



Woodend Landcare

2015–2016 Annual Report



Habitat display at the 2016 Sustainability Festival



Willow removal working bee at the weir



Woodend Girl Guides lend a hand for our Landcare Week planting event

Annual General Meeting 2016

To be held at Woodend Neighbourhood House, Forest St, Woodend, 23 July 2016, 1:30pm

AGENDA

1:30pm President's welcome

Apologies

Minutes of previous AGM

President's report – Krista Patterson-Majoor

Election of Committee Members – Susan Carroll

Vote of thanks to retiring Office Bearers – Susan Carroll

Meeting close

2pm guest speakers

Lake Earnshaw Plan – Pene Rice

Macedon Ranges Koala Project – Linda Healy

Afternoon tea

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Woodend Landcare 2015

Held on 1 August 2015, 1:30pm at Woodend Neighbourhood House

President's Welcome: by Kate Daniel

Apologies: None

Minutes of previous AGM: (2014) – were not recorded.

President's Report: (refer to the 2015 Annual Report) Kate Daniel reviewed the previous year's achievements and thanked all who contributed.

Treasurer's Report: (refer to the 2015 Annual Report) Krista Patterson-Majoor presented the accounts, noting that we are in a good financial position, bolstered by several grants, and that our major expenditure was for weed clearing by contractor. Of note was that we purchased a ride-on mower primarily for use by the Thursday Crew.

Report from Thursday Crew: (refer to the 2015 Annual Report) It was reported that the Thursday Crew run several projects during the year, particularly at Lake Earnshaw and at the RSL Wall of Remembrance. Thanks were offered to the Crew members and the Committee.

Report from Slatey Creek group: (refer to the 2015 Annual Report) David Gossip reported on the upkeep and health of the Slatey Creek Black Gum Creek Reserve. European wasps were a problem along the creek.

Report from Trees for Mum: (refer to the 2015 Annual Report) the 2015 event was reported as being a huge success. Publicity was good, including an interview with Angela by ABC Melbourne radio.

Report from MRIMAG: (refer to the 2015 Annual Report) Kate Daniel reported on the Indian myna bird trapping program active across the region, which was running successfully. MRIMAG had a presence at local markets and publicity in the Woodend Star.

Election of Committee Members: Results were:

Kate Daniel (President)

Jo Clancy (Vice President)

Linda Vale (Secretary)

Krista Patterson-Majoor (Treasurer)

Dave Bower

Barry Clarke

David Gossip

John Newell

Angela Van Dam

Rachel Campbell

Ken Lawford

Bob Sullivan

Vote of thanks to retiring Office Bearers: given by Susan Carroll

Meeting closed at 2.30 pm then afternoon tea was held with guest speaker, Caitlin Griffith who presented a talk on camera traps in the Wombat Forest.

Linda Vale (Hon Sec)

President's Report – Krista Patterson-Majoor

It's been another busy year for Woodend Landcare with the culmination of the large grants we received in 2015. We organised two community planting days and four education events, developed a black gum brochure, held our monthly working bees and supported the Thursday's Crew weekly efforts around town. None of this would be possible without the great team effort that is Woodend Landcare. Thanks to everyone who has given so much during the year. After a big year of works along Five Mile Creek, we now intend to focus on the maintenance of these efforts as well as furthering our plans for the Lake Earnshaw area.

There are also a few people I'd like to acknowledge and thank in particular:

- Kate Daniel – for her outstanding presidency for two and a half years and overseeing a couple of large projects.
- Jo Clancy – for being such a passionate advocate for our local environment and a very dedicated member of the team. Jo is standing down from the committee after 13 years of executive roles.
- Bob Sullivan, John Newell, and Barry Clarke – for giving such a huge amount of energy to the Thursday Crew over the years. John, Bob and Barry are standing down from the committee.
- Peter Yates – for his on-going and invaluable support for Woodend Landcare behind scenes.

Working bees

Our working bees this year have been well attended and it has been fantastic to have some new faces joining us. A huge thanks to David Gossip who organises these monthly events. This year's working bees have included:

- Site preparation on the creek flats near the Woodend Children's Park for Trees for Mum 2016.
- Plant guard removal from previous plantings on the north side of the creek starting at the new access bridge over the creek to Shirley Park Estate and heading downstream.
- Treating willow regrowth at the Tennyson St site.
- Maintenance of our spring plantings along Five Mile Creek next to the Woodend Children's Park.
- Replacement planting at the 2013 and 2014 Trees for Mum sites.

Landcare Week: 5–12 September 2015

Woodend Landcare celebrated Landcare Week in a big way with three major events and a display in the library for the week. On 5 September we gave away over 600 locally endangered Black Gums and held a native plant presentation at Woodend Library with local indigenous plant guru, Robin Baker from Acres Wild. On the following Saturday over 30 people, including the Woodend Girl Guides, helped put 1800 plants in the ground in just five hours – it must have been Susan and Chris' awesome morning tea that kept everyone going!

Cobaw to Campaspe Connections

Woodend Landcare is thrilled to be involved in an exciting new project, in conjunction with the Upper Campaspe Landcare Network. 'Cobaw to Campaspe Connections' is about working together, in a strategic way, to restore the landscape to provide more habitat for native plants and animals – and allow them to move freely again – to feed, escape fire, to take refuge in drought times and breed successfully. This year we were involved in running a field day that looked at four local sites and considered what could be done to make our landscape healthier and more biodiverse. Thanks to the catering team for laying on a cracking morning tea for 50 at the grasslands.

Waterwatch

We now have two volunteers who undertake monthly water quality monitoring along the Five Mile Creek – Tess Williamson is monitoring under the Five Mile Creek Bridge and opposite from the end of Tennyson Street in Woodend and Emma MacKenzie monitors the creek further downstream from the town. Thank-you Emma and Tess. We aim to have their results available on our website soon.

Treasurer's Report – Krista Patterson-Majoor

Woodend Landcare remains in a stable financial position as at 30 June 2016. Whilst we did not receive any major grants in 2015–16, we did receive substantial support from Macedon Ranges Shire Council and the North Central Catchment Management Authority. This funding keeps small community groups like ours ticking along – enabling us to get basic supplies and equipment, pay insurances, and keep doing what we think is so very important, improving the natural environment of the Woodend area.

Balance sheet as at 30 June 2016

1. Total group funds

Opening balance (30/6/15) operating account	\$24,591.07
Income 2015–16	\$9,625.17
Expenses 2015–16	\$19,338.37
Closing balance (30/6/16) operating account	\$14,877.87

2. Current committed funds

Thursday Crew	\$2,983.79
MRIMAG	\$1,380.53
Slatey Creek	\$223.07
Machinery	\$166.26
Defibrillator	\$2,225.00
Trees for Mum 2016	\$660.31
Total committed	\$7,638.96

3. Net funds available

\$7,238.91

Income and Expenditure Statement

Income

Interest	\$18.87
Membership and donations	\$1,595.00
Reimbursement – Little Wrap Bag	\$154.00
Reimbursement – Doug Dalgleish plants/weed mat	\$587.30
Grant – Rotary	\$500.00
Grant – Macedon Ranges Shire for Woodend Landcare	\$800.00
Grant – Macedon Ranges Shire for MRIMAG	\$800.00
Grant – Macedon Ranges Shire for Weed Control	\$1,500.00
Grant – NCCMA for Trees for Mum 2016	\$1,825.00
Grant – Federal government volunteer grant for defibrillator	\$1,845.00
TOTAL INCOME 2015–16	\$9,625.17

Expenses

C4N	Weed control – Indig-we-do	\$4,878.50
C4N	Plants – Western Plains Flora	\$1,529.00
C4N	Hardware – Suregro	\$2,495.35
Dahl Trust	Plants – Western Plains Flora	\$537.24
Dahl Trust	Black Gum brochure design	\$115.50
Dahl Trust	Black Gum brochure printing	\$165.00
General	Weed control – Indig-we-do	\$968.00
General	Willow removal – Doug Dalgleish	\$2,600.00
General	Post box rental	\$121.00
General	Car signs	\$192.50
General	Trailer registration	\$111.00
General	Working bee catering	\$60.00
General	Sustainability Festival fee	\$50.00
General	Donation to remembrance plaque	\$100.00
General	AGM notice and room hire	\$85.83
General	FTLA insurance	\$410.00
MRIMAG	Insurance	\$380.00
MRIMAG	Posters – Sign Obsession	\$170.00
MRIMAG	Poster design – Chris Buckell	\$250.00
MRIMAG	Wire – Woodend Produce	\$297.00
Thursday Crew	Mower insurance	\$209.96
Thursday Crew	Thursday Crew float	\$820.00
Thursday Crew	Plants – Western Plains Flora	\$283.80
Thursday Crew	Bobcat use – Peter Newell	\$190.00
Trees for Mum 2016	Plants – Western Plains Flora	\$745.25
Trees for Mum 2016	Printing – Neighbourhood House	\$45.00
Trees for Mum 2016	Poster design – Little Wrap Bag	\$308.00
Trees for Mum 2016	Advertising	\$17.78
Trees for Mum 2016	Kate Daniel expenses – catering, copying, petrol	\$246.76
Trees for Mum 2016	Hardware – Suregro	\$955.90
Total Expenses 2015–16		\$19,338.37

Slatey Creek Reserve – David Gossip

The past twelve months have been relatively quiet at Slatey Creek Reserve with no annual Sunday group working bee held and no further plantings.

I have kept an eye on the site and have picked up rubbish at times, removed thistles before they flowered and did some spot spraying of small blackberries and other woody weeds. I have also almost completely killed two patches of honeysuckle that have proven to be tough to deal with. In a joint effort with a neighbour on the Ashbourne Rd side of the reserve, he and I have now sprayed all the gorse and blackberry between the creek and his boundary fence. In the past this was missed by roadside spraying contractors, as it was difficult to access. This has removed a major threat of weed infestation to the reserve.

The summer proved to be hot, dry and long and at one point many past plantings looked stressed but recent rain has seen them pick up with minimal losses overall.

A group working bee is scheduled for the reserve on 28 August 2016 so put the date in your diary to kick off our post-winter season of Sunday working bees.

Thursday Crew – Dave Bower

The past year the Thursday Crew have been consolidating their efforts in the Lake Earnshaw precinct, ensuring that previous plantings were adequately watered during our extended dry spell and clearing blackberries and hawthorn from areas to the north-west side of the lake.

Other sites tackled with success were the clearing of debris and blackberries from Campaspse Park and the ongoing work in Quarry Road where we are forever cutting up fallen trees and branches.

Paul and Ken must be congratulated for their contributions, ensuring Quarry Road has a pristine walking area.

The Crew also gave assistance to the Heritage Society and the RSL in the form of site preparation for the Avenue of Honour Memorial.

It was also pleasing to welcome two new members, Rose and Anne, to our group which ensures that our profanities are restricted somewhat.

A special THANK YOU to the main committee for their continued support and assistance, particularly the new grant for a defibrillator, which we hope will never be used.

Macedon Ranges Indian Myna Action Group – Ron Fink and Kate Daniel



Macedon Ranges Indian Myna Action Group (MRIMAG) has now been running for three years. It is currently operating across nine towns in the Macedon Ranges (Woodend, Newham, Kyneton, Malmsbury, Gisborne, Macedon, Lancefield, Riddells Creek and Romsey) with 226 traps spread across the program.

Total catch numbers to date stand at around 4650 birds, with 2250 caught in the last 12 months. Woodend trappers have recorded 1472 mynas trapped in the past three years. This is a remarkable achievement towards the elimination of the pest species. Similar encouraging catch numbers are occurring elsewhere across the Shire, with Lancefield being a standout. They joined in May 2015 and have caught 745 birds in their first year.

MRIMAG has an ever-increasing focus on community education to prevent mynas breeding. To this end we had posters designed offering easy tips for people to minimise opportunities for mynas to take hold in their garden. Further efforts are being explored to increase native bird numbers, such as the promotion of native gardens and the introduction of cat bibs to lessen feline predation. Our regular presence at farmers markets

and the annual Macedon Ranges Sustainability Festival are always good opportunities for awareness raising and there remains a high level of interest. Most pleasing always is the feedback that native birdlife increases when the myna numbers reduce.

Financially, the only source of income for MRIMAG is the \$800 MRSC grant and occasional trapper donations. These funds are sufficient to cover the cost of insurance and promotion but trap repair and replacement into the future may become a financial concern.

The difficulty in the collection of data is an ongoing irritant and solutions will need to be examined if MRIMAG wishes to continue into the future in its present format.

We'd like to thank the coordinators of the program for their interest and involvement.

Trees for Mum 2016 – Angela Van Dam



A brilliant team effort saw 900 native trees, shrubs and grasses planted to rehabilitate what was once a dense blackberry thicket on a bend on Five Mile Creek. We were thrilled to have 140 passionate participants brave the drizzle and plant with great spirit for our 2016 Trees for Mum event. Trees for Mum is a part of a national series of Mother's Day tree-planting events hosted by Landcare. This year's events were held on Sunday 8 May.

Thank you to everyone who came along and planted with their mum or for their mum. We hope you will enjoy watching your living legacy grow over the years. Thank you to our wonderful Landcare stalwarts – David, Kate, Chris, Doug, Peter, Krista and Dave – for doing so much behind the scenes and on the day. Thank you to our exceptional catering team – Jo, Susan and Sam – for keeping us going through the morning. A huge thank you to Angela and family for being such passionate advocates for, and organisers of, Trees for Mum in Woodend. And finally, thank you to the North Central Catchment Management Authority for the Landcare grant that made the day possible.



Many hands make light work at our working bees. Photo: Sandy Scheltema

Lake Earnshaw Concept Plan

Developed by Pene Rice and the Thursday Crew.

