

Before we begin the proceedings, I would like to acknowledge and pay respect to the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet, the Kurna people, I would like to pay respect to their Elders past and present.

Source: <https://www.creativespirits.info/aboriginalculture/spirituality/welcome-to-country-acknowledgement-of-country#ixzz4r0OU27wA>.

## Chairman's Report for Landcare Association of SA Inc

2016-17 AGM

The Joinery, 29/8/17

Welcome to the 2016-17 Annual General Meeting of the Landcare Association of SA Incorporated. I am pleased to see so many members and visitors at the AGM and acknowledge those members who have not been able to attend. This last 12 months has been a busy year for the association in many ways, which we will touch on with our reports and discussion. It is important to note that Landcare is founded on volunteerism and Australia is a leader in Landcare and the volunteer ethic.

We have developed new partnerships with our many stakeholders in South Australia and we have been adventurous in promoting Landcare as widely as possible. We continue to promote our SA Community Landcare Plan 2014-19 as the guiding document for our organisation.

I won't go on a journey of listing all the things we have done or partnered in, but I wish to highlight a few and the people who have been instrumental in getting us there.

### **Active and Resilient Landcare groups and networks:**

- The association has put a lot of resources into keeping landcare and industry groups informed about the things that matter to them. We have provided a regular e-newsletter to a large database of member and other groups with lots of information. Thanks to Glenn for preparing the e-newsletter;
- We have undertaken training courses and are keen to continue with these in the future, particularly focussing on good governance.
- We have also brought to the attention of groups the opportunities for grants, networking and insurance that are available, with a proposed Group Insurance scheme starting in March 2018;
- Despite the axing of the Green Army program in 2016 we continued our engagement with the Australian Government and were successful in getting 2 'Election Commitment 2016' projects. These projects are for Campbelltown City Council region (commenced June 2017) with The Gums Landcare and Campbelltown Landcare Groups and in January 2018 the Adelaide Hills project will commence supporting Sturt Upper Reaches and Aldgate Valley Landcare Groups.
- New groups are forming and we are frequently asked for support and details about the Landcare Helping Hands logo and we refer them to Landcare Australia who are most helpful in providing the artwork and other support for new groups.

### **Collaboration and Partnerships with Stakeholders:**

- The association took Landcare to WOMADelaide 2017 with the support of members from across the State and encouraged Primary Schools to submit artworks for the 2016-17 Landcare Art Awards which were displayed at WOMAD. Thanks to Sandy for her work on this;
- The association has continued to strengthen its ties with the Conservation Council of SA on a peak body basis, but also as a member so that we can have influence in this space. We thank Craig Willkins and Jill Woodlands for their ongoing work in this space;
- Following on from the signing of the Mutual Agreement with the Presiding Members of the NRM Boards (March 2016), LASA was invited to partner in the development of the SA NRM Investment Strategy 2016, with PPSA, CCSA, DEWNR, PIRSA, LGASA and Aboriginal leaders. Once the strategy was developed it was up to partners to assist in its promotion and the Association was involved in 2 meetings with Federal politicians, Minister Josh Frydenberg MP and Assistant Minister Sen Anne Ruston, as well as a meeting with Minister Ian Hunter MLC.
- Meetings of the NRM Partners continue on a quarterly basis focussing on community needs and aspirations for the conservation and management of our State.
- The association is a member of the National Landcare Network and through this partnership we receive our allocation from the National Landcare Program which contributes to the salary and operating costs of our Executive Officer Glenn Gale. The NLN has a grass roots support structure called the Members Council and I would like to thank Sandy Edwards, Parry Agius and Dr Patrick O'Connor for their participation in the Members Council work.

### **Engagement with Landcare at State and Regional levels**

- The association has strongly focussed on promotion of the Landcare ethic across SA with visits by Glenn to most regions of SA and more to come. As you could imagine we have been strongly focussed on the Northern and Yorke region of the State as we are holding the 2017 State Landcare Conference in Clare next month.
- We have a strong partnership with the DEWNR Volunteer Support Unit, which provides a hot-desk in Waymouth Street Adelaide for Glenn and we thank Gill Peacey for her ongoing support.

### **Connection of Landcare Activities and programs across South Australia**

- Our partnership with the Aboriginal Lands Trust remains strong despite recent changes and the ALT having to reduce staff, especially their Landcare Officers;
- We continue to remind the NRM Boards that the community should be at the centre of natural resource management and receive strong support and acknowledgement from Board members and staff; and
- We strongly encourage all Landcare Groups to recognise and celebrate achievement and best practice in Landcare and we are pleased with the number of nominations for the 2017 State Landcare Awards which will be presented at the State Landcare Conference on 12 September 2017.

### **The 2017 State Landcare Conference, Clare 11-13 September:**

The Theme of the Conference being **Celebrating Innovation and Diversity in Landcare** and the Conference is run by the Landcare Association of SA, a community organisation that advocates for community Landcare, and we accept all the risk of running such an event.

There are 4 Field Tours which explore the region and nearly 60 presentations by Keynote speakers and presenters. The Conference Landcare Awards dinner will be a highlight and we are privileged to have His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC, Governor of South Australia, and Mrs Lan Le attending the dinner.

We have worked with local businesses, Ngadjuri elders and other Aboriginal leaders, Primary and Secondary Schools, local Landcare and Farming Systems Groups, the Northern and Yorke NRM Board, State Government Departments and the Clare and Gilbert Valley Council to bring the Conference to Clare and present a very professional conference.

It is an exciting time and by all accounts it looks like it will be a successful conference.

I would like to thank our hard-working Executive Officer Glenn Gale, who has used all his experience and networks to value-add to our budget for employment. It is a pleasure to work with Glenn.

To all our Members and supporters I would like to thank you for your contribution towards a busy and very successful year and encourage you to continue to participate at grass roots with your Landcare Group, to also consider involvement on the LASA Management Committee which meets bi-monthly, and nationally, with the National Landcare Network.

My term as Chairman of LASA has been a long one and I would appreciate it if we could identify a successor who could take over the reins. I propose to accept a nomination for one more term and develop a succession plan over the next year. In addition my term on the NLN Board comes to an end in November 2017 and it has been a very stimulating engagement at the peak body for Community Landcare in Australia.

Thanks to you for attending this meeting and we look forward to seeing many of you at the Conference in less than 2 weeks.

Gerry Butler

29/8/17