



Landcare Association of South Australia Inc

A member of the National Landcare Network



Annual Report 2019-2020

2019 – 2020 was a challenging time for Landcarers across Australia. Extensive drought in Australia throughout 2019 was followed by the worst bushfire disaster in Australian history from September 2019 through to January and February 2020. In South Australia, early bushfires struck the lower Eyre and Yorke Peninsula's, then the Cudlee Creek fires hit the Adelaide Hills leading into Christmas 2019. These fires were followed in the new year by the raging bushfires on Kangaroo Island, with over half of the Island being burnt. Floods followed fire in the eastern states and then in March 2020, the Corona Virus Pandemic reached Australia and triggered a nation-wide lock down, with devastating impacts on the Australian economy.

By late April and early May, with good early season rains and a slow lifting of COVID-19 restrictions, SA Landcare groups started to cautiously resume on ground projects and activities. The LASA management committee adapted to the changed world by holding Management Committee Meetings online via the Zoom online meeting platform. There are continuing challenges for Landcare and the Landcare Association of South Australia (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. Below we have summarized LASA's highlights and key achievements from the 2019-2020 financial year.

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

On 28 -30th October 2019, LASA proudly presented the 2019 SA Community Landcare Conference at the Tatiara Civic Centre in Bordertown SA. The conference planning and steering committee which consisted of a committed group of people from NGO's, state government, Landcare groups and the local community, ensured the event went off with great success. The conference received significant support from sponsors, regional business, NRM Boards, the Tatiara Council and the Limestone Coast community, bringing an exceptional community event to the South East.

The SA Landcare Awards

At the 2019 SA Community Landcare Conference dinner, the SA Landcare Awards were presented to 9 exceptional award winners. A big thank you to Landcare Australia, the Australian Government and Awards Sponsors for the support of such an initiative and assisting to recognize the great Landcare organisations, groups and volunteers in SA.

SANTFA - Australian Government Innovation in Agriculture Land Management Award
Barmera Primary School Young Environment Leaders - Woolworths Junior Landcare Team Award
Barossa Wine and Grape Association - Australian Government Landcare Farming Award
Kersbook Landcare Group - Australian Community Media Landcare Community Group Award
Maralinga Tjarutja Lands, Oak Valley Community - Indigenous Land Management Award
McLaren Vale Biodiversity Project - Australian Government Partnerships for Landcare Award
Taperoo Dunes Care Group - Virgin Coastcare Award
Trevor Waldhuter - Australian Government Individual Landcarer Award



Landcare Association of SA

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Youth And Community in Conservation Action (YACCA) - Austcover Young Landcare Leadership Award

LASA acknowledged the outstanding contribution to Landcare in SA to one of the longest standing Landcare Groups in the state, the Port MacDonnell Landcare Group. Celebrating 46 years of activity in the South East.



Celebrating 46 Years of Landcare – Port MacDonnell Landcare Group. Left to Right – Doug Humann AM- Chairperson of Landcare Australia, Peter Feast- Chairperson Port MacDonnell Landcare Group, Sheree Bowman- Chairperson of Landcare Association of SA and Dale Tunstall- Award Sponsor SureGro TreeMax

The National Landcare Network:

LASA is a member group of the National Landcare Network. We stand proud alongside our interstate counterparts to represent the Landcare community across the country. A united, consistent, and grass-roots voice for Landcare is represented through this forum. South Australia's Nominee to the National Landcare Network Board of Directors, Dr. Patrick O'Connor is currently the Chairperson of the Board and actively engages with the association in ensuring representation from across the country at a national level.

The National Landcare Network met face to face in Hobart in November 2019 where the Board and delegates from the National Landcare Network's Members Council met to discuss priority issues facing Landcare across Australia. Ross Oke, Gerry Butler and Jim Mead (LASA's Executive Officer) represented South Australia at this forum.

The Landcare Association of South Australia was supported by the National Landcare Network through a sub-contracting agreement with funds from the Australian Governments Landcare Capacity Building Project. This project was delivered successfully in 2019-2020 and funding for the next three years has confirmed by the NLN, Minister Littleproud and the Federal Agriculture Department, guaranteeing the Association some much needed financial stability and the ability to plan ahead for the next three years.





Landcare Movers and Shakers from across the country - After 3 productive days at the National Landcare Network Face to Face Meeting in Hobart in November 2019 – the National Landcare Network Board and Members Council.

Resilient Landscapes. Empowered Communities - Development of the Association's Strategic Plan:

To kick off the Landcare Association of SA's strategic planning process, the management committee along with other valued members of the organization met face to face in Adelaide in October 2019. This session allowed the new management committee to meet and provide invaluable input early in the process. With the assistance of Bec Lang Consulting and a committed sub-committee, LASA has drafted a strategic plan for the organisation. This is an exciting foundation piece for the organisation and will guide our activities into the future. The launch of the strategic plan will occur later in 2020. Here's a sneak peek at part of the Strategic Plan – LASA's Values....

Representative – the representative voice for Landcarers at local, state and national levels
Adaptable – an agile and flexible organisation able to respond to changing conditions
Energetic – a dynamic organisation that is outcome focused
Professional – a professional business conducted with respect and integrity
Independent – decisions are made independently and in our members' interests
Inclusive – an inclusive and welcoming environment for all
Knowledgeable – knowledge drawn from Aboriginal culture, science, community and industry

Funding:

LASA presented a successful pitch in November 2019 to the 10 x 10 Philanthropy group for a "Wild Wellbeing" project, aimed at promoting mental health and wellbeing through hands on Landcare activities. The pitch was a success, with LASA receiving nearly \$10,000 for the project. Management Committee members are currently looking at ways to leverage this funding to grow the project, with activities to occur in Autumn 2021.





Happy Days – Landcare Association of SA’s Management Committee members Natalie Sommerville and Sarah Barrett receiving one of the donations from Bendigo Bank.

LASA supported three member groups in their Wires/LAL grant bids for funding for fire recovery efforts. All three groups were successful, bringing nearly \$60,000 into Landcare groups in South Australia. LASA also assisted one member group to successfully secure an Ag Knowledge grant for \$3,000 to support their Farm Forestry field days project in the Murray and Riverland Landscape Board region in 2021.

Advocacy:

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.

In 2020, LASA held meetings with Primary Industries Minister Tim Whetstone in December 2019 in Berri, with Opposition Environment Spokesperson Susan Close and Greens MP Mark Parnell, (via phone and Zoom in February) with Environment Minister David Spiers (in person and over the phone in February), and with MP Josh Teague (in person) in August 2020 to advocate on our member groups’ behalf for funding and acknowledgement of the great work they do for the environment.

LASA joined other SA Nature Alliance members as joint signatories for both the state and federal environmental economic stimulus package proposals lead by the Pew Trust. In addition, greatly supported the Revitalised Heritage Agreement Program being rolled out by the Nature Foundation, in partnership with Livestock SA, Trees for Life and the Nature Conservation Society of SA. <https://naturealliance.org.au/>

The Parliamentary Friends of Landcare was launched with an inaugural dinner at Parliament House on the 26th of February 2019. The Friends group has a secretariat led by Hon Josh Teague MP supported by Hon Geoff Brock MP and Hon Eddie Hughes MP. The group aims to work 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.

An event was held in Parliament House in October 2019 to showcase several Landcare groups work at Parliament House, including the Landcare award winning Taperoo Dunes Care Group (photo below). LASA are currently negotiating with Hon Josh Teague MP to hold a COVID safe Parliamentary Friends of Landcare event at Parliament House before the end of the 2020 calendar year.



Communication and Correspondence:

LASA communicates to its member groups via the LASA Website, through e-newsletters and through LASA's Facebook page. Three newsletters have been produced in 2020, in January, May and August, promoting events, celebrating achievements, and keeping members up to date with Landcare activities around the state.

Thank you to the LASA Management Committee, Staff and Goolwa to Wellington LAP:

A big thank you to the LASA Management Committee, of whom the following served as valuable members this year: Sarah Barrett, Karen Bishop (Treasurer), Sheree Bowman (Chair), Gerry Butler, Daniel Dollard (Aboriginal Lands Trust Representative), Sandy Edwards, Amelia Hurren, Duncan MacKenzie, Leanne Muffet, Ross Oke (Secretary), David Pritchard and Natalie Sommerville.

Sandy Edwards will be standing down from her position on the LASA Management Committee. We thank you Sandy for her contributions and commitment over the years. The start of the financial year we farewelled LASA's Executive Officer, Janet Kuys and welcomed Jim Mead as LASA's new Executive Officer. Thank you to both Janet and Jim for their work this year.

The Goolwa to Wellington LAP have hosted our Executive Officer position and provide financial services to our organization. They have also provided services to deliver key aspects of the 2019 SA Community Landcare Conference. A big thank you to Ross Oke, Keren Stagg and Jacqui Wilson.



