

## **Speech by Alex Anthony, Acting Chair LLS**

### **for the Philanthropy and Community Partnerships Week event, 10 December 2015**

Thank you to Rob and the Landcare community for the invitation to attend this 'end of year' festivity where we celebrate Community and Philanthropy partnerships. Please accept Tim Ferraro and my apologies for the event which we were looking forward to attending; however other commitments have prevented it.

2015 has been a terrific journey for the Landcare NSW and Local Land Services partnership. We commenced this year's journey without a clear destination, without a road map, without resources and with most of the passengers saying 'what is this journey'?

We can finish the year with a great sense of achievement – commitment from the NSW government for four years of funding, purposeful leadership, a well-designed program, a strongly committed and very capable team, a willingness right across NSW regions to embrace a new and collaborative way of doing business, and an enthusiastic community of volunteers and partners who make a difference where it actually counts - at a very local scale.

This has been achieved through vision, leadership, good planning and a real commitment to make the relationships and the program deliver.

A couple of highlights for the year for me have been:

- the September signing of the *memorandum of understanding* between Landcare NSW and Local Land Services quite publicly sets the framework for and commitment to, a true partnership
- the development of a robust Landcare Coordinators Initiative program in collaboration with stakeholders
- Significant opportunities for regions to come together; assess their current levels of support, their needs and their opportunities; and collectively build a case for their region to participate in the program

I congratulate all participants in the journey so far and look forward to the great things to come from this work over the next couple of years. Enjoy the celebrations.