

Chairperson's Report for Landcare Association of SA Inc

2017-18 AGM

The Joinery, 30/8/18

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.

Welcome to the 2017-18 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 frequent updates and an e-newsletter to a large database of member groups, individuals and other groups with lots of information. Thanks to Glenn for preparing the e-newsletter and updating the website and social media platforms;
- We have facilitated 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, and several groups have taken up the Group Insurance scheme from March 2018;
- Despite the axing of the Green Army program in 2016 we continued our engagement with the Australian Government and the 2 'Election Commitment 2016' projects for Campbelltown City Council region (commenced June 2017) with The Gums Landcare and Campbelltown Landcare Groups and the Adelaide Hills project (commenced January 2018) supporting Sturt Upper Reaches and Aldgate Valley Landcare Groups, were very successful.
- 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 has continued to strengthen its ties with the Conservation Council of SA on a peak body basis, but also as a member and participant in the SA Nature Alliance. We thank

Craig Wilkins and Jill Woodlands for their ongoing work in this space. Regrettably due to a restructure of roles and positions Jill is no longer with the CCSA and we wish her well;

- Meetings of the NRM Partners Forum continue on a quarterly basis focussing on community needs and aspirations for the conservation and management of our State. This group includes the Presiding Members of the NRM Boards, LASA, Conservation Council of SA, Primary Producers SA, DEW and PIRSA. This has taken on a new role as Minister David Speirs has asked the group to continue and provide advice on the NRM Reform process.
- 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. With the recent appointment of Sheree Bowman to the role of Support Officer for the Members Council we have increased our awareness of the activities. There have been many discussions about policy and the proposed merger of the NLN and Landcare Australia Ltd to form one advocacy body for Landcare at a national level.

Engagement with Landcare at State and Regional levels

- The association again took Landcare to WOMADelaide 2018, with support from individual members and member group Sturt Upper Reaches and the Green Army team with a display about bandicoots and a Landcare Quiz. We also had a successful Landcare display and stall, incorporating the Landcare Quiz, at the 2018 South East Field days at Lucindale. Thanks to Glenn for his work on this;
- 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. There was a strong focus on the Northern and Yorke region of the State with the successful delivery of the 2017 State Landcare Conference in Clare in September 2017.
- We continue our strong partnership with the DEW Volunteer Support Unit, which provides a hot-desk in Waymouth Street Adelaide for Glenn and we thank John Schutz and Gill Peacey for their 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 is lobbying for additional resources to support communities in their land management and economic development opportunities;
- 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 ably demonstrated in our consultation process with the Regional Land Partnerships funding round; and
- We strongly encourage all Landcare Groups to recognise and celebrate achievement and best practice in Landcare and we were heartened by the success of the 2017 State Landcare Awards which were presented at the State Landcare Conference on 12 September 2017.

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

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

The Conference was oversubscribed and there were 4 Field Tours, which explored the region and nearly 60 presentations by Keynote speakers and presenters. The welcome by the Clare HS Drama group facilitated by Sally Hardy and Phillip Parslow captured the imagination of the registrants with a stunning invitation to be engaged. The Conference Landcare Awards dinner was also a highlight, despite the logistical difficulties of getting 250 people seated in the Golf Club, and we were privileged to have His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC, Governor of South Australia, and the CE of DEWNR, Mrs Sandy Pitcher who attended the dinner and presented awards.

We 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 I believe we presented a very professional conference.

Conclusion:

It is an exciting time for Landcare in SA, with the ongoing consultation on NRM Reform – the proposed 'Landscapes South Australia Act'; and by all accounts it will continue to be so, as we start preparing for the 2019 State Landcare Conference, proposed for the South East of SA in September 2018 and consult on the next 5 year State Community Landcare Plan.

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 will be standing down from the role of Chairman, but I wish to remain on the Committee and accept any role that the members consider me able, especially in Chairing the Conference Steering Committee and liaison with Aboriginal communities through the Aboriginal Lands Trust. In addition my term on the NLN Board comes to an end in November 2017 and it has been a very stimulating engagement on the peak body for Community Landcare in Australia.

Thank you for attending this meeting and we look forward to seeing many of you in the future.

Gerry Butler
30/8/18