



Southern New England Landcare Ltd
ACN 099 357 454
Resourcing Landcare in our region

Southern New England Landcare Coordinating Committee
SNELCC Inc
Representing Landcarers in our region

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2012 President's Report

Southern New England Landcare has seen three years of great achievements in the execution of natural resource management in the region.

The focus continues to be on the work of many volunteers to implement projects throughout the community.

Landcare's vital link between natural ecosystems and the coexistence of humans can serve the community now and into the future. Our landcarers have been active in urban and agricultural landscapes. Their work has encompassed education, extension, project design and project management. Many thanks to all the organisations partnering with Southern New England Landcare over the past three years (their logos can be seen on the inside front cover).

Twenty twelve has seen the completion of the High Country Urban Biodiversity (HiCUB) Project where Southern New England Landcare partnered with four Local Government organisations and the University of New England in a project funded by the NSW Environmental Trust. Here we saw the successful collaboration of project partners and many community volunteers to complete the many tasks involved.

Great preparation by our Partnership Officer Jackie Bowe, and hard work by the HiCUB team, managed by Dave Carr, and including Ellen Nyberg, Brenda Shepherd, and Nic Cobcroft, the project was a great success.

The Landcare Community Resource Centre, which has been made possible with financial assistance from Armidale Dumaresq Council, is home to our dedicated team of staff and volunteers. Credit for much of our success over many years must go to our Executive Officer Sonia Williams, for her tireless contributions - not only to our organisation, but also to Landcare and natural resource management across NSW. Thank you to our Office Administrator Lucy Chapman, and Community Support Officers Bec Ballard and Mahri Koch for their tireless commitment throughout the year. And thank you to our part-time staff including Sara Schmude (Schools Program), Heather Apps (Administration), Sally Taylor and Emily Ingram (Project Administration), and Ruth Tremont (Site Inspections). Thanks to the many others who have made a contribution to the management of our projects.

This year we have been working to improve our relationship with the three Catchment Management Authorities (CMA) within our region. This will enable more effective joint planning and implementation of future projects.

Northern Rivers CMA and Border Rivers Gwydir CMA are also looking at a more coordinated effort in project delivery in our region where the two CMAs meet.

Landcarers from our region were well represented at the National Landcare Awards in September 2012, with Balala- Brushgrove Landcare Group a national finalist after taking out the NSW Community Group Award in 2011.

Well done to all who have been part of the achievements seen in this part of our region.

I would like to acknowledge the time taken by Southern New England Landcare's Board members in overseeing the operations of our organisation.

Their ongoing commitment demonstrates a passion that will enable landcare to prosper into the future. Landcare is a grassroots community organisation, so special thanks must go to the members and volunteers who make up our organisation and ensure its outcomes. They are an important part of our landscape and our community.

Steve Harvey, President.

Executive Officer's Report

During the reporting period of 2009/10 to 2011/12, Southern New England widened its scope of operations, whilst at the same time continued to service its traditional members and member groups. The High Country Urban Biodiversity Project, funded from the NSW Environmental Trust, provided resources to better support the urban community to be involved in 'Landcare' type activities. The project has many legacies that will allow support to continue into the future.

The Landcare Resource Centre was established as part of the project. It has provided a base to many community groups, and has allowed us to establish a library, meeting facilities, equipment storage, and computer facilities for group use, all in a central location in the CBD. Many thanks to Armidale Dumaresq Council for their support of this great facility.

We also successfully adapted to the change of focus from local and regional targets to Federal targets under the Caring for Our Country program.

However, this meant that we were unable to work 'from the ground up' in meeting member's needs. Much thought and effort was expended in developing ways in which we could meld and mesh top-down targets to local needs. An Expression of Interest process allows us to develop 'shelf' projects with landholders that can be quickly developed into grant applications by our Project Officers as and when appropriate resources become available.

Southern New England Landcare has been proactive in giving its members a voice by influencing those with influence: hosting site visits for the likes of Major General Jefferies, Ross Garnaut, and speaking to the Parliamentary Committee into the Role of Government in Assisting Farmers Adapt to Climate Change.

Via our involvement with the regional New England North West Landcare Network Chairs, we have been instrumental in supporting the reinstatement of the Regional Landcare Facilitator Program across the area. We are also able to make input to Landcare NSW and the National Landcare Network in an effort to ensure the grass roots nature of Landcare is supported.

The reinstatement of Landcare group funding in the form of Federally funded Community Action Grants is an example of what this lobbying can achieve.

These group-scale grants have been a great boon to re-establishing group activity and helping Landcare to return to group-led action and learning.

Key Performance Indicators

Southern New England Landcare Ltd works under a Strategic Plan, which has four main objectives, and an Implementation plan, which outlines strategies and tasks to achieve our objectives over the coming year/s. The following table provides a snapshot of performance against these objectives.

Governance and Key Financial Indicators

Southern New England Landcare Ltd, is a not-for-profit company, set up in response to the changed funding environment in which Landcare now operates.

The membership of the Company is open to all Landcare and similar groups in the region, and the function of the company is to resource and promote Landcare in the region.

The Company is governed by a Board of Directors with a wide range of skills in landcare, business, community and other areas. The Board meet at least six times per year and review delivery of programs, strategic directions and marketing.

The Southern New England Landcare Coordinating Committee (SNELCC) Inc quarterly meetings are utilised as a reference panel to ensure that the actions of the Company meet the needs of the Landcare and broader community.

Sonia Williams