

**Welcome** to the September Edition of the Advocate

There have been some changes at Landcare NSW of late with the arrival and departure of several staff members.

Landcare NSW is pleased to advise that again it will be receiving support under the NLP State level network program. This funding is crucial to ensure that LNSW can operate as a truly representational organisation, and underpins the core requirements for LNSW to be an effective participant in the national Landcare Networks efforts to provide information to and from the Australian Government and its programs.

Landcare NSW has also recently learnt that it was successful under the NSW Environmental Trusts Lead Environment Community Group funding. This will provide \$144,000 over the next two years to support the representation, communication and linkages of Landcare in NSW at the state level, and will allow for Landcare NSW to support a regional scale event for each region in NSW over the upcoming 2 years, plus support the state-wide LNSW Muster to be held in September 2017.

Landcare NSW will work with Regional representatives from the Council of LNSW to identify suitable regional scale events, at which skills training and partnership development sessions will be held.



Rob Dulhunty  
Chair, Landcare NSW Inc.

## The LECG 15-16 Workshop Series: Share Learn Connect – Biodiversity

Landcare NSW, through the support of the NSW Environmental Trust (LECG15-16), delivered a series of eight workshops across NSW during the submission phase of the NSW Biodiversity Reforms, which had a focus on connecting, sharing and learning. In addition, the Office of Environment and Heritage hosted a webinar for Landcarers to discuss and ask questions about the proposed reforms.

The comments from Landcarers have been collated into a document. Landcare NSW throughout the process remained impartial – no specific position was adopted by Landcare NSW, rather LNSW undertook to ensure the many views of Landcarers were represented. Landcarers across NSW –

groups and individuals – were also encouraged to make submissions to ensure a full range of views were represented.

The project is not quite finalised, with a few regions still holding workshops or other activities.

A special thank you to the project officer Deb Tkachenko. And to Rod Dulhunty, Steph Cameron and David Walker for being moderators of various workshops.

To view the document: [click here](#).



*Mitchell Palmer, North West Local Land Services, Liz Tomlinson, NSW Farmers, Steph Cameron, Landcare NSW and Oscar Pearce, NSW Farmers at the Narrabri Biodiversity Workshop*

### NOTICE OF Annual General Meeting Ensure your region has an Endorsed Representative

Landcare NSW advises its members that the AGM of Landcare NSW Inc will be held on 8th November 2016, at the VFFF board room 99 Macquarie St Sydney commencing at 3.30pm.

Regions are reminded to please ensure that if Landcare NSW has not yet received a nomination form for the 2016/17 membership year, that a nomination form for the endorsed regional representative is received prior to 8th October 2016.

# Sustaining Landcare: The Landcare Trust Project

As part of the Local Landcare Coordinator Initiative (funded from 2015-2019), the NSW Government has tasked Landcare NSW to identify options to diversify its revenue base in order to fund the local coordinators and Landcare support services when the current program finishes in June 2019. The purpose of the Landcare Trust Project is to fund Landcare support services, not on-ground projects.

The target is to replace the annual \$3.5 million funding to continue the Landcare support program from July 2019, while ensuring the necessary infrastructure is also developed for Landcare NSW to support this initiative.

Stage 1 of the Landcare Trust Project has valued the guidance of a project Steering Committee comprising Landcare NSW Executive, senior government, and commercial experience. Along with input from the Landcare community, Landcare NSW Council, Landcare NSW Executive and LLS/LNSW Joint Management Committee, the project has developed the draft Funding Model for consideration.

## The Proposed Model

The consultation process with the Landcare community showed support for development of new funding sources in addition to ongoing involvement of Government.

The funding model was presented at the LNSW Council meeting and endorsed. The model proposes Landcare NSW focus on generating new funding sources independent of government, working to become self-reliant by 2019. Once this goal is achieved, the model suggests government funding be contributed on a dollar-for-dollar matching, to support the growth and development to enhance the network of volunteer support.

To generate a minimum of \$3.75m per year (needed to cover the current investment in Local Landcare Coordinators and their operation) requires significant organisational growth for Landcare NSW. Significant new revenue streams will be required, most particularly the introduction of a wide range of new membership packages. Landcare NSW will also be looking to philanthropic contributions and will seek to partner with government to support long-term growth.

## Insurance

One of the major concerns of many groups is insurance – common questions raised with Landcare NSW are: what types are needed?; what does it cost?; and are we adequately covered?

Landcare NSW has been working on the insurance issue over the past 3 years – an information booklet is available at <http://landcarenew.org.au/member-resources/insurance/>

Landcare NSW has undertaken extensive research into the benefits and problems with group insurance schemes, and as part of the discussions re membership benefits and packages LNSW is now utilising that research to obtain a preferred insurance product for Landcare groups in NSW. Watch this space as this exciting initiative unfolds.

## Memberships - Seeking Your Input

A membership sub-committee has been formed and are finalising a discussion paper to be circulated to the broader Landcare community. This draft was discussed at the LNSW Council meeting and it was resolved that Councillors would consult with communities in regard to the membership proposals.

In particular Councillors will be looking for your input on the following items :

1. Defining regions: Landcarers will be consulted on what they believe to be the social catchments or regions of Landcare in NSW.
2. Membership Categories, benefits of membership and proposed membership fees.

Based on the feedback the Membership Committee will progress this matter and seek advice and undertake actions required to amend the constitution of LNSW to accommodate the proposal.

## Environmental Restoration and Rehabilitation Grants

The NSW Environmental Trust's Restoration & Rehabilitation Grants are now open for applications.

The program offers \$4 million worth of grant funding under two streams:

- Projects by community organisation, and;
- Projects by government entities

Aim of the program

The aim of the Restoration and Rehabilitation Program is to facilitate projects run by community organisations and government entities working to prevent or reduce environmental degradation of any kind.

Applications are open for grants between \$5,000 – \$100,000. Closing date is Monday 26 September 2016 at 3pm. For more information check out the [NSW Environmental Trust's website](#).



# Staff Changes at Landcare NSW

## ***Farewell to Leigh and Margie***

Landcare NSW bids a sad farewell to Leigh McLaughlin and Margie Powell. Leigh has been with Landcare NSW for the past 2 years as the Executive Officer. She has helped Landcare NSW with the development of their strategic plan, communications review and business plan, and was the driving force behind the Sustaining Landcare Campaign. This highly successful campaign, along with a lot of work by Leigh and LNSW Chair Rob Dulhunty, helped to secure the commitment of \$15 million over 4 years to the Local Landcare Coordinator Initiative. Leigh's skills, experience and networks have really helped the growth and profile of Landcare in NSW.

Most recently, Leigh, has been working for Landcare NSW with Margie Powell on the initial research and development for the Landcare Trust, an integral part of the Local Landcare Coordinator Initiative Program and important for the future of Landcare. Margie's enthusiasm, insight and strategic thinking have laid some great foundations for the Landcare Trust Project going forward.

Leigh and Margie have been a great part of the Landcare NSW team and will be missed by staff, Council members and our partners. Thank you both for your contribution, we wish you well and look forward to seeing you Landcaring again soon.

## ***A change for Angela McCauley***

Angela McCauley, from Geomancia Ltd, assisted LNSW with core operations across the April – August period whilst funding arrangements for the upcoming year were unknown. Angela has stepped aside from the Business Manager role but will still assist LNSW with data analysis and reporting.

## ***Welcome to Allison, Melissa and Cassie***

Landcare NSW welcomes three new members to the team – Allison Henry, Melissa Joseph and Cassie Price. Allison will cover the areas of policy and government engagement, Melissa takes on the development of the Landcare Trust and Cassie takes on the new Operations Manager role.

### **Melissa Joseph: Sustaining Landcare Project Manager**

Melissa joins Landcare NSW from Macquarie Private Bank where she was Division Director, Head of Strategic Client Acquisition, responsible for the origination of new business for Private Banking division across ultra/high net worth individual and corporate segments and provision of strategic corporate and individual investment advice. Before holding various banking roles at UBS AG, Credit Suisse AG and Macquarie Bank, Melissa was a management consultant with Accenture in the Strategy and Financial Services practice area. Melissa and her family are based in Sydney and have a property in Braidwood.

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### **Allison Henry: Policy and Government Engagement**

Allison joined the Landcare team on a part time basis in July 2016, having previously assisted Landcare with a number of policy and writing projects. Allison is the founding Director of Millwood Consulting, working with non-government organisations on research, policy development, submission and report writing projects, as well as providing strategic advice on advocacy campaigns and stakeholder engagement. Allison's previous roles include a five-year stint as a Ministerial

Advisor in the Federal Parliament, and three years as National Director of the Australian Republican Movement. Allison lives in the Northern Rivers region of NSW.

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### **Cassie Price Operations Manager**

Cassie has been working with environmental NGOs for almost 15 years, most recently in the management of natural resource projects across the NSW and Queensland coastline. She holds a Degree in Applied Science and a Diploma of Management and has a history of working closely with volunteers, including a volunteer board of directors to achieve community-driven environmental objectives. Over the years she has gained a reputation for strong NGO business management and supporting systems.

Cassie's interest in natural resource management stems from her family farming background, growing up on a mixed broad-acre property in South Australia's 'Mallee country'. She still has a connection to the land, through her husband's family farm in the Riverina, NSW. While not farming themselves, Cassie and her husband Tim have continued in the primary production tradition, as part of the commercial fishing industry, catching spanner crabs and line-caught fish from their base at Ballina in northern NSW.

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 **2016 National Landcare Conference and Awards**  
21 - 23 September 2016  
Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre

REGISTER TODAY - Early bird closes on 31 July  
[www.nationallandcareconference.org.au](http://www.nationallandcareconference.org.au)

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Landcare NSW will be presenting at the National Landcare Conference.

The presentation **BUILDING ENGAGED COMMUNITIES – THE NSW LOCAL LANDCARE COORDINATOR INITIATIVE** will highlight the genesis and progress of the LLCI.

# Update on the Local Landcare Coordinator Initiative

It's now 5 months since the initial induction training workshop and there is activity aplenty amongst the host organisations and at the Landcare NSW and Local Land Services level.

All regions are supporting their coordinators and host committees through the Regional scale Community of Practice - activities have included teleconferences, staff meetings, whole of region get togethers, and focussed training events.

To support this Regional Community of Practice the program has provided each Regional Landcare Facilitator (RLF) with a small training budget to each region (\$15,000 over three years). The training should be determined by the region in conjunction with the RLF, and should focus on building the skills of coordinators and the committees of host organisations to support the delivery of the Local Landcare Coordinator Initiative program.

## Council members of Landcare NSW Inc.

The following representatives are the endorsed Council members of Landcare NSW for 2016. Those in the shaded area are the elected Executive members. [For more info click here.](#)

Robert	Dulhunty	Chair, Endorsed member
Steph	Cameron	New England North West Landcare
Bev	Debrincat	Greater Sydney Landcare
John	Hughson	Hunter Region Landcare
Keith	Hyde	LachLandcare
Bob	Jarman	North Coast Regional Landcare
Chris	Scott	Manning Landcare
David	Walker	Endorsed individual member
Don	Bruce	Central Tablelands Regional Landcare
Fran	Corner	Hunter Region Landcare
Daintry	Gerrand	North Coast Regional Landcare
Stephen	Harvey	New England North West Landcare
Robyn	Lamond	Great Lakes District of Hunter Region
John	McGrath	Murrumbidgee Landcare
Susan	Moore	North Coast Regional Landcare
Stuart	Mosely	Western Landcare NSW
Glenys	Patulny	Murrumbidgee Landcare
Bill	Pigott	South East Landcare
Chris	Post	South East Landcare
Jen	Quealy	Endorsed individual member
Megan	Rowlatt	Endorsed individual member
Martin	Royds	South East Landcare
John	Ryan	Central West NRM Working Group
Tony	Slade	LachLandcare
Dale	Stringer	Murray Region Landcare
Hunter	White	Central Tablelands
Ted	Wolfe	Murrumbidgee Landcare

At the State scale Kate Andrews (LLS Landcare Program Manager) and Sonia Williams (LNSW State Landcare Coordinator) have been supporting various regions at their Regional Community of Practice events - action planning with the Hunter Regional Landcare Network and the Mid Coast to Tops Networks in late May; feedback on reporting at the Northern Tablelands Coordinators meeting in June; attendance at the South East Landcare Muster in June; and in a very busy August providing feedback on reporting and giving a program update at meetings of the Central Tablelands Landcare Network and the Murrumbidgee Landcare Network Committee and Coordinators; a road trip around the Networks of the North West region; and coming up in early September a speaker spot at the Western Landcare Forum. At most of these events the Local Land Services staff of the region have been actively engaged in instigating or supporting the events – this partnership is providing valuable support and is fostering the further development of partnerships within regions.



*Sonia Williams working with Landcare Networks in the Central Tablelands region.*

Meanwhile Jennie Coldham (Member Services Officer) and Sonia have been providing support to groups and networks through the Member Services support program, with support given on financial systems and training, employment matters, insurance, and referring enquiries on to appropriate agencies for a wide range of issues – from Biodiversity reforms to who to call to put down a fox caught in a cage trap! Lucy Chapman (Systems & Communication Support) has been handling a myriad of enquiries re the Gateway website – please bear with us as we give the site a major overhaul to improve its functionality.

This activity is part of the Local Landcare Coordinators Initiative



**Local Land Services**

The Local Landcare Coordinators Initiative is funded by the NSW Government, and is supported through the partnership of Local Land Services and Landcare NSW.

