



2017 State Community Landcare Conference

September 11 – 13, 2017,

Clare, South Australia



Speed Networking Session Summary

Over one hundred and thirty people participated in a speed session during the 2017 State Community Landcare Conference. The session gave delegates an opportunity to reflect on conference learnings to date, express opinions and points of view – in a fun yet worthwhile way – to be engaged. The concept was to build knowledge and awareness, capture and share the experiences of participants and build interaction.

Twelve topics were presented with six sessions running for ten minutes each. Presenters introduced a topic and then encouraged dialogue, capturing the essence of conversations. The short time frame is designed to gather 'first thought' moments, often the most enlightening.

While each session did generate an abundant amount of data, common elements were repeated, and these have been summarised as the top three points below. The broader comments for each topic are provided after the summary.

Top three points

Sector Partnerships: What are the 'value trade' and enterprise synergies; the impact on communities and the personal growth opportunities for both parties?

Build around what people want and need – ask and listen – meet value systems

Include multiple partners, increasing skill sets, thinking outside of the square and challenging the current way of delivering support – create passion and capacity

Increase the networks and capitalise for leverage and advocacy

Aboriginal Conservation Engagement: Co-management opportunities, how do we measure success, what are the opportunities and challenges and where are the cultural differences?

Consider cultural aspects of doing business – time, business models, importance of relationships, respect of embedded culture and priorities and learn from aboriginal cultural knowledge (incorporate)

Acknowledge history and support others in process to manage potential resistance, provide a safe, comfortable and supportive place for all

Long term consistency of engagement is required – resources, staff, planning, stop changing criteria, extend project time frames

Regenerative Farming: Soil biology and building soils, reducing impacts and jump off points. What are the different business models and where are the enterprise synergies?

Needs more understanding around what regenerative means – is 'holistic' a better term.
Practitioners, farmers and the market place unclear how the system differs from others such as no-till, low inputs

Overall – fits into the circular economy, is a low input system with an aim to balance the environment, improve soil health and unlock soil nutrients – utilises biodiversity in a holistic manner. Potential to bring the community back to the farm

Major challenges in the mindset – the unknowns of economics, timeframes, measurement – bills still need to be paid.

Aboriginal Jobs: Where are the opportunities in training that leads to long term jobs?

Cultural tolerance and understanding – connection, obligations, time lines, view of success (process not outcome)

Long term mentoring opportunities with employment in relatable roles such as bush tucker, tourism, story-telling – with local involvement

Understand who to connect to within each community, recognising the role and status of custodians and talk to Elders being aware they are travelling at your rate and are ok with the conversation.

Landcare Beyond 2018: Insights into established and new group formation – the drivers and strategies for success, why do people want to be involved?

Be aware of the changing face of the community in relation to Landcare eg farmers – life stylers- Corporates and social conscious – schools

Understand how to connect with your community target and have a dedicated approach

Measure and promote success in stories – be innovative

New Generation: Bridging the gap, what is so different about them? How to increase involvement of young people.

Appreciate the changing priorities of young minds and target age groups where nature is still cool – listen to what they want to do and make sure you include that in design

Potential to increase sense of belonging in the community with some ownership and therefore automatic engagement

Challenges – if we do not invite them, they will not come – find the links that appeal to kids, foster leadership/skills/advocacy in the group – give youth empowerment and their own identity.

Environmental Reform and Policy: What are the drivers for change, how is it best to influence the powers that be including community, what are the NLP2 opportunities – red tape and potential reform?

Policy must be long term, flexible and adaptive – able to withstand political changes due to short term electoral cycles – increase consultation and scope of engagement

Need to manage to minimise risk of disconnect between front end policy development and implementation including time lag, changing community expectations, conflict between Departments

Coastal Partnerships: Identifying and engaging outside 'the box', what is the value trade?

Identify key stakeholders including opponents and develop relationships as soon as possible to increase community and peer pressure for positive actions

Consider alternatives to support activity changes such as Crowd Funding to purchase land that requires protecting from private enterprise

Understand all options available such as by-laws, legislation, Local Council development guidelines, planning approvals.

Nature of SA: What is the new thinking, the place for reflection and gathering ideas.

Remember the child you once were – go back to nature, share with a kid, connect and enjoy

Show case stories that promote the benefits of nature including what looks/is healthy – celebrate what we have (not dwell on what is lost)

Find models of promotion and celebration that work and borrow from them eg. Nature Tourism

Futures, Food and Value: New business opportunities for Landcare and communities/ developing and adopting a business planning mindset.

Opportunities to diversify in agriculture need to be adaptive and resilient considering climate change, changing community priorities and marketing strategies such as prioritising local produce and increasing demand for ethically based food

Connect people with the source of their food tapping into value and belief systems

Minimise overhead costs – transport, packaging

Grazing and conservation: The place of herbivores and what you need to know.

Grazing is a useful tool for both soil and plant health however, its management is appropriate for the system and environment and this will change dependant on the circumstances eg seasons, region, species, animal and plant nutrition requirements

Consideration required to cost of improving management through infrastructure eg fences, water points

Need simple learning, training and monitoring techniques

Non-chemical weeds control: New technologies and solutions.

Consider the appropriateness of alternative options eg microwave, steam, laser, biomass

Increase effort and efficiency, understand plant life cycles and management options including biosecurity and emerging weeds

Biosecurity – get in early with emerging weeds

TOPIC: Sector Partnerships

	3 TOP MESSAGES
Session 1	Move people out of their comfort zones – look for ‘different’ sectors
	New skills, mindsets and thinking
	Network of voices/organisations – to lever and advocate for a cause
Session 2	Build the project around what people want – ask and LISTEN
	Look outside the square and work with different sectors – innovation, energy
	Need both passion and capacity
Session 3	Need to focus less on the importance of Govt and think about support differently
	Build partnerships with Corporate – get staff on the ground and work done
	Expand the network and have other groups running eg sporting clubs in rural areas
Session 4	Multiple partners on one project – all benefit – recognition
	Connect to farms through schools – get kids to be the drivers – flows into the whole community
	Viticulture has great partnerships eg Big Day Out
Session 5	Meet value systems
Session 6	
Other comment	

TOPIC Aboriginal Conservation Engagement

	3 TOP MESSAGES
Session 1	Sustainable relationships – young people and succession planning; relationship/capacity building; work together for the future
	Supporting place – safe, comfortable, mentors
	Awareness – be flexible and patient, acknowledge different time scales, trust process led by Nation, cultural protocols, respect
Session 2	Acknowledge history – landholder not aware of how to go through the process – potential resistance
	Consistency of engagement – resource availability, changing funding criteria, continuity, long term visions required
	APY – Nations have additional pressures and priorities, embedded culture, multiple languages
Session 3	Learn from Aboriginal cultural knowledge – undervalued; some science barriers; perception of power
	Aboriginal employment – specific policies and programs to support engagement eg Greening Australia; transition through careers; support to build business capabilities
	Consider opportunities to value add whilst including cultural situations
Session 4	Grant time lines are restrictive
	Appreciate the Aboriginal time frames and business models
	Induction, project planning, graduate programs
Session 5	Up front and ongoing funding
	Government Departments do not value time frames
	Lack of staff continuity makes connection difficult
Session 6	Build relationships
	Capitalise on the capacity
Other comment	

TOPIC: Regenerative Farming

	3 TOP MESSAGES
Session 1	The regenerative label is broadly understood but not clear how it relates to Ag in the consumer market place – is Holistic a better description
	The high labour inputs promote opportunity within regional communities
	Long term ownership of family farms has allowed progressive/opportune uptake of best practice
Session 2	Other models, such as No-Till, have similar aspects. More information needed on what it is
	Go beyond considering stock to only be – sheep and cattle
	Farmers need to connect with consumer by selling their story (social media and markets)
Session 3 No farmers	Fits into circular economy – food, consumer, health. Closed system – increase soil health – increase plant health – increase human health
	Need a culture of support, adaptation and recognition for stewardship currently occurring (not a regulatory approach) – agriculture is young in Australia – still learning
	Most farmers do understand soils and are working toward systems that improve them – not increased synthetic inputs such as fertiliser
Session 4	Slow down water and increase infiltration
	Continuous cropping and stubble retention to improve soil organics – aim for 70%
	Native Vegetation has improved beneficial insect populations
Session 5	Low input systems – using on farm organic matter, IPM, legumes in no-till – aim to balance the environment to improve soil health
	Major challenges in changing mindset – the unknowns – what are the economic benefits, timeframes, measure – bills need to be paid
	What is value – employment, biodiversity, sustainability
Session 6	Working within a system to ensure all by-products are functioning and utilised – stacked farming systems which utilise biodiversity and a holistic approach
	Social impacts of regen farming – bringing the community back to the farm – literally and in a marketing sense
	Improving soil microbiology to unlock soil nutrients – soil health
Other comment	

TOPIC: Aboriginal Jobs

	3 TOP MESSAGES
Session 1	Flexibility in the workplace – cultural connection/obligation considerations
	Training and support to fit into a 9 – 5 structure
	Mentoring long term opportunity
Session 2	Aboriginal people inducted into Govt. processes/programs/opportunity
	Employ local Aboriginal people to improve communication and engagement
	Identify the processes and blockages – demonstrate a real desire for aboriginal people in the workplace – not just token positions
Session 3	Greater inclusion in core business – employees, Board members – not just contractors
	Cultural and nature based tourism operations are a ‘real’ opportunity
	Consideration of cultural differences – time lines; constraints – process not outcome = change of guidelines and deliverables with funding
Session 4	NOTE spend more time developing relationships with Asian neighbours than with own aboriginal communities eg Sister council in China but not in APY lands.
	Aboriginal job opportunities are obvious in connecting topics eg Regen Farmers and Future Food and Value – synergies need to be recognised and promoted
	Citizen science – employ Aboriginal consultants – experts on topics – deliver programs to community – data collection is the goal
Session 5	Increase the bush food industry potential
	Consider engagement – getting the right people connected – everyone is time poor and keen to set up connections
	Consider the cultural engagement process – story telling, values, interest based
Session 6	Cultural change is a slow process. Talk to Elders – listen – they will direct you; check in regularly ‘is this ok, are you happy with where this going’ – listen
	Know who, where and when to make connections. Respect and recognise the role and status of custodians
	Aboriginal kids need to have a future and a choice of what they want to do
Other comment	

TOPIC: Landcare Beyond 2018

	3 TOP MESSAGES
Session 1	The way forward must be relevant to the community
	Measure and promote success stories
	Investment focus can change quickly – currently opportunities with Corporates eg Social conscious partnerships
Session 2	Need a dedicated marketing approach to communicate
	Improve Aboriginal community engagement – copy NGO model
	Create initiatives to open other avenues and opportunities – succession planning
Session 3	Lifestyle farmers – increasing part of the community – thirsty for knowledge
	Working across disciplines eg landscape architects
	Increase work with Primary School kids – connect to nature
Session 4	Finding the right community engagement model and keeping core values of Landcare. It is all about relationships – building, nurturing, connection
	Knowing the right channels to connect through with community engagement
	Go beyond rural – be conscious about sustainable living; taking responsibility for lifestyle choices eg rubbish, garden plants
Session 5	Repurpose urban spaces to connect urban population to nature
	Follow a corporate market approach – a strategic direction is needed
	Challenge distribution of NRM levy – population vs biodiversity spots
Session 6	Non-regular activities are attractive – one off events like tree planting
	Well-being and health – opportunities to connect and promote Landcare activities
	Rethink ‘us’ and ‘them’ ideas about Govt – we are all Government!
Other comment	

TOPIC: New Generation

	3 TOP MESSAGES
Session 1	Engaged through choice and range of activities to be outside and 'doing'
	Opportunity to be supported through schools – limited by interest and capability of teachers
	Regional schools only one bus – all go together = sense of community
Session 2	Kids present on what engages them eg LASA
	Need to increase awareness of options – invited to events/meetings; scholarships; social media
	Structures need to be responsive to needs – listen more and meet expectations – tailor to age/group/interest - current relevance
Session 3	Ownership – giving back to the kids – automatic engagement
	Environmental work is not seen 'cool' for years 7 – 9 – other priorities eg homework, sport, competing interest
	Citizen science opportunities into school curriculum – integration, STEM
Session 4	Increases sense of belonging, community – peer pressure, values, incentives
	Change reporting requirements – need longer term to measure behaviour/attitude change – return and visit commitment
	How do you measure the ripple effect of engagement – families, friends
Session 5	Good – projects that can involve and excite, recognises worthwhile efforts and achievements, can see – touch - learn
	Bad – not being listened to about what they want to achieve, lack of recognition
	Challenges – if we do not invite them, they will not come; find the link that appeals to kids; foster leadership/skills/advocacy in the group
Session 6	Need to empower and engage, give youth their own entity!
	Let go of old mindsets
Other comment	

TOPIC: Environmental reform and policy

	3 TOP MESSAGES
Session 1	Develop instruments to protect policy from constant change due to short term electoral cycles
	Engage broad networks to engage with policy development processes
	Look at type of policy – focus on long term and adaptive
Session 2	Talk to politicians – engage with them
	Engage long term with companies and corporates who have influence – use networks
	Environmental policy needs to be inclusive across all NRM sectors – including Aboriginal – reflect and influence wide range of policies
Session 3	Key is to get people listening, engaging with community to get outcomes
	Risk – needs to be managed and scale up, use innovative
	Policy needs to be concise and easy to understand
Session 4	Flexibility/agility/adaptability in policy and development
	Disconnect between strategic and operational is a problem
	Reactive verses proactive – policy development is slow, and lags behind community expectations
Session 5	Triple bottom line and commercial considerations are not a priority in environmental policy development
	Different Depts. can be involved in policy development and implementation – can lead to conflicts in priorities
	No united voice to influence policy – often conflicting – need collaboration – Landcare could play a key role here
Session 6	Important to have clear messaging during consultation
	Can be a disconnect between the front-end policy development and later implementation
	Certain key stakeholders can over influence policy - distortions eg developers
Other comment	

TOPIC: Coastal partnerships

	3 TOP MESSAGES
Session 1	Set aside sacrificial land to relocate competing activities – motorbikes and 4WD adventure clubs
	Increase local community pressure as well as peer pressure
	Staged process to address conflicting issues
Session 2	Awareness raising about nesting times of shore birds
	Raise concerns with dog owners that the area has been baited
	Educate 4 WD and bike suppliers in Adelaide
Session 3	Develop relationships with competing activities – adopt a site; sacrificial area; compulsory land acquisitions; champions, volunteer bird patrols
	Explore other regulatory options – Indigenous Protected Area; Bylaws; Council to ensure risks are mitigated
	Use cameras to provide evidence of damage – for knowledge and education
Session 4	Camera's
	Sacrificial land
	Close activities down
Session 5	Crowd funding to purchase land and convert to public control – Friends of Scott Creek example
	Increase vegetation to provide a barrier as protection for birds and deter riders – Aborgreen might sponsor
	Has the activity the appropriate planning approvals?
Session 6	
Other comment	

TOPIC: Nature of SA

	3 TOP MESSAGES
Session 1	Don't forget the importance of one-on-one conversations, this is where two people can change
	We love EP, a campaign about talking about our sense of place and love of assets
	Shall we all start in future with our personal story – we introduce ourselves as people
Session 2	Challenging ourselves to let go and love the landscapes, despite the wands (??)
	Great to have training and access to latest science/not available to lots of practitioners
	If you want to feel connected to country, take the kids out, they remind you how to connect and enjoy
Session 3	The nature definition in future has to be inclusive of ecology eg soil, and perspectives eg urban producers
	We need to get back in touch with the child we once were – falling in love with our landscape
	Love not loss is important for others but also ourselves – psychic numbing
Session 4	We need to listen to each other – what are their aspirations, sparks, connections
	Be positive more about what 'is' still in the landscape – celebrate what is amongst us
	We really need to start where we can about what is and isn't going to work in the future – timely/essential
Session 5	We all need to link messages with action – action builds the land and the heart
	People also relate to documentaries, we need to showcase Oz in Australia and our Australian heroes
	Borrow from nature tourism models overseas where tourists contribute to the health of parks
Session 6	The way we have portrayed nature has made it almost not attainable – inclusive
	Our seeking perfection may have stopped us doing things/taking action
	Even in a tiny backyard you can be connected to nature and your landscape
Other comment	Good format, perhaps a little more in-between time – hard for the facilitator.

TOPIC: Futures, food and value

	3 TOP MESSAGES
Session 1	Embrace change – adapt, be prepared
	More information on how climate change might influence agriculture eg oysters
	Age and experience – benefit or a challenge
Session 2	Continue innovative marketing and communication eg overseas and kangaroos
	Promote the resource of kangaroo eg healthy meat option – cultural sensitivities
	Relationship between healthy soils and our food value
Session 3	Prioritise promotion of local produce – regionally identified, regionally branded
	Connect people with the source of their food – healthy regions = jobs, employment, farms
	The risk of the adverse unknown with diversification
Session 4	Accreditation systems to support increasing demand for ethically based food
	The challenge of maintaining food production with subdivision in perri-urban areas
	Marketing messages need to be positive not negative – value and belief systems
Session 5	Increase diversification of agricultural businesses – value adding, marketing, bio-dynamic, regenerative
	Experiences associated with agriculture – help sell the story of the product
	Opportunities to diversify farm businesses makes opportunities for future generations
Session 6	Think about value to other culture of our agricultural produce – green, clean, healthy food
	Challenges of transporting fresh food over long distances
	Importance of minimising packaging
Other comment	

TOPIC: Grazing

	3 TOP MESSAGES
Session 1	Overabundant native animal species
	Grazing as a useful tool to improve soil health
	More knowledge required on system – measuring grazing pressure, lack of knowledge of trigger points – plants need rest
Session 2	Grazing is a case by case prescription and must adapt to changing circumstances – seasons, species, animal nutrition requirement
	Overabundant native animal species
	Lack of knowledge – grass, species, interactions, animal behaviour
Session 3	It can work – knowledge, monitoring
	Improve roo management – harvest/markets – cut the red tape
	How do we integrate diversity of grazers into the system
Session 4	It is possible – potential to manage weeds
	Increase the knowledge – what, when, timing, observations, plant and animal requirements
	Social issues – opposing opinions
Session 5	Consideration of infrastructure costs – fences, water points
	Requires informed management – timing, location
	Good for weed control
Session 6	Good for weed control
	Requires more innovation
	Simplify the learning/training/monitoring techniques
Other comment	

TOPIC: Weeds

	3 TOP MESSAGES
Session 1	Move away from mass spraying and consider alternative options – microwave, steam, laser, biomass etc for targeted and small-scale management
	Rodale Institute USA – non-chemical weed control
	Biomass – harvest dense weeds for energy production
Session 2	Roadside weeds vs farm weeds vs bushland – all need individual focus/prioritisation
	Increase effort and efficiency – understand plant lifecycles and management options, biosecurity and emerging weeds
	Drones – for the future – identify and target weeds for control
Session 3	Biosecurity – get in early with emerging weeds
	Sow grasses and chenopods at high rates to out-compete weed species
	Different alternatives require different energies eg lasers use less energy than photo flash methods.
Session 4	Microwave weed seeds
	Biodynamics
Session 5	Laser is useful for small weeds
Session 6	Robot technologies for slow continuous weed control, sensing textures and slopes
Other comment	