



Woodend
Landcare

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**To be held at Woodend Neighbourhood House, Forest St, Woodend,
1 August 2015, 1:30 pm**

AGENDA

President's welcome

Apologies

Minutes of previous AGM

President's report

Treasurer's report

Report: Thursday Crew

Report: Slatey Creek group

Report: MRIMAG

Report: Trees for Mum

Election of Committee Members – Susan Carroll

Vote of thanks to retiring Office Bearers – Susan Carroll

Meeting close

Guest speaker Caitlin Griffith

Afternoon tea

MINUTES of the Annual General Meeting of Woodend Landcare 2014

Held on 12 July 2014, 1.30 pm at Woodend Neighbourhood House

Unfortunately, there are no minutes for the 2014 AGM. However, it can be documented that the following took place:

Election of Committee

Kate Daniel stood down as President and then Susan Carroll chaired the meeting for the elections. All positions were declared vacant. The following people were elected unopposed by a show of hands:

Executive

President – Kate Daniel
Vice-President – Jo Clancy
Secretary – Linda Vale
Treasurer – Krista Patterson-Majoor

General committee

Dave Bower
Barry Clarke
David Gossip
Paul Newman
John Newell
Stewart Olney
Eric Paul
Angela Van Dam



President's Annual Report 2015

Since last year's AGM in July we've continued on with our core business of weed removal, weed control and revegetation as well as taking part in a number of community events.

The major project for 2014–15 was a massive amount of weed removal and subsequent initial planting done at Lake Earnshaw. Thank you to the Thursday Crew for their tireless efforts down there as they hacked away at gorse, willow, blackberry on the south and west banks in the lead up to the planting held last October. This was a well-attended event, with VIPs and sponsors, and roughly 250 plants went into four sites. There is a lot of local interest in the transformation of Lake Earnshaw, and we now have a sub-committee who are working on a design for more extensive native planting, paths and seating. Structural issues like the lake's capacity to hold water and a longer term weed-control budget may also need to be addressed.

During the year we welcomed half a dozen staff from Western Water who volunteered for a morning weeding blackberries near the Weir. We appreciate their community spirit very much. They were also generous financial supporters in the Lake Earnshaw restoration project through a Frances' Environment grant; their funds were spent on fuel, plants and plant hardware.

A high point of last year was a generous anonymous donation of \$3000 from a local who believes very much in the work we do. Together with a contribution from Rotary, this very welcome gift resulted in the arrival of the Husky mower. The Thursday Crew should also be thanked for researching, costing, purchasing – probably adapting – a versatile tilt trailer to transport the mower and do runs to the tip. On behalf of Woodend Landcare I thank our thoughtful and proactive sponsor for this very generous donation.

Monthly working bees were held at Bowen St, Slatey Creek Reserve, Tennyson St, with the Scouts at their billabong, Trees for Mum site 2012 and the creek near Samuel Court. We started 2015 with a twilight working bee at the Weir at the end of January.

We were lucky enough to be successful in two grants this year, totaling \$30,650. Krista seems to have the golden touch when it comes to grant applications and I thank her for being one step ahead on these sorts of things. Work on these two projects: 'Weed free Five Mile Creek' and the Black Gum giveaway and flyer are well underway.

I'm indebted to Krista and Angela for encouraging and organising our involvement in three regular community events each year. During Landcare week we had a Library display and held a free public talk on weed identification. We once again had a lively and green stall at the Macedon Ranges Sustainability Festival, with giveaways from Western Plains Flora as well as a weed ID display, brochures, myna trap demo and endless free advice. Our last community event in this period was a Trees for Mum giveaway, quickly and efficiently thrown together by Angela in May. Due to their interest I have come round from my former rather gloomy view of 'community engagement' and I now believe these are important public opportunities for Landcare to be noticed and promoted and I hope we'll continue with these activities.

Our various subgroups of MRIMAG, Slatey Creek and Thursday Crew remain active and dynamic. You'll find more detail on their activities in their individual reports.

Thanks once again to the committee, members, MRSC and the Upper Campaspe Landcare Network for all their interest and help during the year. Barry Clarke gets my special thanks for his terrific public stewardship of the Thursday Crew.

Kate Daniel



ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT 2014–15

Financial position

Somewhat accidentally 2014–15 turned into quite a big year in terms of financial activity for Woodend Landcare! Through various grants and donations we have had over \$40,000 in income. A huge thanks the following organisations and individuals for their support of the group:

- We were fortunate to receive a large grant of \$28,400 from the Victorian Government's **Community's for Nature** program. Our 'Weed Free Five Mile Creek' project has since seen a large area of five mile creek treated for weeds and a community planting day is planned for September 2015.
- We have been well supported by the **Macedon Ranges Shire Council** with \$3900 in funding for MRIMAG, Weed Control and Trees for Mum.
- We received \$2250 from the **Dahl Trust** for a Black Gum Education program which includes the production of an information flyer and a plant give-away during Landcare Week in September.
- Finally, the Thursday Crew were very happy this year to be able purchase their long-awaited new ride-on mower, thanks mostly to \$600 from **Woodend Rotary** and \$3000 provided by an **anonymous donor**.

We have been fortunate to have received these grants and even more fortunate to be the benefactor of some very generous people in the Woodend community – mostly in support of the Thursday crew and they great work that they do. As a result, we close the financial year with a very healthy bank balance – although most of this is committed funds. Unfortunately, membership numbers have dropped slightly and currently sit at 54. Fees remain at \$20 per year. Membership is important to Woodend Landcare to cover our administrative expenses and we appreciate our members' on-going support. Finally, I'd like to thank Kate Daniel for being a very fine president and Barry Clarke for his meticulous accounting for the Thursday Crew.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2015

1 Total group funds

Opening balance (30/6/14) operating account	11,834.97
Total opening balance (30/6/14)	\$11,834.97
Income 2014–15	41,173.75
Expenses 2014–15	28,417.65
Closing balance (30/6/15) operating account	24,591.07
Total closing balance (30/6/15)	\$24,591.07

2 Current committed funds

Thursday Crew	2720.25
MRIMAG	1602.53
Slatey Creek	223.07
Machinery	166.26
Defibrillator	380.00
Communities for nature	13,914.00
Dahl Trust	2250.00
Total Committed Funds	\$21,256.11

3 Net funds available **\$3334.96**

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

Income

Donations – mower	3600
Donations – MRIMAG	400
Donation – MRIMAG from Campaspe Valley Landcare	200
Donation – MRIMAG from Riddells Creek Landcare	100
Donations – Thursday crew	1250
Grant - Trees for Mum from MRSC	500
Grant - Weed Control from MRSC	1800
Grant - 'Weed Free Five Mile Creek' from C4N	28400
Grant - 'Black Gum Education' from Dahl Trust	2250
Grant - Woodend Landcare from MRSC	800
Grant - MRIMAG from MRSC	800
Membership and other Donations	1007
Interest	66.75
TOTAL INCOME 2014–15	\$41,173.75

Expenses

Administration	1197.43
Administration - FLTA insurance	383.75
MRIMAG – materials	737.37
MRIMAG - insurance	760
MRIMAG - traps	1495.2
Trees for Mum - expenses	179.9
Trees for Mum - promotion	154
Trees for Mum - plants	396
Trees for Mum - mulch spreading	237.5
C4N - Weed Control	13486
Thursday Crew - float	690
Staley Creek - chemical	45
Trailer - purchase	1690
Trailers - registration	108
Mower - purchase	5100
Mower - insurance	214.5
Mower - service	189
Lake Earnshaw - plants	297
Lake Earnshaw - earthworks	640
Lake Earnshaw - chemical	300
Woodend Children’s Festival - materials	92
Woodend Sustainability Festival	25
TOTAL EXPENSES 2014–15	\$28,417.65

Krista Patterson-Majoor
Treasurer
July 2015

Thursday Crew Annual Report 2015

The six months up to Christmas mostly involved work at Lake Earnshaw with the continued clearing of willows right around to the western end of the Lake. This area was completed with some excellent bobcat work from Peter Newell. Many thanks Peter. Some 140 plants were planted in a number of beds around the lake.

Also, we planted 40 plants in the Jeffrey Street area which involved the children in Grade 2/3 from St. Ambrose School. These plants were purchased with a donation of \$40 which we received from the children themselves. It was a fun day and many thanks to the students and the teachers involved. Also, thanks to Kate Daniel and Peter Yates who helped so much with these plantings.

Since returning to work at the beginning of this year, we have concentrated on the maintenance of our previously established areas, which were somewhat neglected during the previous twelve months. We also returned to Lake Earnshaw for follow-up work as required.

Also we responded to a call from Peter Whitelaw from the RSL, and we spent three mornings on the new Wall of Remembrance site on the Avenue of Honour clearing weeds, as well as the low branches from the pine trees. There was more in this job than we first thought but, in the end, a very satisfying result for all involved, which was greatly appreciated by the RSL.

We spent a number of consecutive mornings working to clean up the Scout planting and the billabong behind the tennis courts, and to restore plant guards etc.

The Crew has continued maintenance with many mornings on the Bawden Road site, just east of the Doctor's Surgery with the removal and eradication of broom. We aim to work through to Bowen Street with this project.

We have also spent time at Quarry Road with general maintenance, and have now commenced work in Bawden Road at the Railway Bridge end, with clearing of fallen branches and weed control etc.

Mowing of the following areas continues:

- Rotary Track
- Quarry Road
- walking track in the Bowen Street reserve
- the area near BUPA car park
- bottom of Jeffrey Street area
- 'Brian's patch' in Urquhart Street

Many thanks go to those who mow these areas on days other than Thursday.

Recently, we have had some positive response from the Shire in respect to further development of the Lake Earnshaw area, and we expect now to be able to develop a plan for further plantings and beautification of the area.

Thanks to all the 'Crew' members and to John Newell for his continued role as Work Supervisor. Thanks also for the support that we have received from Kate Daniel and the Committee generally.

We should congratulate ourselves on the continued effort made each week by all involved.

Submitted by Barry Clarke

Slatey Creek Black Gum Reserve Annual Report 2015

Our annual working bee in 2014 was well attended and lots of work was achieved including burning off a large pile of branches, cutting off numerous gorse and blackberries and poisoning the stumps and some plant guard removal and maintenance.

Throughout the year, I have regularly checked the reserve and have cleaned up litter at times, removed thistles before seeding and have poisoned blackberries whilst still small. I am guessing it was council contractors who recently poisoned most of the gorse and broom seedlings so I'm postponing the annual working bee until autumn 2016 as the maintenance is in control. At this working bee English hawthorn seedlings will be targeted as in excess of 100 were observed when poisoning blackberries.

Four European wasp nests within the reserve were destroyed during the autumn months.

It was pleasing that a representative from the power line clearing crew contacted me after seeing the Slatey Creek Reserve sign and upon further investigation my phone number came up. This resulted in a lot less drastic pruning of vegetation near and under the power line that would have otherwise occurred.

All previous plantings are progressing well with minimal losses.

Submitted by David Gossip



Annual Report 2015

MRIMAG now has 225 traps spread throughout the Shire. We have active programs running in Malmesbury, Kyneton, Lancefield, Romsey, Macedon, Gisborne, Newham, Riddell's Creek and Woodend. Woodend is leading the way with just over 1000 mynas trapped over the past two years. Large numbers have also been recorded in Lancefield, Gisborne and more recently Macedon. The current record during a single month comes from a trapper in Macedon, capturing 98. This replaces the past record of 72 in Lancefield and 71 in Woodend.

We have placed traps in vineyards with mixed success both in Lancefield and Malmesbury. We will continue to investigate this avenue of targeting populations next year. We are having enormous success on a large horse stud and intend to approach more to become trappers.

Every market (5) throughout the Shire has been attended at least once during the year by a town coordinator and Ron, primarily to inform the public and recruit new trappers. In addition MRIMAG has published in every community newsletter at least one article to again inform the local communities and recruit new trappers. MRIMAG also had a presence at the Woodend Sustainability Festival and presentations were made at Woodend Rotary Club and NCCMA at Barfold to encourage people on our Shire boundary to get involved.

Results of the Macedon Ranges Bird Survey held in October revealed that the Indian myna was the tenth most seen species out of 136 identified in the survey. We urge Landcare and MRIMAG members to take part in the Birds in Backyards survey on an annual basis so we can track the impact of our program.

In 2016 MRIMAG is hoping to increase its public awareness campaign with a flyer and Corflute poster that will be on display at all local markets in the Shire. The focus of this flyer is deterrence: there are many people in our community that are eager to reduce mynas by simple changes in their behaviour but are unwilling to become trappers. These posters should go a long way toward limiting myna numbers and increase native birds into our towns and rural holdings.

There are no plans to purchase more traps during the coming year. Woodend Men's Shed/Thursday Crew is producing sufficient traps to top up every community in the Shire and we thank them very much for the quantity and quality of their output. Thanks also to MRIMAG's coordinators for their work.

Submitted by Ron Fink and Kate Daniel

Trees for Mum 2015

Sunday 10 May 2015 – in partnership with the Woodend Mother’s Day Classic

After a last minute change of plan this year’s Trees for Mum event was still a huge success.

300 native trees were beautifully gift wrapped and handed out to participants of the Mother’s Day Classic to plant in their own gardens for their mums.

Once again ABC 774 Melbourne picked up the media release and I was interviewed on Richards Stubbs’ program two days out from the event.

Macedon Ranges Shire Council provided the \$500 funding via a Councillor Grant from Mayor Jennifer Anderson – we are indebted to Jen for her ongoing support for Landcare.

Our banners, images and event kit were all recycled from previous years to help keep the costs down and maintain a consistent image.

Western Plains Flora provided the natives at a very reasonable rate, Second Blooming sourced the hessian at cost and lots of helpers lent a hand or two to get ready on the day. Only Mother Nature let us down with the weather; it was to be expected after last year’s stunning weather.

Stawell Landcare Group have since been in touch wishing to hand out trees at their MDC event next year. It is very pleasing to see that we are still the ‘go to’ Landcare Group in Victoria for support for ***Trees for Mum***.



Submitted by Angela Van Dam