

Annual Report 2018-2019

Chairpersons Report

This last year has been a whirlwind. In my first year as Chair of the Landcare Association of South Australia I have had the opportunity to really delve into the Landcare movement in SA and across the country. I have been so fortunate to have the support of many people which has made my job very enjoyable. In preparing this annual report I have been reflecting on all of the great initiatives our Landcarers have been involved in across the state and the difference that every Landcarer makes in their local environment and within their social network. We are so fortunate to have so many committed groups and individuals committed to protecting and restoring our natural environment.

This year we celebrate the Landcare Association of SA's 20th year. It is a very special milestone which is coupled with the 30th year anniversary of an organized and supported Landcare system in Australia. Which brought with it the National Landcare Program and the formation of Landcare Australia Limited. The Landcare Association of SA has been participating in 30 year celebration plans with Landcare Australia. LASA will be celebrating it's 20 years at our upcoming conference in Bordertown.



LASA has welcomed me into the Chair's role, Ross Oke into the Secretary's role and our newest management committee member Karen Bishop, who is Project Officer with the Riverland West Landcare Group. Karen has been a fantastic addition to the LASA management committee and bring with her years of experience working with communities and Landcare. I look forward to working closely with the management committee to bring to life the peak body for Landcare in SA.

We also said farewell to Glenn Gale, LASA's executive officer who retired earlier this year. This was a sad but very rewarding farewell as Glenn expressed his love for the position and for the people he worked with. Glenn has left his mark on LASA having contributed so very much to the role and the cause. Following in Glenn's footsteps, we welcomed our new Executive Officer, Janet Kuys. Janet has been thrown in the deep end with conference planning but doing a great job and making great headway in such a short time period. Welcome to LASA Janet.

I am excited to see new Landcare groups starting up across the state. Even despite the funding challenges and government set backs Landcare communities and networks are stronger than ever, with new groups starting up all the time. This year we saw the continued positive momentum for groups across the Metropolitan Adelaide Coastline and conversely the sad demise of valuable groups such as the Eastern Hills and Murray Plains Catchment Group after 20 active years. There are continuing challenges for Landcare and LASA continues to work with our partners, stakeholders and communities to provide support and advocate for the movement in SA across the state and at a national level.

In this annual report I have summarized LASA's highlights and key achievements from the 2018-2019 financial year.

'Landcare Unearthed – Celebrating Diversity, Managing Landscapes' - 2019 SA Community Landcare Conference:

Since October 2018, LASA has been busy planning the 2019 SA Community Landcare Conference. The conference planning is led by a conference planning steering committee which consists of a committed group of people from NGO's, state government, Landcare groups and the local community. The conference will be held 28-30th October at the Tatiara Civic Centre in Bordertown SA. The conference has received significant support from sponsors, regional business, the Tatiara Council and the Limestone Coast community to bring an exceptional community event to the South East.

Parliamentary Friends of Landcare SA:

The Parliamentary Friends of Landcare was launched with an inaugural dinner at Parliament House on the 26th of February 2019 which was proudly hosted by the long standing member Hon John Dawkins MLC. The inaugural dinner saw presentations by the Aboriginal Lands Trust, Henley Dunes Care Group and the Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association.



The Friends group is gaining momentum and building it's membership, with a secretariat led by Hon Josh Teague MP supported by Hon Geoff Brock MP and Hon Eddie Hughes MP. The group is working closely with the Landcare Association of SA to increase the awareness of Landcare in Parliament, encourage participation at an electorate level and build the base for advocacy for Landcarers across SA.

Honorary Life Membership Awarded to Gerry Butler:

Gerry Butler, who served LASA as Chairperson and very active member for 10 years was awarded an Honorary Life Membership for his exceptional service to the association. LASA held a thank you dinner in his honor with Landcare volunteers and partners. Gerry is continuing his service to LASA as a management committee member and is very active planning the 2019 SA Community Landcare Conference and working on aboriginal engagement and the Parliamentary Friends of Landcare. Thank you Gerry.



Aboriginal Engagement in Landcare:

The Landcare Association of SA has a role to play in proactively engaging with our Aboriginal member group, the Aboriginal Lands Trust and Aboriginal communities and individuals, to enable Aboriginal engagement in Landcare. We were proudly involved in the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Nantawarrina Indigenous Protected Area (IPA)– the first IPA in South Australia. More recently we hosted an Aboriginal Engagement in Landcare forum at Tandanya with participation by Michael Kumatpi O'Brien, Kurna elder, and NIPA rangers Jolwen Johnson and Cameron Johnson who gave a presentation about their work at Nantawarrina. The Landcare Conference has also been proactive in engaging Aboriginal participation and we anticipate a strong presence and involvement with the SE Aboriginal Focus group and Aboriginal people from across the State in the Conference.



2018 National Landcare Conference

As part of the National Landcare Network, the Landcare Association of SA participated in the 2018 National Landcare Conference held in Brisbane in October 2019. The conference was hosted by Landcare Australia and delivered presentations and networking opportunities showcasing Landcare across the country. South Australia had a strong contingent in Brisbane and a few presentations from SA also which was great to see. The 2018 National Landcare Awards were delivered at the conference gala dinner where SA brought home 3 national Landcare awards.

Sure Gro Treemax Coastcare Winner: Hindmarsh Island Landcare Group Inc.

Woolworths Junior Landcare Team Award Winner: Mount Compass Area School - Swamp Ambassadors.

Fairfax Media Landcare Community Group Winner - Birdlife Australia Gluepot Reserve.



LASA's Involvement in the National Landcare Network:

As part of our funding agreement with the Federal Government, LASA participates in the National Landcare Network. Last year LASA contributed to a policy statement document for Landcare in Australia which was supported by a value proposition literature review. We have also been actively involved in processes and discussions for the National Landcare Network and Landcare Australia to form a new company to be the peak body for Landcare in Australia. LASA signed an MoU to commence discussions with Landcare Australia on this reform.

The Landcare Association of SA participates in the National Landcare Network on several levels: SA's NLN Board Nominee is Patrick O'Connor and we have three members on the NLN Members Council including Ross Oke, Gerry Butler and Karen Bishop (proxy). The NLN Board and Members Council met face to face in Brisbane in October last year and in March Adelaide hosted a joint face to face meeting of the NLN Board and Members Council. We were fortunate enough to have Minister David Speirs join us all for dinner and deliver a short presentation on the SA NRM Reform.





NRM Reform in SA – Consultation with Landcare:

Over the past year LASA has been actively involved in the consultation process with the SA NRM Reform. We ensured representation across SA wherever possible at the community forums, actively participated in targeted sessions, met with the Environment Minister David Speirs and the Shadow Environment Minister Susan Close. We worked collaboratively with the Primary Producers of SA and the Conservation Council of SA with our communications to the minister and the Department and participated in the SA Nature Alliance which assisted our partnership approach. We are advocating strongly for the statewide grassroots grants for community which was earmarked by the government at the start of the consultation period.

National Landcare Program – Regional Land Partnerships Feedback:

As a member of the National Landcare Network and as a peak body for Landcare in SA, we were consulted on the progress of Regional Land Partnership Project bids by the Presiding Members of each NRM Region and had the opportunity to provide feedback and advocate for Landcare communities across the state. At a national level we contributed to feedback which was provided direct to the Agriculture and Environment Departments about the NLP grants process and program (Regional Land Partnerships and Smart Farms).

Landcare outreach:

LASA continues to connect with Landcarers and Landcare Groups through our various networks, forums and face to face at events. The LASA Management Committee has been active in their own communities and across the state connecting with groups and bringing issues, challenges and achievements to the attention of LASA. We have in turn ensured that this information has been fed up to the other state and territory organisations through the national landcare network.

