

The Advocate



JUNE 2017

Welcome to the latest edition of The Advocate.

Landcare NSW held a Council Meeting and Partnership Forum in Sydney earlier this month. We were privileged to have both the NSW Minister for Primary Industries, the Hon Niall Blair, and the new Acting Chair of Local Land Services, Richard Bull, in attendance. I would like to thank all Councillors who attended and also our partner guests; Jim Adams (National Landcare Network), Bryce Wilde (Natural Resources Commission) and Chris McCulloch (Local Land Services). In this month we have hosted another successful Parliamentary Friends of Landcare event in North Sydney. We are now almost half way through the year, with many exciting events still to come including the Landcare Muster and NSW Landcare and Local Land Services Conference, to be held in October. You can read all about our recent and upcoming events in this latest edition of The Advocate.

The Landcare NSW Team, Executive and Council are looking forward to supporting all Landcare initiatives in NSW during the remainder of the year.

Stephanie Cameron, Acting Chair.
Landcare NSW

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Parliamentary Friends of Landcare Event

Earlier this month, Landcarers, Bushcarers, students and parliamentarians gathered at the Coal Loader Centre for Sustainability in Sydney to celebrate the positive impact of city and country volunteers.

This event was the first reciprocal visit, with a group of 50 children, farmers and Landcarers from Boorowa making the 670km round trip to plant native species in a precious area of bushland on Sydney Harbour.

Building Bridges to Boorowa is a successful partnership that has achieved remarkable results. Over 50,000 trees have been planted on more than 40 properties in the Boorowa region creating benefits for local and migratory wildlife (including threatened species such as the Superb Parrot).

Without the support of these city volunteers, planting on this scale would be difficult and costly.

The event included a conversation between two long term participants in the partnership – farmer Steve Jarvis and Bushcare volunteer Sissy Stewart – facilitated by the Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP, chair of the NSW Parliamentary Friends of Landcare.

For the NSW Parliamentary Friends of Landcare (PFL) the event was an opportunity to see firsthand how Landcare is helping local communities. The PFL continues a longstanding tradition of bipartisan support Landcare has enjoyed since it started nearly 30 years ago. The next PFL event will be *Trees in the House* a cocktail party held in Parliament House in November.

NSW Minister & new LLS Chair express support for Landcare



The NSW Minister for Primary Industries, the Hon Niall Blair, and the new Acting Chair of Local Land Services, Richard Bull, both attended the May Council meeting held in Sydney on 16th May.

The Minister has portfolio responsibility for the NSW Local Landcare Coordinator Initiative and is central to shaping the future of Landcare in this State.

Minister Blair allocated an hour for the visit but ended up staying for two, engaging in a genuine, open dialogue and impressing the endorsed Landcare representatives from around the State with his knowledge and understanding of the issues.

Landcare NSW Chair Rob Dulhunty opened the discussion by thanking the Minister for the NSW

Councillors also talked about some of the challenges. For example, the success of the Landcare Coordinator Initiative program has led to growing interest from communities to participate in Landcare projects and activities, however the explosion in Landcare activities is making meeting community demands more difficult for the part-time coordinators and voluntary committees to manage. The clear message from Councillors around the table was the program is making a difference; with strong support for the program to be maintained and further expanded.

The Minister took a keen interest in the local reports from Councillors and expressed his 'absolute commitment to Landcare'.

The new Acting Chair of Local Land Services, Richard Bull, engaged in in-depth discussions with Councillors. Richard Bull is a member of Holbrook Landcare and has a thorough understanding of the importance of a healthy Landcare movement. Richard is keen to work closely with Landcare at the State level through the Joint Management Committee which he co-chairs with Rob Dulhunty and at the regional level in the Murray. He will be spending a considerable amount of time travelling and plans to meet with local Landcare wherever possible.

Government's support for Landcare.

All Councillors had the opportunity to have their say, and a consistent message was that Local Landcare Coordinators, coupled with expanded state support, are having a positive impact and Landcare is undergoing a revival. For example, in the West of the State the number of groups has gone from 6 to 22 and five more are under development, creating a network across a vast area that can be used for integrated activities such as pest management.

Landcare NSW views the NSW Government as our key partner and we are currently seeking continued funding and support for Landcare in NSW, however we are also working to diversify our revenue and funding so we are not solely reliant on Government.

Minister Blair agreed, 'Landcare shouldn't live or die depending on what happens on Budget day'.



2017 Landcare Awards - Nominations are now open

Nominations are now open for all Landcare groups and volunteers to nominate those hard working, passionate people for recognition in the 2017 Landcare awards.

If you or your group are involved in protecting or improving your local environment, farm, coastline, bushland, wetland, waterway, school, region, catchment or backyard, there is a category in this year's awards for you.

To nominate, please [click here](#) to submit an entry. You will need to set up an account to do this, which will allow you to save your entry as you go and finish it later.

To find out more about the Awards process, including key dates and categories, [click here](#).

Please contact eAwards at 1300 95 95 55 or email info@eawards.com.au if you have any technical issues.

For any questions relating to the NSW Awards, please contact the NSW Awards Coordinator:

Chris McCulloch

NSW Landcare Program Manager

Local Land Services

Email: chris.mcculloch@lls.nsw.gov.au

Phone: 02 6333 2315

All winners at the state and territory level will go on to be finalists at the 2018 National Landcare Awards.

Local Landcare Coordinator Initiative - Update

by **Sonia Williams** State Landcare Coordinator Landcare NSW and **Chris McCulloch** Landcare Program Manager Local Land Services and **Melissa Joseph**, Landcare Trust Manager, Landcare NSW

Firstly a **thank you** to all the host organisations and coordinators out there who are not only supporting their local communities to achieve great outcomes, but are very importantly **contributing to the case for ongoing support** by providing case studies, completing reporting and participating in regional communities of practice.

Regardless of the support that is provided by Landcare NSW and Local Land Services through the LLCI it really is **your** efforts that will make all the difference to being able to show how important a supported Landcare is.

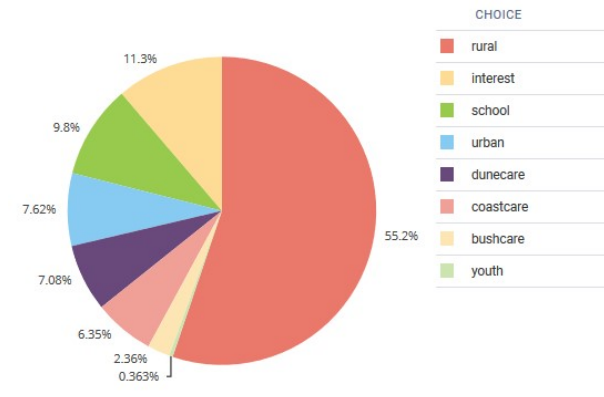
We now have over 170 case studies that can be used not only by groups for their own purposes; Landcare NSW utilises these in its marketing and representational efforts. The better you tell your stories the better we can tell the story of Landcare in NSW - so keep up the good work! [Check out the ever growing library of case studies here.](#)

The results of **Report Card 1** are now being analysed and whilst we have yet to get a full picture as the census is not complete, some **early results** are helping us understand what Landcare is and looks like across NSW. We recognise that this only covers the LLCI supported groups and we have a long way to go to capture the complete picture – but we now have a methodology that allows for this - that can be aggregated to the Regional scale, or selected by Landcare Region or Local Land Services Region.

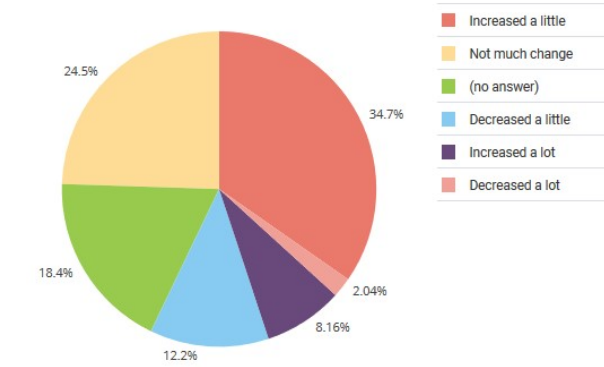
Community of Practice

2nd State-wide LLCI “get together”

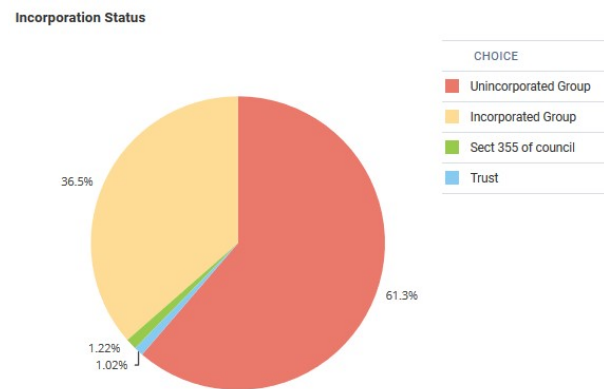
Under the LLCI three State-wide “get-togethers” are included to help build the cohesion of Landcare support across NSW. The first event, held at Stockton in March 2016, laid the foundation for the LLCI; the second event, which was due to be held in Nov this year has been bought forward to 21 June 17 and will be run as a regionally based webinar. This decisions was made so as free up budget resources to allow greater attendance by coordinators/hosts at the State Landcare and Local Land Services Conference to be held in late October. We hope that as many people as possible take the opportunity to attend the State conference and



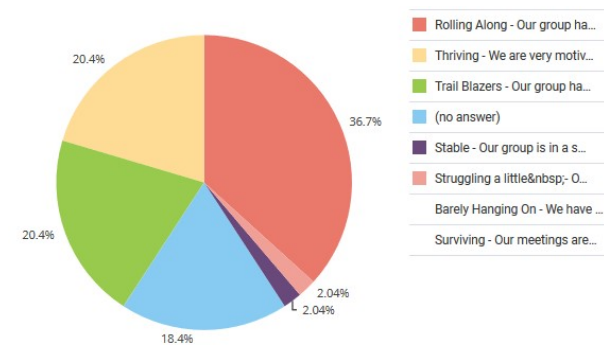
Type of Group



Membership trend over the past 3 yrs



Incorporation Status



“Health” of groups

network and catch up with each other.

The Regional Webinar will focus on providing an overview of where the program is at, provide feedback and training based upon reporting. Participants will work in regional groupings to undertake a mid-point evaluation, and hosts and coordinators will be asked about the future direction of the program.

Regional Community of Practice –

A reminder that the LLCI has made available a training budget for regional community of practice activities. If your organisation has a training need or suggestion for topics that would be useful to your host organisations build their capacity to support landcare into the future, please contact your RLF.

Member Services

As always the Landcare NSW team are here to assist you with any questions or support your groups may need.

Contact Jennie Coldham, Member Services Officer jennie@landcarensw.org.au for governance related matters or

Lucy Chapman for assistance with the NSW Landcare Gateway
lchapman@landcarensw.org.au

Sustaining Landcare –

Membership and Insurance Update

At last count we had 131 groups take advantage of the Insurance program offered by Landcare NSW. What has arisen out of the program and LLCI reporting is the high number of unincorporated groups that exist – and, as these groups have no legal entity, it is in fact impossible for these groups to take out a membership or gain insurance in their own name. We have been working with district networks, local government and others to look at how we can ensure these groups are supported and protected whilst undertaking their landcare activities. [See Factsheet 30 and 31 for information on insurance and membership structures and call us if you have any questions.](#)

Trust Progress Update

Progress against the Proposed Model for the Sustaining Landcare Trust Project is progressing well. Phase 1 of the project is now complete and Phase 2 is close to completion. Of the 20 recommendations presented in the Model, work has been completed or is well advanced on three quarters. The business case for building and enacting the necessary infrastructure is being presented to the NSW Government, to enable progression to Phases 3 & 4 which will see marketing and fundraising begin in earnest, as well as improving the infrastructure that supports your group.

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.



Welcome to Jodie Lovell - Administration and Communications Officer

Landcare NSW is pleased to welcome Jodie Lovell who joined the team at the end of April.

Jodie will work closely with the entire Landcare NSW team and Chair to support the provision of strong member services, the valuable work of the volunteer Council and to deliver effective communication across the organisation, to our members and other key stakeholders.

Landcare NSW has a new Ballina office

She can be contacted at
jlovell@landcarensw.org.au or (02) 6686 2779.



Landcare NSW has a new office in Ballina. This office will be open five days a week and there is a great meeting space available to local Landcare groups who wish to use it.

We will be closing our Armidale office as of 30 June 2017. As a result our new mailing address and contact phone number are:

Landcare NSW
4/48 Tamar Street
Ballina NSW 2478

Phone: (02) 6686 2779

If you would like to make a booking for the meeting space, please contact Cassie Price or Jodie Lovell on (02) 6686 2779 or email administration@landcarensw.org.au



Regional Australia Bank Funding

Regional Australia Bank is a member owned bank that has been helping regional Australians achieve their lifestyle goals for almost 50 years. Now they are helping local Landcare groups achieve their goals through their corporate sponsorship to Landcare NSW.

Landcare NSW utilises this valuable resource to support our Landcare group members in the best ways to assist their volunteers, including;

- Small equipment
- Event support (speaker, catering, venue hire)
- Basic training
- Materials for on-ground works

Landcare NSW is offering grants of up to **\$1,000 (incl. GST)** to Landcare NSW member groups with a proposal for any of the above items.

To apply, simply complete and [submit the online form](#) by **31st July, 2017**.



NSW Landcare & LLS Conference



KEYNOTE SPEAKER ANNOUNCED: This year's NSW Landcare and Local Land Services Conference will be held in Albury from 25th - 27th October 2017. Renowned science communicator, **Dr Karl Kruszelnicki**, has been announced as the [keynote speaker](#) at the conference. Dr Karl is best-known for his weekly radio spot on Triple J, in which he answers listener questions about science in his unique and entertaining style.

REGISTER NOW: Registrations are now open, with end-of-financial-year bargain tickets available for until **30 June**. [Register here](#).

Landcare Muster

Landcare NSW works to serve community Landcare in NSW by providing a representative voice, member services and support. The Landcare NSW Muster is a biennial forum where the voice of grassroots Landcarers provides input to the strategic direction and activities of Landcare NSW. The initial Muster was in Tamworth in 2007, Musters have been held as part of the State Landcare Conference in 2009, 2011, 2011, 2013, and 2015.

The Muster is an important way that Landcare NSW can ensure its work is directed by the grassroots members it serves. Information captured from the Musters is utilised by the representative Council of Landcare NSW to develop policy, programs and support services. [The report from the 2015 Muster can be read on our website here](#), and at the 2017 Muster Landcare NSW will be reporting on its achievements against your asks as identified at the previous Musters.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Support for the Muster comes from the NSW Environmental Trust from the Lead Community Environment Group program.



The Gerald Carnie Memorial Award

Nominations are now open for the 2017 Gerald

Carnie Memorial Award. The award will go to an individual in recognition of their contribution to the development of “the philosophy of Landcare” at the bi-annual NSW State Landcare Conference being held in Albury.

In June 2011, Gerald Carnie, a committed Landcarer from the Parkes area, died suddenly at the age of 46, leaving his wife Lorraine and sons, Ryan and Jarrod, grieving and the Landcare community shocked.

The Gerald Carnie Memorial Award for Keeping the Landcare Flame Alive was established by Landcare NSW to recognise this very special individual’s contributions to the Landcare movement.

The recipient will champion the development of Landcare as a means to support and engender change in attitudes, which translates to a more cohesive and resilient community that acts to achieve a healthier environment and/or more productive and sustainable farms. Applicants will be judged on the impact they have had at the local AND regional or state scale to ensure that Landcare can prosper.



Gerald Carnie

Nominations close **1st September, 2017**.

[Click here to submit your nomination.](#)

Landcare NSW Regional Scale Events Support Fund



Landcare NSW has secured funding, through NSW Environmental Trust, to build the skills, knowledge and capability of Landcare members across the state to participate in NRM decision making at all scales and levels.

One of the activities of the funded project is to support regional scale events across NSW between now and May 2018, through which the objectives of the program can be delivered.

Many regions already hold regional scale forums or events, so this funding is not to run additional activities but to enhance existing ones through the inclusion of capacity and partnership development sessions. There is \$2,500 (GST exc) available for each region, to contribute to the costs of running the event. There is approximate allocation of \$500 for trainer /



To date three regions have run events supported through this program:

The **Central West Partnership Forum**, held in Dubbo in February focused on developing partnership skills and introducing Landcarers to a range of program providers who worked together to develop potential partnerships.

- 75% of participants have new project ideas
- 90% of participants made 3 or more new contacts on the day
- 87% of participants have followed up with new contacts made on the day.

The **South East Landcare Muster**, and Regional Community of Practice event was held

presenter costs (fees, travel etc.) and \$2,000 for event costs (advertising, venue, catering etc.). To access this funding a simple EOI form has been sent to all Regional Landcare Facilitators across NSW to work with their Landcare communities in planning and delivering the activity.

For more information please contact either Sonia Williams, State Landcare Coordinator on 0411 113 590 email swilliams@landcarensw.org.au or Jennie Coldham, Member Services Officer on 0427 260 258 email jennie@landcarensw.org.au

over 2 days in May. The event included; updates from networks and partner organisations, training sessions on "Telling our stories" and youth engagement, as well as facilitated conversation on future directions for Landcare partnerships.

The **New England North West Landcare Adventure** held early May focused on "smart farms, smart towns, smart communities". The event included training events, site visits, speakers and a facilitated session: *How can we Farm Smarter Communities?*

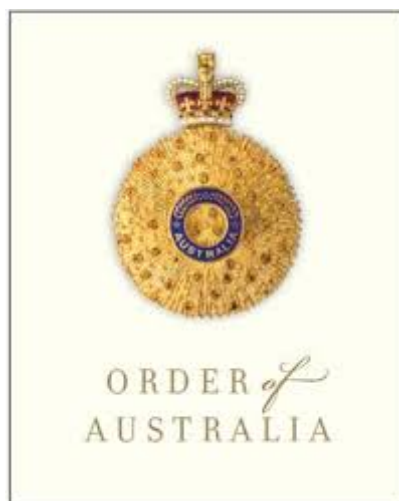
NSW Landcare Honour Roll

Congratulations to **Kerryn & John Salmon** on both being awarded an **Order of Australia Medal "for services to the environment and to surf life saving"**:

They received the award for their services to the environment and to surf life saving including:

- *Co-Founder, Bateau Bay Bushcare, 1981-2015.*
- *Bushcare, Sutherland Shire, since 1975.*
- *Trees on Farms Project, Parkes, 1983-2015.*
- *Team Leader, every National Tree Day since 1995.*
- *Planting native trees at schools 2003-06*

Landcare NSW would like to hear from our Landcare community about their local heroes.



To have your local heroes recognised [please complete the form here.](#)

National Landcare Network - Update

Contributed by the National Landcare Network



It has been a very busy few months for the National Landcare Network (NLN)!

Our Members Council has established monthly catch-ups by telephone, which are proving to be a great way of sharing information and giving feedback on the various issues of interest to

We have however been given strong assurance that community Landcare is seen as an important part of this process and that information will be provided to the NLN and its members as soon as it is available. The NLN is also continuing to work closely with Landcare Australia to explore ways for the two

Landcare which are cropping up at the national level at the moment. The essential role that the Council plays in linking the NLN with the Landcare community is increasingly being recognised by national decision-makers, and is the real strength of our organisation. If you would like to find out more about the Members Council or raise an issue with the NLN, please contact your representatives – Rob Dulhunty, Sonia Williams and Chris Scott via administration@landcarensw.org.au.

The NLN Board gathered from across the country in Canberra on 23rd - 24th May, and was fortunate to be able to meet with the Minister for the Environment and Energy Josh Frydenberg, as well as staff from his department and the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources. This gave us an opportunity to discuss the recent budget announcement and its implications for Landcare, including the allocation of the \$100 million for Landcare secured by the Greens through negotiations with the Government late last year. Work is still ongoing to determine the detail of how funds will be allocated, and what the design process for the next iteration of the National Landcare Programme will be.

organisations to align themselves more closely in order to better serve community Landcare across the country. A project looking into options for how this might work is just being wrapped up, and details of the next steps in this process will be shared once the project report has been considered by the boards of the two organisations.

We are coming up to our first anniversary under our new company structure, and an awful lot has been achieved in the last twelve months! Thanks to all the NLN members in each state and territory (and especially NSW!) for all the work you have done to contribute to this success! If you would like more information please contact Miranda at communications@nlm.org.au.



The NLN Board in Canberra last month.



Landcare NSW serves community Landcare in NSW by providing a representative voice, members services and support.



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Forward

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