



# SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND LANDCARE LTD

## CAPABILITY STATEMENT

**We are a not-for-profit community network  
located on the Northern Tablelands of  
New South Wales, Australia.**

**Our vision is for a vibrant, socially and  
economically healthy community thriving in  
healthy, productive environments.**

**Our mission is to lead, connect and enable our  
communities to reach their sustainability goals in  
a changing environment.**



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# OUR TEAM



## Chair

### Prof Emer NICK REID



Nick Reid is an Emeritus Professor in Ecosystem Management at the University of New England, and a former Head of UNE's School of Environmental and Rural Science.

He worked in applied ecology and natural resource management in overseas and Australian universities for 36 years, teaching sustainable land management, national park and wilderness management, agroforestry and farm forestry, ecology, wildlife management, environmental impact assessment, and agricultural and rural extension.

Nick's research interests span the science, management and governance of social-ecological systems; ecosystem services; integrating production and conservation; biodiversity assessment and management; ecological restoration, and forest protection.

He is proficient in governance and management and has chaired technical and community boards advising state and federal government agencies and ministers.

Current and recent research and consultancies include natural capital opportunities for Australian primary producers, New England dieback, farmland birds, state significant development impacts on threatened plants and animals, scaling up habitat restoration, and the federally listed threatened mallee bird community.

## Director

### BEV STUBBERFIELD



A Uralla resident, Bev's interests include soil health, healthy waterways, sustainable ecosystems and community projects and events.

Her qualifications include Diplomas in Project Management and Small Business Management.

Bev's experience includes being a self-employed small business owner, and Tourism Manager at Uralla Visitor Centre, with skills including event management, community fund-raising and social development.

Key committee positions include: Director, Southern New England Landcare Ltd; Secretary/Treasurer, Uralla Rivercare Group; Secretary, Uralla Red Cross; Treasurer/Co-organiser, Annual Thunderbolt Festival; Treasurer, United Hospital Auxiliary; Chairperson, Uralla Showground Land Manager; member, The Rotary Club of Uralla; and Coordinator, School Section of Annual Rotary Art Exhibition.

## Vice Chair

### DAVID STELLER



Based in Armidale, David is a retired civil engineer who worked in Local Government in NSW for 34 years with the last 10 years as Director of Public Infrastructure at Armidale Dumaresq Council.

David is Chairperson of the Armidale Tree Group Inc, Autumn Lodge Retirement Village and Armidale Highlands Science and Engineering Challenge Committee.

He holds board positions on Armidale Central Rotary Club and the Advisory Council of O'Connor Catholic College. He is a member of the Armidale Regional Council and University of New England Zero30 Community Committee and is Treasurer of the St Augustine's Conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society Armidale.

David is a member of Engineer's Australia Northern Group and Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia, New England and North West Group and registered as a Chartered Engineer. David has an active role in environmental rehabilitation and ecosystem repair and enhancement in the New England Region.

## Treasurer

### ROBERT SIEBEN



Rob brings over 40 years of senior executive and governance experience across publicly listed and private enterprises. His expertise spans IT systems, business management, human resources, fundraising, marketing, and governance.

Career highlights include working as a Senior Education Consultant, at Hutton Consulting Australia (2019-24); Founding Director, Hartley Institute, Prince Alfred College (2015-19) focussing on leadership development programs incorporating financial management and governance; Director ICT, Prince Alfred College (2010-15) working on information integrity and ICT services; Director of Development, St Ignatius' College (2002-05); and Executive Officer Education & National Administration Manager, Chariot Internet (2000-02).

Rob has also served in key governance roles, including Secretary of the SA State Executive of the Australian Council for Educational Leaders and Treasurer of Educators SA (CEASA).



# OUR TEAM



## Director



### BRYAN JOHNSTON

Located in Armidale, Bryan's interests include Armidale Urban Rivercare Group, National Park management and enjoyment, Biodynamic Agriculture, Birdlife Australia and Dumaresq Lions Club.

Bryan has qualifications in Chemical Risk Management Accreditation, a Cert. IV Workplace Training & Assessment, a Dip. Agric. (Hon), and Cert. Agriculture.

Bryan's experience includes Cattle & Beef Management Services, Agriculture Teacher with TAFE NSW, Training material developer for Certificate III Feedlot Operations; Tour Manager with Quadrant Australia, Trainer/Auditor with Australian Landcare Management Group and Program Leader with NSW Agriculture. He also has skills in property management of family cattle and timber enterprises.

Key committee positions include: Chairman, Quadrant Australia Pty Ltd.; Chair, NPWS Northern Inland Regional Advisory Committee; Member Bulagaranda Aboriginal Area Board of Management; and State Council Representative National Parks Assoc NSW.

## Director



### STEVE HARVEY

Steve owns and manages a sheep & wool property east of Armidale and his interests include sustainable agriculture, community engagement, and environmental sustainability.

As a self-employed grazier in a rural business partnership, he has experience as a wool classer and shearing shed overseer, and skills in agribusiness and property management specialising in sheep and wool.

Steve's qualifications include: Wool Classer, Diploma Farm Management (Tocal Agricultural College); Electric, Oxy and Mig Welding; Small Motor Mechanics; Advanced Sheep and Wool; and Financial Administration.

Key committee positions include: Founding Director of Southern New England Landcare Ltd, Northern Tablelands Representative on Landcare NSW Inc Council for New England Landcare Network Inc, Merino Sheep Steward, Armidale Agricultural Show Society, Regional Secretary, Australian Superfine Woolgrowers, Regional Representative, National Council Australian Superfine Woolgrowers.

## Director



### Dr BROOKE KENNEDY

Brooke is a proud Gomeroi yinarr (Kamilaroi Woman) whom having recently completed her PhD, is an early career academic. Brooke's honours and doctoral studies focused on free-roaming dogs and cats in remote Aboriginal communities, specifically, their roaming behaviours and how these have impacted both humans and wildlife.

Brooke is currently a Chief Investigator on the Keeping Cats Safe at Home (KCSAH) Project of the RSPCA NSW. In this role, Brooke is evaluating the impact of a social education program across four Local Government Areas in NSW on the roaming behaviours of owned domestic cats.

Brooke is passionate about our native wildlife and how we can reduce the impacts our domestic pets have on them. She also teaches in the space of global wild canid ecology, working dogs and traditional ecological knowledge.

## Chief Executive Officer



### KAREN ZIRKLER

BScEnv (Hon 1), GAICD, MICDA

Karen grew up on farming country in north west NSW, then trained and worked in Queensland, the UK, California and Western Australia. She has been with Southern New England Landcare since 1998 in various roles, including as a volunteer on the board of directors.

Karen has experience in a broad range of roles including: Regional Landcare Facilitator (2015-2016), Publication Editor & Designer (2008-2014), Landcare Coordinator (1998-2008), Farm Forestry Extension Research Assistant (1997-1998), Marketing Assistant & Desktop Publisher (UK/USA 1996-1997), and QDPI Extension Officer (1992-1995). Karen spent 3.5 years as a non executive director on the Board of the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust, and is a recent graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Based on their family grazing property at Kentucky near Uralla, Karen is a member of Harnham Landcare Group, with interests in regenerative agriculture, agroforestry and carriage driving.

# OUR TEAM



## Struan Ferguson

### Local Landcare Coordinator

BArts

Struan grew up on a sheep and cattle station in central western Queensland and moved to Armidale for schooling in 1982. She has been involved in conservation and community endeavours in five states.

She has worked with SNELandcare since 2017 and is passionate about the environment, agriculture and sound and effective processes that support landholders to achieve wellbeing and their conservation and production goals.

Struan's qualifications include Advanced Certificate in Outdoor Guiding TAFE (1998), Permaculture Consultant's Design Course, Permaculture Institute (1993), Banded Bee Farm (2020).

Her experience includes: Joint Medical Program Coordinator, UNE (2016), Assistant Customer Service Officer, Dept. Fair Trading (2010-2011), Coordinator, The Great Walk Network (1995-1997) and voluntary governance roles.



community-based conservation.

Since 2016, Thaw has contributed to international agricultural research and extension projects funded by ACIAR, focusing on rural livelihoods, farming systems, gender analysis, and participatory extension in Myanmar and Indonesia.

Her recent research explored the cultural significance of Indigenous Australian plants in the Gwydir Wetlands.

A dedicated Landcare volunteer, Thaw has supported koala conservation projects and ecological monitoring in the Northern Tablelands. Her strong foundation in agricultural systems, combined with environmental science expertise, makes her a valuable asset in engaging landholders and communities to advance biodiversity and conservation outcomes.

## Elizabeth Rosser

### Local Landcare Coordinator

BAgrib & BAppSci

Elizabeth grew up at Quilpie, Queensland and Goodooga, NSW before moving to Brisbane to complete her schooling.

She began a Bachelor of Nursing at the University of Southern Queensland before taking a gap and working as a Governess at Cunnamulla. She later switched to a dual degree in Agribusiness and Applied Science (Production Animals) at the University of Queensland.

Since then, Elizabeth has worked across Australia in rural consultancy, feedlots, beef cattle, free-range egg production, and a short stint in a dairy. As a Project Officer for Neighbourhood Houses Tasmania on King Island, she discovered a love of project management and community facilitation.

In 2021, Elizabeth moved to the New England with her husband and young family to manage a beef cattle trading enterprise near Ben Lomond using regenerative principles. She has a deep love of learning, people, and community.



## Janeen Robb LMA Project Officer

BSc, DipEd, Grad Cert NRM

Janeen moved to Armidale to study Botany and Ecology at the University of New England and later worked as a casual environmental consultant while raising her family.

She has held roles with the Geographic Information Systems unit of NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service and the Landscape Monitoring and Decision Support Unit at the Office of Environment & Heritage. Janeen has contributed to major projects including the Dryland Salinity Project, broadscale vegetation mapping for the Murray-Darling Basin Commission, and a joint Landcare/Aboriginal Land Council Cultural Heritage project, collaborating with local Aboriginal communities and landholders to identify artefacts and cultural sites.



## Janet Hodge Receptionist

Janet grew up in Cootamundra and has worked in administrative roles in health, electoral offices, and the NSW Public Works Regional Office.

After working at Harden Shire Council, Janet embarked on a 3-month horseback adventure from Harden to Licola, where she worked at a horse-riding tour business exploring the Victorian High Country.

Janet has held mustering and station hand roles at Legune Cattle Station (NT), Walla Downs Cattle Station (WA), and Landsdowne Cattle Station (WA), where she met her partner. Together, they returned to Girgarre (Vic) and raised a family on their small dairy farm for 20 years.

Janet and her partner purchased a property northwest of Guyra in 2021, running a small mob of Australian Whites and Wagyu Cattle.



## Thaw Ni Ni Zaw

### Koala Conservation Project Officer

B.Ag, M.Hort, M.Env.Sc & Mgmt.

Originally from Myanmar's dry zone near Mandalay, Thaw brings extensive expertise in agriculture, environmental science, and

