



# Annual Report

## 2022/2023



## Acknowledgement:

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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## Our Vision:

All Australians caring for the land and water that sustains us

**Image:** Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation Narrap Unit, winner of the 2022 National Landcare Award for the KPMG Indigenous Land Management category

**Front Cover Image:** Sean Hunter, Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation Narrap Unit

**Photo credit:** Annette Ruzicka | @annetteruzickaphotography



**Image:** Landcare Australia team managing an on-ground landcare project

## About Landcare Australia

**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.

From the coast to the country, and from urban cities to the outback, landcare's greatest asset is its people. The landcare movement is diverse and encompasses farmers and farming systems groups, landholders, landcare groups and networks, Traditional Owners and First Nations organisations, 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.

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.



### Our vision

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

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 30 years, 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% awareness among Australians of the landcare 'Caring Hands' logo.



### Our purpose

What makes Landcare Australia unique to any other national environmental organisation is effective partnerships and people.

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.

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.



**Image:** Bob Hawke Landcare Award winner Andrew Stewart and family on their property Yan Yan Gurt West Farm in Victoria.

**Photo credit:** Annette Ruzicka @annetteruzickaphotography

## What is Landcare?

**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 program 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 Programme. 1989 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.

# 2022 NATIONAL LANDCARE AWARDS

Image: Landcare Australia Board Directors Left to right: James Walker, Ricky Archer, Peter Sutherland, Naomi Edwards, Bec Underwood, Doug Humann AM, Anna Hooper and Robert Nicholson.



## Message from the Chair, Doug Humann AM

**As I reflect on the achievements of the past fiscal year, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the continuing impact we've made as a collective force in landcare. Leading the Landcare Australia Board remains a privilege, and the dedication of our board members and staff has been pivotal in steering our efforts. I thank our determined and experienced CEO Dr Shane Norrish, his highly performing and competent team and my volunteer board colleagues for their continued dedication to our strategic agenda.**

Throughout 2022-2023, Landcare Australia has been unwavering in its commitment to support the broader landcare movement, channelling resources into programs that restore, enhance, and protect our precious land, sea and water. The stories in this year's Annual Report only scratch the surface; there are thousands more inspiring projects happening across the nation.

Amidst the milestones achieved this year, a notable celebration marked our journey when Landcare Australia was commended with the prestigious United Nations Day Honour Award. This accolade serves as a testament to our steadfast 35-year commitment to landcare, symbolising a shared triumph that recognises the dedication of countless volunteers, groups, and organisations devoted to landcare across Australia.

A pivotal moment this year was the formal launch of the First Nations Landcare Working Group at Parliament House, Canberra. This advisory body to the Landcare Australia board, with esteemed First Peoples from across Australia, is instrumental in setting the benchmark for respectful and effective relationships with First Nations' Peoples and organisations. The integration of Traditional Owner-led Cultural land, water and sea management into landcare practices is a significant stride towards a more ecologically sustainable future.

I extend my sincere gratitude to all who have supported Landcare Australia, including our long-standing partners and new collaborators. Your commitment to landcare and passion for environmental, agricultural and social outcomes are truly commendable.

A special acknowledgment goes to our government partners, particularly the Australian Government and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, as well as the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water. The ongoing support from the Hon. Tanya Plibersek MP, Senator, the Hon. Murray Watt, and the Hon. Linda Burney MP, is invaluable and reinforces the importance of landcare initiatives.

Aligned with the Australian Government's Natural Heritage Trust, our programs are driving sustainable land management, enhancing biodiversity, fostering climate resilience, and inspiring community

engagement. We remain determined to broaden funding and to utilise this effectively to bolster the capacity and resilience of landcarers on-ground. Looking ahead, our focus remains on amplifying the voices of First Nations Peoples, agricultural and pastoral communities, women in agriculture, and the next generation of landcarers. The formulation of a new Landcare Australia Strategic Plan will guide us over the next five years of environmental, economic, and social change.

Together with our partners, our dedicated team, and the landcarers on-ground, we have the opportunity to effect profound change for today's communities and for the generations to come.



**Image:** Dr Shane Norrish,  
CEO Landcare Australia

## Message from the CEO, Dr Shane Norrish

### **I'm pleased to present Landcare Australia's Annual Report showcasing the significant achievements for FY 2022/2023.**

Over the past year the Landcare Australia team have continued to work hard with our business, government and philanthropic partners to support the great work of landcarers across the country. We are focused more than ever on strengthening and growing our partnerships to support more landcare projects with funding on the ground, as we have successfully done for nearly 35 years.

Together with our partners, we have supported many outstanding projects, which generate a diverse range of positive impacts for our unique natural assets and local communities. In the past financial year we have disbursed over \$2.9 million to fund 1,136 projects, including 50 projects that incorporate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander engagement and knowledge.

In addition to funding projects for groups and schools, Landcare Australia gets directly involved in the planning, coordination, 'dirt under the fingernails' delivery and monitoring of large-scale

projects. And we do this by working with landcare groups and networks, NGOs, researchers, academics, First Nations Peoples and others wherever we can. I am particularly pleased with our efforts on the Wildseek project, partnering with Queensland University of Technology and WIRES to develop drone based AI capability for landcare groups in Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria to support threatened koala populations. This new capability will provide the groups with opportunities to develop better targeted projects, and planning data for managing regional koalas and other species in the future.

Sharing information and promoting the achievements of landcare groups remains an important part of our core activities. We coordinated the 2022 National Landcare Conference and the Landcare Awards programs, which were again extremely successful. I would like to thank Australian Government Ministers Tanya Plibersek, MP and Senator Murray Watt for their on-going support and participation at the events, which was greatly appreciated by the large number of online and in-person attendees from right around the country. There were many event highlights, including the energetic Costa Georgiadis as MC, who is also a great ambassador for our Junior Landcare program. However, the most consistent positive feedback was for the strong First Nations stream in the Conference program and the lasting impact of the closing First Nations panel session, which became the catalyst for creating the First Nations Landcare Working Group.

Our First Nations Landcare Working Group was launched at Parliament House, Canberra in March, 2023 with the active participation of Minister Watt and Minister Burney and many MPs, Senators, Australian Government staff and business representatives in attendance. The First Nations Landcare Working Group is supporting the Landcare Australia board and staff to help guide landcarers across Australia build trusted and respected relationships with First Nations Peoples and support integration of traditional practices into our programs and projects. This is a long-term initiative and I would

like to acknowledge the hard work and commitment of the First Nations Landcare Working Group members towards our important shared objectives.

We have been continuing to focus efforts on building stronger connections within the agriculture sector, working with agribusiness, industry organisations, groups and individual primary producers to support projects and share trusted information through various channels, including the Landcarer platform. We have hosted some excellent and well-attended webinars, workshops, and training sessions to support primary producers and land managers better understand multiple topics, including the carbon and emerging biodiversity markets, which offer significant opportunity for greater integration of habitat restoration and conservation into agricultural landscapes.

As we approach Landcare Australia's 35th anniversary in 2024, we have looked back at why Landcare Australia was established and how far we have come. At Landcare Australia, we firmly believe that landcare is for everyone and we will continue to encourage widespread participation in landcare projects across all locations and demographics.

In the coming year we will be developing a new Landcare Australia Strategic Plan to structure how we can best support and lead landcare over the next few years in response to significant national challenges, particularly decarbonisation and biodiversity loss. I look forward to working with key stakeholders to develop our new Strategy, and sharing it more broadly in 2024.

Thank you to the large number of organisations and people that have supported Landcare Australia and landcare. We are looking forward to a year of opportunities for landcarers on the ground, and everyday Australians who care for their local natural assets and communities.



## Landcare Australia's First Nations Landcare Working Group: A milestone in building respectful partnerships

Landcare Australia reached a significant milestone in its commitment to integrating Traditional Owner-led Cultural land, sea and water management into landcare practices by establishing Landcare Australia's First Nations Landcare Working Group (the Working Group).

One of the most memorable and inspiring aspects of the 2022 National Landcare Conference was the strong presence and participation of Traditional Owners and First Nations people as speakers and delegates.

Landcare Australia has taken its first step in continuing to build on that momentum of strengthened connections between First Nations people and landcare by establishing the Working Group to provide guidance and input into the Landcare Australia Board.

Together, they will focus on how we can provide economic and productivity benefits, restore the landscape, improve biodiversity and support sustainable agriculture. They will also focus on creating partnerships to improve community wellbeing, support the transfer of knowledge, and build sustainable employment structures for Indigenous youth to work on Country.

Advice from the Working Group will ensure Landcare Australia continues to support First Nations, farmers, young people, women, Landcare groups and conservation community groups across Australia by making connections with Cultural land, sea and water management practices. Together, we are building partnerships that will enable landcare to set the benchmark on how we can all come together, work together and stay together to build respectful, effective relationships with First Nations people.

**Image:** The First Nations Landcare Working Group was launched at Parliament House in Canberra. Pictured from left to right: Senator Raff Ciccone; Natalie Sommerville; Senator The Hon. Murray Watt MP, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and Minister for Emergency Management; Victor Steffensen; Dhani Gilbert; The Hon. Linda Burney MP, Minister for Indigenous Australians; Suzanne Thompson; Rene Woods; Barry Hunter; and Doug Humann AM

On 21 March 2023, Landcare Australia officially launched the Working Group in Canberra at Parliament House, with over 100 guests in attendance including representatives from Landcare peak bodies, group and volunteers; environmental organisations; Federal Members and Senators; Australian Government officers and Landcare Australia corporate partners.

Hosted by Landcare Australia Chair Doug Humann AM, speakers at the event included Minister for Indigenous Australians, Linda Burney MP; Senator Murray Watt, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry; Landcare Australia's Junior Landcare ambassador Costa Georgiadis; and members of the Working Group, Suzannah Thompson and Victor Steffensen.

The launch event signified Landcare Australia's willingness to learn from and work with First Nations communities, respecting their traditional knowledge and practices while incorporating them into mainstream landcare efforts.

### First Nations Landcare Working Group Members

- **Doug Humann AM** – Chair, Landcare Australia
- **Ricky Archer** – Board Director, Landcare Australia and CEO, North Australian Indigenous Land & Sea Management Alliance (NAISMA)
- **Victor Steffensen** – Co-Founder of Firesticks Alliance
- **Suzanne Thompson** – Managing Director at Yambangku Aboriginal Culture Heritage & Tourism Development Aboriginal Corporation and Chair, Australian Native Foods and Botanicals
- **Barry Hunter** – Chair, Aboriginal Carbon Foundation
- **Dhani Gilbert** – Young Landcare Leadership Award recipient
- **Rene Woods** – Board Member, Murray Darling Basin Authority, Board Member Landcare NSW and Project Officer, The Nature Conservancy
- **Natalie Sommerville** – President, Australian Women in Agriculture and Board Director, National Farmers Federation, member of Yacka Moorundie Landcare group
- **Gail Reynolds-Adamson** – Chair, Esperance Tjaltjraak Native Title Aboriginal Corporation.



# Strengthening connections and collaboration: Introducing Landcare Australia's Stakeholder Engagement Manager

In November 2022, Landcare Australia took a significant step towards enhancing relationships in Landcare, sustainable agriculture and the nature repair landscape by appointing Karen Walsh as its Stakeholder Engagement Manager. This crucial role aims to foster stronger ties between Landcare, Natural Resource Management, agriculture and environment organisations, and the Australian Government.

Karen's appointment marked a pivotal moment for Landcare Australia, given her extensive experience in government and her passion for environmental conservation and sustainable agriculture. As Stakeholder Engagement Manager, Karen embarks on a mission to strengthen relationships between key stakeholders, including government agencies, not-for-profit organisations and community groups, recognising that collective efforts are essential to achieving sustainable land management goals.

Karen has met with many stakeholders, new and old for Landcare Australia. Whether it be through a virtual meeting with Landcare WA, travelling to Cairns to meet with Firesticks Alliance, a carbon workshop in Beechworth, joining NSW Landcare's Conference in Coffs Harbour, meeting with the Australian Government or meeting with her local landcare group – Landcare ACT, Karen is working hard to understand organisations' needs and workshop solutions.

Passionate about providing opportunities to increase people's awareness of how even small changes can have a big impact, Karen believes that teaching our children about the environment, our vital agricultural lands, and our First Nations people is pivotal to fostering a sustainable and harmonious future for generations to come.

Karen believes through providing avenues for young people to get involved and utilise their energy and passion for the good of the environment, we can empower them to become stewards of the earth, driving positive change and creating a better world for all living beings.

Karen is enthusiastic about what the next 12 months will hold.



Image: Karen Walsh with SAF Liz Davis at the NSW Landcare Conference, Coffs Harbour

Image: Karen Walsh with Dr Shane Norrish, Landcare Australia CEO

Images: Joining forces with Junior Landcare as the ambassador, Costa is working with the team to encourage the next generation of Landcarers to get out, get active and make a difference in the environment around them.



Scan the QR code to explore Junior Landcare's 25-year anniversary resources and hear a special message from Costa

## Empowering young environmental champions with hands-on learning

Established in May 1998, Landcare Australia's Junior Landcare program celebrated a special milestone in 2023 – 25 years of providing a pathway for children to become lifelong landcarers, starting with early learning childhood centres through to primary and secondary schools.

From its grants program with partners to its annual campaigns, Junior Landcare provides thousands of children the opportunity to become actively involved in environmental projects in their local schools and communities each year.



In 2022-2023 alone, "over 78,000 children were able to get their hands dirty learning where their food comes from, understanding biodiversity and waste management, and embracing First Nations perspectives through the Junior Landcare grants program," said Landcare Australia CEO, Dr Shane Norrish. "That's a win for the environment, and a win for our children given the benefits we know that come with spending time outdoors."

To celebrate its 25-year anniversary, Junior Landcare curated a selection of Top 25 ideas gathered from the Learning Centre, Junior Landcare's online education platform made possible with support from Woolworths, as well as from previous grant recipients over the years.

According to Junior Landcare ambassador, Costa Georgiadis: "These projects showcase the vital role children play in caring for our local environments, and the various ways we can empower them to do so, from inside the classroom to outdoors with their local Landcare group or simply in their backyard or balcony."

The program also expanded its collection of First Nations perspectives resources, with a new series of curriculum-linked learning activities supporting the meaningful use of yarning circles in schools, early learning centres and youth/ environmental groups.

The activities were launched with a special professional development webinar together with Costa; Wiradjuri man, Adam Shipp and environmental educator, Sam Harrison, attracting more than 1,600 views.

"I'm proud to be a part of the Junior Landcare journey," shared Adam Shipp. "From creating a yarning circle to learning about bush tucker – these are valuable experiences that can help our kids gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of First Nations culture and knowledge systems in their everyday environments."



Image: Proud Wiradjuri man Adam Shipp using a talking stick in a primary school yarning circle.



**Image:** Winners of the What's In Your Backyard campaign.



# Costa and Junior Landcare inspire kids to connect to nature through fun photo competition

**Junior Landcare's 'What's in your backyard?' photo competition returned in 2022, receiving over 800 entries from schools, Junior Landcare groups and children across Australia.**

In collaboration with Junior Landcare ambassador, Costa Georgiadis, the campaign aimed to inspire children to get outdoors and explore their local environments by taking photos throughout Biodiversity Month (September) and Mental Health Month (October).

"We asked kids to put on their nature goggles and look at what's living in the world all around them – from the local community garden or sand dune by the beach, to the plants growing on their balcony," explained Costa. "It's all about little opportunities; an invitation to let curiosity roam free. Connections begin to be made that really engage children with new ways of thinking about their relationship to nature and the environment."

Participants submitted their photographs under one of the four key areas of Junior Landcare – biodiversity, food production, waste management, First Nations perspectives – together with a short description of why their photo was important to them.

Joining Costa and the Junior Landcare team to judge the entries was Jayden Gunn, a freelance wildlife photographer and Vice President of Intrepid Landcare. Individual winners were named in each State and Territory, with two State winners tying as the national winners: Jaya Hunn, 11, from ACT, for his photo 'Sticky Sundews' and Finn Thomson, 16, from QLD, for 'Adapt and Survive'.

St Brigid's Primary School in Gisborne, Victoria, was named the overall winning school. "It was such a lovely experience to hear all the positive ways the students experience nature and how it made them feel so appreciative of what is in their own backyard when they look closely," said teacher Emma Barker, who submitted entries on behalf of almost every student at the school.



**Use the QR Code to view all the winning photos and runners-up!**

# The 2022 National Landcare Conference & National Landcare Awards

Landcare Australia hosted the 2022 National Landcare Conference from Tuesday 23 to Thursday 25 August in Sydney at the International Convention Centre. The program included the NextGen Landcare Forum, seven field trips, a Welcome Reception and the highly-anticipated 2022 National Landcare Awards Gala Dinner. The National Landcare Conference and National Landcare Awards were hosted by ABC TV presenter Costa Georgiadis.

The theme of the conference, “The Power of Landcare: Shaping Our Future.” offered speakers, attendees, sponsors and exhibitors a valuable platform to engage in discussions about innovative approaches and changes in landcare practices. It emphasised the importance of forward-thinking solutions when addressing the challenges and opportunities within the field of landcare and how we can include First Nations perspectives.

The conference featured over 140 speakers, including ABC TV presenter and Junior Landcare ambassador Costa Georgiadis; The Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, Minister for the Environment and Water, Professor Mark Howden, Dr Ian Creswell, and Firesticks Alliance’s Victor Steffensen. Presenters discussed topics such as environmental and climate action, Culture land management, sustainable agriculture, emerging environment markets, and community partnerships.

As part of the conference, delegates experienced the diversity of landcare in the Greater Sydney region through a Field Trip Program. From sustainable farming and natural resource management projects, to environmental protection and habitat restoration activities, the field trips were an excellent opportunity for Landcare groups and volunteers to showcase their impactful on-ground conservation activities and changing land use in the Greater Sydney region. The Field Trip Program was developed with the generous support of the Field Trip Committee, made up of representatives from Greater Sydney Landcare Network, Hawkesbury-Nepean Landcare Network, Community Environment Network, Local Land Services, North Sydney Council, Northern Beaches Council, Hornsby Shire Council and Sutherland Shire Council.

The biennial National Landcare Conference serves as a unifying platform, bringing together diverse groups such as Landcare groups, networks and other environmental organisations, volunteers, landholders, farmers, Traditional Owners and First Nations people, landcare facilitators, educators, research institutions, universities, natural resource management professionals, and other community environmental enthusiasts. It fosters inclusivity and inspiration among those passionate about sustainable management of natural landscapes, community wellbeing, and the protection, enhancement and conservation of land, water, waterways and coasts.

The National Landcare Conference was proudly supported by the Australian Government’s National Landcare Program, Landcare Australia, Gallagher Australia and the Australian Centre for Agriculture Research. A highlight of the conference was the prestigious National Landcare Awards Gala Dinner.

In front of 620 guests, ten winners from across Australia were announced as winners of the national Landcare Award categories. Volunteers play a vital role in restoring and maintaining our environment, and the Landcare Awards program is an opportunity to acknowledge their efforts and celebrate their achievements. The Landcare Awards program was made possible due to the support from the sponsors the Australian Government, Woolworths, KPMG, Steadfast and Australian Community Media.



Image: ABC TV presenter Costa Georgiadis, MC for the National Landcare Conference & Awards



Image: National Landcare Awards Gala Dinner

## 2022 National Landcare Award Winners

**2022 Bob Hawke Landcare Award**  
Bruce Maynard (NSW)

**Australian Government Individual Landcarer Award**  
Walter Mayr (QLD)

**Australian Government Landcare Farming Award**  
Sylvia Leighton and Peter McKenzie (WA)

**Australian Government Partnerships for Landcare Award**  
Australian Association of Bush Regenerators (NSW)

**KPMG Indigenous Land Management Award**  
Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation Narrap Team (VIC)

**ACM Landcare Community Group Award**  
Roper River Landcare Group (NT)

**Steadfast Young Landcare Leadership Award**  
Yanti Winoto-Lewin (TAS)

**Woolworths Junior Landcare Team Award**  
Ivanhoe Central School (NSW)

**Coastcare Award**  
Friends of Bass Strait Islands (TAS)

**2022 General Jeffrey Soil Health Award**  
Dr Oliver Knox (NSW)

“Congratulations to you on organising the amazing 2022 National Landcare Conference. We would like to say how grateful we were to be invited by you to Sydney to attend this exceptional event. It has been deeply impactful. We came away with a ‘treasure trove’ of information which we will utilise as we communicate with fellow farmers to encourage them to make changes. We feel supported and connected to the incredibly diverse team of fellow Landcare operators you gathered from around Australia at the Conference. It gives us courage to ‘speak out’ to a wider audience to stimulate them to engage in landcare activities.”

- National Landcare Conference Delegate

“It was a fabulous conference. I was so pleased to catch up and network with some of the legends and pioneers of Landcare, but also the newbies and youth who are really the future.”

- National Landcare Conference Delegate



## Country Road supports biodiversity on cotton farms through landcare partnership

Through its partnership with Landcare Australia, Country Road is supporting the regeneration of Australian cotton farmlands, with a focus on biodiversity.

The Biodiversity Project began in September 2020 to demonstrate Country Road's commitment to supply chain excellence in Australia and support improved biodiversity in cotton landscapes. Supported by the Australian cotton industry, habitat restoration works have been taking place on six properties in northern New South Wales.

COUNTRY ROAD



The Pursehouse family own Breeza station and they are working to create wildlife corridors for species such as koalas and Corben's long-eared bat. Between May and June 2023, 2,800 locally sourced native seedlings were planted on this site.

On the Watson's family property along the Namoi River near Boggabri, 16.2 hectares of riparian habitat has been revegetated, improving

biodiversity, drought resilience and sustainable agriculture within a broadacre cotton landscape. Extensive flooding on the property has provided challenges, however new tree guards installed by Landcare Australia protected the plants that survived the flood, and backfill planting will take place to restore the site.

Despite serious flood events occurring on the Biodiversity Project's inaugural site owned by The Kahl Family along the Namoi River in Wee Waa, the trees planted on higher ground are thriving. Site preparation, including slashing, weed management and tree guard maintenance was undertaken in 2023 in preparation for tree planting to occur to backfill those lost to flooding.

A portion of sales from Country Road Verified Australian Cotton Heritage Sweats supports The Biodiversity Project.



Image: Landcare Australia team working on The Biodiversity Project in NSW



Caption here



## WildSeek Community Hubs Research Koala Habitat

The WildSeek Project brings together leading environmental organisations and university researchers to create an innovative drone solution for surveying koala populations. Landcare Australia, WIRES and Queensland University of Technology (QUT) are supporting local Landcare and community environment groups with training, equipment and scientific support to drive local research activity.

By creating five Community Hubs across New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria, the WildSeek Project is collecting koala population information that will provide significant insights into koalas in disaster affected areas, such as those impacted by the 2019/2020 Black Summer Bushfires, as well as much needed baseline population information for at-risk habitats.

With a background in conservation biology, Katie Selhorst joined Landcare Australia as coordinator of the WildSeek Project and is also the Chief Drone Pilot. Katie is assisting the WildSeek Community Hubs with a myriad of activities including navigating the complexity of Australian airspace regulations, how to obtain required certifications, support with flight planning, site prioritization and wildlife research approvals.

QUT has been instrumental in preparing the Community Hubs for their drone flights by hosting a three-day workshop in Brisbane. Outlining the survey methodology and talking everything drones and wildlife, the workshop was an excellent opportunity for all Community Hubs to come together and share their experiences and learnings.

The Community Hubs are working together with local First Nations organisations, Landcare groups, local community networks, and government organisations to identify and survey sites of local significance for people and koalas. The project is also working with the National Koala Monitoring Program.



Image: Hunter River at Singleton, NSW, after several decades of recovery, showing improved geomorphic complexity and significant increase in native (and exotic) riparian vegetation (post-2022 flood). Source: K. Fryirs.



## Research partnership supports sustainable river management in New South Wales

The ARC River Recovery Project is a research alliance between Landcare Australia, Hunter Local Land Services and Macquarie University. Landcare Australia contributed funding from the Raymond Borland Bequest to the Australia Research Council (ARC) Linkage Project, aimed at showcasing the river recovery that has been happening in NSW over the last several decades.

**Image:** Macquarie University's Professor Kirstie Fryirs, ARC River Recovery Project leader (second from left), with project researchers, left to right Amir Arash, Danelle Agnew, Dr Nuosha Zhang, Elisha Duxbury

The research being undertaken aligns with Landcare Australia's core values of establishing collaboration and mutually beneficial relationships to improve sustainable land and river management, and Hunter Local Land Services' strategic plans to support improved decision making and practices.

Outcomes from the project will be used by Landcare Australia and Hunter Local Land Services to support river managers, government and landcare to mitigate, respond and recover from natural disasters while addressing priority knowledge gaps and barriers to improved practice. This collaborative project is providing data and knowledge for ongoing sustainable river management and rehabilitation.

Macquarie University research to date shows that New South Wales coastal rivers are showing signs of both structural and vegetative recovery and improved

river health thanks to improved land management practices and the implementation of nature-based solutions. Further research aims to understand the mechanisms of this recovery and develop sustainable management practices that will ensure the continued health of our rivers. A cost-benefit analysis on river system recovery works is being conducted to provide further insight into strategic planning of river management.

The Raymond Borland Bequest was made to Landcare Australia by NSW businessman, Raymond Borland, who was disturbed by the degradation of the Australian landscape and wanted to support landcare work across NSW.

# United Nations Award recognises Landcarers

Landcarers across Australia were recognised for their vital work when the 2021 United Nations Day Honour was presented to Landcare Australia by the United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA) NSW in Sydney in October 2022.

The Award acknowledged Landcare Australia's embodiment of the UN values of sustainable development and its successes in working in partnership for more than 30 years to protect the planet.

In his speech on the night, Doug Humann AM, Landcare Australia Chair, acknowledged volunteers, groups and organisations involved in landcare across Australia.

"Since our inception, Landcare Australia has been driven by the belief that Australia can and will be a global leader in sustainability through using the landcare model as the blueprint for environmental and agricultural land management success. And by supporting the diverse landcare community with funding, capacity-building, on-ground projects, information, networking and promotion of their incredible landcare achievements, we are making this belief a reality.

"But we have only been able to do this through the support of those involved in the landcare movement - put simply, our power lies in the people."

The UNAA NSW also acknowledged "the significant contribution made by the Landcare Australia community towards realising the United Nations' vision of a world living in harmony with nature."

Previous recipients of the UNAA UN Day Honours include The Australian Red Cross (2017), Reconciliation Australia (2019), and The Honourable Michael Kirby (2018).

Image: Landcare Australia CEO, Dr Shane Norrish, receiving the Award together with members of the Landcare Australia team and Junior Landcare ambassador, Costa Georgiadis (third from left).





# A Very Kelly Christmas in support of Landcare

Along with Australian music legend, Paul Kelly, Landcare Australia was front and centre at a special Christmas show hosted by Landcare Australia partner, Hawke's Brewing Co. in Sydney in December 2022.

A Very Kelly Christmas took place at the Bob Hawke Beer & Leisure Centre, featuring a panel discussion focused on climate and hosted by Groundswell Giving, called 'Undo the Dumb Things'. The lively panel discussion was emceed by The Betoota Advocate, and featured long-time friend and supporter of Landcare Australia, ABC TV presenter Costa Georgiadis. The panel also included Groundswell Giving Co-Founder, Arielle Gamble, Groundswell's First Nations Advisor, Lillie Madden, and Hip Hop Artist, L-FRESH The LION.

After the discussion, guests were treated to a special and intimate performance by Paul Kelly.

In 2017, Landcare Australia partnered with Hawke's Brewing Co., an independent, Australian-owned beer company, co-founded with former Australian Prime Minister the late Bob Hawke. To honour the legacy from Bob, Hawke's raises money and also contributes a portion of their proceeds to Landcare Australia.



**Image:** Over 100 people gathered at the Bob Hawke Beer & Leisure Centre to listen to speakers and Paul Kelly

# A VERY KELLY CHRISTMAS

**MON DECEMBER 19TH**

**TICKETS EXCLUSIVELY VIA BALLOT**

Brought To You By

**THE BOB HAWKE BEER & LEISURE CENTRE**

**THE BETOOTA ADVOCATE**

**HAWKE'S BREWING CO. EST. 1983**

**DJ DAN KELLY**

**PAUL KELLY**

Marrickville AUSTRALIA  
GADIGAL COUNTRY

ENTER BALLOT TO WIN TICKETS  
[PAULKELLYSTORE.COM.AU](http://PAULKELLYSTORE.COM.AU)

AN EVENING OF MUSIC, CONVERSATION AND CHRISTMAS CHEER, WITH AN INTIMATE PERFORMANCE BY PAUL KELLY. ALSO FEATURING "UNDO THE DUMB THINGS" - A CLIMATE EXPERT PANEL (PRESENTED BY GROUNDSWELL), GUEST DJ DAN KELLY AND A SPECIAL PRIZE RAFFLE WITH ALL PROCEEDS DONATED TO LANDCARE AUSTRALIA. MC DUTIES BY OUR MATES AT THE BETOOTA ADVOCATE.

THE BETOOTA  
ADVOCATE



Groundswell





## Building the connection between landcare and Australian agriculture



**The Landcare Farming Program (LFP) is delivered in partnership with the National Landcare Network, and is funded by the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.**

It aims to strengthen the connection between landcare and Australian agriculture and build agricultural community resilience.

With 2,000 stakeholders having actively participated in LFP this past year, the program continues to grow its network and audience. A wide range of activities have been delivered resulting in an increase of support and recognition with primary producers and industry stakeholders across Australia. Stakeholder collaboration is providing new opportunities for the program to deliver information and resources and build a landcare farming value proposition in the agricultural community.

A key activity in this program has been the delivery of the Natural Capital Accounting Benchmarking Series with Accounting for Nature. Over the past year, these events supported four primary producer groups to deliver face-to-face natural capital (biodiversity and soil) assessment and demonstration workshops in NSW and South Australia. With 120 participants involved in the workshops, the aim is to build producer literacy and confidence in understanding Natural Capital Accounting and an accreditation and certification process for eco/landcare professionals later in 2023.

From Banana in Queensland to the Bass Coast in Victoria, 13 Landcare and agricultural groups have undertaken demonstration projects that have led to the development of further practical opportunities and extension methods to support landcarers in managing Carbon and Biodiversity on their properties. The Innovations in Agriculture series promotes individuals and groups leading agricultural practices and community action. Additionally, industry and researchers have participated as speakers in the Landcare Farming Webinar Series.



**Image:** GreenCollar project site in NSW

# Landcare CarbonSMART

Nature based carbon and biodiversity solutions restoring native ecosystems and supporting landcare.

Landcare Australia has a long and proud history of driving sustainable agricultural practices and conservation activities; strengthening and supporting communities working to restore, protect and enhance our local ecosystems for the benefit of all Australians.

In the face of the intensifying impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss, long-term solutions and collaboration have never been more important. Carbon sequestration, the process of capturing, securing and storing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, provides Landcare Australia the opportunity to do what we do best: delivering high-impact partnerships that benefit both the community and the environment.

Landcare Australia's new carbon operation, Landcare CarbonSMART, will provide corporate Australia with Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs), sourced from carefully-selected projects delivering outstanding ecological co-benefits, in partnership with leading nature-based carbon project developer, GreenCollar.

Revenue from Landcare CarbonSMART will be invested to support the individuals, groups and organisations involved in landcare activities in line with Landcare Australia's objectives as a national not-for-profit committed to environmental and conservation stewardship.

"Landcare Australia remains focused on building capacity for the landcare community, and our involvement in the carbon market provides an important connection for the landcare community into this rapidly expanding market," said Dr Shane Norrish, Landcare Australia CEO.

Moving forward Landcare Australia will be exploring the opportunity to work with existing landholders looking to develop high quality environmental planting projects on their land. These project will seek to deliver benefits for the landholder, complement existing agricultural operations, deliver improved environmental outcomes and build capacity within the landcare community.



# Our Impact



**1,136**

Projects funded by grants

**3,267**  
Hours of Corporate Environmental Volunteering



**10,907**  
Volunteers involved in Landcare Australia funded projects



**192,181**

Trees and plants established



**78,802**

Students involved in Junior Landcare projects



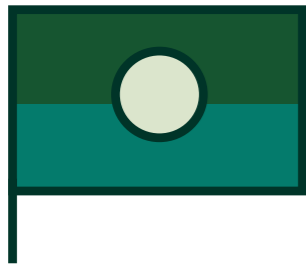
**Approximately \$3 million**

Funding awarded through grants, Corporate Environmental Volunteering and donations



**491**

Nest boxes installed to support biodiversity



**50**

Projects funded incorporating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander engagement and knowledge

**21,591**

Plants in riparian zones



**Approximately \$3 million**

Funding awarded through grants, Corporate Environmental Volunteering and donations



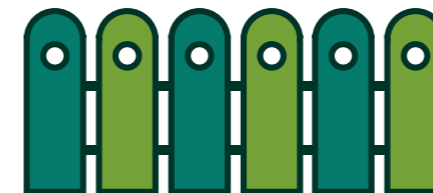
**838**

Hectares of weed control



**307**

Number of biodiversity surveys conducted



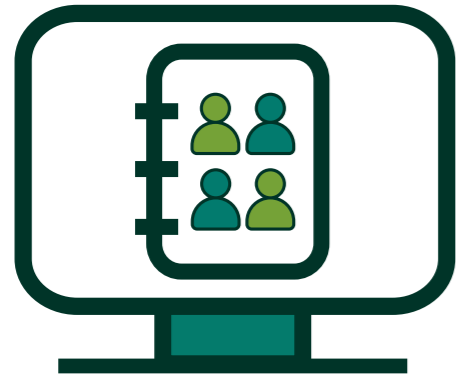
**9,900**

Metres (m) of fence installed

**418**  
Kilograms of marine debris removed



# Our Communications Reach



**18,000+**  
National Landcare Directory  
group and school list



**1.2 million\***  
Number of Landcare Australia  
websites page views



**43,000+**  
Newsletter subscribers



**80,000+**  
Social media followers



**20,000**  
Landcarer platform users



**3,000+**  
Landcarer platform  
subscribers



**4,000+**  
Landcare Australia  
webinar subscribers



**Websites:**  
Landcare Australia, Coastcare,  
Junior Landcare, Landcare Farming,  
Landcare Conference & Awards,  
Bob Hawke Landcare Award,  
National Landcare Directory

# Supporting the Sustainable Development Goals



The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are at the core of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and were adopted by the United Nations Member States in 2015 as a way of mobilising organisations globally to work towards common goals.

Landcare Australia's projects, programs and initiatives contribute to multiple SDGs and in turn support our partners' targets in this area. Through our reporting

process we gather information from projects delivered on-ground that directly responds to the SDGs and collate this information annually.

During FY23, Landcare Australia contributed to the success of 11 SDGs, bringing together multiple partners across diverse sectors, and other stakeholders to fund 1,079 projects, establish 192,181 trees and plants, and engage close to 105,000 young people in learning about our natural environment, and how we can all actively care for it.



## 2 – Zero hunger

- More than 298,000 hectares of farmland was enhanced through 23 Landcare Farming projects and 26 corporate partner funded projects taking place on farmland, including the Gallagher Landcare Grants.
- The Landcare Farming Program is directly supporting the implementation of "resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production"\* through a range of initiatives. 13 groups ran demonstrations projects from Banana in Queensland to Victoria's Bass Coast, the Innovation in Agriculture series promoted best management agricultural practices and community action, and the Landcare Farming Webinar Series shared knowledge from industry experts and researchers.

Contributed to target 2.4 \*Target 2.4



## 4 – Quality education

- The Woolworths Junior Landcare Grants Program funded 1,107 Junior Landcare projects, engaging close to 105,000 students in hands-on learning about our natural environment, through projects focusing on biodiversity, food production, waste management and First Nations Perspectives.
- A resource on How to Start a Junior Landcare Group was developed for the online Junior Landcare Learning Centre, which is supported by Woolworths. Eight learning activities supporting educators to create a yarning circle were also developed, and a First Nations perspectives professional development webinar was viewed more than 1,600 times.

Contributed to targets 4.4 and 4.7



## 6 – Clean water and sanitation

- 16,616 plants were planted in riparian zones, including 2,000 by the 3 Creeks Landcare Group on Victoria's Bass Coast, as part of important biolinks in the region.
- 81.5 hectares of weed control took place and 2,800 plants were planted in riparian zones as part of the Country Road Biodiversity Project which engages cotton growers in biodiversity projects on their farmland.

Contributed to targets 6.6



## 7 – Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

One project was funded through the partnership between a2 Milk™ and Landcare Australia focusing on both reducing overall energy use, and increasing the use of renewable energy in dairy farm operations through solar panel and battery installation.

Contributes to targets 7.2 and 7.3



## 8 – Decent work and economic growth

- Five dairy farmers were supported through the a2 Milk Sustainable Agriculture Landcare Grants to undertake projects on their farms which would help improve the long-term sustainability of their operations. This grants program supports initiatives that enhance sustainability and achieve positive environmental, animal health and well-being and business outcomes such as improved water quality, enhanced productivity, and better soil health and energy reduction initiatives.
- Four *Accounting for Nature* workshops took place during the year, supporting 120 participants across four primary producer groups. These workshops improve the understanding amongst participants of Natural Capital Accounting and the accreditation and certification processes involved. They provide more clarity around the opportunities available to primary producers from this sector.

Contributes to target 8.4



## 11 – Sustainable cities and communities

- 155 projects funded through Landcare Australia's partnerships included activities or initiatives that promoted or conserved Traditional knowledge, including engaging with Traditional Owner groups on projects, Welcome to Country ceremonies, bush tucker garden and yarning circles projects.
- 972 hectares of public green space or parkland was enhanced or restored through funded projects. This work is undertaken by local Landcare organisations, and helps ensure local communities can benefit from safe, accessible and biodiverse green spaces.

Contributed to targets 11.4 and 11.7



## 12 – Responsible consumption and production

- 29,693 people participated in waste management activities across 305 projects, including recycling and upcycling projects, composting, education and other waste reduction initiatives.
- 24,979kg of litter was diverted from landfill through projects undertaken as part of multiple grants programs, including the Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants, the Woolworths Junior Landcare Grants, and the Gallagher Landcare Electric Fencing Grants.

Contributed to targets 12.4, 12.5 and 12.6



## 13 – Climate action

111 projects were funded through the Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment bushfire recovery grants program, supporting bushfire-affected communities in recovery and resilience initiatives. Almost 11,000 volunteers and more than 700 groups and organisations were involved in supporting community and environmental recovery from the Black Summer Bushfires. More than 4,000 hectares of targeted weed control was undertaken, and 350,000 plants installed, supporting biodiversity recovery and ecological health.

Contributed to target 13.1



## 14 – Life below water

Eight projects were undertaken to protect coastal or marine environments, including four Coastcare Week Grants projects to local groups. 418kg of debris and litter was collected from coastal areas through these projects. Watergum Community Inc conducted beach clean-ups on Queensland's Gold Coast, and ran education sessions to improve awareness in local communities of turtle nesting activity and encourage engagement with TurtleWatch Gold Coast, a citizen science program.

Contributed to target 14.1 and 14.2



## 15 – Life on land

- Weed control was undertaken across 838 hectares of land. 192,181 trees and plants were established, improving habitat, expanding wildlife corridors, and contributing to biodiversity improves in regions across Australia.
- 491 nest boxes or artificial habitats were installed, supporting native wildlife, including threatened species, and 307 biodiversity surveys were undertaken.

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



## 17 – Partnerships for the goals

- Landcare Australia supported the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals through multiple partnerships and multi-stakeholder projects. Across the year, Landcare Australia worked with over 25 Australian businesses, the Australian Government, the Victorian Government, research organisations, universities and Landcare organisations.
- 1,079 projects were funded through Landcare Australia's partnerships and programs which engaged 10,907 volunteers in responding to the Sustainable Development Goals.
- 3,267 volunteer hours were contributed to 45 Corporate Environmental Volunteering events by 657 volunteers from 12 businesses, achieving on-ground environmental and education outcomes.

Contributed to target 17.16



Image: Bushcare volunteers

## Our Government Partnerships

Landcare Australia has worked collaboratively with federal, state and local governments and their agencies for 35 years to support the landcare community with activities that:

- 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 and community wellbeing outcomes
- support the adoption of sustainable agriculture practices that will deliver a more productive and profitable agriculture industry



Australian Government

### Australian Government

The National Landcare Program is the flagship program for the Australian Government and its commitment to natural resource management, and is administered by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) and the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW).

Landcare Australia receives funding from the National Landcare Program to deliver the following projects: the National Landcare Conference, the National Landcare Awards, the State & Territory Landcare Awards, the Bob Hawke Landcare Award and the Landcare Farming Program.

Landcare Australia also receives funding to deliver large scale restoration projects. We work in partnership with landcare groups and other environmental NGOs on projects that restore, enhance and protect landscapes and waterways. More recently our projects include the 20 Million Trees Program, the Healthy Rivers Program and the Landcare Led Bushfire Recovery Program. These projects supported threatened species conservation, engaged community, helped build a resilient landscape and significantly contributed to improving the capability of stakeholders to better manage the natural resources for which they are responsible. These projects amplified the involvement of youth, women and Indigenous people in landcare and increased the awareness and adoption of sustainable agriculture practices that will deliver a more sustainably productive and profitable agriculture industry.



### Victorian Government Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action

The Victorian Government's Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), through the Victorian Landcare Program, provides funding and support to Landcare Australia to leverage corporate and other non-government funding for Landcare projects in Victoria. The support provided by DEECA helps to increase the funding available to Victoria's Landcare groups and schools for a diverse range of Landcare projects across the state. DEECA also funds Landcare Australia to administer the Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants, which have provided more than \$2 million in funding to over 570 projects across Victoria since 2018. The grants support the delivery of the goal of Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037, the Victorian Government's 20-year plan to stop the decline of our native plants and animals and improve our natural environment.



# Our Corporate Partnerships

## 4 Pines



4 Pines Brewing Co. partnership with Landcare Australia and Cricket Australia saw 44,444 trees, plants and shrubs planted at Cape Jervis on South Australia's Fleurieu Peninsula. Four trees were planted for every 4 hit during by the Australian Men's Cricket Team during the 2021/22 Summer of Cricket.

The outcomes of the plantings include enhanced landscape connectivity, improved biodiversity and the provision of long-term habitat for threatened species including the Glossy Black Cockatoo.

Since 4 Pines Brewing Co first partnered with Landcare Australia in 2020, the partnership has also supported a sustainable agriculture project to enhance on-farm biodiversity in the brewer's supply chain.

## a2 Milk



The 2023 a2 Milk® Sustainable Agriculture Landcare Grants invested \$250,000 in funding to eight dairy farmers in New South Wales and Victoria. The funded projects are focused on initiatives to enhance sustainability and achieve positive environmental, animal health and well-being, and business outcomes. These include improved water quality, enhanced productivity, better soil health and reduced energy use.

Since its inception in 2017, the partnership between Landcare Australia and The a2 Milk® Company has provided more than \$1 million in funding for sustainability initiatives with positive outcomes for farms supplying a2 Milk®.

## AHHA



The Australian Home Heating Association (AHHA) is a long-time supporter of Landcare Australia and is committed to promoting home heating solutions that benefit consumers and the environment.

The partnership has funded community Landcare and Junior Landcare projects, including Victorian organisation, Cardinia Environmental Coalition and South Australia's Environmental Connections. Both organisations ran projects to increase community engagement and awareness through nature based activities for children.

The AHHA is the peak industry body representing over 250 manufacturers, retailers, installers, maintenance companies and the firewood sector of the home heating industry.

## Arborgreen

### Arborgreen

As part of their commitment to support initiatives that increase the number of Australia's trees, Arborgreen is partnering with Landcare Australia to provide education to the wider landcare community, along with Landcare community member benefits.



## Banrock Station

Since 2021, Banrock Station has partnered with Landcare Australia to plant 100,000 native trees and shrubs each year.

Planting projects across South Australia are helping to increase landscape connectivity while supporting a number of endangered or vulnerable plant and animal species, including the Southern Hairy-Nosed Wombat and the Diamond Firetail.

An Accolade Wines brand, Banrock Station is committed to the environment, demonstrating this through the Banrock Station Environmental Trust, whereby a portion of profits are reinvested to support conservation projects around the world. Its South Australian base also boasts a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance of more than 1,000 hectares.



# Our Corporate Partnerships

## CHEP



CHEP Australia entered into a partnership with Landcare Australia in 2019 to deliver strategic projects that align with its sustainability goals of delivering environmental and regional community benefits while creating value for CHEP's supply chain partners.

Since then, the partnership has helped to fund a project that restores an original grassy woodland community in the Upper Snowy Landcare Network. Additionally, a separate \$130,000 contribution was made towards the Landcare Australia Bushfire Recovery Grants, which support community groups and land managers affected by the 2019/2020 bushfires.

The partnership has also seen CHEP employees join local communities on bush regeneration activities through the Landcare Australia's Corporate Environmental Volunteering Program. CHEP is part of Brambles, an ASX-listed global supply chain solutions company.

## Coca-Cola



In 2022, the Coca-Cola Australia Foundation partnered with Landcare Australia on the \$600,000 Farm Dam Restoration project.

The three-year project will transform degraded farm dams across New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia, helping conserve biodiversity by providing critical wetland habitats for native wildlife.

This year site preparation has been undertaken, and plants sourced for three South Australian sites. 1,800 plants have also been planted a property in Bull Creek.

The Farm Dam Restoration Project will also facilitate knowledge sharing across a broad cross-section of the farming community, encouraging sustainable and innovative farm dam enhancement.

## Country Road



The Country Road and Landcare Australia partnership supports six regeneration projects on cotton farmlands in New South Wales as part of the Biodiversity Project. Weed control, site preparation and planting in riparian areas will see improvements in biodiversity and habitat connectivity, and support threatened, vulnerable and iconic fauna species while also providing benefits in sustainable farming.

Country Road has proudly 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.

## Gallagher



The Gallagher Landcare Fencing Grants supported 17 projects this year. The program provides electric fence materials and funding to support projects with tangible environmental or sustainable agriculture outcomes, and knowledge-sharing through field days, site visits or demonstrations.

In New South Wales, Border Ranges Richmond Valley Landcare Network's project improved habitat connectivity for the local koala population. Wells Ag Pty Ltd undertook a project to protect their farm dam to create a biodiverse wetland on their Victorian property.

Gallagher Australia has also been an ongoing sponsor of the National Landcare Conference since 2018.



## Hawke's Brewing

The Hawkie's Heroes Grants provided funding to three local groups through the Hawke's Brewing and Landcare Australia partnership.

The Mudcrabs removed noxious weeds along riparian areas of the Cooks River, while Greater Sydney Landcare Network engaged youth volunteers to support long-term maintenance of the site. Woodfordia's TreeHuggers in Queensland were supported to undertake much needed maintenance on their significant native plant nursery.

In 2017, Landcare Australia partnered with Hawke's Brewing Co., an independent, Australian-owned beer company, co-founded with former Australian Prime Minister the late Bob Hawke. Hawke's raises money for and contributes a portion of proceeds to Landcare which was one of Bob's conditions for being involved.

## KPMG



207 KPMG employees participated in 12 Landcare Australia Corporate Environmental Volunteering events across six states in 2022.

The volunteering day was part of KPMG Australia's Act4SDGs campaign, supporting the UN SDGs Action Campaign to mobilise people around the world to accelerate action for the Sustainable Development Goals.

5,310 native plants were planted, 4,500m<sup>2</sup> of weed control undertaken, and 1,000 hours of volunteer labour contributed.

KPMG also sponsored the Indigenous Land Management Award at the 2022 National Landcare Awards, helping raise awareness and recognise the contribution of Cultural land management to Country.

## Latina Fresh



Latina™ Fresh, a General Mills brand, partnered with Landcare Australia in 2018 to develop a sustainable agriculture program helping durum wheat farmers to improve the sustainability and resilience of their farm production systems.

A series of agricultural trials were undertaken in partnership with the Northern Grower Alliance following a needs analysis with durum wheat farmers in north western New South Wales which indicated the desire to understand more about the benefits of cover crops and managing harvest stubble.

## Lendlease



In August 2022, Lendlease and Landcare Australia delivered the Blue-banded Bee Resilience Pilot Project at Edgars Creek Primary School Victoria.

The first project of its kind delivered through the partnership saw students spend the morning participating in Junior Landcare Resilience activities aimed at improving wellbeing and resilience in response to natural disasters, as well as challenges brought about by the Covid pandemic.

The project also resulted in 300 plants installed at the school to create habitat for the blue-banded bee.

Lendlease employees also supported local groups in New South Wales, ACT and South Australia through Landcare Australia's Corporate Environmental Volunteering program.

# Our Corporate Partnerships

## Manheim



Manheim Australia, with the support of Cox Automotive's global sustainability program Cox Conserves, partnered with Landcare Australia on three impactful projects.

In Victoria, 4,000 native trees along the Kororoit Creek Trail will increase biodiversity and prevent riverbank erosion. Landcare Tasmania will undertake critical habitat restoration close to Franklin River Wilds National Park, supporting threatened species. In South Australia, native wildlife corridors will be planted close to Ettrick Conservation Park by Trees for Life SA.

25 Manheim employees also supported Friends of Kororoit Creek in Victoria, planting 560 plants as part of the organisation's commitment to connect with the communities in which they work.

## Nature Valley



Nature Valley partnered with Landcare Australia to support landscape scale ecological enhancement and local communities.

This year the partnership supported a revegetation project which engaged 15 landholders in Victoria's Mansfield region through Up2Us Landcare Alliance. Weed control was undertaken and 8,100 plants planted, enhancing areas of grassy woodland, foothill forest and grassy forest.

The revegetation has increased the biodiversity of the landscape, and once fully established the plants will provide habitat for local native species, including vulnerable and endangered wildlife.

The partnership also supported projects in Elliston in South Australia, and the Fleurieu Peninsula, improving habitat for species including the Glossy Black Cockatoo to bring the total plants established to 15,000.

## NBN



nbn Co partnered with Landcare Australia in late 2019 with the purpose of supporting Australian farmers to be more resilient in the face of a changing climate through driving innovative farming practices to improve sustainability and sharing the outcomes across national farming networks using the NBN.

NBN Co employees worked side by side with community Landcare groups in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland, weeding, planting and mulching as part of Landcare Australia's Corporate Environmental Volunteer Program.

NBN Co was established in 2009 to design, build and operate Australia's wholesale broadband access network.

## Syngenta



Landcare Australia and Syngenta partnered in 2021 to improve the management of biodiversity in agriculture.

In South Australia, two projects were implemented to improve biodiversity in agricultural landscapes. A direct seeding project which will reap soil erosion benefits across 1,000 hectares of cropping land was undertaken on the Eyre Peninsula. In addition, the Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association established 20,000 local native plants across 13 hectares, restoring habitat and creating linkage between Monarto Conservation Park and Ferries McDonald Conservation Park.

The Project 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.

## Transurban



The partnership between Transurban and Landcare Australia supports Transurban's commitment to strengthen communities and enhance environmental outcomes along its road network.

Landcare Australia conducts ongoing maintenance and monitoring of the M2 Macquarie Park Motorscapes Project site in Sydney. This major bush regeneration and water quality improvement project saw the five-hectare site cleared and planted with 16,000 native tubestock, providing habitat for wildlife native to the area.

Transurban employees also supported community Landcare groups during the year as part of Landcare Australia's Corporate Environmental Volunteering Program. Staff propagated seedlings, removed weeds and planted in multiple sites across the country.

## VicTrack



Five projects were funded through the VicTrack and Landcare Australia partnership this year, protecting and enhancing areas of native vegetation on railway and other land.

The funding supported Landcare groups to achieve significant outcomes including revegetation, weed control, habitat restoration, control of pest species, ecological burns, engagement with Traditional Owners, protection of native flora and fauna species, awareness raising and knowledge sharing with the broader community.

As the owner and custodian of rail transport land across Victoria, this partnership reflects VicTrack's commitment to making the most of its assets and supporting enhanced environmental outcomes with local communities.

## WIRES



WIRES and Landcare Australia partnership supports the Wildseek Project: Community Wildlife Intelligence Hubs, taking the first step toward building a national conservation AI network.

Along with the Queensland University of Technology, the Wildseek Project will establish and support an initial network of five Community Hubs for the conservation and rescue response of native species. Partners are providing over \$1,500,000 in funding over three years to support the project, with a significant contribution by WIRES.

## Woolworths



To help grow the next generation of environmental champions, Woolworths partnered with Landcare Australia to support the Junior Landcare Program.

In 2023, a total of 1,107 primary schools and early learning centres across the country shared in more than \$1 million of Woolworths Junior Landcare Grants.

Woolworths also supports the Junior Landcare Learning Centre, an online library of free curriculum-linked educational resources that enables hands-on environmental and sustainability teaching.

The 2022 National Landcare Awards featured the Woolworths Junior Landcare Team Award, honouring a school, youth organisation or young community landcare team which contributes to raising awareness, sharing knowledge and promoting participation in landcare amongst young people.



## Planting for purpose: Landcare Australia's tree planting projects

**In addition to multiple landscape scale revegetation projects, Landcare Australia also runs a tree planting program, allowing organisations of varying sizes to fund tree planting projects across the country.**

The work done through this program addresses multiple environmental challenges at a local level, while supporting community Landcare groups and organisations. It also provides businesses, like Konica Minolta and Nature's Own, with the opportunity to support the goals associated with the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, which aims to "prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems on every continent and in every ocean."

The funding offered community groups and organisations the opportunity to engage local community members in tree planting days while raising awareness of the work they are doing to protect and improve the health of the local environment, improving habitat for native species, and extending wildlife corridors.

In a larger revegetation project, Nature Valley supported Up2Us Landcare Alliance, a community organisation in Victoria's Mansfield Shire, with a \$50,000 grant to support revegetation works creating linkages across 11 sites, and protecting remnant trees.

The Linking Landscapes project engaged 15 landholders to complete Indigenous revegetation on their properties. 8,100 plants were planted on 52 hectares through the project, creating valuable links across subdivided plots of land, supporting local endangered species, improving biodiversity, and protecting remnant pockets of vegetation.

## Donations to support landcare activities

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The team at Landcare Australia are very grateful for donations made by many individuals and organisations to support landcare activities. Some of these donors include:

- ▶ The Nelson Foundation
- ▶ Grander's Trust
- ▶ Bequest from the Estate of the late Marian Letcher.





## In-Kind Supporters

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



Herbert Smith Freehills and Norton Rose Fullbright provide valued in-kind legal support.



**KONICA MINOLTA**

Konica Minolta provides valued copier/scanner equipment and printing services.

**ACM**

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.

# Landcare Australia Board of Directors

## Board of Directors

Landcare Australia is governed by a skills-based board comprising eight 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, Chair	7/7
Robert Nicholson	7/7
Peter Sutherland	6/7
Ricky Archer	6/7
Naomi Edwards	4/7
Anna Hooper	7/7
James Walker	6/7
Rebecca Underwood	6/7

## Director Profiles



### Doug Humann AM

Doug Humann AM, GAICD, BA (Hons), Dip ED, was appointed Chair 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.



### 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 included; 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.



### 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, Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute, Nucleus Network, European Australian Business Council and Electro Optic Systems.



### Ricky Archer

Ricky Archer is CEO of the North Australian Indigenous Land & Sea Management Alliance. Ricky has extensive NRM and governance experience, providing strategic input to various Indigenous and NRM organisations and committees, including as current board director of the Cooperative Research Centre for Developing Northern Australia; Chair of NT Aboriginal Land Management Advisory Group. Former committee member of the Commonwealth Marine Parks Northern Marine Park Advisory Committee; former committee member of the Commonwealth Minister for Environment Indigenous Advisory Committee; and former director of Australian IUCN. Now based in Darwin, he is a Djungan man from the Western Tablelands region of North Queensland.



### Naomi Edwards

Naomi Edwards BEnvSc, BComms (Hons), MInt&CommDev, PhD Candidate (Griffith University), is based in South-East Queensland and is well known among the grassroots of landcare for co-founding Intrepid Landcare and for her fearless leadership and community advocacy in coastal and marine settings. Trained in science, communications, community development and social science, Naomi currently works as a strategic communications specialist working to improve the lives of Pacific Island communities with cChange International.



### Anna Hooper

Anna Hooper, M.Ag.Bus, B.Ag.Sc, Grad. Dip. Law, GAICD, is a highly regarded agribusiness professional with extensive national resource management, policy, finance, and governance experience. Anna has a strong practical background in the wine industry, being a winemaker and viticulturalist in Australia and overseas. Anna has held various Board roles including with the SE NRM Board and Australian Vignerons. Anna is currently Manager, Industry Policy for Australian Grape and & Wine, based in Adelaide as well as a Director of Australian Women Pilots' Association and a Council Member of Native Vegetation Council of SA.



### James Walker

James Walker is a fifth generation grazier operating Camden Park located near Longreach, Queensland. The property is an 8,000 Ha organic, global animal partnership (GAP) accredited cattle station that hosts agritourism and a large-scale solar farm. Being a 2012 Nuffield Scholar and awarded Australian Farmer of the Year for excellence in diversification, James has built digital platforms and generated alternative businesses models to include environmental sustainability into farmer profit streams. James was a finalist for the 2020 Bob Hawke Landcare Award. James is a board member of Opera Queensland.



### Rebecca Underwood

Rebecca Underwood, BAgriSc, MAgriC, GradCertComm, GAICD, has over 20 years' experience in Australian agribusiness. Rebecca started her career as an agronomist and more recently has held various senior commercial agribusiness roles. Rebecca brings a strong background in agronomy, agribusiness management, agricultural sustainability, procurement and finance. Rebecca is currently the National Sustainability Field Manager for Nutrien Ag Solutions and is passionate about providing profitable and sustainable agricultural solutions to Australian growers.

# Landcare Australia Board of Directors

## Finance, Risk and Audit Committee

Members of Landcare Australia's Finance, Risk and Audit Committee during the 12 months to 30 June 2023 were: Anna Hooper, Committee Chair, Robert Nicholson, James Walker and Neal Hawkins.

Anna Hooper, Committee Chair	7/7
Robert Nicholson	6/7
James Walker	4/7
Neal Hawkins (appointed 1/5/23)	1/7

## Partnerships, Marketing, Communications and Fundraising Committee

Members of Landcare Australia's Partnerships, Marketing, Communications and Fundraising Committee during the 12 months to 30 June 2023 were: Peter Sutherland, Committee Chair, Naomi Edwards, Rebecca Underwood and Clare Bailey.

Peter Sutherland, Committee Chair	6/6
Naomi Edwards	5/6
Rebecca Underwood	4/6
Clare Bailey (appointed 16/1/23)	3/6

## Governance and Remuneration Committee

Members of Landcare Australia's Governance and Remuneration Committee during the 12 months to 30 June 2023 were: Doug Humann, Committee Chair, Anna Hooper and Rebecca Underwood.

Doug Humann, Committee Chair	5/5
Anna Hooper	5/5
Rebecca Underwood	5/5

## 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 2023 is Janet Davison.

## Auditors

The auditors for Landcare Australia Limited are Ernst & Young.



# Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023	2023 (\$)	2022 (\$)
Revenue	9,507,882	18,640,996
Other revenue	23,125	98,529
Finance income	176,794	18,646
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>9,707,801</b>	<b>18,758,171</b>
Partnerships, fundraising and grants management	(6,684,339)	(15,695,373)
Landcare services project delivery	(1,302,304)	(1,789,572)
Community engagement and awareness	(1,409,331)	(1,198,548)
Organisational support	(584,028)	(529,613)
Finance costs	(10,075)	(15,067)
<b>(Deficit) before income tax</b>	<b>(282,276)</b>	<b>(470,002)</b>
Income tax expense	-	-
<b>(Deficit) for the year</b>	<b>(282,276)</b>	<b>(470,002)</b>
Other comprehensive income	-	-
<b>Total comprehensive (deficit) for the year</b>	<b>(282,276)</b>	<b>(470,002)</b>

# Statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023

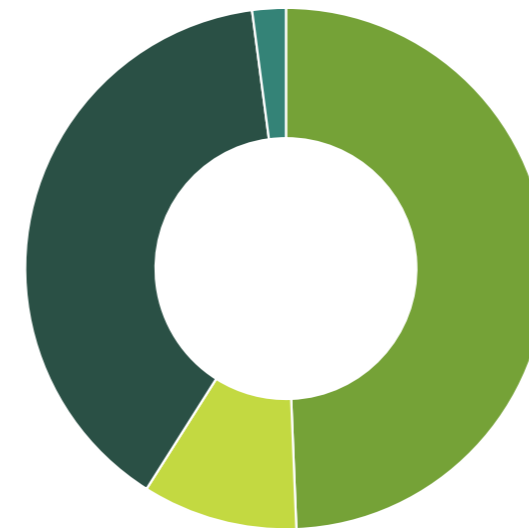
	2023 (\$)	2022 (\$)
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Currents assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalent	10,580,459	11,698,063
Trade and other receivables	485,228	654,055
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>11,065,687</b>	<b>12,352,118</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>		
Property, plant and equipment	66,358	44,706
Right-of-use assets	183,423	307,121
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	<b>249,781</b>	<b>351,827</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>11,315,468</b>	<b>12,703,945</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Trade and other payables	922,306	1,895,531
Contract liabilities	2,856,528	2,908,681
Employee benefit liabilities	384,725	319,203
Lease liabilities	139,872	129,587
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>4,303,431</b>	<b>5,253,002</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>		
Employee benefit liabilities	-	16,758
Lease liabilities	76,721	216,593
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>	<b>76,721</b>	<b>233,351</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>4,380,152</b>	<b>5,486,353</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>6,935,316</b>	<b>7,217,592</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Retained earnings	6,935,316	7,217,592
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>6,935,316</b>	<b>7,217,592</b>



# Statement of cash flows

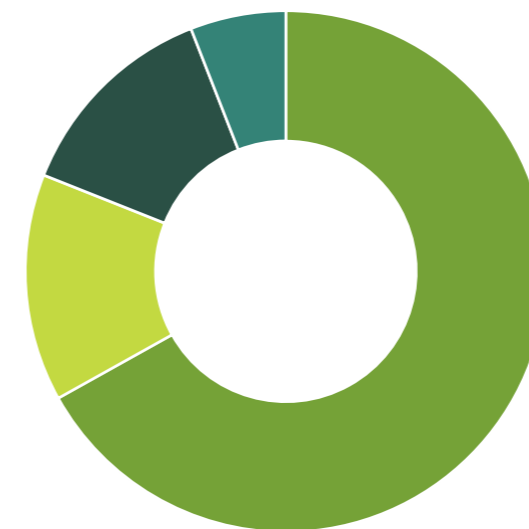
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023	2023 (\$)	2022 (\$)
<b>Operating activities</b>		
Receipts from customers	9,647,681	14,449,270
Payments to suppliers and employees	(10,736,520)	(19,286,137)
Interest received	176,794	18,646
Interest paid	(10,075)	(15,067)
<b>Net cash flows used in operating activities</b>	<b>(922,120)</b>	<b>(4,833,288)</b>
<b>Investing activities</b>		
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	15,000	-
Purchase of property, plants and equipment	(70,612)	(12,071)
<b>Net cash flow used in investing activities</b>	<b>(55,612)</b>	<b>(12,071)</b>
<b>Financing activities</b>		
Payment of principal portion of lease liabilities	(139,872)	(147,776)
<b>Net cash flows from financing activities</b>	<b>(139,872)</b>	<b>(147,776)</b>
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents	(1,117,604)	(4,993,135)
Cash and cash equivalents at July 1	11,698,063	16,691,198
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 30 June</b>	<b>10,580,459</b>	<b>11,698,063</b>

# Financial overview



## REVENUE

- Total gross revenue from corporate partnerships and license fees **48.87%**
- Total gross revenue from donations and bequests **9.52%**
- Total gross revenue from government grants and fee for service **38.55%**
- Total gross revenue from other sources and finance income **2.06%**



## EXPENSES

- Partnerships, fundraising and grants management **66.91%**
- Community engagement and awareness **14.11%**
- Landcare services project delivery **13.04%**
- Organisational support and finance costs **5.94%**

Pages 57-64 are a summary extracted from the audited General purpose (SDS) financial report for Landcare Australia Limited for the year ended 30 June 2023. 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](http://www.landcareaustralia.org.au)



**Image:** A recipient of a Woolworths Junior Landcare Grant, Middle Dural Public School in NSW put their funds to great use by enhancing the Indigenous planting surrounding their yarning circle. The school's yarning circle was also used to help launch Junior Landcare's new series of learning activities developed by environmental educator Sam Harrison and Wiradjuri man, Adam Shipp, for the Junior Landcare Learning Centre. Developed to help schools and groups create and use yarning circles meaningfully and respectfully with First Nations people, the resources are also supported by a series of educational videos with Junior Landcare ambassador, Costa Georgiadis.



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