



# A Voice for Landcarers in NSW

## *“many hands one voice”*

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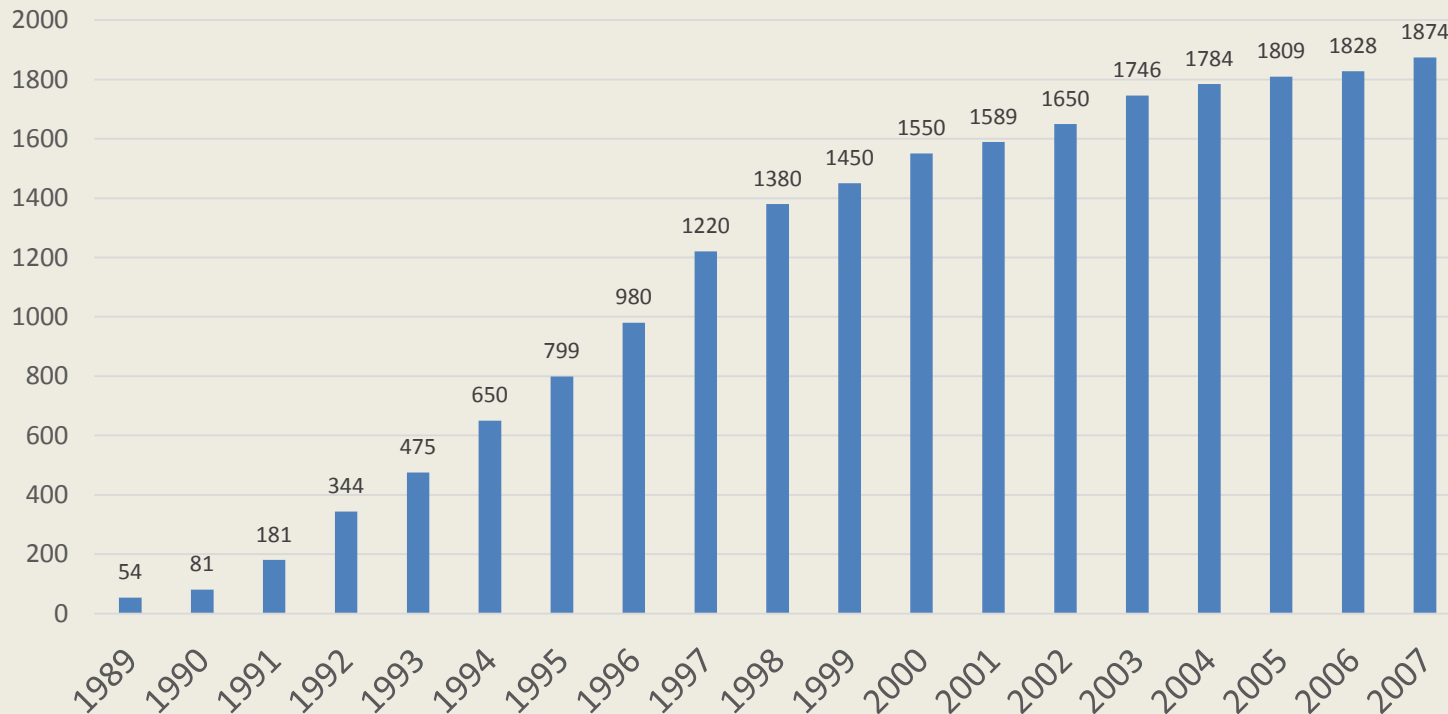
Presented at the National Landcare Conference September 2014



# Landcare in NSW

## Landcare in NSW flourished under the Decade of Landcare Plan

Number of Landcare Groups NSW



# Support for Landcare in NSW:

- 1989 State Landcare Support program established  
*State Landcare coordinator*
- 1990 State Landcare Working Group established  
*“to help Landcare happen “*
- 1994 State Landcare Support Unit formed (Govt)
- 2004 State Landcare Working Group ceases, as does  
State Landcare Support Unit
- 2005 State Landcare Committee established  
(Govt/community) - *but not resourced*
- 2007 Landcarers meet in Myuna Bay  
dissatisfied with the support  
Landcare was receiving



# A Gathering at Myuna Bay, June 2007

- a need for 'representative Landcare' recognised
- Hunter Region Landcare Network hosts a 'Landcare Gathering',
- Encouraged by the CEO of Landcare Australia Limited, Brian Scarsbrick
- Financially supported by Landcare Australia Limited and Lake Macquarie City Council.



# Key Outcomes from Myuna Bay

1. Landcare is STRONG and growing
2. We need to work on our partnerships and relationships
3. We need to evolve our structure at the State level

Resolved to hold a Muster of grassroots Landcarers at the 2007 State Catchment and Landcare Forum in Tamworth

# 2007 Tamworth Landcare Muster

- **Decision to form**
  - “NSW Landcare Community Reference Group”,
    - To act as a lobby and community liaison group for the State’s large Landcare network.
    - Landcare representatives from all 13 NSW catchment areas
    - a landmark step for the NSW Landcare Movement.





# 2008 Queanbeyan Muster

- **Endorsed the decisions, membership and Terms of Reference for Landcare NSW Inc**
  - ensure the group
    - Is truly representative
    - Follows directions determined by grass roots Landcare, from all over NSW.
    - facilitate successes in Landcare communities
    - put Landcare on the map at all levels

# Landcare NSW Inc

- Is a voice for Landcare in NSW
- Supports the work of the 60,000 Landcarers in NSW & represent their views to Government and other stakeholders
- Has a membership base of Groups and a Council of regionally endorsed Representatives. Regions determine their own endorsement process





# Landcare NSW Inc

- Currently 21 volunteers on Council
- Meet 4 times per year
- Councillors bring views from the community and take information back to the community.
- From Council an executive of 8 is elected to manage the association
- Work of Council and Executive is supported by a small, mainly part time staff



# Landcare NSW Inc

## Listening and Delivering

- From the outset our organisation has been driven by the needs of our members.
- At our Muster we ask our members for information on what is happening in their region.
- We ask them about local issues: what's working...what's not working...and what they want us to do as their representative organisation.

**We aim to deliver upon the needs identified at the Musters.**

**“You ask – we deliver”**



# NSW Landcare Musters

- 2007 Tamworth
- 2008 Queanbeyan
- 2009 Port Macquarie
- 2011 Parkes
- 2013 Newcastle



# Areas for Action from the Musters

## ➤ **Administrative, Governance & Technical Support**

- including insurance

## ➤ **Communication**

- with and across the Landcare community
- Telling the Landcare story

## ➤ **Funding**

- particularly locally based support staff, & Network support
- longer times frames, more small grants focus on local issues

## ➤ **Attracting others**

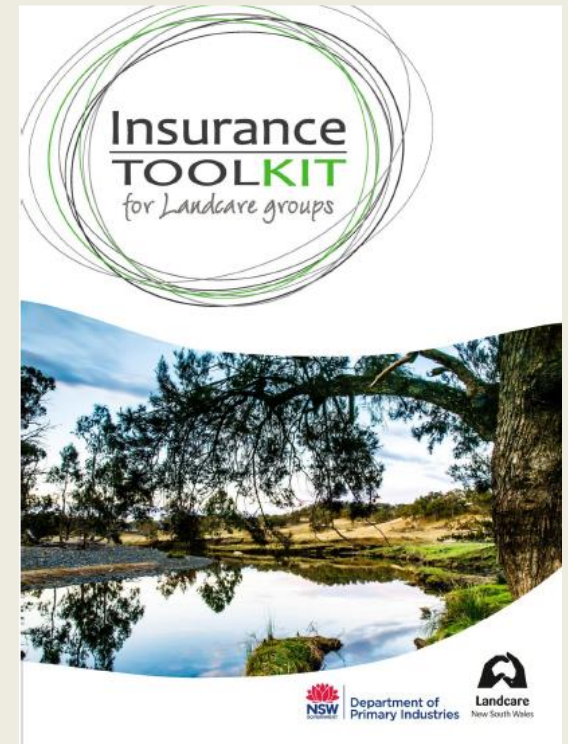
- especially young people

## ➤ **Clarify the role and function of LNSW**

# Actions from the Musters

- Gained Resources to deliver Administrative, Governance & Technical Support services to Landcare groups
- Landcare in a Box
  - 17 templates
  - 17 factsheets
- Insurance
  - Information and sourcing of insurance
- Hothousing Landcare Leaders Workshops
  - 14 Workshops held
  - 266 participants from 92 groups trained

From funding under the  
State Landcare Support Program





# Actions from the Musters

## ➤ Communication

- Information dissemination by Landcare NSW via Advocate & Social media, Bulletins & webpage
- Telling the Story
  - Via NSW Landcare Support Projects
    - Landcare Snapshot -**58 stories**
    - Sharing our Success (SOS) Case Studies -**10 produced**
  - Via NSW Landcare Gateway website
  - Via Pozible



### Pambula Wetlands & Heritage Project Inc



Pambula Wetlands & Heritage Project is a community group that owns and manages Panboola, an 82 hectare wetland and floodplain rehabilitation site, including an old racecourse on crown land adjacent to the town of Pambula.



We have 103 members at Pambula, NSW 2549 and work on 82 hectares of land. Our group started in 2001 and we are a member of Far South Coast Landcare Association Inc. (part of South East Landcare). If you'd like to know more about us go to [www.panboola.com](http://www.panboola.com)

60 Ha of the land at Panboola has been donated to the community by benefactors, for the purposes of conservation and education. It includes a 16 hectare Waterbird Sanctuary with VCA (developed by the group), a Wetland listed as significant in NSW, several EECs including coastal saltmarsh and coastal floodplain woodland. We have a highly visible interface with agriculture with 35 Ha of grazing for the dairy industry.

At least 40,000 visitors enjoy the benefits of Panboola in a beautiful managed environment with approximately 8 kms of walking tracks through the area.

We have a new office, donated on site that we hope to develop into a Wetland Centre. All work on Panboola is done by volunteers with currently no paid employees, just the power of community groups.



CASE STUDY #002

## TUSSOCK TAMERS

*a community driven, holistic approach to weed management in the catchment*

### AUDIENCE:

The rural community in the Upper Lachlan catchment, NSW.

### CONTACT:

Bob Spiller—Secretary, Jerrawa Creek Landcare Group.

### OVERVIEW:

At a major public meeting in April 2009 the local community identified environmental weeds, especially Serrated Tussock, as by far our most pressing environmental priority. Our project was developed to attack this problem and at the same time increase the number of people adopting good land management and conservation practices.

Serrated Tussock is a community problem and needs all of us to be active in managing for it to be controlled effectively. We felt that even experienced and competent land managers could benefit from being introduced to new ideas and techniques while others were unaware they were living with a problem. Our aim was to motivate land managers, public, private, large and small, experienced and total beginners, to control Serrated Tussock and other environmental weeds as well as undertaking wider natural resource management practices.

Tussock Tamers comprised an education and moral suasion campaign run over a year featuring advertising, field days, workshops and seminars combined with visits to properties by local council/CMA teams to develop property plans. This was underpinned by an extensive, sustained promotional and educational campaign using mail, local press advertisements and media stories to promote the project and encourage participation. We also ran a series of two day weed workshops to help people



manage their properties. Farm-gate signs were distributed (see above) to participating properties to help promote the project and encourage others to join. Our project was successful in large part because it targeted a clear community need and because it was a partnership of organisations and individuals, all of whom could contribute. The founding management group for Tussock Tamers comprised Jerrawa Creek Landcare, the

*Tussock Tamers is based on three beliefs: Firstly, long term management of serrated tussock needs a well thought out plan that takes into account your particular area & circumstances. Secondly, we can only make inroads into this problem if everybody works together. Thirdly, it requires sustained effort by all of us.*

*Share your own successful event or project*

Download a template at [www.landcarensw.org.au](http://www.landcarensw.org.au)

# Actions from the Musters

## ➤ Improved relationships with Regional Bodies

- Held 2012 and 2014 Regional Landcare Support Forum with funds from State Landcare Support program

## ➤ Increased your voice through its representation on

- LLS Reference panel
- Quarterly Ministerial Roundtable – OEH
- Steering Committee of the State Landcare Support Program
- Landcare LLS Partnership Steering Ctee and Working Groups
- National Landcare Network



The 2014 NSW Regional  
Landcare Support Forum



# Actions from the Musters

## ➤ Funding

- Advocated to reverse the cut to that NSW Government's Catchment Action NSW.
- input to the design of National Landcare Program
- Gained resources under the State Landcare Support program for an Investment prospectus
- Developed an alternate source of funding for landcare group with the development of a partnership with 'Pozible'





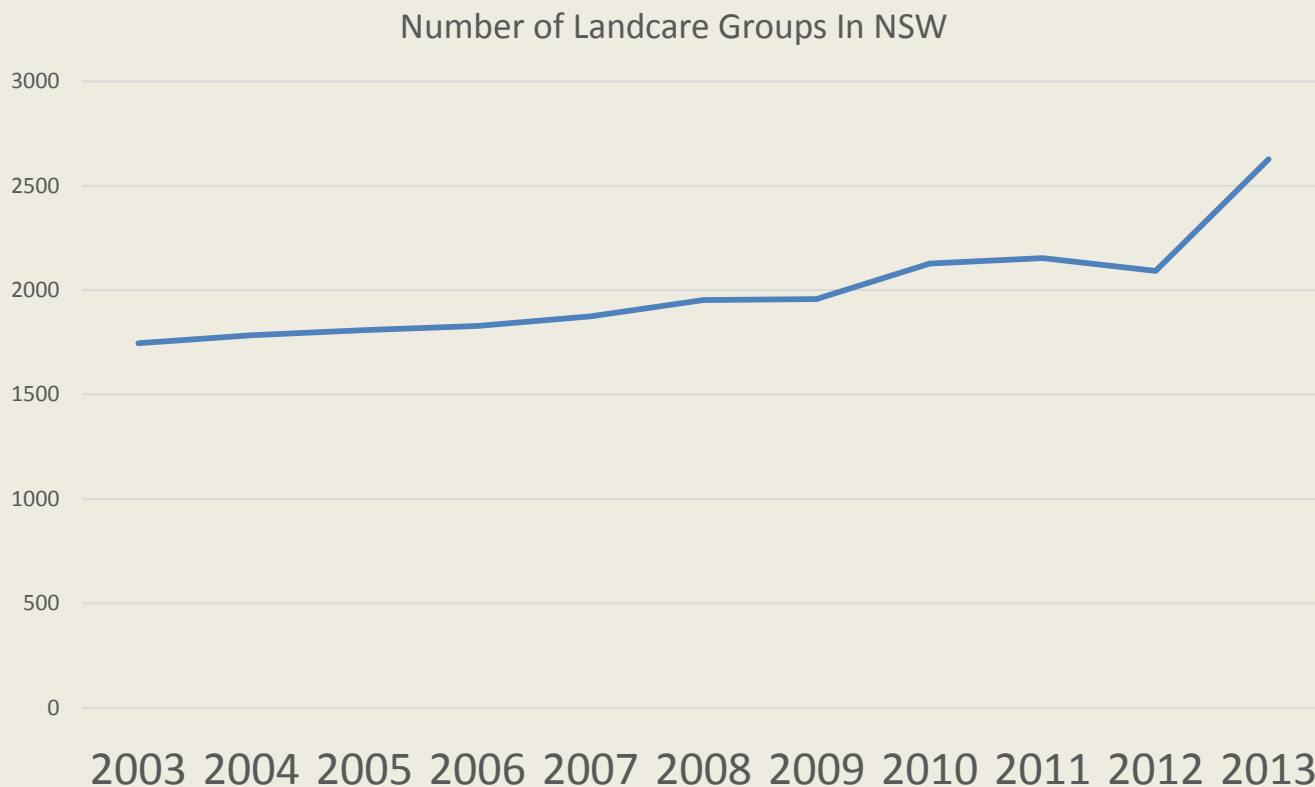
# In Just 7 years, Landcare NSW

- Has become a representative body for Landcarers:
  - delivering services to assist Landcarers,
  - acting on issues and opportunities identified from regular Landcare Musters and from the Endorsed Representatives on the Council.
  - building a community of practice for Landcare in NSW
- Has commitment from Landcarers across NSW, and
- Has gained the resources to allow it to function

*“Not bad for a 7 year old”*



# From a voice comes growth



LNSW forms



Landcare Support Program  
secured



delivered



## The Future

*What's clear to me is that there is a need for a representative voice for Landcare – both at the state level and nationally – and there is a need for national unity* (Rob Dulhunty Chair LNSW)

**Landcare - Many Hands One Voice**