

# ANNUAL REPORT



## Leigh Catchment Group

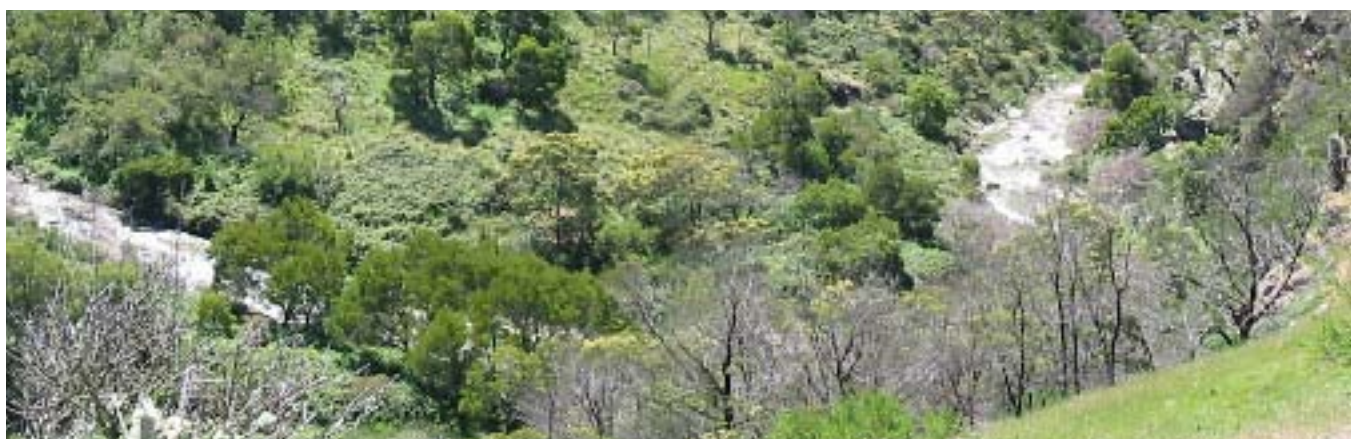
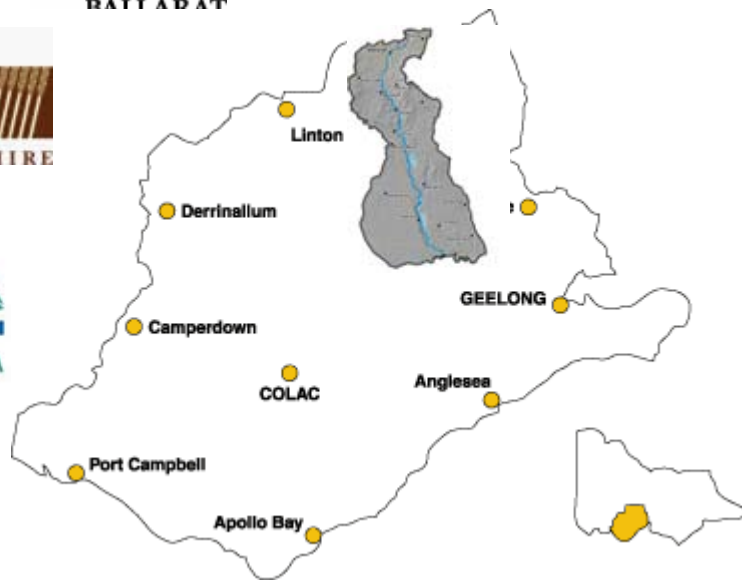
2010/2011

**Bamganie/Meredith Landcare  
Garibaldi Environment Group  
Grenville Landcare  
Leigh Districts Landcare  
Napoleons/Enfield Landcare  
Ross Creek Landcare  
South Ballarat Urban Landcare  
Upper Williamson's Creek Landcare**





Part of the Corangamite Landcare region  
Working in partnership with :



# Chairperson's Report : July 2010- June 2011

After three years of operation of the new Leigh Catchment Board, there are many highlights to celebrate. Firstly, a thank you to all board members for their ongoing support. It has been a true team effort with many so willingly taking on roles and attending events and meetings so that the workload is spread. The sub-committee model of organization has again proved to be effective, enabling essential discussions on vital elements of business so that informed recommendations are presented to the board. This process has streamlined board meetings, making for continued efficient and effective operation.

Important highlights for the year have included:

- The continued successful funding allocation via the CCMA for River Health Projects which are resulting in significant on-ground works on both private and public land.
- Smaller projects including gorse control, ongoing school education programs, the completion of the Landscape Zones' Reviews and second generation landcare projects at Mac's and Glasson's Rd. ( actual onground works to be completed by December 2011 ) have been important in maintaining a diversity of works across the catchment.
- An alternative Leigh Catchment Group logo, incorporating the Landcare Australia hands was adopted by the board to be used in specific marketing strategies – the former logo will still be used in certain situations, sometimes even in conjunction with the new one.
- The LCG business plan was completed and a copy sent to the Buninyong & District Community Bank Board for their information, with a view to helping them better understand the work of landcare and to become aware of opportunities for working together in the community.
- Joint discussions between the LCG and the Buninyong & District Community Bank resulted in the organisation of a Landcare and Farming Business Expo held at Narmbool in the new financial year.
- A Memorandum of Understanding between LCG and the Friends of Royal Park was developed and signed with a view to each organization supporting the other in appropriate ways.
- The first major donation was made via the Paypal option on the LCG website.
- The Expressions Of Interests process for on-ground works to enable landowners and landcare groups to apply to the LCG for specific project funds has provided a readily available pool of projects for immediate matching to funding opportunities as they arise. This process will be continually promoted and implemented within the catchment and an annual number funded from within LCG funds when possible.
- The Landcare Awards in mid 2010 resulted in success for a number of LCG landholders and landcare groups. **(see photos on page 11)**

The ongoing employment of Jenny Ryle as coordinator has also been a positive for the group to maintain continuity of operation. Jenny's coordination work with the new website, business plan, school programs, River Health Projects, the LZAP's community consultation process, funding applications, community events and liaison with the CCMA and other organizations has been crucial to our group success. Building a positive and effective partnership with the Buninyong and District Community Bank is seen as a very important strategy for our ongoing success.

The Board noted with regret the closing of South Ballarat Urban Landcare Group and thanked them for many years of dedication to NRM in the area. Some reserves will continue to be managed by local residents.

The contributions of all board members have once again ensured the ongoing success of the LCG in what are still very difficult times with respect to funding and maintaining our landcare coordinator position. The challenge is still there to find new ways to move forward and build on the great environmental work done previously.

David Sullivan – Chairperson.

# The Leigh Catchment Group

***Working together to achieve sustainable ecosystems, agriculture and communities.***

The Leigh Catchment Group (LCG) is a network of Landcare groups formed in 1997 following recognition by the Groups of the Catchment that a combined and coordinated approach to management of the catchment would result in improved works and lead to an increase in funding for larger scale Natural Resource Management projects. The groups on the front cover are LCG members:

The Leigh Catchment Board consists of nine elected Landcare Members and the Landcare Coordinator.

The Landcare Coordinator's role is to manage projects and activities undertaken through the LCG and provide support to the Landcare Group members. This is one person on a 0.8 time fraction.

***The LCG is supported by the Department of Sustainability and Environment (Vic), Department of Primary Industries (Vic), Corangamite Catchment Management Authority, Greening Australia, Trust for Nature, City of Ballarat, Golden Plains Shire, Moorabool Shire Council, University of Ballarat, Ballarat Environment Network, community groups and many individuals.***

The original Leigh Catchment Plan was produced in August 1999 and updated in 2008/9 to produce the Leigh Catchment Action Plan 2008-2013

## **The Leigh Catchment**

The Leigh Catchment covers an area of 1580 square kilometres including the Yarrowee River which becomes the Leigh River at its confluence with Williamson's Creek. The Leigh River flows into the Barwon River at Inverleigh. The Leigh Catchment contains a diverse range of topographic features from gently undulating hills, wide valleys and river flats, to steep escarpments and rocky gorges. The catchment supports areas of significant remnant native vegetation including forests, woodlands, grasslands and wetlands occurring on private and public land. The Leigh River supports intact corridors of riparian vegetation with important fauna habitat values. Agriculture is the predominant land use in the catchment. The urban and semi urban areas of Ballarat are also a significant component of the catchment.

The Leigh Catchment Action Plan establishes a long term direction and identifies priority actions for the protection and enhancement of natural resources within the Leigh Catchment Group area. The Plan :

- Incorporates strategies, priorities and direction from current local, regional, state and national plans and frameworks.
- Identifies and describes natural resource values within the LCG area.
- Identifies and describes threats to natural resources within the LCG area.
- Describes previous NRM activities within the LCG area.
- Identifies a set of actions to protect and enhance NRM values within the LCG area.
- Identifies processes and partners for implementation of NRM actions.
- Describes a monitoring and evaluation process to enable assessment and reporting of NRM projects.
- Identifies community engagement and capacity building strategies to help deliver and achieve the CAP outcomes.

## Board members 2010/2011

David	Sullivan	Chairman
Rob	Milne	Vice Chair
Peter	Cameron	Treasurer
Andrea	Mason	Secretary
Brian	Parker	Board member
Ashley	Hall	Board member
Graeme	Fagg	Board member
Kurtis	Noyce	Board member
Gabrielle	Murphy	Board member
Jenny	Ryle	Board member (non voting)

Landcare group members/ representatives are invited to attend all open Board meetings. There are currently two Board sub groups for future planning and finances, and onground works.

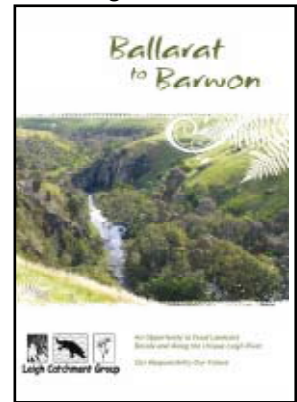
**Left to right: Graeme Fagg, Peter Cameron, Gabrielle Murphy, Kurtis Noyce, Ashley Hall, Brian Parker, David Sullivan (Chair) and Andrea Mason**



Leigh Catchment Group were successful in obtaining a grant from the Corangamite Catchment Authority Board to help the Volcanic Plains landholder of this wetland (left) put in over two kilometres of fencing around it. This was in order to keep out their sheep and cattle and so prevent damage to the aquatic ecosystem. In addition, they were helped to plant 9,500 trees and shrubs to restore a rich biodiversity of the area as well as provide shelter from the wind.

# Business Plan

The Leigh Catchment Board has worked through the year finalising a new Business Plan with input from a number of key stakeholders. This complements the marketing brochure, Ballarat to Barwon, which was produced last year and is available on the Victorian Landcare Gateway website. As well as producing a business document summarising the vision and aims of the organisation, the plan detailed the key priorities for 2011 - 2013.



As illustrated below, these are (in no order):

- Creation of wildlife corridors
- River and creek protection
- Supporting Local Landcare Groups
- Working with Schools

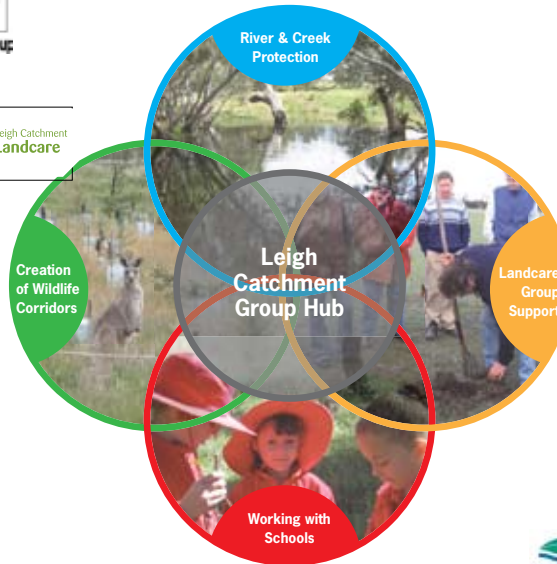
These focus areas are extra to the central work of providing advice, assistance and training to any individual, organisation, business or government department who want to improve the biodiversity conservation of the land they manage, own or support.



Left: Plantings on the riparian zone of the Yarrowee at Garibaldi



Leigh Catchment  
Business  
Priorities:



Below: Garibaldi Environment Group on a working bee break



Above: Corridor planting on top of the escarpment above the Leigh gorge near Shelford



Left: Damascus College putting in the hard yards on the Royal Park indigenous plantings, in Buninyong

# Looking after Our Creeks

This project, funded through Second Generation Landcare Grants was all about introducing new people to the work involved in looking after our creeks.

There were two sites : Buninyong or Union Jack Creek where it flows just beyond the Golf Course and the Yarrowee at Glassons Road, north of Napoleons.

Both sites required woody weed removal which was carried out by the Department of Environment and Sustainability under their Good Neighbours Scheme.

Both sites required volunteer input to plant up the indigenous plants that are likely to grow under the difficult conditions that now exist. Buninyong creek has suffered from over deepening during the gold era leaving high dry banks riddled with rabbit warrens. Rabbits are also an issue on the Yarrowee which is subject to high peak flows with storm water out of Ballarat, often bringing a large amount of litter.

Both sites were part of the trips organised from the Landcare Expo in Buninyong in December to raise the issues and potential solutions. Three walks along the Buninyong Creek were organised in the summer months of January to March to raise awareness and many new people came as well as the local residents to see what was going on. Local residents also made good use of a fifty per cent contribution to gorse removal through a grant from the Victorian Gorse task Force. The resultant clean up is impressive.

Both sites have an ongoing plan for restoration.



**Left top and middle:** Crown land alongside Buninyong also known as Union Jack Creek in November 2009 and a year later showing strong grass growth and very little gorse



**Right top:** Local resident surveys the weed covered steep banks of the Buninyong Creek



**Right bottom:** Summer exploratory walks introduced new people to the project.



**This grant was one of three grants used to implement the ongoing restoration work on this challenging site at crown land at the end of Glasson's Road. Despite floods, rabbits and winds, the progress of this site from degradation into riverside habitat is due to dedicated commitment by a selection of the groups' members.**



# Smart Living Ballarat...

Smart Living Ballarat is a Ballarat Community Project, initiated by the regional Sustainability Alliance Ballarat, auspiced by Ballarat Renewable Energy And Zero Emissions and supported by the Victorian Government Sustainability Fund, managed by Sustainability Victoria.

Smart Living Ballarat will be located in a shop in front of the Mining Exchange. Together with community hubs in Buninyong, Delacombe and Wendouree, it will provide a one stop shop for people seeking information on sustainable living practices

Biodiversity will be one of the five key areas in the Smart Living shop. A website will be set up to help people find out information about how to create habitats, what responsibilities you have to looking after the environment and places to go and visit. The centre will be manned by trained volunteers. Leigh Catchment Group has been instrumental in helping to set up this section



## In Kind Support

The **City of Ballarat** Lakes and Waterways Crew have assisted by continuing the maintenance of the walking tracks and vegetation along the Yarrowee Trail.

Ballarat Environment Network (BEN) supports local groups to manage Crown Land through BEN Biodiversity Reserves. BEN has actively worked with LCG on supporting the Smart Living Centre development of biodiversity resources for the general public. LCG has maintained contact with Parks Victoria and Seedbank Victoria at Creswick on a number of matters.

**DPI, DSE, GAV, and TFN** have allowed the LCG access to their technical expertise. With their assistance, landholders within our catchment have been able to access advice and support for individual projects and be a part of an education program of field days and talks addressing issues in our catchment. This information is distributed through the LCG enews.

The **CCMA** have continued to provide invaluable support through the Regional Landcare Coordinator and team members from other departments such as River Health.

- DPI** Dept of Primary Industries
- DSE** Dept of Sustainability and Environment
- CCMA** Corangamite Catchment Management Authority
- TFN** Trust For Nature
- GAV** Greening Australia Victoria
- BEN** Ballarat Environment Network



# Landcare Coordinator's Monitoring and Evaluation Report Summary 2010/11

## Community Engagement

Water Forum organised by Garibaldi Environment Group;  
December Landcare Expo for all groups.  
LZAP community consultation



## Environmental Education

St Patrick's College Year 4 x 58 field day at South Durham reserve.  
Story of Mt Buninyong participants in July 10 and again in June 11  
Damascus college Year 10 students x15 on two occasions on working bees  
Scotsburn School -top years, seed collecting  
Steiner school awarded Junior Landcare grant for work to their grounds



## Training

Climate Change Forum run by Conservation Volunteers Australia  
Business Breakfast on Biochar production  
Field day with Ballarat Tree Growers at Lal Lal  
University of Ballarat Biodiversity forum  
Getting Biodiversity back on the Radar Conference 2010  
VLN Forum at Halls Gap  
Corporate Training workshop at Colac



## Promotion and Awareness

Leighway 11 distributed in July via Landcare groups  
TV interviews x 2 re rubbish in Yarrowee  
Press release with Green party showing support for Landcare  
Press release and TV interview with then Shadow minister for Environment  
re \$1M for Yarrowee improvement,  
Press coverage of 2nd gen project 'Looking After Your Creeks'  
Press coverage of new fundraising project with  
AGL's Save and Raise Fundraising  
Tree Day coverage in Courier  
Enews sent out x 6

**Above: Examples of the variations for the new logo. Top two in Black and White. Bottom two in Landcare bright green.**

## Planning

Business breakfast with Buninyong Community bank  
Key organisations session for sustainability educators (Ballarat)  
Development of biodiversity section of Smart Living Centre (Ballarat)

**Below:** Councillor Ben Taylor with David Morris, Secretary to the then Shadow Minister for the Environment and Craig Coltman, Liberal candidate discussing Landcare group concerns over litter coming down the Yarrowee



# Landcare Expo '10



Representatives from eight Landcare Groups had a day out in Buninyong to celebrate their achievements of the past year and to take trips to see some of the local projects around Buninyong



Above: After a barbeque lunch, one trip was organised to visit the Buninyong/Union Jack creek project and then on to the Glassons Road project. The participants then headed back to Royal Park for afternoon tea (above right) and get together, including a sponsored door prize. An alternative trip visited Garibaldi Bridge reserve and a private landholders directly seeded project in Scotsburn.

## Regional Landcare Awards

Leigh Catchment Group put in three nominations into the Corangamite biennial Landcare awards and came up with three winners.

Upper Williamsons' Creek Landcare Group won Best Community Group, Napoleons/Enfield Landcare Group were Highly Commended and Roland Nam from UWLG won Best Individual Landcarer.



Majella Franklin and Mary Tubb from Napoleon/Enfield Landcare Group



Above from left to right: Roland Nam, Mike Lake, Andrea Mason, David Turley, all from Upper Williamson's creek Landcare group and Alice Knight, Chair of the CCMA Board. Above left: Roly receives his Individual award.



## Working with Local Schools

**Damascus College** Students came out again in May to two sites this year on their community service day. They helped out removing stakes and rabbit guards from emerging new trees which is an important maintenance job, often neglected.

Right: At Royal Park (top) and below, Cathcart reserve in the middle of Buninyong, they also helped remove broom seedlings from amongst the native flora



•••••  
 •The Leigh Catchment Group again helped with the  
 •**Story of Buninyong** where **Buninyong PS** Grade 4's  
 •learn about the the local flora and fauna as they explore  
 •Mount Buninyong. At the Landcare 'station' on Ogilvie  
 •Lane, near Mt.Innes, they learnt about the importance of  
 •revegetation and rabbit control.  
 •••••

•••••  
 •**Scotsburn PS** school students went out on  
 •February to work in groups along a nearby  
 •Significant Roadside Vegetation track with  
 •their collecting bags. They were looking  
 •for seeds from specific trees, shrubs and  
 •grasses to collect for growing back at  
 •school.  
 •••••

# Onground Activities 2010/2011

Name of Funding	No of projects	\$ Value
River Health (Year 2*)	7	116,858
Second generation 2010/2011	2	22,900
CCMA Board Grant	1	25,000
Landscape Zone Action Plans	1.5	15,000
Victorian Gorse Taskforce	2	4,500
Golden Plains 2010/2011	1	5,000
CCMA Volunteer Recruitment initiative (Landcare Expo and Brochures)	2	5,583
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$194,841</b>

\*work to be completed in 2011/2012

## Winter work by the Landcare Groups in 2010

### Free to good homes

In winter 2010, free tubestock plants from the Community Nursery, run by the City of Ballarat, were offered to LCG Landcare Groups for planting out by landcare members. Over 11,000 plants were ordered and planted through the groups within the City of Ballarat

Right: National Tree Day 2010.

Lots of helping hands down at Garibaldi Bridge with Garibaldi Environment Group. Most of these plants survive the heavy summer floods of January February 2011 because they were small enough to bend with the water flow.



Left : Plantings require regular work parties to come back and check all is going well. This site at Glassons Road, next to the Yarrowwee is particularly challenging as it catches the wind, but regular attention by the Napoleons Landcare Group is paying dividends to the survival rate.



Left: Upper Williamsons' Creek Landcare Group conducted a successful rabbit control programme on private land all around the Mount Bunnion in 2010. This weedy track up to Mount then caught their eye. Owned by the City of Ballarat, it is a popular walking, cycling and running route but overrun with rabbit warrens and infested with numerous weeds. Plans were made to tackle this next with help from adjacent landholders and the Council. Watch this space..

## **Landscape Zone Asset Protection**

Documents were produced by the CCMA in 2010, providing the basis for the development of fifteen individual Landscape Zone Action Plans (LZAPs) for the Corangamite region. These plans are intended to provide a guide to investors, agencies and the community with regard to priorities for investment by and through the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (Corangamite CMA).

Development of LZAPs for the Corangamite region utilised an approach based on the identification of the spatial location of the bio-physical assets of the region and placing relative values on these locations. Assets were identified and valued through a two stage process that used Geographic Information System (GIS) layering followed by the identification of values and application of weightings to these. The assets of the region have been classified as: Iconic assets, Key assets and Dispersed assets

Once the assets and threats are identified an evaluation of the required actions to deal with these threats can be conducted. Threats to these assets were identified using the relevant regional strategies and other relevant sources. An assessment, within an economic and social context can then be made to determine if proposed actions are both viable and achievable, whether they are likely to succeed and if they will provided value for the required investment.

A regional hierarchy of assets can then be created that considers the value of the identified asset, the likelihood of success in attaining the desired outcomes as well as the return on investment relating to the actions required to achieve desired outcomes. Once a priority list of viable projects is identified a risk analysis can be conducted that factors in social, political and economic considerations to their likelihood of success, as well as the consequences of doing nothing.

Leigh Catchment Group area covers the Leigh Zone, half of the Murdeduke zone and a small section of the Mid Barwon zone. We took on the community consultation for the first two of these zones with the Upper Barwon Network covering the other zone.

The Leigh Catchment Action Plan of 2008-2013 had involved a lot of research and consultation with local groups at the time and it was felt that it was important to cross reference the priorities from this document into the new documents which will serve to target future investment.

These two LZAP documents were cross referenced with Leigh Catchment Action Plan (2008-2013) and now includes community engagement as a key component to successful investment in NRM.

LCG held a community consultation meeting in April 2011 to invite our members to comment on the proposed recommendations. As an aid to the meeting, eight large laminated maps which showed data used in the process were commissioned. It was generally noted that that not all data had been successfully captured into the databases that supplied the maps and that there could be room for further improvement in the process. The event did allow some recognition amongst those there of the different values that could be allocated to local assets and threats.



**The Leigh Zone's Key asset-  
the Gorge section of the Leigh River**

## LEIGH CATCHMENT GROUP

### FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 1.JULY.2010 TO 30.JUNE.2011

All amounts are GST EXCLUSIVE

#### INCOME STATEMENT

##### INCOME

GRANTS	179,544	Note 1
INTEREST	4,116	
OTHER	<u>1,902</u>	Note 2
	\$185,562	

##### EXPENSES

ADMINISTRATION	57,236	Note 3
PROJECTS	57,726	Note 4
OTHER	<u>5,590</u>	Note 5
	\$120,552	

**SURPLUS** \$ 65,010

#### BALANCE SHEET AT 30.JUNE.2011

##### CURRENT ASSETS

Cash at Bank	216,989	Note 6
Debtors	16,975	Note 7

##### NON-CURRENT ASSETS

Equipment	--	Note 8
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**TOTAL ASSETS** \$233,964

##### CURRENT LIABILITIES

Creditors	7,933	Note 9
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##### NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES

Projects	<u>142,002</u>	Note 10
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**TOTAL LIABILITIES** \$149,935

**L.C.G. FUNDS** \$ 84,029

## NOTES

All amounts are GST EXCLUSIVE

### NOTES TO INCOME STATEMENT

#### Note 1 GRANTS

Serrated Tussock	7,500	
L.Z.A.P.	15,000	
2ndGEN 2010/11	17,175	
L.C.G. Expo	575	
V.L.N. Forum	500	
Vic. Gorse Task Force	4,500	
Golden Plains Shire	5,000	
VRI (F & F Brochures)	4,508	
C.C.M.A. Board Project	18,750	
<u>River Health 2010/11</u>	<u>106,036</u>	<u>\$179,544</u>

#### Note 2 OTHER INCOME

Donation – SBULG	1,305	
Donation – Offset	450	
<u>Sundry – Schools</u>	<u>147</u>	<u>\$ 1,902</u>

#### Note 3 ADMINISTRATION

Office & Bank Expenses	3,277	
Office Rent	3,160	
Project Officer	48,230	
<u>Travel Expenses</u>	<u>2,569</u>	<u>\$ 57,236</u>

#### Note 4 PROJECTS

River Health 2009/10	47,595	
River Health 2010/11	276	
Vic. Gorse Task Force	1,073	
L.C.G. Projects (G.P.S.)	2,320	
<u>L.Z.A.P.</u>	<u>6,462</u>	<u>\$ 57,726</u>

#### Note 5 OTHER EXPENSES

V.L.N. Forum	277	
F.T.L.A. (x2)	440	
Computer Support (x2)	600	
L.C.G. Expo	218	
Flora & Fauna Brochures	3,810	
<u>Sundry</u>	<u>245</u>	<u>\$ 5,590</u>

### NOTES TO BALANCE SHEET

**Note 6 CASH AT BANK**

Cheque Account	2,421	
Cash Management Account	14,568	
<u>Term Deposit</u>	<u>200,000</u>	<u>\$216,989</u>

**Note 7 DEBTORS**

CCMA – 2ndGEN 2010/11	5,725	
CCMA – Board Project	6,250	
<u>CCMA – L.Z.A.P.</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>\$ 16,975</u>

**Note 8 EQUIPMENT**

The value of equipment is treated as an historical cost and not brought to account. This includes two trailers, registered & in fair condition; and all office furniture & equipment, including computers, printers & tools. There were no significant acquisitions during the year.

**Note 9 CREDITORS**

<u>A.T.O. – Net GST</u>	<u>7,933</u>	<u>\$ 7,933</u>
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**Note 10 NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES - PROJECTS**

River Health 2010/11	98,400	
2ndGEN 2010/11	12,875	
CCMA Board Project	22,800	
Vic.Gorse Task Force	3,427	
<u>L.C.G. Project (G.P.S.)</u>	<u>4,500</u>	<u>\$142,002</u>

### BANK RECONCILIATION

**OPENING – 1.JULY.2010**

CASH AT BANK		\$141,286.01	
PLUS DEBTORS	ATO- Net GST	2,842.53	
LESS CREDITORS	Unpresented Chq	<u>(82.95)</u>	<u>\$144,045.59</u>

**PLUS SURPLUS** **\$ 65,010.27**

**CLOSING – 30.JUNE.2011**

CASH AT BANK		\$232,044.13	
LESS CREDITORS	ATO- Net GST	(7,933.34)	
	Unpresented Chqs	<u>(15,054.93)</u>	<u>\$209,055.86</u>

**For a full colour version of this annual report please go to:**

**<http://corangamitelandcarevic.net.au/leigh-catchment/publications>**

*Printed on 80gsm Recycled Stock*



**Leigh Catchment Group**