



Woodend  
**Landcare**

# 2018/19 ANNUAL REPORT



Transformation of Lake Earnshaw, 2013–19

# MINUTES of the Annual General Meeting of Woodend Landcare 2018

Held on 21 July 2018, 1:30 pm at Woodend Neighbourhood House

## I. Roll call

The following persons were present: K Daniel, L Vale, N Thomson, K Patterson-Majoor, D Bower, D Dalglish, D Gossip, N Middleton, Liana Quach, Jennifer Anderson, M Horner, S Marriott, L Healy, S Carroll, A Murphy (speaker)

## II. Apologies

A Barber, J Chesters, R Fink, C Griffith, C Holmes, K Lawford, E Murfett, P Newman, J Newell, J & J Petre, B Sullivan, R Thesing, P Yates

## III. President's Welcome

Kate Daniel welcomed attendees

## IV. Approval of minutes from last AGM

The minutes from the last AGM were presented in the Annual Report. The minutes were accepted as written (moved K Patterson-Majoor; seconded K Daniel).

## V. Annual Report

The President, Kate Daniel, gave a summary of the President's report, as presented in the Annual Report:

- It was a low-key year with some successful events, such as the Sustainable Living Festival and library display;
- 1000 volunteer-hours recorded;
- We acquitted a DELWP Community Action Volunteer Grant that was mainly used on weed control;
- Peter Yates restored the tool trailer.

The Treasurer, Neil Thomson, highlighted aspects of the treasurer's report, as presented in the Annual Report:

- Total committed funds \$3,380: including MRIMAG \$2,145 and Slatey Creek \$223;
- Net funds available, \$5,376;
- The machinery maintenance fund has been rolled into the general revenue line.

The treasurer moved that the report be accepted, seconded by S Marriot – approved.

## VI. Election of Committee Members – Susan Carroll

The current President stood down. S Carroll took the floor as public officer. All committee positions were declared vacant.

Nominations were received for following positions:

- President – Kate Daniel
- Vice-President – David Gossip
- Treasurer – Neil Thomson
- Secretary – Linda Vale
- General Committee – Krista Patterson-Majoor; Doug Dagleish; Nicole Middleton; Dave Bower; Liana Quach; Peter Yates

All elected and appointed unopposed.

#### **VII. Annual Membership Fee**

The members present voted to keep the annual membership fee at \$20.

#### **VIII. Adjournment**

Kate Daniel adjourned the AGM at 2:00 pm for the talk on ‘Threatened Species Recovery’ presented by guest speaker Anna Murphy.

Minutes recorded and submitted by L Vale (Hon Sec)



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This was another non-planting year for the group, with activities focused on maintenance, weed control and community engagement.

We held nine working bees, with 140 attendees, at Campaspe Dr, Quarry Rd, several around Ruby Mackenzie Park, the Information Centre, Samuel Crt and Slatey Creek Reserve. Attention was on tidying up the Trees for Mum planting site 2016 (opposite the Children's Park), tackling emerging gorse and broom from the premier wildflower section of Quarry Rd and generally tackling woody weeds along the creek. The Thursday Crew contributed at least an additional 600 hours of work in their usual locations such as Bawden/Quarry Rd, the Rotary track and Lake Earnshaw. Thanks very much to all these hardworking volunteers.

The major project for the period was 'Flint Hill Willow Removal', funded by a \$15,673 grant from NCCMA. The 2.8 ha project area included heavily infested creek frontage upstream of Romsey Rd, on private land. The contractor stem injection and mechanical removal was effective, and planting of 200 black gums is to follow.

We have also been working closely with the new owner of Shirley Park, just downstream of Flint Hill, supporting Threatened Species Conservancy in a grant for removal of willow and hawthorn. We are hopeful the landowner will assume control of ongoing weed control and support follow-up revegetation work.

We learnt that late member Jo Clancy left a significant bequest to the group, with details in her will of possible projects. Jo strongly encouraged partnership with council, and after initial consideration the committee and Trustees favour construction of a footbridge and paving upgrade in what is called the Envirofund Paddock, east of the Children's Park. Discussions have begun with MRSC and surveying is imminent.

Thanks to Krista for putting together an engaging display at the Library during Landcare week in September last year. October saw us host, in conjunction with MRSC, a very popular walk and talk at Woodend Grassland, with botanist Paul Foreman and over 20 attendees. It's great to see such interest from the community in this particular open space; the survey and report Paul did in 2017 has been a valuable resource for council, who have renewed their mosaic burning regime at his recommendation.

In March 2019 we again had a stall at the Macedon Ranges Sustainable Living Festival. Despite the heat there was constant discussion and inquiries about native species, plant successes and fails, weed control methods, habitat creation, soil health, mynas and funding opportunities. Our presence at the festival is a logical fit for Landcare, so let's aim to keep this going.

Thanks to members for their interest and involvement and to all the committee for another productive year; my appreciation to Chris Holmes and Susan Carroll for so capably running the catering crew, and retiring committee members Neil Thomson and Liana Quach for their contributions.

Kate Daniel



## FINANCIAL REPORT 2018/19

### Financial position

Woodend Landcare has maintained a sound financial position through 2018/19.

We received two grants this financial year:

- \$18,423.55 from NCCMA for the removal of willows at Flint Hill (Five Mile Creek north of Romsey Rd).
- \$1,842.50 from DSS for Personal Protective Equipment (for use by volunteers at working bees and by the Thursday Crew).

General operating expenses, such as insurance, trailer (x2) registration, blog hosting and expenses associated with the monthly working bees have been covered by membership fees and a slight reduction to the net available funds.

Net available funds at 30 June 2019 were \$5,069.42.

### Membership

Membership fees remain at \$20 per year for individual and family memberships. Membership numbers have been stable for the last three years as follows:

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
<b>Paid Memberships</b>	33	35	32
<b>Paid Members</b>	40	43	45
<b>Life Members</b>	3	3	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>47</b>

Membership is important to Woodend Landcare to cover our administrative expenses and we appreciate our members' ongoing support.

### BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2019

	Bank Balance	Committed Funds						Net Funds
		Thursday Crew	MRIMAG	Slaty Creek	DSS OHS/PPE	Flint Hill	Total	
Opening Balances	\$ 9,159.18	\$ 1,012.16	\$ 2,145.33	\$ 223.07	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,380.56	\$ 5,778.62
Income	\$ 21,240.05	\$ 150.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,842.50	\$ 18,423.55	\$20,416.05	\$ 824.00
Expenses	\$ 20,643.20	\$ 420.00	\$ 440.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,250.00	\$19,110.00	\$ 1,533.20
<b>Closing Balances</b>	<b>\$ 9,756.03</b>	<b>\$ 742.16</b>	<b>\$ 1,705.33</b>	<b>\$ 223.07</b>	<b>\$ 1,842.50</b>	<b>\$ 173.55</b>	<b>\$ 4,686.61</b>	<b>\$ 5,069.42</b>

# INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

## Income

	Income		Committed Funds						Total	Net Funds
			Thursday Crew	MRIMAG	Slaty Creek	DSS OHS/PPE	Flint Hill			
		Memberships (35)	\$ 700.00							\$ 700.00
		Donations	\$ 105.00							\$ 105.00
		Bank Interest	\$ 19.00							\$ 19.00
24/10/2018		NCAA Grant (Flint Hill)	\$ 18,423.55					\$ 18,423.55		
12/02/2019		Thur. Crew Float Adjustment	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00						
4/06/2019		DSS Volunteer Grant	\$ 1,842.50				\$ 1,842.50			
		TOTAL INCOME	\$ 21,240.05	\$ 150.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,842.50	\$ 18,423.55	\$20,416.05	\$ 824.00

## Expenses

		Bank Balance	Committed Funds						Total	Net Funds
			Thursday Crew	MRIMAG	Slaty Creek	DSS OHS/PPE	Flint Hill			
	Cheque									
7/08/2018	549	WNH - AGM Expenses	\$ 150.00							\$ 150.00
9/08/2018	550	Landcare Vic (Insurance)	\$ 424.20							\$ 424.20
17/08/2018	551	Consumer Affairs Victoria	\$ 57.80							\$ 57.80
9/10/2018	552	K Daniel Expenses	\$ 349.14							\$ 349.14
29/10/2018	553	Safety Goggles, Roundup	\$ 55.00							\$ 55.00
3/12/2018	554	First Aid Bandages	\$ 19.50							\$ 19.50
5/12/2018	555	MES - Willow Poisoning Flint Hill	\$ 2,750.00					\$ 2,750.00		
5/12/2018	556	Landcare Blog (WordPress)	\$ 108.00							\$ 108.00
12/12/2018	557	Thursday Crew Petrol	\$ 70.00	\$ 70.00						
19/12/2018	558	Tool Trailer Rego	\$ 96.52							\$ 96.52
14/01/2019	559	Gloves	\$ 54.14							\$ 54.14
11/02/2019	560	Thursday Crew Petrol	\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00						
11/02/2019	561	Sustainability Festival Fee	\$ 50.00							\$ 50.00
12/12/2018	562	Mower Trailer Rego	\$ 59.00							\$ 59.00
19/12/2018	563	MRIMAG Insurance	\$ 440.00		\$ 440.00					
23/04/2019	564	Ruby Mac Sign Painting Expenses	\$ 10.15							\$ 10.15
14/05/2019	565	Secateurs	\$ 99.75							\$ 99.75
	566	Cancelled								\$ -
	567	Cancelled								\$ -
18/06/2019	568	Flint Hill Willow Removal	\$ 15,500.00					\$ 15,500.00		
		TOTAL PAYMENTS	\$ 20,643.20	\$ 420.00	\$ 440.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,250.00	\$19,110.00	\$ 1,533.20

Neil Thomson

## **SLATEY CREEK BLACK GUM RESERVE**

Once again volunteer efforts over the last year have contributed to the ongoing maintenance and improvement of Slatey Creek Reserve.

Throughout the year roadside rubbish has been regularly collected plus any in the reserve. The amounts are usually quite small. Unfortunately, after our recent May working bee a half trailer load of building rubble was dumped which will be taken to the tip soon. Luckily in this part of Woodend this is a rare event.

All the thistles were removed over summer before flowering, a significant patch of honeysuckle was poisoned, and the reserve is frequently checked for new weed outbreaks. Our annual clean-up on a pleasant Sunday morning in May saw seven workers pick up rubbish, remove some plant guards and work over the whole reserve removing emerging gorse, blackberry and hawthorn. Recently a large English holly and a previously poisoned pittosporum have been removed from alongside the creek on the Duncans' side.

Our past plantings have survived despite a record dry start to the year. After recent rain the creek is now flowing again.

Keep an eye out on our calendar of Sunday working bees for our next annual clean-up as everyone agrees this is a lovely spot to work at and the tasks are often easier than at Five Mile Creek.

David Gossip

## **THURSDAY CREW**

Despite the reduction in personnel, the Thursday Crew enthusiastically continue to rid our public spaces of introduced weeds, namely broom, gorse and blackberries. It's good to see that the work carried out over the past few years has resulted in less effort being required to maintain those areas today, including Quarry Rd (eastern area), Bawden Rd railway reserve, several Mother's Day plantings, Urquhart St reserve, Ella's Way, Lake Earnshaw, the Scouts Billabong and St Ambrose school plantings.

Special thanks to Brian Christie for maintaining the Rotary track verges and to Ken Lawford and Paul Newman for their continued work on Quarry Rd, which was appreciated by Woodend CFA and recreational users.

We have a good working relationship with MRSC and wish to thank Scott Gilchrist and Martin Roberts for their ongoing support. It would be remiss of me not to also mention John Newell, who has been an active member for many years. His mentoring and knowledge has been greatly appreciated by all the Crew.

Lastly, thanks are extended to the Woodend Landcare committee, as without their assistance we would not be in existence.

Dave Bower

## **MACEDON RANGES INDIAN MYNA ACTION GROUP**

MRIMAG marked six operational years in April. Thanks to dedicated trappers and even more dedicated coordinators, this program continues to achieve amazing results across the shire, with well over 7000 mynas caught to date, nearly 2000 of them in Woodend alone. Gisborne is still recording over 100 mynas a month and Lancefield also continues to trap large numbers. That said, large flocks of 30+ birds can still be seen around the shire and our 200 trappers need to remain vigilant.

Coordinators John in Gisborne and Pat in Lancefield have continuous work and challenges to try and reduce mynas within their towns down to a much smaller number. Kyneton still proves a sticking point, with pockets of mynas within the town not matched by trap locations. Peter doggedly battles on in the hope of finding the hot spots around Kyneton. Smaller town programs throughout the shire continue to be led by volunteers, who often work hard for only small rewards, but they continue to serve their communities and it is greatly appreciated.

I have had numerous enquiries from within and outside our shire during the year about trapping. Our program is working and the message is getting through that we can make a big difference to our native birds.

I have had preliminary discussions with Hume Council about trapping mynas after several previous attempts on my part have failed. I really would like to help them as a trapping program in Sunbury would help both Riddell and Gisborne at least. I hope to have some positive news on that in due course.

Bendigo Indian Myna Action Group is now a part of Northern Bendigo Landcare and they have recently taken receipt of 100 traps. I have helped them troubleshoot start-up matters and avoid the pitfalls that befell me when I first tried to get something happening in the Macedon Ranges. We wish them luck.

Ron Fink