

Leigh Catchment Group



Leigh Catchment Group Annual Report 2012/2013

Bamganie/Meredith Landcare

Garibaldi Environment Group

Grenville Landcare

Leigh District Landcare

Napoleons/Enfield Landcare

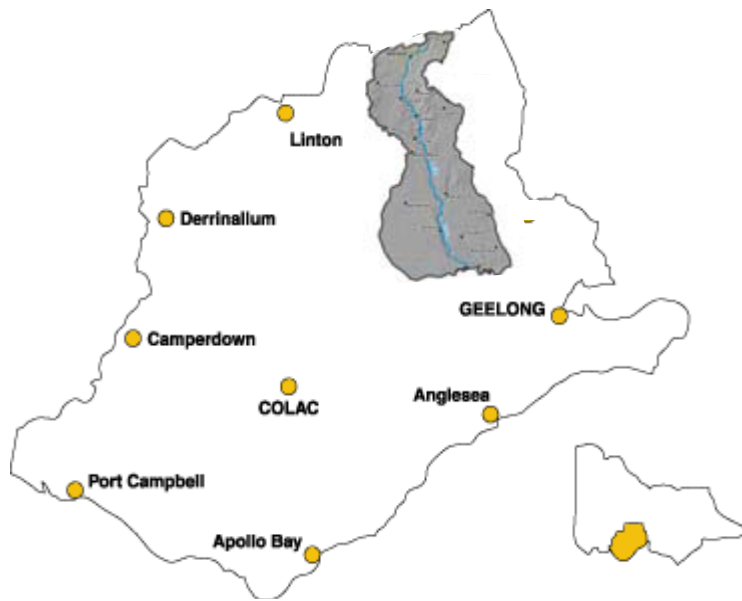
Ross Creek Landcare

Upper Williamson's Creek Landcare

Wattle Flat/Pootilla Landcare



The Leigh Catchment Group (LCG)



Working together to achieve sustainable ecosystems, agriculture and communities.

The Leigh Catchment Group (LCG) is a network of Landcare groups in the Corangamite Landcare region.

It was 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/Facilitator.



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 Leigh Catchment Group is supported by the :

Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI- formerly DSE and DPI)

Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CCMA)

City of Ballarat (COB)

Golden Plains Shire

Moorabool Shire

University of Ballarat (UB)

Ballarat Environment Network(BEN)

Central Highlands Water (CHW)

Many community groups, landholders and individuals.

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 Natural Resource Management (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.
- Identifies community engagement and capacity building strategies to help deliver and achieve Catchment Action Plan outcomes.

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



Above right: These trial Black Sheoaks plots in Napoleons attempted to grow new paddock trees to near to aging paddock trees to eventually replace them.

A similar idea in the Mt Buninyong area had been simultaneously developed with propagating the seed from the last remaining Acacia nanodealbata tree (Dwarf Silver Wattle) found on the mountain to ensure the species survival.

The success of these separate trials led to the idea of community propagation of vulnerable or disappearing species which, in turn, led to the three year 'Back from the Brink' Project.

Chair's report

The 2012/2013 year has passed very quickly, with the dedicated work continuing for the protection and enhancement of natural resources within the Leigh Catchment Group (LCG) area . This work, on our many Landcare projects, of which we are very proud, is carried out through our Landcare co-ordinator, Jenny Ryle, while supporting individuals and Landcare groups in planning future projects and maintaining our open door policy at our Buninyong office.

LCG is grateful for the funding obtained from all the various sources, these are listed, along with all the projects on page 12 of this report.

Thanks to Jenny for her dedication to the task and the manner in which she managed the many hats she must wear to get the work done.

I have attended various Landcare events or meetings outside the LCG area but within the Corangamite area, to network with Landcare people and gain some insight to the future planning of funding authorities.

An Incorporated Association was registered as Yarrowee Leigh Catchment Group Inc. This Incorporated Association will become active in January 2014, and will enable us to apply for funding from other than statutory authorities.

My thanks go to the board members of LCG who as volunteers have put in so much of their time to keep LCG active and relevant.

Please check out our new notice board outside the office and our re-designed web-site, with thanks to the Buninyong & District Community Bank for the grant making these possible.

Kate O'Bryan.

Community engagement

Early in the year, we were invited by Foodworks on opening their new store in Buninyong , to hold an information stall.

The **Back from the Brink** project ,which encourages the growing of locally disappearing species was promoted at this event (below) and at a Launch event at the Smart living Centre (right) held on World Environment Day.



Working with Golden Plains Shire

Golden Plains Shire gave a Landcare grant of \$5,000 to Leigh Catchment Group for on grounds works. This year, this was spent by two Landcare Groups: Ross Creek and Grenville, on gorse control of roadside verges. In Ross Creek, this was carried out by a contractor on significant roadside verges designated by the Group and complementing work done by the local council work team. In Grenville, local Landcare landholders undertook spraying of road reserves adjacent to rural properties.

Board members 2012/2013

Kate O'Bryan	Chairperson
Louisa-Jane Cunningham	Vice Chairperson
Andrea Mason	Secretary
Peter Cameron	Treasurer
Graeme Fagg	Board member
Gabrielle Murphy	Board member
Brian Parker	Board member
David Turley	Board member
Sandra Weller	Board member
Jenny Ryle	Landcare Coordinator/Facilitator

There are 3 sub-committees which all board members serve on, they are :

On-Grounds Works; Future Planning & Finances & Contractor/Employment Review.

The board also set up steering groups when and if required to meet and discuss specific issues not covered by the above sub-committees.

The Victorian Landcare Forum was hosted in the Corangamite region this year. It was held at the Sheraton in Geelong over three days in October 2012 and the Leigh Catchment Group was represented on the steering group. Workshops and trips were held for nearly 200 delegates from across Victoria to local Landcare sites

Landcare Groups Foundation grant purchases

(part of the Victorian Local Landcare Initiative funding)

Upper Williamson's Creek – pruning saw head and three hammers

Garibaldi Environment Group - planting equipment-trolley for carrying trays of plants across site

Wattle Flat/Pootilla - Drum of woody weed herbicide for use on roadsides and private properties

Napoleons/Enfield - Drum of woody weed herbicide for public planting sites

Ross Creek -Improvements at Ross Creek reserve- weed removal by contractor.

Bamganie/Meredith - Potipukki planter

Grenville -Drum of woody weed herbicide for spraying roadsides in Grenville.

Leigh District - road sign (proposed)



Above: Garibaldi Environment Group's new trolley has been extremely useful to help move the stakes, guards and plants for planting at several sites. In addition, removing the guards and stakes as soon as the plants are big enough to survive without rabbit protection, means they can be used again. The trolley was especially useful during the revegetation of Mount Buninyong Walking Trail.



Left: The Australian Youth Climate Coalition stepped in at short notice to help plant out this erosion site at the headwaters of Union Jack Creek

Leigh Catchment Group's River Health projects

- part of the CCMA 'Securing the Health of the Barwon Basin' project



Above: Only a few kilometres out of Ballarat, dairy cattle are fenced off from the river to protect sandy banks from collapsing.



Top right: A before photo of the blackberry and willow covered slopes show the extent of restoration work needed on the Yarrowee river as it flows through Garibaldi.



Right: The Land Mate team from Langi Kal Kal helped a landholder erect a stock proof fence along the Yarrowee River lower down at Garibaldi. The local land-care group supplied extra local plants for this project.



Left: With help from the Department of Sustainability and Environment and the Good Neighbours' Scheme, this gorse infested bank of crown land was groomed.

The excavator in the picture was then used to remove any plants growing down the steeper section. The landholder of the property to the right has fenced off a corridor of private land and will be re-vegetating it. The gorse will need controlling for several years yet but already, with the cover for feral animals removed, native grasses are re-establishing. The river is muddy after heavy rain upstream.

Community restoration of the Yarrooee

A two hectare area of crown land upstream of South Durham Bridge is being restored with community help. The Garibaldi Environment Group were helped by Central Highlands Water Waste Treatment staff to carry out planting after the site had been prepared by carefully spraying out weeds. Preparation work in the area also included pest control of rabbits by ripping the vast number of warrens.

Damascus College students had undertaken some ecological thinning and maintenance of an adjacent previous planting in May and enjoyed some down time cooling off in the river.

A thousand plants required dense planting but, as with previous works on sandy unstable banks, this should work well especially as a significant number of plants were deep rooted grasses. Weed control will continue for at least two years due to presence of very invasive species such as Paterson's curse and hemlock. Neighbours have helped by allowing access, undertaking gorse control on their own and leased crown land and doing their own plantings.

Four signs have been produced linking the project area together with previous projects, especially the newly named Bridge to Bridge Walking Track, along the river from South Durham to end eventually at Garibaldi Bridge reserve.



Back from the Brink - Communities growing to save their landscapes

- a Communities for Nature project

This project involved two Landcare groups who wanted to find and propagate species they felt were disappearing from their landscapes

Results for year 1

- 10 volunteers collected enough seed to propagate 1760 focal species plants (target =1000)
- 5.2 Ha EVC 47 (Valley Grassy Forest) and to be planted (target =5 Ha).
- This involved 6 private landholders and one public site
- 6 landholders/groups were also provided with the extra focal plants



Banksia marginata, Silver Banksia



Above: Wanted posters to raise awareness of the issue.

Lower Middle: Distribution maps from Ballarat Biodiversity Services helped locate potential seed sources where we could collect under permit from the Department of Sustainability and Environment



Above: Collecting Yarra gum nuts with a pruning saw and pole. See front cover.



Above: Black Sheoak cones



The four 'nearly missing' focal species are:

Banksia marginata, Silver Banksia

Eucalyptus yarraensis, Yarra Gum

Eucalyptus pauciflora subsp pauciflora,
Snow Gum

Allocausarina littoralis Black Sheoak

Left: Two seed collecting workshops and one field day were arranged to help volunteers recognise and safely collect the seed of the focal species. The workshops were run by Seeding Victoria and extra seed was placed with them for storage.



This is the first year of a Communities for Nature project funded by the State government for three years. The project is based on providing a good supply of the right species for the ecological vegetation classes around Buninyong. Awareness raising of the issue generated plenty of interest by local landholders within the targeted EVC's. The target was to plant over five hectares of revegetation containing an appropriate percentage of the focal species.



Above: The propagated seeds are grown on in the Community Nursery in Ballarat, where the propagation workshop was held in March.

Below: One of the private plantings sites, within sight of Mount Buninyong where over 2 hectares of EVC 47 (Valley Grassy Forest) was planted including the propagated focal species.



On the other side of Mount Buninyong, on Crown land beside the Union Jack Creek, plantings by the community build on earlier work over the last two years.

There is still space on this site for further plantings which is creating an asset for the township.



Thanks.....

.....to **Alison Pouliet** for lending us her beautiful photos on the website for Biodiversity Month in September (and beyond).

.....to **Officeworks** for giving us a brand new printer for the office in Buninyong.

.....to the **Smart Living Centre** in Lydiard Street for distributing Flora and Fauna brochures.

Landcare Groups-National Tree Days 2012



Top: Leigh District Group post planting at Inverleigh

Top right: Wattle Flat /Pootilla members at Brown Hill, Ballarat

Middle above: Ross Creek at their wetland reserve

Below right: Garibaldi Environment Group working on the Walking Trail

Below : Napoleons/Enfield's finished wetland planting at Glasson's road



Above: Upper Williamsons' Creek with friends barbecuing with music provided by the U3A after planting on Mt Buninyong Trail (left)



Result: 2500 plants –230 people

Leigh Catchment Group's School Program

492 students have come out with teachers and parents on 10 separate occasions to undertake educational activities including planting and maintenance. In addition Napoleons Landcare group and Ross creek Landcare have worked closely with their own local schools. Ross Creek Campus has its own new Junior Landcare Group.

Right: Ballarat Christian College came out to help finish off the Trail plantings.

Buninyong PS walk up the Mount Trail on their Story of Buninyong day in July each year. They stop at 'stations' as they go and learn about why Landcare has planted along the trail.



Above: Damascus College came out in November and May. Here, they help recycle the stakes and guards from the Walking Track at South Durham .



Above: Scotsburn PS take a bus trip in February to collect half a dozen species of grasses, shrubs and trees, which they then grow back at school. This year the school won a Junior Landcare grant for their school garden project.



Above: A class from Ballarat Christian College helped plant out a revegetation site at the headwaters of the Union Jack Creek above Buninyong.



Left: Eight classes from Ballarat schools attended **Creek Connections** organised by Corangamite Catchment Management Authority. There were a range of activities on a watery theme to enjoy. As Leigh Catchment Group's contribution , the students were taken along the Yarrowee at Black Hill. They recorded what they observed by means of different materials tied to their own 'Journey stick'. At the end of a stretch of creek, they could then recount their own journey to their classmates.

As you can see, they enjoyed this different sort of outdoors activity.

Securing grants 2012/2013

Project Title	Source of funding (name of funding program)	Purpose (on-ground, engagement, communications, coordination, other)	Amount \$ (ex GST)
Victorian Local Landcare Facilitator Initiative (VLLFI)	DEPI (State funding)	Facilitation to support Landcare groups and networks as they strive to create sustainable landscapes for future generations.	\$46,510.00
Victorian Local Landcare Facilitator Initiative (VLLFI) Foundation Grant	DEPI (State funding)	\$250 to each of eight groups for on ground work	\$2,000.00
Back from the Brink-Communities growing to save their landscapes	DEPI (Communities for Nature)	Propagation and revegetation of endangered species and EVCs (Year 1)	\$34,508.00
Community restoration of the Yarrowee at South Durham	Corangamite Landcare Grant 12/13	Pest control (rabbit and woody weeds) and riparian re-vegetation	\$12,515.00
Securing the Health of the Barwon –Leigh Catchment	CCMA	River health work	\$29,602.00
Victorian Recruitment Initiative	CCMA	Promotional brochure to farmers	\$1,500.00
Garibaldi/Napoleons Weed action Group	VGTF	Weed control management in Target area	\$10,000.00
Golden Plains Landcare Grant	Golden Plains Shire	Roadside weed control by 2 Landcare groups	\$5,000
Community restoration of the Yarrowee	Central Highlands Water	Rabbit control	\$2,200
Communities for Nature small grant	DSE	Wetland reserve restoration (applied for by Ross Creek Landcare*)	\$5,200*
		Total	\$149,035



A large tract of previously forested land in East Ballarat became the subject of much discussion in 2012/2013, when its lease was returned to the government.

This resulted in the formation of **Friends of Canadian Corridor** who held several public forum to look at the ways of developing a natural forest area for many stakeholders. LCG has been supportive of this initiative which is ongoing.

LEIGH CATCHMENT GROUP

STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE YEAR ENDED 30 June 2013

	Note	2013	2012
RECEIPTS			
Grants	2	123,515	56,641
Interest		4,475	6,954
Other	3	2,857	404
GST Collected & Refunded		<u>14,136</u>	<u>14,599</u>
		<u>144,983</u>	<u>78,598</u>
EXPENDITURE			
Administration	4	64,001	61,303
Projects	5	61,826	102,945
Other	6	4,547	3,256
GST Owing & Repaid		<u>14,100</u>	<u>23,243</u>
		<u>144,474</u>	<u>190,747</u>
CASH SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR YEAR		509	(112,149)
ADD: Cash at bank 30 June 2012		104,840	216,989
CASH AT BANK 30 June 2013		<u>105,349</u>	<u>104,840</u>

BALANCE SHEET 30 June 2013

	Note	2013	2012
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash at Bank	7	105,349	104,840
Debtors	8	<u>21,564</u>	<u>5,481</u>
		126,913	110,321
Non-Current Assets			
Equipment	9	-	-
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>126,913</u>	<u>110,321</u>
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Projects	10	<u>76,048</u>	<u>64,386</u>
LEIGH CATCHMENT GROUP FUNDS	11	<u>50,865</u>	<u>45,935</u>

*These accounts are currently with the auditor

LEIGH CATCHMENT GROUP

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

Note 1 – STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Statement of Receipts and Expenditure is prepared on a cash basis and the surplus (deficit) shown has not been adjusted to reflect amounts due or amount owing by the Group as shown in the Balance Sheet included as part of the Financial Statements. The values stated in the Balance Sheet are based on historic costs and do not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

PROJECTS – Notes 2, 5, 10.

	Note 2 RECEIVED THIS YEAR	Note 5 SPENT ON PROJECTS	Note 10 COMMITTED TO PROJECTS
River Health 2	0	21,546	18,000
River Health 3	1,116	5,000	8,962
River Health 4	11,840	5,190	20,329
25 th Anniversary	1,154	1,532	2,884
V.L.L.F.I. Foundation	0	1,500	500
Golden Plains Shire 2012	5,000	5,000	0
Corang. L/care 2011-12	2,500	8,107	0
Corang. L/care 2012-13	9,386	3,785	6,361
Vic. Recruit. Initiative	1,500	0	1,500
V.L.L.F.I.	46,511	All for Administration	
Comms. For Nature	34,508	10,166	10,512
Vic. Gorse Task Force	10,000	0	7,000
	123,515	61,826	76,048
	Note 2	Note 5	Note 10

Note 3 – OTHER INCOME

Central Highlands Water: re-imburse rabbit baiting	2,200
Brochure sales, Fees & Donations	<u>657</u>
	2,857

3.

Note 4 – ADMINISTRATION

Bank & Audit	586
Office Rent	3,430
Office Expenses	892
Phone/Internet	2,104
Insurance	437
Training	300
Computer Purchase	482
Travel Expenses	3,799
Project Officer Salary	<u>51,971</u>
	64,001

Note 6 – OTHER EXPENSES

Rabbit Baiting – Sth Durham Bridge (re-imbursed)	2,200
Consultancy – Biodiversity Fund application	1,000
Subscriptions & Registrations	711
Sundry Expenses	<u>636</u>
	4,547

Note 7 – CASH AT BANK

Cheque Account	5,238
Cash Management Account	20,111
Term Deposit	<u>80,000</u>
	105,349

Note 8 – DEBTORS

CCMA – River Health 4	17,762
CCMA – Corangamite Landcare 2012-13	3,128
ATO - Net GST Refund Due	<u>674</u>
	21,564

Note 9 – EQUIPMENT

The value of equipment is treated as an historical cost and not brought to account. This includes one trailer, registered and in fair condition; and all office furniture and equipment, including computers, printers and tools. Two significant items were purchased during the year:

Epson Data Projector (new)
Lenovo Laptop Computer (second hand)

Note 11 – LEIGH CATCHMENT GROUP FUNDS

Cash at Bank (Note 7)	105,349
Net GST Refund due (Note 8)	674
Committed Project Funds in Bank	<u>(55,158)</u>
	50,865

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

www.leighcatchmentgroup.org

This report was produced by:

The Leigh Catchment Group.

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