for koalas. Credit Watergum

While the Black Summer bushfires marked a period of unprecedented devastation on Australia's unique landscape and biodiversity, the aftermath has seen an unparalleled, inspiring movement of restoration and recovery from dedicated Landcarers across impacted states and territories.

Working on a diverse range of projects including essential wildlife habitat restoration, shelterbelts and fencing projects and protection of our waterways, landholders, Landcare groups and local community led groups have come together in an extraordinary display of solidarity in bushfire and drought impacted communities across Australia.

To support these activities, Landcare Australia facilitated a grants program in 2020 made possible by generous donations and ground-breaking partnerships that provided vital funding to support projects and groups to make a difference with their recovery and restoration efforts. A year later, we look at progress and results.

Landcare Australia Bushfire Recovery Grants

Made possible due to the extraordinary volume of donations from generous organisations and private donors, the Landcare Australian Bushfire Recovery Grants supported 23 wide-ranging regeneration projects focusing on activities including impacted rainforest revegetation, nest box installation for decimated native species and feeding programs for endangered wildlife.

Projects which received vital funding and support included Cann Valley Landcare Group/Far East Gippsland Landcare Network who worked hard on proposed restoration works on 400 acres of private land straddling four kilometres of riverbank after fire ripped through the region. Over 50 nesting boxes were constructed and installed to house animals at risk including the turquoise parrot



Cann Valley Landcare Group/Far East Gippsland Landcare Network worked hard on restoration works on 400 acres of private land after fire ripped through the region. Pictured Rob Fitzclarence of Cann Valley Landcare Group. Credit Cann Valley Landcare Group

and powerful owl, the group have also delivered a project to save the Genoa River correa, native only to the Genoa River region, relying on one last batch of plants for the survival of the species.

Over the course of a year, volunteers took 300 cuttings of Genoa River correa from local sources of the original batch with plans to plant them in spring 2021. The group also completed over five kilometres of fencing to protect the covenanted area, riparian strip and State Forest.

Further north in NSW, 30 minutes west of Coffs Harbour, dedicated local volunteers from Nana Glen Landcare used the financial boost to supplement food projects for fauna affected by the Liberation Trail fire in November 2019. The funding assisted native species including goannas, eastern grey kangaroos and pretty faced wallabies. The funded project provided supplementary food and nest boxes for wildlife across 172 hectares of fire-impacted area of Nana Glen until the natural food resources recovered. Volunteers coordinated the collection and distribution of the supplementary food, including the installation of three koala watering stations. Over the course of six months, Nana Glen Landcare group also installed 72 nesting boxes.

In Queensland, Gold Coast conservationists working with Watergum used funding for the planting of 400 native trees to eventually be harvested as food for koala and other native species in the region.

WIRES Landcare Australia Wildlife Relief and Recovery Grants

Launched in April 2020, the WIRES Landcare Australia Wildlife Relief and Recovery Grants was a pioneering alliance between two not-for-profits that have been part of the fabric of local communities for over 30 years.

Sixty-four environmental groups across the country benefitted from the landmark \$1.185million grants partnership supporting recovery of wildlife habitats impacted by bushfire and drought.

One group, Rainforest4Foundation used the funds to lead the way against fire-prone plant species in the hopes of future-proofing neighbouring rainforest after 5,000 hectares in the Nightcap and surrounding National Parks were devastated in the Black Summer fires.

Safeguarding habitat for impacted animals including koala and red-legged pademelon, Mullumbimby volunteers along with bush regeneration members of Madhima Gulgan Community Association, have concentrated on eradicating running bamboo, a highly flammable weed which burns exceptionally well, on impacted sites near the Whian Whian and Nightcap National Park.

Elsewhere in Victoria, East Gippsland Landcare Network used funding to support volunteers of all ages to collect water samples from waterways in the region to determine how bushfires have affected platypus populations.

The samples collected and analysed by experts for eDNA (or environmental DNA) will help determine the presence of platypus numbers. This information will also assist understanding of how platypus respond to bushfires and help identify priority areas for rehabilitation, revegetation and erosion control.

Six hours north of Adelaide in the red sand desert, conservationists with Arid Recovery are mounting a battle to protect some of Australia's rarest species including burrowing bettongs, greater bilbies and western barred bandicoots from the impacts of the worst drought in recent memory.

With the region ravaged by exceptionally low rainfall in 2018 and 2019, coupled with the hottest summers ever recorded in northern South Australia, the group is relying on food and water stations and a proposed 'drought paddock' to protect animals pushed to the brink.



Volunteers from Nana Glen Landcare used the financial boost to supplement food projects for fauna affected by the Liberation Trail fire in November 2019. Credit Nana Glen Landcare



In Mullumbimby, Rainforest4Foundation used the funds to lead the way against flammable plant species in the hopes of future-proofing neighbouring rainforest. Pictured Kelvin Davis of R4F. Credit Rainforest4Foundation

Restoring the Australian landscape



TOP: Gold Coast conservationists working with Watergum utilised funding for the planting of 400 trees to eventually be harvested as food for koalas. Credit Watergum

News Corp Bushfire Recovery Landcare Grants

News Corp Australia partnered with Landcare Australia to make a significant \$300,000 bushfire donation to support two Landcare projects in Victoria and Queensland.

These donations formed part of News Corp Australia's ongoing support for communities, individuals and wildlife affected by the 2019/2020 bushfires. In the midst of the January 2020 bushfires, News Corp's global headquarters announced a \$5 million contribution to Australian bushfire relief to assist in the immediate response and ongoing investment in rebuilding the lives and livelihoods of those most affected.

In the aftermath of the November 2019 bushfires in Livingstone Shire in Central Queensland, Capricornia Catchments helped to bring everyone together to discuss what it was going to take to assist the community to recover. It was agreed that they needed on-ground action to ensure that landholders were better equipped for the future, and to take care of the wellbeing of the community as well as care for the land.

Funding from the News Corp Bushfire Recovery Landcare Grant has supported Capricornia Catchments to work with landholders on bushfire preparedness activities such as property planning, emergency access to escape routes and water sources, and best practice erosion control measures on fire trails and burnt areas. The project also involves revegetation and restoration of the environment, including the creation of wildlife corridors to enhance habitat.

The project has engaged with GenYadaba, a group made up of local youth including young Indigenous people, to conduct planting and wildlife monitoring using cameras and traps within the burnt areas. Through this project, young people in the community have had the opportunity to work together to learn



TOP: East Gippsland Landcare Network used funding to determine how bushfires have impacted platypus populations. Credit EnviroDNA

about the animals that rely on the habitat they will be restoring, and learn new skills in the process, like native plant identification and weed management.

The community are creating a multimedia project that will capture a wide range of stories, ranging from the courage of fire fighters and local landholders, their tragedies and losses, near misses, through to the impacts fire has had on wildlife carers who were inundated with injured animals. Importantly, this coming together will help create a more resilient community and environment for future generations. This collective storytelling will be a celebration of the community, and how they have managed to come through such an enormous challenge.

Support from the News Corp Bushfire Recovery Landcare Grant has also provided Far East Victoria Landcare Inc funding to work with Landcare groups and private landowners within fire impacted areas of East Gippsland. The project has provided an opportunity for the Landcare network to set aside areas as habitat, shelter, breeding sites or feeding areas (such as shelterbelts and windbreaks) for endangered species. These areas are being improved to restore essential ecological functions which support a variety of threatened wildlife including Glossy Black Cockatoos, koalas, gliders and possums. The Black Summer fire season showed how vulnerable many of our iconic species and their habitat are. For example, the Glossy Black Cockatoo, saw around 70% of its Victorian habitat burnt.

The project in East Gippsland also has a focus on citizen science and coordinating volunteer support for fencing, planting and monitoring, including encouraging local school students to participate in the recovery effort. Bringing communities together to support wildlife leads to improved physical and emotional wellbeing. A recent survey in the area revealed that many are concerned about the plight of wildlife post fire. Landcare groups not impacted by fire have also shown a lot of interest in supporting the communities that were impacted.

New study quantifies the wellbeing benefits of participating in landcare



A new study titled *Building resilience in local communities: The wellbeing benefits of participating in Landcare* was launched in June by Federal Environment Minister Sussan Ley with the Holbrook Landcare Group on a property just outside of Albury in NSW. The newly published findings by KPMG Australia in partnership with Landcare Australia, suggested volunteers involved in landcare enjoy substantial improvements to their mental and physical wellbeing

KPMG Australia provided their services on a pro-bono basis, surveying more than 1,000 landcare volunteers and coordinators. They also interviewed people involved in different landcare activities from across the country. In the survey, almost half of all participants surveyed, 46 per cent, reported clear improvements in their mental wellbeing due to their involvement in landcare activities.

These improvements lead to an approximate saving from avoided healthcare costs of \$403 per individual per year, and for the landcare movement which exceeds 140,000

individuals, that number equates to \$57million nationally.

With a connection to the land felt by almost all of those surveyed at 93 per cent, and 90 per cent experiencing a stronger connection to the community, 19 per cent reported a reduced use of physical health services, contributing to avoided healthcare costs.

Elsewhere, the study found that the majority of people who were not in full-time employment enjoyed an improvement in their mental wellbeing associated with participation in Landcare activities, and more so than those in full-time employment.

"For decades, those involved in landcare have testified to a greater sense of self, both physically and mentally, resulting from an enhanced link with their local environment," said Doug Humann AM, Chair Landcare Australia.

"It has long been the desire of the landcare movement to quantify the significance of these benefits. These groundbreaking figures speak to the importance of volunteering and

engaging with landcare activities within the community."

Richard Boele, Partner in Charge, Human Rights & Social Impact Services, KPMG Australia said that "at a time of unprecedented change, it is important to recognise that it can be those micro-moments of connection that can make all the difference. Connection with the environment, with nature, and with each other can lead to emotional benefits. This is why landcare is so important and so crucial for the Australian community, economy and environment."

"This report in partnership with Landcare Australia, demonstrates that participation in landcare can lead to significant mental and physical wellbeing benefits through increased connection with people, communities and the environment."

L-R Dr Shane Norrish CEO Landcare Australia, the Hon. Sussan Ley MP Minister for the Environment, Donna O'Neill, Director Corporate Citizenship, KPMG Australia, Doug Humann AM Chair Landcare Australia, Dr Alison Southwell CEO Holbrook Landcare Network

THE WELLBEING BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING IN LANDCARE



46% of survey respondents reported an improvement in their mental resilience

Avoided healthcare costs is **\$57 million** for the estimated Landcare population of over 140,000 (or **\$403 per Landcarer**)

Improved productivity is **\$97 million** for the estimated Landcare population of over 140,000 (or **\$487 per Landcarer**)

With health benefits, productivity and disaster resilience taken into consideration, there is a **\$1,347 per person per year economic benefit from participation in Landcare**



93% of survey respondents reported a stronger connection to the land

43% of participants who reported that they spent 0-4 hours or less per month involved in Landcare, still reported an improvement in their mental wellbeing

Younger adults appeared to experience additional benefits of being involved in Landcare in comparison to the older population

59% of those in major cities reported an improvement in their mental wellbeing, compared to **47%** in regional areas



90% of survey respondents reported experiencing a stronger connection to the community

2020 Bob Hawke Landcare Award Finalists

FINALISTS

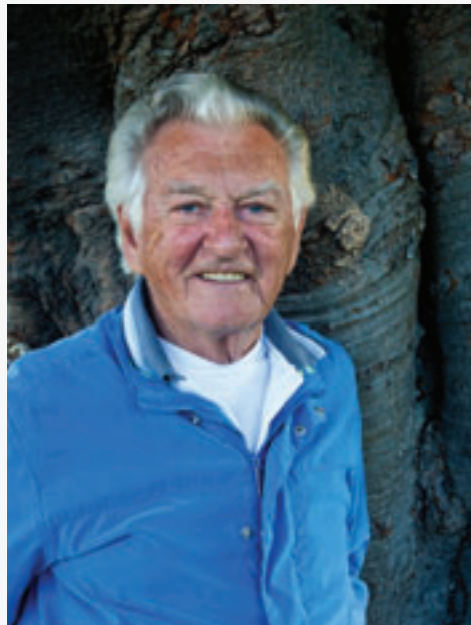
Celebrating landcare and recognising individual excellence in sustainable agriculture.

2020
BOB HAWKE
LANDCARE AWARD

Proudly supported by



National
Landcare
Program



This prestigious, national award publicly recognises an individual involved in championing Landcare and who inspires others to take action on their own property or through a landcare group.

The prestigious Bob Hawke Landcare Award acknowledges the role that former Prime Minister, the Hon. Bob Hawke AC, played in elevating landcare from a grassroots community initiative to a national movement with bipartisan government support that endures today.

Presented biannually as part of the National Landcare Awards ceremony, the award publicly recognises an individual's leadership and commitment to landcare, natural resource management and sustainable agriculture.

Nominations are open to individuals who are closely involved in landcare and champion the uptake of sustainable agriculture practices and demonstrate the adoption of improved practices among landholders as a consequence of this action.

The award winner receives a \$50,000 prize package, sponsored by the Australian Government to further develop their knowledge and skills in sustainable land management to enable an even stronger contribution to landcare.

A campaign for nominations was held in 2020 with 120 nominations submitted, demonstrating the strong interest from farmers, landowners and landcare groups in this prestigious award. The award nominations were assessed by an independent advisory panel, and the three finalists approved by the Hon. David Littleproud, Minister for Agriculture and Northern Australia. Due to the ongoing impact of COVID-19, the 2020 National Landcare Awards was rescheduled to August 4 2021, and this is when the winner of the Bob Hawke Landcare Award will be announced.

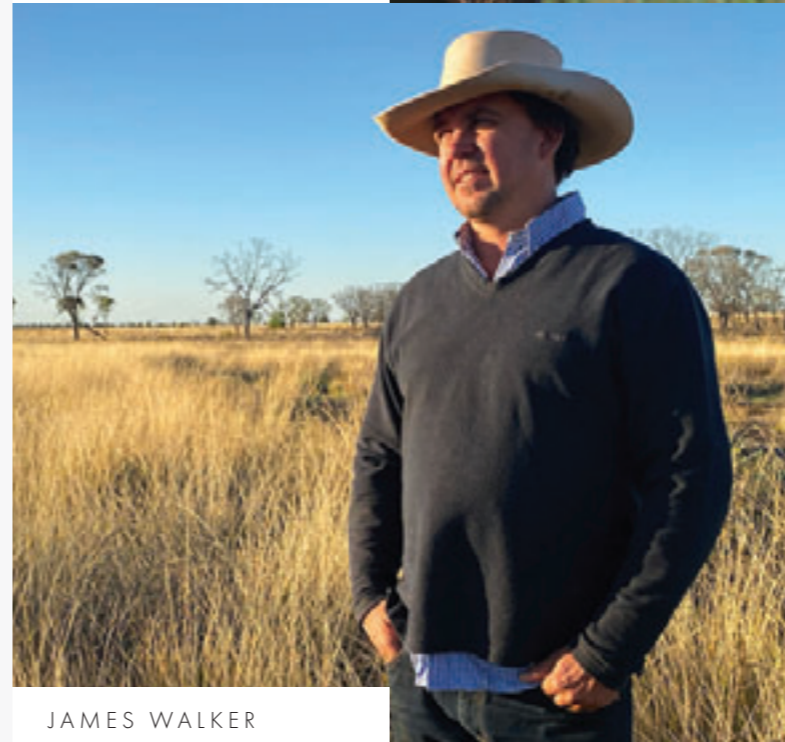
The Bob Hawke Landcare Award is administered by Landcare Australia with support from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.



ANDREW STEWART



JUSTIN KIRKBY



JAMES WALKER

MINISTER LITTLEPROUD CONFIRMED THE THREE FINALISTS FOR THE 2020 BOB HAWKE LANDCARE AWARD:

Andrew Stewart – VIC

Thirty years ago, Corangamite landholder Andrew Stewart developed a whole farm plan and mission statement for Yan Yan Gurt West Farm, a 230-hectare regenerative grazing and agroforestry property. It included the establishment of 50,000 trees and shrubs which has since seen the increase of woody vegetation across the farm from three per cent to 18 per cent.

These plantings have been connected to form a web of trees meandering across the farming landscape providing, soil, pasture and livestock protection, nutrient cycling, waterway protection, wild life corridors, improved aesthetics and wellbeing for people who live, work and visit the farm. There is now a 23km interface of trees and shrubs to pasture and 113 bird species recorded.

Justin Kirkby – NSW

Sixteen years after buying his Gravesend property on the North West Slopes, outside Moree, Justin Kirkby has revitalised his land which once boasted rundown cropping blocks with scarce groundcover and poor nutritional grasses. Thanks to measures taken, the landholder has decreased the farm's carbon footprint with the revegetation of up to 20 per cent of the property, with native tree species specific to the region. Planting trees and fodder shrubs has added to wildlife corridors and bio-link habitats for insects and birds to work as one in the ecosystem with Justin's innovative farming practices.

James Walker – QLD

Operating Camden Park, a 20,000-acre organic, global animal partnership (GAP) accredited cattle station outside Longreach, James Walker has focused on tackling land degradation, carbon emissions and climate change through unique industry approaches. He has improved the environmental, financial and production performance of his own property. He also created the Agrihive Farmecco digital platform to help other farmers understand and implement sustainable landcare goals; developed an innovative 'Floating Lease' to reflect seasonal conditions that is being prototyped commercially and addressed emissions through an off-grid solution for the power supply on his property.

New national award for soil health

General Jeffery
SOIL HEALTH AWARD



2020
GENERAL JEFFERY
SOIL HEALTH AWARD

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY



Australia's National Soils Advocate, the Hon. Penny Wensley AC, with Landcare Australia CEO, Dr Shane Norrish at the Launch of the inaugural General Jeffery Soil Health Award (December 2020).

Increasing awareness of the importance and benefits of good soil management, the Office of the National Soils Advocate initiated the General Jeffery Soil Health Award, and collaborated with Landcare Australia to launch the inaugural award in December 2020.

Named in honour of Australia's first National Soils Advocate, the late Major General the Honourable Michael Jeffery, AC, AO (Mil), CVO, MC (Retd), the award recognises an individual's work to champion, improve and/or educate others in soil health.

As Australia's first National Soils Advocate, General Jeffrey, who was Landcare Australia's patron, passionately advocated for improvements in the health of our agricultural landscape. By championing soil health from Parliament House to the paddock, he successfully changed attitudes towards soil sustainability and energised change on farms across Australia.

The winner of the inaugural General Jeffery Soil Health Award will be announced by the National Soils Advocate at the National Landcare Awards on 4 August, 2021.

The General Jeffery Soil Health Award was established and is supported by the Office of the National Soils Advocate within the Australian Government Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, and is administered by Landcare Australia.



LYNETTE ABBOTT

A TRIO OF LEADING EXPERTS IN THE FIELD OF SOIL HEALTH WERE THE FINALISTS FOR THE AWARD:

Lynette Abbott – Academic and science communicator from Western Australia: Emeritus Professor at The University of Western Australia, Lynette has had an influential career in soil biology that spans four decades. She is a leading academic and science communicator in the field of soil science and soil biology. A pioneering researcher on soil fungi in agriculture and disturbed natural environments, Lynette is acknowledged as a world leader in this field. She has shared her extensive knowledge with students, and by establishing the innovative 'Know your Soil Biology' workshops for farmers, she is providing hands-on activities demonstrating the benefits of soil biota for soil health.



BRIAN HUGHES

Brian Hughes – Principal Consultant from South Australia: Over an extensive career Brian has had considerable state-wide influence in soil health. Brian has been involved in determining the extent of soil acidification, the rate at which it is developing in areas that were inherently non-acidic, and promoting the adoption of treatment options.



ROBERT QUIRK

Robert Quirk – Cane grower, sustainable agriculture educator, researcher and advocate from New South Wales: Robert farms on the coastal flood plain of the Tweed River. Through years of observation, study, experimentation and collaboration, he has developed and promoted management practices resulting in quantifiable improvements in soil characteristics.



Australia's first National Soils Advocate and former Landcare Patron, the late Major General the Honourable Michael Jeffery, AC, AO (Mil), CVO, MC (Retd).

Landcare Australia supports launch of the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration



TOP: The Southern Brown Bandicoot is the last representative of the bilby and bandicoot group remaining in South Australia's Mount Lofty Ranges. Photo credit: Kirstin Abley

The 17 interlinked United Nations Sustainable Development Goals illustrate the challenges facing communities around the world. On 5 June 2021, the UN launched the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration focusing the world's attention on the issue of deforestation and the health of our natural resources as we seek to tackle the impacts of climate change. Australia is not immune to these challenges with our natural ecosystems and resources under threat.

To coincide with the launch of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, in addition to signing up to the Darwin Agreement (see page 17), Landcare Australia launched a reforestation and biodiversity project designed to allow businesses large and small to contribute to Landcare Australia's ecosystem restoration work.

"Landcare Australia's Reforestation and Biodiversity Project brings together members of the business community to enable important on-ground activities that improve ecosystem health and biodiversity and address the important issues of climate change, resource management and sustainability," said Dr Shane Norrish, CEO Landcare Australia.

Organisations that have supported Landcare Australia's Reforestation and Biodiversity Project in its first month of operation include MobileMuster and Essential Flavours.

Multiple community Landcare projects will be supported by Landcare Australia as the Reforestation and Biodiversity Project gains more supporters. To date, Landcare Australia has been able to support the Sturt Upper Reaches Landcare Group working on habitat restoration for the Southern Brown Bandicoot in South Australia's Mount Lofty Ranges.

The Bandicoot Super Highway - Mount Lofty Ranges Wildlife Corridor Revegetation

The southern brown bandicoot is a small mammal that has an important role as an ecosystem engineer, churning up soil and litter as it forages. The bandicoot is the last representative of the bilby and bandicoot group remaining in the Mount Lofty Ranges (MLR) of South Australia. As a result the bandicoot is recognised as critically endangered due to predatory activity and loss of habitat. A significant effort has been mobilised to improve habitat connectivity between Belair and Mark Oliphant Park populations in South Australia, seen as critical in securing the future of the Belair community. Wildlife corridors such as this improve mobility, security and support ecosystem health.

Sturt Upper Reaches Landcare Group (SURLG) is a community organisation with a significant and well-established history of bandicoot conservation, as well as habitat restoration for biodiversity on private land. Landcare Australia's Reforestation and Biodiversity Project has been able to support SURLG's efforts to improve the bandicoot's endangered status by 2030 with lots of work still to be done.

TOP: Landcare Australia's Reforestation and Biodiversity Project is supporting Sturt Upper Reaches Landcare Group's efforts to improve the Southern Brown Bandicoot's endangered status. Photo credit: Luke P



Landcare Webinar Series popular with landcare community



LANDCARE WEBINAR SERIES



National
Landcare
Program



The Landcare Webinar Series was launched in 2020 to build capacity for individuals and groups in the landcare community during the COVID-19 pandemic, leveraging Landcare Australia's Landcarer online platform, the webinars are a popular addition to the suite of Landcarer's online resources.

The webinars feature speakers involved in landcare who share their knowledge, insights and experiences. They include Landcare ACT, Loddon Plains Landcare Network, Richmond Landcare Inc, Bulimba Creek Catchment, Global Landcare, National Renewables in Agriculture Conference and Expo, Australian Association of Bush Regenerators, Big Scrub Foundation, Gundamain and Ladysmith Feed Lots, Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research, NSW DPIE, LaTrobe, Charles Sturt University, Cibo Labs, Saving Our Species and National Feral Pig Action Plan.

Fifteen webinars have been hosted to date, with subject matter ranging broadly, such as natural capital footprint for improving sustainability, natural capital accounting project, recruiting and engaging volunteers, landcare outside of Australia, how landcare organisations have responded to challenges, from traditional methods of natural resource management to modern innovation, the power of landcare partnerships, and Australian beef and sheep sustainability.

The Landcare Webinar Series has consistently receives highly positive feedback indicating the value and relevance of the sessions, and the importance of providing opportunities for landcarers to share perspectives and learn from one another.

Digital community platform supports capacity building for landcarers



Landcarer, the purpose-built free digital community platform dedicated to landcare, continues to support capacity building for individuals and groups through its tools for sharing, learning and interacting.

Several thousand people are contributing to and benefitting from the collective sharing and expansion of knowledge, skills and resources pertaining to sustainable management and protection of Australia's water, soil, plants, animals and ecosystems.

Landcarer's user generated content repository comprises a broad range of valuable assets ranging from best practice, educational resources, experience and insights, thought-provoking discussion on topical issues, showcasing of work, to celebrations of achievement.

More than 60 landcare groups are overcoming limited resources and skill set challenges by using Landcarer's Group functionality – a mini intranet for a group's members. Group admins are supported with tools such as Membership Management, including fee processing, contact management, eLearning, document repository and publishing tools.

Collaboration and project management are stimulated through Landcarer's project functionality and platform engagement tools such as connecting, discussions, messaging and publishing.

Over the last year, numerous activities were undertaken to drive registration and engagement on the platform, including:

- The popular Landcare Webinar Series with expert guest speakers
- Planning for the integration with the 2021 National Landcare Conference with Landcarer servicing the long-term hosting of hundreds of recordings and presentations from the conference in a designated Education Hub
- Quarterly incentive campaigns, including a photo contest
- Ongoing omni-channel marketing promotion across Landcare Australia properties and networks
- Presentations to groups and key stakeholders, as well as speaking engagements and demonstrations at events.



HIGHLIGHTS
JUNIOR LANDCARE

Resourcing Junior Landcare for community impact and resilience



Funded by a generous grant from the John T. Reid Charitable Trusts, the *Resourcing Junior Landcare for community impact and resilience project* was completed in December 2020. This pilot project focused on one of Landcare Australia's strongest priorities: to create an aware, empowered and active Junior Landcare movement.

With schools and youth groups at the centre of most communities, the project aimed to build resilience in rural and regional communities in Far North Queensland that had been impacted by extreme weather events.

Numerous workshops and events were held at three schools, including two tree planting events in Townsville, incorporating local Aboriginal leaders and workshop facilitators, as well as a Butterfly Garden workshop. A student attending a Mindfulness and Yoga session commented, "I learnt about balancing of energy within our body and I learnt how to relax more and what to do to help our environment."

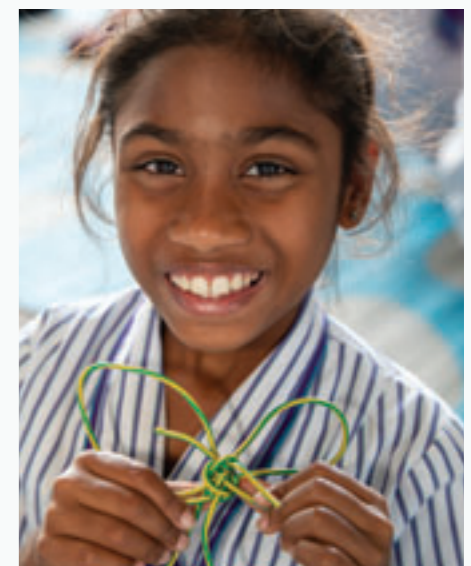
The project outcomes enabled Landcare Australia to develop environmental educational resources for landcare groups and primary school educators. Published on the Junior Landcare website, the resources will enable the sharing of knowledge about resilience projects and provide opportunities for schools, Junior Landcarers and their parents and carers, to connect with their local landcare group.

The grant funding supported the appointment of an Education Program Manager for a period of 12 months to enable the development of the education resources. The role was also instrumental in establishing a network of environmental education and disaster resilience organisations, who are now listed on the Junior Landcare Learning Centre's Community Page.

TOP: A student participating in a tree planting event said, "I gained a lot of knowledge about what we can do for the environment and how we can relate that to the cultural view of the earth...information about the Aboriginal view of ourselves and how we connect to the environment, was really beneficial."

LEFT: Junior Landcare Ambassador Costa Georgiadis

BOTTOM: Student participating in the Junior Landcare Butterfly Garden Project.



Record number of schools receive Woolworths Junior Landcare Grants



TOP: Governor General, the Hon. David Hurley and Mrs Hurley joined Landcare Australia CEO, Dr Shane Norrish and Woolworths' representatives Brod Thompson and Christian Bennett at Yarralumla Primary School in Canberra to congratulate the school on receiving a Woolworths Junior Landcare Grant.

BOTTOM: Dunwich State School on Queensland's North Stradbroke Island received a 2021 Woolworths Junior Landcare Grant for a project to enhance the school's vegetable, bush tucker and native gardens. With their Bee Bonus, the school is purchasing native bees.

To mark World Environment Day in early June, Landcare Australia and Woolworths announced that 1,609 primary schools and early learning centres across the country were receiving 2021 Woolworths Junior Landcare Grants. This is the largest number of Junior Landcare Grants ever given out in a single round.

Woolworths Junior Landcare Grants aim to inspire kids with hands-on projects focusing on sustainable food production, improving waste management practices and enhancing native habitats.

This year's grants of up to \$1,000 each, also placed an emphasis on the importance of bees and pollinators in the environment with applicants offered extra funding of up to \$500 for projects that directly support the conservation of Australia's bee population. More than 1,000 schools and early learning centres received a Bee Bonus.

The 2021 Woolworths Junior Landcare Grant Program is the third round of funding for the program and to date Woolworths has contributed over \$3 million to more than 2,760 projects across Australia.

Woolworths General Manager Community, Peter O'Sullivan said, "Our Woolworths Junior Landcare Grants will help schools create and maintain projects that grow the younger generation's understanding of the importance of protecting our environment."

The Woolworths Junior Landcare Grants program is funded with a 10c contribution from each sale of the Woolworths Bag for Good at full price. Bag for Good was launched in 2018 when Woolworths went single-use plastic bag free.



Junior Landcare Learning Centre grows future environmental leaders



The online Junior Landcare Learning Centre has become a valuable resource for landcare groups, educators, youth groups, parents and carers.

Now with over 60 learning activities focused on food production, Indigenous perspectives, waste management and biodiversity, the Junior Landcare Learning Centre resources have been created by educational professionals with content aligned to the Australian curriculum.

The learning activities can be used in a classroom setting, at home and by youth groups who have outdoor environmental projects. The online resources have been developed for early learning centre and primary school teachers, high school students and their teachers, parents and carers, landcare groups and other community led environmental groups. There are activities for children of all age groups.

Junior Landcare Ambassador and ABC TV broadcaster Costa Georgiadis, brings his enthusiasm for lifelong learning to the screen with a diverse collection of Junior Landcare videos created specifically for children.

Educators can access useful resources from the Educator Hub and from the Junior Landcare Community, a list of organisations who share a common vision to provide children the opportunity to play an active role in ensuring the safe future of their environment. The Junior Landcare Learning Centre is funded by Woolworths.

From creating compost, planting a garden, or caring for our coasts, there are a diverse range of activities for children to get involved from their balcony, backyard or farm. The fun, educational activities are helping young people across Australia to become aware, empowered and active in caring for the environment in their community.

Landcare Youth Summit helps inspire the next gen of landcare leaders

Over 30 years since the late great Bob Hawke pioneered the landcare movement to become a national initiative with bipartisan support, environmental pressures are at an all-time high – with Australia’s youth determined to actively do something to make a difference.

Aware protests and online petitions can only achieve so much, landcare gives today’s youth an opportunity to make a practical, hands-on impact to the local environment in their community.

Presenting from Parliament House in Canberra in early December, Bob Hawke’s granddaughter and landcare ambassador, Sophie Taylor-Price, hosted the inaugural Landcare Youth Summit. The event included a series of Landcare panels and workshops to an online audience of 40 students from 20 schools and youth groups.

Young speakers included experts in climate change, conservation, sustainable agriculture, Indigenous perspectives and community wellbeing from organisations, including Climate Council, Farmers for Climate Action and the UN Youth program. The summit provided young people with inspiring landcare project ideas, career pathways, how to join an existing landcare group or create their own landcare group at high school or in their community.

In a survey conducted by Landcare Australia, respondents aged 18 – 30 delivered the following statistics:

- 98 per cent concerned about the future of Australia’s environment
- 73 per cent would join a landcare group to make a difference to their environment in the local community (14 per cent are already a member of a group)
- 66 per cent believe climate change to be the biggest threat to Australia’s environment
- 58 per cent would start their own landcare group if they had support.

Discussion and insights from young people involved in the Landcare Youth Summit will assist in the development of a National Landcare Youth Program. The program aims to create a pathway for children to be lifelong landcarers - from Junior Landcare early childhood centres and primary schools, to Landcare Youth Programs in high schools, to adult programs like Intrepid Landcare.



Corporate environmental volunteering in action



In May 2021, 13 employees from General Mills travelled from their Mount Waverley office in Melbourne to Garfield North to volunteer with Landcare Australia, working alongside Cannibal Creek Catchment Landcare Group members. The team planted 1,200 trees, shrubs and grasses to create a biodiversity corridor within the creekbed of the original Two Mile Creek.

The corridor, located on Angela and Alan Forte’s property, will provide habitat for bandicoots, wallabies, wombats, insects and over time, habitat and nesting sites for larger birds such as wulphur crested cockatoos, kookaburras, rosellas and king parrots to name a few.

Cannibal Creek Catchment Landcare Group is in its 27th year implementing many planting projects in the local area. The property has been in the Forte family for over 100 years.

The landcare Group is partnering with the Garfield North Outdoor Education Centre to improve the environment on-site and has also organised two separate planting activities with Pakenham Secondary College Y11 VCAL Environmental Students.

General Mills, a leading global food company, have a partnership with Landcare Australia which has funded soil management projects in durum wheat country in North-West NSW in conjunction with the Latina™ Fresh brand and bushfire recovery projects focusing on nature trail rejuvenation with Nature Valley™.

Melbourne-based General Mills employees enjoyed spending a day volunteering to help Cannibal Creek Catchment Landcare Group members plant 1,200 trees, shrubs and grasses.

Helping food and drink industry partners make tangible supply chain sustainability wins



TOP PAGE 38: 1,000 native plants recently planted along the creekline at Ryefield Hops Farm, a 4 Pines supplier, will help to retain soil moisture and prevent further erosion.

TOP PAGE 39: Latina Fresh has been working with Landcare Australia, the Northern Grower Alliance and grain growers in north-west NSW to evaluate methods for minimising the impact of drier seasons on grain crops.

The number of food and beverage businesses partnering with Landcare Australia is increasing. These corporates are seeking to build greater sustainability initiatives within their supply chains as well as aligning to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs).

The projects these businesses are funding engage farmers involved in their supply chains in sustainable agriculture practices to help maintain food security and care for the natural environment on and around their property.

Sustainable agriculture projects managed by Landcare Australia and funded by food and drink industry corporate partners:

4 Pines Brewing Company

Partnering with Landcare Australia to build sustainability projects into its supply chain was a “no brainer” according to 4 Pines Brewing Company CMO Todd Atkinson. Landcare Australia is managing a project on Ryefield Hops farm (a key 4 Pine’s supplier) in Southern NSW to support biodiversity and sustainable agriculture.

Irrigation for farming at Ryefield Hops comes from an on-site creek. The 1,000 native plants, including 20 different local indigenous species to the area, recently planted along the creekline will help retain soil moisture and prevent further erosion.

This will improve water quality and the overall storage of water to ensure the crop has a sufficient water supply, especially during drier conditions. As the plants grow, they will contribute to improving landscape connectivity, the farm’s biodiversity and its long-term sustainability.

“Malt and hops are integral to the beer we brew; one bad season can be detrimental to growing conditions which can have a knock-on effect on our end. By supporting our growers through Landcare Australia, we are helping to ensure that our key supply partner’s livelihood is secure, their soil is healthy and that our beer will continue to taste great,” says Chris Willcock, 4 Pines Chief Brewer.

The a2 Milk™ Company

Since its inception in 2017, the a2 Milk™ Sustainable Agriculture Landcare Grants program has provided more than \$600,000 in funding for sustainability initiatives with positive environmental and business outcomes for a2 Milk™ farms.

In 2021, nine a2 Milk™ dairy farmers in New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia received grants of up to \$35,000 each for projects focusing on increased biodiversity, reduced erosion, improved productivity, and improved pasture health, as well as energy reduction initiatives. See page 50.

Latina Fresh™

Latina Fresh™, a General Mills brand, partnered with Landcare Australia to develop a sustainable agriculture program in North-West New South Wales to help farmers improve the sustainability and resilience of farm production systems.

Landcare Australia and the Northern Grower Alliance are working with farmers to develop methods such as cover cropping and harvest stubble height manipulation for conserving more of any spring and summer rainfall in the soils and storing it for when needed by crops. These activities have been shown to help stabilise soils, increase fallow efficiency, and, in the medium to long term, help improve resilience of regional farming systems.

OTHER FOOD AND BEVERAGE INDUSTRY PARTNERS SUPPORTING LANDCARE AND COASTCARE PROJECTS

Hawke’s Brewing Co. Former Australian Prime Minister, the late Bob Hawke and then his estate, donate his royalties from the company to fund Landcare Australia projects.

Banrock Station This Australian eco-friendly wine brand from Accolade Wines partnered with Landcare Australia to plant 100,000 native trees and shrubs over 2021 and 2022.

The Nature Valley™ Trails Landcare Grants program is enabling two local community environmental conservation groups to rejuvenate nature trails impacted by bushfires.

Coca-Cola Australia’s 15-year partnership with Landcare Australia continues to fund Coca-Cola Foundation and Landcare Australia Coastal Protection grants.

Aquatic Wildlife Habitat Bushfire Program



During the year, a Bushfire Recovery program led by Landcare Australia, was delivered in partnership with OzFish Unlimited and Native Fish Australia (Victoria).

The Landcare Australia Aquatic Wildlife Habitat Bushfire Program is funded by the Australian Government and is providing support for on-ground activities with local community groups, OzFish chapters, Native Fish Australia (Victoria) and landowners across 17 bushfire affected areas in Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria.

The funding is providing on-ground bushfire recovery actions for 10 threatened aquatic animals, including six fish species, three species of Spiny Crayfish and the Manning River Helmeted Turtle.

Recent projects include habitat rehabilitation for the Oxleyan Pygmy Perch in Northern NSW. Problems such as overgrown woody weeds, erosion, and the decimation of old-growth trees brought on by the disasters have seen some of the last remaining healthy breeding grounds for this species' struggle to revive.

Across two kilometres of the Nymboida River (a perennial stream of the Clarence River catchment), OzFishers have worked hard at restoring habitat of the endangered Freshwater Eastern Cod.

OzFish Unlimited CEO, Craig Copeland said, "Recreational anglers in fire impacted areas were reporting the devastation to OzFish. We were receiving daily reports of water quality resembling sludge, complete losses of riverbank vegetation, dying fish, some in areas with threatened species."

President of Native Fish Australia, Tim Curmi said, "Habitat restoration and targeted native fish reintroductions are key to the survival of native species in these bushfire impacted regions and it's really encouraging for people to know they have access to support to get their projects off the ground which benefit, not only the natural environment, but the whole community."

TOP: OzFish chapters, like this one at Murdering Creek, are coordinating on-ground bushfire recovery actions for 10 threatened Aquatic animals. Credit-OzFish

BOTTOM: Macquarie Perch return to water. Credit Zeb Tonkin-Arthur Rylah Institute



2020/2021 FINANCIAL YEAR LANDCARE AUSTRALIA IMPACT

2,540

TOTAL NUMBER OF PROJECTS FUNDED BY GRANTS

\$4.03M

FUNDING AWARDED TO LANDCARE GROUPS THROUGH GRANTS, CORPORATE ENVIRONMENTAL VOLUNTEERING AND DONATIONS

229,935

STUDENTS INVOLVED IN JUNIOR LANDCARE PROJECTS

2,189

HOURS OF CORPORATE ENVIRONMENTAL VOLUNTEERING

325,132

NUMBER OF TREES AND PLANTS ESTABLISHED

3,664

HECTARES AREA OF WEED CONTROL

25,790

KILOGRAMS OF MARINE DEBRIS REMOVED

220,000

LANDCARE IN FOCUS MAGAZINE READERSHIP FOR EACH EDITION

1 Million

PAGE VIEWS ACROSS THE LANDCARE AUSTRALIA WEBSITES

12,444

LANDCARE, COASTCARE, JUNIOR LANDCARE AND OTHER GROUPS REGISTERED ON THE NATIONAL LANDCARE DIRECTORY

50

PROJECTS FUNDED THAT INCORPORATED AND SUPPORTED ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER ENGAGEMENT AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

3,676

NEST BOXES INSTALLED TO SUPPORT BIODIVERSITY, MANY OF WHICH ARE BUILT AND INSTALLED SPECIFICALLY TO PREVENT THE EXTINCTION OF THREATENED SPECIES

The number of projects and impact outcomes for 2020/2021 were impacted by COVID-19 restrictions

Landcare Australia's contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are at the core of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by United Nations Member States in 2015. This agenda provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future.

Through supporting communities, helping build resilience in food and farming systems, managing major ecological restoration projects and educating about environmental values, Landcare Australia's work contributes towards many of the SDGs.

Likewise, the more than 6,000 community groups and organisations that make up the Landcare community contribute to the SDGs in their everyday work. Activities including educational workshops, revegetation and weed control, sustainable agriculture projects, and marine debris collection, tie in with this global call-to-action which includes targets related to tackling climate change, responsible consumption and production, and preserving our oceans and forests.

This year Landcare Australia's work contributed to 11 of the 17 SDGs, as outlined below. Activities undertaken across Junior Landcare, corporate partner-funded Landcare projects, the Landcare Farming Program, and all other projects and programs, respond to these global targets and indicators for each overarching goal.



2 ZERO HUNGER

- A national benchmarking project was undertaken as part of the Landcare Farming Program, a joint program with the National Landcare Network. This will assist in a better understanding of the environmental footprint of Australian primary producers.
- 505,590 hectares of farmland was enhanced, and 24 sustainable agriculture projects funded.

Contributed to target 2.4

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

- 54,878 students were involved in Junior Landcare projects, increasing environmental awareness and knowledge through immersive, outdoor education experiences.
- There were 3,760 views of 13 webinars on the Landcarer platform, providing access to experts in a variety of topic areas, including sustainable agriculture, community-based conservation, primary production and volunteer recruitment.

Contributed to targets 4.4 and 4.7

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

- 12,906 plants were established in riparian areas and 2,748kg of litter removed from in or around water bodies, improving water quality, freshwater ecosystem health, and providing critical habitat.
- 6,100 seedlings have been planted on 6.5km of river frontage, and 241,000 square metres of weed control has been undertaken as part of The Biodiversity Project. Funded through the Country Road and Landcare Australia partnership, this initial project will improve water quality and enhance biodiversity on the Kahl and Watson family farms in the Namoi Valley in New South Wales.

Contributed to targets 6.3 and 6.6

7 ENSURE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, SUSTAINABLE AND MODERN ENERGY FOR ALL

- The partnership between a2 Milk™ and Landcare Australia provides funding for sustainability initiatives for a2 Milk™ farms, with reducing energy consumption and increasing the use of renewable energy a focus for three of these projects.

Contributes to targets 7.2 and 7.3

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

- 24 sustainable agriculture projects were funded through Landcare Australia's partnerships, providing \$246,836 in grants to help farming businesses improve the sustainability of their operations.
- The Landcare Farming Program - run jointly with the National Landcare Network - has undertaken 59 carbon footprint and natural capital accounting workshops with more than 580 producers. These will help establish a national benchmark for carbon footprinting and natural capital value on farm, and on-farm demonstration sites will showcase the practices required to build natural capital.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

- 50 projects were undertaken that included activities to promote and conserve traditional knowledge, including schools working with local Indigenous groups to plan bush tucker garden projects, and on-ground projects protecting and safeguarding cultural values.
- 364 hectares of public green spaces were restored through Landcare Australia funded projects, including land affected by the 2019/20 bushfires through the WIRES Landcare Wildlife Relief & Recovery Grants.

Contributed to targets 11.4, 11.7 and 11.a

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION & PRODUCTION

- 99 Junior Landcare projects focused on waste management initiatives, including composting, recycling, awareness raising, worm farms and upcycling initiatives.
- 5,654kg of waste was diverted from landfill through Landcare Australia corporate-funded programs, including the Lendlease Junior Landcare Grants Program and the Coca-Cola Foundation Coastcare Grants.

Contributed to targets 12.2.2, 12.5 and 12.6

13 CLIMATE ACTION

- 2,540 projects were funded, focusing on a range of areas to help combat climate change and its impacts, including bushfire recovery, habitat protection and restoration, weed control and revegetation.
- 10,355 volunteers dedicated 47,124 hours to improve the ecological health and biodiversity of their local areas. 462 volunteers assisted local Landcare groups and community organisations through Corporate Environmental Volunteering events.

Contributed to target 13.3

14 LIFE BELOW WATER

- 18 Coastcare projects were funded to protect or manage coastal or marine environments, including nine Coca-Cola and Landcare Australia partnership funded projects which reduced marine litter, protected and enhanced coastal zones, and increased community awareness of the adverse effects of pollution and litter on the marine environment.
- 25,790kg of debris and litter was collected from coastal areas, through community clean-up days and working bees undertaken by local groups in partnership with schools and community members.

Contributed to target 14.2

15 LIFE ON LAND

- 3,676 nest boxes were installed, providing habitat for wildlife, including threatened species adversely affected by a loss of habitat due to bushfires.
- \$360,101 was distributed to 112 projects focusing on community-led bushfire and disaster recovery efforts, including habitat rehabilitation, and wildlife protection.
- 3,664 hectares of weed control was undertaken, and 193,576 plants established across 2,086 Landcare Australia funded projects.

Contributed to targets 15.3, 15.5, 15.8 and 15.a

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

- Landcare Australia worked in partnership with the Australian government, the Victorian Government and 33 corporate partners.
- Partnerships were facilitated between 15 businesses and 16 Landcare or community groups which engaged 462 employees in environmental volunteering events.
- Data was captured across all grants programs to determine how they contributed to the SDGs, providing an ability to report back to partners and demonstrate the impact of their partnerships.

Contributed to target 17.16



LANDCARE IMPACT



IMPACTS

BIODIVERSITY

Supporting Australian farmlands in cotton landscapes



The Biodiversity Project contributes to three SDGs through a collaborative approach between multiple project partners and stakeholders to protect and restore riparian habitats, and improve biodiversity across Australian farmlands.

In October 2020, Country Road proudly launched a partnership with Landcare Australia, making a commitment to provide a minimum of \$600,000 for The Biodiversity Project.

Country Road is supporting biodiversity restoration projects across Australian farmlands in cotton landscapes and the program is called The Biodiversity Project. The initial project is being implemented by the Kahl family in the Namoi Valley, NSW—a region significantly affected by biodiversity loss and in need of restoration. Proud third generation cotton farmers, the Kahl family is participating in the program by revegetating land adjoining a river system that flows through their property. Benefits of the project will include increased habitat and shelter for native animals, reduced erosion along the river bank, improved water quality and enhanced biodiversity. The second project has already commenced with the Watson family to enhance 3.6kms of riparian habitat along the Namoi River in Boggabri.

The Australian cotton industry has played a supporting role in this partnership by providing the findings of its research to inform priority areas and actions for biodiversity restoration in cotton farming landscapes, identifying farmers to participate in the program and working with them to develop on-ground projects that deliver benefits to the natural environment.

Research findings from 'Management of Biodiversity in the Cotton Landscape: Iconic and Threatened Species', a report developed by the Cotton Research and Development Corporation with support from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program Smart Farming Partnership Initiative Round 1, have been used to identify regions and projects that best support environmental outcomes.

Country Road's commitment to the partnership is via a corporate contribution and funds raised through the sale of its famous Verified Australian Cotton Heritage Sweats. This level of funding will provide Landcare Australia with the means to conduct multiple biodiversity projects in the Namoi region of NSW and invite more Australian farmers to participate in the program. The Kahl and Watson families are just the beginning.

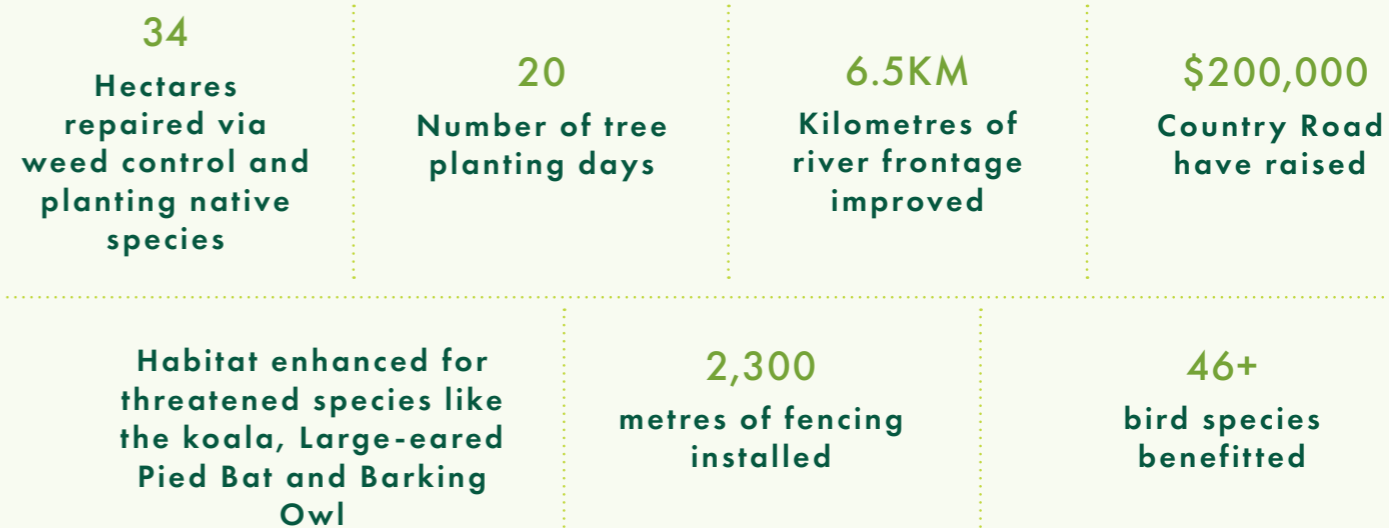
By purchasing a Country Road Verified Australian Cotton Heritage Sweat, customers can actively support farmers in regenerating Australian landscapes.

Country Road Managing Director, Elle Roseby, says, "Landcare Australia shares Country Road's deep appreciation for what makes our backyard so special. Their vision of 'All Australians caring for the land and water that sustain us' is one that resonates, more so than ever, with both Country Road the brand and our wider community."

The partnership with Country Road is a powerful example of how Landcare Australia brings together organisations to work on projects that will have a meaningful impact for farmers, the environment and the local community.

TOP: Third generation cotton farmers, the Kahl family is participating in the Country Road/Landcare Australia Biodiversity Project.

THE BIODIVERSITY PROJECT-IMPACT AS AT 30 JUNE 2021





IMPACTS

LANDCARE FARMING

Landcare Farming Program



Underpinned by a set of environmental best practices, the Landcare Farming Program (LFP) is supporting Australian farmers to undertake sustainable and resilient agriculture practices.

In a changing climate and with a need to move towards more sustainable patterns of production, the LFP contributes to multiple SDGs, with a focus on responsible production, sustainable agriculture production, climate change adaptation and resilience, and sustainable land management.

The Landcare Farming Program (LFP) is a joint initiative between Landcare Australia and the National Landcare Network, funded by the Australian Government. Over the last year, the LFP has worked with multiple leading agriculture stakeholders, including AgriFutures, National Farmers Federation and Cattle Council. We have worked with the MLA partners in the Australian Beef and Sheep Sustainability Framework, and Hort Innovation in carbon farming and stewardship project design. Landcare Australia is also working with Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC), Hort Innovation and the cotton industry in developing biodiversity frameworks. The LFP has participated in co-design panels with Climate Works and Latrobe University for natural capital methods, and is partnering in four Drought Research Hubs.

The partnerships with these organisations has allowed the LFP to gain deeper recognition with producers and agricultural stakeholders, which has led to opportunities to work with agriculture corporates and industry bodies. Stakeholders the LFP is working with include red meat production (AgForce, Paraway, Cattle Council, NABRC, Pardoo Beef and JBS); wool/fibre buyers (Schneider, Kering, Fox and Lillie and Authentico), as well as Australian Mangoes and Sustainable Avocados Strategy. The LFP is engaged with the Rural Development Corporations (RDCs) and Agricultural Innovation Australia and contributing to their program strategy.

The LFP launched a national benchmarking project in December 2020 to better understand the environmental footprint of Australian primary producers. In this short time, the LFP team has delivered over 50 multi-stage workshops across Australia, with the aim of creating a common national benchmark for carbon footprinting and natural capital value on farm. It is anticipated that by September 2021, there will be almost 600 participants providing an environmental snapshot of their business. These producers will be invited to develop selected demonstration sites to showcase the management practices required to build natural capital on-farm.

During the implementation of the benchmarking project, the LFP worked, closely with CSIRO and leading agriculture stakeholders to develop and pilot a new natural capital accounting methodology for soil and vegetation. This included two new carbon footprint assessments, one for both viticulture (grapes and winery) and tree crops (mangoes/ avocados/macadamias), both are the first of their kind in Australian agriculture. There is the potential to extend producer participation, and further highlight the role of landcare as a partner of choice in these evolving markets.

To link the environmental benchmarking to best practice for different agricultural sector stakeholders, the LFP has developed a set of environmental themes and principles. These provide a common set of simple environmental best practices, regardless of the agriculture region or commodity produced, with the objective to provide a pathway to improved natural capital or carbon on-farm.

Six Rural Development Corporations (RDCs) and multiple universities have been involved in the LFP activities and this has led to involvement of the LFP as a working partner in four of the eight Drought Hubs hosted by the Australian Government.

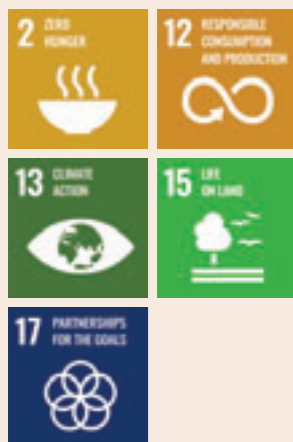




IMPACTS

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Making dairy farm operations more sustainable



The partnership between a2 Milk™ and Landcare Australia is focused on increasing the on-farm sustainability of a2 Milk™ suppliers. This contributes to multiple SDGs, which include targets based on increasing biodiversity, reducing energy use and increasing the amount of renewable energy being utilised, improving soil health and responsible production.

BACKGROUND

Since its inception in 2017, the partnership between Landcare Australia and the a2 Milk™ Company has provided more than \$600,000 in funding for sustainability initiatives with positive environmental and business outcomes for a2 Milk™ dairy farmers.

The a2 Milk™ Sustainable Agriculture Landcare Grants, of up to \$35,000 each, fund projects that focus on initiatives to enhance sustainability and achieve positive environmental and business outcomes, such as increased biodiversity, reduced erosion, improved productivity, and improved pasture health, as well as energy reduction initiatives.

In early 2021, three grant recipients from the New South Wales Mid North Coast completed projects that demonstrate how looking to the future by investing in technology, infrastructure and land management can help dairy farmers improve their profitability while reducing the impact on their local environment.

Benefits of installing solar panels and heat recovering systems

In Dorrigo, Tim Billing, an innovative farmer who wanted to reduce his on-grid reliance and carbon footprint, used his grant to install solar panels and energy efficiency technology to cut his reliance on on-grid power.

Tim said, “We compared our usage from November to February 2020 with the same period the following year and noticed we cut on-grid power by 25 per cent overall.”

He explained the two systems work well with the operation, with the solar panels at times providing 100 per cent of the power for the grain milling when operated in the middle of the day. He also noted that the heat recovery system has two inverters that sync with the dairy and draw on solar when it is available.

IMPROVING DAIRY HERD HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Mark Perry, whose dairy is near Bellingen, used his grant to pave the laneways his 150 milkers use to move between paddock and milking shed. The area is prone to high rainfall that turned the lanes into muddy bogs causing hoof problems and mastitis in his livestock.

The cement laneways have improved things significantly. Mark said, “With the health of the cows now improved, we don’t need to take as many cows out of the milking herd.

“It’s made the task of moving the livestock easier and more seamless, which is good for the cattle and our workers.”

With the laneway concreted and fenced, there is less erosion in the laneway and nutrient run-off, which is an environmental benefit overall.

Using effluent as fertiliser

Paula Gray wanted to make better use of the effluent produced on her dairy near Kempsey. Extending infrastructure already on the farm to spread the effluent onto pasture as fertiliser, Paula said the grant allowed them to prevent build-up and concentration of nutrients in one area.

“Spreading the effluent over a smaller area created a risk the excess nutrients would flow into the creek that runs through our property,” Paula said. She added the newly installed pipes, funded by the grant, allow the manure to be spread across a greater area of pasture.

As an added benefit, Paula said they are seeing cost savings as more effluent is being used as fertiliser and they have been able to reduce their use of chemical fertiliser.

CONCLUSION

All the farmers said investing in their operations to make them more sustainable was an excellent opportunity to stay in the dairy industry and improve their productivity. Tim Billing added the grants have given them an opportunity to invest in technology that may otherwise be out of their reach or would take a substantial time to save for.

TOP OF PAGE 50: Mark Perry on his dairy farm near Bellingen.

LEFT: Tim Billing and his son, Jonathan on their Dorrigo dairy farm.

RIGHT: Paula and Mick Gray on their Upper Rollands Plains property.

Investing in technology, infrastructure and land management can help dairy farmers improve their profitability while reducing the impact on their local environment.



BEFORE



AFTER

IMPACTS
COASTCARE

Managing the impacts of tourism on a sensitive Western Australian site



Contributing to three SDGs on multiple levels, this project is protecting a local coastal area from the negative impacts of tourism, and improving its biodiversity and ecosystem health. By working with local Indigenous representatives, the cultural significance of the site is being protected.

BACKGROUND

The beach at Yallingup, surrounded by the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park, near Margaret River, is an iconic surf location, as well as a culturally and environmentally significant area.

Increased tourism had resulted in a higher risk of coastal features becoming degraded through more frequent foot traffic and pedestrians accessing the bushland areas off the formal paths.

Erosion, compaction and the formation of more informal tracks were negatively impacting the natural environment. This resulted in fewer native plants via natural regeneration, trampling of native vegetation, reduced habitat for native fauna, introduction of weed species, increased soil erosion and reduction of biodiversity.

In late 2019, to help reduce the human impact on the natural environment, a \$10,000 Coastcare grant funded by Fremantle-based brewing company, Little Creatures, was awarded to the Yallingup Land Conservation District Committee.

IMPACT

Environmental Outcomes

To achieve the best environmental outcomes for this large-scale project, multiple site visits were arranged with environmental landscape consultants from Parks and Wildlife. Creating a formal access to the area enabled the planting out of degraded zones. This involved 1,000 square metres of weed control and the planting of 650 coastal native seedlings.

The Yallingup Land Conservation District Committee constructed a 130m crushed limestone pathway surrounded by 650 new plantings, leading visitors from the carpark around to a lookout for viewing the surf beach, while reducing environmental risk from erosion.

The Yallingup Land Conservation District Committee, in conjunction with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, is maintaining this project into the future. This will involve maintenance of the track, weed control and further plantings on a needs basis.

This project highlights the importance of managing the impacts of tourism on a popular, sensitive site so that the natural environment remains healthy whilst enhancing the visitor experience.

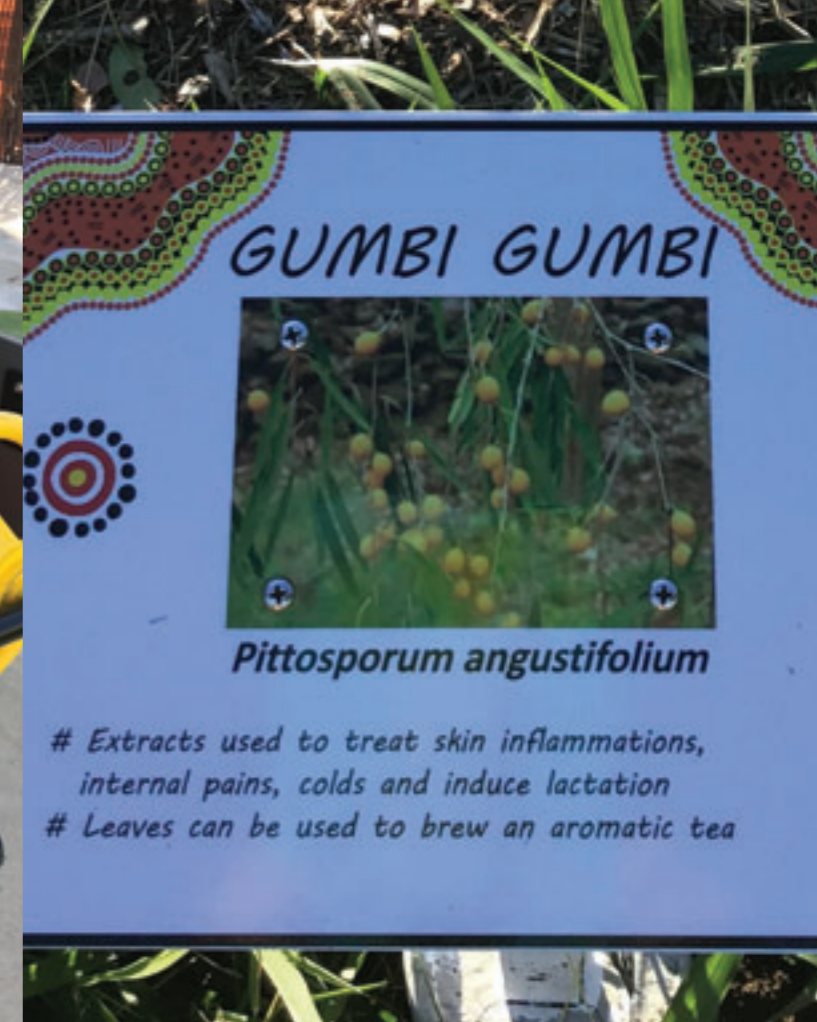
Community and Social Outcomes

The willingness of the Yallingup Boardriders Association to become involved in the project enabled the Yallingup Land Conservation District Committee to promote the importance of maintaining this natural environment and gave ownership to the community.

Overall, the project was highly successful and supported by the local community and tourists. Interaction between government agencies and community groups, including Indigenous cultural representation, was instrumental to the project's success.

LEFT BEFORE: This beach area at Yallingup had become degraded through higher frequency of foot traffic and pedestrians accessing the bushland areas off the formal paths, as well as erosion and subsequent sediment run off and soil from compaction and formation of more informal tracks negatively impacting the natural environment.

RIGHT AFTER: A Coastcare grant funded by Little Creatures Brewery, enabled the Yallingup Land Conservation District Committee to construct a 130m crushed limestone pathway surrounded by 650 new plantings, leading visitors from the carpark around to a lookout for viewing the surf beach, while reducing environmental risk from erosion.



IMPACTS
JUNIOR LANDCARE

Environmental projects help foster appreciation of Indigenous perspectives



These projects saw improvements in the health of natural habitats in the school as well as the biodiversity of the school grounds. They also educated the children involved on the importance of protecting cultural heritage by increasing their understanding and appreciation of Indigenous culture at a local level. Awareness of responsible waste management and consumption was also an area of focus for the students and teachers involved.

BACKGROUND

In October 2020, 12 primary and high schools in Queensland and Western Australia were recipients of the first Lendlease Junior Landcare Grants. The grants, of up to \$5,000 each, were awarded for environmental projects focusing on biodiversity, food production, Indigenous perspectives, waste management or a combination of these.

The goal of this grants program is to support the next generation of environmental and community leaders through fostering relationships with youth, the local community and Indigenous champions to drive greater environmental and social outcomes in communities where Lendlease has a presence.

By mid-2021, the schools were providing their final project reports, showing excellent outcomes. Following are highlights of projects from two schools—one in far North Queensland and the other, across the country near Perth.

Alkimos Beach Public School- Western Australia

With funds from its Lendlease Junior Landcare Grant, Alkimos Beach Public School, located on the traditional lands of the Whadjuk people on Perth's North West coastal corridor, implemented a double project.

Understanding local Indigenous culture

The school wanted to ensure that students had a better understanding and appreciation about the local Indigenous Whadjuk culture. One part of their project was for Year 6 students to design seasonal 'totem' poles to represent Aboriginal Dreamtime stories specific to the local area and to feature these as an extension of an Aboriginal yarning circle which also incorporates an

Indigenous garden. Local Aboriginal Elders and artists provided support and assistance with the designs and painting of the seasons for the poles.

Emily, a Year 6 student said, "I loved learning about why we were painting the poles a certain way."

Waste Management Education

The second aspect of the project was to help children in kindergarten and pre-primary develop strong recycling habits from an early age and to understand the impact using sustainable products can have on their daily lives.

Farnborough State School- Queensland

With a focus on Indigenous perspectives and cultural awareness, Farnborough State School located on the traditional lands of the Darumbal people on Queensland's Far North Coast, used its Lendlease Junior Landcare Grant to create a bush tucker trail with native plantings, leading to a yarning circle.

The Farnborough school community cleared an area, identified, researched and planted a variety of trees including rainforest/beach scrub, fruit and bush tucker along their bush tucker trail and native garden. Julian, a Year 1 student, remarked, "I liked planting the Julian Jackfruit tree."

The yarning circle provides a peaceful area for learning as well for social and interactions and wellbeing. Through ongoing care of the trail, the students are learning of how to sustain the trees which benefits the school community.

By using native plants suitable to the area, the school has provided additional habitat for the wildlife that frequents the school grounds. Mulching around the trees along the trail has improved the underlying soil quality which has boosted the health of the trees, again increasing the number of habitats.

The teacher who coordinated this project commented "that it has allowed them to open up a safe outside learning area to all of our school students and visiting community groups."

TOP OF PAGE 56: The inclusion of totem poles to the yarning circle area at Alkimos Beach Public School helped students develop an understanding of how important the natural environment is to Aboriginal people and how Dreamtime stories explain this.

LEFT: Younger students at Alkimos Beach Public School learned the correct skills to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle by providing waste management resources for them to use on a daily basis at school, instilling skills they can take home to their families.

RIGHT: Signage plaques with QR Codes were created and placed beside a number of the trees. This provides Farnborough State School students and community members an easy way to gain insight about the significance of these trees and other plants in Aboriginal culture.



LANDCARE PARTNERSHIPS



Federal, State and Local Government Partners

Landcare Australia works with governments at all levels to support individuals, groups and organisations involved in landcare activities to protect, enhance and restore the natural environment in their local community. The funding and in-kind contributions raised from government partnerships supports Landcare Australia to develop programs that are practical, deliverable and community focused.

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT NATIONAL LANDCARE PROGRAM



Building Landcare Community Capacity (BLCC) is an element of the Smart Farms Program under Phase 2 of the National Landcare Program. The BLCC has been designed to meet an identified need for a flexible funding program that underpins the delivery of agriculture-focused, strategic,

capacity building initiatives through targeted grants to support the sharing of knowledge and achievements, and promote community leadership. The expected outcomes of the BLCC are the improved capability of stakeholders to better manage the natural resources for which they are responsible, higher involvement of youth, women and Indigenous people in landcare, and increased adoption of sustainable agriculture practices that will deliver a more productive and profitable agriculture industry.

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT



Landcare Australia is supported by the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) to deliver the National Landcare Conference,

the National Landcare Awards, the State and Territory Landcare Awards, and the Bob Hawke Landcare Award. Landcare Australia is also funded to publish the Landcare in Focus magazine, and manage the digital community platform, Landcarer.

In May 2020, Federal Environment Minister Sussan Ley announced the landmark \$14million Landcare Led Bushfire Recovery Grants Program. The funding is supporting landcare and community led bushfire recovery projects in seven government designated bushfire regions impacted by the Black Summer bushfires of 2019/2020, across Queensland, New South Wales, the Australian Capital Territory, Victoria and South Australia.

Funded by the Australian Government, the program will provide grants for local and regional activities supporting bushfire recovery for fire-affected plant and animal species, ecological communities, and natural assets – including Ramsar listed wetlands and World Heritage listed sites. The \$14million bushfire grants program will be delivered in partnership with the National Landcare Network, the

Landcare peak bodies in Queensland, New South Wales, the Australian Capital Territory, Victoria and South Australia, together with Landcare Australia.

VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, LAND, WATER & PLANNING



In 2020/2021, the Victorian Government's Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning (DELWP), through the Victorian Landcare Program, provided \$100,000 to Landcare Australia to leverage corporate and other non-government funding for landcare projects in Victoria. This funding contributes to Landcare Australia's success in providing funding to a diverse range of landcare projects across the state

as well as showcasing inspirational Victorian Landcare stories to a wide audience through various media and communications activities.

In addition to the above support, since 2018, DELWP has funded the Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants Program every year. The grants, of up to \$5,000 each, are delivered in partnership with Landcare Australia. They provide opportunities for schools, kindergartens, preschools, childcare centres, scouts/guides and other youth groups to secure funding to engage young Victorians in outdoor, hands-on, on-ground biodiversity projects.

In October 2020, a third round of 113 grants was awarded for a total of \$409,500. Grant recipients completed their projects in May 2021. Despite the challenges presented by COVID-19, the environmental outcomes of the projects were significant, with 21,747 plants planted, 36,074 square metres of weeds removed, 239 nest boxes built and 111 biodiversity surveys undertaken. Over 7,700 students and 1,742 volunteers have been involved in these projects.

Recipients of a fourth round of Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity grants will be announced in the second half of 2021.



Corporate Partnerships

Support from our corporate partners enables Landcare Australia to offer grants and other project support to Landcare, Bushcare and Coastcare Groups, farmers, Australian schools, early learning centres and youth organisations. For over 30 years, Landcare Australia has worked in partnership with a diverse range of businesses to help them achieve their goals in specific areas, as well as delivering on-ground funding to the Landcare community.

In 2020-2021, Landcare Australia partnered with 33 organisations across the country to develop projects or provide grant funding to support the Landcare community with sustainable land management and conservation activities.

operations. Nine farmers in New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia received grants of up to \$35,000 each.

Since its inception in 2017, the partnership between Landcare Australia and The a2 Milk™ Company has provided more than \$600,000 of funding for sustainability initiatives with positive environmental and business outcomes for a2 Milk™ farms.

During the year recipients who received 2019-2020 grants completed their projects, reporting excellent outcomes, including four certified a2 Milk™ dairy farmers on the NSW Mid North Coast. Their projects ranged from cutting on-grid power usage by 25 per cent by installing solar panels, to extending infrastructure to spread effluent onto pasture as a fertiliser.

These farmers and others that have received a2 Milk™ Sustainable Agriculture Landcare Grants say the grants give them a chance to invest in technology that may otherwise be out of their reach or would take a substantial time to save for. All the farmers said investing in their operations to make them more sustainable was an excellent opportunity to stay in

the dairy industry and improve their productivity. See Sustainable Farming Impact article on page 52.

TOP: Paula and Mick Gray, a2™ Sustainable Agriculture Landcare Grant recipients, on their dairy farm near Kempsey, New South Wales.



One of the largest gas infrastructure businesses in Australia, AGIG (Australian Gas Infrastructure Group) owns and operates the Dampier to Bunbury Natural Gas Pipeline in Western Australia. In 2021, their partnership with Landcare Australia has provided additional funding to the 2019/2020 projects near the pipeline that focus on protection of threatened and endangered species impacted by the Black Summer bushfires. While COVID-19 restrictions sometimes made it difficult, the three Western Australian groups that received AGIG Landcare Grants in late 2019, completed their projects in late 2020 reporting impressive results.

An example of these inspiring results is the Waterbird Conservation Group's project. They helped restore habitat for Western Australian priority species quenda (a sub-species of the Southern Brown Bandicoot), Blue-billed duck and Rakali (commonly known as water rats) on the banks of the Folly Wetland in Baldvis, near Rockingham. The group achieved this by increasing vegetation through planting over 7,000 seedlings to help recover the fauna habitat burnt in a June 2019 fire. Dense shrubby understorey was created on the wetland's banks through planting native sedges, rushes, shrubs and small trees.



Two of the 20 volunteers from the Waterbird Conservation Group who planted native plants on the banks of the Folly Wetland.



The Australian Home Heating Association (AHHA) is the peak industry body representing over 250 manufacturers, retailers, installers and maintenance companies of the home heating industry.

A long-time supporter of Landcare Australia, AHHA is committed to promoting home heating solutions that benefit consumers and the environment.



Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) manages an 8,500km rail network across five states, maintaining the safe transit of freight and passenger trains daily. They have partnered with Landcare Australia since 2017.

During this four year partnership, ARTC has funded 29 Junior Landcare Grants in New South Wales, Drought Assistance Grants to two NSW Central West Landcare Groups and a project in collaboration with Landcare Australia and the Department of Transport and Infrastructure to rehabilitate degraded railway land at Mile End in Adelaide, South Australia.



Banrock Station the Australian eco-friendly wine brand from Accolade Wines, partnered with Landcare

Australia in late 2020 to plant 100,000 native trees and shrubs in 2021 and 2022.

With the planting of thousands of trees and shrubs, this initiative is supporting biodiversity and animal habitats, clean air and water, while responding to the impacts of a changing climate and deforestation.

Landcare Australia has worked with Banrock Station for many years on projects in Australia, and this new partnership is helping to continue restore valuable natural assets and native habitat for wildlife and local communities.

A core pillar of the Banrock Station brand is its commitment to the environment, demonstrated through the Banrock Station Environmental Trust, whereby a portion of profits are reinvested to support conservation projects around the world.



Banrock Station encompasses over 1000 hectares of wetlands that provide a haven for over 17,000 native plants, animals and threatened birdlife and act as a carbon capture helping produce clean air and reduce climate change.



Bushmans Tanks and Landcare Australia began their partnership in 2019 to increase awareness about rainwater harvesting and to support children to play an active role in creating a sustainable future.

After the successful completion of projects with a water focus from the inaugural round of Bushmans Junior Landcare Grants, in late 2020, Bushmans funded a second round of grants to 15 regional primary and high schools in Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and New South Wales.

The second round of grant projects include creating bush, native and vegetable gardens, frog ponds, worm farms and composting. They are employing multiple water conservation tactics ranging from drip irrigation to using drought tolerant plants and solar water pumps. The 2020 grant recipients are scheduled to complete their projects later in 2021.

Bushmans is an Australian family owned and operated company specialising in water tanks and storage solutions for households, agricultural and farm use.



Henschke Catholic Primary School in Wagga Wagga in regional New South Wales, was one of 15 primary and high schools in three states to receive a 2020 Bushmans Junior Landcare Grant.

CORPORATE PARTNERS



A Brambles Company

Landcare Australia partnered with CHEP Australia in 2019 to deliver strategic projects that will create value for CHEP's supply chain partners and benefit the environment and regional farming communities. In November 2020, the Upper Snowy Landcare Network in southern NSW was awarded the inaugural CHEP Australia Land Management and Sustainable Agriculture Landcare Grant worth \$60,000.

The project will help restore the original grassy woodland community, resulting in the return of ecosystem function and delivery of environmental services to the surrounding farmland such as increasing biodiversity, improving water retention, and drawing down carbon into the soil and plants.

In May 2021, The project's major milestone was the planting of 4,500 native trees and shrubs on Coolringdon, a historic grazing property, in response to a massive eucalyptus tree dieback in the area. Using cutting edge software from the Mullion Group, CHEP has forecast carbon sequestered in the reforestation project to be



Arnhem Coast Clean Up Group members, who received a 2020 Coca-Cola Foundation Landcare Australia Coastal Protection Grant, remove plastic from a local beach.

approximately 3,277 tonnes over the next 25 years. While only a small project covering 5.7 hectares, the estimated carbon abatement represents an island of hope in the context of declining forest cover in the region over the last 150 years.

Alongside 20 Upper Snowy Landcare Network volunteers and 10 contractors, 25 CHEP Australia employees appreciated the opportunity to travel to the site from Sydney to spend two days volunteering to help with this major planting.



CHEP Australia employees enjoyed helping plant 4,500 native plants to support regenerating the Monaro.



In 2021, the Coca-Cola Foundation and Landcare Australia continued to support coastal protection projects through the Coca-Cola Foundation Coastcare Grants program. This grants program supports the development of Landcare and Coastcare groups working on and along various waterways, particularly with helping improve marine water quality and habitats through the reduction in the amount of litter and pollution entering the marine environment. Environmental, social and educational benefits are numerous with positive effects enduring into the future.

The nine community environmental groups that received grants in early 2020 completed their projects, with many surpassing their target metrics. One of the funded projects was a marine debris community awareness campaign by the Arnhem Coast Clean Up Group in the Northern Territory. The Yolngu people of this region speak English as their third or even fifth language. The group used their grant to develop resources in first language for Yolngu on single use plastics, to help increase awareness and

involvement of local Yolngu to help remove plastic from local beaches.

The 2021 Coca-Cola Foundation Coastcare Grants were awarded to seven community environmental groups in six states and territories with a mix of continuing and new projects.

Greater public awareness of marine litter and its effect on waterways sustainability was also achieved with the development of the Coastcare Tool Kit, which was launched and promoted during Coastcare Week 2020.

COUNTRY ROAD

In late 2020, Landcare Australia announced a three year partnership with iconic Australian fashion lifestyle brand, Country Road. This alliance is engaging cotton growers in biodiversity restoration projects across Australian farmlands, as part of Country Road's commitment to supporting local communities and the environment.

The Namoi Valley region in New South Wales is significantly affected by biodiversity loss and in need of restoration. Local cotton farmers,

the Kahl family, are the program's first participants by revegetating land adjoining the Namoi River that flows through their property. Benefits of the project include increased habitat and shelter for native animals, reduced erosion along the river bank, improved water quality and enhanced biodiversity.

A second project has also commenced with the Watson family to enhance 3.6kms of riparian habitat along the Namoi River in Boggabri.

Country Road has committed a minimum of \$600,000 to the partnership over three years, via a corporate contribution and funds raised through the sale of its famous Verified Australian Cotton Heritage Sweats. This level of funding will provide Landcare Australia with the means to work with the Australian cotton industry to conduct multiple biodiversity projects in the region and invite more Australian farmers to participate in the program. See page 48 for full article.

TOP: Third generation cotton farmers, the Kahl family, are the first participants in the Country Road-Landcare Australia biodiversity restoration project.



In late 2020, 4 Pines Brewing Co. partnered with Landcare Australia to deliver a project aimed at improving

biodiversity and sustainable agriculture on its hops supplier's farm.

Irrigation for farming at Ryefield Hops in NSW's Bega Valley comes from an on-site creek. The 1,000 native plants planted in June along the creekline will help retain soil moisture and prevent further erosion improving the farm's sustainability and biodiversity. Another 2,000 native plants will be planted mid-2022. See page 40 for more about this project.

This project marks the launch of the commitment 4 Pines is making to 1% for the Planet, a global organisation that exists to ensure the planet and future generations thrive. As a member of 1% for the Planet, 4 Pines is donating 1per cent of its revenue from three of its beers (Pale Ale, Pacific Ale and Extra Refreshing Ale) to Landcare Australia and organisations tackling our planet's most pressing environmental issues.



4 PINES BREWING CO continued

Using business and beer as a force for good is part of 4 Pines' commitment to 'Brew Better', a promise to find that sweet green spot between planet, people, purpose and profit.

TOP: Teams from 4 Pines, Ryefield Hops Farm and the Far South Coast Landcare Association planted 1,000 native plants on the hops farm.



In 2021, when applications opened for the second round of Gallagher Landcare Electric Fencing Grants, Gallagher continued its commitment to build deep relationships with the landcare community across Australia. The grants provide support for conservation and grazing management fencing projects around the country, with close support from the national network of Gallagher Territory Managers.

"We started to see and hear about the positive impacts that protecting these areas using Gallagher electric fencing solutions were having on the goals the landcare groups were looking achieve

– this encouraged us to believe that by continuing our support, we could truly help make an impact on the future care of the land in Australia," said Malcolm Linn, General Manager of Gallagher Australia.

Eligible applicants were invited to apply for an individual electric fencing project grant for up to \$8,000, for fencing materials and cash to support the delivery of projects. Fourteen groups and landholders in New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania and Victoria received 2021 Gallagher Landcare Electric Fencing Grants.

This year's projects range far and wide, including a Victorian Landcare Group that is creating an area of exclusion fencing to enable the success of a revegetation project. Meanwhile, in Tasmania, a small, family-owned beef breeding farmer will install 900m of Gallagher electric fencing to prevent uncontrolled grazing by wildlife, also planting trees to create shelter belts to reduce wind velocity and transepiration from the pasture.

Gallagher offers a full range of animal management products and integrated solutions, including a range of permanent and portable electric fencing.



Members of the Mid Loddon Catchment Management Network alongside the Gallagher-sponsored predator-proof enclosure which protects a population of Bush Stone Curlews. Gallagher Landcare Electric Fencing grants will again support Landcare projects aiming to achieve conservation and grazing management goals in 2021.



In 2017, Landcare Australia partnered with Hawke's Brewing Co., the independent,

Australian-owned beer company, named after former Prime Minister, the Hon. Bob Hawke AC. Mr Hawke kindly donated his royalties from the company to help support on-ground landcare projects.

In September 2020, the partnership expanded with the Hawke's Brewing Landcare Threatened Species Bushfire Grants. Three groups in New South Wales and South Australia received a total of \$40,000 in funding to help with post-bushfire recovery and resilience-building projects for threatened species. These projects will be completed by the end of 2021:

- The Capertee Valley Landcare Group is providing long-term watering points for the critically endangered Regent Honeyeater and other declining Woodland Birds within the Valley.
- The Native Animal Rescue Group is installing hundreds of nesting boxes for arboreal mammals,

including threatened species like the Greater Gliders so these, and other native animals and birds can return to fire-affected areas.

- Kersbrook Landcare Group's nursery is growing 7,500 local Indigenous plants with the Friends of Charleston Conservation Park, planting them to revegetate habitat for the Western Pygmy Possum and other bird and fauna species.

To support bushfire recovery, Hawke's also donated \$32,000 to Landcare Australia's Bushfire and Natural Disaster Recovery Fund.

Going forward, Hawke's Brewing is committed to providing additional funding to go towards supporting local projects in Sydney's Inner West, where they have based their new state-of-the-art brewery, which features a range of innovative sustainability solutions to help reduce its impact on the environment.

TOP: A Hawke's Brewing Landcare Threatened Species Bushfire Grant is helping to revegetate habitat for Western Pygmy Possums in South Australia's Charleston Conservation Park.



As a key part of their commitment to carbon neutrality, in late 2020, ISPT entered into a groundbreaking partnership with Landcare Australia. The two organisations are collaborating to develop a carbon conservation land bank.

ISPT identified Landcare Australia as a community partner with experience in land regeneration for long-term carbon sequestration. Landcare Australia is working with ISPT to develop projects for generating Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs), biodiversity benefits and community engagement.

ISPT has achieved carbon neutral certification for their corporate offices and the base building operations of the properties they own and operate. In an industry first, ISPT has procured 100 per cent Australian Carbon Credit Offset Units (ACCUs) with a focus on programs connected to Indigenous communities.

CORPORATE PARTNERS



The Jaramas Foundation and Landcare Australia partnership, which began in 2012, continued

to support two community groups to deliver their projects.

In 2020, funding allowed the Harden Murrumburrah Landcare group to continue working on their soil moisture probe project, and extend the capacity of their website improvement to allow the data collected and information gathered to be even more useful to local landholders. The group also held a couple of workshops for local landholders to raise awareness of the benefits of soil moisture probes in land management decisions.

The Riverina Highlands Landcare Network continued with its restoration of Paddock Trees project working with local landholders to restore paddock trees to burnt grazing areas. Landholders who were impacted by fires, were provided with advanced seedlings and cattle-proof tree guards to plant on their properties. The endemic advanced trees are being provided in collaboration with the local Tumut Landcare nursery. The project is designed so each landholder provides a 50:50 funding to in-kind contribution, and the landholder maintaining the sites.



The Jaramas Foundation funded the Riverina Highlands Landcare Network to plant 3,385 tubestock and trees on sites burnt by bushfires near Batlow, NSW.



Andy Vinter, Landcare Officer, Macleay Landcare Network with koala habitat trees propagated by community nursery volunteers as part of the Tree Change for Koalas project funded by Konica Minolta.



KONICA MINOLTA

Konica Minolta has been a Landcare Australia partner since

2011. In 2021, the Macleay Landcare Network in NSW, recipient of a 2020 Konica Minolta Landcare Grant funded by Konica Minolta employee donations and company matching, completed its Tree Change for Koalas project.

With a goal of growing plants that will eventually restore koala habitat and compensate population decline due to recent bush fires, the project's focus was to build community capacity to collect, grow and distribute appropriate local provenance koala food and habitat tree species. This was achieved by several volunteer-run community nurseries working together. Three workshops

and seven field days were conducted with 79 volunteers collecting seeds, propagating and distributing over 4,000 koala food and habitat trees to support the creation of additional koala and wildlife habitat in the region.

Educational resources were also produced that provide information and advice to volunteers and landholders undertaking revegetation activities that will also improve the ecological outcomes of their work.

This effort has triggered the development of a local seed bank and is increasing the local production of koala food and habitat species.

Revegetation projects are now featuring a greater proportion of local-provenance koala food and habitat species.



In June 2021, KPMG Australia's partnership with Landcare Australia marked a major milestone with the launch of an important study titled *Building resilience in local communities: The wellbeing benefits of participating in Landcare*. KPMG Australia produced this study pro bono in partnership with Landcare Australia. See page 24 for the study's findings.

KPMG Australia surveyed more than 1,000 landcare volunteers and coordinators from landcare groups, and interviewed people involved in different landcare activities from across the country.

The survey's aim was to help us better understand the nature and extent of the benefits experienced by people involved in landcare groups or engaged in landcare activities. This major study is assisting Landcare Australia and the broader landcare movement in communicating those benefits to a wider range of stakeholders, ensuring that the full value of landcare is recognised and receives the additional support we know is strongly justified.

KPMG Australia provides professional services to organisations across a wide range of industry, government and civil society sectors. As part of their commitment to delivering a positive impact on society, the organisation generously provided their services pro-bono to facilitate the development of this report.



The partnership between Landcare Australia and Latina™ Fresh, a General Mills

brand, progressed during the year. The two organisations continued working with the Northern Grower Alliance and grain growers in North-West New South Wales to evaluate methods for minimising the impact of drier seasons on grain crops.

Early results of a cover cropping trial on Rimanui Farms west of Moree indicating increased soil water under a cover crop is being further explored in another trial. Stubble management trials are also underway on five properties across the North-West which are evaluating whether high stubble (approximately waist height) increases fallow efficiency (the amount of rainfall stored in the soil) over normal stubble height (approximately knee height).

The project aims to support farmers to develop methods for conserving more of any spring and summer rainfall in the soils and storing it for when needed by crops. These activities have been shown to help stabilise soils, increase fallow efficiency, and, in the medium to long term, help improve resilience of regional farming systems.

Latina™ Fresh has been making fresh pasta using Australian durum wheat for over 20 years. Their pasta relies on high quality Australian durum wheat, 50 to 70 per cent of which is grown in North-West New South Wales.



General Mills has been working with Landcare Australia, the Northern Grower Alliance and grain growers in North-West NSW to evaluate methods for minimising the impact of drier seasons on grain crops



In October 2020, our partnership with Lendlease, a leading international real estate group, continued to evolve. Together, we awarded our first Lendlease Junior Landcare Grants to 12 primary and high schools in Queensland and Western Australia.

The grants program supports the next generation of environmental and community leaders through fostering relationships with youth, the local community and Indigenous champions. Aligned to Lendlease's purpose of creating value through places where communities thrive, the goal is to drive greater environmental and social outcomes in communities where Lendlease has a presence.

Grants of up to \$5,000 each were awarded for environmental projects focusing on biodiversity, food production, Indigenous perspectives, waste management or a combination of these. The schools completed their projects, reporting excellent environmental and educational results. See page 56 article.



Yarrabilba State School in Queensland participating in a wicking bed workshop. They used their Lendlease Junior Landcare Grant to install water tanks and construct wicking garden beds to create a circular food economy.

CORPORATE PARTNERS



Landcare Australia's partnership with Western Australian brewing company Little Creatures started in 2017 with a focus on Coastcare. In late 2020, the Yallingup Land Conservation District Committee completed a project funded by a Little Creatures Coastcare grant resulting in the restoration and protection of a culturally and environmentally significant area in the iconic Margaret River region. Read about this project on page 54.

catchment in Canberra, as well as assisting the work of Ceduna Aboriginal Corporation to upgrade their water delivery system for the seed propagation site. Several groups delivered projects focused on the restoration and rehabilitation of habitat, including planting.



As part of their community engagement program, under the Australian Good Meat initiative, Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) partnered with Landcare Australia in 2019 and in 2020 three groups in New South Wales and Victoria were recipients of the MLA Landcare Excellence in Agriculture Sustainable Farming Grants. These grants recognise and support landcare, farming and community groups who have demonstrated continued dedication and excellence in sustainable agriculture in livestock production.

With 150 people across the three groups involved, this grants program provided opportunities for groups involved in sustainable agriculture and livestock production to undertake soil testing, bring in soils experts, encourage member participation and involvement, and share knowledge with their networks to improve understanding of soil health, farm emissions, carbon farming, carbon trading and the factors that will affect the future of our farming industry; building capacity among landholders to improve their land management.

MLA is a not-for-profit research and marketing service provider for the Australian red meat and livestock industry that, in partnership with Australian government and research bodies and industry stakeholders, works to foster the long-term prosperity of the Australian cattle, sheep and goat sector.

TOP: Landholder, Colin Seis and Watershed Landcare Group conducted a paddock walk to showcase their findings for multispecies cropping as part of their MLA Landcare Excellence in Agriculture Sustainable Farming Grant project.



In 2020, MobileMuster renewed its partnership with Landcare Australia. Later that year, MobileMuster ran a campaign encouraging the public to recycle mobile phones while raising funds for a Landcare Australia project to help plant trees as part of a wetland revegetation and biodiversity project along a strategic stretch of Brown Hill Creek in the City of West Torrens, Adelaide. The diversity of the 2000 native plants planted will support local wildlife species while also improving water quality within Brown Hill Creek.



In late 2020, Landcare Australia partnered with Nature Valley™, a General Mills brand, to award a total of \$80,000 in Nature Valley™ Trail Landcare Grants to two community environmental conservation groups. The grants will enable the groups to rejuvenate iconic walking trails in bushfire affected areas.

In New South Wales, Nambucca Valley Landcare, in collaboration with National Parks and Wildlife Service, Nambucca Valley Council and local schools, is enhancing 12km along the Summit to Sea Walking Track, making it more accessible by adding boardwalks, steps and managing vegetation.

In the Adelaide Hills, a Nature Valley™ Trails Landcare Grant is funding the The Friends of Lobethal Bushland Park Group to purchase materials for building a 250-metre boardwalk and other restoration work. The project is also providing urgently needed soil stabilisation works to reduce the effects of erosion on existing trails and lessen the threat of Phytophthora (a destructive soil-borne water mould) infecting native plants in this extremely sensitive post-fire landscape.



Parks (NPWS) launched the Nature Valley™ Trails Summit to Sea Walking Track project with a NPWS Ranger, Nambucca Valley Landcare Coordinator and other experts presenting the project goals and Work, Health & Safety tips to project volunteers.



In November 2020, the inaugural nbn™ Sustainable Agriculture Landcare Grant was awarded to the Meningie East Field Healthy Soils Group. The group, supported by the Coorong Tatiara Landcare Assistance Program, used automated monitoring equipment to measure the depth of the water table, soil moisture levels, soil salinity levels and environmental conditions across three on-farm sites in South Australia's Coorong District.

The data so far is showing some very interesting relationships between soil moisture, soil salinity through the profile and its relationship with the groundwater with two sites having strong correlations, while another site appears to have little or no relationship with groundwater levels. These initial findings have already improved knowledge around the different processes and helped inform what mitigation strategies may be best put in place for each of these sites.

A key component of the project will be use of the nbn™ network to help

improve environmental and productivity outcomes. To help support farmer education, the knowledge gained from the productivity, environmental and social outcomes of this project will be shared across national farming networks by leveraging the nbn™ network.



Automated soil moisture probes, salinity and depth sensors with data transfer units were installed as part of the nbn™ Sustainable Agriculture Landcare project to measure the depth of the water table, soil moisture levels, soil salinity levels and environmental conditions across the project's three sites.



South32 and Landcare Australia have partnered since 2017 delivering the South32 Junior Landcare Enhancing Habitat Grants Program.

The grants of up to \$5,000 each, have encouraged students to enhance and restore habitats within their school grounds or at an area of interest within the local community, demonstrating South32's commitment to the environment and the communities in which they operate.

The program has involved 39 primary schools across four states with nearly 3,000 students participating. The 15 schools that received 2020 South32



SOUTH32 continued

Junior Landcare Enhancing Habitat Grants, completed their projects in late 2020, reporting very positive outcomes.

In the second half of 2020, South32 also supported Landcare Australia's Townsville Resilience Pilot Project. This event brought together community stakeholders to engage in activities with the ultimate goal of building community resilience against natural disasters such as floods and bushfires. See page 35.

TOP: With a 2020 South32 Junior Landcare Enhancing Habitat Grant, students from Andrews Creek Primary School in Tasmania learned how to eradicate weeds and revegetate a creek area with native plants.



In 2018, SureGro TreeMax Australia partnered with Landcare Australia to inaugurate the SureGro TreeMax Landcare Grants Program as a way of

formally recognising the loyalty groups have shown their business and the importance of their work.

The second SureGro TreeMax Landcare Grant was awarded in 2020 to Landcare Broken Hill for their project to revitalise the Conservation Gardens in the town centre.

The Conservation Gardens was an initiative designed to showcase plants suitable for growing in arid zone gardens. However, over time the site has fallen into disrepair, with many original plantings dying. The water system is broken with torn weed matting and rubbish adding to the unsightly condition.

As COVID-19 restrictions were progressively relaxed, working bees were allowed to be carried out to clear the site of weeds, collect rubbish and remove dead plants. Another working bee was held in late June to begin planting. The project is scheduled for completion later in 2021.

SureGro TreeMax Australia provides quality products for land management, soil erosion control, revegetation, landscaping, civil, agriculture and nursery industries. Landcare groups across Australia have been customers for over 25 years.



Syngenta Australia and Landcare Australia began their partnership in early 2021 and in May, to mark United Nations International Day for Biological Diversity, the Syngenta Enhancing The Biodiversity Project was announced.

The project site is a section of a family-run farm in South Australia's Monarto South area. It is being revegetated in conjunction with the Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association and the local community.

The revegetation will help increase on-farm biodiversity and improve the long-term sustainability for the farm and the adjoining cropping region, increase regional pollination services and improve the overall connectivity of the landscape, while also enhancing habitat availability for native wildlife.

The Syngenta Enhancing Biodiversity Project, managed by Landcare Australia, aligns with Syngenta's 2020-2025 Good Growth Plan, which aims to support farmers to combat the impacts of climate change and enhance biodiversity for a more productive agricultural industry.

Syngenta is one of the world's leading agriculture companies. Their ambition is to help safely feed the world while taking care of the planet. The company aims to improve the sustainability, quality and safety of agriculture with world class science and innovative crop solutions.



Michelle McMahon's farm in the Monarto South area of South Australia is the site for the Syngenta Enhancing Biodiversity Project.



Landcare Australia started work with the Bundanon Trust in 2010 supporting the Trust's project to rehabilitate degraded farmland for biodiversity, habitat and education on their New South Wales property west of Nowra along the Shoalhaven River.

For the past few years, funding from the Toyota Environmental Activities Grants Program of Toyota Motor Corporation has enabled Landcare Australia to continue collaborating with the Bundanon Trust Natural Resource Management Team on this project.



Nowra preschoolers participate in Junior Landcare field day at Earie Park, as part of Landcare Australia's Toyota Environmental Activities Grants project with the Bundanon Trust.

Controlling weeds, monitoring for Threatened species and construction and maintenance of herbivore-exclusion fencing plots continued to be a focus. Project activity highlights during the year include the Landcare Services Team re-constructing a visitor shelter that had been destroyed after the floods in early 2020 at Earie Park and Landcare Australia held a Junior Landcare field day with students from a local Nowra preschool. The children were shown how to plant trees and what it means to be a Junior Landcarer.



In 2021, Telstra employees continued to participate in Landcare Australia's Corporate Environmental Volunteering Program. Working within COVID-19 restrictions, 55 Telstra volunteers got their hands dirty at five Landcare Australia volunteering events in Perth, Melbourne, Canberra, Brisbane and Sydney.

Over the 10 years of Telstra's partnership with Landcare Australia, more than 5,500 Telstra employees have participated in a number of environmental activities, including habitat restoration through planting, propagating seedlings and weeding; and Indigenous knowledge sharing.



Canberra-based Telstra volunteers participating in Landcare Australia corporate volunteering event.



Established in 2014, the partnership between Transurban and Landcare Australia helps Transurban deliver its community investment strategy to strengthen and benefit communities near their roads.

Transurban has funded four major regeneration projects in partnership with Landcare Australia. Three projects are Melbourne based: Habitat Enhancement along the Monash Freeway Upgrade, CityLink Tulla Widening Urban Landcare Project, and the Melbourne Power Street Loop – Habitat Filter Project. The M2 Macquarie Park Motorscapes Project is in Sydney.

These projects continue to provide benefits for local wildlife and ecosystems. They have helped engage local communities and improve the visual amenity of areas adjacent to vital transport corridors in major cities.

In 2020-2021, Landcare Australia provided ongoing involvement in the maintenance and monitoring of the M2 Macquarie Park. In April and June 2021, over 30

Transurban Melbourne and Sydney staff contributed more than 200 hours of corporate environmental volunteering. They propagated 3,500 seedlings from cuttings at Westgate Biodiversity Nursery in Melbourne and at IndigiGrow in La Perouse, Sydney.



A group of Transurban employees posing with seedlings they helped propagate at Westgate Biodiversity Nursery to support improved habitat and biodiversity in inner-Melbourne.



As the owner of rail transport land in Victoria, VicTrack has worked in partnership with Landcare Australia since 2005 to support community groups to be actively involved in managing and improving the environmental values on VicTrack sites.

During the year, VicTrack funding supported numerous local Landcare groups across Victoria to achieve significant environmental and community outcomes. Funded projects include the protection of native flora and fauna species, awareness raising within their local communities of the importance of natural resource management works, and the control of pest species.

Many of the projects are long-term with VicTrack providing ongoing funding for projects like The Great Victorian Rail Trail (Upper Goulburn Landcare Network), The Green Line (Basalt to Bay Landcare Network) and the Bellarine Rail Trail Revegetation and Restoration project (Bellarine Catchment Network).

A recent project report from one of several newer projects, included the below quote by Peter Rutley, President of the Whittlesea & Surrounds Blackberry Action Group (W&SBAG):

“W&SBAG very much appreciates the assistance we’ve received from VicTrack and Landcare Australia for our Yen Yen VicTrack Reserve Project to control blackberry and other weeds along the Whittlesea to Mernda railway easement. It has allowed us to improve the biodiversity values in the area and further enhances the collaboration between W&SBAG and public land managers in our region.”

TOP LEFT: Yea High School students installing nest boxes on the Great Victorian Rail Trail, a project supported by the VicTrack Landcare Australia partnership.



WIRES, Australia’s largest wildlife rescue organisation, has been caring for native

Australian animals for over three decades. The not-for-profit partnered with Landcare Australia in early 2020 for the launch of the WIRES Landcare Australia Wildlife Relief and Recovery

Grants. In mid-2020, 64 groups in post-bushfire and drought affected wildlife habitat regions received grants totaling \$1.185million.

In the 2020-2021 financial year, the groups implemented their wildlife support and habitat restoration projects, which were aligned with key government response priorities that includes improving outcomes for wildlife across Australia. The groups involved in the WIRES Landcare Australia Wildlife Relief and Recovery Grants program are reporting impressive environmental and community outcomes.



In June, 1,609 primary schools and early learning centres received Woolworths Junior Landcare Grants to help

students enhance native habitats, improve sustainable food production and support recycling projects at their school. Since bees and pollinators are so important to the environment, in addition to grants of up to \$1,000 each, applicants were offered up to \$500 extra for projects supporting bees. Almost \$2million in funding was distributed, bringing the total contributed by Woolworths since 2018 when they partnered with Landcare

Australia, to more than \$3 million, supporting over 2,760 projects across Australia (see page 34).

In late 2020, recipients of Woolworths Junior Landcare Grant second round of grants completed their projects, reporting excellent environmental and educational outcomes, including planting over 30,000 plants, native bushes and trees.

Woolworths also funds the popular Junior Landcare Learning Centre that provides online resources for teachers, students and parents. (see page 36).

These Woolworths Junior Landcare initiatives are funded with contributions from the full price sale of the Bag for Good, launched in 2018 when Woolworths went single-use plastic shopping bag free.

TOP: Landcare Australia CEO, Shane Norrish joined Sussan Ley, Minister for the Environment, Christopher Lane, Woolworths Government Relations Manager-Sustainability and Manager of Woolworths Albury Central congratulate the staff and students at Kidscape Early Learning Centre in East Albury on receiving a 2021 Woolworths Junior Landcare Grant, to rejuvenate the yard to attract insects and local birdlife, as well as be more inviting for the children.



In-Kind Supporters

Landcare Australia is grateful to have in-kind support from many organisations that provide multiple benefits to the landcare community. They include:

- **KPMG Australia** provided significant pro-bono support for the research and development of the study ***Building resilience in local communities: The wellbeing benefits of participating in Landcare***. This report has been made available to the landcare community as a free resource on the Landcare Australia website.
- **Australian Community Media (ACM)** is a media partner and their national reach helps Landcare Australia to promote the thousands of landcare people and projects in communities across Australia.
- **Allens Linklaters, Herbert Smith Freehills** and **Norton Rose Fullbright** provide valued in-kind legal support.

Corporate Environmental Volunteering

Landcare Australia has more than 20 years of experience running successful and impactful corporate volunteering days. In that time, we have worked with thousands of corporate volunteers, linking them with local landcare groups and networks across the country.

With COVID-19 restrictions impacting much of the 2020-2021 financial year, the number of corporate volunteering events was greatly reduced. However, 16 local landcare groups and community environmental groups hosted 38 corporate environmental volunteering events, involving 462 employees from 15 different corporate organisations. Corporate volunteers provided 2,189 hours of help to restore local environments through bush regeneration activities.

These volunteering events provided a much-needed opportunity for employees to get together in an outdoor setting, making a positive contribution to their local environment when COVID-19 restrictions on gatherings allowed. The KPMG report released during the year titled Building

resilience in local communities: The report's findings clearly demonstrate the wellbeing benefits of participating in Landcare (profiled on page 24). The report provided some evidence to support an even greater impact on wellbeing for those in urban environments which is most common for corporate volunteering events.

Businesses that participated in Landcare Australia's corporate environmental volunteering program in 2020/2021 include:

CHEP | Country Road | General Mills
Lendlease | Lion | NBN Co
Telstra | Transurban

TOP: In February, Canberra-based Telstra employees participated in a day of environmental volunteering at Mount Painter Reserve.

LANDCARE
GOVERNANCE
FINANCIAL



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Landcare Australia is governed by a skills-based board comprising five non-executive directors. Directors oversee the organisation's direction, governance and work with management to develop and execute the strategic plan. Our board members offer a range of skills including; finance, legal, risk management, government relations, business, agribusiness, environment and water management.

BOARD ATTENDANCE

Doug Humann AM	
<i>Chairman</i>	5/5
Jan Davis	4/5
Peter Sutherland	5/5
Rachel Gatehouse	5/5
Robert Nicholson	4/5

DIRECTOR PROFILES

Doug Humann AM

Doug Humann AM (GAICD, BA (Hons), Dip ED) was appointed chairman of Landcare Australia in 2016. With more than 40 years involvement in regional Australia, including 30 years leadership experience in the environmental sector, Doug led Bush Heritage Australia (1997–2011) to national prominence before establishing his own consultancy. Doug is primarily engaged with non-government organisations, Indigenous groups and natural resource management/catchment management authorities. Doug provides advice and support on a range of strategic, investment, project and governance matters, and is particularly involved in building partnerships, collaborations and mentoring.

Jan Davis

Jan Davis (MAgribus, MEnv Plan, BEc, MAICD, FAIM, FAusAE) has held leadership roles in a number of industry groups in the agriculture and natural resources sector. She is currently the CEO of RSPCA Tasmania.

An experienced non-executive director, Jan's current roles include Australian Shellfish Industries Pty Ltd and the Royal Flying Doctor Service (Tasmania) Ltd. She is also an elected member of the Northern Midlands Council, and a member of the Tasmanian Resource Management and Planning Appeal Tribunal.

Peter Sutherland

Peter Sutherland (BA, BSc (Hons)) has had an extensive senior executive career in the public and private sectors in water and natural resource management. He retired from GHD as Business Leader Water Resources. Peter's positions include; Deputy Director General DIPNR, NSW, Deputy Secretary DNRE, VIC, Deputy Commissioner on the Murray Darling Basin Commission, member of the National Land and Water Resources Audit, member of the National Taskforce on Sustainable Agriculture, and member of the Prime Minister's Land Management Task Force. Peter is a former president of the University of Melbourne Alumni Association, Sydney branch.

Rachel Gatehouse

Rachel Gatehouse (BEcon, CPA, MAICD) has an accomplished career in banking and financial services spanning over 25 years. Presently she is Chief Financial Officer at Archistar.ai. Prior to that she was Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer at venture capital backed Brighte Capital and Chief Financial Officer of HBOS Australia and Head of Finance for the Retail Division ANZ. She has extensive experience in complex regulatory environments across both large established organisations as well as fast growing fintechs. In her executive career, Rachel has run large technology programs and driven cultural change programs. Rachel has significant governance experience, including a director of Capital Finance Australia Limited, and in 2017 was acting Chief Executive Officer at the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Robert Nicholson

Robert Nicholson (BSc, LL.M, MBA, GAICD) is a solicitor and Senior Advisor at Herbert Smith Freehills, a leading global commercial law firm. Robert is a former member of the Victorian Government's National Parks Advisory Council, and Melbourne Parks and Waterways Advisory Council. Robert is a director of Port of Melbourne, Alinta Energy and Nucleus Network.

FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

This committee reviews our organisation's financial performance against our budget, ensures our reporting is compliant with external standards, and ensures appropriate risk management controls are in place. It also liaises with our external auditors who review our financial report annually. Members of Landcare Australia's Finance and Audit Committee are Jan Davis, Doug Humann, Rachel Gatehouse and Robert Nicholson.

Jan Davis	
<i>Committee Chair</i>	4/5
Doug Humann AM	5/5
Rachel Gatehouse	5/5
Robert Nicholson	4/5

PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE

This committee provides advice to the board on strategies to maximise funds for Landcare, while protecting our reputation and brands. It develops and applies our partnership guidelines, and provides oversight of the management of our trademarks, the application of our bequest funds, and monitors our marketing and public relations activities.

Members of Landcare Australia's Partnerships Committee are Peter Sutherland, Doug Humann and Robert Nicholson.

Peter Sutherland	
<i>Committee Chair</i>	5/5
Doug Humann AM	5/5
Robert Nicholson	4/5

COMPANY SECRETARY

The company secretary of Landcare Australia Limited is responsible for the legal and statutory compliance on behalf of the board. The company secretary as at 30 June 2021 is Janet Davison.

AUDITORS

The auditors for Landcare Australia Limited and its subsidiaries are Ernst & Young.

Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021	2021 (\$)	2020 (\$)
Revenue	8,235,843	7,674,325
Other revenue	652,674	256,900
Finance income	41,732	136,035
Total revenue	8,930,249	8,067,260
Partnerships, fundraising and grants management	(6,015,114)	(5,276,045)
Landcare services project delivery	(1,244,109)	(1,046,087)
Community engagement and awareness	(1,488,229)	(1,185,871)
Organisational support	(503,819)	(479,394)
Finance costs	(17,684)	(25,908)
(Deficit)/surplus before income tax	(338,706)	53,955
Income tax expense	-	-
(Deficit)/surplus for the year	(338,706)	53,955
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Total comprehensive (deficit)/surplus for the year	(338,706)	53,955

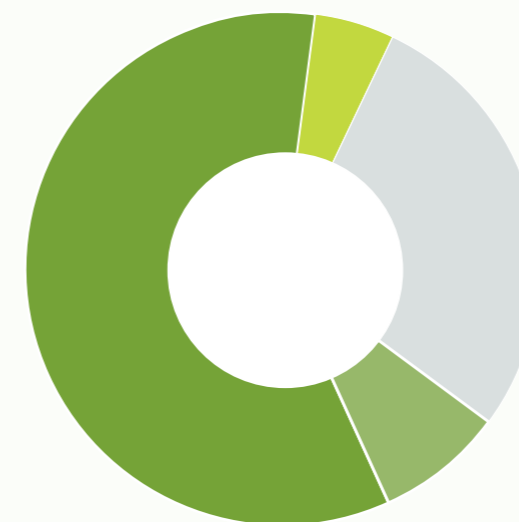
Statement of financial position as at 30 June 2021

ASSETS	2021 (\$)	2020 (\$)
Currents assets		
Cash and cash equivalent	16,691,198	10,156,278
Trade and other receivables	390,369	777,161
Total current assets	17,081,567	10,933,439
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	76,817	112,572
Right-of-use assets	458,002	633,944
Total non-current assets	534,819	746,516
Total assets	17,616,386	11,679,955
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	2,122,494	1,091,447
Employee benefit liabilities	333,499	279,156
Contract liabilities	6,935,250	1,610,986
Lease liabilities	147,776	163,073
Total current liabilities	9,539,019	3,144,662
Non-current liabilities		
Employee benefit liabilities	43,593	15,037
Lease liabilities	346,180	493,956
Total non-current liabilities	389,773	508,993
Total liabilities	9,928,792	3,653,655
Net assets	7,687,594	8,026,300
Equity		
Retained earnings	7,687,594	8,026,300
Total equity	7,687,594	8,026,300

Statement of cash flows

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021	2021 (\$)	2020 (\$)
Operating activities		
Receipts from customers	14,599,573	8,546,744
Payments to suppliers and employees	(7,902,812)	(7,284,420)
Interest received	41,732	136,035
Interest paid	(17,684)	(25,908)
Net cash flows from operating activities	6,720,809	1,372,451
Investing activities		
Purchase of property, plants and equipment	(22,816)	(15,035)
Net cash flow used in investing activities	(22,816)	(15,035)
Financing activities		
Payment of principal portion of lease liabilities	(163,073)	(152,150)
Net cash flows from financing activities	(163,073)	(152,150)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	6,534,920	1,205,266
Cash and cash equivalents at July 1	10,156,278	8,951,012
Cash and cash equivalents at 30 June	16,691,198	10,156,278

Financial overview



REVENUE

- Total gross income from corporate sponsorship and license fees 59%
- Total gross income from fundraising 5%
- Total gross income from government grants and fee for service 28%
- Total gross income from other sources and finance income 8%



EXPENSES

- Partnerships, fundraising and grants management 65%
- Community engagement and awareness 16%
- Landcare services project delivery 13%
- Organisational support and finance costs 6%

Pages 80-83 are a summary extracted from the audited General purpose (SDS) financial report for Landcare Australia Limited for the year ended 30 June 2021. This summary information should be read in conjunction with the full financial report, a copy of which can be found at www.landcareaustralia.org.au



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Landcare Australia
PO Box 5666, Chatswood West, NSW 1515 | T: (02) 9412 1040 | E: enquiries@landcareaustralia.com.au