



Landcare NSW 2023-2024 Annual Report



Acknowledgement of Country

Landcare NSW acknowledges that Australia's First Nations People are the original land carers of our land and waters. We pay respect to the Elders, Traditional Owners, Cultural Practitioners, and Knowledge Holders of the many nations and language groups across New South Wales.

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We support Landcarers and our members so local communities and environments flourish.

Who is Landcare NSW?

With thousands of active Landcarers in New South Wales (NSW), Landcare NSW is the conduit between local Landcare communities and critical decision-makers, working to ensure the thousands of Landcare volunteers and supporters across the State can focus on what is important to them.

We provide leadership, skills, resources, and representation for those contributing to the Landcare movement by supporting our communities and the environment across the State.

We represent, promote and advocate on behalf of community-based Landcare and community-driven sustainable natural resource management in NSW.

We are the bridge between agriculture and the environment, promoting agricultural stewardship and conserving our natural capital.

Landcare NSW supports the community Landcare movement by partnering with State and Federal Governments, corporations, not-for-profit organisations, farming peak bodies, and other Landcare state/territory and national peak bodies.

'Landcare' is a community-driven approach to sustainable natural resource management, focusing on improving the environment's resilience now and into the future.

Purpose

We support Landcarers and our members so local communities and environments flourish.

We enable our members to do important on-ground work in the regions and to achieve recognition for their contribution to the health of our State's natural capital.

Landcarers' work is vital, valuable, and under-recognised. We want every person associated with Landcare NSW to feel seen, heard, and incredibly proud.

Vision

Landcare in NSW is recognised by governments, corporations, philanthropists, and the general community as the most effective, impactful, and influential 'go-to-vehicle' for caring for our land, environment, and communities in rural and urban areas.

Mission

We will provide leadership, skills, and resources to empower Landcarers in NSW to have all they need to care for our land, environment and communities.

Values

We believe in working collaboratively by building partnerships and strategic alliances. We believe honesty, integrity, and respect are essential to maintaining a healthy culture. Effective leadership, flexibility, adaptability, and innovation are critical in our changing environment. We have a clarity of purpose.

We are nonpartisan in our advocacy and embrace different needs and cultures. We acknowledge that the First Nations People are the Traditional Custodians of NSW and the original Landcarers.



Chair Report

Dear Landcarers and Friends of Landcare,

As Chair of Landcare NSW, I am humbled and energised to present our 2024 Annual Report. This is my first full year as chair. Still, reflecting on my past six years on the Board, I am struck by the remarkable journey we've undertaken together and our community's resilience in the face of unprecedented challenges. We've learned to adapt to new realities, from navigating global pandemics to responding to increasingly frequent natural disasters. These experiences have reinforced Landcare's critical role in building resilient communities and ecosystems.

I'm pleased to report that 2024 marks a watershed moment for Landcare in our State. Our ongoing advocacy efforts have resulted in increased recognition of Landcare's vital role in environmental stewardship and community resilience. The cross-party support we've garnered through the Parliamentary Friends of Landcare has been instrumental in elevating Landcare's profile and securing crucial funding.

The NSW Government's \$58 million funding for the NSW Landcare Enabling Program will ensure capacity and capability are built in all eleven regions. This record level of investment acknowledges Landcare's importance at the highest levels of government.

I want to thank our close partner, NSW Local Land Services, for working at the state and regional levels to deliver the NSW Landcare Enabling Program. Our strategic partnership has continued to deepen and evolve, and the results are inspiring. This collaboration has been pivotal in delivering on-ground outcomes and ensuring our efforts are aligned with broader natural resource management goals across the state.

The synergy between Landcare's grassroots approach and Local Land Services' regional expertise has proven to be a powerful force for positive environmental change, and we can all be proud of what we've achieved together.

“To all Landcarers – whether you're planting trees, serving on committees, or supporting our mission in countless other ways – thank you. Your adaptability, resilience, and unwavering commitment over these challenging years have been truly inspiring.”

We've also made substantial strides in our key focus areas, enhancing our digital capabilities. This progress is crucial for strengthening connections between Landcare groups, simplifying processes, and improving our data collection and analysis. As we move forward, this data will be instrumental in informing our planning and decision-making and demonstrating our impact to partners and funders.

To all Landcarers – whether you’re planting trees, serving on committees, or supporting our mission in countless other ways – thank you. Your adaptability, resilience, and unwavering commitment over these challenging years has been truly inspiring. Landcare works best when volunteers can focus on caring for the land, and we remain dedicated to providing the support you need to do just that. We are deeply grateful for your contributions and the difference you make in our community.

My deepest thanks also go to my fellow directors, committee members, and the eleven Regional Chairs who serve on our State Advisory Council. With a shortage of volunteers in Australia, particularly in regional areas, we are immensely grateful for your help. I also want to thank our small but dedicated staff, including our outgoing CEO, Turlough Guerin.

2024-25 will be a year of renewal on many fronts. Through the NSW Landcare Enabling Program, we will redouble our efforts to deepen our relationship with First Nations Landcarers.

As a board, we will seek fresh leadership and new management for the organisation. We will begin to implement a new strategic plan and further refine our governance arrangements, including our membership program.

We will reconnect with our State counterparts as we work to renew and refresh the National Landcare Network. I hope our growing recognition of the climate crisis will lead to an increased focus on practical climate adaptation strategies within our projects and that Landcare will be at the forefront of implementing nature-based solutions to build climate resilience.

Together, we are not just caring for the land; we are shaping a more sustainable and resilient future for New South Wales. As we enter this new phase of renewal, revitalisation and rejuvenation, I am filled with optimism for what we can achieve in the year ahead.

Gareth Johnston – Chair, Landcare NSW Board



Minister Tara Moriarty with LNSW Chair, Gareth Johnston at Murrumbateman Nursery, March 2024.

From Left: Sonya Duus, Gareth Johnston, Minister Tara Moriarty, Sarah McGrath, Kath McGuirk



Management Report

This year has been significant for Landcare NSW, as it was marked by the Landcare Enabling Program (LEP) launch. This initiative reflects the government's trust in us as a critical partner in addressing issues such as biosecurity, biodiversity, disaster preparedness, and adaptation to climate change.

The Program has enhanced the efficiency and sustainability of Landcare activities in NSW through targeted training, strategic communications, and strengthening partnerships with First Nations communities. A centralised digital solution has improved knowledge sharing, data reporting, and transparency across the network.

Another key achievement of Landcare NSW was the People Led Prevention (PLP) project, which created a statewide network of disaster-aware Landcare staff and empowered community members. The project included tree planting for flood and fire resilience, hiring disaster preparedness staff, and developing training resources to enhance collaboration with emergency agencies.

Similarly, the Creating Canopies project, partnered with Greater Sydney Landcare and funded by the NSW Government under the Greening our City program, has advanced greening in Greater

Sydney. Planting native trees and shrubs has helped reduce urban heat, enhanced the beauty of our surroundings, provided homes for wildlife, and fostered community connectivity.

The Private Land Conservation Matters (PLCM) program, funded by the Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT), has progressed well. The program's events focus on sharing best practices for grazing, feral animal control, and citizen science. The PLCM also develops case studies and resources to connect land management guidelines with practical implementation.

Landcare NSW will continue to advocate for Landcarers statewide, emphasising their crucial role in enhancing the sustainability and resilience of natural resources. We aim to secure long-term funding for conservation projects and operational stability while promoting better governance, coordinated environmental efforts, and reduced administrative burdens.

Good governance setting strong foundations

Landcare's governance system encompasses our Board, Board Subcommittees and our State Advisory Council. These groups work to promote good governance and connect members across NSW.

Our leaders go from strength to strength

2023 was our first year of operation under our new corporate structure as a company limited by guarantee. This change has increased democratic representation for Landcare group members, with the Board of Directors being drawn from all parts of NSW.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) in November 2023 saw notable changes to the Board, including two figureheads, longtime leaders of the organisation, stepping down after many years supporting Landcare NSW.

Stephanie Cameron stepped down after serving two full terms as chair of Landcare NSW. Stephanie's contributions were recognised when she was made an Honorary Life Member. We are pleased that Stephanie will continue to be involved with Landcare in her Northwest region and her local community of Tamworth

Hunter White also stepped down after two full terms as Treasurer. Hunter provided invaluable financial leadership for the Board, FARM Subcommittee, and Landcare NSW Management. To acknowledge his lifelong commitment to Landcare, Hunter was also made an Honorary Life Member.



Stephanie Cameron & Hunter White awarded Honorary Life Membership.

The departure of these two leaders required strong candidates to step into leadership roles.

At the 2023 AGM, the Board elected Gareth Johnston as Chair and Kathy Kelly as Treasurer, resetting their Board terms.

The other office-bearer roles were filled, with Directors Steve Bunnell chosen as Vice Chair and Lyn Thomson returning as Secretary.

New Ordinary Board Directors were acclaimed by Members during the AGM



Wayne Chaffey
Ordinary Director
North West & Northern
Tablelands Regions



Bruce Maynard
Ordinary Director
Central West & Central Tablelands
Regions



Matilda Ferguson
Ordinary Director
Western Region

Matilda Ferguson, from Western Region was appointed to the board in 2023 but served for a short time. Sadly, Matilda was lost to a farming accident in February 2024.

The new Board came together in person in Murrumbateman in March and met with Agriculture Minister Tara Moriarty and the Yass Area Network Landcare group during a site visit, witnessing the amazing work of the Murrumbateman nursery firsthand.

Your board donated over 1,800 hours in 2023-24. We are deeply indebted to them individually and collectively for their commitment and dedication.



Landcare NSW Board and Minister Tara Moriarty meeting with Yass Area Network Landcare group at the Murrumbateman Nursery (March 2024)

Landcare NSW Board of Directors during 2023-2024FY

Office Bearers



Gareth Johnston (Chair)

Ordinary Director for Murray & Riverina Regions



Steve Bunnell (Vice Chair)

Ordinary Director for Greater Sydney & South East Regions



Kathy Kelly (Treasurer)

Independent Director



Lyn Thomson (Secretary)

Ordinary Director for North Coast & Hunter Regions



Bruce Maynard

Ordinary Director for Central West & Central Tablelands Regions



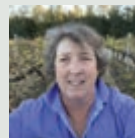
Bruce Rolph

Independent Director



Howard Jones

Ordinary Director for Western Region (from October 2022 to September 2023)



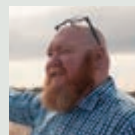
Liz Riley

Independent Director



Matilda Ferguson

Ordinary Director for Western Region (from January to February 2024)



Rene Woods

Independent Director



Wayne Chaffey

Ordinary Director for North West & Northern Tablelands Regions

The Board of Directors support Landcare NSW with the following Committees

The Nominations Committee, led by the Vice Chair of the Board, manages the recruitment and vetting of Director candidates and identifies the skills the Board requires to support the delivery of the Strategic Plan.

Members: Steve Bunnell (Committee Chair); Lyn Thomson; Bruce Rolph; Liz Riley.

The Finance Audit Risk Management Sub Committee (FARM) is driven by the Treasurer and ensures Landcare NSW is compliant and operates with the best financial practices.

Members: Kathy Kelly (Committee Chair); Steve Bunnell; Liz Riley.

The Public Fund Management Committee comprises Board members who administer the Landcare NSW Fund (Public Fund) and are all considered to have a responsibility to the community.

Members: Kathy Kelly (Committee Chair); Bruce Rolph; Liz Riley.

Our Regional Representatives

The purpose of the State Advisory Council is to be the official forum of dialogue between the regions and the Landcare NSW Board.

It is composed of the four Officeholders of Landcare NSW, and 11 Regional Chairs who are supported by 11 regional support staff as observers.

These events foster connections among the regions, between regional representatives and the Board, and help build strong working relationships with the Landcare NSW team.

In 2023-24, the State Advisory Council addressed many topics, including:

- Biosecurity
- State-based Support requirements

- Aboriginal Officer hosting opportunities
- Support Services for the regions
- Grant Consultation process for regions.
- **Key Partners made presentations to the State Advisory Council** Local Land Services
- Mulloon Institute
- National Landcare Network
- Natural Resources Commission
- NSW Department of Primary Industries
- NSW Reconstruction Authority

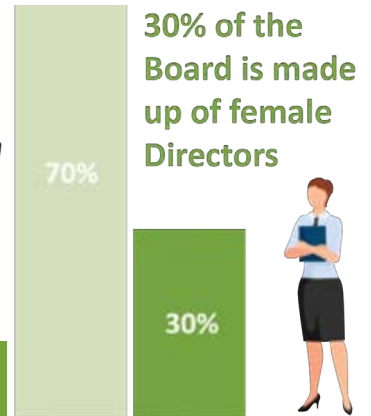
State Advisory Council Members for 2023-2024FY

- Gareth Johnston, Board Chair
- Steve Bunnell, Board Vice Chair
- Kathy Kelly, Board Treasurer
- Lyn Thomson, Board Secretary
- Bev Debrincat, Greater Sydney Landcare Network
- Edwina Hayes, Murray Regional Landcare Inc.
- Gemma Purcell, Murrumbidgee Landcare Inc.
- Greg Thompson, South East Landcare Inc.
- Kate Groth, North West Regional Landcarers Inc.
- Larry Langman, North Coast Regional Landcare Network
- Lawrence Balcomb, Central Tablelands Regional Landcare Network Inc
- Margot Jolly, Central West Region Landcare Inc.
- Paul Heley, Western Landcare NSW Inc
- Robyn Lamond, Hunter, and Mid Coast Landcare Hub Inc.
- Steve Harvey, New England Landcare Network Inc.



MEETINGS CONDUCTED

14 BOARD (11 Online, 3 In-Person)
4 STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL (2 Online, 2 In-Person)
23 COMMITTEE (combined between 9 Nominations, 12 FARM and 2 Public Fund)



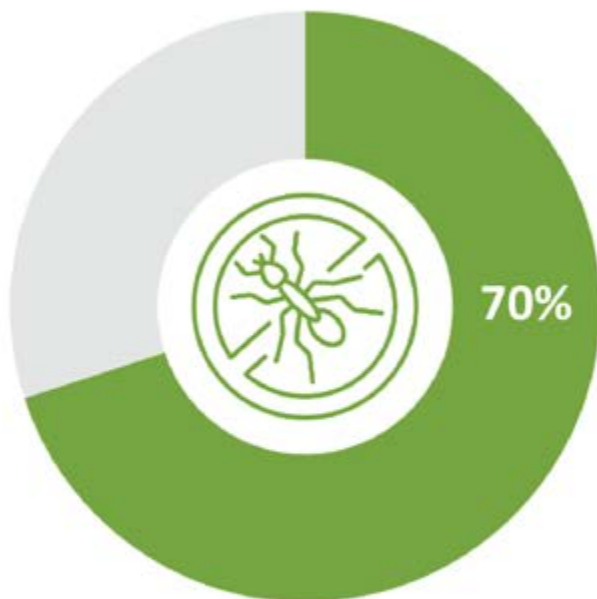
The average age of our 2023/2024 Board of Directors is 59 years



Board of Director meetings had average overall attendance 86%



100% of Board Directors have experience in Agriculture/Agribusiness, Financial Management



70% of Board Directors have experience in Biosecurity



90% of Board Members are regionally located

Our Strategic Plan

This year, we produced and reported against our strategic plan, which set an ambitious agenda for Landcare NSW. While we made significant progress, key areas remain requiring further attention and improvement.

Achievements

Revenue Growth: Grant revenue increased by 50%, reflecting our growing capacity to secure funding.

Program Implementation: We successfully initiated the next four-year Landcare Program, known as the Landcare Enabling Program, which includes the employment of 83 full-time equivalent Local and Regional Coordinators to support on-ground projects, and build capacity within communities.

Media Presence: We achieved a 25% increase in print and radio interviews, enhancing our public profile and outreach efforts.









Partially Achieved

Digital Strategy: We secured funding through the Landcare Enabling Program for a digital landcare coordinator to June 2027, marking the beginning of our digital transformation.

Engagement: Our team made multiple visits across all our regions, demonstrating our commitment to active engagement.



Where does our funding come from?

	Fee for service – Government	\$3,200,450
	Fee for service – Non-government	\$85,980
	Government grants	\$1,583,333
	Membership	\$187,143
	Donations	\$19,065
	Interest	\$19,714

Donations auspiced through Landcare NSW's DGR status

Landcare NSW offers its Members the service of facilitating official donations through our Deductible Gift Recipient status (DGR).

DGR endorsement is highly valued by not-for-profits and charities, as it can improve the ability of an organisation to raise funds to support its specific endeavours and purpose.

With our DGR status, we can issue tax-deductible receipts for donations over \$2. Donors who want to ensure their donations are tax effective prefer organisations with a DGR.

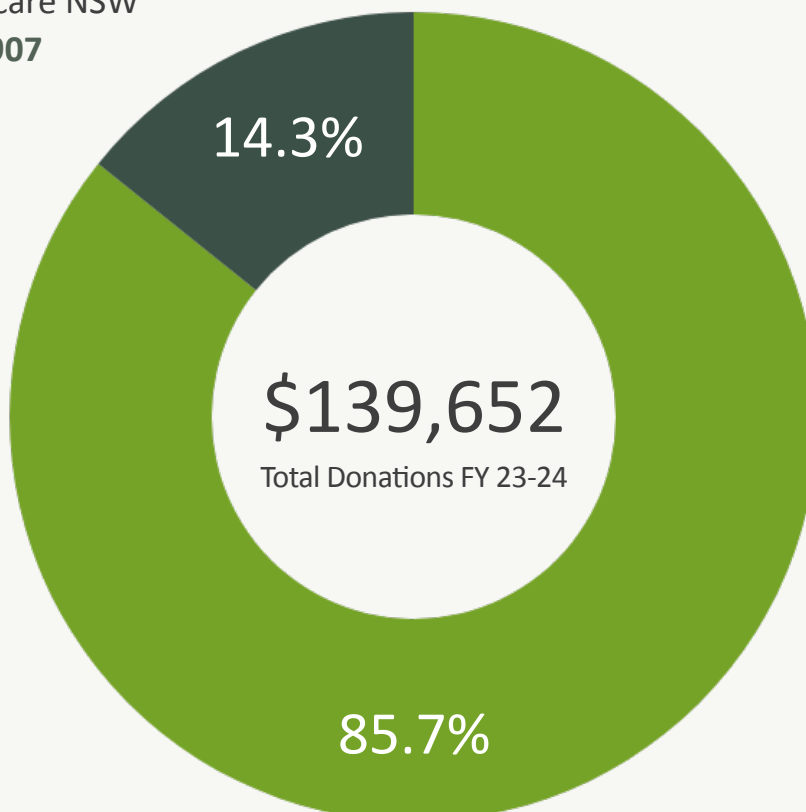
Many grant makers and government agencies view DGR endorsement as an indicator of good governance

and will preference organisations with DGR status or make DGR endorsement a requirement for grants.

Moreover, public and private ancillary funds can only be distributed to DGRs, so DGR endorsement can unlock a significant category of potential donors.

- The donations to other groups through Landcare NSW DGR status was \$119,745
- The donation to Landcare NSW was \$19,907
- Total donations for FY 23-24 was \$139,652

Donations to
Landcare NSW
\$19,907



Donations to other
groups through
Landcare NSW
DGR Status
\$119,745



Purple Copper Butterfly by Steven Fleischmann

Landcare NSW Projects

NSW Landcare Enabling Program 2023-2027

The NSW Landcare Enabling Program (2023 – 2027) is a \$58.8 million investment by the NSW Government into Landcare and Landcare activities in NSW.

Co-delivered by Landcare NSW and NSW Local Land Services, the program is a continuation of the long-standing successful partnership that exists between the two organisations.

The first phase of the program activated \$35 million in funding to 16 grantees to employ 125 part-time (or 83 full-time equivalent) Local and Regional Landcare Coordinators and support staff across NSW.

There was also \$1.9 million in transitional and extension payments to NSW Landcare Enabling Program grantees to cover the period 1st July 2023-31st January 2024.

These Coordinators work directly with over 850 Landcare groups to improve their governance, communication, partnerships, and source funding and grants to increase their ability to organise on-ground activities.

Hosted by Landcare NSW member organisations, the Landcare Coordinators play an integral role in building our capacity to deliver the crucial work we undertake in supporting our environment and communities.

Activities performed by Coordinators include:

Supporting and facilitating the delivery of on-ground projects that care for the local natural environment and agricultural systems.

Strengthening the capacity of Landcarers by further developing their knowledge and skills.

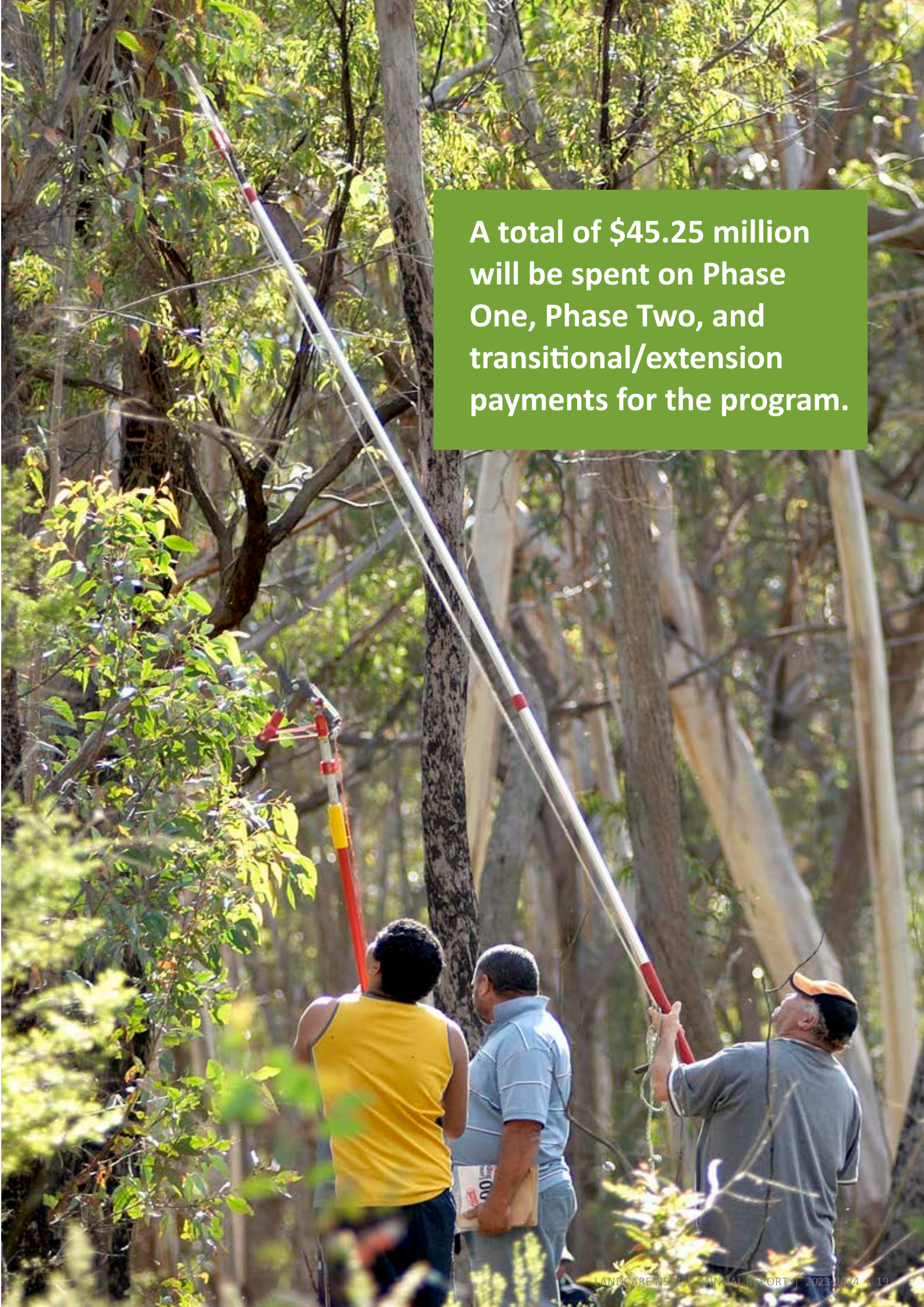
Ensuring effective collaboration and partnerships between Landcare groups, Local Land Services, other government agencies and Landcare NSW.

Leveraging funding opportunities to maximise socio-environmental outcomes.

In February 2024, the second phase of the program launched, providing \$8.35 million in funding to help Landcare NSW deliver targeted services that support host organisations and Coordinators. This funding aims to boost self-sustenance for Landcare NSW and Landcare in the regions.

Through Phase Two, Landcare NSW will:

- Fund the employment of a team of staff to provide centralised support to host organisations and Coordinators funded under Phase One of the Program.
- Establish a Shared Services Hub that provides centralised support to host organisations and Coordinators funded under Phase One of the Program across a range of business services, specifically administration, human resources and legal expertise.
- Implement and manage a state Community of Practice including Landcare state gatherings, conferences and regional community of practice events.
- Implement and manage a digital Landcare solution to improve reporting processes and knowledge-sharing for Program participants.
- Foster and sustain strategic partnerships, and leverage investments to boost Landcare's self-sufficiency and decrease dependence on direct NSW Government funding in the medium to long term.
- Improve partnerships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities to share Traditional land management practices and cultural heritage.
- Promote and enhance its online presence, while creating case studies to share Landcare knowledge and insights.



A total of \$45.25 million will be spent on Phase One, Phase Two, and transitional/extension payments for the program.

NSW Landcare Enabling Program Coordinator Activity Tracker (CAT)

The NSW Landcare Enabling Program Coordinator Activity Tracker (CAT) provides a streamlined method for Local and Regional Landcare Coordinators, as well as the new role of the Regional Administration Support Officers, to capture data about the activities they have undertaken directly and the ones that happen as a result of their support.

Data is important in telling the Landcare story and demonstrating the extensive impact and achievements of both the NSW Landcare Enabling Program, and the contribution of the Coordinators and funded roles.

2019-2023 NSW Landcare Program Highlights



This initiative is made possible by the NSW Landcare Enabling Program, a collaboration between Local Land Services and Landcare NSW supported by the NSW Government.

Landcare Enabling Program 2023/24 Achievements



83 Full-time funded roles in 2024



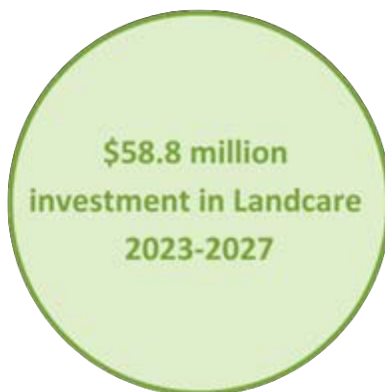
64,000 hrs of volunteer time



10,000 volunteers



224 case studies documented



36,876 trees planted



\$2,274,874 in successful grants



33,195 hectares of land influenced by landcare activities



7.5 km of bank/stream works

Landcare Enabling Program 2023/24 Achievements

- \$58.8 million investment in Landcare 2023- 2027
- Increase in Coordinators and support staff positions from 83 part-time staff in 2023 to 83 full-time funded roles in 2024
- 224 case studies documented since July 2023 showcasing great innovation and dedication to Landcare across the state which share knowledge and ideas
- \$2,274,874 in successful grants achieved by NSW Landcare groups
- 33,195 hectares of land influenced as a result of activities organised by Landcare Coordinators
- 7.5 km of bank/stream works as a result of activities organised by Landcare Coordinators
- 36,876 trees planted as a result of activities organised by Landcare Coordinators
- 10,000 volunteers participated
- 64,000 hrs of volunteer time as a result of activities organised by Landcare Coordinators

Further achievements of the Landcare Enabling Program:

- Induction package and sessions held for funded roles.
- Shared Services Hub supported all regions, providing Governance sessions which help organisations understand their obligations under the funding program.
- Regular ongoing Community of Practice meetings with Hosts, Coordinators, and support staff, which provides opportunity for growth, knowledge-sharing, skills and consistency of process.
- 2024 State Gathering held which saw 170 people attend from across the State and provided an opportunity for learning, sharing, networking and connection.
- Responsiveness of Local Land Services and Landcare NSW staff to requests from Coordinators and hosts.

Creating Canopies

The Landcare NSW and Greater Sydney Landcare Creating Canopies project is well into its second stage now having delivered 190,000 trees across 280 planting sites throughout Sydney.

Delivered as part of the larger NSW Government funded Greening Our Cities initiative, the Landcare Creating Canopies portion of the project will plant 300,000 canopy trees across Greater Sydney between 2020 to 2025.

The Creating Canopies project seeks to directly address the growing issue of urban heat and improve the liveability of outdoor spaces across Sydney. Sites are prioritised based on canopy cover, suburbs with less than 30% canopy cover being a key target.

With the community's support, Creating Canopies has planted trees in parks and reserves, universities, hospital grounds, golf courses, equestrian clubs, Land for Wildlife properties, farms, and on private land across 20 of Sydney's Local Government Areas.

Beyond its environmental impact, Creating Canopies also fosters community engagement. Since 2020, more than 5,000 volunteers have participated in 280 planting events, helping to combat social isolation and build social capital by involving people in meaningful environmental activities.

An evolving factor in the Creating Canopies project has been the collaboration between Landcare and State Government funding agencies to highlight the role of sustainability and biodiversity in tree planting grants. In addition to planting 300,000 canopy trees, the project has secured funding for ground cover and mid-storey plantings to enhance biodiversity. Resources have also been budgeted for site maintenance and watering to ensure the long-term success of these plantings throughout the project.

To volunteer for a community planting day or register your site for consideration in the project, please visit Greater Sydney Landcare's Creating Canopies website greatersydneylandcare.org/creating-canopies-in-greater-sydney





The Biodiversity Conservation Trust and Private Land Conservation Matters

Conserving biodiversity on private land in NSW is essential for protecting unique ecosystems, flora and fauna that may not be present in public conservation areas, while also enhancing ecological balance, land productivity, and water quality for both landowners and the community.

The expansion of urban and industrial activities has made private lands increasingly important as refuges, mitigating habitat fragmentation and supporting long-term environmental sustainability.

Landcare NSW's relationship with the Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) continues to grow through the delivery of the Private Land Conservation Matters (PLCM) project and provides a strong example of how an organisation's efforts can be amplified through Landcare.

The BCT's remit of "partnering with landholders to enhance and conserve biodiversity across NSW" is also

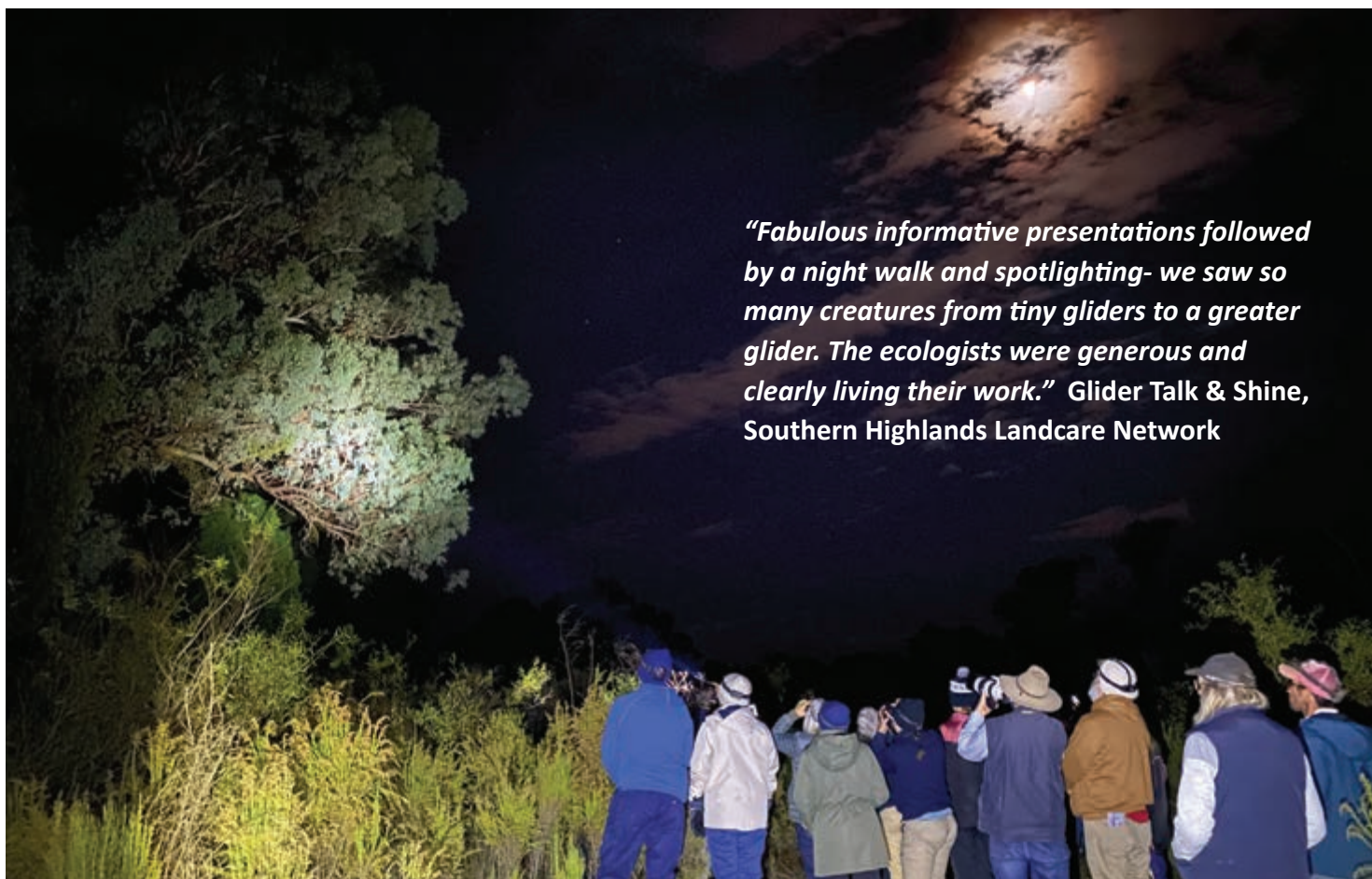
at the heart of Landcare, whose sphere of influence extends beyond the fence boundary and whose ethos of caring for the land ensures biodiversity in all its forms is considered, conserved and connected across the landscape.

Between 1 July 2023 to 30 December 2024, the 18-month PLCM project aims to deliver 100 events and engage 2,000 landholders, supporting and strengthening the BCT's education program.

Photos

Below: Young District Landcare, Murrumbidgee Landcare Inc – Group Spotlighting Night.

Top right: Gwymac Landcare – Fire Focus Forum Learning about cultural burns from Banbai Ranger Lesley Patterson and the fire seasonal calendar from Michelle McKemey.



"Fabulous informative presentations followed by a night walk and spotlighting- we saw so many creatures from tiny gliders to a greater glider. The ecologists were generous and clearly living their work." Glider Talk & Shine, Southern Highlands Landcare Network



Responses from Landcare groups when asked what made the event they attended successful for them:

“Willing landowners with helpful perspectives on their experience combining conservation and agriculture and having an intact BCT agreement.”

Conservation and Primary Production Field Day, Midcoast2Tops Landcare Connection.

“Location on site was perfect. The content of various presenters and government departments was thoughtfully selected for the event, and the small bites of information and rotation through the site made the day enjoyable as well as informative”

Creek Feast, Watershed Landcare.

When asked how Landcare NSW and the Biodiversity Conservation Trust could support them moving forward:

“More great workshops I guess. I’m happy to host here. We have 100 acres in Firefly, with around 15 acres fenced off for “Land For Wildlife”. We are striving toward regenerative farming practices and promoting biodiversity, for healthier land, plants and animals. Also to nurture this land as a resource for future generations.” Soil Super Heroes, Midcoast2Tops Landcare Connection.

A calendar of Private Land Conservation Matters project events can be viewed on the portal located at: plcm.landcarensw.net.au

Further information:

The project – landcarensw.org.au/partnering-in-private-land-conservation

The Biodiversity Conservation Trust – bct.nsw.gov.au

To study conservation land management online – bct.nsw.gov.au/elearning

People Led Prevention Project: Nature-Based Solutions to Disaster Preparedness

Since its launch in 2022, the Landcare NSW People Led Prevention project has been at the forefront of promoting disaster preparedness through nature-based solutions.

The Project aimed to reduce natural disaster risks while fostering stronger connections between communities, Landcare groups and disaster agencies.

Spanning nine Landcare regions across NSW, the Project engaged more than 1,600 participants in 62 events, including workshops, field days, and practical demonstrations.

Each region was asked two critical questions to guide their approach:

1. How do Landcare activities (nature-based activities) increase or decrease natural disaster risks or impacts?
2. How do natural hazards impact ecological communities and Landcare activities, and how can these risks be mitigated?

Participants explored a range of disaster preparedness topics, including:

Bushfire Risk: Investigating how plant species selection and placement can reduce susceptibility to bushfires for properties and Landcare sites.

Flood Risk: Assessing the role of long stem plantings, bank stabilisation, and upper catchment revegetation in reducing flood risks and erosion.

Wild Weather: Understanding weather reports and climate models to support better planning for extreme weather events.

Heatwaves: Exploring how urban plantings can mitigate heatwave impacts, making urban areas more resilient.

Landslips: Examining the role of vegetation in reducing landslip risks and how understanding soil landscapes can aid in disaster prevention.





A key outcome of the Project is the Green Shields training and resource packs, which compile the most effective nature-based disaster preparedness techniques and are now available on the Landcare NSW website – landcarensw.org.au/natural-disasters

Each training pack includes Video Overviews, a written guide and worksheet that participants and residents can fill out to help them utilise nature-based solutions to reduce their disaster risks.

SNAPSHOT OF LANDCARE NSW PEOPLE LED PREVENTION STATEWIDE ACTIVITIES



1614 event attendees



62 events



14 training packs and major resources created

Landcare is at the forefront of leveraging nature-based solutions for enhancing natural hazard preparedness and adaptation.



Central Tablelands

Sticks & Stones Workshop: Watershed Landcare Incorporated

Gully erosion in Australia affects 620,000 kilometres of landscape and reduces agricultural productivity by lowering the water table and washing topsoil into nearby water bodies. This erosion creates deep, wide channels that disrupt land use and damage ecosystems. Erosive gullies and head cuts form a difficult-to-manage feedback loop which many landholders are unsure of how to address.

The Sticks & Stones project combats gully erosion by using rock structures, plants and organic matter to slow water flow and catch sediment. Volunteers, landholders and experts, including the Mulloon Institute, participated in hands-on workshops to learn and implement these techniques.

Spanning more than a decade, we now have an informative test site which proves these techniques work and offers an opportunity for continual observation and learning. The workshop held in 2024 provided over 20 landholders with the skills to prevent erosion, maintain erosion structures, and create new ones with adaptive techniques using accessible materials.



Murray

Native Fish Salvage Program: Western Murray Land Improvement Group

A Waddi Waddi Wamba Wamba Nation Elder noticed dead and dying fish in the Murray Irrigation Limited (MIL) channel system during winter drainage shutdown works. They contacted Western Murray Land Improvement Group (WMLIG) to help with collaboratively planning a project involving First Nations People, recreational fishers, industry and agencies to rescue fish and relocate them to a local primary habitat, the Wakool River.

In 2022, the Edward Wakool Angling Association, in collaboration with WMLIG, and three First Nations groups, received funding through the NSW Recreational Fishing Trust to conduct a pilot project to rescue native fish from the MIL irrigation system during the 2023 winter maintenance program. The project funded equipment and resources to salvage the fish and develop project planning protocols that could be used by the community for future fish salvage efforts.

The result of these efforts saw 134 native fish successfully salvaged from MIL channels at 16 sites across nine days and relocated to natural waterways. The pilot project created the opportunity to foster new relationships, networks and build trust between different stakeholders, including recreational fishers, community groups, Traditional Owners, government agencies, and the irrigation industry.



Western

Western Warriors: Western Landcare NSW

Running activities in Far West NSW is the biggest challenge due to limited funding, vast distances between schools, and logistical difficulties.

Coordinating with schools can be challenging due to differing schedules, long drives, and the need for overnight stays. Creating engaging, educational, and durable environmental activities is also time-consuming.

The Western Warriors project secured a grant that would cover the cost of creating and sourcing materials, along with specialised programs such as Dreamtime stories and cultural awareness activities.

Western Warriors involved five agencies working collaboratively to deliver quality innovative activities that were hands-on, and visually and physically interactive. Travelling together, they visited one school in the morning and another in the afternoon when possible.

Activities were run concurrently and consecutively so all students experienced each activity. The cultural activity included students learning and understanding the different uses of the boomerang, along with painting a boomerang they could keep using symbols and techniques recently acquired.

Roadshows like Western Warriors are vital for growth, learning and development for Far West regional and remote schools.



North Coast

Revegetation Futures – Starting with the Seed: Border Ranges Richmond Valley Landcare Network

The Northern Rivers region faced a myriad of natural disasters over recent years. Landcare groups across the region stepped up to respond with environmental recovery, however the pursuit of native plant seed to support revegetation activities identified significant shortfalls in seed availability and gaps in target species, as well as limitations in accessible seed provenance data.

Some areas sought to reseed after the bushfires and floods, Rappville and Surrounds Landcare and Mackellar Range Landcare needed seed to incorporate into drone seeding and hydro mulch mix over landslide affected areas, while Kyogle Landcare aimed to seed bomb exposed riverbanks. All groups were challenged by limited seed availability.

Hence, a new exciting Regional Seedbank project began supported by North Coast Local Land Services and coordinated by North Coast Regional Landcare Network.

Border Ranges Richmond Valley Landcare Network (BRRVLN) is one of five regional networks launching as Regional Seed Hubs, fostering local Landcare groups to get active in seed collection, building skills and working collaboratively to increase seed supply to meet current and future demand.

BRRVLN has hosted seven seed collection workshops, training a pool of local skilled seed collecting volunteers who are now expanding the geographic locations from where seed is collected.



NSW Parliamentary Friends of Landcare

The NSW Parliamentary Friends of Landcare provides an avenue for Members of Parliament to connect with and offer support to Landcare both at the state level and locally in suburbs, regional towns and farming communities.

A cross-party group of NSW Members of Parliament in support of Landcare, the Parliamentary Friends of Landcare was established in 2015.

The Parliamentary Friends of Landcare continues a longstanding tradition of multi-party support for Landcare with all political parties represented.

We offer the NSW Parliamentary Friends of Landcare access to:

- Hardworking people, committed to the stewardship of our natural resources.
- Landcare groups that get the job done – restoring and protecting natural resources and strengthening local communities.
- A network that crosses all boundaries: local, regional and state, social, gender, age, cultural background – a lifeline to maintaining the resilience of rural communities.

Landcare NSW is actively advocating on behalf of Landcarers across NSW to secure the essential

support needed to sustain and expand their environmental efforts.

Through these advocacy efforts, Landcarers are making a clear case to parliamentarians that with the right support- both financial and strategic- they can significantly contribute to the sustainability and resilience of the state's natural resources.

Landcare NSW urges parliamentarians to support initiatives such as the Natural Capital Supply Chain Program and the expansion of private land conservation efforts, recognising the critical role these initiatives play in protecting and restoring NSW's ecosystems.

We would like to thank the current NSW Parliamentary Friends of Landcare Co-Chairs Michael Kemp MP, Steve Whan MP, and Roy Butler MP for their ongoing support.

NSW Parliamentary Friends of Landcare 'Trees in the House' Event

In August 2023, the Trees in the House event held at Parliament House in Sydney hosted by Landcare NSW, saw a record attendance from parliamentarians and key partners.

Minister for Agriculture Tara Moriarty MLC highlighted the vital contributions made by Landcare volunteers throughout NSW. She emphasised the significant impact their efforts have on local communities and the environment.

Landcare NSW Chair, Stephanie Cameron echoed the Minister's sentiments, and underscored the importance of the State Government's ongoing relationship with Landcare NSW, noting the collaboration is essential for fostering sustainable land management and supporting grassroots initiatives.

The evening was a non-partisan event, with MPs from both sides of the House and all political affiliations joining together to support the critically important work of NSW Landcarers.



The current office bearers of the Parliamentary Friends of Landcare are:

- Member for Monaro, Steve Whan MP (Co-Chair)
- Member for Oxley, Michael Kemp MP (Co-Chair)
- Member for Barwon, Roy Butler MP (Co-Chair and Treasurer)

At the inaugural meeting of the current Parliamentary Friends of Landcare in June 2024, the co-chairs welcomed new members:

- Geoff Provest MP (Member for Tweed)
- Dave Layzell MP (Member for Upper Hunter)
- Helen Dalton MP (Member for Murray)
- Kellie Sloan MP (Member for Vaucluse)
- Rachel Merton MLC

Partnership Support

Landcare NSW supports the Landcare community in NSW by partnering with State and Federal Governments, corporations, not-for-profit organisations, and farming bodies, as well as other peak Landcare bodies at the State, Territory, and National levels. Our goal is to enhance the capacity of Landcare NSW and its members, creating an influential and financially sustainable movement that delivers positive impact and value to funders, partners, the land, environment, and communities.

NSW Government partnerships



Biodiversity Conservation Trust

Environmental Trust

Local Land Services

NSW Department of Climate Change,
Energy, Environment and Water

NSW Department of Planning, Housing and
Infrastructure

NSW Department of Primary Industries and
Regional Development

NSW Reconstruction Authority

NSW Resource Access Regulator

NSW Rural Fire Service

NSW State Emergency Service

Sustainability Advantage

TAFE NSW

Other partnerships



Australian Association
of Bush Regenerators
(AABR)



Local Government NSW



OzFish



Ozfish Community Fishing Engagement Moree Whittakers Lagoon by Amber Hall



Membership

Why Join Landcare NSW?

As the peak representative body, Landcare NSW supports and advocates for all Landcare NSW member groups, like-minded individuals, and associate partners such as local councils and private organisations who share the common goal of protecting, improving, and rehabilitating our natural environment.

Landcare NSW amplifies member voices, ensuring concerns are addressed through strategic advocacy and representation. We provide access to government funding opportunities, allowing groups to focus on their mission while minimising administrative burdens. Our communication channels, including the Connection Newsletter and regular updates, keep everyone informed and connected.

Our mission is to provide leadership, skills, and resources to empower Landcarers in NSW, ensuring they have everything needed to care for our land, environment, and communities.

Membership offers exclusive access to the NSW Landcare Enabling Program, including Regional and

Local Coordinators, Communities of Practice, and a Shared Services Hub providing Human Resources, Industrial Relations and Work Health & Safety advice.

Our members benefit from the most competitively priced insurance available, covering volunteer workers, general and public liability, and association liability.

By joining Landcare NSW, members gain access to professional development bursaries, our Deductible Gift Recipient facility for fundraising, the biennial State Muster where they can share successes and learn from one another, as well as exclusive access to the member's portal for countless resources.

We actively partner with First Nations communities, applying Traditional Knowledge into our approaches to address contemporary challenges. By collaborating closely with First Nations communities, we recognise and respect their deep understand of Country and its ecosystems.

In 2024, we began work on renewing our membership value proposition and in 2025 we will consult on a new membership structure.





Be part of a greener future

To find out more about Landcare NSW or how to contribute to a more sustainable future, visit us at: www.landcarensw.org.au or join the conversation with us on social media.



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