



# 2022/23 ANNUAL REPORT

**LANDCARE ASSOCIATION  
OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

We would like to acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first Landcarers and custodians of the Country we work, live and Landcare on. We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community.

In the spirit of reconciliation, we pay our respect to elders past, present and emerging and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.



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# 1. OUR VISION

Resilient Landscapes. Empowered Communities.

# 2. OUR MISSION

We build environmental knowledge and grassroots action to improve the diversity, productivity and resilience of living systems for current and future generations.

# 3. OUR 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.



Photo: Hindmarsh Island Landcare Group planting site. Credit: Eleanor Pratt.

## 4. STRATEGIC GOALS

### **GOAL 1: Embedding a whole of systems approach.**

**Intent:** All our decisions benefit future generations.

### **GOAL 2: Leading Landcare in SA.**

**Intent:** Strategically influence relationships and policy to advance our members' needs.

### **GOAL 3: Learning with Aboriginal people and communities.**

**Intent:** Learning from and partnering with the first Landcarers.

### **GOAL 4: Strengthening community participation.**

**Intent:** Providing support for a thriving, inclusive, diverse and intergenerational Landcare movement.

### **GOAL 5: Assuring Organisational Performance.**

**Intent:** Operating in an ethical, efficient, transparent and accountable manner.



Scan the QR code or  
click [here](#) to view the  
LASA 2021-2025  
Strategic Plan.



Photo: Copley Community Garden nursery. Credit: Eleanor Pratt.



# 5. NATIONAL LANDCARE NETWORK

LASA is a member of the National Landcare Network (NLN) alongside the seven other Landcare peak bodies in each State and Territory. The NLN is the collective voice for community Landcare across the country.

The Network has over 2,000 active State and Territory Landcare Organisation members representing 6,000-plus individual Landcare groups (Figure 1) and over 160,000 Landcarers across Australia. These groups feed into the representative nature of the NLN through the Members Council.

We would like to acknowledge the work of Gerry Butler and Lara Tilbrook who are members of the NLN Members Council and John Chester who is the South Australian nominee on the NLN Board of Directors. Thank you also to Dr Patrick O'Connor, who finished with the NLN Board during 2022-23.

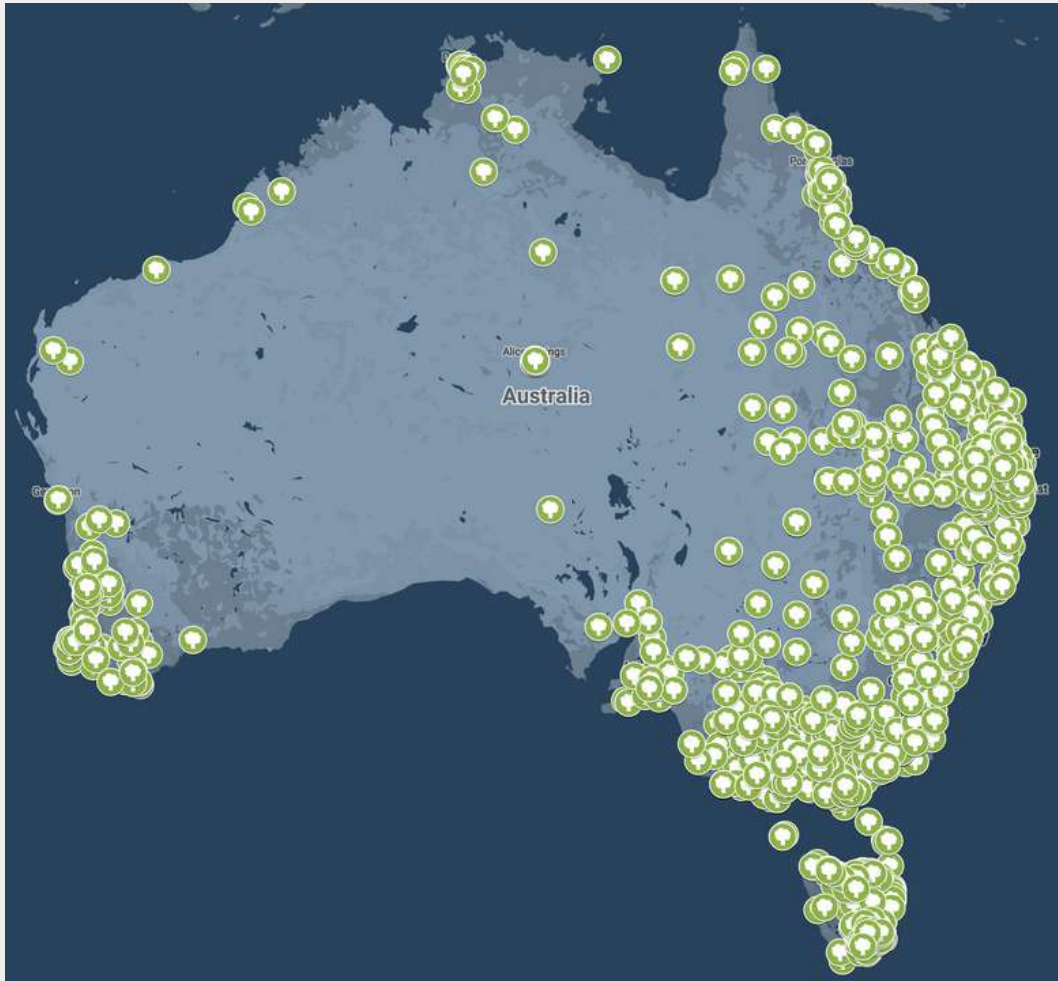


Figure 1. Map of the National Landcare Network (NLN) showing over 2,000 active State and Territory Landcare Organisation members (based on data provided in August 2022).

# 6. OUR PEOPLE

## Management Committee



Sarah Barrett  
Chairperson



Gerry Butler  
Treasurer  
Life Member



Shaun Branden  
ALT Rep  
Public Officer



Lara  
Tilbrook



John  
Chester



Jack  
Hetherington

## Staff



Eleanor Pratt  
Executive Officer



Natalia Diaz  
State Landcare  
Coordinator

# 7. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Dear Members,

This year has seen continuation of growth, development, support and advancement of Landcare across our state.

Landcare in SA has undergone significant growth, made possible through the Government of South Australia's Care for Landcare Program. We expanded our staffing capacity with the employment of State Landcare Coordinator, Natalia Diaz. Natalia's leadership and dedication have been instrumental in advancing our Landcare initiatives. Natalia has become a valued member of our team, working alongside our Executive Officer, Dr Elly Pratt with their collective efforts resulting in a very successful year. We also wrapped up the Kangaroo Island Bushfire Recovery Projects - a vital initiative, successfully coordinated by our former project officer, Deborah Laver.

It has been an exciting year for cultivating relationships, including securing an MoU with the SA Lions Clubs and increasing our support and engagement with Aboriginal communities around our state. We had a number of great opportunities to reach our Landcare network, in particular through the Landcare Roadshow forums - Landcare for All (Henley Beach) and Sustainable Farming in Landcare (Watervale). At these events our member groups shared stories of success elevating their platform and reach in the wider community. We also held an Accounting for Nature workshop and a series of online grant writing workshops.

LASA is supported by a small, diverse and dedicated committee who have been instrumental in advocating for and leading Landcare in South Australia. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our committee members of 2022/23, as well as our Financial Manager, Kate Wigzell. A very special mention goes to outgoing committee member and long-time Landcarer, Gerry Butler. I personally extend my thanks to Gerry for his valuable and expert guidance.

Lastly, I want to express my profound appreciation to all Landcare volunteers who champion sustainable farming systems and protect our natural environment for generations to come. In closing, this year has been a testament to our collective dedication to the growth and development of Landcare. We look forward to another year of hard work, sharing and connecting through our shared passion.

Sarah Barrett  
Chairperson  
Landcare Association of SA



# 8. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Dear Landcarers,

We have had a very exciting year with plenty of events and opportunities to connect with the Landcare community.

The start of the Care for Landcare Program has seen us bring on Natalia Diaz in the brand new role of State Landcare Coordinator. Natalia has hit the ground running and has been working hard to boost the support offered to our members. It has also been very rewarding to be able to roll out small grants and insurance reimbursements to our members groups, providing 39 groups with a total of \$75,000 in financial assistance.

It was great to continue getting out and about to meet Landcarers around South Australia and learn about your amazing projects and the challenges you are facing. Particular highlights for me were meeting the rangers and communities at Point Pearce (Wardang Island Indigenous Protected Area (IPA), Narungga Country) and Nipapanha (Nantawarrina IPA, Adnyamathanha people). It was a privilege to be able to visit the IPAs and learn about the community's work Caring for Country.

We look forward to 2023-24, with many more exciting events on the way, including the return of the SA Landcare Awards, our inclusive volunteering workshop series and much more! Stay tuned for updates about insurance and small grants, which we are always looking to improve for our members.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Eleanor Pratt  
Executive Officer  
Landcare Association of SA



# 9. 2022/23 HIGHLIGHTS

## Care for Landcare Program

This year, LASA began the roll out of the Care for Landcare Program with funding from the Government of South Australia. This has been a welcome boost to grassroots Landcare around the state. Some of our major achievements for the first year of the program are:

1) Natalia Diaz joined the LASA team as the State Landcare Coordinator to offer increased support to our members. She is already busy visiting our members around the state and organising events and training for Landcarers.

2) We delivered \$62,500 in small grants to 38 member groups. Many groups used this funding to purchase crucial items like first aid and snake bite kits and personal protective equipment.

3) We reimbursed eleven member groups for a total of \$12,500 in insurance fees. Some groups are paying up to \$2,500 for insurance each year out of their own pockets.

We are also making a number of behind-the-scenes changes to streamline operations and ensure that we can continue to improve the support offered to our members.

We look forward to delivering even more for our members through this program in the coming few years.



Left to right: Samantha Kerr (Friends of Sturt River Landcare Chairperson), Sarah Andrews MP (Member for Gibson), Dr Susan Close MP (Deputy Premier), Sarah Barrett (LASA Chairperson) and Eleanor Pratt (LASA Executive Officer).

## Landcare Roadshow

In late 2022, we held the Landcare Roadshow in place of our usual State Landcare Conference. This was a wonderful opportunity to connect with our members and learn about the projects and different aspects of Landcare around our state.

We started in Watervale, Clare Valley, with a forum on Sustainable Farming, including presentations from grassland ecologists Anne Brown and Nicola Barnes, and National EcoVineyards Program Manager, Dr Mary Retallack to learn about how Landcare principles can be brought into everyday agriculture and viticulture settings.

The second forum was held in Henley Beach with the theme of 'Landcare for All' talking about inclusive volunteering and Landcare activities. We heard from Clem and Quahli Newchurch about cultural burning practices, as well as Volunteerability Program Manager, Rachel Yorston and Parks Access for All Coordinator, Yvie Eglinton. We were also lucky enough to have Deputy Premier Susan Close MP and Matt Cowdrey OAM MP as our special guests.

At both forums we heard from several of the grassroots Landcare groups about work that they have been doing in the local area. It was inspiring to hear from so many Landcarers, and learn from their successes and challenges. Thank you to everyone that came to the Landcare Roadshow forums and made them such a success!

*The Landcare Roadshow was sponsored by Green Adelaide.*



Deputy Premier Susan Close MP (L) and Clem Newchurch (R) speaking at the Henley Beach Landcare Roadshow Forum in November 2022. Credit: Kick It To Me Photography.

## Meeting Landcarers

As always, one of the biggest highlights of this year was getting to meet with Landcarers around South Australia.

With Natalia Diaz coming into a brand new role dedicated to volunteer support, we had an increased effort to visit as many members as possible, attending meetings, workshops, seminars and planting days! This has been invaluable for us to learn about your amazing projects and what support you need from us.

With the formation of our new Indigenous Engagement Subcommittee, it was wonderful to connect with the Point Pearce, Raukkan and Nipapanha communities. We are proud to support the Nipapanha community in celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Nantawarrina Indigenous Protected Area in September 2023.



Cultural burning workshop with Firesticks Alliance and the Point Pearce community on Narungga Country. Credit: Eleanor Pratt.

## Advocacy

We are proud members of the National Landcare Network and the SA Nature Alliance, allowing us to form impactful partnerships to advocate for community Landcare in SA. As part of these collectives and on behalf of grassroots Landcare we have produced submissions and provided feedback on:

- Federal Budget
- National Biodiversity Market
- Innovative Biodiversity Conservation Strategy
- Farmers for Climate Action National Plan
- National Marine NRM Plan
- Drought Resilience Self-assessment Tool (DR.SAT)
- EPA State of Environment Report
- State Biodiversity Legislation
- State Hydrogen Act
- Renewable Energy Industry Development in SA

## Partnerships

To achieve the best outcomes we have worked with a huge range of partners, including Aboriginal communities, non-government organisations (NGOs) and government and corporate bodies.

Thank you to all of our wonderful partners below for their support of community Landcare, we look forward to working with you again!



**Government of South Australia**  
Department for Environment and Water



Green Adelaide's Amy Anderson and Robyn Molsher with LASA Executive Officer, Eleanor Pratt at the Henley Beach Landcare Roadshow Forum (sponsored by Green Adelaide). Credit: Kick It To Me Photography.

# 10. MEMBER'S SPOTLIGHT

Through our **66 member groups & 164 individual members (Fig. 1)**, we represent almost **6,000 Landcarers.**

Our eNewsletters and social media channels reach **another ~3,000 people.**

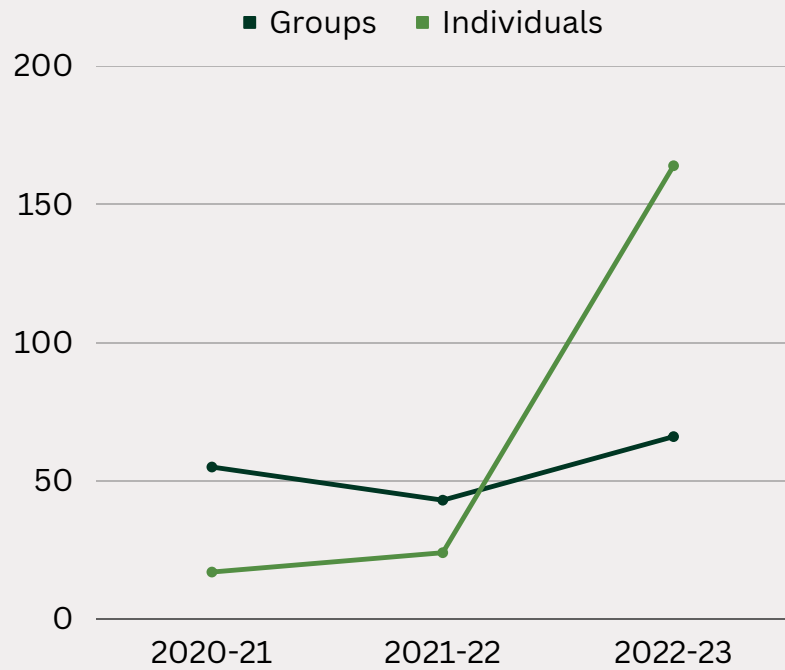


Fig 1. LASA membership numbers over time.



Matthew Cowdrey OAM MP presenting at the Henley Beach Landcare Roadshow Forum (sponsored by Green Adelaide). Credit: Kick It To Me Photography.

## Mid Murray Landcare SA

Mid Murray Landcare SA are based out of Cambrai, supporting the Cambrai Community Nursery, community bat monitoring and the River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve. They have also worked with landholders and volunteers over the last five years with the Western Pygmy Possum Project. They have had numerous box making workshops and guest speakers to inform participants on these little creatures. Mid Murray Landcare SA have over 100 landholders and groups that have taken part and installed more than 300 boxes on their properties. They have continued to engage and inform participants of project activity and set up a Western Pygmy Possums Facebook Page.

Mid Murray Landcare SA have been supporting landholders to monitor their boxes for any activity and have several locations with Western Pygmy Possums as well as geckos, spiders, birds, bats and a dunnart. They are continuing to support box monitoring and will soon start promoting the use of Feral Goat Scan to get records of feral goats and work with landholders to remove them from the landscape and protect native habitat for all native fauna.



Mid Murray Landcare SA talk at World's End Gorge with Professor Steve Donellan. Credit: Mid Murray Landcare SA.



Mount Burr Trails Landcare Group working site in the state's southeast. Credit: Mount Burr Trails Landcare Group.

## Mount Burr Trails Landcare Group

The Mount Burr Trails Landcare group look after a small forest reserve adjacent to the Mount Burr township. The reserve had been grazed by stock, indiscriminately slashed and sadly neglected, but now the group have negotiated a license agreement with Forestry SA to create nature-based trails and begin rehabilitation of the area.

Along with the removal of weeds, planting and nurturing of local natives and natural regrowth, the group have added seats, picnic tables, a nature play area, a 'bush foods' garden and interpretive signage.

Apart from the on-going weed control, trail maintenance and winter plantings, Mount Burr Trails Landcare Group are currently assembling and installing 'Kangaroo proof' tree guards. Thanks to a Landscape SA Grassroots Grant, the group have procured 100 wire mesh tree guards, which they are now assembling and installing around the most vulnerable plants.

The group takes great satisfaction from seeing the area flourish and evolve into the biodiverse, family friendly and educational precinct they envisaged several years ago.

## Kanmantoo-Callington Landcare Group

Winners of the 2021 ACM Landcare Community Group Award, the Kanmantoo-Callington Landcare Group have kept up their amazing work this year with their Greening the Bremer Project.

For this project, the group are working with landowners with properties along the Bremer River & its tributaries to revegetate and reverse the decline of woodland bird species, improve water quality and reduce erosion.

In 2022 and 2023, they held very successful information workshops for 40 landholders from 22 properties along the Bremer, providing them with 1,800 free local native plants and tree guards each year, as well as follow-up newsletters.

The group have received grants in both years from the Hills and Fleurieu and Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Boards to help pay for fencing materials, a Paddock Trees Program, site visits, plants and pest control.

Their Annual Community Planting sessions were also held in support of this Project, with further information sessions, planting days and grant support planned for 2024.



Community planting on the Bremer River in 2022. Credit: Kanmantoo-Callington Landcare Group.

# 11. LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

- **Care for Landcare:** This program will continue to be the foundation for strengthening Landcare in South Australia, thanks to the Government of South Australia.
- **SA Landcare Insurance Package:** With support from the Care for Landcare Program we are using responses from our members to pursue the development of our new and improved insurance package for Landcare groups across the State.
- **Landcare Awards:** We will be delivering the State Landcare Awards again in 2023/24. This will give us a fantastic platform to recognise champions of sustainable farming and environmental protection and restoration.
- **Workshop Planning:** We are working with numerous partners across the state to organise workshops, forums and conferences to promote knowledge sharing and networking throughout the Landcare network.
- **Contributions to National Grant Bids:** We will continue our commitment to supporting national Landcare initiatives through the National Landcare Network (below) via Australia-wide grant funding bids.
- **New Partnerships:** We are building our partnerships with organisations, communities and businesses across South Australia and the country to improve support and offers to our members.



Back: Andrew McLean (Landcare Victoria CEO), Karissa Preuss (Landcare ACT CEO), Jim Adams (National Landcare Network CEO), Turlough Guerin (Landcare NSW CEO) and Peter Stronach (Landcare Tasmania CEO).  
Front: Jacqueline Lahne (WA Landcare Network EO), Emily Raso (Landcare NT EO), Eleanor Pratt (Landcare Association of SA EO) and Darryl Ebenezer (QLD Water and Land Carers CEO).

## 12. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

LASA would like to thank the 2022/23 Management Committee for their amazing efforts providing direction and support to Landcare in South Australia - Jack Hetherington, John Chester, Lara Tilbrook, Claire Settre, Brooklyn Mabbott, Shaun Brandon and Nikki Dumbrell, who continued to assist with contract management beyond her tenure. Thank you especially to our Chairperson, Sarah Barrett and outgoing committee member, Gerry Butler. Gerry has had a long history with Landcare in this state, being involved in the establishment of many groups and initiatives, including LASA itself. Gerry has long represented LASA in national arenas and through the National Landcare Network. Thank you to Gerry for his invaluable, expert guidance over many many years.

Thank you to all of our members for your continued support of Landcare in South Australia. We extend this to all of our partner organisations, particularly the National Landcare Network, Landcare State and Territory Organisations, Government of South Australia and associate members.





**Landcare**  
Association of  
South Australia



Wardang Island Indigenous Protected Area, Narungga Country. Credit: Eleanor Pratt.